



TOURIST GUIDE

—
BESANÇON
IT'S TIME TO B

Besançon
Tourisme et Congrès

www.besancon-tourisme.com

N'oubliez pas le guide !

L'INDISPENSABLE

À BESANÇON ET SA RÉGION

TOUTES LES ADRESSES
DES BONNES ADRESSES

Alain Pralon
Rédacteur en chef
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VOTRE GUIDE 2016-2017 EST EN VENTE
CHEZ VOTRE MARCHAND DE JOURNAUX



Besançon Visitor and Convention
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10.00 pm – 1.00 pm

July and August

Every day

10.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Closed 1 January, 1 May
and 25 December



Opening times may change
during the year.

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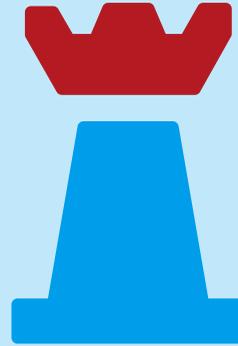
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IT'S TIME TO B



Besançon is the City of Time.

It has a rich clockmaking and historical past. Besançon clockmakers continue to exercise their craft and art today, and traces of their history can still be seen here and there in the streets of the city.

There are also many architectural treasures (Renaissance facades, outdoor staircases, buildings of blue-beige stone) which will delight all heritage and history lovers.

Besançon, with its tourist, heritage and clockmaking attractions, has made it into the ranks of the best!

It consistently comes in first, of all the "green" cities of France, thanks to its extensive network of green park areas. Life is good in Besançon and you can feel it in its daily rhythm of special events, festivals and exhibitions.

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BESANÇON FAMOUS PEOPLE

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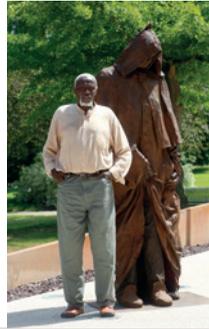
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WRITERS

GABRIELLE SIDONIE "COLETTE" 1

(1873–1954)

Colette was a novelist, journalist and music hall artist. In September 1902, her husband Henry Gauthier-Villars (Willy), descendant of an old Franche-Comté family, bought a house and property at Monts-Boucons. She spent several summers there, using some of her time to write some of her novels. Some titles: *Claudine at School*, *Claudine in Paris*, *Claudine Married*, *Sept Dialogues de Bêtes*.

JEAN-CHARLES EMMANUEL NODIER 2

(1780–1844)

Nodier was a journalist, writer and leader of the Romantics. He frequently mentioned the charms of his native province in his writings. He was born 29 April 1780, in a house – no longer extant – on Victor Hugo Square (site of the current No. 7).

VICTOR HUGO 3

(1802–1885)

Due to one of the military postings of his father, then General of the Empire, the Hugo family settled in the Doubs for a time. Hugo was born on 26 February 1802 in Besançon at No. 104, Grande Rue. He was a poet, playwright, and novelist and is considered one of the most important writers of the French language. He was also involved in politics and was an intellectual who played a major role in 19th century history. His birthplace is now a museum, which celebrates his talents and influence. Some of his most well-known novels are: *Les Misérables*, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, *The Last Day of a Condemned Man*, *The Legend of the Ages*.

*"I am one
of the paving
stones on
the road of
humanity."*

In a letter from Victor Hugo to the people of Besançon, 1880

ARTISTS

CLAUDE GOUDIMEL (ca 1520–1572)

Born in Besançon, Goudimel was a musician and a composer who put several of Ronsard's odes and sonnets to music.

OUSMANE SOW 4

This sculptor from Senegal created the statue of Victor Hugo for the Refusal of Exclusion and Poverty Day in 2002. It stands in the Rights of Man Square in Besançon's city centre. In 2013, Sow sculpted *Man and Child* for Besançon's new memorial to the dead at the Memorial Space at Les Glacis Park.

LUC BRETON 5

(1731–1800)

Born in Besançon, Breton was a sculptor, who made his career in Italy. He returned to Besançon in 1771 and in 1773, with the Swiss painter Jean Wyrsch, founded the Besançon School of Painting and Sculpting. He is considered to be the best Franche-Comté sculptor of the 18th century. His works in Besançon include *The Pieta* in Saint Peter's Church, the *Angels in Adoration* behind the high altar at Saint John's Cathedral and the décor of the Fountain of the Ladies at 8 bis, rue Charles Nodier.

JENS BOETTCHER 6

This sculptor, born in Essen, Germany in 1933, came to live in France in 1968. He was appointed professor at the School of Fine Art of Besançon in 1975; he taught there until retirement. He now lives in Barjac in the Gard department. He created *The Minotaur*, the huge fountain sculpture in bronze you can see in the river at the Denfert-Rochereau Bridge. *The Minotaur* is 7m high and weighs 10 tonnes. Another of his sculptures is at Victor Hugo Square. The St. Quentin Fountain dates from 1756; it forms the background for Boettcher's *La Source*.

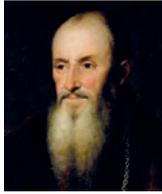
GUSTAVE COURBET

(1819–1877)

Born on 10 June 1819 in Ornans, near Besançon, Courbet was a painter and one of the leaders of the Realist School. He is known for the raw realism of his works, in particular, *The Origin of the World* (1866), which was considered scandalous at the time. Courbet was anticlerical, had anarchistic leanings, was a friend of the socialist theoretician, Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, and one of the elected members of the Paris Commune of 1871. He lived at No. 140, Grande-Rue in Besançon. There is a trompe-l'œil of him at the windows giving onto Victor Hugo Square. He died on 31 December 1877 in La Tour-de-Peilz in Switzerland.



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MILITARY AND POLITICAL PEOPLE

CHARLES FOURIER 1

(1772–1837)

After working in trade and banking, Charles Fourier, philosopher and utopian economist, designed plans for a harmoniously built city, a Phalanstère (Phalanstery), whose citizens would find personal and professional fulfilment in their work. This economic, social and human reform project aimed at ensuring an ideal life for mankind, but attempts to bring this to fruition failed. Fourier was born in a 16th century house, today Nos. 81 and 83, Grande Rue.

LOUIS XIV

(1638–1715)

In 1674, Louis XIV conquered Besançon for the second, and final, time. It remained the capital of the province. On 16 June, 1683, he, Queen Maria Theresa and the dauphin arrived in the city and spent several days with the governor at Granvelle Palace.

NICOLAS PERRENOT

DE GRANVELLE 2

(1486–1550)

De Granvelle was a lawyer, who became the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V's First Advisor in 1524. He built the Granvelle Palace in Besançon.

ANTOINE PERRENOT

DE GRANVELLE 3

(1517–1586)

Son of Nicolas, Antoine de Granvelle became a cardinal and succeeded his father in service to the Hapsburgs. He was a great statesman, patron of the arts and a collector. He added to art and literature collections begun by his father and thanks to him, the Besançon Municipal Library has a formidable collection.

PIERRE-JOSEPH PROUDHON 4

(1809–1865)

Born 15 January 1809 in Besançon at No. 23, rue du Petit-Battant, Pierre-Joseph Proudhon was the author of internationally recognised socialist theories. A sculpture honouring him stands in Sarraill Square. His letters are archived at the Besançon Municipal Library.

VAUBAN (SÉBASTIEN

LE PRESTRE DE VAUBAN) 5

(1633–1707)

Louis XIV owed much to Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban. From 1668 onwards, as the King's Engineer, he designed and built the first defence system for France's land and maritime borders. He studied attack procedures and created a method of siege that was used for 2 centuries. He provided the brilliant strategic and military advice that was largely responsible for the destruction of the Besançon (and Franche-Comté) forces, both in 1668 and in 1674. After the conquest in 1668, he designed the plans for the Citadel. And then, with the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, Franche-Comté was returned to the Spaniards, who continued to build according to his plans. From 1674 to 1688, he continued building and reinforcing the Citadel. From 1689 to 1695, he reinforced Fort Griffon, Besançon's "second Citadel", and rebuilt strong defensive bastions around the Loop. To garrison the troops, barracks were built: another innovative idea.

SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

AUGUSTE AND LOUIS LUMIÈRE 6

(1862–1954) (1864–1948)

The Lumière brothers were the inventors of the technology and the commercial exploitation of cinematography. They also made significant improvements to photography. They were born at No. 1, Saint Quentin Square (now Victor Hugo Square). There is a sculpture illustrating a scene from their film, *The Sprinkler Sprinkled*, done by Pascal Coupot* in the courtyard of the Pierre Bayle Centre, rue de la République, in the city centre.

PASCAL COUPOT 7

Born in 1960 in Haute-Saône (Franche-Comté), Coupot followed artistic training at the Regional College of Fine Arts in Besançon. He describes himself as largely self-taught.

“If Louis XIV had listened to him, Vauban would have in many ways forestalled the Revolution.”

Adolphe Thiers, 2nd president of the French Republic



LOUIS PASTEUR 1

(1822–1895)

Born in Dole, Pasteur spent his childhood in Arbois. While he studied in Besançon for his baccalaureates, he worked as a teaching assistant at the Royal Grammar School (today, the Victor Hugo Secondary School, 8, rue du Lycée) from 1839–1842. He was very interested in drawing with pastels and did the portrait of the head teacher. You can see a trompe-l'œil of him on one of the houses on Pasteur Square (No. 5). Jean-Joseph, his father, born at No. 53, rue d'Arènes in Besançon, was a tanner. (The house was rebuilt in the 19th century). Pasteur's birthplace in Dole and his home and laboratory in Arbois are open to the public.

CLAUDE FRANÇOIS DOROTHÉE, MARQUIS DE JOUFFROY D'ABBANS 2

(1751–1832)

The Marquis Jouffroy d'Abbans was a naval engineer who built the first steamboat, using the improved steam-driven machine by James Watt. His *Pyroscaphe* sailed on the Doubs in 1776. There are 2 statues erected to his memory: one on the Helvétie Promenade and the other at the Battant Bridge, cast in bronze in 1998 by Pascal Coupot.

ARCHITECTS

RENÉ TOURNIER 3

(1899–1977)

Tournier came from the Jura, and was an architect for civilian buildings and historic monuments, an art historian and writer. He came to Besançon in the 1930s after getting his diploma from the College of Fine Arts in Paris. In 1929, he won the competition for the university halls of residence which line Vieil Picard Quai: one of the first in France. He also designed the Notre-Dame Liberation Monument at la Chapelle des Buis, a village which overlooks Besançon.

MICHEL DEMENGE

Demenge is an architect from Besançon: he designed the Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre, situated in Micaud Park. The building is integrated seamlessly into the park and melts into the greenery because of its lightness and transparency.

CLAUDE-NICOLAS LEDOUX

(1736–1806)

A visionary architect from the Age of Enlightenment, Ledoux's work was the precursor to functional architecture. He designed the Municipal Theatre, built between 1778 and 1784 by Claude-Joseph Bertrand. It was a totally new concept of design for the times. Ledoux created the auditorium in the form of an amphitheatre, got rid of the boxes, gave the parterre audience seats and created the first orchestra pit in the world, a century before Bayreuth. The auditorium was destroyed by fire in 1958, and it was renovated in 1994 in a contemporary style. He also designed the Royal Saltworks at Arc-et-Senans.

HUGUES SAMBIN 4

(ca 1520–1601)

Born in Gray, Sambin was a Renaissance man; he was an architect, decorator, carpenter, engineer and designer. He designed the facade of the former Town Hall, which is today the Courthouse.

KENGO KUMA 5

Born in 1954 in Japan, Kuma is a world-renowned architect. His goal in his structures is to reinterpret Japanese tradition in 21st century terms, putting nature at the centre of his works. He designed and built the Centre of the Arts, inaugurated in 2013.

“Architecture is to masonry what poetry is to literature.”

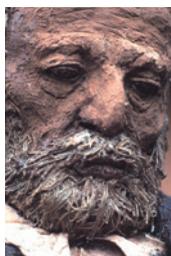
Claude-Nicolas Ledoux

BESANÇON

CULTURAL HERITAGE



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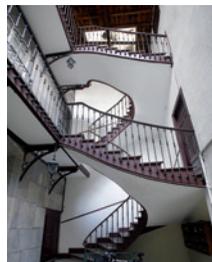
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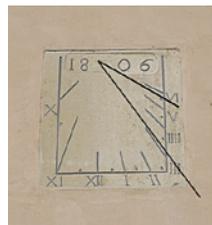
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FROM VESONTIO TO BESANÇON

A historically fascinating city, Besançon is on the UNESCO World Heritage List because of its Vauban fortifications. Located in an exceptional natural setting, Besançon has a rich and diverse past.

A proud city of a Gallic people, the Sequanes, it became Gallo-Roman under Julius Caesar, and was, for a long time, a free and imperial city, functioning as a small republic. After it was conquered by Louis XIV, Vauban constructed strong defensive bastions on its high, surrounding hills, making it impregnable. It became the new capital of Franche-Comté.

