

## Metz

Metz (pronounced as "Mess") is one of the most culturally important cities in northeastern France, and has a history of belonging to many different countries.

A Celtic tribe first settled the area 3000 years ago. It became a Roman town after Julius Caesar conquered it in 52 BC, but was taken from the Romans by barbaric tribes around the year 500.

For the next 300 years it was the capital of Austrasia, a large kingdom ruled by the Franks. In 843 it became a state within the Holy Roman Empire, and by around the year 1100 it became the independent Republic of Metz. In 1552 it transferred peacefully to control of France.

The city became part of the German Empire after the War of 1870, then part of France again after the First World War.

During the Second World War it was taken by Germany again, but was liberated by Allied forces in 1944. Today it is a centre for the arts, and has more than 100 official historic monuments.



Population: 225,157

2759 kilometres to Paris!