

Narbonne has been an ideal place to stop off when going places since Roman times as it was where the [via Aquitania](#) from the Atlantic via Bordeaux and Toulouse met the [via Domitia](#) reaching into Spain. It's still a great place to change trains when doing the same thing.



Strolls

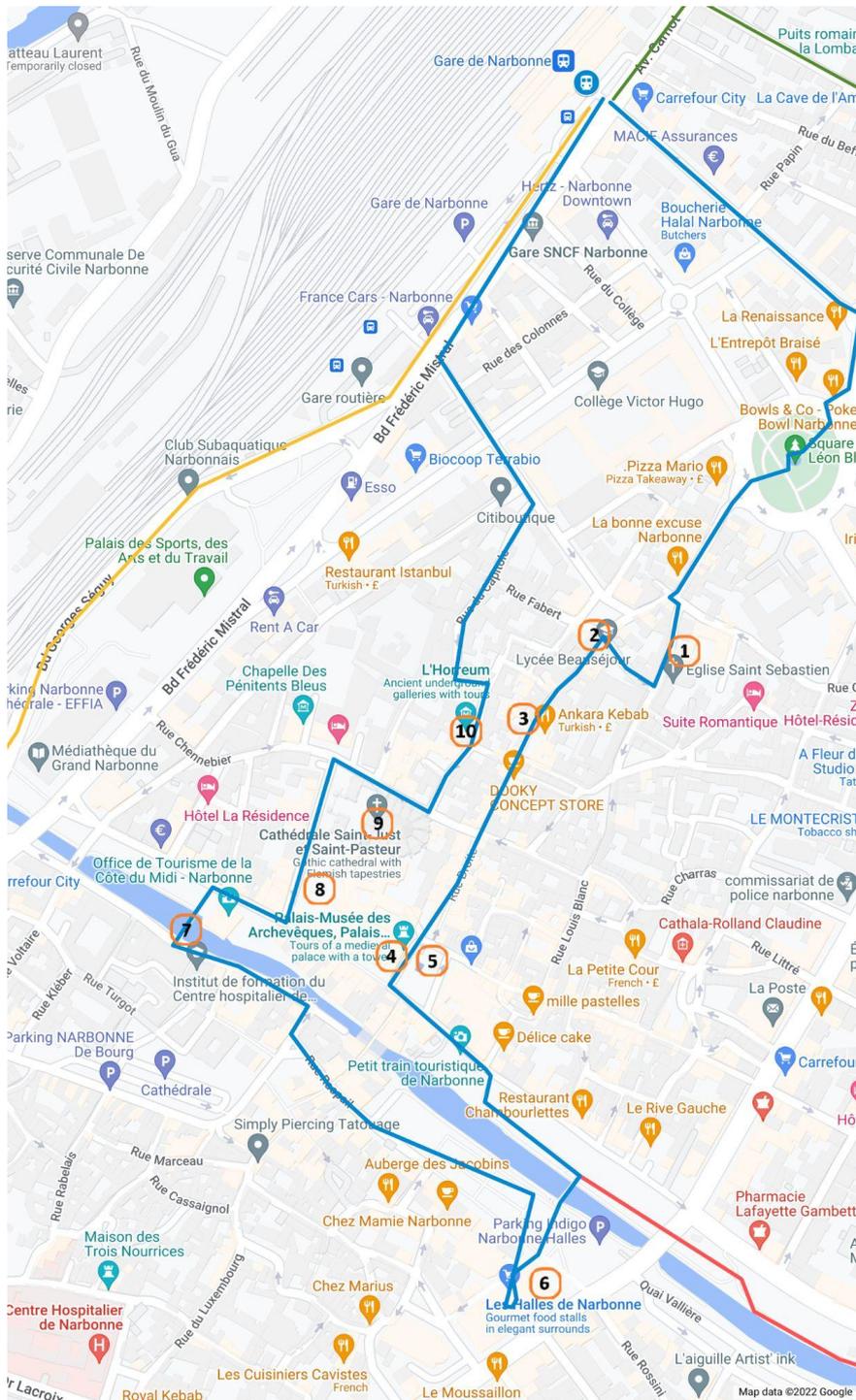
- [A wander around town \(4km blue\)](#)
- [More history old and new \(1km green\)](#)
- [Narbo Via via the canal \(3km red\)](#)
- [Charles Trenet house \(2.5k orange\)](#)

Interactive Map

Here is a [link to a map](#) that can help you find your bearings.

