

The multi-faceted heritage of Franche-Comté

Franche-Comté has a diverse, multi-faceted heritage.

Culture, Crafts and Industry - the history of mankind over the centuries is evident throughout the region, and significant milestones are highlighted.

There are rich, ample local natural resources. The inhabitants of this area are nature-lovers, utilising natural resources with patience and skill. They work, transform, create, preserve, monitor, sculpt and shape ... their region in their way, to suit themselves.

Major historical sites, entertainment and leisure facilities, parks, gardens or selected cities, the very symbols of history and local activity constantly bid visitors welcome.

The towns and sites have stories to tell and people who can bear witness to these tales. They hold the key to a highly diversified culture. The history of France is also evident from numerous principal landmarks in the region... as geopolitics would have it.

In these areas where nature reigns supreme, architectural wealth adds a dash of history and cultural richness, highlighting the focal routes that enhance the region's many facets.

This is a strange blend of town and country where sacred art exists alongside strongholds built to keep out invaders - this region possesses a wealth of contrasts and yet is wonderfully consistent at the same time, because it paints the history of a region where man has patiently protected that which he holds most dear, namely his identity.

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Jules Rimet, who designed the Football World Cup

A brief historical overview

But where does the name "Franche-Comté" come from? Is it because, up until the Treaty of Nimègue in 1678 and the conquest by Louis XIV, Franche-Comté was a free zone under the jurisdiction of the Holy Germanic Roman Empire? Undoubtedly, but history, by definition, is far more complex than that and questions regarding the name of this region are not always answered.

From 1678 onwards, with the transfer of the university, military government and Parliament, Besançon replaced Dole as the capital city. Vauban surrounded it with ramparts and had the Citadel built.

Then it was time for the military architect of "Roi Soleil" (Sun King) to strengthen the entire province and for some enlightened quartermasters to restore a certain lustre to the region as the country embraced the Revolution and the Empire. Franche-Comté, divided for so long into departments, dispensed with its painful integration in the kingdom by following the French nation. At the same time, names and "objects" emerged that would overwhelm the country's economy and history a few decades later: Rouget de l'Isle, Claude Nicolas Ledoux, Peugeot and clock making, etc.

But it was in 1790 that the Franche-Comté province disappeared and three departments were created, namely the Doubs, the Jura and the Haute-Saône. In 1793, the principality of Montbéliard became part of the Doubs. After the war of 1870-71, a hundred or so communes were removed from the Upper Rhine region, which was annexed by Prussia, to become the Belfort Region.

The law of 5 July 1972, which created the regions, restored reality to the former province of Franche-Comté. It nowadays boasts a population of 1,111,080 inhabitants.

The major historical sites

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Century after century, the world of Franche-Comte dawned, creating a multi-faceted work of art. Just imagine - these first architects arrived in the region, leaving the initial traces of their genius in a land from which they drew inspiration. From Ledoux who produced visions of the world via Le Corbusier expressing his sensitivity through the chapel of light to Vauban who was inspired by the steep relief of Mont-Saint-Étienne in designing a Citadel to blend in with the rock.

Masterpieces have been worked that often belie their era. Prestigious sites - the caretakers and guardians of an unparalleled heritage.

Come and savour these places full of character and brimming with history and symbolism!

Besançon Citadel - a majestic fortress

Perched on an anticlinal, Besançon Citadel occupies a site of 11 hectares. A town of 10 000 inhabitants would easily fit inside. A Vauban masterpiece, this fortress cost Louis XIV so much to build that the Sun King would have enquired whether the walls were made of gold.

The Citadel has a dual heritage - first and foremost its initial vocation, which was that of a brilliantly constructed, defensive fortress that scarcely had the opportunity to prove itself in battle. It certainly often defended the authorities and local occupants but frequently against the populations. The memory of 99 resistant fusiliers is indelibly etched in this area. The Citadel went on to adopt the heritage and history, which it preserves and shows visitors to this day.

Classed as one of the major tourist attractions of Franche-Comté in terms of the number of visitors welcomed each year and named as "Tourist Site of the Year" by the Ministry of Tourism in 2003, the Citadel is the object of fierce, local Besançon pride.

Dominating the Comtois capital in all its splendour, it conceals within its walls an unknown path that invites you to sample both history and the present day. A unique and unexpected adventure awaits you in a fortress with historical monument status. Nowadays, the Citadel is thus a unique cultural and tourist attraction. Whilst the Museum reflects the living world in all its diversity (Zoo, noctarium, small farm, insectarium, aquarium, climatorium, etc.), it happily co-exists along-

side the history of the region, retracing the path taken by mankind: the Vauban Area revealing all there is to know about Vauban and his military genius; a tour of the ramparts to gain an unparalleled view of the city of Besançon and its fortifications; the Comtois Museum, which retraces the region's history and popular art through a vast, rich collection; and the Museum of Resistance and Deportation, bearing poignant testimony to sadder times.

These various museums, which are housed in barracks and trenches, tell fascinating, remarkable and moving stories.

A fortress classed as a historical monument



The Saline Royale (Royal Salt Works) or Ideal City

The Saline Royale at Arc-et-Senans is a product of the XVIIIth century, designed by Claude-Nicolas Ledoux. Granted world heritage status by UNESCO, the site was originally intended for the production of salt, thus being of strategic economic importance.

With an original mode of function and unusual architecture, la Saline is also the philosophical reflection of its architect, projecting the image of an ideal city. The visionary, Utopian and daring architect, Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, envisaged this as a community city where employees living in autarchy with their families, are "protected from the deviations and desires that shorten the days of those living amidst temptation". Bearing incredible testimony to the history of industrial architecture, it functioned as a unique place to live, combining production with homes for the employees.

World heritage status

Eleven buildings constructed in an arc (a semi-circular layout that reflects the sun in its path) surround the Director's house - an imposing residence located in the centre of the arc, its hierarchical structure eclipsing the other buildings.

A prestigious monument, the Saline Royale is nowadays bustling with life and has carved a niche in the region's heritage thanks to the audacious approach of its designer. For almost 30 years, it has been home to the Claude-Nicolas Ledoux Institute and

has become a European forum and cultural centre. In addition to permanent displays or temporary events visited by over 120 000 people each year, the institute hosts symposia, seminars, displays, heritage classes and schools of architecture all year round, keeping alive the most remarkable factory ever built between salt and sun.

Ronchamp, the Chapel of Light

In the Upper Saône region, a small town shelters a large "Dame" (Lady) that dominates an extremely picturesque village - Notre-Dame-du-Haut, the celebrated Ronchamp chapel designed by the no less famous architect, Le Corbusier.

Located on the hillside at Bourlémont, Notre-Dame-du-Haut is a key element in contemporary sacred art and a venue dedicated to the cult envisaged by Le Corbusier. The path leading to the chapel has, for centuries, been trodden by thousands of pilgrims who have come to pray at the feet of the Virgin Mary. The Ronchamp site - a landmark in the long history and tradition of this pilgrimage dedicated to the Mother of Christ - is an integral part of the local culture. Two other chapels preceded this building by Le Corbusier. The first, dating from the XVth century, was destroyed by lightning in 1913. The second building, which was inaugurated in 1936, was destroyed in 1944 during the Second World War.

In 1950, Le Corbusier made a plaster model. This project was kept going by several determined men

(Le Chanoine Ledeur, François Mathey and Maurice Jardot, etc.).

Work began in 1953 and the Chapel was inaugurated on 25 June 1955.

The architect is making a strong statement, expressing his sensitivity through an exceptional building. Filled with light and having aerial curves and built from robust materials, the chapel lends itself to total contemplation in the marvellous quest for silence. The Notre-Dame-du-Haut Chapel can surprise visitors, amazing them with its particular shape. It is a one-off in terms of

The work of Le Corbusier

Le Corbusier's work. The white colour and curves of the building contrast with the harshness of the rough and ready concrete. Le Corbusier, attracted by the location, wanted to create a chapel that "overlooked the four cardinal points and which took in the four cardinal points".

