

Family outings in the Franche-Comté!

Sites, excursions, and regional specialities...

a selection of the best addresses and tips for a happy family holiday!



This press file is a selection of places specifically suitable for children and their parents in the four parts of the Franche-Comté region:

the Jura, the Doubs, the Haute-Saône and the Territoire de Belfort.



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Family events calendar

Festivals and events in Franche-Comté

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Festivals and events in Franche-Comté

The puppets' solstice

In the Territoire de Belfort puppet theatre, more than 150 theatre companies from all over the world gather together every year in April for a magical show. The solstice invites children and adults to laugh and wonder at the puppeteers' talent and their surprising stories. The show aims to initiate the spectator in the puppet theatre, whatever their age, by sharpening their sensitive and critical spirit. An event that promises laughter and magic for all the family.

Where: Belfort, Théâtre des marionnettes (90)
When: April
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

The Red Nose Festival

Mum, why have they all got red noses? "They" are the Chiffogne clowns in Montbéliard, created over 20 years ago by a district association. Today they offer a clown school for children and adults, workshops, shows and events for everyone. Red noses invade the city of Montbéliard, organising "clown ball" contests, exhibitions by local painters, street parades and shows all based on the clown theme. Not forgetting of course the essential rituals of this event: the "clown release" and the "New noses" show, taking the spectator on a crazy and fantastic journey.

Where: Montbéliard (25)
When: May
Tel.: +33 3 81 91 36 50

FIMU: International University Music Festival

The FIMU is a not-to-be-missed event in the Territoire de Belfort. Three days of music, over 100 formations from different countries, 3,000 musicians, and so on. A variety of styles that highlights the different cultures around the world, a passion for music and the enthusiasm of youth. The concerts are free, enabling the whole family to discover and appreciate a varied musical programme.

The Goutatou festival of flavour

The Franche-Comté institute of wine and savours organises the Goutatou, a festival of flavour including conferences, chefs' secrets, street shows and entertainment. The festival of flavour is the opportunity for Franche-Comté to show off its regional and culinary know-how and local products, and is a place for exchange, initiation and entertainment based on flavour. For children, there are "I taste, I make" workshops for them to learn to recognise different foods and to discover new flavours. For two days, the whole family can enjoy the savours of Franche-Comté through tasting wine, different cold meats and a variety of other dishes that are representative of the region.

Where: Arbois (39)
When: Juin
Tel.: +33 3 84 66 40 53

Green day Malbuisson

Where: Saint-Point lake
in Malbuisson (25)
When: June
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 31 21

For a day, the road around the Saint Point Lake is transformed: cars disappear, making way for bikes, with or without stabilisers, roller blades and pedestrians! This fairly new event takes place from 10am to 5pm, enabling children and adults to enjoy the 20 km road around the 3rd largest natural lake in France, and to take advantage of the wonderful, preserved environment. There are different events along the way, and places to stop for a bite to eat. An excellent way of seeing the typical landscape of the Doubs area.

Eurockéennes de Belfort rock festival

Where: Malsaucy (5 km
from Belfort) (90)
When: 1st weekend
in July
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 31 21

This is one of the largest rock festivals in France and undoubtedly one of the most attractive due to the natural site of Malsaucy where the open-air event takes place. Four stages, dozens of artists and 3 days of music bring together well-known stars, up and coming young talents and regional groups. The Eurockéennes represents above all a mix of generations, with rock and pop music, heavy metal, hip hop, reggae, electronic music, etc. A genuine international festival in line with the times. With 90,000 places and certain private concerts, the Eurockéennes de Belfort is THE summer event for all teenagers and adults who love music.

Idéklic

Where: Moirans-en-
Montagne (39)
When: July
Tel.: +33 3 84 42 00 28

The aim of the International Children's Festival, Idéklic, in Moirans-en-Montagne in July, is for children to put their free time to learning while having fun. There are 50 workshops where children over 4 can rotate between discovery, experiments and creations at their will. There are 32 shows including exhibitions, story gardens, street shows, etc. An idea exchange hall enables children and parents to exchange and consider philosophical ideas. At the Idéklic Festival, children can observe, take part in or simply enjoy the different activities with the family.

Saturdays on the river banks

Where: Belfort
centre-ville (90)
Dates: Saturdays in
July and August
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Every Saturday in July and August, the town of Belfort puts on travelling shows especially for children and adults. Clowns, dancers, actors, fire eaters, and more, all come together to liven up Saturdays in the whole town, free of charge. The chance for the whole family to have fun.

Cherry festival and cherry doughnut fair

Fougerolles, land of the cherry, organises the cherry festival every year in July. Today, Fougerolles has around 40,000 cherry trees in fields, meadows and gardens, and the varieties grown belong to the heart cherry family, used in making kirsch (cherry alcohol), jam, juice and desserts.

Marie-Jean-Claude, Chettié, Fesse-de-sœur, Chapendu, and Rouge grande queue are some of the melodious names of these cherries, celebrated by all in July.

Jam, juice, pies... with heart cherries everything is possible, but in Fougerolles, the speciality is cherry doughnuts. In September, the town puts on a cherry doughnut fair so that everyone can taste this delicious fruit and understand why Fougerolles is listed as a "Site of remarkable taste".

Where: Fougerolles (70)
Dates: July
and September
Tel.: +33 3 84 49 12 91

Donkey Festival

In 1996, the Suarce festival committee organised an event on the theme of draught horses and more specifically the "comtois" draft-horse. Over the years, this event has become the Donkey Festival. Discovering the beauty of the Franche-Comté countryside on donkey has become a family outing. The Donkey Festival focuses its events on children and offers a variety of entertainment: drawing competitions, picnics, outdoor games, etc. The donkey, a charming and teasing animal, also knows how to keep the adults happy by showing them the village of Suarce and its traditional surroundings.

Where: Suarce, south
Territoire de Belfort (90)
When: August
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Children's Festival

The Children's Festival is a cultural event for children and their parents. With an educational and social approach, the festival targets more than 6,000 children and proposes games, activities and shows for three consecutive afternoons. Montbéliard organises 15 workshops, including bread-making, jewellery-making and chocolate-making. The Children's Festival also has a variety of shows: theatre, clowns, circus, songs and areas dedicated to children: puppet-making, beauty corner, climbing, pottery, silk painting, etc. A friendly and fun festival for the whole family.

Where: Montbéliard
(25)
When: August
Tel.: +33 3 81 91 86 26



Cows come down from the meadows

In Hôpitaux-Neufs, to mark the end of summer, Franche-Comté inhabitants celebrate the moment when the cows come down from their alpine meadows. It's an important time for farmers who like to share this special moment with the region's inhabitants and tourists.

After spending more than 100 days in the mountains, dairy cows leave the summits to go back to the last meadows to resist the arrival of autumn. People come in numbers to take part in this traditional event that also offers entertainment, a parade of floats and cow decorating. An event to show thanks to these milk cows, and a relaxing moment for all in the heart of the Franche-Comté mountains.

Where: Les Hôpitaux-Neufs (25)
When: end August/early September
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 13 81

Forest'kid

Organised in September every year, Forest'kid is a mountain bike trial for children. This event takes place before the Forestière race, in which parents on mountain bikes race longer distances. In Rousses, in the Jura, Forest'kid includes 4 races from 3 to 18 kilometres, divided into age category, with all participants arriving in Arbent in the Ain.

Circuits are suitable for families and offer a way to take part in a sports activity, in direct relation with nature.

Where: Les Rousses (39)
When: September
Tel.: +33 4 74 77 20 98

Pedal-car race

In Seloncourt, in the Montbéliard area, a crazy pedal-car race is organised each year!! An entertaining and international event that also represents an exchange between German, Italian and Franche-Comté secondary schools who build a car together. This race attracts a number of teams, with over 40 cars taking part in the fun. The village of Seloncourt also puts on a car parade with different categories: speed, look and both combined so that children can find ideas to use on their own pedal cars.

Where: Seloncourt (25)
When: September
Tel.: +33 3 81 37 08 79

The Trans'roller in Pontarlier

The Trans'roller is an opportunity for the whole family to take part in a fun activity in the heart of the Franche-Comté countryside. This event comprises different races from 17 to 34 kilometres on rollerblades or rollerskis, between Pontarlier, Malbuisson and Mouthe. Beginners, experts, parents and children are all united for this summer version of the Transjurassienne (crossing of the Jura mountains on cross-country skis). A big sporting event bringing together over 800 competitors in the spirit of friendliness and self-determination.

For the occasion, the town of Pontarlier organises competitions, fancy-dress hikes, free trial of equipment and demonstrations by professionals.

Where: Pontarlier (25)
When: September
Tel.: +33 3 84 33 45 13

Story festival

This family event in the Territoire de Belfort invites each participant to tell a story!! Stories about life, death, happiness, love, hate, or stories that make one think, laugh or dream. The festival focuses on exchange and the art of storytelling, enlivened by singing and music. The aim of this meeting is to discover the region and the world, and to get to know the different civilisations on the planet, in order to know oneself better.

Where: Communes du
Territoire de Belfort (90)
When: October
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Comic book festival in Audincourt

A festival dedicated to comic strips, with friendly gatherings around cartoonists and script-writers. A weekend full of bubbles and colour for children and adults. Two days dedicated to comic strips to enable everyone to learn the secrets of the creators and the skill of the cartoonists. A comic strip tour of the world with a different theme each year. The town of Audincourt invites the whole family to discover the mysterious world of comics.

Where: Audincourt (25)
When: October
Tel.: +33 3 81 36 37 76

Animalis

In Belfort, in November, children are invited to watch and touch goats, sheep, horses, dogs, etc. Over 1,000 animal species, from the exotic with the dromedary, to the traditional with the Labrador. While little ones enthuse over fish and birds, older ones can get close to lamas and stroke horses. Animalis is a Noah's ark to discover with all the family.

Where: Belfort (90)
When: November
Tel.: +33 3 84 21 65 65

"Causons cases" festival in Cousance

A festival where you can meet your favourite cartoonist! In Cousance, during the "Causons Cases" event, comic strip writers meet their fans in three of the town's cafés to share ideas in terms of drawing, scenarios, or comic strips. This festival, which takes place every year in December, includes second-hand comic book stands and comic-related products. It's also the opportunity to create activities and exhibitions based on comics, including activities for little ones.

Where: Cousance (39)
When: December
Tel.: +33 3 84 48 96 42

Christmas in Toyland

Moirans-en-Montagne is the French toy capital. In December, the town lights up to celebrate Christmas in style! Parents and children are invited to walk around the town to rediscover Christmas traditions and customs based on the area's leading craft: toys!

Moirans transforms into a fairytale destination to make the whole family dream: Father Christmas' forest, lights and decorations that sparkle as night falls, a host of activities, a Christmas market, exhibitions, Christmas stories and at long last, the moment everyone has been waiting for "The Christmas Elf Parade", a big street parade with 200 little elves.

Where: Moirans-en-Montagne (39)
When: December
Tel.: +33 3 84 42 38 64

The toy museum invites parents to rediscover their childhood spirit, while youngsters can make their own toys from wood in Father Christmas' workshop! An exceptional Christmas taster!

Christmas Lights market

During the whole Advent period, the town of Montbéliard is metamorphosed. The town organises one of the finest Christmas markets: the Christmas Lights. Nestled at the foot of St Martin's temple, more than 130 craftspeople, installed in rustic cabins, show off their wares: Christmas decorations, nativity figures, toys, delicacies, mulled wine, gingerbread, foie gras, etc.

Street parades animate the Christmas market: acrobats, clowns, fanfares, Saint Nicolas, Saint Lucie and the Christmas Lights parade, Father Christmas and Aunt Airie. There are Christmas lights everywhere. The family atmosphere and the traditional nature make this a truly wonderful event.

Where: Montbéliard (25)
When: December
Tel.: +33 3 81 94 45 60

For children, there are pastry-making, Christmas decoration and chocolate workshops, while parents can wander through the market, breathing in the sweet aromas, tasting local products and visiting the different stands.

Christmas Festivities and Magic

From 1st December to 2nd January, Belfort beats to the rhythm of Christmas. This time of the year sees the illumination of the town's finest buildings: St Christopher's cathedral, the old Carrousel, the Vosges market, the indoor market, the Faubourg des Ancêtres, all are decorated with magical colours. In December, the city hall is decorated with a giant Advent calendar, with a new window lighting up each night and a little elf that hands out sweets. There are numerous free activities for children, and so that parents don't feel left out, Belfort pastry-makers propose hand-made Christmas logs and mulled white wine.

Where: Belfort (90)
When: December
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Christmas is also a time for stories: myths, legends, and stories from all ages take children and adults on journeys that awaken the imagination.

Christmas in the Citadel of Besançon

The Germanic past of Franche-Comté has left its mark on the region, and the region continues to celebrate the Advent period. Baubles, garlands, nativity figures, toys, mulled wine, and delicacies are all part of the tradition. In the Citadel of Besançon, every weekend in December is devoted to celebrating Christmas. Children and adults alike are invited to share traditions around tales, legends and different activities. The 1st weekend in December is specifically for the little ones, with numerous events: puppets, mimes, musical games, etc.

Where: Besançon (25)
When: December
Tel.: +33 3 81 87 83 33





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Places to visit with children

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Natural sites

Waterfalls

In spring, when the snow melts, the region's waterfalls are at their most intense. There are many forest trails alongside the raging, cascading waters. Children will love these walks!

