



BESANÇON TRAILS

BESANÇON L'AIR(E) DU TEMPS

Besançon
Tourisme **et** Congrès

www.besancon-tourisme.com

TRAIL 1
START/FINISH
CHAMARS

FORTIFIED BESANÇON

🕒 2.00 HOURS
📏 5.6 KM

TRAIL 2
START/FINISH
PLACE DU 8 SEPTEMBRE

UPPER BESANÇON

🕒 1.30 HOURS
📏 3.5 KM

TRAIL 3
START/FINISH
CASINO

BATTANT QUARTER

🕒 1.40 HOURS
📏 4.29 KM



FORTIFIED BESANÇON

TRAIL 1
START/FINISH CHAMARS
🕒 2.00 HOURS 📏 5.6 KM

1
CHAMARS PROMENADE

CHAMARS GUARDHOUSE

Boulevard Charles de Gaulle
Chamars was a marshy land divided into two parts by an arm of the Doubs River. Sébastien Le Prestre, Maréchal de Vauban decided it was too vulnerable a spot, and he built a bastioned rampart, dug a canal, thus draining the land, and built an inner city wall, which no longer exists. The Chamars guardhouse was built at the end of this wall. A gallery, built onto the southern wall, sheltered the soldiers while they monitored the entrance.

2
TOUR BASTIONNÉE DE CHAMARS

CHAMARS BASTIONED TOWER



Chamars Promenade
On the left bank of the Doubs, flanking the city wall, Vauban added his own innovation: bastioned towers. The Chamars Tower is the only remaining testament to all the bastioned towers that he built in the city. It has the typical 'traverse' Iro (building adjoining the tower), the ground floor which was the firing floor and on the first floor the guardhouse with access to the platform.

3
CHEMIN DES BERGES
RIVERSIDE WALK



City Bastion
The city flourmill was built in the Middle Ages on a small island near the riverbank. Vauban built a bastion around it. In the 19th century the mill was closed down and it was used afterward only for defence purposes.

THE OLD TARRAGNOZ PAPER MILL

The Tarragnoz paper mill is the oldest one in Franche-Comté. It was founded by the canons of the cathedral chapter in the 14th century and its existence can be traced back to watermarks on documents in the archives of Burgundy and cities in Switzerland and Germany. Over the centuries, the paper mill was steadily modernised and in 1776 it produced 2,200 reams of paper! It operated up until the Revolution.

4
HUDDERSFIELD-KIRKLEES
ROUNDBABOUT

LE DELTA DU DOUBS



This imposing sculpture, created by the internationally renowned artist François Morrelet, was erected in 1996 to commemorate the drilling of the tunnel under the Citadel. Its partner sculpture, also by Morrelet, is at the other end of the tunnel on the Neuchâtel Roundabout.

THE NOTRE-DAME TOWER



This tower, also called the Charles V Tower or Bastion and sometimes the Round Tower, was built between 1546 and 1560 by Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, on the old walls from the Middle Ages. It was entirely modified by Vauban in the 17th century.

5
VIEILLE MONNAIE ESPLANADE
(ACCESS VIA STAIRS)
RUE DE LA VIEILLE MONNAIE

6
RUE DU CHAPITRE
RUE DE LA CONVENTION

THE SAINT-JOHN QUARTER

This section of the city, extending from the hill below the Citadel to Victor Hugo Square, is the old church chapter district which developed around St. John's Cathedral.

CATHÉDRALE SAINT-JEAN



10 ter rue de la Convention
Saint John's Cathedral was built on land previously occupied by cathedrals of the Merovingian and Carolingian eras. Its double apses are a reminder of the cathedral erected in 825 during the episcopacy of Archbishop Bernoin. Saint John's itself was built and added to during the 12th, 13th and 18th centuries; it harmoniously reflects the Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles. Must-sees: *The Virgin and Child with the Saints* by Fra Bartolomeo (1472-1517), masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance, and the tomb of Ferry Carondelet (1473-1528), a Flemish Renaissance work.

7
RUE DU CHAMBRIER
RUE RIVOTTE

HÔTEL MARESCAL



19, rue Rivotte
This mansion is one of the oldest in Besançon, and was rebuilt in 1520 after a fire. The carved decoration that adorns the facade is Flamboyant Gothic. Its bays (regularly-spaced openings) are an architectural feature that marked the beginning of the Renaissance in Besançon.

HÔTEL DU CHAMBRIER

The chamberlain (chambrier) was Treasurer of the Bishop's Chamber and was thus one of the officers in the court of the archbishop in the Middle Ages. The mansion was rebuilt in the early 18th century for Monseigneur de Grammont, and today, it is the headquarters of the Regional Council.

8
PORTE RIVOTTE

PORTE RIVOTTE



28-30, rue Rivotte
The Rivotte Gate was built in the Middle Ages. It guarded the passage between the Doubs River and the cliff of the Citadel. It was enlarged in the 16th century and its central part was rebuilt after Besançon was conquered by Louis XIV. The royal sun, the emblem of Louis XIV, can still be seen on the pediment. In 1893, the drawbridge and the portcullis were removed, the ditches were filled, the building on the city side was demolished and passageways were cut into the towers for pedestrians.

9
ESPLANADE HENRY DUNAND
PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY

RIVOTTE BASTIONED TOWER



Avenue Arthur Gaulard
The Rivotte bastioned tower was built between 1687 and 1690. Its foundation is on riverbed rock, and the ditch which was built in front of it contained water. Like the Bregille bastioned tower, it has an annular vault on a central pillar which contains a shaft, built for the movement of personnel and equipment to the upper level platform.

THE RIVER MARINA

The Besançon River Marina dock is 260 meters long and is supported on piles which are 15 meters deep. It can moor 20 yachts of different sizes at one time. There are floating pontoons for mooring that automatically adjust to the changing water levels of the Doubs, power and water hook-ups, a pump-out station, and a gangway to the dock for people with reduced mobility. Because the marina is on flowing water, it is closed in winter and no boats can be moored.

