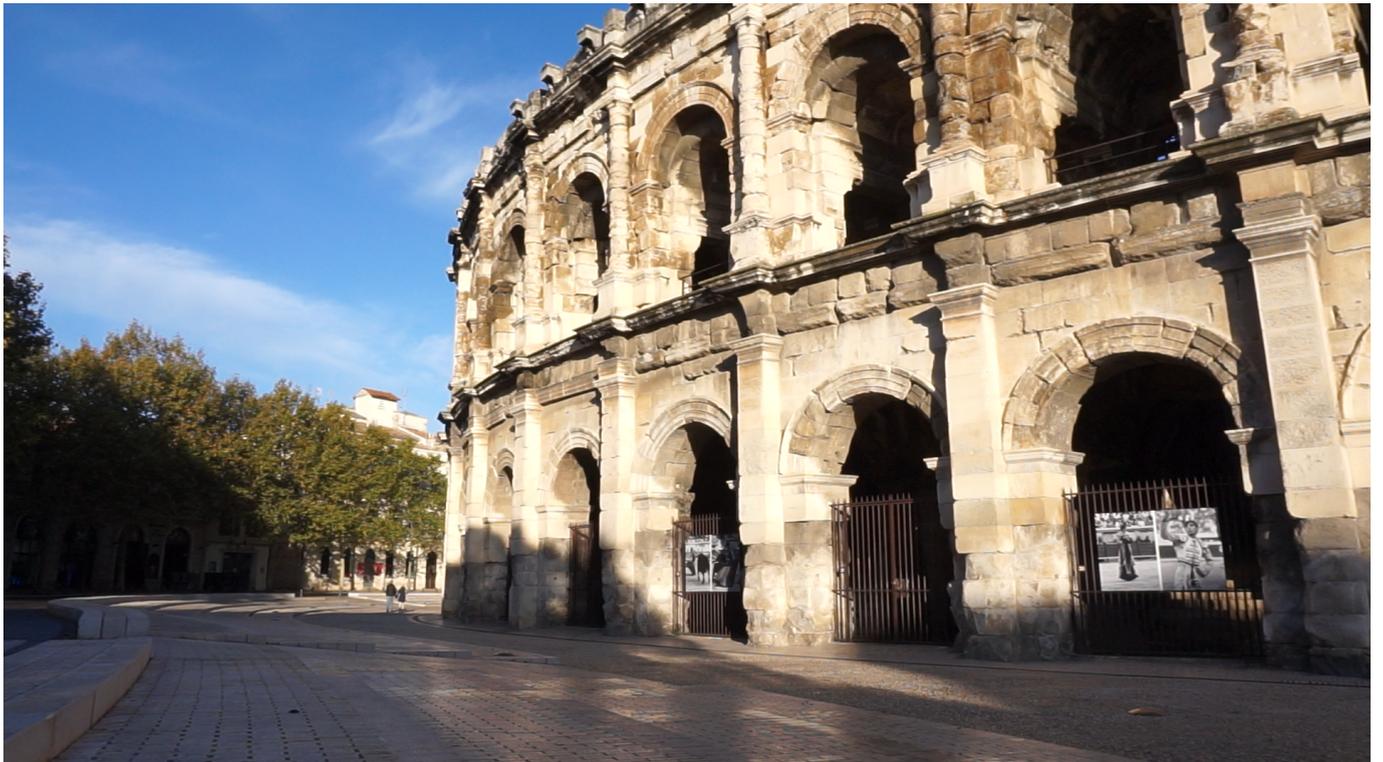


Known as the most Roman city outside of Italy, Nîmes has one of the best preserved arenas and Roman temples in the world. It's also the birthplace of denim ('de Nîmes'), so you could think of coming to Nîmes as a pilgrimage for your jeans! The city is full of activity and has events and festivals throughout the year, including an annual international music festival held in the Roman arena and local craft and produce markets.