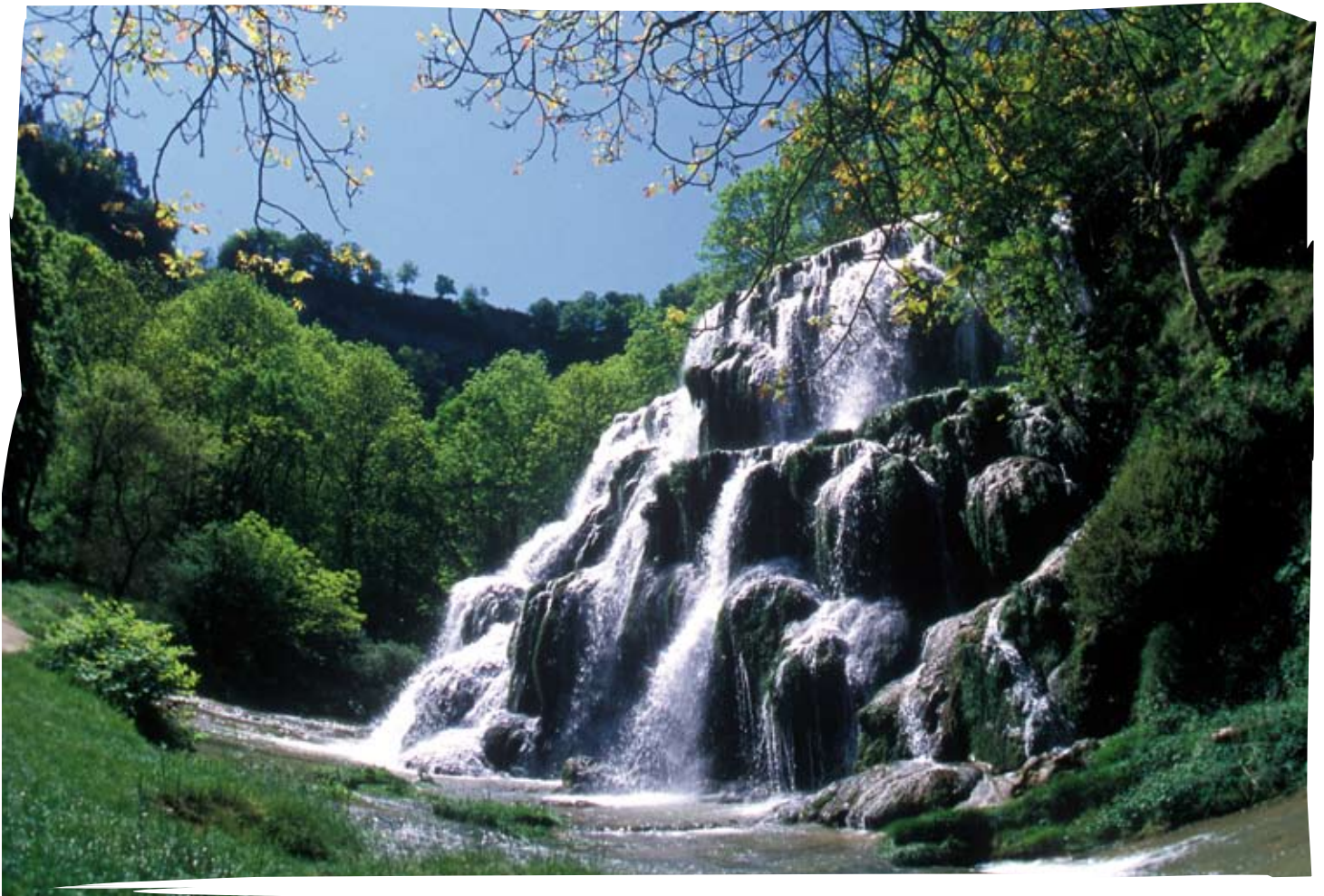
The Saut du Doubs, in Villers-le-Lac, is the Franche-Comté's leading natural site, fascinating all those that come to watch this natural show. The water crashes down from a height of 27 m! A boat trip on the Doubs reveals the wilderness of the surrounding area: a 14 km route, inaccessible by road, unveils cliffs, belvederes and forests, making a lasting impression.

In days gone by, our ancestors considered waterfalls as sacred – when you see the white froth at the source of the Loue and the Lison in the Doubs region, it is quite easy to understand why. The Loue flows into a waterfall in a large rocky kettle with a deafening roar, caused by the force of the water crashing against the 100 m cliffs.

The Hérisson falls in the Jura twists and turns over 3 km, cascading down 31 waterfalls! Walking behind the waterfall is just too difficult to resist for our budding explorers! Several other rivers tumble down towards the valley. A real delight for walkers.

Press contact:
For more information
on the Franche-Comté
natural heritage, please
contact Delphine at
the Franche-Comté
Regional Tourist Board
on +33 3 81 25 08 08

General contact:
www.franche-comte.org
or by telephone on
+33 810 10 11 13
(from France)





Where: Étalans (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 59 22 57
www.gouffredepoudrey.com

Where: S^t Vit (25)
near Arc et Senans
Tel.: +33 3 81 63 62 09

Where: Chaux-Les-
Passavant (25)
Tél. : +33 3 81 60 44 26
www.grotteglacière.com

Where: Baume-Les-
Messieurs (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 48 23 02

Where: Arbois (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 66 13 74

Where: Molain (39)
near Arbois
Tel.: +33 3 84 51 74 94
www.grottesdesmoidons.com

Caves and grottoes

Franche-Comté has a host of treasures visible to the eye, such as magnificent forests, tumbling waterfalls, and calm lakes. But the region also hides riches underground, with almost 4,500 grottoes and chasms. These underground sites fascinate children and adults alike. It's time for a change of scenery – our visit now goes underground, where the light is low, the inhabitants a little odd and the constructions quite unusual.

The chasm of Poudrey, journey to the centre of the Earth...

2 million cubic metres, 600 metres in circumference and 200 metres in diameter: this is the largest underground hall in France. A 45-minute stroll takes visitors 70 metres underground to observe surprisingly regular formations, enhanced by an impressive sound and light show.

The Osselle grotto and bears

Discovered in the 13th century, the Osselle grotto has been open to the public since 1504! It is one of the oldest tourist caves in the world. It is also one of the largest cave bear cemeteries in the world.

Don't be surprised if, during the tour, children notice a 40,000 year-old skeleton made from bones found under the rocks.

The Glacière caves, an underground refrigerator!

This grotto, 525 metres underground, collects cold air and water to form a large ice reserve. This phenomenon at this altitude is unique in Europe. For a bit of coolness in summer, don't miss a visit to the Glacière grotto!

Baume-Les-Messieurs caves: geology and its fantasies

These 30 million year old caves are at the bottom of one of the most beautiful valleys in Franche-Comté. Home to bats and blind shrimps, children are guaranteed to be excited! Below, a magnificent waterfall will freshen up children and adults alike!

Planches caves, a walk through time

With its giant pot-holes, organs and trees, this grotto close to Arbois opens its doors to a gallery, a museum and archaeological digs. There is also a prehistoric trail alongside the underground river.

Moidons caves, 4 000 m² of underground decoration

Arbois is a refuge for chasms and grottoes... Here the walker can discover the finest stalactites in the Jura.

Crafts, industrial and scientific heritage



In a region which is half-covered with forest, it is only natural for wood to be used as a resource. Since the Middle Ages, local people from Franche-Comté have shaped objects out of wood. Some have become real treasures for children, such as wooden toys! Today, plastic has replaced wood in most toys, but these two materials exist in harmony in the Haut-Jura, with the Smoby brand and small wooden toy workshops, to the delight of children and adults!

Crafts that made the reputation of the region are still very much alive today and can be visited in museums or directly at the craftsman's workshop. Passionate about their craft, they are happy to share the secrets of the "Made in Franche-Comté" status. The list of these local craftspeople is long: automobile, glass-makers, watch-makers, glasses-makers, woodwork, etc., promising children a fun way of learning about traditional know-how!

Museums

The Toy Museum: back to childhood...

Over half of French toys are made in the south of the Franche-Comté: the Haut-Jura. Moirans-en-Montagne, the toy capital, houses a museum with a fun and colourful architectural design offering a warm and wonderful journey through time to discover the universe of toys. It hosts an outstanding collection of 16,000 toys and games from all over the world, from all cultures and civilisations, representing 5,000 years of human history.

Themed exhibitions, fun workshops and many other discoveries related to toys from here and elsewhere are possible. A robot theatre, "the forest with one thousand elves", takes children and adults to an enchanted world with impish characters.

Every year, the museum organises Euréka Malice, a toy or game design and construction competition for children and adults.

Where: Moirans-en-Montagne (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 42 38 64

The Peugeot museum: the history of racing cars!

Vroom, vroom! The Peugeot Museum traces the history of the brand with the roaring lion symbol. Little boys will be in awe: old cars from the beginning of the last century, futurist prototypes, racing cars, and more.

Like a time travel machine, the Peugeot museum displays Peugeot vehicles in settings that are in line with their era, in chronological order. There are also bicycles made by the brand, the first of which was made in 1882. With its different size wheels, it doesn't look much like today's bikes!

Parents can also admire the mechanical know-how of the brand, which also used to make coffee grinders and other utensils, such as the pepper mill still made by the lion brand.

Children can celebrate their birthdays in the museum with their friends and discover different activities: guided tour, optical theatre, driving simulator, etc. An opportunity to learn while having fun.

Where: Sochaux (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 99 42 03
www.musee-peugeot.com

The Museum of Comtois Houses: a stroll through regional architecture

In this vast, open-air museum in a 15 hectare park, children and adults can discover typical Comtois houses from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries that are carefully preserved on the site. The museum includes 15 houses and outhouses, furnished with traditional objects that recall the domestic life of country folk from times gone by. The Museum of Comtois Houses presents themed and fun discovery trails for children.

History: through the traditional dwelling, the visitor gets a glimpse of life as it used to be and can compare it to the way we live today.

Gardens: themed gardens surround the houses: historic garden, forgotten vegetable garden, mountain vegetable garden, potato garden, etc. An ideal way to teach children about the use and necessity of plants.

Animals: the museum demonstrates the relations between man and animals and contributes to protecting rare farm animals that are threatened species.

Environment: this open-air museum is home to local wildlife with ponds, undergrowth, orchards, and hedges that provide children and adults the opportunity to learn how to respect nature and the environment in general.

Where: Nancray (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 55 29 77
www.Maisons-comtoises.org

The Time Museum

Besançon is the capital of time and the clock-making industry, as demonstrated in the Time Museum in the listed Palais Granvelle.

Devoted to time, the visit takes place in several steps:

- Ancient time or revolutionary time, the period of Galilee, when “scientists” sought to experiment, observe and measure.

A chance to reflect on how we view time today, with the use of watches and clocks. Games for children to experiment with!

- Modern time: from the tick-tock of mechanical watches to electronic pulses.

A discovery board game leading up to the introduction of robotics.

- Tempo area: temporary exhibitions provoking children and parents to think: family trees, reports, images, etc.

So children can better understand the history of the collections, the museum offers a sensorial approach with games, models, videos, sound shows, etc.

Where: Besançon (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 87 81 50

The Science Museum

In the Près la Rose science park, the Pavillon des Sciences explains the evolution of science and industry over time. There are fun exhibitions, activities and demonstrations to explain all about science. “The science village” is designed to encourage awareness of science and techniques. Youngsters are invited to experiment, observe and try out scientific methods through games, to develop their analytical and reflective skills. The discovery island permanent exhibition invites little ones to explore exotic fauna and flora by smelling different flower fragrances, tasting fruits and touching the special texture of the sand on this mysterious island.

Where: Montbéliard (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 91 46 83
www.pavillon-sciences.com

A thousand and one surprises for all the family.

Meet the craftspeople...

Franche-Comté craftspeople invite children and adults to their workshops to learn about a profession and a passion. They put on demonstrations so that children can understand how the region’s different emblematic products are made.

Toy craftwork

Charliluce

A workshop where dolls and puppets are made, a dream come true for all children! Loyal to the woodcraft tradition of Moirans-en-Montagne, this large show-room displays original dolls and puppets, all made from wood and hand-painted in Charliluce for 25 years. For a surprise-filled visit on the theme of the wonderful world of childhood, Charliluce also explains the origins of the toys and their evolution over time. Little girls can choose between Babette, Victorine, Pomme or Fraise and boys can opt for funny puppets such as Enzo or Giorgio.

Where: Moirans-en-Montagne (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 42 04 51

Vilac

For parents and children alike, toys have always been synonymous with fun and fantasy. Vilac, a small craft workshop founded in 1911 in the Haut-Jura in Moirans-en-Montagne, has gradually developed but has managed to conserve its traditional techniques. The secret: the wood is turned, polished, rubbed, and varnished by the talent of craftspeople from Moirans-en-Montagne. It is ennobled and embellished by creators who are genuine artists, giving the wood shape and style.

Where: Moirans-en-Montagne (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 42 00 58
www.vilac.com

Today, Vilac is a modern company offering objects by artists (Andy Warhol, Castelbajac, for example) that guarantees the quality of the wood and its toys. At Vilac, children can discover Caroline the tortoise, Martin the mountain donkey, or play with the cube train or the stackable “Noddy”.

Smoby toy manufacturer

Founded and located in the heart of the Haut-Jura Regional Nature park, Smoby is the leading French toy manufacturer and the second in Europe since buying out Majorette in 2003. The roots of this European group are firmly planted in Franche-Comté expertise. In the beginning, in 1924, the company was a turnery, which made wooden pipes and household items. In 1947, the company converted to injection-moulded plastic general items. In 1970 the plastic toy activity began. In 1978, the Smoby brand was created to internationalise the sale of a range of quality toys.

Creator, producer and distributor of toys for children from birth to 10 years, Smoby has grown through the acquisition of well-known brands such as Majorette, Ecoiffier, Solido and Berchet, enabling Smoby to enter the world top ten in the sector!

Where: Lavans-les-Saint-Claude (39)
www.smoby.com

Precious stones craftwork...