Here, history greets you at every turn on your walks, and Gallo-Roman archaeological remains, Renaissance palaces, bastioned fortifications and private mansions with classical facades prepare to delight you.

Besançon is also the birthplace of many writers, artists and philosophers. **Victor Hugo**, **Charles Nodier**, **Auguste and Louis Lumière**, and **Pierre-Joseph Proudhon** have contributed strikingly to the prestige of Besançon.

IDEAS AND MEN

THEY MADE FILMS!

Auguste and Louis Lumière 1, physicists and DIY enthusiasts, filed more than 193 patents. They were born in Besançon, in Victor Hugo Square; they are the inventors of cinematography and made significant contributions to the development of photography.

FRENCH LITERATURE CHANGED FOREVER

Besançon, capital of Franche-Comté, is proud to be the birthplace of **Victor Hugo 2** (1802-1885). Hugo was a playwright, poet, writer and intellectual. Through his personal life, by the quality of his work, his fight against poverty and commitment to the freedom of mankind, Hugo brought French literature to its apogee. In Besançon, two schools are named after him and there are two statues which pay him homage.

STEAMBOATS

The Marquis **Jouffroy d'Abbans 3** was a naval architect and engineer, and constructed the first steamboats.

SOCIOLOGY AT WORK

Pierre-Joseph Proudhon 4, philosopher and sociologist, was born in Besançon. He is one of the main theorists of French socialism and was the father of the Mutualist Movement and a pacifist. He was an activist for social revolution through peaceful means and not class struggle, putting him in opposition with Karl Marx.

ARCHITECTURAL ORIGINALS

OUTSIDE STAIRCASES 5

All the courtyards in the old town have one! Spiral or straight flight, these staircases are mostly in stone, decorated with wrought iron to the first floor and then wood balusters for the upper rental floors. The outside stairs in the inner courtyards are specific to the urban architecture of Besançon.

TIME AND SUNDIALS 6

In the City of Time, many building facades are decorated by sundials. These sundials show the sun's movements in the morning or the afternoon and are perfect examples of the rigorous expertise of the artisans who created them.

THAT PALE BLUE-BEIGE LOCAL STONE 7

The city centre owes its sense of harmony to both its architectural unity and to the stone used for its buildings. This stone, called **Chailluz stone** (from the old quarries in Chailluz Forest) is a limestone of blue and other tones, lending a soft light to the old town.

OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY THINGS

THE MOST COMPLEX WATCH IN THE WORLD 8

This watch, the **Leroy 01**, manufactured between 1900 and 1904, is one of the jewels of the collection at the Museum of Time. It is a showcase of mechanical knowledge: it performs 24 complications besides indicating the seconds (as a unity of measure): a record that is still unbeaten!

TELL TIME DIFFERENTLY AT SAINT MADELEINE'S CHURCH 9

This church, a splendid example of the beauty of Neo-classical architecture, has an astonishing sundial, which is a large noon mark sundial whose hour lines are carved into the paving stones in the church.

“Plût à Dieu”

THE MOTTO OF BESANÇON

Or **UTINAM** (in Latin) is the **official motto of Besançon**. It was a favorite expression of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, and it means “God Willing”. It is carved above the fountain at Jean Cornet Square.



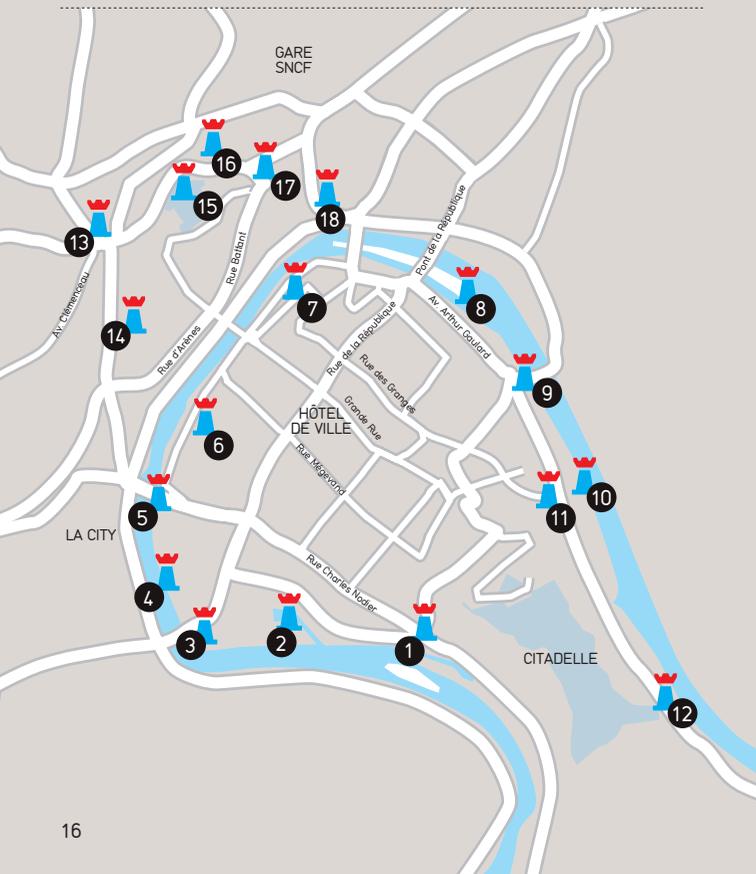
BESANÇON VAUBAN

Besançon was established on an exceptional site that has marked its destiny. The old town nestles in a loop of the Doubs River, surrounded by hills and dominated by the rocky outcrop upon which stands the impressive citadel, designed by Sébastien Le Prestre, Maréchal de Vauban.



A NETWORK OF MAJOR VAUBAN SITES

In 2008, Besançon, along with the 11 other network member cities, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are, in all, **18 key fortification sites** in Besançon.



1 TOUR NOTRE-DAME

Notre Dame Tower - This mediaeval tower was part of the fortified entryway called Notre Dame Gate. It allowed access to Besançon from the South. Vauban had the gate dismantled and then had it rebuilt nearer the bank of the Doubs, adding a bastion in 1691.

2 BASTION DE LA VILLE

City Bastion - This defence structure once encircled the old mill.

3 TOUR BASTIONNÉE DE CHAMARS

Chamars Bastioned Tower - This bastioned tower was built by Vauban between 1688 and 1695 and, except for some modifications made around 1840, is still largely intact.

4 TOUR DU MARAIS

Marais Tower - In the 19th century, an extension to the Tower was removed and an outside staircase was added.

5 BASTION DE L'ARCHEVÊQUE

The Archbishop's Bastion - This bastion encircled the mill belonging to the Archbishop of Besançon until the 18th century.

6 TOUR DES CORDELIERS

Cordeliers Tower - In the 19th century, a part of the tower was removed and an outside staircase was added.

7 QUAI VAUBAN

Vauban Embankment - Designed by the engineer Robelin, the Quai Vauban was built between 1690 and 1695. Its only defence structures are at its ends: the Cordeliers, Poitune, the Holy Spirit casemates. The Battant casemate no longer exists. This harmonious architectural ensemble, set back from the embankment, was what Jean-Jacques Rousseau saw in 1733 when he came to Besançon.

8 BASTION DU MOULIN SAINT-PAUL

Saint Paul's Mill Bastion - This bastion originally encircled a mill belonging to Saint Paul's Abbey and in the 19th century it was leased to a professional miller who supplied the garrison with bread.

9 TOUR BASTIONNÉE DE BREGILLE

Bregille Bastioned Tower - In the 19th century, one part was removed; in the early 20th century it became a dovecote for the military.

10 TOUR BASTIONNÉE DE RIVOTTE

Rivotte Bastioned Tower - At one time, it was connected to the Rivotte Gate by a defensive wall with a gun gallery to defend the perimeters of the gate.

11 PORTE RIVOTTE

Rivotte Gate - This is one of the gates into the old town of Besançon. It dates from medieval times and had a drawbridge to guard the road to Switzerland via Pontarlier. It was renovated in 1546 under Emperor Charles V, and other changes were made in the 17th century. Vauban reworked the central portion, giving it a protruding avant-corps. On the upper part, you can see the coat of arms of France, with the Royal Sun symbol above it.

12 PORTE TAILLÉE

The Stone-cut Gate - This gate dates from medieval times. The tower was redesigned by Charles V and again in the 17th century by Vauban, who added a guardhouse. Modifications made in the 19th century can be seen in the passage above the vault when you come from the South.

13 + 14 FORTIFICATIONS DE BATTANT

Battant Fortifications - The Arenas and Charmont Gates, which were identical, no longer exist. Only the guardhouses remain on either side.

15 FORT GRIFFON

Built by Vauban between 1680 and 1695, it is the second citadel of Besançon. It protected the area outside the city walls and watched over the newly conquered city.

16 PORTE BATTANT

Battant Gate - This gate was demolished in 1872 and rebuilt in 1873 with two entries and a new guardhouse. In 1957 it was demolished, but the guardhouse is still there.

17 BASTION DE BATTANT

Battant Bastion - This bastion is intact. Montmart Tower was built in medieval times and was kept by Vauban and used as a powder magazine.

18 TOUR DE LA PELOTE

Pelote Tower - Vauban kept this mediaeval tower; he built a bastion around it, defending the eastern end of the fortification.

BESANÇON CITADEL



VAUBAN FORTIFICATIONS: UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

One visit won't be enough!

The Besançon Citadel, a Vauban masterpiece, is one of the most beautiful citadels in France.

Towering more than 100 metres over the old town which is enclosed in the loop of the Doubs River, it offers spectacular panoramas from its ramparts. The Citadel is an important cultural and tourist centre and it makes heritage come alive for all who visit.

Besides the beautifully restored architectural ensemble of 11 hectares, the Citadel is home to three Museums of France, all of which offer exciting tours.



GPS

N 47° 13' 55" E 6° 1' 54"

Tel 03 81 87 83 33

www.citadelle.com

Réseau
des sites majeurs
de Vauban



MULTIMEDIA IMMERSION SHOW

Experience a total immersion into the past. This show takes you through time and space to explore the moments that have marked the history of Besançon and the Citadel.

It is all in Saint Stephen's Chapel at the Citadel, where the walls, the chancel and the vaulted ceiling become huge expanses of historical image and sound: exciting episodes of history are related for your eyes and ears. In 15 minutes you experience key events of the Citadel's past that will make the rest of your visit that much richer.

MUSEUM

The museum demonstrates biodiversity and helps preserve endangered species in its Zoological Garden, Aquarium, Insectarium and Noctarium. Nowhere else in France can you find a place with so many species of animals on the same site.

MUSEUM OF FRANCHE-COMTÉ

This museum is all about Franche-Comté. You will see exhibits on many of its traditions (clothing, tools...).

THE RESISTANCE AND DEPORTATION MUSEUM

The museum is a poignant testimonial of a dark period of history. There is a wealth of original documents on display. (Under renovation until March 2016)

CHOOSE YOUR TOUR...

The Citadel offers a number of different tours, depending on what you want to see and the time you have available. **Unguided tour** (explore the site, the museums and animal areas on your own). **Actor-accompanied tour** (An actor will accompany you, combining performance with history). **Interactive tours** (accompanied by a multilingual audioguide (French/English/German)). **Guided tour** (French/English/German). **Children's tour** (a booklet for children provided for the 7-11 year-olds).

A REALLY DIFFERENT TOUR

Guided tour only.

Go into one of the Citadel tunnels, dug into the earth, that was used for troop movement within the Citadel; it was especially useful for protection during an attack.

PLAYS, CONCERTS, EXHIBITIONS, SHOWS...

The Citadel is a place where culture comes alive. All year long, things are happening!

✕ For more details, visit
www.citadelle.com



CITADEL

Recommended length of visit at the Citadel: at least one half-day on your own, and at least 2 hours for a Discovery Day.

ACCESS

From the Besançon city centre.



Bus line Rodia-Citadelle

Make it even easier:

Park for free at la Rodia! 400 places

During peak season, please use this car park.

✕ For more information
www.bateau-besancon.fr
www.ginko.voyage



Low season: Up near the Citadel

Follow the "Citadelle" signs from the city centre. There is a car park up near the entrance. The number of places is very limited.



Leave your car at la Rodia (400 spaces) Follow pedestrian signs from Rivotte or Tarragnoz; allow about 30 minutes. There are lovely walks up to the Citadel: enjoy the scenic outlooks over the old town and the Doubs Loop that encircles it. There are stairs to climb: please wear comfortable shoes.

You can also board The Little Tourist Train, which will take you to the Citadel.

✕ For more information
www.citadelle.com
www.besancon-tourisme.com



EATING FACILITIES

Brasserie-restaurant 'Le Grand Couvert' and snack bar 'La Taverne': open seasonally. Please contact beforehand.

PORTE NOIRE

The Black Gate

This Roman triumphal arch was erected around 175 CE, during the reign of Marcus Aurelius, at the southern entrance to the city, where the road from Italy became a major north-south crossroads. The original architecture and sculptures are basically intact.