One of the major tourist attractions in Franche-Comté, Notre-Dame-du-Haut epitomises the inspiration of an architect filled with wonder at his surroundings.

Joux Castle bearing testimony to an unparalleled history

Built at the entrance to the "Cluse de Pontarlier" with the Swiss border on the horizon, you cannot miss this proud castle, which is imposing by virtue of its architecture and mysterious aura. Joux Castle overlooks from a height of one hundred metres the main international and commercial thoroughfare linking the Jura, Burgundy, Flanders and Champagne with Italy since the days of the Roman Empire. A strategic crossroads, it was inevitable that this natural safety net would be monitored and strengthened.

Summing up 1 000 years of history in terms of changes in fortification, Joux Castle has witnessed the major European conflicts: the passage of Charles The Reckless in 1476, the occupation during the Thirty Years' War in 1639 and surrender during the French conquest of Franche-Comté in 1674...

As from the 18th century onwards, Joux Castle was given a new vocation, namely that of State prison along the lines of the Bastille and If Castle. Many prisoners were to discover the harsh world behind the doors of Joux Castle including the Count of Mirabeau who, several years earlier, had emerged in the French Revolution as one of the key players in the declaration of Human Rights and the Rights of Citizens.

Protestants imprisoned after the Edict of Nantes was revoked or refractory priests during the Region of Terror, royalist or anti-Bonaparte plot-

ters, Austrian, Spanish, German, Dutch and Swedish prisoners of war or 18th century French counter-revolutionaries in the Vendée or uprising of Saint-Domingue, Joux Castle watched silently whilst everyone considered by the Revolution, the Consulate and the Empire to be enemies from outside and within filed through its doors.

This is the final resting place of Toussaint Louverture, the major figure of black power and the first black general of the French army who instigated the abolition of slavery throughout the world. Joux Castle is thus intrinsically involved in a vast project of tourist and cultural development, the aim of which is to dedicate this venue to the memory of Human freedom.

The castle is also a landmark on the Road to Abolition, linking 4 sites, all of which are symbols of the battle against slavery [House of Negritude in Champagny (Haute-Saône), the house of Abbot Grégoire at Emberménil (Meurthe and Moselle), the Victor Schœlcher Museum at Fessenheim (Upper Rhine) and Joux Castle (Doubs)].

Right at the heart of the Upper Doubs region, the fortress is nowadays home to a museum presenting a vast collection of XVIIIth and XIXth century weapons, many of which are rare. The castle pulsates all year round with guided tours, conferences, evening events and the Nights of Joux Festival.

1000 years of history

Lion de Belfort (Belfort Lion), emphasising the strength and courage of a population

Born on 2 August 1834 at Colmar, Bartholdi, who also designed the famous Statue of Liberty, created the Belfort Lion in 1880. This master symbol was erected in memory and recognition of the victims of the memorable siege of 1870-71. Bartholdi, feeling that France wanted more than a commemorative monument, decided to create a symbol depicting the image of courage and bravery of the people of Belfort - a monument with which the town would identify itself.

This was the Lion. Bartholdi intended using the magnificent, imposing rock overlooking Belfort

and fashioned an exceptional work of art. He referred to his project as "a monument representing, in colossal form, an anxious, repressed lion, presenting a frightening picture in its rage".

The massive lion, which was sculpted in Vosges red sandstone, measures 22 m long and 11 m high and was awarded "Historical monument" status in 1931. This majestic, dominating lion has since been the emblem of the town. Bartholdi won his bet and

Belfort became known to all as "Lion City ". The epitaph "For the defenders of Belfort 1870-71" appears on the plinth - a fine homage to their courage and bravery!

Homage to bravery



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Themed sites

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Against a green and woody setting, Franche-Comté boasts many different skills. True reflections of the cultural identity of man, they tell the story of the Comtois region. Some museums and exhibition halls display tools, machines and various objects to explain the different occupations in greater detail.

Some present the history of exceptional people of whom the current inhabitants are extremely proud whilst others bear witness to symbolic battles. From one site to the next, the history of a contrasting region is revealed, highlighting a surprising and passionate approach to techniques and a moving encounter with the know-how and passion of the people of this region of France.

A showcase in spectacle country

The inhabitants of the Jura announce the fact far and wide that it was a person from their region, Hyacinthe Cazeaux, who invented spectacles more than 200 years ago.

It's easy to guess how Morez became the French capital of the spectacle trade. It is entirely logical then, that this upper Jura town should house the new spectacles museum, le Viseum. Here, visitors can enjoy a trip back in time, discovering 200 years of know-how, how the human eye actually works, how many stages are involved in the creation of a pair

of spectacles, what a prototype is used for and how designers work to combine shapes, materials and colours. All of these questions are answered very clearly indeed. Over 450 rare and valuable pairs of spectacles help to shed light on the 700 years or so of history in the development of human sight.

The history of spectacles

And although le Viseum reflects the history of spectacles, the people of the Jura do not rest on their laurels. They are conscious of the future ... working on and actively researching designs for the spectacles of tomorrow.

A journey to the heart of technical museums and Comtois Cultures

The network of Museums of Comtois Techniques and Cultures (MCTC) alone bears witness to the wealth of regional identity. Depicting a wide range of skills, the individual museums recount the history of this region, its industrialisation and the use of its natural resources. The glass and crystal works at la Rochère, the Eco Museum in cherry country, the Mining Museum, the Forge Museum at Etueffont, the Frédéric-Japy Museum, Edge-tool making at Nans-sous-Sainte-Anne, Salines, the Syam blacksmiths, the Museum of Spectacles, Woodcarving and Toys ... the network covers the entire Franche-Comté region, unveiling, from site to

Know-how and regional craftsmanship

site, a contrasting, moving and authentic area. These exhibition venues highlight the occupations that paint the industrial history of the region and its resources. Salt, metal, wood, fruit, plastic, glass and precious stones - they all come together, linked by a unique and extremely powerful bond: the Comtois identity and know-how. Launched in 1992 by the Museums of Comtois Techniques and Cultures, the inter-museum pass is henceforth firmly entrenched in Franche-Comté culture. For over ten years, this pass has granted the general public preferential rates for visiting all of the museums.

Franche-Comté today

It was here in Franche-Comté that the French clock-making industry actually took off, under Swiss influence. From Maîche plates at Besançon via Beaucourt, Seloncourt or Montbéliard, the watch-making industry has left its stamp on Franche-Comté. The Comtois are the timekeepers. Therefore, it is perfectly natural for the watch, clock and time museums to be located here.

Five centuries in the history of the watch can be retraced at the **Watch Museum at Villers-Le-Lac**. This provides an excellent insight into the tradition of this area.

Each of the twelve key areas is portrayed, allowing visitors to follow the technical and aesthetic advance of an everyday accessory: the watch. Scientific, a fashion accessory, precious jewels, fob watch, winding mechanism, bracelet watch, the history of this object is depicted through a world interspersed with magnificent collections and displays.

Franche-Comté claims almost three centuries of watch-making tradition. The upper Doubs region and Morteau in particular still welcome many manufacturers of international acclaim. **The Clock-making Museum at Morteau** (upper Doubs) offers a voyage through time, reconstituting a clock-making workshop dating back to 1930 and presenting a magnificent collection of

old watches and clocks, machinery and various tools, etc. Housed within the XVIth century castle, the Clock-Making Museum is a truly educational journey into a world of precision and know-how that is entirely characteristic of this area. In the same village, the Yves Cupillard workshop reconciles the past with the present, keeping an ancient tradition alive, namely the craftsmanship and restoration of Comtois clocks. With the atmosphere of yesteryear, combining magic and poetry, the museum also presents automated objects made in the workshops.

Besançon, the capital of the French clock-making industry, is justifiably home to the new **Museum of Time**.

With its permanent or temporary displays, the Museum of Time presents various exhibitions dedicated to the History of Time, the Comtois watch-making tradition and scientific teaching, etc.

From infinitely large to infinitely small, modern times are depicted here through the following motto: "we no longer manufacture hours, we manufacture time".