After Peugeot cars, it's time for the girls to have fun! The lapidary profession is little known by the general public, yet this painstaking work never fails to incite fascination, wonderment and curiosity from little princesses and their mums! So what's it all about? Cutting precious stones. This high-jewellery profession used to be the work of Haut-Jura country folk. It requires special know-how, because neither the colour nor the purity of the mineral are uniform. The art consists in maximising the weight while carefully bringing out the colour, which, via refraction on its facets, followed by polishing, will impart the stone with shine and brilliance. If a ring has suffered knocks, the lapidary, or gem cutter, will use his expertise so the ring shines again, while preserving its initial assets. This know-how has lasted thanks to a few craftspeople from the Haut-Jura: a not-to-be-missed visit!

Clocks and machines craftwork

The clockmaker makes, repairs and sells all the mechanical parts of clocks. Over half of French clock making companies are installed in the Haut-Doubs, near Morteau, Charquemont and Damprichard, making watches, dials, bracelets and movements. Today, the clock making industry in Franche-Comté includes some thirty manufacturing companies and some fifty component manufacturers, representing 80% of the profession in France. Some workshops are open to children to discover their craft and to observe the techniques that only clockmakers from Franche-Comté know how to master.

The clockmaker Cupillard, located in a former stagecoach post house at the entrance to Morteau, manufactures and restores life size automatons with multiple functions and hand-painted Comtoise clocks. Cupillard is also a museum where children can discover unique automatons, made from parts from clock making workshops, with which children and adults can invent stories. Children can discover how clock mechanisms are made and understand how a machine works. The Cupillard museum answers the penetrating questions of all children.

Contact: Horlogerie Cupillard
Where: Morteau (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 67 10 01
www.cupillard.com

**Diamond merchant/
Bailly company**
Traditional demonstration
of diamond cutting.
Diamond cutting work-
shop.
Creation of jewellery.
2 chemin de la Rochette
39200 ST Claude
Tel.: +33 3 84 45 19 23

Contacts:
**Atelier Gilbert
Durrfourg/Diamond
merchant – lapidary**
Cutting, polishing pre-
cious stones.

Exhibition and sal
of cut stones.
Le Bourg
39400 Bellefontaine
Tel.: +33 3 84 33 18 33

SPOTLIGHT . . .

on a network of Franche-Comté heritage

Franche-Comté Technical and Cultural Museums

This network of 11 sites, including museums and working companies in the whole of the Franche-Comté, reflects the identity of Franche-Comté culture.

The aim of this association is to open the door to regional heritage. Every year, the Franche-Comté Technical and Cultural Museums organise events on the network's sites.

For example, the ecology museum in the land of cherries organises a tour of its distillery based on the theme of an enquiry lead by Inspector Lagriotte to explain all about cherries to children!

Tel.: +33 3 84 73 22 04
www.musees-des-techniques.org

Wildlife . . .



Learn to identify flowers or animal tracks on wet soil. Walk in the midst of a pack of free-roaming polar dogs. Discover a surviving species of primitive cows in the Jura mountains. The natural environment of Franche-Comté always manages to surprise: lush, preserved, wild or silent, it takes children and adults on a voyage of discovery.

The Remoray Lake Reserve Centre

Located on the Lake Remoray Nature Reserve in the Doubs, the Reserve Centre is open to all who are interested in protecting the precious natural environment of the Haut-Doubs. Migrating or sedentary birds, small rodents, lake and river fish, forest animals – the Centre educates children and adults in respecting the natural biotope and in preserving the species that live in it, through different themed exhibitions. These exhibitions demonstrate the importance of the diversity of natural environments: forests, prairies, marshes, alpine meadows, cliffs, etc. After the theory, the practice! Accompanied by a guide, the family can explore real nature! Children can learn to identify footprints in the snow and find out which animal they belong to, or become nature scientists and watch birds through binoculars. There's something for everyone with the nature trail, the "Princes of the Cliffs" walk, or a walk on the theme of alpine meadows!

Contact: La Maison de la Réserve du Lac de Remoray
 Where: Labergement-Sainte-Marie (25)
 Tel.: +33 3 81 69 35 99

Zoo, noctarium, insectarium and a small farm in a military fort!

In the Besançon Citadel, a military enclosure built by Vauban, lays an unexpected and unique museum that groups together a zoo, an insectarium, a noctarium, an aquarium, a climatorium and an evolution trail.

For 40 years, the Citadel has been home to a zoo that is linked to the town's natural history museum. The park has 350 animals of 70 different species and also houses one of the largest insectariums in Europe, with 100 species of arthropods waiting to welcome children in their reconstructed natural habitat.

Beetles, spiders, ants, scorpions, etc., a whole host of insects to enthral kids. The noctarium inverts day and night, so children and adults can discover the little-known life of small animals from our countryside, such as the field mouse, dormouse or vole.

And for even more fun for the little ones, the noctarium has exhibitions based on the 5 senses. The zoo also has a "Little farm" where children can stroke goats, sheep, rabbits and other domestic animals.

Contact: La Citadelle
de Besançon
Where: Besançon (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 87 83 33

Meet a pack of dogs in the Polar Dog Park

The woody and wild Franche-Comté is covered in snow in winter. The region is ideal for discovering life in a polar environment, such as dog mushing, Nordic outings, etc.

In a restored farm, the Polar Dog Park invites parents and children to discover life with a pack. From the birth of puppies in hides to the cries of the different clans, this living museum demonstrates a harsh, yet refreshing life in a Nordic environment. On the programme is a guided tour, photo exhibitions and film shows. The park is a unique chance to meet a pack of polar dogs. The whole family can enter the universe of this gentle and friendly companion and stroke the dogs in absolute safety.

Contact: Parc du Chien
Polaire
l'Odysée Blanche
Where: Chaux Neuve
(25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 20 20

The Château d'Arlay Falcon Centre

The Château d'Arlay, on the ruins of an old fortress, offers a surprising summer show. Since 1994, it is home to the Wildlife Reproduction Centre with nocturnal and day-time birds of prey from all over Europe.

In this romantic setting, birds of prey put on a show throughout the summer. Children can watch gyrfalcons and griffon vultures fly or the golden eagle perch on their arms... a real harmony between children and birds of prey and an unforgettable experience!

Contact: Jurafaune
Château d'Arlay
Where: Arlay (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 85 04 22

The Aurochs (wild ox) Farm

The aurochs is a mythical creature, the ancestor of today's cow. It used to decorate the cave walls of prehistoric man and was considered a sacred animal in a number of civilisations. In this natural breeding park, children enter a little-known world, the world of oxen and primitive cows. This unique farm, close to the Hérison Falls, is protected by fragile marshlands. The Aurochs Farm is also laid out for children to discover and touch the animals. In this farm designed especially for children, they can discover aurochs and feed the animals. For the very little ones, there is a special area where they can stroke farm animals such as donkeys, chickens, goats and rabbits.

Contact: La ferme de l'Aurochs
Where: Doucier (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 72 95

Children's farm

An educational farm for children that welcomes individuals and groups in an animal park where chickens, horses, goats and rabbits live. Apprentice farmers will have different farm work to do and animals to feed. At certain times of the year, our budding young farmers find themselves transported to the Far West, and dress up as cowboys or Indians in a camp with 7 tepees. With a camp fire, rodeos and exhibitions, children learn the customs of these times through different games.

Contact: La ferme aux enfants
Where: Le Puy (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 63 21 34

The Muans horse-riding farm

Here is a farm like no other... Travel the country roads on Comtois draft-horses or in Far West wagons. Young cowboys can ride on pony or on horse-back and take part in different activities: treks, mountain bike trips, orientation trails, etc. For a day or a week, the Muans farm welcomes both parents and children.

Contact: La ferme équestre des Muans
Where: Trenal (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 35 35 40

Lama Island

Lamas, animals originating from Chile and Argentina, have found refuge for some ten years close to Belfort. Known for their bad temperament, lamas are actually, contrary to popular belief, very kind animals and happily welcome the children who visit them. The whole family is invited to discover the life of a lama and see how it is fed, what its habits are, how to make a product out of animal wool, etc. And if they are good, children can even ride a lama!

Contact:
L'île aux lamas
Where: Belfort (90)
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Châtelet Rose Garden

In the unique setting of the Ballons des Vosges Regional Nature Park is the Roseraie du Châtelet, comprised of different gardens: French rose garden, English garden, water garden, "useful" garden with a butterfly trail, etc. Created in 1990, close to a stream, the rose garden today has over 600 varieties of roses and welcomes the whole family to discover the universe of this illustrious flower. In the 3rd weekend in May, the rose garden organises a rare plant festival for children. It's the opportunity to see carnivorous plants and plants from all over the world. And for parents, the rose garden offers pruning and maintenance lessons in March.

Contact:
La Roseraie du Châtelet
Where: Bourg Sous Châtelet (90)
Tel.: +33 3 84 27 64 98

The Waterfall Centre

At the foot of the spectacular Eventail Falls, this Centre offers a two-step visit. Entirely dedicated to the Hérisson Falls, the visit starts with a film showing the waterfall in the 4 seasons and goes back in time to show that in centuries gone by, water played an essential role in different professions. The second part of the visit invites children and adults to take part in audio-visual activities on the themes of wildlife and geology in the 3-room exhibition hall. The Waterfall Centre is educational, modern and fun, and invites children to actively take part to help them to understand. An audio-visual adventure for a surprising trip to the heart of waterfalls, key elements of the Franche-Comté natural heritage.

Contact: La Maison
des cascades
Where: Ménétrux-en-
Joux (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 77 36

Frasnois botanical trail

For an aroma-filled walk, the Franche-Comté region suggests a walk along a special kind of trail. The circuit takes the walker on a route with rich and varied wildlife, from one lake to another. Children and adults discover exceptional aromas and all kinds of flowers and plants, such as the mountain germander, the yellow gentian, the marsh trefoil, and the early marsh orchid. Budding botanists discover an area filled with medicinal plants and flowers from the Franche-Comté.

Contact: Le sentier
botanique du Frasnois
Where: Le Frasnois (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 50 60

Haut-Jura Regional Nature Park Centre

In the middle of the Regional Nature Park, this centre protects the surrounding natural environment. It has an exhibition room, a film room, an educational workshop for young people, and a shop. To make parents and children aware of the Park's precious fauna and flora, an audio-visual show designed by an animal sound operator demonstrates in an original way the biotope of the surrounding mountains.

Contact: Parc Naturel
Régional du Haut-Jura
Where: Lajoux (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 34 12 30
www.parc-haut-jura.fr

For 8-16 year olds, there is a fun trail to do with a discovery booklet.



SPOTLIGHT . . . on an original holiday formula

Get back to basics in the country with the “Welcome to the farm” network!

The “Welcome to the Farm” network provides a genuine and warm welcome to families that wish to spend their holidays in contact with nature and animals. This national network includes over 100 farms in Franche-Comté, where the farmer and his family inform about and share their work with their hosts. Children can form affectionate bonds with animals while parents rediscover childhood flavours by tasting home-made cakes!

3 formulas to make the most of country life:

- horse-riding farms or breeding farms where learner and experienced riders can practice horse-riding in all its forms!
- discovery farms: become country folk for a day by sharing farm activities with farmers!
- educational farms: for children and teenagers with educational activities adapted to each age!

Contact: Réseau
Bienvenue à la ferme
www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com

SPOTLIGHT . . . on an original educational farm

EARL des Grands Prés (25)

Spend a day in the country, at one with nature, with animals – that is the concept of the Grands Prés de Valoreille educational and discovery farm. Catherine and Philippe are milk producers in Comté and breed Montbéliard cows. Their farm is on one of the Jura plateaus and offers invigorating surroundings of prairies, forests and hills. An ideal place for relaxing far from noise and pollution.

An animal park has been created so that children can meet farm animals in total safety: calves, cows, pigs, chicks and rabbits. There are sensorial activities to stimulate the senses of children, such as with feathers, eggs and farm animals. For older children and adults, films on Comté cheese-making, calving, the hen house,

Contact: EARL des
Grands Prés
Where: Valoreille (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 93 35 01

etc. explain how a farm works today. At “teatime”, everybody gets together around the table to taste home-made or farm products: Comté cheese of course, and a slice of home-made cake or pie and a glass of fruit juice for energy! In the evening, wilderness camping is possible or, for those with young children who prefer the comfort of a good bed, the Tarreaux gîte is just a stone’s throw from the farm.



Food

The Franche-Comté is known for its gastronomy and has a number of sweet and savoury specialties. But before tasting them, several sites explain, using simple words or practical demonstrations, the process, for example, from the cow in the prairies to Comté cheese, or from the cherry to kirsch... a way of discovering the secrets of Franche-Comté products.

Maison du Comté

This house entirely dedicated to Comté cheese proposes a tour based on the 5 senses. Children are invited to discover how cheese is made by watching daily life at the farm, the history of Comté cheese, its production and the tools used to make it. Through slideshows, a sound show, a museum exhibition and animated models, children discover how cheese is made. For our apprentice cheese-makers, the aroma wheel demonstrates highly appealing aroma enigmas. At the end of the visit, the whole family can taste different sorts of Comté to appreciate the aromatic diversity of this cheese. A sensorial and fun trail for children to taste the cheese that has made the reputation of the Franche-Comté.

Contact: Maison du
Comté
Where: Poligny (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 37 23 51

Comté-moi la ferme (Tell me about the farm)

Children, curious about everything, are becoming more and more interested in nature and animals, and are always asking: “But why?” That’s why “Tell me about the farm” organises special days for children to take part in life on the farm and discover the Franche-Comté environment. Wednesdays at the farm allow children to take part in making butter, building a bird feeder or grape picking. During the school holidays, there is a leisure centre for children with a different theme each week: farm produce, pollution, etc., where they can also take care of little animals and collect eggs.

The leisure centre also offers workshops: animal senses, the milk circuit, tree discovery, the cereal cycle, etc. At snack time, they can taste farm products such as milk, jam and fruit. “Tell me about the farm” is a family visit to the farm to discover farm animals, different farm machines and the chance to discover Franche-Comté meadows and to take part in milking. To conclude this farm adventure, parents and children share a happy moment around a cheese-based meal.

