



*Marseilles is a very cosmopolitan city.*

The Phocaeen city and its port have always been a gateway to the south, the Mediterranean, but also more besides.

*Andréa likes to go out and wander around the streets of Marseilles. Let's explore this city.*

Marseilles, also known as the Phocaeen city (**cit  phoc enne**), has around a million inhabitants. Its port is where everything happens - **the largest port in France and the Mediterranean**.

Marseilles is a gateway to the East and to Africa. **The city has welcomed several big migration waves (vagues migratoires)** and today it is a particularly **cosmopolitan (cosmopolite)** city.



### Massilia the Italian



In the late 19th century, scores of **Italian labourers** came to live in France, and Marseille in particular. In the 1920s, **Armenians** followed in their footsteps to make their home in Marseille.

Then came the **Spanish** who were fleeing the dictatorship, the **Russians** who wanted to get away from Communism or the War and the **Vietnamese** who, although French (colonial empire), brought very different cultures with them.

### Marseilles and the Maghreb



After World War II, to rebuild the city, lots of workers from the **Maghreb** (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) were brought in to work on the building sites.

It was then the turn of the **Pieds noirs** to arrive in Marseille en masse after Algeria's independence in 1962.

### Camps and quarters



Upon first arriving in Marseille, immigrants often used to begin their stay in **transit camps (camps de transit: Grand Arenas, Arenc, Mazargues, Oddo or Colgate)**.

Le **Panier** is traditionally the quarter in which immigrant populations settled (**Corsicans and Maghr bins**), but it has also become an artistic quarter popular with tourists.

**Belsunce** has also become an immigrant neighbourhood. It has changed over time and is now home to a representation of recent immigrations: **Chinese, Africans (Senegal, Mali), Eastern Europeans, Romani, Comoros natives, etc.**

### Crossing the Mediterranean



From the port of Marseille, the Mediterranean is easy to cross and you can go direct to **Corsica** (Ajaccio, Bastia, Porto Vecchio, etc.), **Sardinia** (Porto Torres), **Algeria** (Algiers, Oran, Beja a, Annaba and Skikda) or **Tunisia** (Tunis).

### And elsewhere?

#### Marseilles and its twinned cities

**Marseilles**, an outward-looking city, is now **twinned** (associated with cities in other countries) **with 13 cities** : Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Antwerp (Belgium), Copenhagen (Denmark), Genoa (Italy), Haifa (Israel), Hamburg (Germany), Kobe (Japan), Dakar (Senegal), Odessa (Ukraine), Piraeus (Greece), Shanghai (China), Marrakesh (Morocco) and Glasgow (Scotland).

### Did you know?

In 2013, Marseille is **European Capital of Culture**. This is a title awarded for one year to a European city on the basis of a cultural programme. A whole host of **cultural events** are being held for the occasion. In Marseille, the **Mus e des civilisations de l'Europe et de la M diterran e (MuCEM, a museum for Europe and the Mediterranean)** was officially opened in 2013.

### He said

*"It is a port, one of the finest on the coast. It is illustrious in all respects. At any time of day or night, boats work for it in the most distant of seas."*

Albert Londres (French writer and journalist) in Marseille, porte du sud