A wander around town (4km blue)

This route takes in the main sights of Narbonne and a chance to fill up your tummy.



- 1 Eglise Saint Sebastien
- 2 La Louve de Narbonne
- 3 Synagogue de narbonne
- 4 Archbishop's Palace
- 5 La Via Domitia
- 6 Les Halles de Narbonne
- 7 Passerelle Entre Deux Villes
- 8 Archevêché Garden
- 9 Cathedral
- 10 Roman Granary Museum
- 11 Commonwealth war grave
- 12 Clos de la Lombarde
- 13 Narbo Via museum
- 14 Charles Trenet Museum

Leave the station and go straight ahead down Av. Pierre Semard. At the little roundabout, turn right and then cross the pretty little park of Square Thérèse Léon Blum and down Rue Ancienne Porte de Béziers.

Let's wiggle to the left onto Rue Michelet and to the church of St Sebastien, which is apparently where the saint himself was born (1). It's surrounded by a former Carmelite convent which has

curiously become a [romantic hotel](#) - see if you can work out which room used to be the Mother Superior's...



St Sebastien - google

Take the next right and squeeze down Rue Girard which opens out onto Place du Forum.

Turn left to go down Rue Droite which has an arch topped by the roman she-wolf with Romulus and Remus - the Louve de Narbonne (2).

Continue down Rue Droite with the compact [synagogue](#) on our right (3) and onwards to the more commercial heart of the city. On the way, there's a nice little turret.



Louve de Narbonne



Rue Droite - google

The street opens out onto a square, the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville (4) with a fancy department store on the left, the [Archbishop's Palace](#) on the right and in front, a sunken area, which is an exposed bit of the old roman road, the [Via Domitia](#) (5).



Archbishop's Palace - google



Via Domitia - Didier Descouens

Take the far left exit at the end of the square which leads to the Canal de la Robine. This waterway is a branch off of the Canal du Midi and there were high hopes that a renovation in the 1980s would see it used again for transporting wine and other goods. Alas, the figures didn't add up, so people just have to make do with enjoying themselves on it instead.

Wander along the canal (to the left) to the next bridge. If you have the time, you could follow the canal all the way to [Narbo Via](#) (red route) where there is an exhibition of the extensive Roman finds around here.

Cross the bridge, the Passerelle des Barques, which on the far side has Les Halles (open every morning 7am- 2pm) (6). A fine place to find out what goodies this part of the [Aude](#) has to offer including an oyster bar.



Canal - google



Les Halles - google

Goodies scooped, let's meander back to the station and start with a wander some more along the canal, but in the other direction. There's a choice of bridges on the way back. The first bridge, the Pont des Marchands, is ideal if you need some retail time and it's lined with shops.

The next bridge is where the canal-based action is. The Passerelles Entre deux Villes (7), so named because it is a crossing between the two 'towns' of Bourg and Cite, goes over a weir and lock and is by an old mill which is now the tourist information office.



Passerelles Entre deux Villes - google



Cathedral - wiki commons

From Rue Jean Jaures, go around the back of the Archbishops palace, which contains a nice little garden (8) and next to it the high-gothic cathedral of Saint-Just and Saint-Pasteur with flying buttresses and Flemish tapestries (9).

Follow the Cathedral round to the right and then turn left onto Rue Rouget de Lisle. This leads to the [Horreum](#) (10), an underground network of tunnels the Romans used to store produce like grain. The visiting hours are [here](#).