Contact: Association
«Comté-moi la ferme»
Where: Arbois (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 66 33 56

Comté maturing cellars in Fort St Antoine

Fort Saint Antoine invites the visitor to discover the arches of its cellars where 65,000 Comté cheese wheels are kept to mature. Children marvel at the grandeur of this impressive place, starting with the cheese wheels, which at almost 40 kg weigh almost more than they do! Shelves are stacked high with cheeses, right up to the stone ceiling of the military fort. In other places, the cellars extend as far as the eye can see! During the visit, the whole family can discover the history of this military site that has been transformed into a Comté cheese maturing cellar!

Cellar workers then demonstrate their know-how and passion to children and adults in a fun and lively way. For young cheese-lovers, the Fort Saint Antoine maturing cellars end the tour with a delicious Comté cheese tasting.

Contact: Mont d’Or
et Les 2 lacs Tourist
Office
Where:
Saint Antoine (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 31 21

Fort des Rousses

This place is particularly suitable for children and has a variety of activities for all the family. The family can visit maturing cellars and admire a giant model of the fort, while learning about the secrets of Comté cheese.

The fort also has an adventure trail for children and adults: monkey bars, rope bridges, zip-liners, mini via-ferrata, etc. Youngsters can discover gastronomy and adventure sports at the same time. There is a nursery, children’s leisure centre and babysitting facilities so parents can have fun too. At Fort des Rousses, children and adults discover a world where fun and discovery are always on the programme.

Contact: La station des
Rousses Tourist Office
Where:
Les Rousses (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 02 55

Ecology museum in the Land of Cherries

Fougerolles, in Haute-Saône, is the land of cherries and kirsch (for adults only!). The ecology museum presents the fruit which has been the region's emblem since the 17th century. Little ones can discover a collection of objects that relate daily life, work and know-how used in the region to produce and transform cherries.

During the visit, children receive an "Enquiry booklet"! With Inspector Lagriotte, children discover the land of cherries as they track down a bandit who is stealing all the cherries!

A fun document that helps children to learn all about these small red fruits.

After, they can walk around the orchards to see the cherry trees and learn how the fruit is born and how it grows. For older visitors, the ecology museum has a permanent exhibition that traces the history and distilling techniques, as well as a tasting session!

Contact: Écomusée du
Pays de la Cerise
Where: Fougerolles (70)
Tel.: +33 3 84 49 52 50

The snail farm

This family-run business combines snail breeding with cooking.

Located on two sites, Petit Mercey and Cramans, the Bonvalot snail farm breeds snails in the open air so that they can take advantage of the region's wild plants, enabling producers to obtain a tender and tasty product. The chef at the snail farm proposes different flavours from the Jura: fried snails in yellow Jura wine and morel mushrooms, snail fricassee with herbs, cream of garlic soup with snails, etc. Children can discover a real snail-breeding farm while parents taste an original warm starter, or a soup, always snail-based in any case.

Contact: l'escargotière
Bonvalot
Where: Le Petit Mercey
et Cramans (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 81 07 01

Hirsinger chocolate museum

The chocolate museum – what better place for our young sweet-lovers? The chocolate temptation began more than 4 generations ago with the Hirsinger family. Today, children press their noses against the window, hoping to taste the chocolates and cakes on display! Gentian, gingerbread, cinnamon, liquorice, praline, etc. Hirsinger chocolates have all it takes to please, with a combination of unusual flavours. Such a hard choice for our young chocolate lovers. In this chocolate shop, children and adults can visit the laboratories, to see different cakes being made such as an almond and ganache checkerboard, a golden triangle made of hazelnut yummy journey!

Contact: pâtissier-
chocolatier Edouard
Hirsinger
Where: Arbois (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 66 06 97

Le Tuyé du Papy Gaby

Until a few years ago, Franche-Comté country folk still smoked their ham and sausages in a “tuyé”, which is a special pyramid-shaped chimney used to smoke Morteau sausages and ham from Haut-Doubs, Bressi, etc.

The most famous and impressive is the Tuyé de Papy Gaby in Gilley, and it proposes a tour to discover ancient traditions and the different steps in curing Haut-Doubs meat, including the famous Morteau sausage.

Papy Gaby is no longer here to welcome the children, but his real-life robot sings the national anthem of the Pays du Saugeais, a small, self-proclaimed republic! To finish this original tour, children can discover the real taste of smoked ham and sausage.

Contact: le Tuyé du
Papy Gaby
Where: Gilley (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 43 33 03

To find out all there is to know about Comté cheese, visit the Franche-Comté cheese dairies!

Trépot cheese factory and museum

The former Comté cheese dairy in Trépot, which operated from 1818 to 1977, has been transformed into a cheese museum. Located in a picturesque Franche-Comté village, the cheese dairy has preserved its typical Comté cheese-making character: copper tanks, screw press, churns, carts, etc.

This museum of folk arts and traditions invites children to discover how cheese is made and to learn a few secrets of the region. They can also watch a surprising short film and enjoy tasting cheese made just a few minutes before in front of their very own eyes.

Contact: Fromagerie-
musée de Trépot
Where: Trépot (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 86 71 06

Vallée du Hérisson Cheese Dairy

Founded in 1918, this cheese dairy has been in the village of Doucier, on the edge of Lake Chalain, since 1999. Here, children can watch the master cheese-maker transform milk from Montbéliard cows into cheese.

The gallery provides a fun way for children and adults to learn.

Lighting, films, farm sounds, milk boiler... the décor recreates the atmosphere of yesteryear in which Franche-Comté cheese-makers made Comté cheese. The dairy farm also provides samples to taste and sells a wide range of regional cheeses and products.

Contact: Fruitière de la
Vallée du Hérisson
Where: Doucier (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 79 22

Cheese Dairy 1900

Between Clairvaux-les-Lacs and Moirans, the Cheese Dairy 1900 shows how Comté cheese was made in the last century. A living museum where the cheese-maker provides commentary on all the stages of production as he works, so that children can understand how Comté cheese is made. The Cheese Dairy 1900 is also a display case for this lake-filled region and shows a variety of top quality craft products. A note to our apprentice cheese-makers: Comté is traditionally made in the morning only.

Contact: Fruitière 1900
Where: Thoiria (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 85 43

SPOTLIGHT . . . original walks

On the “Comté trail”

The “Routes du Comté” is an original network founded on the link between Comté cheese and tourism. This route groups together farms, cheese dairies and maturing cellars. Milk producers, cheese-makers and maturers welcome adults and children to the heart of their production to learn all about Comté cheese. On the “Comté trail”, children will discover different “gourmet stops” that provide tasting sessions of local products.

Contact: les Routes du Comté
Where: the whole of Franche-Comté (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 37 37 00
www.lesroutesducomte.com



Activity parks



Contact: Dino Zoo
Where: Charbonnières-les-Sapins (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 59 27 05
www.dino-zoo.com

Contact: Complexe nautique de Malbuisson
Where: Malbuisson (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 75 75

Contact: Parc aquatique Ludolac
Where: Vaivre-et-Montoille (70)
Tel.: +33 3 84 97 50 50

Contact:
Parc de loisirs de Fresne Saint Mamès
Where: Fresne Saint Mamès (70)
Tel.: +33 3 84 78 04 48

Prehistory and dinosaurs: Dino Zoo

The Dino Zoo prehistoric park takes visitors on a journey through time, back to 5 billion years ago when dinosaurs roamed the earth. The focus is on European prehistoric animals, the most representative of which is the plateosaurus, the oldest dinosaur known in France (fossils have been found in the region).

Scenes of prehistoric life are shown through a hundred reproductions of animals in a woody 12 hectare park.

Don't miss the marine animal combat scene with sound effects that transport the spectators to a wild world. Another animation is the 4D cinema where the audience experiences and feels an out of this world ride on a dinosaur! You can also learn to make fire with natural elements, or try out your cave painting skills!

Malbuisson Nautical Centre

On the Saint Point lake, the Malbuisson nautical centre has a swimming pool and a games pool with slide, a paddling pool and an indoor pool. Aquagym and swimming lessons are available. To relax, there are massaging jets, Jacuzzis, water canons, a park area and cafeteria. Open from May to end August (subject to weather conditions).

Ludolac Aquatic Park

This two-hectare aquatic park in the middle of greenery offers nautical activities on a 70-hectare lake. Part of the Vesoul-Vaivre activity and leisure centre, this complex, conducive to relaxation, includes five pools. Different activities are available: a slide, Jacuzzi, paddling pool, etc. Open all year.

Fresne Saint Mamès Leisure Centre

This fun park on the edge of a lake includes: tennis court, volley-ball court, skittles, crazy golf, table tennis, a giant chessboard, mountain bike track, walking track, archery field, fitness trail, climbing wall, children's park, pool with pedalo or boat hire, beach and a wildlife reserve. The park is open from 1st May to 30th September, every day from 9am to 6pm and from 9am to 8pm at weekends.

Lagons Water Park

In the Jura close to Doucier, this water park is open from April to October and offers a multitude of fun activities. It has 200 m² of indoor and heated pools with paddling pool, Jacuzzi, wave pool, sauna, fitness room, snack-bar and 750 m² of outdoor pools with Jacuzzis, 2 slides, 4 racer slides, 2 waterfalls, one river, children's play areas, picnic areas, beach volleyball, and snack-bar with terrace.

Contact: Les Lagons
Where: Doucier (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 78 78

Saint Maur Hedge Maze

The 4,000 hedges of the Saint Maur maze make it the biggest hedge maze in France and the second in the world.

Visitors seek their way through this 2,580 m maze to find the secret laboratory of professor Mandragore who is doing simple, yet surprising physics experiments. The length of the trail depends on each person. There is a visit with commentary of the ancient quarries of Saint Maur and a presentation of the "fantastic garden" project on Sunday afternoons. The Saint Maur vegetal maze is open every day from 1st May to 30th September from 10am to 7pm.

Contact: Labyrinthe
végétal de Saint Maur
Where: Le Pin (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 33 19

Aquaparc Isis Water Park

An Olympic-sized swimming pool, beach soccer, beach volley ball and table tennis, a fun pool, slide, racer slide, paddling pool, children's play area, solarium, whirlpool bath, snack-bar, and picnic area are the main activities of the Aquaparc. Open all year, this leisure park is located in Dole and has three different areas for visitors: fun, sports and relaxation.

Contact: Aquaparc Isis
Where: Dole (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 69 01 69

Près-la-rose Science Park

Ideally located close to the banks of the Allan, the Près-la-Rose science park covers ten hectares. Just a stone's throw from the town centre of Montbéliard, this green haven is ideal for sports and home to a park devoted to science and technology with over 100 varieties of plants. Nature lovers, children and teenage sports fans and budding scientists will be interested in this activity and leisure park (horse-drawn cart rides, pony rides, boat hire, etc.). The park is open all year from 6am to 10pm from 1st April to 30th September and from 7am to 6pm from 1st October to 31st March. Free concerts are held here in summer from 6pm to 10pm on Saturdays.

Contact:
Office du Tourisme de
Montbéliard
Where:
Montbéliard (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 94 45 60



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Hiking

Franche-Comté is the greenest region of France and the ideal summer destination for children and adults to re-energise themselves with a breath of fresh air in this natural environment. What better to invigorate the whole family than a walk, bike ride or horse ride in the Haut-Doubs prairies, the Jura mountains or the thousand lakes area in Haute-Saône.

Hiking and trekking

Franche-Comté has thousands of kilometres of footpaths. Whether they are flat along river edges, stony in the heights of the Jura or grassy in the prairies of the Haut-Doubs, there is something for every taste!

Walkers take time to discover nature, local wildlife, the scenery that varies between lakes and forests, peaks and valleys, and to taste local products in a village.

SPOTLIGHT . . . on a grand walking route: Les Grandes Traversées du Jura

Called “GTJ”, this legendary route is a real adventure where travellers set off to meet the Jura mountains and its nature by crossing the entire Haut-Jura Regional Nature park. By foot or bike in summer, and cross-country skis or snowshoes in winter, the GTJ can be crossed from May to October. It is 400 km long and takes 15 or 20 days to cover, crossing the Doubs gorges and the Jura mountains. Hiking ideas are available for those interested to try out other trails, in a loop or one-way.

Markers along the way enable travellers to enjoy this great hike in total freedom. There are stop-off points along the way, including 90 lodgings. The GTJ is for sports fans and is the perfect occasion to meet Franche-Comté citizens who are always happy to share a few stories about their region. Starting this year, a “topo-guide” is available for hikers who want to set off on this adventure.

Contact: Association
Grandes Traversées
du Jura
Tel.: +33 3 84 51 51 51

Itineraries

The Haut-Jura and the wealth of its Regional Nature Park

This forest-covered region offers great diversity in terms of landscape, such as gorges, limestone cornices and lakes made from glaciers. This agricultural land is the opportunity to meet craftspeople excelling in ancestral know-how, such as potters and turners and thus to find out more about the regional identity.

The Rousses resort

In the heart of the Haut-Jura Regional Nature Park, close to the Swiss border, the resort is a paradise for leisure activities, at an altitude of 1,120 to 1,680 m, ideal for children. Les Rousses Espace Loisirs and the Boîte à Montagne offer themed walks: waterfalls, chamois, and chalets. Children and parents will love it!

The Saône Valley

An excellent family walking trail, the banks of the river Saône offer an easy walk on former towpaths. The banks of the Saône encourage leisurely strolls, and children and parents can take time to observe the fauna and flora of an aquatic environment.

The Doubs and the Métabief – Malbuisson region

How about a walk around the 3rd largest natural lake in France, or on the gentle slopes of the Métabief resort? Anything is possible in the Haut-Doubs, where the landscapes is constantly changing. After this energizing walk, children can enjoy the Saint Point Lake where they can hire a pedalo or bathe safely in the water, or race down the summer toboggan in Métabief!