Within Granvelle Palace, the former home of the illustrious Granvelle family, the Museum of Time has a prestigious venue that provides the perfect setting for the wealth of objects on display in the region's capital city.

Franche-Comté reveals its hand....

Three centuries of clock-making tradition



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The House of Negritude: consolidating humanistic values

The House of Negritude and Human Rights at Champagny, in the Upper Saône region, have a very specific atmosphere. This house is not really a museum where objects are presented. It is, first and foremost, an area where a certain spirit prevails - promoting justice, dignity and the fellowship of man. Inscribed in granite, these words symbolise the passion of the inhabitants of Champagny, which

set everything in motion: "Today, the only worthy dispute is that of mankind. It is mankind who must be saved, allowed to live and to develop". The history of the house is recounted in the "Vœu de Champagny", a book of condolence, which was sent by the region's inhabitants to King Louis XVI, in view of the suffering sustained by the inhabitants of the French colonies, who were slaves to the kingdom.

Saint-Claude, a Pipe and Diamond Country

The legendary history of the people of the Jura region is surely due to the setting up of these two crafts in the small town of Saint-Claude.

In fact, the people of Franche-Comté were not particularly predisposed to pipe manufacture although their love of wood carving and detailed work was well established. Nevertheless, the name Saint-Claude is famous throughout the world for its quality heather pipes. As for the creation of the precious stone industry in the upper Jura region, the reasons mainly put forward are of a diverse nature. The availability of manpower during the long winter months amongst other things made Saint-Claude the 4th

largest production centre in the world in the early days of the stone-cutting industry.

Thus the confederation of master pipe makers of Saint-Claude and the association of diamond and precious stone manufacturers in the upper Jura region have organised a permanent exhibition, providing an insight into these hidden occupations, which form the basis of the region's reputation. Precious stones, fine stones and synthetic stones, collections of pipes, tools and machinery of yesteryear help to portray a tradition that is proudly defended by the craftsmen and women of Franche-Comté, heralding a highly original geographical and industrial heritage.

In Toyland

The Toy Museum nestles right in the heart of the Natural Regional Park of the upper Jura, at Moirans-en-Montagne, the capital of this speciality. Seen through the eyes of a child, this small Jura town has all the trappings of an enchanted island. Its Toy Museum with its bright and colourful architecture is an exciting invitation to the land of childhood.

The museum houses a unique collection of 2 000 items that depict the history of toys over a period of 2 centuries, films and educational videos, puppet theatre and temporary exhibitions...

The technical part of the permanent display relates the history of toy-manufacturing techniques, right from the outset through to the latest innovations.

Discover the life-style of the local craftsmen and women who perfected techniques down through the ages and who were able to adapt to the market, displaying incredible ingenuity to make the transition from wood to plastic.

Because games are all about learning, the museum regularly organises colourful, educational events intended for all ages, not forgetting Father Christmas's grotto in particular.

The Comtois houses have their museum

The Comtois houses are an integral part of the region's heritage, bearing testimony to the lifestyle of our ancestors and painting a rich canvas of rural life.

Nancray retraces the history of a pulsating history. The diversity of rural Comtois architecture is presented through thirty of the most typical houses in the region. Half-timbered farms, chimney stacks, farms built from Vosges red sandstone... the Museum of Comtois Houses cleverly presents the "Comtois difference", its spirit of

tradition where bread-making, the churning of butter, smoking of sausages or even classroom dictation is still shared.

The Museum of Comtois Houses is therefore unique in its own right. In fact, although the furniture, objects and tools could be displayed in a building, the houses and the small edifices could only be presented outdoors, such that the heritage is not found in a museum but rather that, somehow, the museum is found in the heritage.

Champlitte, memories of a region

Champlitte Castle in the upper Saône region is a vast, majestic residence concealing numerous treasures of the past. The museum of wine presses in the castle orangery, conjures up winemaking traditions, enhanced with XVIIth and XVIIIth century wine presses.

As for the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions, it paints the rural or city life of the region. The 1900 Museum of Arts and Techniques finally retraces the steps of a typical market town, showing its technical, commercial and popular transition over time.

The Salines de Salins-les-Bains

As precious as gold - such was the esteem in which salt was held during the XVIIIth century. The wealth of the undergrowth at Salins-Les-Bains swiftly propelled the small city to the ranks of the region's white gold capital.

With salt to testify ... such is the approach to a thousand year-old tradition in Franche-Comté, which can be discovered at the Salins-les-Bains museum.

From the prosperous era of the Middle Ages through to its irreparable decline in 1960, the

In white gold country

reskilled area set off in search of "white gold", which provided work for a whole community for centuries. Visit the underground gallery and discover the incredible, quiet movement of a bucket wheel, corridors connecting various wells, the preparation of brine... the site is steeped in history that defies mankind and natural resources. And, at the end of your visit, curiosity will no doubt encourage you to visit the remarkable Saline Royale (Royal Salt Works) at Arc-et-Senans, just 17 km away, granted World Heritage Status by UNESCO.

The Pasteur Houses

The Jura is particularly proud to be the native homeland of a genuine benefactor of humanity.

Louis Pasteur was born at Dole on 27 December 1822, in the former tanning district. The birthplace of the world's most famous scientist has been turned into a museum that tells three different stories - that of Pasteur's childhood in the family home, a reconstitution of his father, Jean-Joseph's tanning workshop and the scientific exposure relating to the scientist's work.

The visit will encourage you to go to Arbois, a wine-growing town where Pasteur spent his childhood. The interior decor chosen by the scientist in the late XIXth century is still intact to this day in the Arbois house: wallpaper, paint, wall hangings, furniture and standard objects remain.

It is a "memorable" venue that is still inhabited. Whether around the billiard table, in the laboratory or on the stairs and galleries, visitors can enter the intimate world of this famous scientist.



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Courbet's genius

The upper Loue Valley conceals a small town of character: Ornans. Right in the heart of the town stands Courbet House, a majestic XVIIIth century residence where the master was born. Over 60 of the artist's paintings and those of his pupils are exhibited here, expressing the appeal of the Comtois landscape. The windows and garden - in fact, wherever you look - are a constant reminder of "the countryside" depicted by the artist in his work. "You have

to know a landscape in order to paint it," he said. And that explains why his work is so beautiful. Courbet knows the countryside but, above all, he loves it with a passion.

Master of a realist school, his work and the exhibition dedicated to him retrace the local heritage, its culture and traditions, inscribed in settings filled with the love, respect and gratitude of the master painter.

Wood rules at the Wood-carving Museum

In a narrow valley between Suisse and Risoux, Bois-d'Amont retains its traditions and unfurls the long history of woodcarving. The quality of the spruces, the hydraulic energy and the know-how of its inhabitants have created the famous Bois-d'Amont. You cannot take a stroll through the village without realising its passion for wood.

The Woodcarving Museum is located right in the centre of the village. Wood rules here. The museum is actually housed in a former sawmill,

which has since been restored. Paying genuine homage to the ingenuity of wood carvers, the museum presents, in chronological order, the tools and skills acquired by the local wood craftsmen. The cutter and the stapler actually work and the sawing model is operated by a hydraulic wheel.

Visitors can follow the path of the spruce from its growth in Risoux forest through to the dispatch of the most varied of finished products. The museum depicts the life of a craftsman, highlighting the skills and tools of the trade.

The Jardot Donation

A native of the Belfort region, Maurice Jardot, "the man of art", was attracted to painting at a very early age. Art teacher, an inspector of Historical Monuments and in charge of cultural affairs in Germany, he was closely linked through friendship with many contemporary artists.

On 13 September 1997, he donated his personal collection of 110 works of art comprising paintings, sculptures, water colours, posters and drawings by famous artists including André

Beaudin, Georges Braque, Juan Grios, Eugène de Kermadec, Otto Gutfreund, Le Corbusier, Léger, Picasso and Manolo, to the town of Belfort.

The Maurice Jardot Foundation was set up in Belfort in 1999 thanks to the donation of Maurice Jardot, arranged before he died. This prestigious collection, which is entirely typical of the work of the famous art dealer over almost half a century, is currently a leading reference for XXth century art.