Its proportions were uncommonly high. It has lost 3 metres in height, since its foundation is buried more than a metre underneath the modern road, and its attic, which supported the imperial statue at the top, is missing. In Roman times, the arch stood on its own, and its short sides, now hidden by the Archdiocese and the Rectorat (local education authority) were entirely decorated with images, such as those on the facades, drawn from mythology and religion. There are only a few scenes of war, which can be seen in the passage. Thus the arch, a part of local history, transmits a political message via philosophy and the analogy made between the worlds of the gods and human beings.

At the time of the Later Roman Empire, when danger threatened and inhabitants had to flee to the slopes of the hill, the arch became a town gate, defending the town. Neglected for centuries, the arch was saved from destruction by P. Marnotte in the 19th century. Thanks to its recent restoration, its original elegance can be appreciated once more.

GALLO-ROMAN MOSAICS

Julius Caesar wrote of Besançon (Vesontio in those days) in his "Commentary on the Gallic War", calling it "oppidum Sequani" (town of the Sequanes). His strategist's mentality was attracted to the site where the Sequanes had built their town for its superior strategic possibilities. The town, protected by its ramparts, occupied the entire loop where neighbourhoods were set up. Its streets were lined with wood frame buildings.

When Vesontio became an administrative town under Roman rule, it changed. Affluent neighbourhoods and open squares were marked by masonry architecture, richly decorated with sculptures, frescoes and mosaics. The mosaics were discovered by chance during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries; today archaeological excavations are programmed whenever construction requires digging.

The mosaics discovered over the last 30 years have been restored, and either preserved in museums or replaced at, or nearby, the site where they were discovered. If you go to the corner of the rue d'Alsace and rue de Lorraine, you will see a beautiful mosaic under glass in front of the Lumière Middle School, right in the heart of Besançon! It has a geometric design and dates from the 2nd century CE.

BESANÇON MUSEUMS



BIRTHPLACE OF VICTOR HUGO

The house where Victor Hugo was born is on the same square where Charles Nodier and the Lumière brothers were born and where Gustave Courbet lived. Its doors were opened to the public in 2013.

Hugo's battles and his commitments come alive through sets designed with the latest technology. No. 140, Grande Rue is the place to learn about and reflect upon the extraordinary heritage, both literary and political, that he left for us. Objets d'art, some of them major, and some that belonged to him, are also on display. Ten years after the celebration of the bicentenary of his birth, the City of Besançon now has a permanent tribute to Victor Hugo.

✕ For more information
Maison Victor Hugo
140, Grande Rue
www.besancon.fr/hugo

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The Museum of Fine Arts and Archaeology of Besançon, in the heart of the old city in the Loop of the Doubs, has a long and surprising history. The fine arts section has one of the richest and oldest collections in France.

This was the first "open to the public" collection in France, opened in 1694 – one century before the creation of museums during the French Revolution. (The Louvre opened in 1793.) In 1843, the collection, richer because of a number of donations, was installed in the new Corn Exchange Building, designed by the architect Pierre Marnotte (1797-1882). The art collections coexisted with business activities for some time. In 1849, the Archaeological Museum was created and integrated into the same building.

✕ For more information
1, place de la Révolution
www.mbaa.besancon.fr

THE MUSEUM
IS CLOSED FOR
RENOVATIONS:
RE-OPENING
SPRING 2018



MUSEUM OF TIME

Granvelle Palace is a beautiful example of Renaissance architecture in Franche-Comté. It was restored (1988-2002) so that it could house the Museum of Time, which combines Besançon history, science and clockmaking.

Time, which encompasses history and clockmaking, is the link that connects the rooms on your tour. From the collection of Abbot Boisot in the 17th century, to the historical one of time measurement objects, to the collections of clocks

reflecting Besançon as the capital of watchmaking... your tour presents time from the broadest sense, to its most technical and scientific, to its most universal and poetical.



GPS
N 47°14.145' E 006°01.593'
Palais Granvelle
96, Grande Rue
www.besancon.fr/museedutemps





THE FRAC

The FRAC (Regional Collection of Contemporary Art) is one of 24 in France, created in 1982 as part of the French decentralisation process. Each FRAC promotes the development of contemporary art in its specific region. Discover the FRAC of Franche-Comté!

THE COLLECTION

The collection of contemporary art which you will discover is the only one of its kind in Franche-Comté. Today, it boasts more than 550 works from fields such as painting, photography, sculpture, installation art, graphics, textiles, audiovisual, etc., by more than 260 artists of many nationalities. Works are added to the collection each year.

The FRAC, housed at the Centre of the Arts, features works by Marina Abramovic, Robert Breer, Christian Boltanski, Balthasar Burkhard, Gérard Gasiorowski, Christian Marclay, Gregor Schneider, Xavier Veilhan, Gérard Collin-Thiébaud, Didier Marcel, Cyprien Gaillard and other artists.

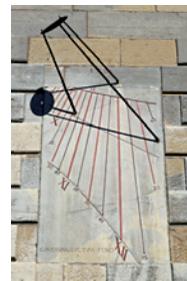
ARCHITECTURAL AND HERITAGE INTERPRETATION CENTRE (CIAP)

The Centre's purpose is to give Besançon residents and visitors an understanding and appreciation of the heritage and identity of the city (its urban changes, its history, its people, its architectural features...) There are both permanent and temporary exhibitions at the Town Hall. Discover the architecture and heritage of Besançon in fun ways. Watch some films on the history, from the times of the Gauls and the Romans to 1950, from 1950 until today and into the future...

✕ For more information
Town Hall (Hôtel de Ville)
Place du 8 Septembre

TEMPORARILY
CLOSED DUE
TO RENOVATIONS

BESANÇON AS TIME GOES BY



THE ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK AND SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL 1

The Astronomical Clock was classified an historic monument in 1991. It was designed and built (1858 to 1860) by the master watchmaker, Auguste-Lucien Vérité.

It has its own special room in the lower part of St. John's bell tower, and one of its functions is to operate the outside and inside clocks of the cathedral and those in 2 Comtois bell towers. The clock itself has 30,000 mechanical working parts; there are 64 dials operating in single movement and the clock gives 122 interdependent indications such as times, dates, seasons and signs of the zodiac, solar eclipses, phases of the moon... The upper part of the clock displays automatons. They come alive every hour and perform scenes inspired by the Catholic Bible.



GPS
N 47°14.016' E 006°01.849'
St. John's Cathedral
Rue du Chapitre
www.horloge-besancon.monuments-nationaux.fr

BESANCON OBSERVATORY 2

The observatory opened on 5 August 1885; it celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2015.

It was originally designed to be a chronometric, astronomical and weather observatory. Adapting to the times, chronometry gave way to time-frequency analysis and astronomy to astrophysics. The observatory and its grounds were classified as an historical monument on 3 May 2012.

GUIDED TOURS ONLY

✕ Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre
www.besancon-tourisme.com

SUNDIALS 3

"The sun lies; the clock tells the truth" was the watchmakers' motto. The Besançon sundials testify to this.

The vertical noon mark sundial at the Town Hall, made in 1786, uses the sun's movement in the morning. It is a perforated disc supported by three legs, and it gives the local time according to the sun from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. Sundials often have sayings engraved on them, which give food for thought. Something functional has a philosophical or moral message. "Gaudium et luctum fero" (I bring joy and pain), the inscription on this sundial, is a good example.

BESANÇON RELIGIOUS HERITAGE



ÉGLISE SAINT-PIERRE

Saint Peter's Church
Place du 8 Septembre

In 1780 the architect C.J. Bertrand presented the plans for a new church in a royal square in the heart of the city. The church, in the shape of a Greek cross, was built between 1782 and 1786. The French Revolution interrupted the completion of the project.



The painting *The Resurrection of Lazarus* by Martin de Vos, 1580, from the Granvelle collection, and *The Pieta*, a group sculpted by Luc Breton, 1787.

BASILIQUE DES SAINT-FERRÉOL ET SAINT-FERJEUX

Basilica
Rue de la Basilique

The basilica, begun 1884 and finished in 1901, is the work of architect Alfred Ducat, with the collaboration of artists of the late 19th century. It contains many Besançon and Franche-Comté works of art.

CHAPELLE NOTRE-DAME DU REFUGE

Our Lady of Refuge Chapel
18, rue de l'Orme de Chamars

The chapel, begun in 1739 and completed in 1745, is the work of the Besançon architect Nicolas Nicole. It was initially part of the Convent of Refuge and was annexed to St. Jacques Hospital in 1802.

ÉGLISE DE LA MADELEINE ET LE JACQUEMART

**Saint Madeleine's Church
and the Jacquemart**
Rue de la Madeleine

(right bank of the Battant Bridge)
Saint Madeleine's Church is the magnum opus of architect Nicolas Nicole. Work on it began in 1746 and continued for the rest of the century. The two towers were completed in 1830. The church is divided into three naves, harmoniously proportioned by paired columns, standing on imposing stylobates. The architectural unity makes this church a model of Neo-classical architecture.

A **jacquemart** is a special antique automaton sculpted in wood or metal whose job is to tell the time by striking a bell with a hammer.

CATHÉDRALE SAINT-JEAN

Saint John's Cathedral
10, rue de la Convention

Construction was begun in the 12th century (the pillars and large Romanesque arches of the nave) and completed in the 13th century (cross-ribbed vaults), according to an unusual plan, which featured two opposing apses.



From the end of the 17th century until the Revolution, *the Holy Shroud of Besançon*, a relic venerated throughout region, was kept in the Holy Shroud apse. The decoration of the apse, baroque-inspired, is, today, the background for an iconographic ensemble of paintings and sculptures, representing the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are paintings by J.F. Detroy, Natoire and Vanloo, *The Madonna with Saints*, a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance by the Florentine Fra Bartolomeo (1512), and the tomb of Ferry Carondelet (1543).

SYNAGOGUE

Quai de Strasbourg

Of all the synagogues built in the east of France under the Second Empire, this is one of the most markedly influenced by the Middle Eastern style of architecture.

GALERIE DU SAINT-ESPRIT

Holy Spirit Gallery
1, rue Goudimel

Established in Besançon in 1203, the Hospitaller Order of the Holy Spirit began the construction of a chapel and hospital buildings as of 1207, thanks to the generosity of Jean de Montferrand. Their main mission was the reception and care of the sick, the poor, pilgrims and abandoned children. Over the centuries architectural changes were made on the buildings and in the chapel, and a tower was built in the 15th century. Later, a gallery was built, carved in wood. Its decor is a harmonious blend of Mediaeval and Renaissance styles.

BESANÇON ARCHITECTURE



COURTHOUSE



INTERIOR COURTYARDS AND SPLENDID STAIRCASES

In the heart of the city, mansions and bourgeois homes line the main streets. The high rocky crags of the Citadel and the loop of the Doubs River which surrounds the old town were constraints the builders of the past had to deal with. Building space was limited, which is why the houses in Besançon were built on narrow but long parcels.

Buildings, mansions and rentals, were separated by courtyards or indoor gardens. To gain space, the stairs were built outside, affixed to the party walls. Flights were coupled to serve two main buildings. Most staircases were made of stone, and decorated with wrought iron up to the first floor; wood balusters were used for the upper rental floors. The outside stairs in the inner courtyards are distinctive to the city centre of Besançon.



THE CENTRE OF THE ARTS

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

PALAIS DE JUSTICE

The Courthouse 1, rue Mégevand

The modern section of this courthouse was designed by Henri Gaudin. The preserved old section, entrance at Hugues Sambin Street, houses the Court of Appeal.

IN MEMORIAM

Glacis Park

The monument to the dead was moved to Glacis Park where a new memorial site has been created that honours soldiers who died for France. We offer a guided tour for the sculptures from the old war memorial and the contemporary creation by Ousmane Sow: *Man and Child*.

DELTA DU DOUBS

At the Neuchâtel Roundabout and the Huddersfield-Kirklees Roundabout (at each end of the Citadel Tunnel), you can see half of one huge sculpture.

Created by the artist François Morelet, it was erected in 1996, to commemorate the drilling of the tunnel under the Citadel.

LA CITY

Rue Gabriel Plançon

Both a business centre and a communication hub, La City, designed by the architectural firm Studio, symbolises Besançon's commitment to state-of-the-art technologies.

THE VISITOR AND CONVENTION INFORMATION CENTRE

Place de la 1^{re} Armée Française

The centre is located in Micaud Park, and is the work of Besançon architect Michel Demenge. It is integrated seamlessly into the park and melts into the greenery because of its lightness and transparency.

LA RODIA

4, avenue de Chardonnet

La Rodia, built on stilts, is located near the city centre of Besançon. It was designed by the architecture firm of Denu et Paradon.

THE CENTRE OF THE ARTS

12, avenue Arthur Gaulard

It was designed by the Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, whose design symbolises "the place where nature and the city meet, where inhabitants and river banks meet and where people meet with culture in its multiple forms."



MANSIONS

“Hôtel particulier”, shortened to “hôtel”, in this section, is a mansion.