The Southern Vosges and the Thousand Lake Plateau

There are many tracks in the remarkable Thousand Lake Plateau. This landscape, which gets its name from the omnipresence of water, is made up of ponds, streams, waterfalls and bogs where unusual fauna and flora dwell. Accompanied by a guide, children will love to play at being explorers.

Contacts:
Local tourist offices
and the Franche-
Comté Regional Tourist
Board
Tel.: +33 810 10 11 13
info@franche-comte.org

Horse riding

Horse-riding treks at the pace of the horse, enabling the whole family to trot amidst the regional landscapes. You can saunter along the 1,100 km of marked tracks in the Haute-Saône, followed by the Doubs, and then the 1,500 km of tracks in the Jura.

In the Doubs, Equipep proposes a variety of treks in the heart of the Haut-Doubs alpine meadows, where you can discover the region's forests and vast plains, and end the day with a candle-lit supper!

The Jura offers a number of tracks, such as the famous Grand Huit circuit, which is ideal for travellers who wish to discover the region on horseback. With over 2,000 km, this circuit is made up of two loops, with the central point being the town of Champagnole. For more independent riders, there are 1,500 km of tracks that lead to top-quality accommodation. There is a wide choice of other treks, supervised in winter and in summer by 40 approved professionals: in a wagon, with harness, with donkeys, skijoring, etc...

Contact: Association
régionale de tourisme
équestre
Tel.: +33 3 81 52 67 40

Mountain biking and cycling tour

Mountain biking

Franche-Comté is heaven for mountain bike lovers. There are a total of 169 circuits covering more than 3,500 km, between 350 and 1,300 m altitude. All are marked. There's an itinerary to suit everyone, from family circuits to more energetic ones for teenagers who prefer free riding and descents. The choice is yours!

Mountain bike sites:

These sites, which are approved by the French Cycling Federation, are especially dynamic and offer ideal conditions: the Grandes Traversées du Jura, Val de Mouthe / Chapelle des bois / Château de Joux, Métabief / Mont d'or, Val de Morneau, the Rousses resort, Val Foncine / Haute-Joux, les Monts de Gy et Ornans / Vallée de la Loue.

Speed and thrills, that's what free ride and descent activities can offer teenagers in the Franche-Comté.

Freeriding is an adventure sport where each turn of the pedal brings a surprise, and a great way to explore the Franche-Comté sites at one's will. The aim of descent disciplines is to get down a slope as quickly as possible.

Control and command of one's bike are absolutely necessary to do these cycling sports. Unforgettable sensations are guaranteed.

Bicycle touring

Bicycle touring is perhaps the most relaxed way of visiting Franche-Comté. Each member of the family can ride at his/her own pace, on a marked trail, or just go where the will takes him/her.

A trail lasting a few days allows you to stop when you like, for a snack or a cultural visit.

But where to go? The Belfort green trail, a tour of the Ballon d'Alsace not far away, the Haute-Saône and its Thousand Lake Plateau or the towpaths along the river Saône.

Contacts:
Local tourist offices
and the Franche-
Comté Regional Tourist
Board
Tel.: +33 810 10 11 13
info@franche-comte.org



Adventure activities

Tree acrobats and zip lining

Acrobatic trails...

Syratu Tourisme et Loisirs, in Ornans in the Doubs, offers different tree acrobats circuits. From 15th March to 1st November, try out the rope ladder, reversed ladder, rope bridge, rodeo stirrups, balancing beam, Tarzan ropes, and giant zip line! Move from tree to tree, 5 to 16 metres above ground and above a river. There are different trails possible: Koala, Jungle, Ouistiti (for children).

Contact: Syratu
Tourisme et Loisirs
Where: Ornans (25)
Tel.: +33 3 84 31 28 21

On the unusual site of a 17th century Vauban fort, the Fort Saint-André, Salins Fort Aventure proposes three hours of adventure for the whole family in total safety. Different trails are accessible according to level of difficulty: a practice trail for beginners, followed by a green, blue, yellow and black trail. There are also two children's areas: the Magic Mushroom for very little children and the Kids space, the first of its kind in France, which has 22 workshops for older children.

Contact: Salins Fort
Aventure
Where: Salins-les-
Bains (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 73 06 79

Métabief Aventures, an acrobatic park in a forest in Mont d'Or in the Doubs, has over 100 apparatus in woods and meadows with a stunning view of the alpine meadows. The site is open day and night and has 5 different trails according to difficulty, including a "ouistiti" trail for kids 4 years and above. To recover from all these emotions, the whole family can enjoy a meal in La Gargotte, in a natural environment. Don't miss the new flying squirrel attraction and its 250 m of zip lines!

Contact: Métabief
aventures
Where: station de
Métabief (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 20 14



Contact: Altaïs
Where: Val de
Consolation (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 56 03 16

Giant zip line

Near Morteau, the giant zip line in Val de Consolation, measuring 500 m long and 120 m high, guarantees incredible sensations! In the middle of a natural and wild site, the zip line leaves from a cliff and ends in a pine forest.

Souterrains Aventure

Fort des Rousses, a former commando training centre for the best troops in the world, offers a range of exceptional outdoor sports. The adventure trail has 70 workshops in 3 circuits: the youngsters' trail for 4-6 year olds, the kids' trail for 7-12 year olds and the adventure trail for which the minimum height must be 1.40 m. A giant 250 m zip line enables the brave ones out there to hurtle over the fortifications towards the forest. The Fort des Rousses also offers "souterrains Aventure" accessible from 8 years and involving a heart-racing treasure hunt. Moments of fear and excitement are guaranteed for young and older children. A fun and sporty trip into the depths of the second largest fort in France.

Contact: Fort des Rousses
Aventure
Where: Les Rousses (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 02 55
www.fort-des-rousses.com

Via ferrata

Via Ferrata sites in Franche-Comté offer mountain or rocky routes made up of ladders and overhangs. These sporty and fun routes combine the pleasure of trekking with the sensations of climbing, with special equipment enabling the whole family to progress easily.

The Nans Sous Sainte Anne site, home to the French Mountaineering and Climbing Federation, offers Via Ferrata circuits, a combination of climbing and trekking. The Via Ferrata of Lison has three sections. The start includes an impressive monkey bar crossing. A brief return to earth is the chance to make contact with the inhabitants of this vertical environment, ant lions. Surprise and discoveries in a natural and wild environment.

The Roche du Mont Via Ferrata is on the cliff that dominates the town of Ornans. The route mostly involves successive crossings, broken up by very steep walls, monkey bars, beams and rope bridges. There are two intermediate trails, so you can adapt your excursion to your level or time available.

Contact: Office de
Tourisme d'Ornans
Where: Nans sous Sainte
Anne (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 62 21 50

Contact: Office de
Tourisme du Mont d'Or
et des 2 lacs
Where: station de
Métabief (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 13 81
www.tourisme-metabief.com

Summer toboggan

Tobogganing without snow, down the green slopes of Métabief? Children and adults can hurl themselves down the steep slope with bends and twists – sensations guaranteed! There are two 600 m long slopes that cross over each other and that cross woods and meadows. Each toboggan has its own braking system, so everyone can go at the speed that suits them. At the bottom, kids want just one thing – to start all over again. Ready, steady, go!
Access from 6 years.

Go-karting

Fans of go-karting will love hurtling around the Franche-Comté meadows behind the wheel of small engineless karts with brakes, so everyone can go at their own speed. The slopes for these all-terrain karts are equipped with ski-lifts.

Contact: Les Meix
Loisirs
Where: Rochejean (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 92 08

Meix Loisirs, in Rochejean, offers different outdoor activities, notably Déval Kart for those over 10, Rollherbe, Baby Car (from 3 to 7 years) and children's (from 6 to 12 years) and adult Quads. All-terrain karting, grass scooters, engineless motorbikes, and more. A ski lift takes you up to the top, then it's up to you to hurtle down the slopes behind the wheel of your chosen machine! Sensations guaranteed!

Outdoor activities

Crazy golf

Beginners or experienced players can try out their skills on 18-hole golf courses all over the Franche-Comté. Children and parents alike can battle through the many obstacles on the course.

Contact: le Golf'Heur
Where:
Chévremont (90)
Tel.: +33 6 68 08 94 27

Franche-Comté encourages children to develop their imaginations. In Chévremont, children from the village have come up with a golf course "inspired by man and technology" for budding young golfers. Each step brings parents and children closer to victory. But before playing the last hole, there is a symbolic obstacle to get over, the "ferme d'imière", the house that used to take "tithes", or taxes, in times gone by.

A fun and relaxing moment on the green for the whole family.

Contact: les Jardins
de l'Étang
Where: Noidans-le-
Ferroux (70)
Tel.: +33 3 84 68 41 05
www.jardins-etang.org

For nature and sports lovers, the Jardins de l'Étang invites the whole family to have fun through a variety of activities: crazy golf, tennis and water complex. Children can even try out fishing in the pond. The 18-hole golf course is a swing golf course. The ancestor of golf, it is played with one club only and one soft ball, and can be played by anyone, from children to grandparents!

Contact: Office de
Tourisme des Rousses
Where: station des
Rousses (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 02 55

The crazy golf course in the Omnibus Leisure Park is part of a children's playground which includes a trampoline, speed ball, croquet, an inflatable structure, wooden games, etc. Everything that children enjoy!

Contact: Mini-golf de Chalezeule
Where: Chalezeule, near Besançon (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 80 94 31

The Chalezeule crazy golf course, near Besançon, is open from 1st April 2006 and throughout the Easter holidays from 2pm to 7pm, and on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 2pm to 7pm.

Archery

Quivers, finger slings and tabs reveal their secrets to those who want to learn about archery! There are many leisure centres in the Franche-Comté that offer this activity, usually in the open air. Agility and precision are necessary qualities to take part and to make youngsters into good archers to rival the most famous American Indians.

Contact: Les Rousses Tourist Office
Where: station des Rousses (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 02 55

The Rousses Leisure Park, in the Rousses mountain resort, offers archery and pea shooting on a specially developed site with equipment for all levels. There are also several tennis courts, including two indoor courts in the Rousses sports centre, and pétanque. The resort also has a crazy golf course and skateboarding and roller blading parks.

Paintball

Paintball is the “in” sport of the moment that all teenagers love. Somewhere between prison ball and a game of chess, this game involves two teams that fight it out to get the flag in the rival camp and bring it back to the starting point.

Parents and children are kitted out with a pistol that shoots paintballs. If mum or dad is hit by this coloured gelatine, they are eliminated!

Paintballing can be an individual or group sport, but in both cases, the player has to come up with a strategy based on the terrain (forest, speedball, etc.)

Advice for parents and children: join forces and build a winning strategy!

Contact: Flash Paintball
Where: Besançon (25)
Tel.: +33 6 99 39 39 07

Set up in 2004, this club is open to the public to practice paintball in competition conditions or just for fun, in a group or individually. Teenagers can build strategies on three sites: forest, speedball, and inflatable, or why not try them all?

A great activity for all those seeking thrills and challenges.

Contact: Paintball Adventure Club
Where: Les Rousses (39)
Tel.: +33 6 82 38 04 97

The Paintball Adventure Club is a paintballing club for competition or just for fun. Young and older beginners can try out this original sport. For teenagers, the club has a commando course in the forest, while parents can progress at their own speed in speedball. Younger ones can play on an inflatable site, better for avoiding bumps!

The Fort des Rousses invites the young and not so young to discover a sport that is both physical and strategic, with the whole family.

Water sports

Lakes

In the summer, when the temperature soars above 30°C, the Franche-Comté lakes become major water sports centres.

The water temperature is between 20 and 25°C and the many beaches are ideal for bathing and other activities such as windsurfing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, pedalo, etc.

The main lakes for relaxing, having fun, bathing and many other sports are listed below:

Saint-Point Lake: where water meets mountains (25)

Saint Point, the 3rd largest natural lake in France, has supervised beaches throughout July and August: Malbuisson, Saint Point, Les Grangettes, Oyeet-Pallet and Chaon. This lake, covering more than 400 hectares, has a natural charm that appeals to a great number of holidaymakers: a brightly coloured fishing port, natural surroundings, water as far as the eye can see... ideal for tranquillity.

Water sports: windsurfing, catamaran, canoe-kayak, centerboarding, rowing, boat or pedalo...a variety of ways for parents and children to let the water gently rock them. Attention, motorised vehicles are not allowed.

The smaller Remoray lake is situated upstream of the Saint-Point Lake. It is a classified nature reserve but bathing is allowed, and the Labergement Sainte Marie beach is supervised in July and August. The fauna and flora is remarkable.

Contact: Office de
Tourisme du Mont d'Or
et des 2 lacs
Where: Malbuisson (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 13 81
www.tourisme-metabief.com



Vouglans Lake (39)

At 429 m altitude, between Orgelet and Moirans-en-Montagne, the lake measures 35 km long and 450 m wide, making it the 2nd largest man-made lake in France. There are three zones: one for high-speed water sports, jet skiing, water skiing, etc.; one for sailing, canoeing, rowing and pedaloers; and one for fishing.

The lake has three large supervised beaches: Mercantine, Bellecin and Surchauffant.

Contact: Clairvaux les
Lacs Tourist Office
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 27 47

Malsaucy Lake (90)

Near Belfort, the Malsaucy Lake and its dozens of ponds is a site for discovering nature and watching migrating birds (the northern tip of the lake is a protected zone where a large colony of birds nest). This site offers children, adults and teenagers the chance to practice centerboarding, canoeing, windsurfing, kayaking, rowing, etc. On its banks, the Environment Centre is dedicated to making young children aware of protecting nature through different workshops and activities highly appreciated by families. Around the centre are an interpretation trail and observation posts to discover the fauna and flora on the lake: swans, ducks, herons, water reeds, water plants, etc.

