



# THE PERFECT VERSAILLES PICNIC PACKING LIST

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## WELCOME TO VERSAILLES

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You've just gotten off the train - sound off the trumpets and fire the canons because you have officially arrived in the magical city of Versailles! Well, that's the kind of welcome we'd expect for Louis XIV or Marie-Antoinette. We know your plans - you're headed to the castle! Before you get your day at Versailles started, it's time to explore the Versailles markets pick up some supplies for your perfect Versailles picnic!

We suggest heading to the Place du Marché Notre Dame for all of the yummy French food you'll be snacking on. Then you'll need to stop at the supermarket for some utensils and snacks like chips that you won't be able to find at the market. Stick with us to find out everything you need to know to have the perfect picnic at Versailles.

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## WHERE TO GO

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The market we suggest you check out is located at - you guessed it - the Place du Marché Notre-Dame, 78000, Versailles, France. If you need help getting there, check out the hand dandy map on the next page!

Where should you go for the best bread in town? We think Boulangerie Guinon is a great choice. Located just around the corner from the market, you won't have to go far to find that perfect baguette! Maybe a yummy pastry or 2 will catch you eye too...

For other necessities you won't be able to find at the market, you'll have to head to a supermarket! Luckily for you, there is a major one, Monoprix, just down the street from the market and the palace. You'll see it on the map too - but just in case the address is 5 Rue Georges Clemenceau, 78000 Versailles.