In Cherry Country

Cherry trees have been part of the local landscape for four centuries. In the second half of the XVIIIth century, cherries had won over virtually all of the homes in the region, representing a second source of income alongside farming.

The Cherry Country Ecomuseum retraces the stages in the development of this activity through the buildings of a former distillery. Two workshops have been reconstituted on the site of the old

distillery. The one is a traditional workshop where complementary occupations are presented (cooperage and wickerwork), whilst the other is based on a modern approach with a rare collection of water-bath and vapour stills. The decor is coppery where the alchemy of transforming fermented fruit into crystalline alcohol unveils its secrets. The orchard with local varieties of cherry trees and the grain barn complete this site, which bears testimony to the history of the true growth of cherries in an economic, social and human context.

The Peugeot Adventure

Memories of steaming coffee, the first sensations at the wheel ... who hasn't experienced a Peugeot moment in their life? These memoirs and anecdotes are there for the taking at the Peugeot Adventure Museum.

Set up in 1988 at Sochaux, the Museum exhibits a collection of symbolic objects belonging to this illustrious industrial family. Come and discover coffee mills, pepper mills, tools, cycles, motorbi-

kes and cars in this unique and friendly setting, all of these items having helped to build up the industrial empire.

Over an area exceeding 6 000 m², a selection of 200 vehicles tells the Peugeot adventure (very often at the origin of numerous technological innovations) in all its glory. Unique vehicles, prototypes, vehicles made famous by their owner - each one typical, in its own way, of a nostalgic era.

The Museums of Fine Arts and Archaeology at Besançon and Lons-le-Saunier

Located in the Market Square, right in the heart of the old town, the **Besançon Museum of Fine Arts and Archaeology** is one of the richest museums in France boasting one of the oldest public collections dating back to 1694. Over the centuries, the museum has been expanded thanks to numerous legacies and substantial donations. Remarkable objects and archaeological remains, European masterpieces on permanent display or the characteristic exhibition of European Art - the Museum also comes to life with temporary exhibitions and events to suit all ages. Matisse, Courbet, Rubens, Rembrandt, David, Dufy and Delacroix, etc. accompany visitors on their discovery of rare works of art.

The **Museum of Fine Arts at Lons-le-Saunier** presents a very fine collection of sculptures and paintings, which are essentially the work of numerous local artists. This is the only museum in Eastern France to be entirely dedicated to educating visitors about the Jura Mountain and man's contribution. The Museum of Jura Archaeology at Lons-Le-Saunier uses original resources to emphasise the geological, mineralogical, paleontological and archaeological potential of the Jura. Start up the assegai, cut the flint, discover the mysteries of metal restoration and experience the life of archaeologists through the daily events held at the museum.

On Franche-Comté roads

3

Discover Franche-Comté to suit the whim and mood of the moment, at your own pace.

But the region has many assets and the best way to see everything is to follow one of the many themed itineraries, allowing you to learn and relax at the same time. These famous roads that weave through the region, interlinking with ease, will take travellers on a journey through time, to water, ponds, lakes, the forest and its fir trees, flower-bedecked villages, craftsmen, microtechnical innovations and clockmaking, the Comté and Jura wines or even cultural, civil and military heritage - these routes promise some fine escapes!

Themed routes

From one castle to the next, *the historical road through Mountains and Marvels* is a summary of architectural feats and history: Joux Castle, the Saline Royale, the Syam neo-palladian villa ... every residence and every castle has its own character, its ambience and its secrets ...

The *Route of Comtois Techniques and Cultures* retraces, in eleven steps, the extent of the know-how of the men of Franche-Comté and the numerous crafts that have prospered in the region. The itinerary includes a trip to the glass making works at La Rochère, the salt mines of Salins-Les-Bains and the museums of spectacles, toys and woodcarving, plus much more besides!

Clockmaking obviously deserved its own route. Franco-Swiss, the *Clockmaking Route* links the twin cities of Besançon and Neuchâtel.

The *Vauban and Pasteur routes* reveal the thrilling past of these great men who have certainly left their mark on Franche-Comté. The one - an unparalleled military architect, and the other - a benefactor of humanity and of the local region, Franche-Comté is proud of its sons and

pays them due homage.

Route to the Lakes, Fir Trees, Route of a Thousand Ponds - you are spoilt for choice. These routes run through the best-preserved natural environment in Europe. Here, everything is bigger, more pure and more genuine!

The *Route to the Floral Villages* is enchanting. It is a route filled with colour and poetry that passes through the magnificent hamlets of the upper Saône and Belfort regions.

Those of you with a penchant for fine wines and foods will not be left out: *Routes to Comté and Jura wines* will awaken the senses and set the taste

buds tingling, giving you an insight, at the same time, into the know-how of people, histories and passions.

Numerous Comtois churches and abbeys are adorned with altarpieces and huge decorative monuments comprising statues and painted canvases.

The *Route to the Altarpieces of the upper Saône* region presents this particular heritage of Franche-Comté, enabling you to visit this fascinating museum on your chosen itinerary.

Themed, tourist routes to suit your fancy



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The Road to the Abolition of Slavery

A route full of symbols and values, linking the 4 symbolic sites of the battle against slavery: Joux Castle at la Cluse-et-Mijoux (Doubs), the tomb of Toussaint Louverture, the first black general who fought for the abolition of slavery; the House of Negritude at Champagny (upper Saône), the only area in France that, when the books of condolence were sent on the eve of the French Revolution in 1789, claimed the abolition of slavery; the House of Abbot Grégoire at Embermenil (Meurthe and Moselle), a leading figure in the Society of Friends of Black People and the person who initiated the first abolition

of slavery in 1794; and finally, the Schoelcher de Fessenheim House (upper Rhine), marking the second and final abolition of slavery in France and in the French colonies in 1848.

An inter-region route inaugurated in April 2004

These 4 symbolic sites retrace in a complete and exhaustive manner the main eras on the road to the abolition of slavery.

This is an innovative route since it covers a new aspect - that of the memory of those who fought for humanity. It is a modern route because it touches humanistic values that still echo in all 5 continents today.

Cultural and natural heritage

4

This region, where nature reigns supreme, also has a remarkable architectural heritage.

Nature and monuments are often as one, nurturing individual strength.

Forts and castles blend into the undulating landscapes for even greater protection.

Churches and abbeys, the country's lookout posts and beacons with their amazing Comtois steeples covered with varnished and subtly tinted tiles, are the hallmark of the region.

The main archaeological sites conjure up memories of water.

Nature here is wild or tamed with gentleness and passion, refinement and taste, as borne out by the parks and gardens.

Churches and abbeys

Art is truly sacred in the region. The churches, temples and chapels here bear witness to this with their divine beauty. The Comtois steeples - a regional emblem christened the imperial steeple - top most of the churches in Franche-Comté.

Very often classed as historical monuments, the Comtois churches are genuine museums with an unparalleled wealth of objects.

The Franc-Comtois altarpieces are also well worth visiting in their own right.

In Doubs: Église du sacré Cœur (Church of the Sacred Heart) at Audincourt - Église Sainte-Madeleine (Saint Madeleine Church) at Besançon and Église de Mont-de-Laval (Mont-de-Laval Church), etc.

In the Jura: Église Saint-Christophe and Collégiale Notre Dame in the Dolois region,

Église Saint-Just at Arbois or the Abbaye de Baume-Les-Messieurs, presenting one of the most significant altarpieces in Europe ...

There are over 50 altarpieces to visit alone or accompanied by "a heritage guide" in the upper Saône region alone.

The Comtois churches are genuine museums

In wood, stucco, stone and alabaster - all incorporate the sacred art of a region that has known how to preserve its heritage over the centuries. The

Augustine Convent at Champlitte, Ronchamp Chapel or even the Gray Chapel are some more sites you will want to visit for their architectural prowess or indeed for the atmosphere that prevails here.

In the Belfort region, minor panoramic viewpoints in polychrome altarpieces also complement a day of sacred sightseeing!