10
DOUBS RIVERSIDE WALK

THE CENTRE OF THE ARTS



Avenue Arthur Gaulard

The Centre of the Arts was built in 2013 and designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. It was funded by the city of Besançon, Greater Besançon and the Region of Franche-Comté. The Centre houses the Regional Collection of Contemporary Art of Franche-Comté (FRAC), whose mission is to promote contemporary art through exhibitions and sensitization of the public, and the Regional Conservatory of Greater Besançon, which offers programmes in voice, instrument, choreography and theatre.

11
STAIRS IN FRONT OF THE BREGILLE
BASTIONED TOWER

BREGILLE BASTIONED TOWER

Avenue Arthur Gaulard
This tower was built between 1687 and 1689 and restored in the nineteenth century. The parapet was rebuilt in stone – not brick. It was designed, just like the Rivotte bastioned tower, to protect The Loop against attacks from the right bank and the cliffs.

12

BREGILLE BRIDGE
MICAUD PROMENADE

MICAUD PROMENADE



The project for landscaping the banks of the Doubs River across from St. Paul's Mill was conceived in 1830. Architect Alphonse Delacroix was its designer. The land belonged to the military and it was not until 1841 that the idea of creating a walk along the Doubs took form. An arm of the Doubs had to be drained, and by 1843, the Promenade was finished. The plants, bushes and trees you see today give you an idea of 19th century preferences for greenery.

13

THE CASINO/BESANÇON VISITOR
AND CONVENTION INFORMATION
CENTRE

THE MOUILLÈRE SPA



Avenue Édouard Droz

The Compagnie des Bains Salins de la Mouillère was founded in 1890, and the spa was built in 1891. Its water came from the salt spring at Miserey, a few kilometres from Besançon. The water was recommended for convalescence, anaemia, and surgical, bone and joint complications. The spa, the Hôtel des Bains and the Casino were a complex, but after a few years of prosperity, the saline baths were closed and demolished, for lack of custom.

14

GARDEN OF THE SENSES

GARDEN OF THE SENSES



The Garden of the Senses was created by Besançon's Parks Service in partnership with associations for people with disabilities. The Garden, conceived with the visually impaired in mind, contains the kinds of plants that can be identified by senses other than sight. This promenade also welcomes lovers of nature and those who just want a moment of peace in the heart of the city. The statue of Marquis Jouffroy d'Abbans (1751-1832), inventor of the steamboat, stands in the garden and at the start of the walk, near Micaud Park, you can see a fountain dedicated to Hilaire de Chardonnet (1839-1924), inventor of artificial silk.

PELOTE TOWER



In the 15th century, with the invention and use of firearms, fortifications had to be strengthened. In 1475, one of the major changes made was near the Battant Gate, in the form of the "new tower of Pillotte", which probably owes its name to the Pillot family, from whom the land was bought. After Louis XIV conquered Besançon, Vauban, who was responsible for modernising the fortifications of the city, left the tower intact and made it part of the ramparts.

15

STRASBOURG EMBANKMENT

STRASBOURG EMBANKMENT

In 1862, a commission created by the Prefecture decided to protect the city from flooding by building the "Quai Napoléon", an embankment on the right bank of the Doubs (After the fall of the Empire, it was renamed "Quai de Strasbourg".) The height of the embankment was well above the highest crests recorded; it was topped by a street with 11-metre-wide pavements. It channelled the river in the same way construction on the left bank did, and it prevented river water from flowing into the nearby streets and homes, eliminating risks of epidemics.

16

GRAPILLE DE BATTANT

MONTMART TOWER



This tower, on the highest point of the city walls, was probably built in the 13th century and was part of the medieval Battant Gate. Vauban converted it into a powder magazine.

17

SQUARE BOUCHOT

SQUARE BOUCHOT

This square was created in 1907 to provide a suitable place for the bust of Henri Bouchot (1849-1906), curator and author of books on Franche-Comté. The years passed... In 1941, as was the fate for almost all the other bronze statues in Besançon, the Germans took the bust and melted it down so they could use the precious metal for military purposes. Just before it was removed, the City made a mould, and the sculptor, Georges-Laurent Saupique, Bouchot's son-in-law, made a copy of the bust in stone which was unveiled on May 26, 1946. It still stands in the Square. You can see the marks where Mr Bouchot's "Academic Palm" had been fixed on to the stone.

18

CHEMIN DE RONDE
DU FORT GRIFFON

FORT GRIFFON



Place Griffon

Begun in 1680 under Vauban's direction, Fort Griffon is considered Besançon's second citadel, occupying a key position on the right bank. It had a two-fold purpose: to protect the city to the north and to quell any rebellions inside the Loop. Vauban had barracks built within the fort: he was constantly working on how to lodge soldiers as efficiently and economically as possible.

19

RUE DES FRÈRES MERCIER
RUE DE LA MADELEINE

A HOUSE

32, rue de la Madeleine

This house is one of the oldest in Besançon. It sits on the site of a bread oven built by the Chapter of Saint Madeleine's Collegiate Church in the 11th century. The lower level dates from the 15th century and the upper level from the 17th. It was restored in 2006 and painted in light yellow, a colour which was used in the 17th century.

ÉGLISE SAINTE-MADELEINE



1, rue de la Madeleine

Saint Madeleine's Church is the masterpiece of architect Nicolas Nicole. It was built on the site of a medieval church, and was under construction from 1746 to 1766. Its interior, of great homogeneity of style, is considered one of the finest achievements of 18th century French religious architecture.

20

BATTANT BRIDGE

BATTANT BRIDGE



The first bridge (later called Battant Bridge) to span the Doubs was built by the Romans in the 1st century. It was the only bridge in the city until the Bregille footbridge was built at the end of the 17th century. It was modified several times and, partly destroyed during the war of 1939-1940 (the French fought two wars), it was rebuilt in 1953 and then in 2014, to accommodate the tramway. The base of one column remains from the Roman bridge.