Strolls

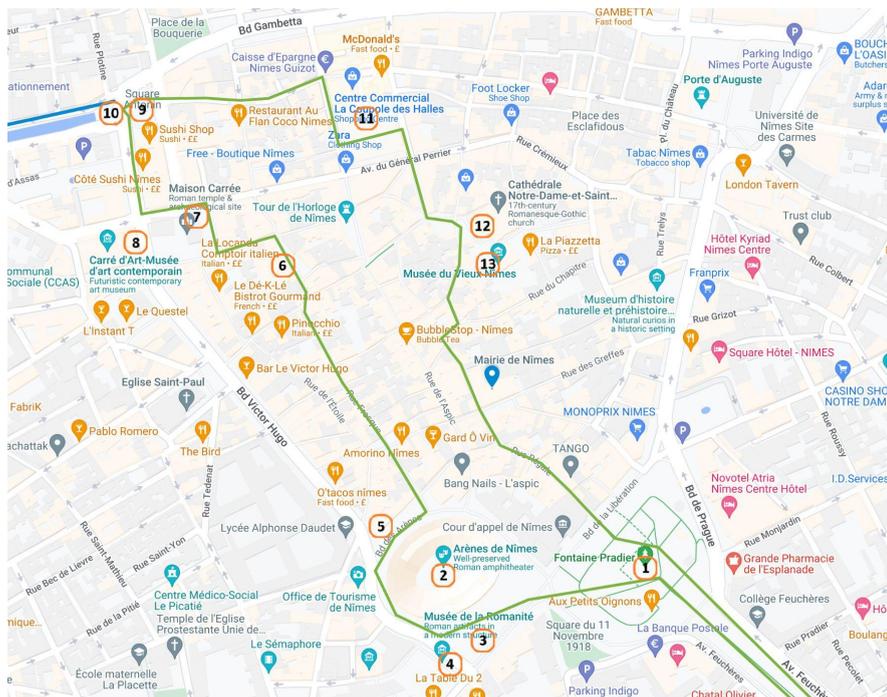
- **[A wander around town \(3km green\)](#)**
- **[Tour Magne extension \(2.2km blue\)](#)**

Interactive Map

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

A wander around town (3km green)

This walk will take you around the sights of this very livable old city.



- 1 Fontaine Pradier
- 2 Amphitheatre of Nîmes
- 3 Statue de Nimeño II
- 4 Museum Romanité
- 5 Grand Café de la Bourse
- 6 Theatre of Nîmes
- 7 Maison Carrée
- 8 Carré d'Art
- 9 Statue Antonin le Pieux
- 10 Mémorial inondations 1988
- 11 Les Halles de Nîmes
- 12 Nîmes Cathedral
- 13 Musée du Vieux Nîmes
- 14 Mairie de Nîmes
- 15 Jardin de La Fontaine
- 16 Temple of Diana
- 17 Tour Magne
- 18 Castellum Aquae

Starting at Nîmes Centre, head up the pedestrianised Avenue Feuchères with its soothing cascade of water and up to the Pradier fountain (1). See if you can work out what the nice young lady-statue is wearing as a hat/fascinator. We'll see that again later.

From the fountain you'll see the [Arena](#) (2), Walk over to it and round to the left and you'll come to the fab modern looking Musée de la Romanité. It contains pre-Roman relics and a visualisation of what Nîmes would have looked like at different points of time. In case you are wondering who this statue is of, it's [Nimeno II](#).(3)



Pradier fountain



Arena with Nimeno II

Continue around the arena and past the [Musée de la Romanité](#) (4). If you are short of time/hot/thirsty, or just want to do as the locals do - people-watch, you could park yourself at the Grand Café de la Bourse, or its little sister La Petite Bourse (5).

Now let's explore the narrow lanes that make up the centre of town and keep it cool in the hot summers. It's quite easy to get lost, which maybe is a good thing if you have the time. Take the narrow Rue des Arenes and continue straight on through the archway onto the even narrower Rue Fresque. At the end bear right onto Rue de la Madeleine and then take the first left down Rue de la Calade which is home to [Nîmes' Theatre](#) (6). Continue straight on until you reach the Rue de l'Horloge where you turn left and past the best preserved Roman temple in the world - the [Maison Carrée](#) (7). In the same square you'll find the Carré d'Art which houses various art exhibitions and a library (8).



Maison Carree



Carré d'Art

Head up the main road that runs between the two buildings, Boulevard Alphonse Daudet to the Square Antonin (9), which has a statue to [Antoninus Pius](#) who was from Nîmes and was one of

the [five good emperors](#) of the Roman Empire, according to [Machiavelli](#) - not sure that counts as an endorsement.

From here there's a great view of the water features leading to the Jardins de La Fontaine on your left. Water has played a big role in Nimes' history and it hasn't always been good. In 1988, heavy rain led to [serious flooding](#) in which 10 people lost their lives. If you would like to explore the gardens and take a trip up to the great tower (Tour Magne) for great views, follow the red route below.