Parks and gardens

The parks and gardens here are numerous, varied, coloured and peaceful, benefiting from a privileged, natural atmosphere or one fashioned by man's passion.

The **Belfort region** is home to magnificent floral displays in Lechten Square or, slightly further on, in Rose Garden Square. The Douce Leisure Park offers numerous activities in a remarkable aquatic world, whereas the cedar park allows you to discover numerous species of tree. Visit the Châtelet Rose Garden to the far north of the region where hundreds of varieties of roses bloom surrounded by collections of bamboos, maples and magnolias...

The **Jura** region benefits from its own particular setting with a specific attraction: the upper Jura Natural Park! In a more discrete manner, numerous parks and gardens complement the majestic landscape. The "artificial" garden at Dole, is a contemporary garden of 60 hectares designed like a painting. The Parc des Bains at Lons-le-Saunier, is home to some splendid and very rare species originating from the 5 continents. The path through the Botanical Park of the House of Flora (Longchaumois), the botanical region, the medicinal plant gardens (Le Frasnois) and the gardens of Arlay Castle combine flowers and vegetables in a highly original way whilst the themed gardens of the Hôtellerie du Pont at Chatillon offer another novel opportunity for relaxing and strolling.

In the **upper Saône** region, the Aquatic Park at Autoreille will remind you that the thousand ponds are close by. Filain Garden offers a walk along avenues of boxwood, rose gardens,

aviaries and riverbanks. Pesmes Castle, overlooking Ognon Valley, shelters a beautiful, interior courtyard that has recently been transformed into a garden. The English garden of Vesoul, created in 1862, has a rockery with a water feature and fountain, a rose garden with pergola and numerous themed flowerbeds. Finally, Rupt sur Saône Castle boasts a Virginian tulip that is over three centuries old.

In the **Doubs** region, Barbizier Close at Besançon allows you to discover a collection of old and particularly flourishing roses whilst the Besançon botanical gardens offer 4 000 plants from all over the world, covering various reconstituted natural outdoor areas. Still in Besançon, the garden of the senses takes you on a sensorial visit in search of flowers and shrubs that are remarkable for their tactile quality, odour or colour.

The Micaud walkway, within the park of the same name, is synonymous with relaxation in a particularly sheltered urban environment. At Montbéliard, the town park of Près de la Rose is

dedicated to scientific cultivation with over 100 plant varieties and a 3200-m maze. On a more intimate note, the kitchen garden at Froidevaux presents a collection of 600 varieties of vegetables, edible flowers and aromats that you can simply visit, taste or take away with you!

In a huge park dating from the XIXth century, rare species, a kitchen garden, a large arbour and alleyways of boxwood can be found around the terrace at Bournel Castle. The original feature? Part of the park forms an 18-hole golf course.

*...fashioned by
man's passion*

Forts, strongholds and castles

Over the centuries, the Franche-Comté region has had to protect itself against invaders or, on the contrary, build castles to indulge in a life of luxury and prosperity.

The departments are brimming with military and boating memorabilia, hence, "you dream the history," as pointed out by a former President of the Republic on discovering Joux Castle.

In the Doubs region, for instance, every other village has its castle or the remains of a stronghold. The Besançon Citadel and Castles of Belvoir, Bournel, Montbéliard and de la Roche du Mont Bart... bear testimony to this.

In the upper Saône region, the medieval castles also present a route brimming with discovery: the Castles of Bougey, Pesmes, Oricourt and Gy... all retrace, in their own way, a past dotted with eras, styles and illustrious families.

Belfort Citadel is also a particularly remarkable work of art and a symbol of the battle against invaders. It is the only example in France of the dual stronghold system devised by Vauban.

The Jura also has many typical remains with its sturdy Frontenay and Pin Castles or even Arlay or Présilly Castle, granted historical monument status.

Archaeological sites

The archaeological sites are mainly found in the Doubs, Jura and Upper Saône regions.

At Mandeure (Doubs), the IInd century **Gallo-Roman theatre** is a prime example of technical and architectural splendour. A huge theatre to seat 20 000, it is open all year round. Admission free.

In the Jura, the **lakeside village of Chalain** mainly comprises the remains of the Neolithic and Bronze Age, dating from 4 000 to 750 B.C. Classed as an archaeological site of national interest, the lakeside village is still the subject of numerous excavations.

The **Gallo-Roman site of Villards d'Héria** presents the remnants of temples and baths dating from the 1st century B.C.

The site is the visible side of a vast archaeological dig comprising two temples and a genuine bathing complex. Visits are feasible by prior arrangement only.

The **tile kiln at Villers Farlay** also bears witness to the characteristic craftsmanship of the Gallo-Roman builders: the production of building tiles. Admission is free and the visit is sign-posted.

In the upper Saône area, the **Gallo-Roman remains of Jonvelle** have been granted historical monument status and are accessible by prior arrangement.

Selected cities

5

A precursor to contemporary architecture, Franche-Comté is a region of amazing historical contrasts, at the cross-roads of numerous influences.

Heritage cities, small Comtois cities of character or the Comtois capital paint the most vivid pictures.

These selected sites, with the intact charm of a rich, secular past, have a specific, warm and vibrant atmosphere.

All of the cities are places of character and are steeped in history.

Besançon, the Comtois capital

Ensclosed like a diamond in the Doubs loop, the Comtois capital is a town of art and history that bears witness to desirable eras, famous men and the colourful passage of time.

The city's buildings where yellow or blue limestone alternate with pink sandstone, guide the visitor through a rich, yet often harsh historical past. Renaissance facades, Roman cathedrals, rich Tuscan columns, an ancient convent

and gardens and parks of France's first green town create a harmonious blend of sites and landscapes that offer relaxation and stir the curiosity.

...demonstrates its remarkable passion for life

The town has a wealth of museums containing numerous artefacts. It is has a rich dynamic culture, which emphasises its incredible passion for life. It enjoys a rich, varied and yet harmonious heritage - conjuring up a past full of people who love the city.

Cities of Heritage

For each city, each image has its own history. There are 7 regional capitals or Towns of art and history offering an authentic journey of discovery into Franche-Comté heritage. Belfort, Besançon, Dole, Gray, Luxeuil-les-Bains, Montbéliard, Pontarlier - they all display, in their own inimitable style, regional character, charm and identity.

The landscape and activities differ in keeping with the seasons, offering visitors a variety of venues that are well worth discovering. Urban heritage presents protected monuments,

concealing numerous remnants of the past, which the people in these region never stop loving, preserving and highlighting - just like a heritage filled with meaning and values, that must never be forgotten.

Colours, architecture, festivals, historical residences, the port, varnished tiles, Vosges red sandstone - all of the symbols of this region complement each other in a friendly and authentic display of symbolic cities bearing witness to a varied heritage.

Small Comtois Cities of Character

28 Franche-Comté communes are interlinked to create a lively and welcoming network brimming with character and friendliness. Visitors can discover the diversity of the cultural heritage, landscape or gastronomic or folkloric history.

28 cities with 28 original programmes created with the authenticity of the rural world and the demands of a heritage to be shared and passed on from one generation to the next.

Arbois - Baume-les-Dames - Baume-les-Messieurs - Bucey-les-Gy - Champlitte - Château-Châlon - Chateauvieux-les-Fossés - Faverney - Fondremand - Gy - Jougne - Lods - Marnay - Nozeroy - Orgelet - Ornans - Pesmes - Poligny - Ray sur Saone - Rougemont - Saint-Amour - Saint-Hippolyte - Salins-les-Bains - Sellières - Scey-sur-Saône / Saint-Albin - Vauvillers - Villersexel and Vuillafans are nowadays truly remarkable Comtois cities of character.

Crafts and industrial and technical tourism

6

1793, Mégevand and the Swiss clock-makers arrived in Besançon. In 1796, a Morezian citizen made the first pair of spectacles. Then, names such as Japy and Peugeot gradually appeared, laying the foundations for the region's economic future.

