

Partnership from 2000, Partnership Agreement dating from 14. 9. 2007  
distance from Nový Jičín 1136 km

Épinal (population 33 000) is an important town in the North Lorraine Region, surrounded by spa towns and the Vosges mountain range. It lies on the Moselle River in the east of France, 60 km from the city of Nancy. The town is clearly dominated by a hill with an extensive castle ruin, which is surrounded by a nature park containing a 26-hectare vineyard that is over 200 years old.

The oldest monument in the town is the Basilica of Saint Maurice, dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century. During the Second World War Épinal was heavily bombarded and many historical buildings were destroyed. Fortunately the Old Quarter, with its central Vosges Square, which is surrounded by a variety of facades dating from the period between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, was preserved in the centre of the town

The Museum of Ancient and Contemporary Art, the so-called Roman House, which holds a library with 160,000 volumes and the planetarium are all great tourist attractions. The most distinctive is a unique French monument, the so-called “Imagerie” which is a museum of images holding over 100 000 lithographic and woodprint images, including wooden models.

The Moselle River makes Épinal exceptionally attractive, not only due to the alternately built-up and park enclosed banks, but also due to the artificial canal, suitable for water slalom training and races. The Vosges Forests are the ideal place for hiking, cycling and also for downhill and cross-country skiing.

**Best-known events:**

- Imaginales – international fantasy literature trade fair (May)
- Fête des Images – video projection on houses in the square (June)
- St. Nicolas – Saint Nicholas celebrations (December)

**Interesting information:**

- in 1993 the town was awarded the national prize for municipal vegetation called the “Grand Prix National de Fleurissement”
- there are 3 beehives in the centre of the town, which produce up to 100 kg of honey a year
- the TGV train link connects Paris to Épinal in 2:15 hours

More information: [www.epinal.fr](http://www.epinal.fr)