HÔTEL DU CHAMBRIER

11, rue de la Convention

This mansion, with a mediaeval past and rebuilt in the 18th century by François Gaspard de Grammont, Bishop of Arethusa and suffragan to the Archbishop of Besançon, today houses the Regional Council.

HÔTEL DU BOUTEILLER

2, rue des Granges

This mansion was built in 1582 by Claude de Jouffroy, Lord Marchaux. Its facade is decorated similarly to the Courthouse, built at the same time. Some sentences engraved on the facade, such as “No opted laudari sed factors laudanda” (Do not wish for praise: be worthy of it), convey philosophical or moralistic thoughts of the humanism of the Renaissance.

HÔTEL GAUTHIOT D'ANCIER

15, Grande Rue

This mansion was built in the early 16th century by Simon Gauthiot d'Ancier, co-governor of Besançon and rival of Nicolas de Granvelle. The facade on Grande Rue, with its ogee-arched bay windows, is Late Gothic. It was in this house that Simon Gauthiot d'Ancier hosted the Supreme Commander of the French Armies, Charles III, Duke of Bourbon, who offered his services to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

HÔTEL DE TERRIER-SANTANS

68, Grande Rue

HÔTEL DE COURBOUZON

20, rue Chifflet

HÔTEL BOITOUSET

5, rue de la Convention

This mansion was built in the second half of the 18th century for Canon Boitouse, and is today the residence of the Archbishop of Besançon.

BESANÇON FOUNTAINS

In 1559, the spring in the small Bregille valley was harnessed to feed six fountains in the heart of the city, and from 1560 to 1580, the Franche-Comté sculptor Claude Lullier, commissioned by the city, decorated each of them. In a niche, the Fontaine des Carmes with its stone basin embellished by a sculpted Neptune astride a dolphin is a testimonial to his talent.

FONTAINE DES DAMES



Fountain of the Ladies Rue Charles Nodier

This fountain, in its stone niche at a corner of the Prefecture, was created in 1785 after the designs by architect Claude Joseph Bertrand. It was decorated by the sculptor Luc Breton. Against a background of stone, treated to resemble limestone formations, two intertwined dolphins support a shell: a lovely setting for a little bronze mermaid. Claude Lullier sculpted the little mermaid, who first graced the courtyard of Granvelle Palace in the 16th century.

FONTAINE DE LA PLACE JEAN CORNET

The Jean Cornet Square Fountain

This monumental fountain, which is at an intersection, was sculpted by Albert Pasche in 1900, after the designs by the architect E-B St. Ginest. It replaced a fountain which was built in 1740 and destroyed during the Revolution. “Utinam”, the inscription engraved under the pediment, is the motto of Besançon, in Latin. On other monuments, this motto appears in French “Plût à dieu” (“God Willing”).

FONTAINE BACCHUS

Rue Battant

The very name of this fountain commemorates not only the wine industry which existed in the Battant section of Besançon, but also the existence of an old fountain decorated with a stone Bacchus, sculpted by Claude Lullier in 1579. Alphonse Delacroix, a city architect, designed the present fountain in 1854. He also designed the impressive Arcier aqueduct in 1850. To celebrate the arrival of the water supply from Arcier, the city voted to create three new fountains, one of which was the Bacchus Fountain.

LE MINOTAURE

This modern fountain, *The Minotaure*, built near the **Denfert-Rochereau Bridge**, is right in the middle of the river. It was designed by the Besançon artist Jens Boettcher and is 7 m high, in bronze. Boettcher also designed the statue, *La Source*, which stands in the basin of Saint Quentin's Fountain.

LA SOURCE

This fountain is at **Place Victor Hugo** (Victor Hugo Square): its background and lighting enhance its presence.

L'ARROSEUR ARROSÉ

The Tables Turned on the Gardener or The Sprinkler Sprinkled

Rue de la République, Centre Pierre Bayle

This sculpture, by Pascal Coupot, pays tribute to the Lumière brothers. It depicts a scene from their film, *Tables Turned on the Gardener*. It was the first fiction film and what may be the first sight gag in cinema history.

“Do not wish
for praise:
be worthy of it.”

BESANÇON THE DOUBS



Other ways to discover the charm of our city and our river: sightseeing boat rides or small rental boats, with or without a driver..., they will take you, moving with the current, to a waterfall, a lock or a tunnel...

VEDETTES DE BESANÇON BOAT *LE BATTANT*



Take the Loop of the Doubs Cruise, passing through locks and through the Citadel Tunnel. Learn about Besançon during the live commentary. Length of tour: **about 1 hour and 15 min.**

Departure from the Pont de la République (Republic Bridge)
www.vedettesdebesancon.com
Christmas Cruise (reserve at the Visitor and Convention Information Centre).

DEPARTURE TIMES
Daily from April to October

BATEAU DE BESANÇON BOAT *LE VAUBAN*



Our boat, *Le Vauban*, takes you all around the Loop of the Doubs in comfort and style. You pass through two locks and through the impressive, 375-metre-long underground canal, dug under the Citadel. From the boat, you have a stunning view of the Vauban fortifications and the Citadel (both are on the UNESCO World Heritage List). Take *Le Vauban* for a dinner cruise, or as a venue for your corporate seminars, weddings, parties with shows.

Departure from the Pont de la République (Republic Bridge)
info@bateau-besancon.fr
www.bateau-besancon.fr

DEPARTURE TIMES
For individuals, scheduled departures in season: for precise times, go to visitezbesancon.com
For groups, daily (except in winter), reservation necessary



MONSIEUR
CANAL

MONSIEUR CANAL

Lock 56 at Thoraise: a river tunnel with **magical lightworks!** Created by Jeppe Hein (artist) and Olivier Vadrot (architect/design).

At Villers-le-Lac, visit the river basins and the Falls of the Doubs River (le Saut du Doubs) by boat.

CNFS VEDETTES PANORAMIQUES DU SAUT DU DOUBS

2, place Maxime Cupillard
25130 Villers-le-Lac
www.vedettes-panoramiques.com

BATEAUX DU SAUT DU DOUBS DROZ-BARTHOLET COMPANY

Les Terres-rouges
25130 Villers-le-Lac
www.sautdudoubs.fr

CNFS Vedettes Panoramiques and Bateaux du Saut du Doubs provide cruises with and without dinner on the Doubs River basins at Villers-le-Lac and include a visit to the Falls. Reservations essential for dinner cruises.

BARGE HIRONDELLE

A Barge Named "The Swallow"
L'Hirondelle can carry up to 8 passengers. Tastefully decorated, she offers her guests a relaxed atmosphere and sails down some of the quietest canals.

H2olidays S.A.R.L.
Port de Plaisance
21170 Saint Jean de Losne
www.vacancesfluviales.com

LOCABOAT

When you rent a Locaboat barge, you discover delightful swimming spots on the Saône River, the Doubs River and the Seille. Sail along La Petite Saône at Gray and then along the Rhone-Rhine Canal to Besançon: take a one-way trip, departing from Scey-sur-Saône for the best of river cruises on a small traditional French barge. Sail on beautiful rivers that don't have many locks.

Doubs Plaisance
Pont de la République (Republic Bridge)
Lock-keeper's House
www.locaboat.com

CROISIEUROPE BARGE CRUISES

Stop off at the most beautiful ports of call in the Doubs River Valley and in Burgundy. You will be traveling in the heart of our natural and architectural heritage. All new itinerary, full board on the barge, bicycles available, optional visits.

12, rue de la Division Leclerc
67080 Strasbourg Cedex
www.croisieurope.com



GREATER BESANÇON RIVER PORT AND MARINAS: 3 SITES, 75 MOORINGS

If you are transiting or want to rent a short- or long-term mooring at any of the 3 marinas:

Doubs Plaisance

www.doubsplaisance.com

ST. PAUL'S RIVER PORT AND MARINA IN BESANÇON

Location: on St. Pierre's Island (Ile Saint-Pierre) in the heart of Besançon. Open year-round. Harbour Master's Office of Greater Besançon. 25 moorings for boats up to 14 metres.

Facilities: reception office, showers and toilets, floating pontoons for moorings, power and water hook-ups. Maximum Draught: 1.30 metres

Maximum Air Draught: 3.50 metres
During the summer season, priority is given to transiting boats.

During the winter, medium- and long-term moorings available: location is well-protected from flooding.

THE CENTRE OF THE ARTS MARINA IN BESANÇON

Flowing water marina
20 moorings for boats up to 20 metres + 2 berths for big boats (passenger boats, boat hotels... reservation required for boats over 20 metres long).
Facilities: floating pontoons for moorings, power and water hook-ups, a pump-out station, and a gangway to the dock for people with reduced mobility.

Maximum Draught: 1.80 metres
Maximum Air Draught: 3.50 metres
The marina accommodates vessels for short-, medium- and long-term mooring during the summer season. Because the marina is on flowing water, it is closed in winter. See St.Paul's Marina for winter moorings.

PETROL PUMP
(diesel only)
www.grandbesancon.fr

DELUZ RIVER MARINA
Accommodates all types of boats up to 15 metres long, 30 moorings. Full-service marina (painting and mechanical service, winter berthing...) Facilities: floating pontoons for moorings, power and water hook-ups, a pump-out station, access ramp, picnic tables.



DOUBS PLAISANCE BOAT RENTALS

ELECTRIC BOAT
Electric boat rental: so you can see Besançon from the Doubs, safely and at your own rhythm. Allow 2 hours for reception, getting settled in the boat and to tour the Loop. You will go through 2 locks at Tarragnoz and Moulin St Paul (St. Paul's Mill).

OPENING TIMES
April to October

RIVER CRUISES
Cruises organised for disabled adults (approved by Vacances Adaptées)

OPENING TIMES
April to September
www.doubsplaisance.com
www.grandbesancon.fr

AROUND BESANÇON



CHÂTEAU
DE VAIRE-LE-GRAND

CHÂTEAU DE VAIRE-LE-GRAND

This chateau, built in the 18th century, is famous for its formal French gardens. It offers you a panoramic view of the Doubs Valley.



GPS
[N 47°17.012' E 006°09.047](#)
11 km from Besançon: take RN 83
10, rue de Charmont
25220 Vaire-Arcier
[v.l.g.free.fr](#)

ACCESS

Free parking in front of the chateau for both cars and buses/coaches.

GUIDED TOURS

Group tours and tours for the disabled by appointment.



CHÂTEAU DE MONCLEY

The chateau was built in 1778 by the Marquis Terrier-Santans, "président à mortier" at the Besançon Court of Appeals, according to the plans of the architect Claude Joseph Alexandre Bertrand. It is one of the finest examples of Neo-classical architecture in France.



GPS
[N 47°18.698' E 005°53.300'](#)
17 km from Besançon:
take RN 57 towards Vesoul



GUIDED TOURS

Two-hour guided tours all year round: for requests and registration (required), contact the Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre.



MUSÉE DE PLEIN AIR
DES MAISONS COMTOISES
DE NANCRAY

MUSÉE DE PLEIN AIR DES MAISONS COMTOISES DE NANCRAY

Franche-Comté Houses
Museum

The purpose of this museum is to show the diversity of rural Franche-Comté houses.

In a 15-hectare park, 27 buildings of various local styles, rebuilt stone by stone, stand amidst gardens, telling the story of daily life from the 17th to 19th centuries. Events are scheduled throughout the year: for children, there are workshops (building huts, looking at nature through a magnifying glass...) and for adults (baking bread in a bread-oven, making preserves the old-fashioned way...). There are daily demonstrations of savoir-faire, tastings of local products, thematic tours on housing, environment, gardens...



GPS
[N 47°14.344' E 006°11.080'](#)
[www.maisons-comtoises.org](#)

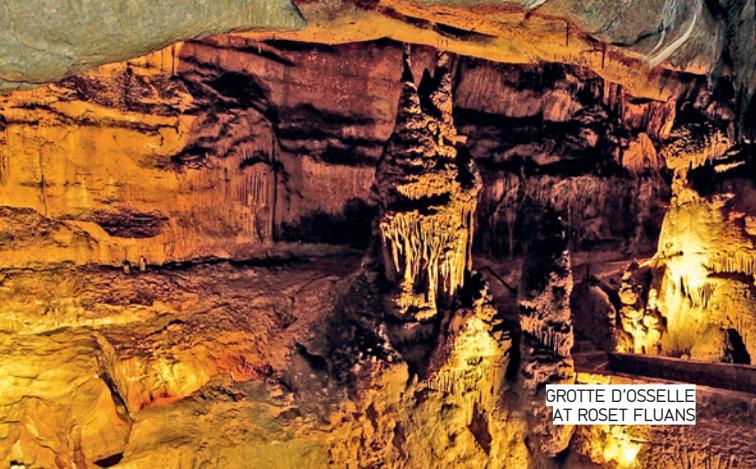


MAISON DU COMTÉ



The museum area of the House of Comté Cheese is dedicated to the awakening of the 5 senses. There are models, interactive exhibits, sound effects and a Comté tasting at the end of the tour. Here is everything you need to urge you on to further discoveries, and take off... on the Comté Road!