Contact: Territoire de
Belfort Tourist Centre
Where: Belfort (90)
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Vesoul-Vaivre Lake (70)

Just 3 km from Vesoul town centre, the lake covers 95 hectares and is part of a large leisure complex. There is a 5 km footpath around the edge of the lake with resting areas and benches. There is also a playground for children. The lake is an ornithological reserve and home to different species of migrating birds.

Informative panels inform the walker about the different species he may see.

The sailing centre organises lessons and a number of regattas in summer.

Contact:
Office de tourisme du
Pays de Vesoul
Tel.: +33 3 84 97 10 85

For more information on the nautical centres in Franche-Comté, please contact the Regional Tourist Board on 0 810 10 11 13 (special rate number, from France) or via the Web site www.franche-comte.org



Rapids and rivers

Rapids and rivers are also highly appreciated for practicing water sports such as canoeing and kayaking. Beginners are at ease in the calm waters of the Ognon or the Saône. There are water sports clubs everywhere to initiate beginners in the joys of paddling. For those who love thrills, there is the Loue or the Doubs and the turbulent sections heading to Goumois, where the rapids are regularly stage international competitions. In the Jura, the Ain is also a powerful river which often has steep sides and waterfalls (ideal for descending canyons), creating rapids.

Water sports also include activities such as water trekking and canyon descents.

Water trekking involves descending, without a boat, mountain torrents, by walking and swimming. The equipment includes a neoprene wetsuit and a helmet for maximum comfort and security. Canyon descending requires a harness and ropes as well, to abseil down walls.

The sea may be far away, but Franche-Comté can be proud of its water base, offering up a wide range of water activities!

Contact:
from Tourist Offices and
on the Web site:
www.franche-comte.org
or by telephone
+33 810 10 11 13



Nature sports

Fishing

The region is ideal for fishing and for wilderness water sports. What could be better than a father and son spending an afternoon fishing in the middle of a natural environment to strengthen family bonds? With more than 5,500 km of rivers, Franche-Comté is a fisher's paradise, brimming with trout, grayling, and whitefish. The Doubs, the Loue, the Dessoubre, the Ain, the Ognon, and the Bienne rivers rage through the region's wild landscape and offer dedicated fishermen or fishermen for a day many a moment of pleasure in the nature.

The region's waterways well and truly deserve their label of "the most beautiful rivers in France".

Their wealth of quality fish and their classification into categories 1 and 2 appeal to fishermen the world over. Around twenty professionals – certified fishing guides – organise different fishing trips (still fishing, carp, trout, fly fishing, bait fishing and cat fishing). Government-approved trips for children and teenagers are also possible during school holidays.

Contacts for children's
trips
SCEA Truites du
Cusançin
M. David Bouhelier
Tel.: +33 3 81 86 33 28

M. Pierre-Paul
Fariney, certified
fishing guide
Tel.: +33 6 80 68 73 05

Contacts for teenagers'
trips
M. Yves Faillenot,
certified fishing guide
Tel.: +33 3 84 37 70 17

Winter

Nordic skiing, the number one activity in the Jura Mountains

The Jura mountain range is the biggest cross-country skiing domain in Western Europe with more than 3,500 km of marked and well-maintained cross-country ski tracks. The Grandes Traversées du Jura is an exceptional cross-country ski track in winter, covering more than 200 km. It is a relatively easy track, connecting resorts and villages where the skier can find a number of accommodation opportunities. Cross-country skiing combines the joys of skiing with the charm of hiking for an unforgettable family trek through the mountains.

Contact: la Grande Traversée du Jura
Tel.: +33 3 84 51 51 53

When: February
Contact:
Trans'organisation
Tel.: +33 3 84 33 45 13

Contacts:
- Les Planches en Montagne
Tel.: +33 3 84 52 58 10
- La Pesse
Tel.: +33 3 84 42 73 17
- Métabief
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 13 81
- Les Rousses
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 00 09

The largest Nordic skiing event in Franche-Comté deserves mention here: the Transjurassienne, a 76 km world-renowned long-distance race and unique in France. In parallel, there is the Trans'jeune for 7 to 19 year olds, the Trans'classic for cross-country ski fans or the MiniTrans, which has two tracks of 10 and 25 km. The 6 km Trans'raquette snowshoe loop is also part of the Transjurassienne.

There are some fifty cross-country ski sites in the Jura and Haut-Doubs to welcome winter travellers. The main resorts are Les Planches en Montagne, La Pesse, Métabief and Les Rousses.



Contacts:

- Métabief
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 13 81
- Les Rousses
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 02 55
- La Planche
des Belles Filles
Tel.: +33 3 84 23 90 47
- Le Ballon d'Alsace
Tel.: +33 3 83 28 12 01

Contacts:

- Chapelle-des-Bois:
Office de Tourisme du
Val de Mouthe
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 22 78
- Les Hôpitaux-Neufs:
Mont d'or et Les 2 lacs
Tourist Office
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 13 81
- La Pesse
Tel.: +33 3 84 42 73 17
- Les Rousses
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 00 09

Contacts:

Les Equipages Adams
Where: La Combe des
Cives (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 14 05

Jurachiens

Where: Les Fourgs (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 48 19

Nordic Adventure

Where: La Pesse (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 42 73 03

Pulka team

Where: Morbier (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 33 40 41

Atypic

Where:
les Rousses (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 00 09



Get ready for a few alpine descents!

Nordic skiing is an incontestable tradition in the Franche-Comté.

However, walkers, hikers and sports lovers can also partake in downhill skiing in the region's different resorts. Métabief, Les Rousses and Les Hautes-Combes have slopes for those seeking speed and thrills. For those who prefer more gentle slopes, the resorts of the Ballons des Vosges offer calmer solutions. There is something to please the whole family in the friendly environment of the middle mountains!

Get your snowshoes on...

Snowshoe trips are an ideal way to discover winter wildlife, for little and long legs! Chamois, grouse and foxes sometimes pop their heads out to meet these peaceful walkers. Covered in snow, the Franche-Comté mountains present a variety of panoramas to be admired by snowshoe walkers.

Or harness the sled dogs...

Alaskan Malamute, Siberian and Greenland Huskies take the whole family on a trip to the heart of Nordic life. Young and not so young apprentice dog mushers will be led by their pack in the white vastness of the Jura Mountain plateaus, where they will discover amazing views. La Pesse in the Jura, Métabief - Mont d'or, the Fourgs, and Chaux-Neuve in the Doubs offer different dog sled formulas. Emotions and memories guaranteed!



Natural ice rinks...

The large lakes turn into wonderful outdoor ice rinks in the winter. The main sites are Saint-Point Lake in the Doubs, Mortes Lake in Chapelle-des-bois, Les Rousses Lake or La Combe in the Haut-Jura.

Contact: Mont d'Or et
Les 2 lacs Tourist Office
Where: Malbuisson (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 31 21

The Saint-Point Lake, crossed by the Doubs and also known as the Malbuisson Lake, is at 900 metres altitude and measures 7.2 km long by 950 metres wide. Its depth is close to 40 metres.

The Saint-Point Lake is the third largest natural lake in France in terms of surface area (398 hectares). In winter, it freezes over and becomes a remarkable ice rink. For those who prefer to stay on their feet, there is a footpath around the lake.

Contact: Les Rousses
Tourist Office
Where: Les Rousses (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 02 55

When the Rousses Lake at the foot of the Risoux forest ices over, it becomes a vast 90 hectare open-air ice rink at 1,058 m altitude, for the delight of skaters.

Contact: Contact: Les
Rousses Tourist Office
Where: Lamoura (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 60 02 55

A few kilometres from the village of Lamoura, in the heart of the Haut-Jura, La Combe du lac is one of the most elevated natural ice rinks in the Jura in winter, at 1,152 m. A paradise for skaters...

Contact: Villers-le-Lac
Tourist Office
Where: Villers-le-lac (39)
Tel.: +33 3 81 68 00 98

At 1,000 m altitude, the Chaillexon Lake in Villers-le-Lac in Val de Morteau is great for some outdoor winter fun. Formed by the Doubs, it is the largest natural ice rink in France! Possibility to hire skates.





Walks and tours suitable for children!

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Contact: Pays de
Vesoul Tourist Office
Where: Vesoul (70)
Tel.: +33 3 84 97 10 85

The adventurers of old Vesoul

In the summer season, the Vesoul Tourist Office proposes special discovery tours for the young: “the adventurers of old Vesoul”, every Thursday in July and August at 10.30am. In the form of a group game, supervised by a responsible adult, this game enables children aged 6 to 11 to appreciate the architecture of the old town of Vesoul, without being bored. In one hour, children discover the town’s main monuments and learn about the history of Franche-Comté in a fun way. A treasure awaits them at the end.

Contact: Belfort Tourist
Office
Where: Belfort (90)
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Belfort forts discovery walk

The Territoire de Belfort has held onto a lot of evidence of its glorious military past. The Forts discovery walk is a way to discover the fortifications of the Territoire de Belfort, with its original buildings from the Middle Ages to the end of the 19th century. From fort to fort, this walk is original, cultural and accessible to all. 90 kilometres of marked footpaths offering varied landscapes to walkers, alternating between mountain, plain and lakes. The walk also includes a circuit on the edge of town to discover 7 neighbouring forts.

Contact:
Belfort Tourist Office
Where: Belfort (90)
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Patrimoine Kids

This is a fun way for children from 6 to 12 years to discover the colourful town of Belfort. There is a tour especially adapted for children, a creative workshop and a tasting session of local products, immersing children in the Belfort heritage for one hour and a half.

Contact:
Belfort Tourist Office
Where: Belfort (90)
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Tracking down lions

A real lion hunt begins on entering Belfort...

In the form of vestiges from the past or decorative architectural elements, the lion, source of inspiration for the genius architect Bartholdi, is everywhere. There are almost one hundred representations of this animal, inherited from the myths of Ancient Egypt, waiting to be found in the streets of Belfort... A visit that’s sure to intrigue children and adults!

Contact: la Citadelle de
Besançon
Where: Besançon (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 87 83 33

Tour of the city walls in Besançon

A masterpiece of the 17th century, designed by the famous architect Vauban, known for his impenetrable fortifications, the Besançon Citadel is the leading tourist site in Franche-Comté. Overlooking the town, this wonderfully restored fortress houses several museums and a number of areas dedicated to fauna (Comtois Museum, Resistance Museum, Natural History Museum, aquarium, insectarium, noctarium, zoo, etc.). The Vauban centre has four exhibition rooms dedicated to Vauban and his century, Louis XIV, Versailles, Molière, La Fontaine and Lully. Visitors can use an audio-guide and roam the Citadel at their own rhythm with 13 commented sections, and thus discover the history, military architecture and urban landscape of Besançon. There is a specially-designed version for children.



Discover the region differently

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Visit the region differently – by wagon, tourist train or from the skies. Original ways of discovering the region for children and adults.

Tourist trains

Tourist trains are another way of discovering the ins and outs of a town, its inhabitants, its customs and landscapes.

From Besançon to Belfort, passing through the Haut-Jura, tourist trains provide an original way of discovering the region.

This means of transport is ideal for learning about and marvelling at Franche-Comté.

Ready? Are you sitting comfortably for a journey through time and seasons? Let's go.



Contact:
Monts Jura Autocar
Where: Besançon (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 63 44 60

Where: Haut-Jura (39)
Contacts:
- Dole Tourist Office
Tel.: +33 3 84 72 11 22
- Saint-Claude Tourist Office
Tel.: +33 3 84 45 34 24

Contact: Le Coni'fer
Where: Métabief (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 49 10 10

Contact: Belfort Tourist Office
Where: Belfort (90)
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90

Discover Besançon with the Citad'in tourist train! The region's capital is revealed to you in an original and wide-ranging manner: archive images and aerial views are combined with the amusing commentaries from the guide! From the City Hall to the Court House, passing by Victor Hugo square, this unusual visit ends on the hills of the Citadel, offering visitors a wonderful view of the town. Children can visit the zoo, the little farm or the noctarium.

The "swallows line": discover Haut-Jura heritage.

From the railway stations in Dole, Champagnole, Saint-Laurent-en-Grandvaux, Morez and Saint-Claude, the traveller can visit Haut-Jura heritage on the "swallows line".

Previously a business line, this mythical railway line has been reconverted and is a fine way to see the 36 tunnels and 18 viaducts along its 120 km of track. This little train with its poetic name transports children and adults along the twists and turns of the Haut-Jura!

The Coni'fer takes its travellers to the heart of the most beautiful sites in the Haut-Doubs. Covering a distance of 7.5 km and travelling at a speed of between 15 and 20 km/h, the little train makes a stop at the natural site of "fontaine ronde", a rare intermittent source, and then moves on again, to show off traditional local know-how: wood charcoal production. The journey ends at the Hôpitaux Neufs station.

After a 40 minute trip, travellers leave with the memory of an original and delightful journey! In summer, the night train takes travellers on a charming night-time trip. The Coni'fer also offers a fondue tasting session on the "fondue train". Reservations only. Groups of 20 people minimum.

Belfort can also be visited in a tourist train: from the 12th century old town to the Citadel, passing by the famous art and history museum, Bartholdi's lion and the famous 17th century Vauban fortifications. This ascending circuit is the chance to admire the blue line of the mountains from the Vosges to the Jura.



Where:
Haute-Saône (70)
Tel.: +33 8 10 10 11 13

Franche-Comté by wagon

As children, many of us dreamed of living in a wagon, of going on an adventure when and where we wanted. This mobile formula in contact with nature encourages contact with local people and their customs. A total change of scenery and habits!