Horreum - google



Horreum inside- Thierry de Villepin

After visiting the Horreum (or walking past), turn left down Rue de Lieutenant-Colonel Deymes and then at the Roman garden mural, turn right down Rue du Capitole. Incidentally, the fancy little details on the left-hand side of the street belong to the Institute Sevigne, a private Catholic school.



Institute Sevigne - google

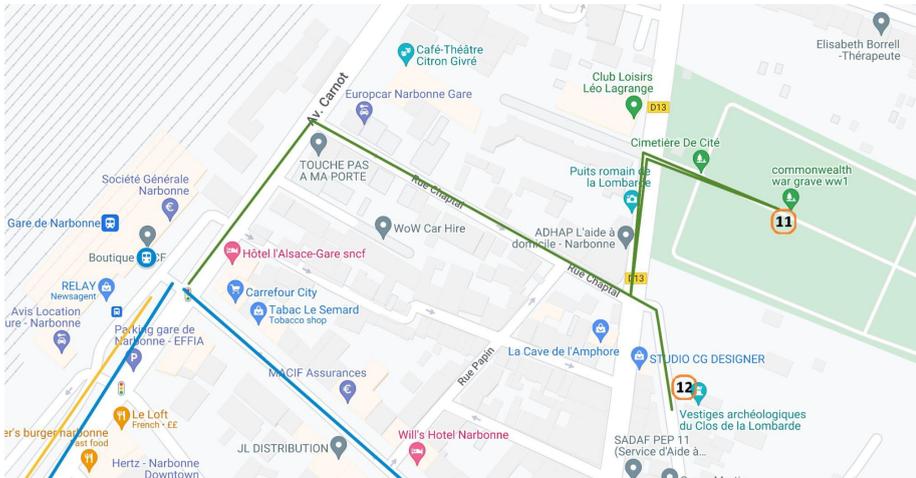


Institute Sevigne - google

At the end of the road is the significantly bigger state school, Collège Victor Hugo. Turn left down Av. Maréchal Foch and at the end are the railway tracks which lead back to the station on the right.

More history old and new-ish (1km green)

These two sights near the station add some more depth to an already historic city. A single commonwealth grave that offers a vignette from the First World War and an active archaeological dig into yet another local Roman site.



From the station go left and then turn right down Rue Chaptal. Turn left at the main road (Av. de Lattre de Tassigny) and on your left is a dip down to an old Roman well.

On the other side of the road is the City Cemetery with a single Commonwealth war grave (11) which contains the grave of Frederick Bishop who died in the early stages of the First World War. Thanks to [this research](#), we now know how he died. The diary entry of his commanding officer noted:

" A sad accident occurred only a few minutes after leaving Marseilles. In passing through a long tunnel the horses in one of the trucks became alarmed. In endeavouring to quiet them two drivers were kicked out of the train, and falling between the train and the wall of the tunnel, one was killed and the other badly injured."

Leave the cemetery and take the left hand road which has an entrance to [Clos de la Lombarde](#) a Roman archeological site - it's free to visit, but you might want to leave a donation to help volunteers protect the site, and explore more (12).



