

Saturday, May 30, 2026 - Lyon, France

We thought our trip was over, and you probably thought you'd seen the last of these journals. We were both wrong.

We were supposed to fly home this morning through Paris, but when we arrived at the airport at 5:00 a.m., we learned that our flight had been delayed until 10:00 p.m. Not wanting to spend an entire day sitting in an airport only to miss our connection in Paris, we found a flight to Lyon, France, and decided to spend a couple of days there before hopefully heading home on Monday. I've wanted to visit Lyon for years anyway, as it was one of the few remaining destinations on my list of the "top 50 places to see in a lifetime." Apparently the airlines were simply helping me complete my list.



of them as possible in the next day and a half. No problem.

Lyon is a major city in southeastern France, located at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers. Founded by the Romans in 43 BCE, it became the capital of Roman Gaul and one of the most important cities in Western Europe. During the Renaissance it grew wealthy through banking, trade, and silk production, and later developed into a major industrial and technological center. Today it's known for its cuisine, Renaissance architecture, silk-weaving heritage, and role in the birth of cinema. It contains several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and we

After checking into our hotel and resting for a bit, we joined an evening food tour through Vieux Lyon, one of Europe's largest Renaissance old towns. We stopped at several locations to sample French wines, cheeses, cured meats, pastries, and other local specialties, none of which I can list here because the French insist on giving everything French names and I



can't understand a word they're saying. They were all delicious, though, which is really the important part. By the end of the tour we were too full for dinner, proving once again that French cuisine is every bit as dangerous to the waistline as Moroccan hospitality.



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Today we started with a walk through a farmers' market that contained some of the best fruits, vegetables, meats, cheeses, and bakery goods I've ever seen in my life. These French people have clearly mastered the art of enjoying life. So much so that it's illegal for many of them to work more than 35 hours a week with a mandatory retirement age of sixty-two. After spending a day in Lyon, I can see why they're not in a hurry. Frankly, neither are we.





We then had a walking tour of Lyon's historic districts. We continued exploring Old Lyon and wandered through the Traboules, the city's secret covered passageways between buildings. We visited the Guignol Puppet Museum and saw behind the curtain of the city's puppet shows, and visited a silk store, which has a museum in the back displaying the city's silk heritage. They even have live silkworms producing silk, which is wound onto spools. It's a surprisingly impressive process for something most of us think about

only when buying a necktie. Then we rode up a funicular to the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière, a hilltop basilica with panoramic views of the city.



We walked down the hill, stopping at the Roman Theatre of

Fourvière, whose ancient ruins date back nearly 2,000 years. We ended the tour at the Lyon synagogue, which, much like the synagogues we chased around Djerba, was closed when we arrived. Apparently we're developing a specialty. After the tour, we walked to Parc de la Tête d'Or, a large urban park with rose gardens, a lake, and a zoo.

We really enjoyed our day and a half in Lyon. If you're looking for a destination that offers history, culture, and great food, we highly recommend it.

We're supposed to take a train tomorrow morning to Paris for our flight home. Hopefully the trip is uneventful, and this really is the last journal from this adventure. Then again, that's what we thought three days ago.

Love,
Lori and Stephen