Franche-Comté industry focuses mainly on a small number of activities: cars and cycles, micromechanics and electronics, metalwork and wood, etc.

There is also a marked concentration of small companies specialising in clockmaking, toys, plastics, pipes and spectacles.

The diversity of the manufactured products and consolidated exporting are two of the key features of Comtois industry.

The crystal glass works at Passavant-la-Rochère enjoys an international reputation

The region is one of the last bastions of the glass-making tradition. Supported by the abundance of nature within its proximity, the crystal glass works at la Rochère was created in 1475 to produce a remarkable and magical alchemy: glass.

The glass blowers select, work, blow and fashion the smelted material to create various shapes and bright, translucent colours that bear testimony to a thousand years of know-how. This is currently the oldest functioning glassworks in France. Having inherited the thousand year-old

art of glassmaking, the plant is constantly seeking new inspirations. Glass or carafe, vase or bowl, each item is unique and its authenticity is guaranteed by the "La Rochère" stamp engraved on each piece. These items are widely appreciated and are sold throughout the world.

The oldest functioning glassworks

Nina Ricci, Moët and Chandon, Veuve Clicquot, Mumm, Rothschild, Carte d'Or, Miko, Glenfiddich and numerous other prestigious brand names have already utilised the unique know-how of this crystal glass works in the upper Saône region.

Forges and blacksmiths

The **Forge Museum** can be found right in the heart of Etueffont Village in the Regional Natural Park of Ballons des Vosges, in a XVIIth century building. This museum highlights the life and work of 4 generations of village blacksmiths between 1843 and 1977. The workshop remains intact with its tools, bellows and forge tilt hammer where the blacksmiths practised their art: wheel hoops, axe manufacture and shoeing of animals.

The tool-making plant at Nans/Ste-Anne is original.

Much further to the south, in the Jura to be precise, the Syam forges overlooked by the neopalladian villa of the same name, can be found on an exceptional site. Built in 1813, the focal point of interest is a channelled cylinder rolling mill - no doubt the only one of its kind still working in Europe.

This hundred year-old tool has become the site symbol and the men who have inherited the skills

of their ancestors still use it to produce made-to-measure sectioned bars commissioned by mechanical or aerospace companies or the manufacturers of lifts, machine tools or cars.

This ancient forge specialising in the production of worked pieces and cutting tools used in particular in this rural corner of Doubs, the Nans-sous-Ste-Anne tool-making plant is an example of XIXth century developed industrialisation in France.

Machinery equipped with hydraulic wheels, oak bellows and the forge - all of the equipment presented points to the origins and advance of an occupation, to the living conditions of the workers and the 120 items on display.

The tool-making plant has been granted historical monument status and was awarded a prize in the national competition of "master professions in peril".

Wood-based professions

Wooden boxes, wood carving, inlaid work and shingle... little wonder that there are so many wood-based professions in a region where forests reign supreme!

Fir trees and spruce - the symbolic trees of Franche-Comté, for instance, cover half of the region's soils. The Wood carving Museum pays homage to the ingenuity of wood craftsmen who have put to excellent use all of the beneficial qualities of the spruce trees surrounding their valley. Whether sawn, perforated, cut, slit, cut into sections or rolled, baked, stuck or even stapled, spruce meets all

market requirements. The most varied of finished products are manufactured: all kinds of boxes, skis, shingle, and clock cabinets. There is also a long tradition that is perpetuated thanks to the regional cheese specialities and the AOC cheese "Mont d'Or" in particular - namely the production of boxes. The "box-makers", these woodcutters of the upper Doubs Valley, make these famous wooden boxes used to pack Mont d'Or and to enhance the flavour of the cheese, from felled spruce trees. This tradition dates back to 1750 and can still set the taste buds tingling!

Lace at Luxeuil-les-Bains

A major sector of Luxeuil-les-Bains trade, lace has made a comeback thanks to a few dedicated professional and amateur lace-makers, who set up the **Lace Conservatory**. Luxeuil lace came into its own in the mid XIXth century, inspired, at the same time, by Venice, Milan and Bruges. Luxeuil very quickly made a name for itself because of

the variety of the pieces of work and the originality of the motifs, laces and points produced.

The Imperial court swiftly constituted a luxury lace clientele: parasols, robes, coats, capes, shirts, collars and furnishings were mainly produced. Some companies still exist today and make a living from this art.

The clock-making tradition

The French clock-making industry really took off here in Franche-Comté, under the influence of the Swiss. The famous Comtois clock is an integral part of the region's heritage. Invented in 1660, it was the first clock to be given such autonomy. Whereas the small clocks of this era had to be re-wound every 24 hours, the Comtois clock continued to tick for a week. This clock with its tall silhouette and generous curves still adorn living rooms today, breaking the silence with its melodious ticking sound.

The tradition of clock-making is not, however, restricted to the Comtois region. For almost three centuries, watches have been manufactured throughout the area, from town workshops to farms on the highest plateaux. Individual parts,

machine tools, assembly, mechanics and design - for a long time now watches have no longer held any secrets for the people of Franche-Comté. From the rural clockmakers of yesteryear to the contemporary designers of today, not forgetting the major brands or border employees, watches have left an indelible mark on the area. Look out for Pequignet, Yema, Silberstein and Michel Herbelin watches - a market enjoying the fruits of its reputation.

The Museum of Time housed within Granvelle Palace at Besançon, combines local and clock-making history with the mysteries of time. This is a genuine voyage through time proving that clock-making in Franche-Comté is a passionate affair!

Pipes: tradition and passion

From 1750 onwards, when smoking was more popular, pipes were made from local wood: beech, alisier, boxwood and merisier. Around 1855, the chance discovery of heather gave a considerable boost to Saint-Claude, which became the bastion of pipe making whilst merisier is still the preferred wood for Baume-les-Dames pipes. Thousands of men and women have experienced this activity in the region and, nowadays, although only a few hundred or so remain, their work still bears the certificate of excellence.

Saint-Claude continues to rank as the world capital with hundreds of thousands of pipes manufactured here each year, accounting for 92 % of French production and 25 % of the international market. The confederation of master pipe manufacturers created in 1966 currently boasts a membership of more than 1000 world wide, selected for their passion for pipes: Edgar Faure, Jacques Faizant, Achille Zavatta, Michel Drucker and Claude Chabrol... a tradition that still draws the famous names today!

Diamonds: the 1 000 facets of Saint-Claude

There were many reasons for setting up the stone-cutting works in the upper Jura region: proximity to Switzerland, the availability of manpower during the long winter months and the presence of numerous water courses used to work the machinery. At its peak, this industry employed almost 3 500 people. Saint-Claude was then the 4th largest

manufacturing centre in the world. The legendary Jura workforce could not withstand two world wars, numerous crises and the search for cheaper labour in the seventies. Today, the Bailly, Favre Henry and Goujon houses together with the Guy establishments are the last to inherit a skill dating back several thousand years.

Peugeot: a key player in Comtois industry

Nowadays, the Peugeot plants are known as PSA Peugeot Citroën and are based on the original site of Sochaux-Montbéliard with a workforce of 22 000 and 2 000 cars leaving the production lines each day.

PSA Peugeot Citroën, the second European car manufacturer with 15.5 % of the market in 2002, is the automobile company that has witnessed the strongest internal growth over the past 5

years. Proud of its history but resolutely focused on the future, the PSA Peugeot Citroën group with its richly embroidered automobile and industrial past, has today reached the number one slot in Europe, in the wake of the Single European Market.

Enjoy a guided tour of the Sochaux site, free of charge, Monday to Friday by prior arrangement. Open all year round except in August.

The gourmand subsidiary

The local produce of Franche-Comté itself bears testimony to the richness of the region. Cheeses, cooked pork and salted meats, fruits, wines and spirits - nature is in rich and abundant evidence here, allowing everyone, from producer to consumer, to enjoy a savoury horn of plenty. The food is authentic and steeped in the history of patient men with a passion for their land. The gastronomic tradition is certainly apparent in Franche-Comté. It is a veritable heritage, an awareness and an on-going struggle to guarantee and protect the best that the soil can offer.