In Haute-Saône (70)

This mobile formula is proposed in Haute-Saône by Destination70, approved by Gîtes de France. This is an original way of discovering the region, of being at one with nature and meeting the local population. Guided by famous Comtois draft-horses after a brief initiation session, travellers set out on the small country roads to discover protected landscape over distances of 15 to 25 km per stage. The wagons are suitable for 4 to 5 people and are kitted out with all the necessary comforts: refrigerator, sink with water reserve, hob, lighting and heating, crockery and cooking utensils, bicycle rack (maximum 2 bikes), etc. There is a stop-off each night in a relay (with fully fitted bathrooms).

A change of rhythm and scenery is guaranteed – to the delight of families with children. Two routes are possible: departure from Dampierre-sur-Salon or from Fontenois-la-Ville.

In the Jura (39)

From 15th May to mid-September, in the Jura Mountains, in the Pays de la Haute-Joux and Mont Noir, 3 to 7 day journeys or holidays are possible in fully-equipped wagons. Departing from Longcochon, in the second plateau of the Jura, the little roads wind through prairies and forests, rivers and villages. Experience the pleasures of a simple and natural lifestyle in the company of Comtois horses for a holiday that's sure to delight both children and adults.

Where: Jura (39)
Tel.: +33 8 10 10 11 13



Where:
Lons-Le-Saunier (39)
Tel.: +33 8 10 10 11 13

Franche-Comté on donkey-back

Across peaks and valleys, lakes and forests, the young and not so young can be at one with nature in the company of Franche-Comté donkeys. Travelling companions and luggage carriers, everyone loves the peaceful and crafty nature of donkeys.

An adventure for the whole family to play the role of nomads.

On the traces of past transhumances, children can discover the region on donkey-back. Peaceful by nature, brave and sturdy walkers, this travelling companion is ideal for children! Routes cover from 8 to 14 km per day, and there are stopping places along the way each night to rest the donkeys and for little ones to take care of their faithful travelling buddy.

Where: Belleherbe (25)
Tel.: +33 8 10 10 11 13

The Association Bel'Âne proposes treks on donkey-back during Easter and November holidays, for a day, a week, or longer.

River marines in the Saône Valley

Close to the authentic village of Traves, in Val-de-Saône, the Saône Valley proposes holidays in a residential leisure park, combining the charm of riverboat trips, fishing, and other nautical activities. Thanks to an “all-inclusive” package deal, holidaymakers have use of a chalet, a boat (without the need for a boating licence), a canoe-kayak and a rowing boat. A number of activities and events liven up the nautical base: playground, table tennis, badminton, pétanque and a donkey park. Holidays for all the family on the banks of the Saône.

Contact: Saône Valley
Where: Traves (70)
Tel.: +33 3 84 92 72 70

A bird's eye view, in a hot air balloon

For a breath of fresh air, what could be better than a hot air balloon ride? As children, we all watched with awe a hot air balloon drifting through the sky. From the sky, everything looks smaller and better!

A one hour trip above the Jura in a hot air balloon. From assembly to folding, including inflating, the entire hot air balloon process is explained. Emotions and sensations guaranteed as you float through the sky, making your holiday unforgettable.

Contact:
Espace Montgolfières
Where:
Lons-le-Saunier (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 47 66 61

Fly over the amazing panorama of the Saline Royale in Arc-et-Senans and the Franche-Comté.

Contact:
Vents du futur
Where:
Arc-et-Senans (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 57 41 24

In winter and summer, fly over the Territoire de Belfort to discover the calm and beauty of Franche-Comté nature.

Where: Belfort (90)
Contacts:
- Ballooning adventures
Tel.: +33 3 84 22 08 17
- Club aérostatique de
Franche-Comté
Tel.: +33 3 84 90 20 20

GPS Safari

The Doubs offers visitors a new generation hike: the GPS safari. Equipped with a GPS, walkers discover the different landscapes of the greenest part of France. This 21st century treasure hunt offers a number of themed routes and programmes such as the 3-day “GPS safari weekend in the land of the Morteau sausage”, or the 4-day “treasures along the Doubs river”, to discover towns and mountains.

Explore, cross, decode, learn, admire, climb, observe, marvel at, and above all have fun: that’s the challenge of the GPS Safari. GPS Safari trails have been designed to take into account the desires and possibilities of each person. Each excursion is based on a theme, with different levels of difficulty. To experience alone, with the whole family, or with friends!

Contact: GPS Safari
Where: Doubs (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 82 80 48
www.gps-safari-doubs.com

Franche-Comté from the canals

Why not hire a house-boat to discover the region via its canals for an original kind of holiday?

A mix between a camping-car and a villa, this floating house is fitted out like a real house, with a kitchen, cabins with single or double beds, shower and outdoor terrace looking onto the calm water and green banks. It’s time to jump on board, there are locks waiting to be opened!

You can travel on the Doubs or the Saône. The latter is calm and has few locks. Don’t forget to respect the highway code! Boats drive on the right (like cars in Europe) and overtaking is the same.

Lunch is an ideal moment to enjoy the surrounding nature and to get the bikes out for a ride. For those who prefer walking, the banks of the Saône and Doubs are wonderful nature reserves and the chance to meet a multitude of animals and plants. In the evening, it’s back to the boat for a night’s sleep, gently rocked by the lapping water.

Route suggestions:

On the Saône: Fontenay-le-château / St Jean de Losne

On the Doubs: Dole / Montbéliard

Contact: Franche-Comté Regional Tourist Board
Where: Besançon (25)
Tel.:



www.franche-comte.org





Favourite foods

and recipes of our

little friends

Cheeses

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Cheeses



The Franche-Comté is well-known for its cheeses! Under the crust of these wonderful cheeses made from Montbéliard cows' milk, young food lovers will discover the secrets of “controlled appellation” cheeses. Savour the taste of Franche-Comté plants that have flavoured the milk used to make the cheese. Cheese dairies invite children to learn about their long and traditional history.

Cheese especially for little ones: The Laughing Cow®!

The Laughing Cow®, with its red face, earrings and a mythical smile, was born in Lons le Saunier in the 1920s. Created by Léon Bel and rapidly illustrated by Benjamin Rabier with its now famous laughing expression, The Laughing Cow® introduces another way to taste cheese, thanks to an original recipe characterised by a unique taste and melting texture. Its joyful and eccentric personality makes this cheese an attractive brand loved by all. Over 10 million portions are eaten each day in the world, that means 2,500 portions every 20 seconds!

Today, this cheese is loved by children at snack time. There's nothing like it to stop rumbling tummies on snowy slopes! Perhaps our young cheese lovers will find out why The Laughing Cow® laughs!

La Cancoillotte: a gluey kind of cheese...

Cancoillotte is a unique and typical cheese speciality of the Franche-Comté. There are three essential criteria surround this cheese: make sure you have enough bread to eat with it; always make sure that it comes from Haute-Saône; and lastly, be aware that there are 2 rival “clans”: lovers of plain Cancoillotte and fans of garlic-flavoured Cancoillotte! A new trend might put an end to these disputes: yellow Jura wine flavoured Cancoillotte. Liquid or creamy, Cancoillotte is low in calories, and is really nutritious and ideal for the whole family.

It can be eaten cold after a meal, or warm on sausages, cold meat and potatoes. Affectionately nicknamed “the glue”, apprentice cooks will love the gentle aroma and meted cheese aspect of Cancoillotte.

Comté: king of the Franche-Comté cheese platter...

With its fruity aromas and roasted notes, the oldest Franche-Comté cheese leads the dance! Comté is one of the first to have been labelled and is an integral part of the historic, cultural and social heritage of Franche-Comté. Its “Appellation of Controlled Origin” guarantees constant quality.

Produced in the Doubs and the Jura, this cooked pressed cheese has a wide palette of aromas: from sweet chestnut to cream, via vanilla. These variations in taste depend on the age, season, maturing methods and land. Maturing, which lasts from 4 to 12 months or more, imparts the benefits of humid Franche-Comté cellars on the raw milk of the cheese.

Montbéliard cows are the only ones allowed to make Comté cheese. They can be recognised by their white and red coats, and are one of the nine main cow races in French pastures. They are mainly fed on grass and hay, to guarantee top quality milk and thus make the taste of Franche-Comté cheeses last.

A few Franche-Comté cheese recipes:

Morbier cooked in a morbiflette, cousin of the tartiflette

Morbier, an uncooked pressed cheese, can be recognised thanks to the ripe of vegetal ash running through its middle.

Made in the Doubs and the Jura, this cheese owes its name to the Jura village of Morbier. Historically, Morbier was made in mountain farms, where the milk from a few cows was not enough to make a whole cheese. The morning's half portion of cheese was thus protected with a layer of soot before being completed with the produce of the evening's milking session. That's where the famous stripe comes from. Morbier is loved by chefs for its light taste and is often used in creamy sauces.

Recipe

For 4 people: 350 g of Morbier cheese, 2 large onions, 200 g of smoked bacon bits, 2 kg of potatoes, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Boil the potatoes, then peel them and cut them into rounds or dices. Fry up the bacon bits and chopped onions, add the potatoes and fry all together in a pan. Add salt and pepper and a pinch of nutmeg. At the last minute, add the Morbier cut into fine slices. As soon as the Morbier melts, serve straight away.

Bleu de Gex in a raclette

In the heart of the Haut-Jura Regional Nature Park, Bleu de Gex is made from Montbéliard cows' milk. This highly natural, marbled cheese has a slightly bitter and woody flavour. The cheese maturer's art is to know its different stages inside out to make some light and smooth cheeses, and some stronger cheeses whose woody aromas linger on the palate. This cheese is often used in fondues and raclettes.

Recipe

In the Jura raclette, Bleu de Gex cheese replaces or accompanies the classic raclette cheese. A raclette involves heating a chunk of cheese until it melts and then spreading it over potatoes, accompanied with cold meats and gherkins. A raclette machine is put in the centre of the table and each person melts the cheese in his/her own mini pan. A tip: for those who prefer a smoother taste, combine a slice of traditional raclette cheese with a slice of Bleu de Gex! Easy to do and very tasty, the Jura raclette is an ideal meal for children.

Oven-heated Mont-d'or

Mont-d'or is the union between Comtois grazing grounds and the forest. Enclosed in a pine casing, this cheese stands out for its woody flavour and wavy crust, evocative of its mountain environment. Its production is seasonal: from 15th August to 31st March. This authentic cheese, also called "vacherin du Haut-Doubs", was originally made at 700 m altitude in an area delimited by the source of the Doubs, the Swiss border and the Saut du Doubs falls.

Recipe

Oven-heated Mont-d'or requires Mont-d'or cheese in its casing, a little white wine and a clove of garlic. First, moisten the Mont-d'or casing by soaking it in water for a few minutes. Then wrap the bottom in tin foil, make a hole in the middle, about the size of a one euro coin, without going to the bottom of the casing. Fill the hole with white wine. Add the garlic to the cheese. Cook in the oven at 220°C for around twenty minutes, or in the fireplace: completely wrap the casing in tin foil, put the Mont-d'or on the embers and leave for 30 to 40 minutes. A tasty dish for the delight of young ones.

Serve on potatoes with cold meats.

Sweet delights

Les Belles Comtoises

Chocolate has discreetly made its way into Franche-Comté culinary heritage in the past few years thanks to the skills of a few regional chocolate makers.

Belles Comtoises are an excellent example. These amusing white, milk or dark chocolate Montbéliard cows have a soft and melting praline middle and are covered in a crunchy coating. These Belles Comtoises will delight the taste buds of the young and old!

Contact:
Syndicat des pâtisseries
Tel.: +33 3 84 91 64 67

Montbozon biscuits

The Montbozon biscuit, a pastry speciality from the Haute-Saône village with the same name, is a Franche-Comté product bursting with history. This straw-coloured, oval-shaped, biscuit is low in sugar, melts in the mouth and has an orange blossom flavour. The story tells that the recipe came from a pastry-maker working for Louis XVI who came to hide in the Croix d'Or Hotel in the village after the king was executed. Before dying, he revealed the recipe, but it nevertheless remained a secret until 1857, when it was patented. This delicious biscuit is today made in the town by the biscuit-maker Lanternier.

This delight is often eaten sprinkled with icing sugar, with ice cream. Little ones are bound to get a taste for it!

Contact:
Biscuiterie Lanternier
Tel.: +33 3 84 92 32 02

Vuez ice cream and gingerbread

Vuez products are not to be missed: gingerbread, macaroons, and home-made ice cream. The family-run business has been going since the 19th century and is part of Franche-Comté culinary tradition. Products are sold in the Vuez brothers' shop, in the centre of the little village of Mouthe: gingerbreads, "petits plaisirs de Mouthe" (finger biscuits made from eggs, small chocolate orange biscuits, chocolate and plain hearts, macaroons), ice cream, and a range of biological products too. A box of delights to waken the taste buds! Around twenty ice cream flavours are available: pine, honey, wild strawberry, etc.

Contact:
Biscuiterie des Sapins
Tel.: +33 3 81 69 26 82



Franche-Comté honey

There are around 4,000 beekeepers and 55,000 honey bees producing 500 tonnes of honey each year in the Franche-Comté, making it one of the largest honey producing regions in Europe. Honey has been made here since the 18th century, and the tradition continues today in the Doubs, Haute-Saône and Jura. The largest honey co-operative in Europe is in Mouchard, near Arbois. The regional star is acacia honey. Franche-Comté beekeepers also make pine honey famed for its fine savour. The rich and diverse Franche-Comté attracts bee-lovers and professionals. A sweet delight not to be missed on a slice of fresh bread, or on toast for breakfast or snack time!

Contact: ADA - FC
Tel.: +33 3 81 54 71 71

Le Belflore

Belflore is a fine example of the culinary art of the Territoire de Belfort: created in 1993 by the Territoire de Belfort bakers' syndicate for the 10th anniversary of the flower market, this delicious pastry is a pleasure for the eyes and the taste buds. Raspberries and almonds sprinkled with walnuts are the ingredients of this tasty cake that is sure to delight all those with a sweet tooth.

