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Gripping the handlebars with the wind in your hair

In Burgundy-Franche-Comté, happiness is (also) about jumping in the saddle. Weaving your way between cliffs and valleys in the Jura Mountains. Venturing into the woodlands of the Morvan. Riding through the vineyards of Côte-d'Or or the Jura. Watching the scenery of the waterways drift by along the towpaths. Retro-style or for a Sunday ride, on a touring itinerary or a great escape, everyone can choose their own bike, their own style and their own itinerary. And because cycling brings happiness to all, the watchword here is pleasure.

The Saône-et-Loire Greenway: 20 years old already!

Opened in 1997, the Greenway currently links Chalon-sur-Saône and Mâcon along the Côte Chalonnaise. Following the path of an old railway line, this itinerary with a variety of different landscapes passes sites such as the Château de Cormatin and Cluny before it reaches its climax at the Roches de Solutré cliffs and Vergisson. Not to mention the vineyards of the Côte Chalonnaise and Mâconnais.

EuroVelo 6 is for lovers of wide open spaces

From the Black Sea to the Atlantic, nearly 4,000km separate Budapest and Nantes. In Burgundy-Franche-Comté, EuroVelo 6 covers 600km of itineraries that flank the rivers, canals and streams. On the programme in the region, from north to south, there is a succession of waterways, some of which are extremely meandering. They wind their way past Comtois bell towers and historic towns like Besançon, Dole, Chalon-sur-Saône, Paray-le-Monial or Nevers, as well as sites relating to a famous industrial past, such as Deluz, Montceau-les-Mines and Digoïn.

Along the towpaths or just a short ride away, EuroVelo6 combines the joy of cycling with the pleasures of beautiful nature and heritage discoveries.

The Charles the Bold cycling route is a trail brimming with history

From Bruges to Charolles, this trail follows the routes taken by the Dukes of Burgundy during their noble conquests. From the banks of the Saône to the wine producing hillsides, from Dijon to Santenay, it leads eventually to the town of « the Bold One »: Charolles. It sits alongside ancient Ducal vineyard plots that passed into Royal hands in 1477: « Le Clos du Roi », dating back to the Dukes of Burgundy.

This itinerary partially doubles-up with the **Véloroute 50** that heads off in the direction of Lyon. Towns, châteaux, beautiful houses and picturesque villages punctuate this trail and provide so many excuses to enjoy a cultural or gourmet break.

The Grande Traversée du Morvan (GTM) is only for the most daring.

Covering 2,400 km, the Morvan is currently the largest area in France that is equipped with trails for mountain biking. Among its 130 circuits, the « GTM » links Avallon with Autun via Saulieu. In total, it includes 330km of fun and gradients that pass through villages, scale the Morvan Mountains, loop around some of the great lakes of the Morvan and allow riders to explore the treasures of its cultural and natural heritage.

To round off these touring breaks, gîtes, guest houses and hotels that are happy to welcome cyclists are dotted right along the routes.

More information is available at

<http://en.bourgognefranchecomte.com/>

<http://en.bourgognefranchecomte.com/to-see-to-do/cycling/>

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