Colours, flavours and natural aromas take on a new dimension thanks to new developments and craftsman's knowledge of the region and its hidden tricks of the trade, helping to make this one of the most acclaimed areas in France in terms of AOC (produce of certified origin).

Numerous cellars, fruit-making plants, distilleries and farms are dotted throughout the region, inviting visitors to savour a highly diversified range of products.

See **Gastronomy and Regional Produce sheet**.

Famous characters and stories

7

Courbet, Pasteur, Hugo, the Lumière Brothers, Aymé, Pergaud... prestigious names that overwhelmed at the time, characters who will be remembered for posterity and men who still frequent the Comtois scene. Names as well as phrases, anecdotes, moments, inventions or airs have had their impact on the nation as a whole but actually originated in Franche-Comté. From Cambronne to the Marseillaise or the motto "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" - major pages in history have been written, all of which have, undoubtedly drawn their inspiration from a region of character.

Famous characters

Aymé, Pergaud, Proudhon and Hugo... these men of letters were born in Franche-Comté

Marcel Aymé (1902 - 1967) became famous thanks to the numerous works of art where fantasy and satire bordered on the fantastic.

Born in Belmont in the upper Saône region, *Louis Pergaud* (1882 - 1915) was a teacher. A neo-symbolist poet, who was awarded the Goncourt Prize in 1910, he is the author of many novels and stories inspired by the Comtois region.

Pierre-Joseph Proudhon (1809 - 1865) was born in Besançon. A socialist theorist and politician, this revolutionary anarchist became famous for his ideological conflicts with Marx and Fourier, etc.

Victor Hugo (1802 - 1885) was born in Besançon at the foot of the Citadel. The son of an Empire general, his rich work had a lasting impression on French literature. Poet and novelist, Victor Hugo also entered the realm of politics becoming Deputy in 1848. A French Officer and a Gentleman, his ashes were transferred to the Panthéon.

The master of Ornans

Gustave Courbet was born in Ornans, in the Doubs region in 1819. A friend of Proudhon, the artist became the Principal of the French school of realism. He is the author of numerous famous works including "un enterrement à Ornans" (burial at Ornans), which is exhibited at Orsay Museum. Hunting in the forest, hiking through the wild Jura landscape or strolling alongside Comtois rivers and lakes, all of his works bear the hallmark of his escapes to the heart of Comtois country.

The Father of Palaeontology

Georges Cuvier, born in Montbéliard in the XVIIIth century, is considered one of the ten greatest scientists of all time, following in the footsteps of Galileo and Newton, etc. He enjoyed a prestigious career as a learned man and is nowadays known as the Father of Scientific Palaeontology (the study of fossil remains). Thanks to his multifaceted research that defined "the Compared Anatomy", the great scientist from Montbéliard gave a relative age to the remains of fossils to identify the four major geological periods that revolutionised the world.

Oudot and his contemporaries

Some regions conjure up vivid images and poetry more so than others - Franche-Comté is one such region. Oudot and his contemporaries, Bichet, Bourgeois, Belle, Roz, Gantner, Fernier, Charigny and Clavel ... all are the conscious interpreters of the spectacle of nature in Franche-Comte, of its seasons, people and way of life. If many artists have in fact attributed their native or adopted land to Franche-Comte, then it is because they have found a wealth of sensations and emotions here. They have drawn their inspiration to paint and write from the various guises of ever-changing Mother Nature.

Georges Oudot, a French sculptor born at Chaumont in 1928, moved to Besançon where he practised an art characterised by amplitude of forms and serenity of style (naked women). He designed a Proudhon monument at Besançon.

Jean-Claude Bourgeois is a native of Franche-Comte, who was born at Besançon. It was here, in his native town, that he attended the School of Fine Arts and acquired the knowledge without which his talent would not have flourished. He met Georges Oudot here, who became a close friend. His influence is evident. The landscapes he painted (along the lines of Courbet) will take you out of this world. A subtle work.

Originating from Franche-Comte, *Charles Belle* led a unique and independent career regardless of worries, trends or movements. He preferred to paint still life: fruits, vegetables and scenes of Comtois life. This is an artist who moved at the natural pace of things.

Amongst the region's famous artists, *André Roz* (1887-1946) seems to be rather an exception because of his close eye for detail. Based in the region of Franche-Comté, he remained very conscious of the various painting movements that followed each other and hit Paris in the early part of the 20th century. Roz's work remains closely linked to the Jura where the painter lovingly and resolutely sought to reveal the region's secrets.

Bernard Gantner was born at Belfort in 1928. His childhood was devoted to art and he spent all of his summers in the countryside bordering Belfort, collecting plants and insects, studying nature with an already professional eye. From the age of 10 onwards, he devoted his entire life to painting. Up until 1958, he still drew and painted in oblivion. His subjects? - flowers, interiors, still life, people and working gardens. The "Critics Prize" awarded to him in 1961, marked the start of his international career.

Bernard Clavel was born in 1923 at Lons-Le-Saunier, in the Jura. He received more than 20 literary awards, including the Goncourt Prize for "Les fruits de l'hiver" (Winter fruits). Both cinema and television have extensively drawn from his work.

Specialising in France-Comtois landscapes, the artist, *Charigny*, was born in Paris in 1902 and focused in his work on the rural aspects of the region. He was overwhelmed by the landscape that emerged from his canvass depicting pine trees, lakes and rocks, snow, rivers and trees.

Pierre Bichet adored the snow, which, every winter, transformed the appearance of his native Franche-Comté. He constantly celebrated this magical time in his work, which continues to surprise, even today. Born in Pontarlier (upper Doubs region) in 1922, he became, quite by chance, the scriptwriter of Haroun Tazieff,

which took him on a tour of the world lasting several years. He became an insatiable traveller alternating between travelling and brief stays in his Pontissalien studio where he continued to work as a painter and lithographer. This discipline encouraged him to attempt to explain the aspects of the Jura Massif region with which he forged a secret complicity. Over the years, he increased his collection of sketches depicting a succession of Jura mountains, villages and highlights.

Last, but not least, *Fernier* (1895-1977). Not only was he a winter and summer poet, but also a leader - his pupils Charigny, Jouffroy, Roz, and many others are cast from the same mould, bearing testimony to an artistic past of which they are the end result. He has simply utilised the region's wealth of inspiration confirming that art offers one of the best possible refuges for mankind.

All of these were the conscious interpreters of Comtois nature

Pierre and Marie Curie, Pasteur... Benefactors of humanity

This famous XIXth century couple, *Pierre et Marie Curie*, were basically devoted to the phenomenon of radioactivity.

Nowadays, they are famous throughout the world for their discovery of two new metals in 1898: polonium and radium, the latter being used today particularly in the management of cancer and lupus.

During an Elysée reception, Pierre Curie recounted that his family originated from Montbéliard. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that the name Curie is widely found in this particular region.

The couple were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1903 and their ashes were taken to the Panthéon - the final resting place of many of France's greatest names.

Louis Pasteur (1822 - 1895) was born in Dole, in the Jura. His incredible discoveries and vaccinations provide the basis for the crucial advance of humanity. He was a member of the French Academy and founder of the institute that bears his name.

The Lumière brothers

These famous inventors of cinematography, *Auguste and Louis Lumière* (1862 - 1954 and 1864 - 1948), were born in Besançon. Louis Lumière was a member of the Academy of Sciences. After his discovery, Auguste turned to biology and founded the pharmaceutical laboratory in Lyons that bears his name.

The illustrious Granvelle family

The Granvelle family represent symbolic figures in Franche-Comté. This long Franche-Comté line owes part of its history to *Nicolas Perrenot de Granvelle*, Lord de Granvelle born at Ornans. He was the friend and advisor of Emperor Charles Quint. *Antoine de Granvelle*, son of the former, was born in Besançon in 1517 and was a cardinal and minister of the Emperor and of Philippe II. This illustrious family, who were very attached to the region and proud of their services to the Empire, had a palace built at Besançon, symbolising the success of the Granvelle father and son.