21

VAUBAN EMBANKMENT

VAUBAN EMBANKMENT



The work on the embankment, on both sides of Battant Bridge on the inside of the loop of the Doubs, started in 1691 against the advice of Vauban who wanted to build just a simple rampart without re-doing the façades of the houses.

CORDELIERS BASTIONED TOWER

Promenade Chamars

This tower, probably completed in 1691, is pentagonal, like the other towers in the town centre.

22

CANOT BRIDGE
CHAMARS PROMENADE

CHAMARS PROMENADE



Chamars is a contraction of the Latin, campus martii, or Field of March. In the Middle Ages the area was pastureland and it contained the city mill. It was marshy land, divided into two by an arm of the Doubs. Vauban felt it was too vulnerable and fortified it. It became a public promenade, and was landscaped between 1770 and 1778 by the Besançon architect Claude Joseph Bertrand. It was one of the most beautiful public promenades in France.

THE MARAIS BASTIONED TOWER

**Promenade Chamars**

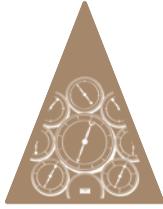
The tower, built on solid rock on the riverbed between 1687 and 1691, resembles the Chamars bastioned tower.

WE ARRIVED IN BESANÇON
IN GREAT SPIRITS. JULIEN
OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS
A FORTIFIED CITY AND WAS TOTALLY
SURROUNDED BY THE DOUBS,
EXCEPT ON ONE SIDE;
BUT ON THAT SIDE, THE CITADEL
ROSE HIGH UP ON A ROCKY CLIFF,
READY TO DEFEND THE CITY.
JULIEN, THOUGH VERY YOUNG,
HAD SEEN THE SIEGE
OF PHALSBURG, AND SO FORTIFIED
PLACES INTERESTED HIM.
HE GREATLY ADMIRER BESANCON
AND HE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF
THAT HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE
THAT FRANCE WAS WELL PROTECTED
ON THIS SIDE.

G. BRUNO

LE TOUR DE LA FRANCE PAR DEUX ENFANTS
(TWO CHILDREN'S TOUR OF FRANCE –
A NOVEL/GEOGRAPHY/TRAVEL/SCHOOLBOOK)

1877



UPPER BESANÇON

TRAIL 2

START/FINISH PLACE DU 8 SEPTEMBRE

⌚ 1.30 HOURS 📏 3.5 KM

1

PLACE DU 8 SEPTEMBRE
BESANÇON TOURISME ET CONGRÈS

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Place du 8 Septembre

The Town Hall, designed by the Besançon architect Richard Maire, was built between 1569 and 1573. The façade is rusticated blue-and-beige veined limestone from local quarries. Above the niche which used to hold a statue of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, is the motto of Besançon, “Plût à Dieu” (“God Willing” and in Latin “Utinam”). Under the central pediment are Besançon’s coat of arms: an eagle holding two columns in its claws, representing Besançon’s connections with the Hapsburgs and its Gallo-Roman past. To the left of the façade, at the very end, there is a copy of the old measuring stick (standard measure) of Besançon. (Many towns had their own systems.)

ÉGLISE SAINT-PIERRE

Place du 8 Septembre

Construction of St. Peter’s Church was begun in 1782 by the Besançon architect Claude Joseph Bertrand, to the plans by the Parisian architect, Victor Louis. It was completed in 1786 and has a tall bell tower: its bells sounded the alarm for the Town Hall and its height provided a lookout point for soldiers. Two Must-Sees: the *Piéta* by Franche-Comté sculptor Luc Breton (completed in 1787, look for it in the right arm of the transept) and the painting, *The Resurrection of Lazarus*, by Martin de Voos (1536-1603)

2

GRANDE RUE

HÔTEL TERRIER-SANTANS



68, Grande Rue

This mansion was built between 1770 and 1772 for the Marquis Terrier de Santans, president of the Parliament of Franche-Comté. It was also built by C. J. Bertrand, aided by the Parisian master architect, Jean-François-Thérèse Chalgrin. The classicism of the façades is representative of the architecture of the late 18th century.

MAISON DANDRÉ



80, Grande-Rue

The Dandré house is tiny. It was built in 1789 by architect Claude-Antoine Colombot, and one storey was added in the 19th century. It was built on a very narrow piece of land and its façade accentuates its slimmness. Its neo-classical decor is exquisite.

CHARLES FOURIER’S BIRTHPLACE

81-83, Grande Rue

After working in trade and banking, Charles Fourier (1772-1837), philosopher, and utopian economist, conceived the plan of a harmonious city, the ‘phalanstère’, which would give its members fulfillment at work. The goal of this economic, social and human reform project was to ensure an ideal life for humanity; however, attempts to bring this to fruition failed. At numbers 81 and 83 of the Grande Rue was the 16th century house where Fourier was born; the house was partially demolished when rue Moncey was built.

FORMER GRANDS CARMES MONASTERY

86-88, Grande-Rue

A branch of the Order of Carmel came to Besançon in 1392 and the Brothers established their monastery and built a church. Sold as national property during the Revolution, the buildings and the church were bought by private owners who turned them into shops, offices and apartments. The complex went through changes from 1868 to 1872: porches on the Grande-Rue and the Rue de la Prefecture were added, as well as another floor for living quarters.

FONTAINE DES CARMES



86 Grande Rue

The fountain, built in 1541, is located to the left of the entrance to the former monastery. Of the 4 fountains built in 1541 in the Loop, it is the only one that has kept its original form. In 1566, Claude Lullier added the statue of Neptune holding a trident (no longer in existence), astride a dolphin.