Otherwise, cross the square and go down Rue de l'Agau. Which takes you to the Coupole shopping centre which backs on to the indoor food market, [Les Halles](#). To get into it, turn right onto Rue Guizot and within 50m you'll see one of the entrances on the left (11). It's a great place to pick up local produce including [Petit Pâté](#) - mini pork pies or [Brandade de morue](#).

To get back to the station, there are a variety of routes you can take and each street is worth a wander. One way back is to continue along Rue des Halles. At the end bear left across Place aux Herbes which brings you to the mish-mash-style [Cathedral](#) (12), which has a mish-mash dedication to the Virgin Mary and local Saint, [Castor of Apt](#) who, after having a daughter and naming her Perculiarita, decided the monastic life would be the best thing all round.



Jardins de La Fontaine



Cathedral

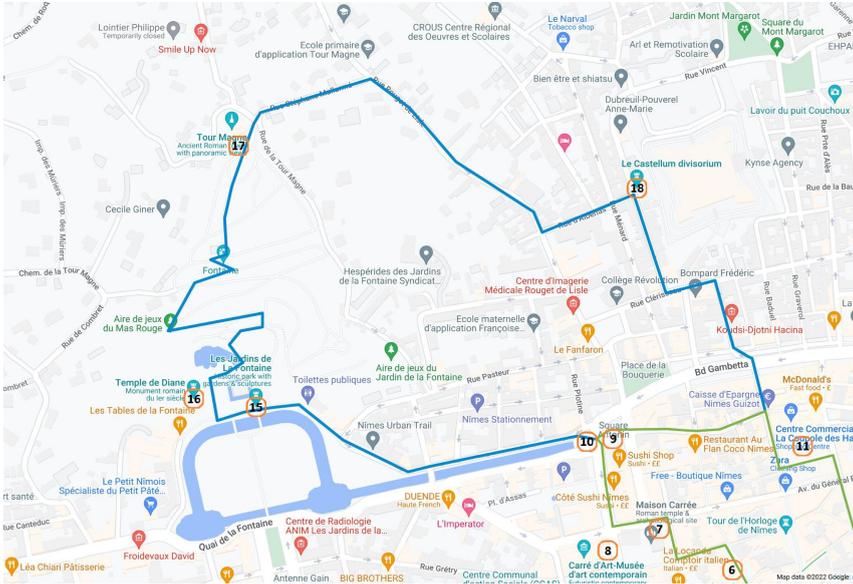
Next door to the Cathedral is the [Museum of Old Nimes](#) (13), which displays collections of 17th and 18th Century local artefacts - strange it's not called the Museum of new Nimes, given the amount of Roman stuff lying around the town.

Go down Rue des Marchands and at the end turn right and follow the Rue de la Trésorerie which takes you past the Hôtel de Ville and through a little archway.

Continue down Rue Régale all the way back to the Pradier Fountain and follow the water back to the station.

Roman water and walls extension (2.2km blue)

If you have the time and can manage a bit of an uphill walk then this is a very nice stroll and a chance to see more of what the Romans did for the people of Nimes.



Picking up from where we left off at the corner of Boulevard Alphonse Daudet and Quai de la Fontaine, walk along the Quai (either side is fine but the north side leads directly into the park).

On the far side of the park is the Roman Temple of Diana (16) and a nice [cafe](#). There's a set of staircases up to the Tour Magne, one of the last remaining parts of the city walls and from where there are great views of the city (17).



Jardins de La Fontaine



Tour Magne - OT Nimes

So where did all the stone from the walls go? Wandering around the high-walled housing here, gives a big clue.



Local walls...



Castellum Aquae

From the back of the back of the Tour we can take a different, more suburban, route back into town past another Roman feature which wasn't meant to be seen but probably tells us as much about the Romans as the Maison Caree or the Arena. Leave by Rue Stéphane Mallarmé and turn right down Rue Rouget de Lisle and left onto Rue d'Albenas. At the end of this road is a little bit of Roman plumbing, the Castellum Aquae (18).

Here is where water which had been channelled from Uzes via the Pont du Gard was distributed to different parts of the town.

Continue down the road and then turn left at the end onto Rue Clérisseau and then take the second right onto Rue Deyron which leads down to Boulevard Gambetta. Cross the boulevard and go down Rue Guizot to rejoin the green route.