



# Burgundy-Franche-Comté

This is the French region that boasts the greatest number of sites listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. It's advantage? A fantastical geology that has inspired the greatest builders of all time: Vauban, Ledoux, Le Corbusier and all those other visionaries that came here to find natural backdrops that allowed them to showcase their genius. In order to set out and explore these nine wonders, nothing could be better than following the countless itineraries (walking, cycling, waterways...) that cross the region.

## The road to nine wonders

### A truly well-seasoned escapade

This makes perfect sense when you take the time to examine the map of Burgundy-Franche-Comté more closely: nine UNESCO sites spread across the entire area with itineraries that connect them all.

The **ÉCHAPPÉE JURASSIENNE TRAIL** takes in no fewer than three of these sites on its own: the **LAKESIDE PILE-DWELLINGS OF CHALAIN AND CLAIRVAUX-LES-LACS**, prehistoric villages set on the banks of two of the region's most beautiful lakes; the **ROYAL SALT WORKS OF ARC-ET-SENANS** – astonishing in scale – and the **GREAT SALT WORKS OF SALINS-LES-BAINS**, two unmissable stops along the Salt Route that are of exceptional universal value in terms of the production of gem salt. One of the most varied trails, it combines breathtaking nature with exceptional venues.

### Freewheeling

It is by following the **Voie des Vignes** (between Beaune and Santenay) and its 22km of vineyard trails, that cycling tourists can enjoy the most beautiful views of the **CLIMATS OF THE BURGUNDY WINE REGION**, listed by UNESCO since 2015. Pommard, Meursault, Volnay, Puligny-Montrachet... The trail snakes between hillsides and bucolic countryside as it crosses villages that boast evocative names and centuries-old winegrowing heritage: houses made of ancient stones, châteaux, wine cellars to visit... This wine appreciation trail also allows visitors to link up with the **EUROVELO6** trail at Santenay. Heading east, this itinerary is a joy for cycling tourists, skirting the waterways and wooded hillsides right up to **BESANÇON\***, the Comtois capital overlooked by its imposing **CITADEL**, one of the most accomplished and majestic works by Vauban. Continuing towards Montbéliard along the tranquil Doubs Valley, the towns melt away and are replaced by a more rural ambiance. The itinerary stretches out to Belfort along the **Coulée Verte** trail. Further west, the **Boucle des Champs**, one of the **LOOPS OF THE HAUTE-SAÔNE**, leads visitors to **RONCHAMP** and the generous white curves of its **CHAPEL OF NOTRE-DAME-DU-HAUT BY LE CORBUSIER**... This stunning masterpiece is sure to leave an everlasting memory.

### Walkers on a spiritual journey

Why is there such interest in the paths travelled by pilgrims? It is undoubtedly because they combine the joy of walking with emotions and history. Not to be missed is the **WAY OF ST. JAMES** along its local GR® 654 variant, passing the most beautiful natural and cultural sites of the region. This itinerary situated on the **Vézelay Way** – perhaps the richest in terms of religious buildings – connects **LA CHARITÉ-SUR-LOIRE** and its priory church to the basilica of Sainte-Madeleine in **VÉZELAY**, a pilgrimage hotspot. From Vézelay visitors simply have to take the recently created **GR213 A** to reach **FONTENAY ABBEY**, a jewel of Romanesque art... This is enough to charm any traveller tackling these trails on a journey that is spiritual, cultural and historic.

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