3

RUE DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

1, rue de la Bibliothèque

The library, designed by architect Denis Lapret and built in 1808, was the first building in France specifically designed to be a public library. With more than 500,000 documents, the library has one of the largest French collections of manuscripts and printed books, drawings, engravings, coins and medals. The oldest pieces of the collection date from a bequeathal by Abbot Jean-Baptiste Boisot in 1696 and objects which were seized during the Revolution.

SAINT MAURICE’S CHURCH

119 bis Grande Rue

Saint Sylvester, bishop of Besançon, has been credited with building the first church dedicated to Saint Maurice in the late 4th century CE. The present church was built between 1711 and 1714. It was repaired and re-decorated in the 19th century and its beautiful façade is Roman Baroque; a carillon sits high above it.

4

RUE DES GRANGES

HÔTEL PETIT DE MARIVAT

After Louis XIV conquered it in 1674, Besançon, the capital of Franche-Comté, changed dramatically. In the 18th century, a number of wealthy sponsors wanted to construct quality buildings, and they employed renowned architects to do this. François-Michel Petit de Marivat, Financial Commissary of Wars, commissioned Jacques François Blondel, who designed a large mansion in the French style. It was built in 1732, with a courtyard in front and a garden behind, the first of its kind in the city. Count Hilaire de Chardonnet, was born here in 1839. He invented artificial silk (rayon), and with it, created a new industry in 1884, which put Besançon on the map for several decades.

5

RUE DES MARTELOTS
RUE VICTOR HUGO
PLACE VICTOR HUGO

BIRTHPLACE OF VICTOR HUGO



140, Grande Rue

This house serves as a symbol for Victor Hugo. He was born here, but his family left soon afterwards. The city of Besançon has made it a symbol of the man and his works, and not a museum. You won't find a historical recapitulation, but a place of remembrance for the man who was committed to change in his century and beyond.

No. 104 Grande-Rue is designed to be a living, breathing space, with educational and appealing exhibits that are accessible to all. Just a few objects are on display, chosen for what they represent. The innovative exhibitions use the latest technology to put you in touch with the man, and to give life to his words, writings and objects. Following in his footsteps, the house is also a place of exchange between local, national and international groups who are carrying on the humanistic battles that Hugo began.

BIRTHPLACE OF THE LUMIÈRE BROTHERS

1, place Victor Hugo

Auguste Lumière (1862-1954) and Louis Lumière (1864-1948) were born in Besançon, in Saint Quentin Square (since, renamed Victor Hugo Square). They are the inventors of cinematography and they also made significant contributions to the development of photography. Their father, Antoine (1840-1911), was a photographer; he had his studio in the courtyard of No. 59 rue des Granges (former convent of Cistercian nuns). The family moved to Lyon in 1870.

FOUNTAIN



Place Victor Hugo

Originally, this fountain had a statue of a nymph in red marble (from Sampans in the Jura) spraying water "from her two breasts." When the fountain was moved to another place in the square, the statue was not put back, because it had been damaged by "assaults of the depraved", according to contemporary texts. The fountain was rebuilt in 1756, and in 1997, a bronze statue by sculptor Jens Boettcher was erected in its basin.

6

RUE DE LA CONVENTION

HÔTEL DE GRAMMONT (FORMER ARCHBISHOP'S SEE)

10, rue de la Convention

In the Middle Ages, the palace for Besançon archbishops was built near Saint John's Cathedral. In the early 18th century, at the request of Archbishop François-Joseph de Grammont, extensive changes were made to the street façade and two wings were added to the back of the building, connecting it to the old palace (some parts of which date from the late 15th century). During the Revolution, the buildings were sold as national property. Under the Concordat of 1801 and throughout the rest of the 19th century, the archbishops were lodged and paid by the French government, which had to buy back the palace. After the 1905 law of separation of church and state, the building was allocated to the university administration services. The rectory now occupies the entire space.

THE BLACK GATE



Rue de la Convention

Built around 175 CE in honour of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, this triumphal arch attests to the gratitude and loyalty the Sequani (the first inhabitants of Besançon, then known as Vesontio) felt towards Rome and the emperor. Its carvings are richly decorated, mainly mythological in theme, but you'll also see plant motifs and scenes of battle.

7

SQUARE CASTAN

SQUARE CASTAN



In 1870, Auguste Castan, city librarian and archaeologist, began excavations at this site. He found the remains of the water distribution basin from the aqueduct from Arcier that supplied the city in Roman times, and part of a stone semicircle, parts of columns and an entablature. These artefacts have given rise to various interpretations; however their exact function is still unknown. In 1874, an English-style archaeological garden was created. This was not maintained over the years, and from 2004 to 2006 the garden was restored to its 19th century state.

8

RUE PECLET
RUE RIVOTTE
PLACE DES JACOBINS
(VIEW OF THE CENTRE OF THE ARTS)

RIVER MARINA



The Besançon River Marina dock is 260 meters long and is supported on piles which are 15 meters deep. It can moor 20 yachts of different sizes at one time. There are floating pontoons for mooring that automatically adjust to the changing water levels of the Doubs, power and water hook-ups, a pump-out station, and a gangway to the dock for people with reduced mobility. Because the marina is on flowing water, it is closed in winter and no boats can be moored.

THE CENTRE OF THE ARTS



Avenue Arthur Gaulard

The Centre of the Arts was built in 2013 and designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. It was funded by the city of Besançon, Greater Besançon and the Region of Franche-Comté. The Centre houses the Regional Collection of Contemporary Art of Franche-Comté (FRAC), whose mission is to promote contemporary art through exhibitions and sensitization of the public, and the Regional Conservatory of Greater Besançon, which offers programmes in voice, instrument, choreography and theatre.

