

Top-Five Countdown

Most Fairy Tale-Like Castles in France

Stone Soup is a French folktale. Many interesting folktales and fairy tales come from France. Much of France looks like it came straight out of a fairy tale. France has hundreds of castles. Here are the top five fairy tale-like castles in France.

#5 Cité de Carcassonne *(SIT-ay de Car-ca-SUN)*



By Jondul1 (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This castle is near the border of Spain. Romans built the castle in the year 333. Rulers added to it over the years. It was finished in the 1300s. The castle was made to protect the town. It had high walls. It had 40 towers. No one knows how many princesses were kept in those towers. (Just kidding.)

Top-Five Countdown

#4 Château de Haut-Koenigsbourg

(shah-TOW deh HOTE KONE-igs-burg)



By Writalya (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This castle was built in the 1100s. It sits on the top of a mountain. The castle is near the Black Forest. It was made to protect the city. It was the perfect place for brave knights to live. The castle was built out of pink sandstone. This gives it a reddish glow. It is located in a part of France called Alsace. This is on the border of France and Germany. More than half of a million people visit this castle every year.

#3 Château de Bonaguil

(shah-TOW deh bone-ah-GILL)



By olli (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This castle was built in the 1200s. It is in southern France. It was built on a steep cliff. The cliff sits between two rivers. The castle has a deep moat. It has a drawbridge. It has thick walls. The walls were built to keep out enemy fire. They also kept out fire-breathing dragons.

Top-Five Countdown

#2 Mont Saint-Michel (MONE SUN mee-SHELL)



By Andrés Nieto Porras via Flickr.com/ShareAlike 2.0 Generic (CC BY-SA 2.0)

The castle was built on a small island. It was built in the 700s. It is in Normandy. Normandy is in northwest France. The castle sits at the mouth of a river. The river flows into the English Channel. When the tide is low, you can walk along the sand to get to the castle. When the tide is high, you cannot. France's king turned the castle into a prison in the 1400s. Today, it is open to tourists. More than three million people visit it every year.

Top-Five Countdown

#1 Versailles (*vare-SIGH*)



By Escala (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This is one of the best-known castles in France. It is near Paris. It was built as a palace. It was a home for the king. This castle is beautiful both inside and out. It spreads over nearly 40 square miles of land. The palace has 2,300 rooms. It has many gardens and fountains. Today it is a museum. About five million people visit it every year. Nearly ten million people visit its gardens each year. It is probably the most visited castle in all of France.

By Panoramas via Flickr.com NoDeriv 2.0 Generic (CC BY-ND 2.0)



A garden at Versailles



By Myrabella via Wikimedia Commons

**Inside Versailles:
the Hall of Mirrors**

Top-Five Countdown

Most Fairy Tale-Like Castles in France

Stone Soup is a French folktale. Many interesting folktales and fairy tales come from France. Maybe that is because much of France looks like it came straight out of a fairy tale. France has beautiful countryside. It has historic villages. It has hundreds of castles. Here is a countdown of the top five French castles that look like they came out of a fairy tale.

#5 Cité de Carcassonne (SIT-ay de Car-ca-SUN)



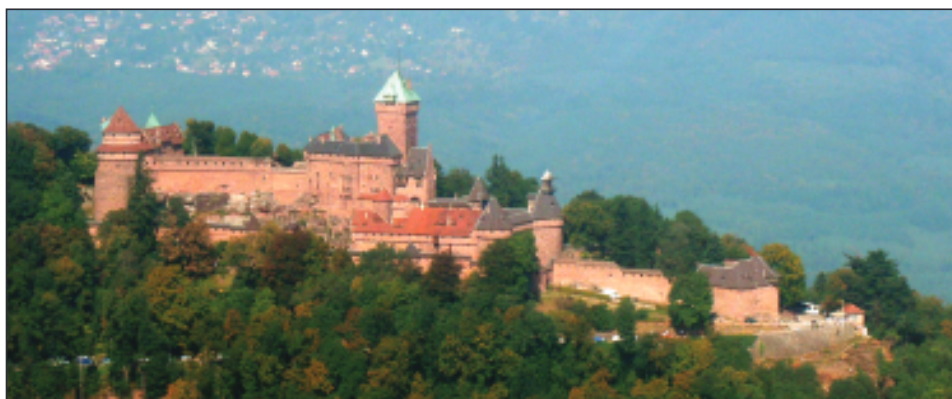
By Jondul1 (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This castle is in Carcassonne, France. It is near the border of Spain. People have lived in this city for 2,500 years. Romans first built the castle in the year 333. Rulers have added to it over the years. The castle was fortified. That means it was made to be strong. It was made to protect the town. It had high walls. It had as many as 40 towers. No one knows how many princesses were kept in the towers over the years. (Just kidding.) French kings used the castle for 350 years. But by 1659, it wasn't useful anymore. No one used it or lived in it. Over time, the castle began to fall apart.

Top-Five Countdown

#4 Château de Haut-Koenigsbourg

(shah-TOW deh HOTE KONE-igs-burg)



By Writalya (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This castle was built in the 1100s on a mountaintop. It was a fortified castle. It was the perfect place for knights in shining armor. It was built out of pink sandstone, which gives it a reddish glow. More than half of a million people visit this castle every year. It is located in the Alsace region of France near the Black Forest. Alsace is on the border of France and Germany.