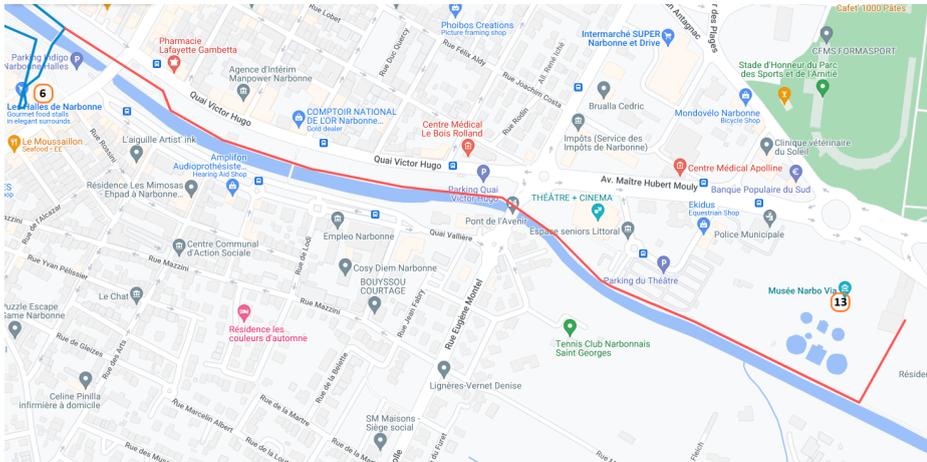
Commonwealth war grave - google



Clos de la Lombarde - Tournasol7

Narbo Via via the canal (3km red)

If you have the time, why to go for a wander along the canal which takes us to the new museum of Roman Narbonne, [Narbo Via](#).



From the point we arrived at the canal on the wander around town, continue down the canal for 1 km. You will pass three bridges. The first is the one that leads to Les Halles. Then you will pass a little footbridge and finally pass under the Pont de l'Avenir - a bridge to the future?

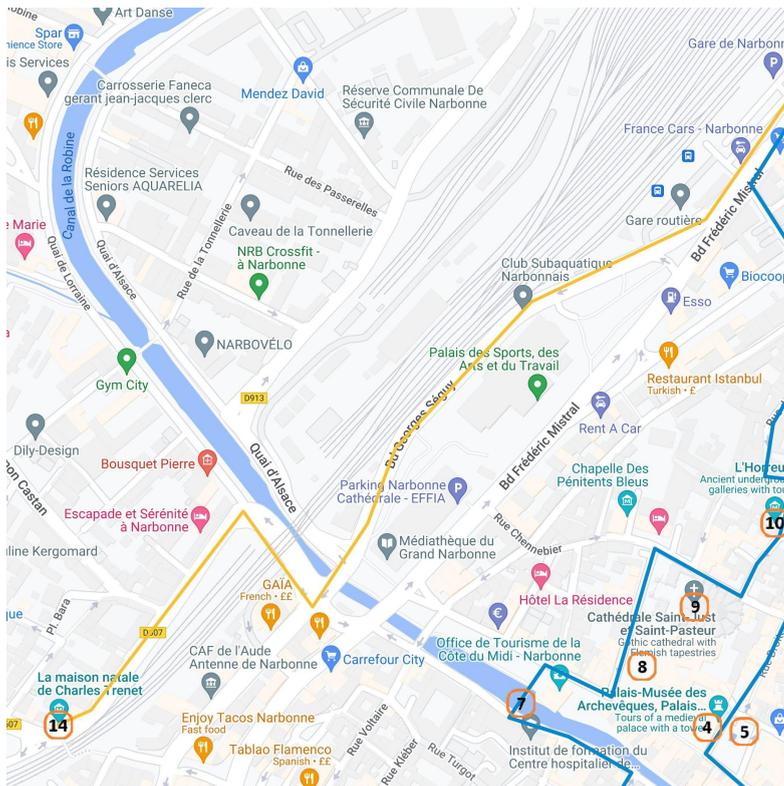
Immediately after that is a theatre/cinema on the left and there is a little pathway leading to it. Walk across the carpark to Narbo Via which is next door. (13)



Via Narbo museum - via Narbo

Charles Trenet house (2.5km orange)

This is a walk to a little house on the wrong side of the tracks. It was where a young sensitive boy lived with his mother and dreamed of making it big. Even if you have never heard of Charles Trenet, a.k.a. Le Fou chantant (the Singing Madman), you will have heard his songs like [La Mer](#) which pop up regularly in films (*L.A. Story*, *A life Less Ordinary*, *French Kiss*) and advertising [holidays](#).



From the station, turn right and follow the road (and rail track) all the way past the palm trees to the canal where you will see a picture of Charles on the building ahead.

Cross the canal and roads and go under the railway and take the next left along Av. Charles Trenet. The way is signposted. As the road curves around to the right, the museum/house is on the corner. Details of opening times are [here](#). (14)



Charles Trenet museum - google