✗ For more information
Avenue de la Résistance
39800 Poligny
[www.maison-du-comte.com](#)



GROTTE D'OSSELLE
AT ROSET FLUANS

SALINE ROYALE D'ARC-ET-SENANS

The Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982, is the magnum opus of Claude-Nicolas Ledoux (1736-1806), a visionary architect from the Age of Enlightenment. It is also a rare living example for the history of industrial architecture.

Louis XV ordered the construction of The Royal Saltworks (salt factory), and it was built between 1775 and 1779. The Royal Saltworks was created to function as an integrated factory in which most of the working community worked and lived. It became obsolete with the advent of new technologies, and the Royal Saltworks closed its doors in 1895. It was abandoned, looted, and damaged by fire in 1918; in 1927, the Doubs Department acquired it, saving it from total ruin. It took three successive periods of restoration, the last completed in 1996, to give it back its original splendour. The architecture of the Royal Saltworks, its history and restoration make it a unique monument.



GPS
N 47°01'23" E 005°46'11"
www.salineroyale.com

GUIDED TOURS

Guide-accompanied, audioguide or smartphone/tablet applications

✕ For more information, go to www.salineroyale.com

SALINE ROYALE HOTEL***

The Royal Saltworks is one of the few sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List which offers accommodation possibilities for groups and individual tourists. Each room has been renovated by the great contemporary architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte and guests can enjoy the night lighting of the site created by internationally renowned multimedia artist Michel Verjux.

Sleeping at the Saline Royale means you have access to the grounds and gardens before opening time: a moment to be treasured.

GRANDE SALINE DE SALINS-LES-BAINS

Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains



THE SALT MUSEUM

For nearly a millennium, the prosperity of Salins-les-Bains was linked to the channeling and management of the salt springs. The 18th and 19th century tunnels and a hydraulic pumping system, vestiges of which can be seen today, show the water drawing method used. The drying ovens area demonstrates the sweltering job of the saltworkers. The production of "white gold" demanded great effort: the brine was pumped from a bench of rock salt 246 metres down. The Saltworks closed down in 1962. In June 2009, the Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains became a UNESCO World Heritage Site, joining the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans.

✕ For more information
Place des Salines
39110 Salins-les-Bains
www.salinesdesalins.com

GUIDED TOURS

The guided tour lasts one hour and ends with free entry to the Salt Museum (museum visit: about 30 minutes).

GROTTE D'OSSELLE AT ROSET FLUANS

Because of the beauty of its natural setting, the variety of stalagmites and stalactites and colours, because of its geological phenomena and its historical and prehistoric treasures, Osselle Cave is one of the world's most amazing caves.

It was discovered in the 13th century, and from 1504 on, has attracted visitors, making it, along with Antyparos in Greece, one of the oldest tourist cave known. It was made famous by Loys Gollut (1535-1595), who chronicled his exploration of it; by William Buckland, who found the first full skeleton of a cave bear in 1826, which he exhibited at the British Museum; by Benjamin Silliman's journal (American Journal of Science and Arts, July 1828), the Royal Society of London (scientific catalog, 1800 to 1863) and Georges Cuvier, the inventor of paleontology.

There is a covered eating area and bike storage area.

✕ For more information
BP 67 - 25410 Saint Vit



GPS
N 47°08'31" E 005°50'19"
grottes.osselle.free.fr



TERRE DE LOUIS PASTEUR

The Land of Louis Pasteur includes the House of Louis Pasteur in Arbois and Pasteur's Laboratory and Louis Pasteur's Birthplace in Dole. All during 2015, the 150th anniversary of the discovery of pasteurisation, there were conferences, exhibitions and workshops about it.

Louis Pasteur was a scientist whose research went beyond the frontiers of knowledge; one of the most famous of French scientists, he is recognised and celebrated worldwide. Born in Dole in the Jura Department on 27 December, 1822, he grew up in the family home in Arbois, a place which he held dear during his entire life and to which he returned regularly. It was there that he did some of his groundbreaking research, and where he built his own laboratory: the only one which remains intact today.

His research was founded on experimentation, by which he made his major discoveries in both chemistry and biology, which benefited all of mankind. His scientific writings, including his laboratory notebooks from Arbois, were inscribed in 2015 with UNESCO's Memory of the World. Because of the discovery of his famous rabies vaccine, he wrote the seminal work on the stereochemistry of molecules and vaccines.

✕ For more information
Musée de l'EPCC
Terre de Louis Pasteur
43, rue Pasteur
39100 Dole
www.terredelouispasteur.fr

*“Science
has no
country.”*

Louis Pasteur



LOUIS PASTEUR'S HOUSE
AND LABORATORY

LOUIS PASTEUR'S HOUSE AND LABORATORY IN ARBOIS

Pasteur invested a lot of energy and money in the Arbois home. He transformed and expanded his father's tannery, making it into a comfortable house that he and his family could happily live in and to which he could welcome his friends.

All the interiors of the house have been preserved, especially including his private laboratory: the only one of his that survives today. It was restored in 1995 and faithfully represents Pasteur's day-to-day life. You can take a guided tour, or take a tablet self-guided tour (available in English and German). Visitors can even take a selfie with the great man!

✕ For more information
83, rue de Courcelles
39600 Arbois
www.terredelouispasteur.fr

LOUIS PASTEUR'S BIRTHPLACE IN DOLE

Pasteur was born in a house which borders the Tanners' Canal in a picturesque neighbourhood in Dole: the point of departure of the incredible destiny of the most famous of French scientists.

Established in 1923, this museum was the first to be dedicated to Louis Pasteur in France. It has been evolving ever since. Here, you can get to know the man himself—his artistic and scientific work, and what he left to posterity. Museum exhibitions take you from research contributions by Alexander Fleming to those of Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, exploring the world of science from a researcher's point of view. There is a permanent collection in which science, art and societal concerns interweave. Temporary exhibitions are varied. In the basement, which was the family tannery, you witness the backbreaking working life in which Pasteur grew up.

✕ For more information
43, rue Louis Pasteur
39100 Dole
www.terredelouispasteur.fr



BESANÇON, AN INTERNATIONAL CITY

Besançon is a city which is connected to the world, both inside and outside.

In Besançon, at the University of Franche-Comté, over 2,500 of its students come from all over the world, and the Centre of Applied Linguistics counts more than 4,000 course participants yearly who come to Besançon to learn French and other languages. With all the foreign residents, students and course participants who are in Besançon, there are 129 nationalities!

Visit our site, migrations.besancon.fr, to learn about the incredible richness that the people who have come to live in Besançon have provided.

And beyond its borders, Besançon has partnerships with 14 cities, the first of which was signed in 1955. Opening up to others is a long tradition in our city. Projects have ranged from:

- The **SC Clémenceau football tournament** and the **Handi'Forts Raid**: each year Besançon invites participants from its twinned cities
- At "**Instants Gourmands**" and at the **Christmas Market**: regional products and crafts from partners are on display
- **Cultural exchanges**: loans of our museum works to Japan; Franco-German concerts; a contemporary music project with Switzerland...

Besançon is present at events in partner cities too. Constant sharing goes on.

BESANÇON IS TWINNED WITH



FRANCHE-COMTÉ UNESCO SITES

When cities, landscapes and monuments have a unique beauty, then it behooves all of humanity to protect them. "If wars start in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed."

This is the founding principle of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), founded in 1945. Its ultimate goal is to preserve peace, one of its tasks is managing the natural and cultural heritage of humanity.

6 SITES TO EXPLORE

- **Besançon** and the Citadel
- **La Chaux-de-Fonds** and **Le Locle** (Switzerland) The architecture and planning of these two towns have been predominantly influenced by their main industry: watchmaking **1**
- The Great Saltworks of **Salins-les-Bains** – the Salt Museum **2**
- The Old Town of **Berne** (Switzerland)
- The Royal Saltworks of **Arc-et-Senans** **3**
- Sites of prehistoric pile dwellings (on stilts) in and around the Alps, dating from 5000 to 500 BC. Some of the most remarkable of these lakeside settlements are located on **Clairvaux Lake** and the western shore of **Chalain Lake** in the Jura.



DELUZ



MONTFAUCON
CHATEAU

VILLAGES AROUND BESANÇON

BOUSSIÈRES

Visit its Romanesque church. Under the control of the Madeleine Church Chapter (Besançon), it was declared independent in 1092. The bell tower, a beautiful example of Romanesque architecture, has 5 levels with Lombard arches. The porch of the church, an intersecting ribbed vault, was built in the latter half of the 16th century.

ARGUEL

From the ruins of a feudal castle, you have a panorama of the Doubs Valley.

DELUZ

Deluz and its surroundings are located in the heart of the Doubs Valley. Its flora and fauna are an exceptionally rich heritage (Natura 2000 European (green) networking programme). Its water-related activities bear witness to the past (paper mill), and the present (small hydro-electric power plant, marina and boat service).

PIREY

The Church of St. Martin and the Cloaked Madonna.

Accessible to persons with reduced mobility.

CHAUDEFONTAINE

The fountains and the covered wash house are near the chapel at rue des Fontaines and rue Moncey.

MONTFERRAND-LE-CHÂTEAU

Only the outer walls and the dungeon remain from this 13th century castle built by Jean II de Montferrand. If you stand on its esplanade, you have a breathtaking view of the Doubs Valley. The town has two religious institutions: the Benedictine Sisters of Bethany and the Congregation of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, whose nuns and nurses have ministries throughout the world.

THORAISE

Nearby, you can see the castle ruins of Montferrand-le-Château, see the Doubs Valley spread out below you from the lookout point, and visit the double lock at Rancenay, the Freycinet Canal and Osselle Cave.



GPS
N 47°09.952' E 005°54.54.472'

ÉCOLE-VALENTIN

Château du Saint-Esprit. This castle (Renaissance period) is on the Historic Monuments List.

VORGES-LES-PINS

A stone quarry, a plaster factory and a mill were active into the second half of the 19th century. There is also an open iron mine.

NOVILLARS

Paper mills from the 19th and 20th centuries.

MARAIS DE SAÔNE

There is a great variety of flora and fauna in this wetland ecological preserve. The GR 59 (national hiking trail) goes through it.

MONTFAUCON

The open-to-the-sky remains of an 11th century mediaeval dungeon stand on a rocky spur overlooking the Doubs Valley. As you walk around the castle, the vaulted caves and cellars and the foundations of church walls bear testimony to the old village, abandoned after it was destroyed by a fire during the Ten Years' War. On a cliff above, at 617 m, is the Montfaucon Fort, built between 1874 and 1878 to watch over the plain of Thisse. It is part of the fortification line developed by General Séré de Rivière.



GPS
N 47°14.487' E 006°04.938'

MUSÉE DES ARMÉES

"LUCIEN ROY" IN BEURE

This museum is dedicated to Lucien Roy, soldier 2nd class born in Beure and killed in 1915. It houses a large collection of French and foreign uniforms, and rare objects, such as the flag from the house where Napoleon lived on Elba. It also treats the role of women in war. 12 exhibit rooms.

OPENING TIMES

- ✗ Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre
museelucienroy.e-monsite.com
70, rue de Besançon
25720 Beure

BESANÇON

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE



1

Besançon's historical city centre is warm, inviting and culturally rich. Its lovely squares come alive with concerts, music festivals, and beautiful exhibitions throughout the year.

CONCERTS AND MUSIC FESTIVALS

FESTIVAL DE MUSIQUES ANCIENNES DE BESANÇON / MONTFAUCON

Besançon/Montfaucon Festival of Early Music

MAY-JUNE
www.festivaldemontfaucon.com

FESTIVAL JAZZ ET MUSIQUE IMPROVISÉE EN FRANCHE-COMTÉ

Franche-Comté Jazz and Improvised Music Festival

JUNE
www.aspro-impro.fr

FESTIVAL DE MUSIQUES LIBRES

Wide-Open Music Festival

OCTOBER
www.aspro-impro
These 2 festivals share moments when dreams, amazement and musical surprises converge.



2

LA RODIA: TODAY'S MUSIC IN BESANÇON 2

La Rodia is located near the city centre of Besançon in Près de Vaux, a neighbourhood under vibrant urban reconstruction, where cultural experiences abound. Le Bastion, mainly for young people, has 12 rehearsal areas and more than 220 music groups use them. La Rodia is built on stilts, and was designed by the architecture firm of Denu and Paradon.

✕ For more information
4, avenue de Chardonnet
www.larodia.com

“Music expresses that which cannot be said and about which it is impossible to remain silent.”