9

PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
UNDER THE RAILWAY BRIDGE
(THE CITADEL IS ABOVE,
ON YOUR RIGHT)

10
PORTE RIVOTTE

PORTE RIVOTTE

28-30, rue Rivotte

The Rivotte Gate was built in the Middle Ages. It guarded the passage between the Doubs River and the cliff of the Citadel. It was enlarged in the 16th century and its central part was rebuilt after Besançon was conquered by Louis XIV. In 1893, the drawbridge and the portcullis were removed, the ditches were filled, the building on the city side was demolished and passages were cut into the towers for pedestrians.

11
RUE RIVOTTE

HÔTEL MARESCHAL



19, rue Rivotte

This mansion is one of the oldest in Besançon, and was rebuilt in 1520 after a fire. The carved decoration that adorns the façade is Flamboyant Gothic. Its bays, placed at regular intervals, show an architectural feature that marked the beginning of the Renaissance in Besançon.

12
RUE CHAMBRIER

HÔTEL DU CHAMBRIER

The chamberlain (chambrier) was Treasurer of the Bishop's Chamber and was thus one of the officers in the court of the archbishop in the Middle Ages. The mansion was rebuilt in the early 18th century for Monseigneur de Grammont, and today, it is the headquarters of the Regional Council.

13
RUE DU CHAPITRE

CATHÉDRALE SAINT-JEAN



10 ter rue de la Convention

Saint John's Cathedral was built on land previously occupied by cathedrals of the Merovingian and Carolingian eras. Its double apses are a reminder of the cathedral erected in 825 during the episcopacy of Archbishop Bernoin. Saint John's itself was built and added to during the 12th, 13th and 18th centuries; it harmoniously reflects the Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles. Must-sees: *The Virgin and Child with the Saints* by Fra Bartolomeo (1472-1517), masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance, and the tomb of Ferry Carondelet (1473-1528), a Flemish Renaissance work.

ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

14
RUE DE LA VIEILLE MONNAIE
PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
TARRAGNOZ STAIRS
(VIEW OF THE CITADEL,
HUDDERSFIELD ROUNDABOUT
AND THE DOUBS)

TOUR NOTRE-DAME



Rond-point de Huddersfield-Kirklees

The Notre-Dame Tower, also called the Charles V Tower or Bastion, and sometimes the Round Tower, was built between 1546 and 1560 by Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, most probably on old walls from the Middle Ages. It was entirely modified by Vauban in the 17th century.

15
HUDDERSFIELD-KIRKLEES
ROUNDABOUT

LE DELTA DU DOUBS



This imposing sculpture, created by the internationally renowned artist François Morrelet, was erected in 1996 to commemorate the drilling of the tunnel under the Citadel. Its partner sculpture, also by Morrelet, is at the other end of the tunnel on the Neuchâtel Roundabout.

16
RUE CHARLES NODIER
PLACE DE LATRE DE TASSIGNY
RUE GÉNÉRAL LECOUBE

17
RUE CHIFFLET

HÔTEL DE COURBOUZON

20, rue Chifflet

This mansion was built in 1744 for Claude Antoine Boquet de Courbouzon, councillor and then president of the Parliament of Franche-Comté. The parlour on the first floor is decorated with panelling made around 1775-1780, probably from the drawings of the architect J.C. Bertrand, well-known in Franche-Comté at the time. Meetings of the Academy of Sciences, Belles-Lettres and Arts are held in this room. Charles Nodier, Charles de Montalembert, Georges Cuvier, Louis Pasteur, and Victor Hugo were members of the Academy, as were those of the 'Société d'Émulation'. The mansion houses the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

HÔTEL DE FLEURY-VILLAYER

26, rue Chifflet

This mansion was built between courtyard and garden, from 1757 to 1759 by the architect Jean-Charles Colombot for the Count de Fleury, "Grand Master" of Forestry, Hunting and Fishing. It was converted into a prison during the Reign of Terror, and in the 19th century, it became the property of the Droz des Villars family.

18
RUE RONCHAUX

RONCHAUX FOUNTAIN

55, rue Mégevand (angle rue Mégevand/rue Ronchaux)

Also called the "fountain of the Doubs", Ronchaux Fountain was built between 1747 and 1751. It is the work of the sculptor Pernette and was erected by the contractor Joseph Nodier, grandfather of Charles Nodier (1780-1844), a well-known Romantic author. The statue is of Neptune, who represents the Doubs (the basin was replaced in the mid-19th century).

19
GRANDE RUE

HÔTEL POURCHERESSE D'ÉTRABONNE, DIT DE CLERMONT

127, Grande Rue

This mansion was built in 1739 for Jean-Jacques Pourcheresse d'Étrabonne, councillor of the Parliament of Besançon. The sober façade contrasts with the exuberant rococo decoration of the gate. The mansion has belonged to the Sisters of Charity since 1862.

20
PALAIS GRANVELLE

PALAIS GRANVELLE MUSÉE DU TEMPS

96, Grande Rue

Nicolas Perrenot de Granvelle, First King's Counsellor and Lord Chancellor for Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor chose to build his private palace in the heart of the Loop. Construction lasted from 1533 to 1542. During his career, de Granville collected paintings and antiques and his son, Antoine, Cardinal and Counsellor to Philip II of Spain, added his library collection to these. Both collections provided the basis for collections in the Museum of Fine Arts and Archaeology and the Municipal Library. Since 2002, the palace has been the home of the Museum of Time. Its new exhibits measure our time in the form of Fine Arts and clock collections.

21

PLACE GRANVELLE

THE KURSAAL**Place Granvelle**

This building, inaugurated in 1893, and designed for the entertainment of clients come to “take the waters”, housed a circus and a brasserie with a games room. It was restored in 1987, and has since been a venue for conferences and other public events.

22

RUE MAIRET
RUE MEGEVAND**THÉÂTRE MUNICIPAL****47 bis rue Mégevand**

The Municipal Theatre was built between 1778 and 1784, based on plans by Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, architect for the king. 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.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND HUMANITIES
(FORMERLY SAINT VINCENT'S
ABBNEY)**
28, rue Mégevand

This Benedictine abbey was founded in the 11th century by Archbishop Hugh II. Second in importance only to Saint John's Cathedral, it enjoyed the reputation as a seat of great learning in the 17th century, and contributed significantly to the study of the history of Franche-Comté.

