Marseille

Marseille (pronounced as "Mar-say") is located on the warm shores of the Mediterranean Sea. It is the second-largest city in France, behind only Paris.

Marseille is the oldest city in France, founded by the ancient Greeks around 600 BC as a trading port. The Greeks used the city to trade with Gallic tribes throughout western Europe.

The city became part of the Roman Empire under Julius Caesar, and eventually joined France in 1482. As a port city, Marseille suffered greatly from plagues. One outbreak of the Black Death killed three-fifths of the town's population.

For the past 300 years, Marseille has been a strong city because of its port. During French colonial expansion, it was known as the Port of the Empire.

The area around Marseille has many beaches, and is a destination for cruise ships. The city has 24 different museums.

Population: 1,582,000

1596 kilometres to Paris!