Famous stories

Franche-Comté is home to many famous men who invented stories that are as varied as the landscape: Louis Pasteur at Dole, an art town and the former capital of the region, Rouget-de-L'Isle at Lons-le-Saunier or Georges Colomb, creator of the famous "Camember Sapper" at Lure, in the upper Saône region, nestling in the delightful Ognon Valley where such picturesque castles and villages can be found.

The Marseillaise (French National Anthem) by Rouget de Lisle

Born on 10 May 1760 at Lons-le-Saunier, Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle spent his youth in the Jura town. His talents as a composer and poet were evident from a very young age. Destined for a military career, he entered the school of Civil Engineering. The Revolution did not in any way interrupt his military career. On the night of 24 - 25 April 1792, as captain of the 5th engineering regiment in the Rhine army when war was declared on the King of Bohemia and Hungary, he improvised a war song (which was later known as the "Marseille Hymn") for the Rhine Army.... ensuring that his name was recorded for all time!

The motto "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité" (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity)

We owe this motto to Antoine-François Momoro, born in Besançon in 1746 and decapitated in Paris at Robespierre's command on 24 March 1794.

Momoro was one of the most influential members of the Cordeliers Club for whom he wrote the newsletter/bulletin. In 1789, he referred to himself as the "first freedom printer". It was as commissioner of public festivals in 1792 that he had displayed everywhere the famous motto, "Liberty, equality, fraternity or death". The last words, "or death" disappeared shortly afterwards and the saying was left as it appears today on all public monuments and official documents relating to the French Republic.

The "Cambronne word"

... uttered for the first time by a Franche-Comté general serving Napoléon, General Michel.

Cadet Roussel

Guillaume Roussel, the popular figure who is better known by the name of Cadet Roussel, was born in Orgelet in 1743. He left for Auxerre at the age of 20 and became a bailiff. He was jovial, good living and slightly eccentric, but was liked by his fellow citizens. A song was written about him. In 1792, his friend, Chenu, wrote the song of Cadet Roussel, gently mimicking him and adopting the air of Jean de Nivelles. The Auxerre volunteers made this little song their own in the army. The soldiers enthusiastically adopted it and it became the war song of the Northern Army.

The Camember Sapper

Georges Colomb, born at Lure on 25 May 1856, was an arts teacher. One of his pupils was a delicate adolescent, Marcel Proust. Forced to seek a second income in addition to teaching, Colomb became an illustrator and penned illustrated stories. Thus the works of Colomb, the Lure author, were born: *Cosinus de Paris*, *Fenouillard de St-Rémy sur Deule* and the famous *Camember de Lure*, each of these three titles having been published in then " *Petit Français Illustré* " between 1889 and 1899. The *Sapeur Camember*, created in 1896, became a cult figure in the Town of Lure over time. Today, the character is part of the local heritage and represents laughter, irony and fun.

Balthazar Gérard, the assassin of Guillaume d'Orange (William of Orange) and father of democracy in the Netherlands

Balthazar was born in Vuillafans (Doubs) in 1557. At the age of 12, he left to study at Dole University at a time when this school enjoyed a particularly prestigious reputation. On taking up his parliamentary post, Balthazar heard of the wrong-doings committed by the Prince of Orange in the Netherlands. Balthazar expressed his hatred for this prince in high places and said on several occasions that he would kill him. As for Philippe II, he wished to get rid of the Prince of Orange at any price and offered 25 000 gold sovereigns to anyone who would kill him. A blind fantasy gripped Balthazar, inciting him to take up the gauntlet and kill the prince.

Oehmichen, inventor of the helicopter

Born on 15 October 1884 at Châlon-sur-Marne, Etienne Oehmichen discovered his vocation when his uncle offered to take him on his first hot air balloon trip at the Lyon Fair. It sealed his destiny because he said, "When I grow up, I will create a machine that will go straight up into the sky, just like this!".

At the age of 13, he moved to the Montbéliard region and spent thirty or so years at Valentigney where he carried out his initial tests. Supported financially by Peugeot where he worked as an electrical engineer, Etienne Oehmichen took off in 1921 in the first rotor device. The flight lasted one minute and reached a height of 10 metres - the first vertical take-off! Then, after several further attempts, Etienne Oehmichen set off for Arbouans on 4 May 1924 to try out another test using a second device: a closed circuit of one kilometre at an altitude of one to three metres. In 1935, he made a perfectly safe engine fly for the first time, keeping it at 20 m above ground and balancing perfectly.

Etienne Oehmichen died in 1955. He now rests in the region where he carried out his initial testing at Arbouans.

This inventor from the Montbéliard region is also responsible for the dynamo principle, the automobile starting device and for improving the first French tank.

The Peugeot dynasty

The Peugeot family whose direct descendants nowadays manage the companies within the PSA Peugeot Citroën group, were always involved in rural life and craftsmanship in Franche-Comté.

"Peugeots" were already established in Vandoncourt, a small village in the Montbéliard region in Doubs, as far back as the 15th century. Farmers, their descendants went on to pursue careers in craftsmanship, the military and fabric production, often carving quite a name for themselves. Jean-Pierre, the founder of the industrial sector, was born in 1734.

However, everything really took off in the small region of Hérimoncourt, in the Doubs region, in the Peugeot windmill at Sous-Cratet. In 1812, Jean-Frédéric and Jean-Pierre Peugeot were granted permission by the Doubs Prefecture (local authorities) to transform their windmill into a laminated steel plant producing saw blades and clock springs as well as polished cylindrical steel. They founded the first company, "Peugeot Frères" (Peugeot Brothers). In 1818, the first patent was filed for saw manufacture. This opened up a new era - that of tool production. From 1840 onwards, the Peugeot coffee mill entered the realm of the kitchen, paving the way for a whole range of household appliances: irons, chopping utensils, sewing machines and washing machines, etc., including the famous pepper mill, which is still made today.

And so began the incredible adventure of the Peugeot family. Here are some important milestones in the Peugeot dynasty ... 1867: the launch of the "Peugeot Lion" brand for tools; 1886: construction of the first "Grand Bi" bicycle; 1889: creation of the first steam tricycle presented by Armand Peugeot (1849-1915) at the world exhibition held in Paris; 1913: opening of the "Sochaux-Montbéliard" plant; 1976: Peugeot and Citroën join forces... an amazing history to be discovered at the Peugeot Adventure Museum at Sochaux.

Robert Bichet, founder of the law governing the NMPP.

Initiator of the law dated 2 April 1947 "relating to the status of companies for the grouping and distribution of newspapers and periodicals", was the municipal Rougemont advisor between 1935 and 1945. During the Resistance, he collated secret information in Burgundy and Franche-Comté.

Jouffroy d'Abbans, inventor of the steamship

Originally from Abbans-Dessus (Doubs), Claude Jouffroy d'Abbans had a passion for mechanics right from an early age. Unfortunately, he was unable to pursue his dream as he was obliged by his parents to embark on a military career. In 1771, rivalry with his superior, the Colonel and Comte d'Artois (Count of Artois), took him to the Sainte-Marguerite fort, where he was incarcerated in cell overlooking the shipbuilding yard where the major royal marine ships were constructed.

It was this sight that led him to think of a machine to replace oars and why not sails? He designed the first steamship during his 2-year prison sentence.

Hilaire de Chardonnet, French chemist and industrialist

Was born in Besançon in 1839. He invented artificial silk in 1884 and, despite the difficulties he encountered in perfecting this process, opened up an artificial silk production plant at Besançon in 1891. Appointed member of the Science Academy in 1919, Chardonnet is considered to be the father of synthetic textiles, which nowadays play a major role in the international economic market. He was born at 2, place Jean Cornet in Besançon.

Jules Rimet, inventor of the Football World Cup

...the first goal being scored by someone from the Franche-Comte region!

Jules Rimet was born at Theuley-les-Lavoncourt (upper Saône region) in 1873.

However, he is not the only person from Franche-Comte to enter the world of football ... what about Jacques Santini and Michel Vautrot?