Victor Hugo



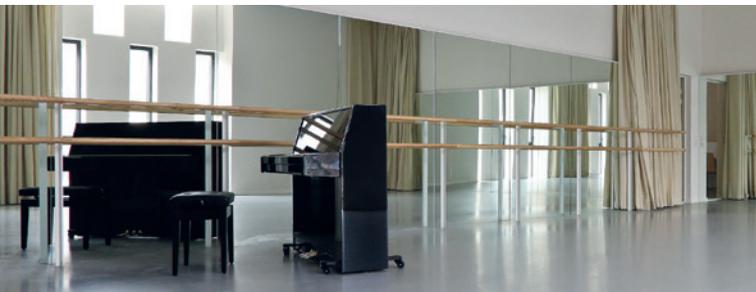
3

THE CENTRE OF THE ARTS 3

The Centre of the Arts exists due to the combined efforts of Greater Besançon, the Franche-Comté Regional Council and the City of Besançon. This imposing cultural centre, located at the old river port of Besançon, houses the CRR (Greater Regional Conservatory) and the FRAC (Regional Collection of Contemporary Art of Franche-Comté).

It was designed by the Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, whose design symbolises “the place where nature and the city meet, where inhabitants and river banks meet and where people meet with culture in its multiple forms”. Kuma has said, “I want to make architecture disappear. It's what I have always wanted to do, and I doubt that I will ever change my mind.” With the Centre of the Arts, Kuma created an architecture that symbolises a new generation of interdisciplinary cultural exchanges and discoveries. Its sculptured forms invite experimentation. It is also a place of exchanges and meetings, symbolised by the “Passage des Arts” which connects the FRAC and the Conservatory, the city and the river, people and culture.

✕ For more information
www.citedesarts.grandbesancon.fr
fr-fr.facebook.com/citedesartsdelaculture



1

THE REGIONAL CONSERVATORY 1

At the Centre of the Arts, the Conservatory offers courses in music, dance and theatre. It has 6,790 m² on three floors, with 80 classrooms, an orchestra venue, 3 rehearsal rooms and several work studios. The Conservatory provides, for its 80 teachers and 1,800 students, a 290-seat auditorium with excellent acoustics and stage equipment. It offers a yearly programme of music, dance and theatre performances.

The Conservatory offers courses in 40 areas:

Music

Classes for wood, keyboard, string, percussion and polyphonic instruments; voice; Early Music; jazz and present-day music; orchestra conductors and choruses, group practice.

Dance

Classes in classical, contemporary, jazz dance; musical culture and choreography.

Theatre

Classes in acting, musical culture and choreography, *école du spectateur* (sensitization of schoolchildren to music and theatre), voice and body classes.

✕ For more information
Conservatory / Centre of the Arts
1, passage des Arts
www.grandbesancon.fr/conservatoire

FRAC (REGIONAL COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY ART OF FRANCHE-COMTÉ) 2

The FRAC has 4,600 m² at its disposal. This includes 2 exhibition halls, 400 and 100 m², a conference room, educational workshops, flats and a workshop for resident artists, and archive space for its collections.

The Conservatory and the FRAC work together, participating in important public events throughout the year. They share in projects for open house events, Museum Night, Music Festival Night, and European Heritage Day. The Pixel, the restaurant-tearoom, giving on to the "Passage des Arts", joins in. You will also find a resource centre containing documents from the Conservatory and the FRAC on the performing arts and contemporary art.

The FRAC is dedicated to the promulgation of contemporary art. It is a place of exchanges and meetings that are open to the general public. The building itself, of human dimension with soft and luminous surroundings, was designed precisely to make your discovery tour of contemporary art easy and pleasurable. The temporary exhibitions, presenting ambitious works, are changed frequently to give the broadest spectrum of contemporary art.



2

THE COLLECTION

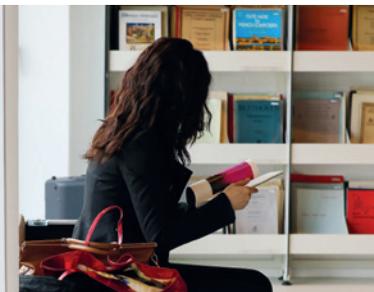
The FRAC owns more than 550 works by more than 260 artists. Since 2006, artists have focused their works on the exploration of the vast theme of Time — chosen because of its constant presence in the history of art, because of its present impact and because it is part of Franche-Comté's history. Since 2011, the theme has been explored through sound art.

SENSITIZATION / DISSEMINATION

The diversity of the exhibitions is reflected in the FRAC's many different events. You can go to meetings with the artists; there are also lectures, evening performances, video evenings, concerts, dance performances... The FRAC collection does not stay put in this one place. It travels and its works of art are loaned to other French and international venues. In 2015, "The Satellite", a lorry that architect Mathieu Herbelin transformed into an exhibition room, began its travels to remote areas.

The FRAC is also handicap accessible.

✕ For more information
Frac Franche-Comté / Centre of the Arts
2, passage des Arts
www.frac-franche-comte.fr
www.facebook.com/fracfranchecomte



3

RESOURCE CENTRE 3

The centre contains archival documents from the Conservatory and the FRAC: about 15,000 items. It is 290 m² and has a well-equipped consultation room so that you can explore books, audios, videos, artists' files, scores...

LE PIXEL RESTAURANT AND TEAROOM

Restaurant and Tearoom

The Pixel has a splendid view of the Doubs River and the marina. The restaurant cuisine is simple, traditional and varied, featuring regional and seasonal dishes prepared with local products. Its décor of contemporary clean lines reflects the Centre of the Art's the restaurant space and terrace can accommodate 70 people. It is designed to encourage exchange and relaxation so that you can enjoy your meal. Come to our piano bar evenings: jazz interpret every Friday and Saturday evening.

✕ For more information
www.restaurant-le-pixel.com

BESANÇON

ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW



1

BESANÇON TRAILS 1

Explore the city on foot via signposted trails: Let the arrows be your guide! Discover Besançon, its rich heritage and architecture in a fun, new way. Walk the streets of Besançon with family, friends or by yourself, and look down, up and around! Each of the three trails has its own theme and its own logo, which is etched in the bronze arrows in the pavement: Trail 1: Fortified Besançon / Trail 2: Upper Besançon / Trail 3: Battant Quarter

DOWNLOAD
THE TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

at www.besancon-tourisme.com

Also available at the Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre

BIEN URBAIN / JUSTE ICI

**STREET ART EVENTS:
SOME OF THE MURALS REMAIN
FOR YOU TO ENJOY ALL YEAR!**

Once a year, with the help of one artist, the association **Juste Ici** invites internationally well-known artists to come to Besançon to add things subtle and sensitive to the city's public spaces. These works take us out of the ordinary urban mindset and can shake up our ideas of life in the city, of Besançon's heritage and its forgotten spaces.

Bien Urbain brings together the art on the walls of facilities and industries, and multimedia events, with exhibitions in bookshops, guided tours, meetings with the artists, and round-table discussions.

CHEZ URBAIN ?

Every year, this association chooses a new place for a street festival, called "Chez Urbain", for other artists and the curious ones.

✕ For more information
www.bien-urbain.fr

BESANÇON

GOING OUT

CINEMAS

PATHÉ BEAUX-ARTS
3, rue Gustave Courbet

PLAZZA VICTOR HUGO
6, rue Gambetta

MÉGARAMA
1, rue des Sources
25480 École Valentin

PETIT KURSAAL
1, place du Théâtre

BESANÇON BY NIGHT

BARRIÈRE CASINO



Discover Besançon's casino, which was an integral part of a 19th century spa. Relax and enjoy your evenings as you experience our game universe of slot machines and card games!

Dine at "Le Grand Café", where the Chef proposes seasonal fine cuisine with exceptional tastes. And, for an unforgettable evening, we propose dinner shows every month. Relax with your friends at the Tourbillon Bar. Enjoy its modern, original décor and delicious cocktails. At the Red Sun Club, enjoy thematic evenings and free concerts in a festive, yet cosy atmosphere. And on the business side, book the Casino's seminar room: perfect for your company meetings, workshops, and conventions.

Place your bets, ladies and gentlemen! And get ready for a unique and innovative experience at the Barrière Casino!

✕ For more information
1, avenue Édouard Droz
www.casino-besancon.com

BESANÇON

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

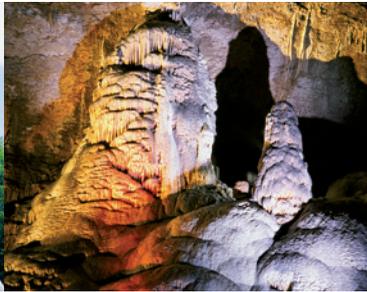


1

DINO-ZOO 1

When you go to Dino-Zoo, you drop right into the history of the evolution of the world, you experience the thrill of seeing these huge creatures, the dinosaurs, you understand in one glance what life was like on our planet several million years ago. You have a passport to an extraordinary Jurassic adventure in a 12-hectare park, where you can wander among the dinosaurs and other prehistoric life-size animals. Explanatory panels line your way for a tour of more than 2 and ½ hours. There are also cartoons about prehistory, 4D films and a dino-galloping merry-go-round to be discovered. We have a self-service restaurant and café.

✕ For more information
1, rue de la Préhistoire
25620 Charbonnières-les-Sapins
www.dinozoo.com



2

GOUFFRE DE POUFREY 2

The Poudrey Chasm in Étalans is like taking a journey to the centre of the Earth! An exceptional natural site – so vast that it could easily contain the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris – opens at your feet for a unique underground walk. For 45 minutes, wonder is guaranteed as you see countless stalactites and great stalagmites a hundred thousand years old. And with its light and sound show on the theme of earth and water, the Chasm will seem even more fabulous and supernatural to you. Feel the magic of this place and the powerful but silent work of water on rock: a visit not to be missed!

✕ For more information
1 lieu-dit Puits de Poudrey
25580 Étalans
www.gouffredepoudrey.com

FUNKY PARC

A play area especially conceived for children from 1 to 12. You'll find 1000 m² of indoor games and an open-air area with a bouncy castle and terrace.

✕ For more information
5, rue Guillaume Apollinaire
25000 Besançon
www.funkyparc.fr



3

THE LITTLE TOURIST TRAIN 3

The Train is the perfect complement to a cruise on the Doubs: it takes you through the winding streets of old Besançon, and you see the city from a totally different perspective. Your trip lasts 45 minutes if you choose not to explore the Citadel. (If you get off at the Citadel, take your tour of this incredible place, and then take the train back down into the city. The train makes regular stops at the Citadel.)
Departures: at Faubourg Rivotte – the stop is between a car park and the restaurant called “Le Manège” (just a few metres away from the Rivotte Gate) and in the Place du 8 Septembre (in front of the Town Hall). It takes you 30 minutes to go from the city centre to the Citadel and 15 minutes from the Citadel back to Rivotte.

✕ For more information
www.bateau-besancon.fr

FORÊT DE CHAILLUZ

Just outside of Besançon, the Chailluz and Bregille Forests occupy over 1,780 hectares of natural parkland. Signposted trails, picnic areas, animal parks where you can observe wild boar, fallow deer, roe deer and other species of deer. This is a place where people and nature coexist in peace.



4

BESANÇON BY BIKE

LE RELAIS VÉLO

Rental and sale of mountain bikes, hybrid bikes, electric bikes, tandems, rollerblades, roller skis. Located along the EuroVelo 6 Bikeway.

✕ For more information
Chemin de halage de Casamène
(Casamène Towpath)

VELECTRI-CITY

Rent an electric bike!

✕ For more information
28, rue de la république
contact@velectri-city.fr

GARDENS

LE CLOS BARBIZIER 4

Le Clos Barbizier, on the Chemin de Ronde at Fort Griffon, is an old-variety rose garden with Gallic roses, hundred-leaf roses and roses of Damascus.

LE JARDIN DES SENS

The Garden of the Senses
Avenue d'Helvétie. This garden is at one end of the Micaud Promenade and it is filled with plants that have been carefully selected for their beauty, fragrance and tactile qualities: accessible to all.

LE JARDIN BOTANIQUE

Place Leclerc. The Botanical Garden: an outside garden open all year round.



1

PARKS WITH CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

PARC MICAUD, PLACE GRANVELLE 1 AND THE PARC DE LA GARE D'EAU

The Parc de la Gare d'Eau along the Doubs: walking, rollerblading, bicycling, and in summer the Chamars Tower offers activities for families.

SKATE PARK 2

Located at Chamars near the Pont Canot (Canot Bridge).

ROLLERBLADING

Go for it! Whether you are solo, with your family or friends, go to Saint-Amour Square on Friday evenings for a rolling good time in Besançon.

Departure at 7.00 pm. Helmet required.

ADVENTURE PARK FRANOIS MARCHAUX

Follow this adventure trail in the forest: real outdoor adventure for kids and adults.

✕ For more information
www.montciel-aventure.com



2

PONY RIDES

Pony rides at Parc Micaud. 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm Wednesdays, weekends, and every day during school holidays and bank holidays. We are weather dependent!

✕ For more information
www.ferme-elite.fr

OUTDOOR POOLS

CHALEZEULE POOL
There is a large 50-metre pool, a 25-metre pool and a diving pit. There is plenty of shade on 3.2 ha.

✕ For more information
12, rue de Belfort
25220 Chalezeule
www.campingdebesancon.com

POOL NEAR THE RIVER PORT

The SNB Pool is situated on 2 hectares of green lawn and shade. The complex has a large, 25-metre pool, a small pool and a wading pool.

