

Versailles

Versailles (pronounced as "Vehr-sai") is one of the most important sites in French history.

Originally a small town built near Paris around 1038, Versailles rose to prominence in 1682, when King Louis XIV made it the capital of France and moved his government there. The grand Palace of Versailles became the seat of royal power in France for more than 100 years.

Every powerful noble in France was forced to move to Versailles if they wanted to be close to the king. The little town became a booming, beautiful suburb of Paris.

The government moved back to Paris after the French Revolution, but Versailles remained important. Countless treaties have been signed there, including the treaty that ended the American War of Independence and the treaty that ended the First World War.

Today the famous palace and gardens are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a major tourist destination.



Population: 86,477

23 kilometres to Paris!