ÉGLISE NOTRE-DAME

Notre Dame Church belonged to Saint Vincent's Abbey. It underwent several renovations over the centuries and you can see the influences of Roman architecture in the building and Flamboyant Gothic in its gate and bell tower, built in 1525. The façade was done by Jean-Pierre Gazelot in 1720.

GRAND SÉMINAIRE**20, rue Mégevand**

This seminary was built between 1670 and 1695, and additions were made in the 18th century. It has a chapel whose vault is one of the last examples of the Gothic style in Franche-Comté. In the novel *The Red and the Black*, by Henri Beyle (1783-1842), alias Stendhal, the hero, Julien Sorel, is sent to this very seminary.

FONTAINE DES CLARISSES**4, rue Mégevand**

The convent of the Poor Clares was founded in the Middle Ages and in 1698, the nuns had a fountain built against the convent's enclosing wall. It was rebuilt in 1755 by the architect Charles-François Longin, and it is one of the best preserved and most elegant of the city.

23

RUE DU PALAIS DE JUSTICE

THE OLD COURTHOUSE**2, rue Hughes Sambin**

The old courthouse, built between 1584 and 1585 by Hugues Sambin, was the second main building of the Town Hall complex. Its polychrome façade is typical of Renaissance Mannerism. After Louis XIV conquered Franche-Comté in 1674, he transferred the parliament of Franche-Comté to the courthouse. The building is now part of the new city court complex, which was designed by the renowned architect Henri Gaudin and completed in 2003.

I HAD SUCH TROUBLE FINDING
VICTOR HUGO'S HOUSE,
MADAME DE LÉLIE. IT IS AT SAINT
QUENTIN'S SQUARE, NO. 140.
THE ROOM WHERE HE WAS BORN
IS PANELED, PAINTED A GREY-WHITE,
THERE IS AN ALCOVE WITH
A HALF-CANOPY BED IN THE MIDDLE
AND THEN A LARGE, COMFORTABLE
LIVING ROOM.

GUSTAVE FLAUBERT
VOYAGE EN ITALIE ET EN SUISSE
(TRAVELS TO ITALY AND SWITZERLAND)
1845



BATTANT QUARTER

TRAIL 3

START/FINISH CASINO

🕒 1.40 HOURS 📏 4.29 KM

1
THE CASINO/BESANÇON VISITOR
AND CONVENTION INFORMATION
CENTRE

THE MOUILLÈRE SPA



Avenue Édouard Droz

The Compagnie des Bains Salins de la Mouillère was founded in 1890, and the spa was built in 1891. Its water came from the salt spring at Miserey, a few kilometres from Besançon; it was recommended for anaemia, convalescence, and surgical, bone and joint diseases. The spa, the Hôtel des Bains and the Casino were part of the same complex, but after a few years of prosperity, the saline baths were closed and demolished, for lack of custom. Only the Hôtel des Bains (now converted into private apartments) and the Casino remain.

2
GARDEN OF THE SENSES

GARDEN OF THE SENSES

The Garden of the Senses was created by Besançon's Parks Department in partnership with associations for people with disabilities. The Garden, conceived with the visually impaired in mind, contains the kinds of plants that can be identified by senses other than sight. This promenade also welcomes lovers of nature and those who just want a moment of peace in the heart of the city. The statue of Marquis Jouffroy d'Abbans (1751-1832), inventor of the steamboat, stands in the garden and at the start of the walk, near Micaud Park, you can see a fountain dedicated to Hilaire de Chardonnet (1839-1924), inventor of artificial silk.

3
PELOTE TOWER

PELOTE TOWER



Quai de Strasbourg

In the 15th century, with the invention and use of firearms, fortifications had to be strengthened. In 1475, the "new tower of Pillotte" was built, which probably owes its name to the Pillot family, from whom the land was bought. After Louis XIV conquered Besançon, Vauban left the tower intact and made it part of the ramparts.

4
RUE DU PETIT BATTANT

PROUDHON'S HOUSE

Pierre-Joseph Proudhon (1809-1865), one of the first theorists of libertarian socialism, was born in this modest, renovated house, at the end of the rue du Petit Battant.

5
RUE BATTANT
HÔTEL DE CHAMPAGNEY (TRAVERSE)

HÔTEL DE CHAMPAGNEY



37, rue Battant

Built in the first third of the 16th century for Jacques Bonvalot, Seigneur de Champagne, this mansion's Gothic façade has windows with ogee arches and is decorated with four gargoyles, the only visible, beautiful ones remaining in Besançon. The mansion was redone between 1560 and 1565, by his daughter, Nicole Bonvalot, widow of Nicolas de Granvelle. It has the traditional Franche-Comté galleries and outside stairways giving onto the courtyard.

6
PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

LE CLOS BARBISIER



The Clos Barbisier Rose Garden was created in 1982 near Fort Griffon. It offers a fine collection of old-variety roses, the fruits of the research conducted by the Parks Department in collaboration with specialists from the Botanical Garden. You can delight in hundred-leaf roses, first seen in the late 16th century, along with more recent varieties.

7
CHEMIN DE RONDE
DU FORT GRIFFON

FORT GRIFFON



Place Griffon

Construction of the fort began in 1680 under Vauban's direction. Fort Griffon is considered Besançon's second citadel, occupying a key position on the right bank. It had a two-fold purpose: to protect the city to the north and to quell any rebellions inside the Loop. Vauban had barracks built within the fort; throughout his long career, he constantly refined and improved the concept of barracks so that soldiers could be lodged as efficiently and economically as possible.