#3 Château de Bonaguil

(shah-TOW deh bone-ah-GILL)



By offi (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This fairy tale castle was the last fortified castle built in France. That means it was the last castle built to keep out invaders. The castle was built in the 1200s and is located on a steep cliff between two rivers in southern France. The castle covers nearly 81,000 square feet of land. It has a deep moat and a drawbridge. It has thick walls to keep out enemy fire as well as fire-breathing dragons.

Top-Five Countdown

#2 Mont Saint-Michel (MONE SUN mee-SHELL)



By Andrés Nieto Porras via Flickr.com/ ShareAlike 2.0 Generic (CC BY-SA 2.0)

This castle was built on a small island in northwest France. This region of France is known as Normandy. The castle was built at the mouth of a river that flows into the English Channel. Monks built it in the 700s. Later, it became a fortress for French kings. During low tide, you can walk along the wet sand to get to the castle. During high tide, you cannot. In fact, enemy forces never defeated the castle. The castle is naturally difficult to break into or out of. France's king turned the castle into a prison in the 1400s. This castle is one of the most popular in France. More than three million people visit it every year.

Top-Five Countdown

#1 Versailles (vare-SIGH)



By Esailia (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

Versailles is one of the best-known castles in France. It is located near Paris. It was not built to keep out invaders. It was built as a palace. It was meant to be a place where the king could live. Versailles is luxurious. It is beautiful both inside and out. King Louis XIV made this palace the center of his kingdom in 1682. The palace has 2,300 rooms. It spreads over nearly 40 square miles of land. This includes its many gardens, fountains, and various buildings. Today the castle is a museum. About five million people visit the castle every year. Between eight to ten million people visit the castle's gardens each year. This makes it the most visited castle in all of France.

By Panoramas via Flickr.com, NoDeriv 2.0 Generic (CC BY-ND 2.0)



A garden at Versailles



By Myrabella via Wikimedia Commons

**Inside Versailles:
the Hall of Mirrors**



Top-Five Countdown

Most Fairy Tale-Like Castles in France

Stone Soup is a folktale that comes from France. Many other interesting folktales and fairy tales originate in France. Perhaps that is because much of France looks like it came straight out of a fairy tale. It has beautiful countryside, historic villages, and castles. In fact, France has hundreds of castles. Here is a countdown of the top five French castles that look like they came straight out of a fairy tale.

#5 Cité de Carcassonne (SIT-ay de Car-ca-SUN)



By Jonda11 (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

The Cité de Carcassonne is a castle in Carcassonne, France, near the border of Spain. People have lived in the city of Carcassonne for 2,500 years. Romans began to build the castle in the year 333. Rulers have added to it over the years and it was mostly finished by the 1300s. The castle was fortified, which means it was built to defend the city and keep out invaders. It had high walls and between 34 and 40 towers. By 1659, the castle was no longer considered useful and was abandoned. Over time, the castle began to fall apart. No one knows how many princesses were kept in the towers over the years. (Just kidding.)

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#4 Château de Haut-Koenigsbourg

(shah-TOW deh HOTE KONE-igs-burg)



By Wrtalya (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This fortified castle was built in the 1100s on a mountaintop. It was built out of pink sandstone, which gives it a reddish glow. More than half of a million people visit this castle every year. It is located in the Alsace region of France, near the Black Forest. Alsace is on the border between France and Germany.

#3 Château de Bonaguil *(shah-TOW deh bone-ah-GILL)*



By cliff (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

This fairy tale castle was the last fortified castle built in France. That means it was the last castle built to defend a city or region against invaders. The castle was first built in the 1200s and French kings added to it in the early 1500s. It is located on a steep cliff between two rivers in southern France. The castle covers nearly 81,000 square feet of land. It features a deep moat, a drawbridge, and thick walls to keep out enemy fire and fire-breathing dragons.

Top-Five Countdown

#2 Mont Saint-Michel (MONE SUN mee-SHELL)



By Andrés Nieto Porras via Flickr.com/ ShareAlike 2.0 Generic (CC BY-SA 2.0)

This fairy tale castle was built on a small island in northwest France. This region of France is known as Normandy. The castle was built at the mouth of a river that flows into the English Channel. Monks built it in the 700s. It later became a fortress for French kings. In fact, enemy forces never defeated the castle. During low tide, you can walk along the sand to get to the castle. During high tide, you cannot. Nature made it a hard castle to invade or escape. This is why France's king turned the castle into a prison in the 1400s. This castle is one of the most popular in France. More than three million people visit it every year.

Top-Five Countdown

#1 Versailles (vare-SIGH)



By Escalia (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

Versailles is likely the best-known castle in all of France. It is located near Paris. It was not built as a fortress. It was built as a palace. It was meant to be a place where the king could live. Versailles is luxurious and beautiful both inside and out. King Louis XIV made this palace the center of his kingdom in 1682. King Louis XIV loved beauty. He wanted only the finest clothing, art, music, and gardens in his palace. The palace has 2,300 rooms and spreads over nearly 40 square miles of land. This includes its many gardens, fountains, and various buildings. Today the castle is a museum. About five million people visit the palace every year. Between eight to ten million walk through the castle's gardens each year. This makes it the most visited castle in all of France.

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A garden at Versailles



By Myrabella via Wikimedia Commons

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