✕ For more information
www.grandbesancon.fr



3

INDOOR POOLS 3

LA FAYETTE POOL

Slide, sun lounge, water games, jacuzzi. Swim cap mandatory. Correct swimwear required (no Bermuda shorts). All bathers must be out of the pool 15 min before closure.

✕ For more information
5, rue Louis Garnier
www.besancon.fr

MALLARMÉ POOL

One 50-metre pool with high diving boards, one small children's pool. Children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult wearing a swimsuit. Swim cap mandatory. Correct swimwear required (no Bermuda shorts). All bathers must be out of the pool 15 min before closure.

✕ For more information
2, rue Mallarmé
www.besancon.fr



4

BEACHES 4

PLAGE D'OSSELLE

Osselle Beach

(Ginkgo bus stops here) The beach is sandy and lifeguard-protected. There are outdoor games, a waterslide, a footpath, and day fishing. There are picnic tables, a restaurant, and a bar.

✕ For more information
Lieu-dit La Corvée
25320 Osselle
osselle.fr

PATINOIRE

Skating Rink

PATINOIRE LA FAYETTE

One big track, one small track for beginners.

✕ For more information
5, rue Louis Garnier
www.besancon.fr

BESANÇON OUTDOORS



1

HIKING TRAILS AND LOOKOUT POINTS

HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS, DISCOVERY PATHS AND PAVED BICYCLE PATHS 1

The hills around Besançon are protected natural areas. They are full of rare species of birds, butterflies, grasshoppers and orchids. A 73-km network of hiking trails has been signposted, (Bregille-Chapelle des Buis, Chaudanne-Rosemont, Chailluz, Planoise-Rosemont) along with information plaques, restored “cabordes” (dry-wall stone shelters in vineyards) and low walls: all witnesses to the past.

TRAILS AND MAPS

- ✕ Trail Maps, go to Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre (Tourisme et Congrès) www.grandbesancon.fr or, online at Tourisme et Congrès



2

Greater Besançon has constructed a network of hiking and biking trails around the city. The trails vary in difficulty, ranging from walks the whole family can do, to ones that are challenging for athletes. This way, everyone can discover the landscapes and rich heritage of the villages around Besançon at their own pace. There are now 18 hiking loops and 6 biking loops on the Saône Plateau. Coming soon: more hiking and biking trails in the Doubs Valley, connecting Osselle and Deluz.

EUROVÉLO 6 BIKEWAY 2

Atlantic Ocean-Black Sea Cyclists, rollerbladers, walkers, people with reduced mobility: Explore the Doubs along its towpaths. From Dole to Belfort, passing through the city centre of Besançon: 187 km are secure and signposted, waiting to give you unforgettable memories. Would you like to go farther? The EuroVélo 6 Bikeway is 3,860 km long and passes through 9 countries.

- ✕ For more information www.eurovelo6-france.com



THE FRANCIGENA WAY (from Canterbury to Rome)

The Francigena is a major cultural walking trail of the Council of Europe – 2004. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sigeric, traveled along this road in 990. The Francigena, 195 km of which are in Franche-Comté (mid-way between Canterbury and Rome) crosses Switzerland, going through the gorge of Saint Maurice and Great Saint-Bernard Pass. About 1,500 walkers following the Way cross through Franche-Comté each year.

- ✕ For more information laviafrancigenaenfrance.fr

CHEMIN DE COMPOSTELLE St. James's Way

A Pilgrimage Road (from Budapest to Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle)

- ✕ For more information Association Franc-Comtoise du Chemin de Compostelle accr-bfc.fr

NATURE HIKES

Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre organises nature hikes around Besançon and in the communities of Greater Besançon. Join us as we take our time, exploring nature: which is often ignored and yet so accessible to us all.

You will be accompanied by a nature guide as you walk along trails which cross limestone fields, follow cliffs overlooking the Doubs River and pass through forests. The picturesque landscapes, the richness of Franche-Comté's natural heritage and the magnificent lookout points will make this a hike to remember.

(See the Guided Tours programme for more information)

N.B. Just to let you know: the commentary will be in French.

- ✕ For more information www.besancon-tourisme.com



ASSOCIATION DES PETITES CITÉS COMTOISES DE CARACTÈRE

Association of Small Franche-Comté Towns with Character

This organisation was founded in 1989 and today it has 38 small rural community members. They each have the label "Small Franche-Comté Towns with Character" because they have an urban, architectural and landscape heritage of the first order.

✗ For more information
www.petites-cites-comtoises.org

COMITÉ DE PROMOTION DES PRODUITS RÉGIONAUX DE FRANCHE-COMTÉ

The Committee for the Promotion of Regional Products of Franche-Comté is an association of all those involved in the production of food in the region, from farmers to companies, from restaurants to ecology...

✗ For more information
www.unpeubeaucoupfranchecomte.fr



You can download
**THE GUIDE TO BESANÇON
RESTAURANTS AND FINE FOODS**
at www.besancon-tourisme.com
Also available at the Besançon
Visitor and Convention Information
Centre

MÉTIERS D'ART EN FRANCHE-COMTÉ

Craftsmen and Crafts Professions in Franche-Comté

Special events organised each year.

✗ For more information
22, rue Rivotte
www.amagalerie.com

MADE IN CHEZ NOUS

How was your Peugeot manufactured? How was the high-quality Cristel cookware made? And what about the Obertino bells, the Maty jewelry collections and those delicious regional products you eat or those accessories you like to wear?

The members of **Made In Chez Nous** provide group tours. Each company invites you to discover their exceptional know-how. Tours include visits to factories, farm production crafts, unusual trades...

Welcome to Doubs businesses which are paradoxically "natural" par excellence and some of the most industrialised in France.

✗ Departmental Committee for Tourism
in the Doubs
13, rue de la Préfecture
www.doubs.travel

EVERYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE MARKET

BATTANT

2nd Monday of the month
6.00 am – 6.30 pm

BEAUX-ARTS COVERED MARKET

2, rue Goudimel
Tuesday – Saturday 7.00 am – 7.00 pm
Sunday mornings 8.00 am – 1.00 pm

ALL KINDS OF THINGS MARKET

Place de la Révolution
Tuesdays 7.00 am – 1.00 pm
Fridays 7.00 am – 1.00 pm
Saturdays 7.00 am – 7.00 pm

OUTSIDE ORGANIC FOOD MARKET

Place du Jura (De Lattre de Tassigny)
Every Tuesday 5.00 pm – 8.30 pm
Mid-April to end October

NEIGHBOURHOOD MARKETS

PALENTE

Place des Tilleuls
Wednesdays 7.00 am – 1.00 pm
Saturdays 7.00 am – 1.00 pm

BATTANT

Place Joffroy d'Abbas
Sundays and Bank Holidays
7.00 am – 1.00 pm

SAINT FERJEU

Place de la Bascule
Sundays 7.00 am – 1.00 pm

FARMERS' MARKETS

✗ For more information
www.besancon-tourisme.com

ANTIQUE/SECOND-HAND MARKETS

MICROPOLIS

2nd Sunday of the month,
8.00 am – 1.00 pm (admission free)

AUCTION HALLS

CHAPRAIS

11, rue de l'Église

✗ For more information
www.interencheres.com

BESANÇON

USEFUL ADDRESSES

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MAIRIE

Town Administration Centre
2, rue Mégevand
25034 Besançon Cedex
Tel **03 81 61 50 50**
www.besancon.fr

PREFECTURE

8 bis, rue Charles Nodier
25035 Besançon Cedex
Tel **03 81 25 10 00**
www.franche-comte.pref.gouv.fr

TOURISM

GÎTES DE FRANCE DOUBS

5, rue Mairet
www.gites-de-france-doubs.fr

TRANSPORTATION

BESANÇON-VIOTTE TRAIN STATION

Tel **36 35**
www.sncf.com
Information for the Franche-Comté
TER (TER: regional trains)
Tel **0800 802 479** (free call from
a landline)
www.ter-sncf.com
(Click on Franche-Comté)

BESANÇON FRANCHE-COMTÉ TGV TRAIN STATION

25870 Auxon-Dessous
SNCF information and reservations
Tel **36 35**
www.voyages-sncf.com

TAXI

TAXIS RADIO

Tel **03 81 88 80 80**
Taxi stands: rue du Palais de Justice,
Besançon Franche-Comté TGV Train
Station,
Besançon-Viotte Train Station,
Jean-Minjoz Hospital

RENTALS

RENT A CAR

65, boulevard Blum
25000 Besançon
www.rentacar.fr

LE RELAIS VÉLO

Rental and sale of mountain bikes,
hybrid bikes, electric bikes, tandems,
rollerblades, roller skis. Located
along the EuroVelo 6 Bikeway.
Chemin de halage de Casamène
(Casamène Towpath)

VELECTRI-CITY

Rent an electric bike!
28, rue de la République
Tel **03 81 50 64 84**
contact@velectri-city.fr

AIRPORTS

La Vèze Aerodrome

9 km from Besançon
route de Pontarlier
25660 La Vèze
Tel + **33 (0)3 81 81 50 82**
claude@domergue.com
www.domergue.fr

Franche-Comté Regional Airport

(Dole-Jura Airport)
60 km from Besançon
BP 26 - 39502 Tavaux cedex
Tel + **33 (0)3 84 72 04 26**
or + **33 (0)3 84 72 18 53**
Fax 03 84 82 79 54
www.aeroportdolejura.com

EuroAirport

(Mulhouse-Basel-Freiburg)
140 km from Besançon
BP 60120 -68304 Saint-Louis Cedex
Tel Mulhouse + **33 (0)3 89 90 31 11**
www.euroairport.com

Geneva Airport

160 km from Besançon
Case postale 100 CH - 1215 Genève 15
Tel **00 41 22 717 71 11**
www.gva.ch

Lyon Saint-Exupéry Airport

220 km from Besançon
B.P. 113-69125 Lyon-Saint Exupéry
Aéroport
Tel **0 826 800 826**
www.lyonaeroports.com

WEATHER NEWS

(Weather forecasts for
the 'departments')
Tel **08 99 71 02 25** (for Doubs)
(for other departments, change
the last two digits)
Only in French
www.meteofrance.com

DRIVING CONDITIONS

www.inforoute25.fr

CAR POUND

Tel **03 81 51 42 57**

CAR PARKS

www.besancon.fr

TRAIN STATION CAR PARK

Besançon-Viotte
www.resaplace.com

EMERGENCIES

AMBULANCE SAMU

Tel 15

FIRE BRIGADE

Tel 18

POLICE

Tel 17

EUROPEAN NUMBER

Tel 112

EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Tel 114 (text messages)

SOS DOCTORS

Tel **0 826 88 24 24**
20, avenue de l'Île-de-France

JEAN-MINJOZ HOSPITAL

3, bld Fleming (Planoise)

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Tel **36 24**

CHEMISTS ON DUTY

Tel **32 37**
From 9.00 am – 7.00 pm

LOST AND FOUND

6, rue Mégevand
Tel **03 81 61 51 33**

LA POSTE PROUDHON

Proudhon Post Office
23, rue Proudhon
Tel **36 31**



LIVING IN BESANÇON

THE FRANCHE-COMTÉ REGION PRESENTS A MOBILE WEBSITE FEATURING AN AUDIO GUIDE COMMENTARY FOR SMARTPHONES: A REAL-LIFE AND VIRTUAL WALKING TOUR: "LIVING IN BESANÇON: THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE 19TH CENTURY"

All the 31 stops are in the heart of the old town of Besançon. Each is identified by a descriptive metallic plaque on which you will also find the QR code for your smartphone. You'll have access to additional audio-visual information about what you are looking at.



VISIT THE MOBILE SITE AT
WWW.BESANCONETSESEMEURES.FR



EVENTS IN BESANÇON

EUROPEAN DAYS
FOR CRAFTSMEN
AND CRAFTS PROFESSIONS
www.amagalerie.com

BESANÇON CARNIVAL
www.fetesbesancon.fr

WINE-CELLAR
THEATRE FESTIVAL
www.festivaldecaves.fr

FRANCHE-COMTÉ FAIR
www.foire-comtoise.com

FORT TRAIL RACES
OF GREATER BESANÇON
traildesforts.com

BESANÇON/MONTFAUCON
EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL
www.festivaldemontfaucon.com

URBAN STREET ART FESTIVAL
www.bien-urbain.fr

FESTIVAL OF JAZZ
AND IMPROVISED MUSIC
www.aspro-impro.fr

BESANÇON FRANCHE-COMTÉ
MUSIC FESTIVAL
AND THE INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITION FOR YOUNG
CONDUCTORS
www.festival-besancon.com

BOOK FAIR: LES MOTS DOUBS
lesmotsdoubts.doubts.fr

HERITAGE DAYS
September
www.besancon-tourisme.com

CHRISTMAS MARKET
www.besancon-tourisme.com

BESANÇON COMING AND GOING



 **BY PLANE**

 **BY TRAIN**

Besançon Franche-Comté
TGV Train Station
25870 Auxon-Dessous
Besançon-Viotte Train Station
(city centre)

TGV – RHIN-RHÔNE
✗ For information, go to
www.voyages-sncf.com

TER FRANCHE-COMTÉ
TER: regional trains
These trains are shuttles between the TGV Train Station and the Besançon-Viotte Train Station

✗ For information, go to
www.ter.sncf.com/franche-comte

 **BY CAR**

Motorway A36
No. 3 Besançon ouest > Besançon West
No. 4 Besançon centre
No. 4.1 Besançon nord > Besançon North
RN57 Direction Metz/Pontarlier
RN83 Direction Metz/Pontarlier
RN73 Direction Dole/Besançon

IN AND AROUND BESANÇON



BY BUS AND BY TRAM

Run by Ginko, the public transport company. A network of buses and trams serves Besançon and Greater Besançon.