8
RUE RICHEBOURG
RUE DU PETIT CHARMONT
RUE GRATTERIS
RUE DU SECHAL
PLACE MARULAZ

FORMER BARRACKS OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY

3, place Marulaz

An artillery school was established in Besançon, and Jean Querret, engineer, king's architect and geographer, built the barracks between 1739 and 1743 to provide lodging. The barracks were badly damaged in 1944, but were restored. The writer Choderlos de Laclos stayed here at the end of the 18th century when he was an artillery officer and it is most probably here that he began writing "Dangerous Liaisons". In 1885, the remains of the Besançon Roman amphitheatre were discovered when the embankment of the curtain wall was being lowered. Why only the remains? Because in the Middle Ages, the stones were removed and used to build homes in the neighbourhood.

9

RUE THIÉMANTÉ
RUE D'ARÈNES

REMAINS OF THE AMPHITHEATRE

Rue d'Arènes

The Besançon amphitheatre, about 21 metres high, is similar to those in Arles and Nîmes. It was built in the 1st century CE in the form of an oval, 106 metres by 126, and could accommodate up to 20,000 spectators. (In the Middle Ages, it served as a 'quarry' for building houses in the neighbourhood.) Some of the remains of tiers of seats are still visible at the end of avenue Siffert.

MUSIC STORES IN RUE D'ARENES

The names of music stores line rue d'Arènes: some sell musical instruments and some make them. You can find lute makers, piano makers, stores that sell new and used brass instruments (tuba, trombone, horn, trumpet) and several European, African, and African-American percussion stores. This quarter is a must for both the professional and amateur musician.

10

ÉGLISE SAINTE-MADELEINE

ÉGLISE SAINTE-MADELEINE



1, rue de la Madeleine

Saint Madeleine's Church is the masterpiece of architect Nicolas Nicole. It was built on the site of a medieval church, and was under construction from 1746 to 1766. Its interior, of great homogeneity of style, is considered one of the finest achievements of 18th century French religious architecture.

11

RUE BATTANT
RUE MAYENCE
STRASBOURG EMBANKMENT

STRASBOURG EMBANKMENT

In 1862, a commission created by the Prefecture decided to protect the city from flooding by building the "Quai Napoléon", an embankment on the right bank of the Doubs. (After the fall of the Empire, it was renamed "Quai de Strasbourg".) The height of the embankment was well above the highest crests recorded; it was topped by a street with 11-metre-wide pavements. It channelled the river in the same way construction on the left bank did, and it prevented river water from flowing into the nearby streets and homes, eliminating risks of epidemics.

SYNAGOGUE



27, quai de Strasbourg

Groundbreaking took place in 1869, and the synagogue was completed in 1871. Because its architecture is neo-Moorish, the Besançon synagogue is the best, and most original, example of the Eastern style of architecture of all the synagogues built in the east of France under the Second Empire.

12

BATTANT BRIDGE

BATTANT BRIDGE

The first bridge (later called Battant Bridge) to span the Doubs was built by the Romans in the 1st century. It was the only bridge in the city until the Bregille footbridge was built at the end of the 17th century. It was modified several times and, partly destroyed during the war of 1939-1940 (the French fought two wars), it was rebuilt in 1953 and then in 2014, to accommodate the tramway. You can still see the base of one column from the Roman bridge.

13

VAUBAN EMBANKMENT

VAUBAN EMBANKMENT

Under the direction of the engineer Isaac Robelin, director of Franche-Comté fortifications, the work on the embankment on both sides of Battant Bridge on the inside of the loop of the Doubs was begun in 1691. This was done against the advice of Vauban who wanted to build just a simple rampart. All the façades of the houses were to be redone, but because of lack of funds, the project could not be completed.

14

RUE JEAN PETIT

FORMER HOSPITAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



1-3 rue Goudimel

These buildings belonged to the Order of Hospitaliers of the Holy Spirit, who established themselves in Besançon in the early 13th century. The church is 13th century Gothic architecture. In the courtyard there is a gallery which has carved wooden decorations whose iconography, still influenced by the Middle Ages (monsters and dragons), is a testimony to the early introduction of Renaissance forms in Franche-Comté. The old porch was replaced by a neo-Gothic gate in 1841. Since 1842, it has been the home of the Protestant Church of Besançon.

PLACE DE LA RÉVOLUTION

Traditionally reserved for market days and fairs, Revolution Square was formerly called Market Well Square. The Square recently underwent vast renovative changes, injecting new energy into the neighborhood. There is now a covered market, a cinema complex, and restaurants, which make the Square a must for locals and visitors alike.

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AND ARCHEOLOGY



1, place de la Révolution

The building which houses the museum, built in 1843, initially served mainly as a grain market. However, from the outset, it also served as a museum for the city's art collections. Gradually it turned into a full-fledged museum. The building was renovated between 1966 and 1970 by the architect Louis Miquel, a student of Le Corbusier, to accommodate the donated Besson Collection, consisting of works of French artists of the 20th century. The museum is one of the largest in France, internationally recognized for the number of its collections, and their diversity and quality.

The Museum is closed for renovations. It will reopen in 2017.

15

RUE GUSTAVE COURBET
SQUARE ÉLISÉE CUSENIER

REMAINS OF SAINT PETER'S BASTIONED TOWER



Avenue Élisée Cusenier

Today, you can only see the lower part of the front and right flank of Saint Peter's Bastioned Tower, built between 1687 and 1690. In the 18th century, the tower was converted into a powder magazine and was covered in slate. Both the tower and the rampart just before it were levelled between 1895 and 1897. Of the six bastioned towers in Besançon, Saint Peter's is the only one that was destroyed.

SAINT PAUL'S MILL BASTION



Avenue Arthur Gaulard

The mill belonging to Saint Paul's Abbey straddled an arm of the Doubs. In about 1689, Vauban built a bastion around it. In the 19th century, the "Canal Monsieur" or the Franche-Comté Canal (the future Rhone-Rhine Canal) and its towpath were built, and the old mill was demolished. A lock was built where the mill race, with its waterwheel, used to be.