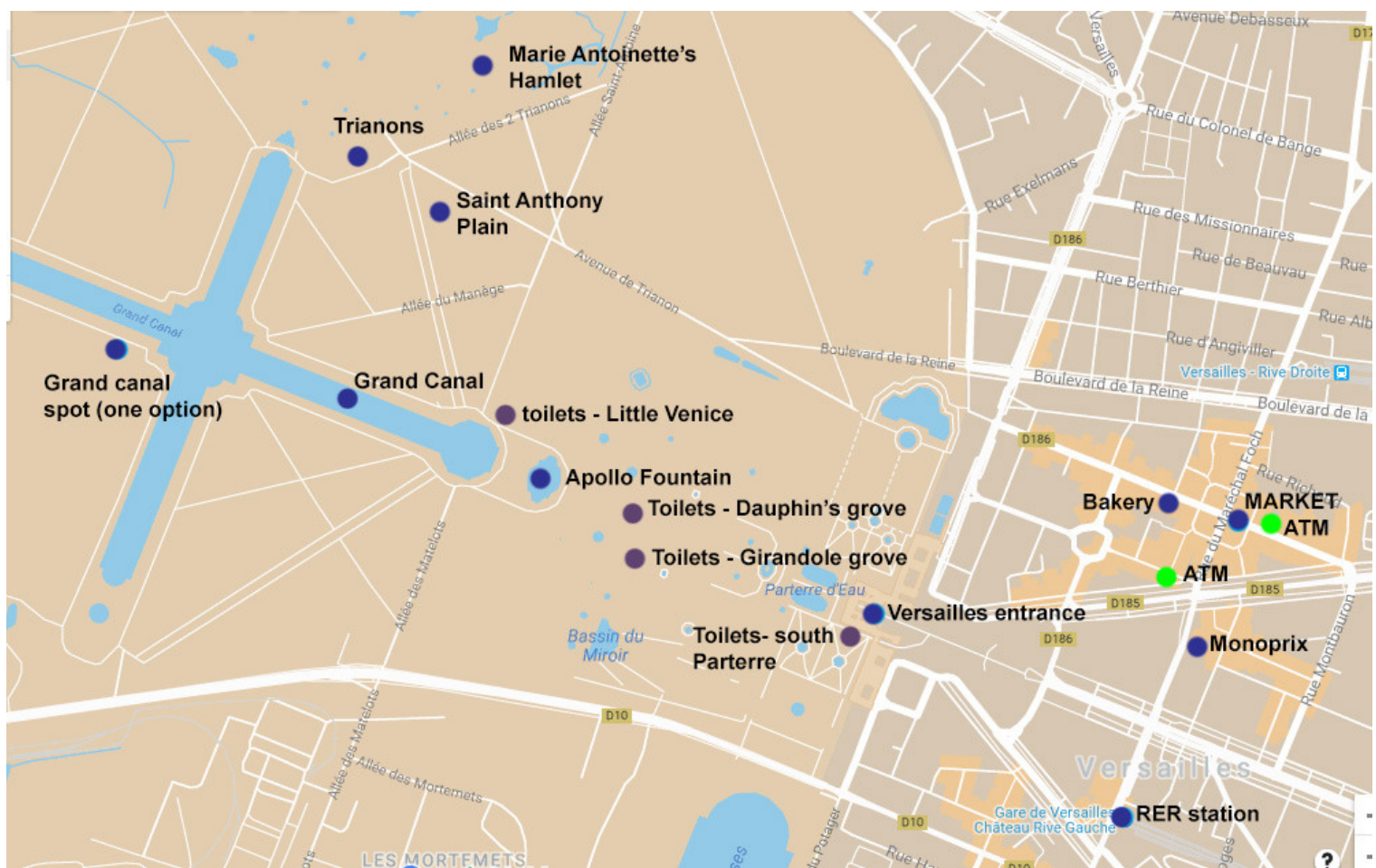


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YOUR FRIENDS IN PARIS



# THE PERFECT VERSAILLES PICNIC PACKING LIST

## MAP



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## WHAT TO BUY

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### At the market/boulangerie:

#### Cheese

Try to get about 30-50 grams of cheese per person. Sometimes cheese has to be purchased whole or by halves, so just use your judgement in this case (for example, Brillat Savarin generally is sold as a whole, half, or quarter wheel... and a quarter wheel would be more than enough for a few people in a picnic like this).

#### Here are a few cheeses to choose from:

**Comté** - Hard cow's milk cheese, a bit nutty, generally a crowd pleaser.

**Chèvre Frais** - Goat cheese but not at all dry - you haven't had goat cheese like this before!

**Camembert** - A classic. Older camembert can get a bit stinky, so go for a Brie instead if you want to stick with a mild taste.

**Brillat-Savarin** - A triple cream cheese and one of our favorites. Velvety smooth with a bit of a bite at the end. Get a 1/4 wheel for 2-4 people.

#### Baguette

**Baguette "Tradition"** - Most bakeries have regular baguettes and 'tradition' baguettes... tradition are always tastier.

**Baguette de Campagne** - Similar to tradition but a bit more rustic and generally with a little more salt.

#### Pastries (while you're at the bakery...)

Macarons

Palmiers

Tarte au chocolat

Anything else that catches your eye! Or should we say tastebuds...

#### In-season fruit - what's in season in France?

**Fall** - Fresh figs, pears, mangos, bananas, persimmon.

**Winter** - Bananas, apples, clementines, oranges, grapefruit, persimmon.

**Spring** - Litchi, passionfruit, raspberries, strawberries.

**Summer** - Raspberries, cherries, peaches, nectarines, watermelon, bananas.



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## WHAT TO BUY

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### At the supermarket:

#### Drinks

Water  
Fruit juice

We recommend holding off on the alcohol as the rules for whether or not you can bring booze on the Versailles ground are a little vague - we would never want to get you in trouble!

#### Utensils

Plastic forks, spoons, & knives  
Plastic or paper plates, cups, and napkins

#### Food

Any other food products that you might like to include in your picnic - snacks like chips, crackers, and the like that you won't be able to find at the market!

### Fun extras to think about bringing along

If your hotel or Airbnb is nice enough to let you borrow something - a **blanket** to sit on is definitely a good idea! If you can't find anything where you are staying, we recommend picking up a plastic table cloth at the supermarket as well!

**A good book** - We recommend Marie Antoinette: The Journey by Antonia Fraser. The 2006 Sofia Coppola film Marie Antoinette was based around this biography! Not to mention we read it and LOVED it!

**A deck of playing cards** - Easy to find and easy to carry around! Again, we suggest checking around your hotel or Airbnb for these. If you can't find a pack there, they will have them in the supermarket!



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## GENERAL TIPS & TRICKS

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### **When should I plan my picnic?**

Be careful about the days you want to picnic! The market is open Sunday mornings 7am-2pm, Tuesday 7am-2pm, and Friday 7am-2pm, and the supermarket is open everyday 8:30am-9pm except Sundays.

We also suggest saving your picnic for the warmer months - sometime between April & October should be just about right!

### **Can I pay with a credit card?**

Some merchants do have a portable credit card machine at the market, but more often than not, they don't. So we suggest always having a bit of cash with you! You can see different ATM locations on that darn map we keep talking about!

### **Can I enter the palace with food?**

Nope! So we suggest that you head to the gardens first to do your picnic. This also makes sure that you have a nice full belly to check out the palace!

### **Where on the grounds can I picnic?**

Welp, not everywhere, unfortunately. You need to go down to the banks of Grand Canal or the Saint Anthony Plain. There are some beautiful, wide open green spaces here that would work very nicely for you to lay down your blanket, relax, and enjoy the scenery that is Versailles!



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