SPECIAL CAR PARKS

This sign  tells you that this is a car park on the outskirts of the city with a bus or tram station right nearby.



BY BIKE

If you have your own bike, there are bike racks especially for you at 2 car parks: Marché Beaux-Arts/Cusenier and the Mairie and in most public areas of the city. You can also rent a bike from VéloCité. They have bike racks and 200 bikes all around the city centre. Rental is via a ticket-dispensing machine. Rates: 1 day/€1 or 7 days/€2 (first 30 min are free)



TAXIS

Taxis Radio
Tel **03 81 88 80 80**
Taxi stands: rue du Palais de Justice, Besançon Franche-Comté TGV Train Station, Besançon-Viotte Train Station, Jean-Minjoz Hospital

GETTING TO THE CITADEL

Park for **free** at La Rodia Car Park and take the Ginko bus line no. 27. (This bus only runs from March to October.)



✗ Useful Links
www.grandbesancon.fr
www.ginko.voyage
www.velocite.besancon.fr



 **CITIZ**BESANÇON

PARK AND SPEND A LATE NIGHT IN TOWN

For €1 per night (7.00 pm – 9.00 am) you can park your car at the Marché Beaux-Arts/Cusenier Car Park or the Mairie Car Park. Both have security surveillance. All other car parks are **free** from 7.00 pm – 9.00 am.

✗ For more information
www.besancon.fr

CARAVAN SITES

Besançon 25000
Quai Veil Picard,
Open all year

Chalezeule 25220
Camping de Besançon***

✗ For opening times, go to
www.campingdebesancon.com

Nancray 25360
Car park at the Franche-Comté Houses Museum

✗ For opening times, go to
www.maisons-comtoises.org

- 1 Hôtel de Ville
Town Hall
(closed temporarily due to fire)
Besançon Tourisme et Congrès
Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre B3
- 2 Palais de Justice
Courthouse B3
- 3 Église Saint-Pierre
Saint Peter's Church C3
- 4 Musée du Temps Palais Granvelle
Museum of Time / Granvelle Palace C4
- 5 Église Sainte-Maurice
Saint Maurice's Church C4
- 6 Square Castan
Castan Square C4
- 7 Porte Noire
The Black Gate C4
- 8 Cathédrale Saint-Jean
Saint John's Cathedral
Horloge Astronomique
Astronomical Clock C4
- 9 Grammont Mansion D4
- 10 Porte Rivotte
Rivotte Gate D4
- 11 Citadelle
Citadel D5
- 12 Théâtre Musical
Music Theatre C4
- 13 Église Notre-Dame
Church of Our Lady C4
- 14 Grand Séminaire
Seminary B4
- 15 Préfecture
Prefecture B4
- 16 Hôpital Saint-Jacques
Saint Jacques Hospital B4
- 17 Musée des Beaux-Arts
et d'Archéologie
Museum of Fine Arts and Archaeology B3
- 18 Temple/Galerie du Saint-Esprit
Protestant Church/Holy Spirit Gallery B2
- 19 Synagogue B2
- 20 Quai Vauban
Vauban Embankment B3
- 21 Église Sainte-Madeleine
Saint Madeleine's Church B3
- 22 Champagney Mansion B2
- 23 Abbatale Saint-Paul
Saint-Paul's Abbey-Church C3
- 24 Archevêché
Archdiocese D4
- 25 Bibliothèque Municipale
City Public Library C3
- 26 Centre de Linguistique Appliquée
Centre for Applied Linguistics A4
- 27 Nouveau Théâtre
The New Theatre D2
- 28 Chapelle du Refuge
Refuge Chapel B3
- 29 Cité des Arts
The Centre for the Arts
Conservatoire de Musique
Music Conservatory
Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain
The FRAC D3
- 30 Église du Sacré-Cœur
Sacred Heart Church C2
- 31 Faculté des Lettres
Department of Letters C4
- 32 Fontaine des Carmes
Carmel Fountain C3
- 33 Fontaine des Clarisses
Poor Clares Fountain B4
- 34 Fontaine des Dames
Fountain of the Ladies B4
- 35 Halte Nautique Saint-Paul
Saint Paul's Marina C2
- 36 Kursaal C4
- 37 Marché couvert
Covered Market
Cinéma Beaux-Arts
Fine Arts Cinema Complex B2
- 38 Médiathèque Pierre Bayle
Pierre Bayle Mediatheque C2
- 39 Tour carrée
Square Tower B2
- 40 Tour de Chamars
Chamars Tower B5
- 41 Tour des Cordeliers
Cordeliers Tower A3
- 42 Tour de la Pelote
Pelote Tower B2
- 43 Mairie
City Administrative Centre B3
- 44 Police
City Police Station B4
- 45 Gendarmerie
Rural Police Station C5
- 46 Besançon Tourisme et Congrès
Besançon Visitor and Convention Information Centre C2
- 47 Gares : Mouillère D3 Viotte B1
Train Stations
- 48 Quartier Ruty
Ruty Barracks D3
- 49 Piscine SNB
SNB Pool D3
- 50 Promenade Micaud
Micaud Promenade D2
- 51 Jardin des Sens
The Garden of the Senses C2
- 52 Clos Barbizier
Clos Barbizier Rose Garden B2
- 53 Jardin Botanique
Botanical Garden A2
- 54 Gare d'Eau
Gare d'Eau (Water Station) Park B5
- 55 Casino D2
- 56 Mosaïque Lumière
Lumière School Mosaic C3
- 57 Cinéma Victor Hugo
Victor Hugo Cinema C3
- 59 Maison natale de Victor Hugo
Victor Hugo's Birthplace C4
- 60 La Rodia E4

MAP OF GREATER BESANÇON



DISCOVER ORNANS AND ITS RIVERS: THE LOUE AND THE LISON



Ornans and the Loue and Lison Valleys are only 30 minutes from Besançon. They offer you many ways to enjoy yourself, whether you want to relax, explore cultural venues, or experience the outdoors.

AN AREA FULL OF HISTORY

Ornans has a river running through it: the Loue. Its houses hang over it, narrow gardens give onto it, its stone bridges span it and the blue and ochre colours of its stone are reflected in it. It owes a large part of its reputation to this river. It is also well-known because of its old, beautiful stone buildings which reflect its rich history. Ornans, a member of the Association of Small Franche-Comté Towns with Character, has beautiful buildings from the 16th, 17th and 18th century: mansions, the town hall, the hospital, the church...



There are other distinctive villages around Ornans: Mouthier-Haute-Pierre, Lods (one of "The Most Beautiful Villages in France"), Vuillafans, Cléron and Nans-sous-Sainte-Anne. If you are a stone enthusiast, these villages are just for you!

GUSTAVE COURBET COUNTRY

Gustave Courbet was born in Ornans in 1819. He was a friend of Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, a philosopher and politician; Courbet became the leader of the French Realist Movement. Many of his paintings are famous; two of them are *A Burial at Ornans* and the "scandalous" work, *The Origin of the World*. Whether his paintings are of hunting in the forest, walking in the wild landscapes of the Jura, strolls along streams of Franche-Comté... all his works are imbued with his time spent in the heart of Franche-Comté. If you want to know more about his life, do visit the Courbet Museum, or stroll through the gardens of the Courbet family farm in Lagey, both newly renovated. There are also 7 trails you can take, where you walk where Courbet did. The length of time for the trails varies from 1 hour 30 min to 5 hours.



HERE, WATER PLAYS WITH ITS COUNTRYSIDE



Anyone who has come here will tell you that the minute you descend into our valleys, you plunge into a very special feeling... The land, characteristic of the limestone plateaus of the Jura Mountains, speaks of wildness and secret places. There are marvels of nature formed from the constant play between water and rock: cliffs, caves, sinkholes, steephead valleys, springs, waterfalls and rivers... Because of the valleys' natural habitats, and their varied and remarkable plant and animal species, the area is part of the Natura 2000 network.

There are two exceptional natural sites:

The source of the Loue River

It springs from a huge cave, in a 150-m high rocky cirque. Courbet painted 14 canvases of this place.

The source of the Lison River

Here, you will see an impressive rocky cirque with 3 natural marvels showing how water works on limestone: the source of the Lison, the Sarrazine Cave and the Creux Billard.

AN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

AS BIG AS NATURE HERSELF!

Take to the water! Take a canoe down the Loue or rope up for some canyoning down our gorges. Or, if you would rather go for the high, rocky places, there are via ferratas, rock climbing or tree-to-tree adventure courses. Or perhaps you want to go caving and take a journey to the centre of the earth... Or if you prefer to be more grounded, there are any number of trails for you: mountain biking ones, cycle tourism ones, hiking ones. And there are even more activities waiting for you to discover...

- ✕ The Tourist Office for Ornans, the Loue and Lison Valleys is at your service to help you plan your time in our area. Please contact us: we will help you to choose your walk, tour, activities, your restaurants... contact@ornans-loue-lison.com www.ornans-loue-lison.com



A DAY GETAWAY INTO THE HEART OF FRANCHE-COMTÉ!

A stay in Besançon itself already means you are in the right place for enjoying yourself!

But Besançon plus 4 other nearby cities* are the heart of Franche-Comté, and they have created a programme for you: "Day Getaways". There are natural sites for you to explore, cultural and heritage venues, leisure and wellness facilities and itineraries based on themes.

For just a few hours or a whole day, you can mix and match your discoveries. We have "suggestions" for your enjoyment, compiled from our network offers.



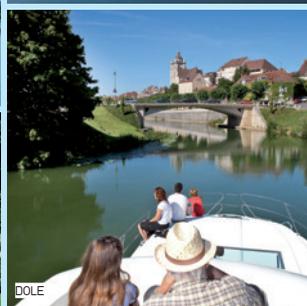
These getaways are less than an hour away... or a little farther away (one or two hours), because the heart of Franche-Comté holds places that are worth spending time to get to!

You can even play "jump the border" and go to neighbouring Switzerland or see some famous places in Burgundy.

For some of these getaways, you don't even need a car! Many sites are accessible by bicycle, train, river boat, coach... various ways to move about as you want and be environmentally friendly at the same time!

**SO... HAVE A GOOD STAY IN
THE HEART OF FRANCHE-COMTÉ!**

✕ For more information
<http://goo.gl/Fd3ZSi>



* The 5 network cities are: Besançon, Dole, Lons-le-Saunier, Pontarlier and Vesoul.
For more information, visit their websites.

LE **GRAND CAFE**

VA PIMENTER VOS REPAS

**NOUVELLE CARTE,
NOUVELLES FORMULES,
NOUVELLE EXPÉRIENCE !**

L'AR **D**OISE LES PLA **T**S "Grand Café"

vous proposent un prix unique pour toutes leurs entrées, tous leurs plats et tous leurs desserts !
TOUS LES JOURS, MIDI ET SOIR.

L'ARDOISE	LES PLATS «GRAND CAFÉ»
ENTRÉES À 7.50€	ENTRÉES À 8.50€
PLATS À 16.00€	PLATS À 17.50€
DESSERTS À 6.50€	DESSERTS À 8.00€

NOS **F**ORMULES

MENU ARDOISE	MENU «GRAND CAFÉ»
ENTRÉE + PLAT + DESSERT	ENTRÉE + PLAT + DESSERT
28,00€	32,00€

**SOIRÉES CASINO & RESTO
BANQUETS • SÉMINAIRES**

RESTAURANT OUVERT TOUS LES JOURS
MIDI & SOIR ET TERRASSE EN ÉTÉ
1 AVENUE EDOUARD DROZ - 25000 BESANCON
RÉSERVATIONS AU 03 81 47 49 01

trip

18. JOUER COMPORTE DES RISQUES : ENDETTEMENT, DÉPENDANCE... APPELZ LE 09 74 75 13 13 (APPEL NON SURTAXÉ)



CASINO DE BESANCON



Galeries Lafayette

GALERIESLAFAYETTE.COM

GALERIES LAFAYETTE BESANÇON
44 RUE DES GRANGES - TÉL. : 03 81 82 18 78
DU LUNDI AU VENDREDI DE 9H30 À 19H30
ET LE SAMEDI DE 9H30 À 20H