RIVER MARINA



The Besançon River Marina dock is 260 metres long and is supported on piles which are 15 metres deep. It can moor 20 yachts of different sizes at one time. There are floating pontoons for mooring that automatically adjust to the changing water levels of the Doubs, power and water hook-ups, a pump-out station, and a gangway to the dock for people with reduced mobility. Because the marina is on flowing water, it is closed in winter and no boats can be moored.

THE CENTRE OF THE ARTS

Avenue Arthur Gaulard

The Centre of the Arts was built in 2013 and designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. It was funded by the city of Besançon, Greater Besançon and the Region of Franche-Comté. The Centre houses the Regional Collection of Contemporary Art of Franche-Comté (FRAC), whose mission is to promote contemporary art through exhibitions and sensitization of the public, and the Regional Conservatory of Greater Besançon, which offers programmes in voice, instrument, choreography and theatre.

BREGILLE BASTIONED TOWER

Avenue Arthur Gaulard

This tower was built between 1687 and 1689 and restored in the nineteenth century. The parapet was rebuilt in stone – not brick. It was designed, just like the Rivotte bastioned tower, to protect The Loop against attacks from the right bank and the cliffs.

16

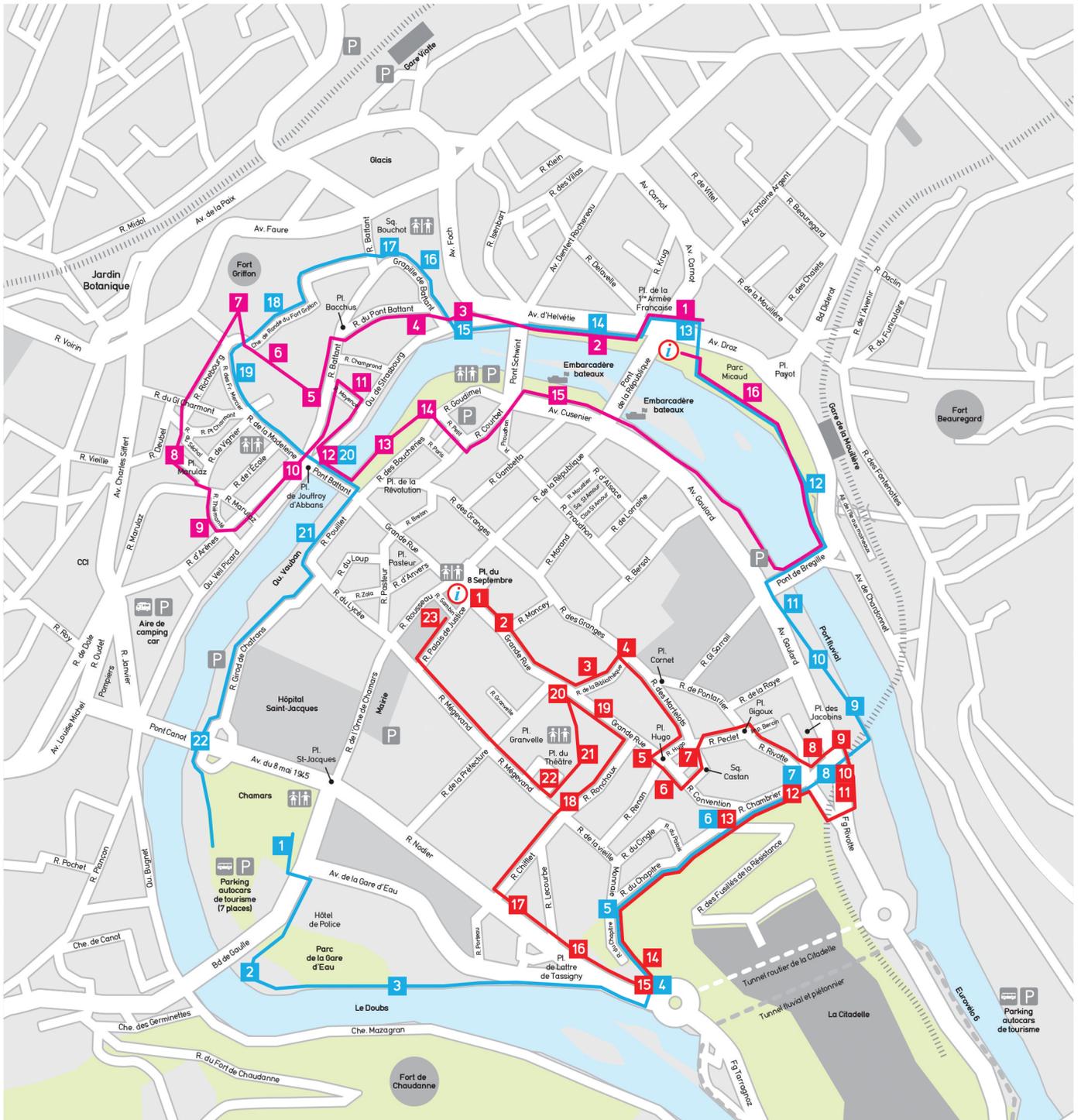
MICAUD PROMENADE

MICAUD PROMENADE



The project for landscaping the banks of the Doubs River across from St. Paul's Mill was conceived in 1830. Architect Alphonse Delacroix was its designer. The land belonged to the military and it was not until 1841 that the idea of creating a walk along the Doubs took form. An arm of the Doubs had to be drained, and by 1843, the Promenade was finished. The plants, bushes and trees you see today give you an idea of 19th century preferences for greenery.







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.

Besançon
Tourisme **et** Congrès

www.besancon-tourisme.com

Micaud
2, place de la 1^{re} Armée Française

Hôtel de Ville
place du 8 Septembre
BP 297 - 25016 Besançon Cedex
Tél. +33 (0)3 81 80 92 55
Fax. +33 (0)3 81 80 58 30