Contact:
Belfort Tourist Centre
Tel.: +33 3 84 55 90 90



Drinks!

Where: Morteau (25)
Tel.: +33 3 81 67 15 33

Rième fruit cordials

Rième Boissons, in Morteau in the Doubs, produces thirty original flavours of cordials and lemonade. Marcel Alcide Rième launched his famous lemonade, Mortuacienne, in 1921, along with several cordial flavours, thus marking the beginnings of Rième Boissons. Three generations have held onto the authentic and family traditions. Depending on their mood and fancies, children and adults can choose between traditional flavours, such as raspberry, banana and pineapple, or special and regional flavours such as pine, prune or chestnut.

Franche-Comté soda: Elixia lemonade

Elixia lemonade sparkles without colours or additives!

This drink that transports one back to childhood has everything to please children and adults. Elixia began in 1856, when Faustin Girardet set up a lemonade factory in Champagnole in the Jura. Handed down from generation to generation, the lemonade factory is still going strong today. Copper and bronze production equipment is still used today and the recipe hasn't changed: carbonated pure water from the Jura mountains, pure cane sugar, natural flavours and that's all. The traditional glass bottles with mechanical lid are still made. Despite all the tradition, the lemonade factory manages to keep up with the times and has made a new, more modern image for itself thanks to contemporary labels and through creating a collection of original flavoured lemonades: pine, blueberry, wild strawberry, Mirabelle plum, etc.

Where:
Champagnole (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 52 49 92



Where: Etalans (25)
Tél. : +33 3 81 65 03 86

Where: Charcenne (70)
Tel.: +33 3 84 32 80 55

Where: Sellières (39)
Tel.: +33 3 84 25 91 75

Regional fruit juices

A number of varieties of Franche-Comté fruit trees produce delicious juices, especially apple and grape. Children and adults can discover how organic apple juice is made on the Etalans route in the Doubs.

In the "apple juice" workshop, organised by the Bergerie work centre, 25 adult handicapped workers make a highly natural fruit juice. Once they have been washed, pressed, decanted and pasteurised, local apples, called "plein vent" apples, are bottled, with no added sugar and no additives, providing for a full-bodied taste!

Quality and conservation are the watch-words of this natural, pulpy juice! In Sellières, in the Jura, the apple is also highly sought for its juice. A choice between cider and hydromel (honey alcohol drink, for adults only), or apple juice for the young ones! The Guillaume vineyard in Haute-Saône makes red and white grape juice from a combination of grape varieties. They are picked at the end of the day, pressed, laid to rest for 10 to 12 hours, and then bottled to make an authentic grape juice with no filtering! In addition to being delicious to drink, this beverage provides the nutritional values of fructose. To drink without moderation by young and old!



Ideas for family holidays

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For information, advice and bookings, please contact the following numbers:

From France:

 0 810 10 11 13
PRIX APPEL LOCAL

From abroad:

00 800 2006 2010

(Free call from a landline from Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic)

E-mail:

info@franche-comte.org

The regional contact and bookings centre: the whole of the Franche-Comté in one number!

Franche-Comté has a call centre to manage all family holidays: tourist information, documentation, personalised help and bookings. This call centre is open from Monday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm and provides access to information, advice and bookings. It operates as a relay for Franche-Comté holidays by proposing accommodation and a number of products: donkey trekking weekend, wagon trips, cultural weekends, etc. It has over 170 all-inclusive deals, plus accommodation offers to meet the needs of everyone!

The house of happiness! Holidays in the Combe d'Abondance

An adventure awaits children and teenagers in this wonderful farm in the middle of the Franche-Comté forest. For a week, young guests can discover the region's charm through a variety of activities. Daring teenagers can try out the "sports" camp with canoeing, sailing, tree acrobats, go-karting, etc. or the "raid" trip to enjoy the Jura mountains first-hand through mountain biking, trekking, kayaking, climbing, etc. For younger children, there is a multitude of activities: theatre, horse-riding, fishing, archery, silk painting, etc. Children can also use their holidays to learn about another civilisation with the "Like Indians" holiday that involves a week living like an Indian in a tepee. On the programme: archery, canoeing, fishing, etc.

Refreshing holidays in the Haut-Jura Regional Nature Park

For outdoor family holidays in the Haut-Jura Regional Nature Park, the small village of Pesse organises a natural kind of holiday. Accompanied by a guide, parents and children set off to discover nature by observing insects or learning to identify animal tracks. Each day, curiosity and discovery are proposed to children through workshops and walks. There are different themes, with one common topic: nature. Children and adults can learn about forest life and enjoy a local snack (bread and butter, jam and cordial), and go on bicycle or walking tours to get to know the local cheese, Comté (from cows grazing in alpine meadows to cheese dairies that explain and demonstrate the cheese production process). The "Nature Club" holiday enables children to find out all about nature.

Donkey trekking

This is the ideal solution for children who love trekking or are passionate about farm animals: donkey trekking in the Hautes Combes. Starting from the small village of La Pesse, and then crossing Bellecombe to reach the charming village of Les Moussières, donkey and child discover together life in the Jura. Picturesque villages, flocks of semi-wild goats or bison, waterfalls, fir tree forests, etc. reveal themselves along the way to show children the beauty and the hidden treasures of forests and mountains. Children can actively look after their donkey: grooming, treatments, etc. and learn a little bit about life on the farm. Children and adults will also have the chance to meet a pack of sled dogs and visit the house of cheese. After stroking the dogs and tasting the delicious Comté cheese, children get back on their donkey to continue their journey through the mountains.

A trip in a wagon

An unusual way of discovering the region is by wagon. After a session in steering the harness, you're ready to discover the region's landscapes. Inside the wagon, it's like a real house: lighting, kitchen utensils, refrigerator, sink, heating, etc. On board this novel means of transport, children will enjoy the sensation of freedom and look after their horse as if it was their own. As for parents, they let themselves be driven by the horse, at its rhythm – perfect for getting away from it all!

Franche-Comté by bicycle

Franche-Comté offers fun family excursions for bicycle lovers along the water's edge. On your bike for an adventure through the green and hilly landscape! Accommodation in a sports centre is fun for children and enables them to try out a number of activities: tennis, fishing, golf, multimedia room, water sports complex. The whole family can also board a boat, driven by parents or teenagers, for a few hours of relaxation. Become river marines or fishermen for a day!



Dining out together

The Tables Comtoises network!

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Franche-Comté is also a food-lover's paradise...

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SPOTLIGHT... on the Balance Mets & Vins restaurant

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Choose the Tables Comtoises network!



The Tables Comtoises guide is available on simple request from the Comité de Promotion des Produits Régionaux.

Contact: Comité de Promotion des Produits Régionaux
Tel.: +33 3 81 25 54 54
www.cppr-fc.com

Franche-Comté is a food lover's paradise...

Keen to be real ambassadors of regional gastronomy, more than one hundred Franche-Comté restaurant managers are committed to promoting the culinary wealth of their region. Traditional and innovative cuisine has gone hand-in-hand for several years thanks to a new generation of Franche-Comté chefs. The Tables Comtoises network proposes a wide range of recipes and dishes based on regional products, and is more than willing to tell the tale of these products, their origin, their land, their production and their transformation into typical dishes, and to suggest the best harmonies between food and wine. An initiation in local specialities that make meals more than just "simple" meals...

Since 2001, the Comité de Promotion des Produits Régionaux (CPPR) has put Franche-Comté gastronomy within reach of children. The Tables Comtoises network provides adapted menus and promotions with one goal in mind: to give children the possibility to appreciate traditional food from the Franche-Comté. On the menu: Petit Gourmet or Terroir menu, games and books based on gastronomy. A sure way of making the taste buds of children and adults water!

SPOTLIGHT... on the Balance Mets & Vins restaurant

Where: Arbois (39)
Contact: La Balance
Mets et Vins
Tel.: +33 3 84 37 45 00

In Arbois, a charming town in the Jura that produces many a culinary expert, the Balance Mets et Vins restaurant offers a setting in which to discover local gastronomy with the whole family. In traditional surroundings, with warm colours and wood beams, the kitchen bears witness to modern and personal inspiration. There is a special children's menu with a choice of 2 menus: the Faim de loup menu for the more daring, and the Appétit d'oiseau menu for those with finer tastes.



Cultural awakening

Books, CDs and DVDs

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Reading corner

- Un éléphant dans la neige
- Mystères à Morteau
- Monsieur P'tit Sou
- Fin août, début Septembre
- Le p'tit bourri
- La rescapée du Métabief

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Music

- Badabulle Company
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Interactive corner

- Gears and cranks

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Books, CDs and DVDs

Reading corner

To encourage children and teenagers to enjoy reading, different book collections are promoted in Franche-Comté, offering great tales that combine suspense and humour for all ages.

Un éléphant dans la neige

For children aged 10 and above, Actes Sud Junior publications have a collection of “first novels”. This is a series of stories that deal with current topics, but from the point of view of children. “Un Éléphant dans la neige” tells the story of a friendship between two little boys. One is French and the other Togolese, and a wonderful tale of friendship develops between them. This novel speaks as a child would speak of love, illness, differences and generosity. Françoise Gard, the writer, reaches out to children with simple words, but deals admirably with subjects that are sometimes difficult to bring up with our children. She also evokes the particularities of the town of Morteau and the winter landscapes of the Franche-Comté.

Author: Françoise Gard
Publishing house:
Actes Sud Juniors
Collection:
Premiers Romans
Price: 6 €

Mystères à Morteau

A detective story for children aged 9 and above that reveals the secrets of the puppet, polichinelle. Children will love the amusing and colourful cover and the illustrations throughout the book, helping our young readers to imagine the characters and the plots.

Authors:
Jack Chaboud
et Alain Surget
Publishing house:
Grasset Jeunesse
Price: 5.90 €

The enquiry is led by a brave young boy who is willing to do anything to discover the mysteries of Morteau.

Monsieur P'tit Sou

A colourful book, full of drawings, and a real pleasure for 3 year olds and older. Edmée Cannard, a young illustrator, now lives in Franche-Comté and draws her inspiration from Franche-Comté landscape and nature. For her albums, she uses different types of paper (lined paper, squared paper, brown paper, etc.), which she then paints with multiple pastel colours and livens up with string and buttons. The album enables our little angels to discover the world of colour and shape through a simple and funny story. The writer also proposes events in schools or libraries to present the book and make children take part by organising collage activities. All children are invited to discover the adventures of Monsieur P'tit Sou, who goes to the market to buy a button one Thursday.

Author:
Edmée Cannard
Publishing house:
Didier Jeunesse
Price: 11.90 €

Fin août, début Septembre

Jean-Paul Nozière from Franche-Comté, as part of the “Hors-piste” collection proposes an adventure novel for young teenagers. This book is for children over 10. While the cover has the colourful appearance of a children’s book, inside, teenagers will find more text and less illustrations. This novel tells the story of three teenagers who go on an adventure on a river. In each chapter, the 3 children narrate the story in turn and speak of the problems they encounter in their lives. The book raises a question for our young readers: can adventure and friendship change destiny?

The author tells of the end of summer that also marks the end of childhood for these three young characters.

Author: Jean-Paul
Nozière
Publishing house:
Gallimard Jeunesse
Collections: Hors-piste
Price: 7.50 €

Le p’tit bourri

For inhabitants of Franche-Comté, “bourri” is the name given to children from the village of Les Fourgs. In this Jura mountain village, the La Cabane sur le Chien association publishes books for young people. 5 joyful rodents, a little chicken and a school teacher provide all the ingredients to make “le p’tit bourri”!!

This children’s book tells the funny story of farm animals. A story where cows get depressed, and to cheer them up, the farmer sends them to school! Humour and wonderful drawings are combined in this book, which is the latest published by the association.

Author: Corinne Cretin
Salvi
Publishing house:
La cabane sur le chien
Price: 10 €

La rescapée du Métabief

Roseline Morel, the writer, comes from Pontarlier, and it’s for this reason that she has chosen to set her story in the Haut-Doubs. This book is for 10 year olds and above and provides a reflection on life and death and the barrier between private and public life.

A story of friendship, in which a group of friends is confronted with their own conscience. This book is for all those who love stories provoking thought and that handle current topics. Young girls will love hearing about the problems of teenagers, and boys will appreciate the revolt and anger of these young people faced with the mediatisation of a drama. Our teenagers will identify with the characters and be angered, up in arms and moved by this book.

Author: Roseline Morel
Publishing house:
Actes Sud Junior
Collection:
Petits Polars
Price: 9 €

Music

Badabulle Company

The Badabulle Company in Abbenans in the Franche Comté is a group of friends and musicians that offer their talents to children. Shows, CDs, stories, books – this company enables each child to access culture in a simple and direct manner. Shows and events for children from 5 years. On board for a mysterious trip.

Contact:
Compagnie Badabulle
Production: Badabulle
Textes: Grégoire Kocjan
www.badabulle.net
Prix : 21 €

Instrudéments

This CD of entertaining children's songs has been made by the Badabulle company and written by Grégoire Kocjan, a writer with an offbeat sense of humour. Each song involves an imaginary trip, with characters well-known by children, such as a rabbit, a little sister, or a pig. One song, for example, asks "what happens to a fly that doesn't die?", and another explains that "the little canary ate my sister". A CD that takes children and adults on a journey to the wonderful world of childhood.

Interactive corner

Gears and Cranks

How to tell children, in a fun and simple way, about the skills in Franche-Comté?

To make the techniques and machinery of the Franche-Comté accessible to children, the Franche-Comté Technical and Cultural Museums have published a fun and educational CD-ROM. As they browse through numerous 3D animations and DIY sheets, children become familiar with machinery, while having fun at the same time. Applications are even under construction to make this tool an educational help for technology teachers.

Contact: Musées des
Techniques et Cultures
Comtoises
Tel.: +33 3 84 73 22 04