



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF VAUBAN IN BURGUNDY-FRANCHE-COMTÉ



Heritage

If ever there was a personality from the history of France that is known outside of her borders, it is truly Vauban. Military genius, builder, humanist; this is a man who greatly defined the region of his birth, nowadays known as Burgundy-Franche-Comté. In 2018 France celebrates the 10th anniversary of the classification of Vauban sites on the UNESCO World Heritage list. So put away your history books and come dive headlong into the life and works of Vauban ...in the place he called home! From north to south and east to west, here are the sites that bear his hallmark.

AT HOME WITH SÉBASTIEN LE PRESTRE DE VAUBAN AT CHÂTEAU DE BAZOCHES

The **Château de Bazoches**, the family home located on the northern boundary of his native Morvan, was his refuge whenever Louis XIV allowed him an all-too-rare holiday. Acquired thanks to Royal decree following the siege of Maastricht, it was transformed by Vauban in order to house his engineers in a gallery he created using every room. Countless maps and projects for fortified squares were drawn up here. The château is still owned by the descendants of Vauban who have opened it up to visitors for more than 20 years.

My highlights: the modest study with views of Vézelay where Vauban worked. A rare edition of the famous « Dîme Royale ». A footbath created to relieve the horses after their long journeys to the château. www.chateau-bazoches.com

MAISON VAUBAN AT SAINT-LÉGER VAUBAN

Situated in the little Morvan village where Vauban was born, this house presents the more **intimate side of Marshall Vauban**. 3 rooms allow you to explore his military works, but also his work as a builder, humanist and reformer.

Don't miss: The audio-visual film subtitled in English and German that sheds light on his life and works. www.vaubanecomusee.org

AUXONNE; A FORTIFIED TOWN BETWEEN BURGUNDY AND COMTÉ

Situated along the River Saône, this former fortified town between Burgundy and Comté had been a fortified square since the Middle Ages. When Vauban overhauled the bastions, he preserved the beautiful Porte de Comté, created the Porte Royale (1679) and built the Arsenal (1689) that was used for the construction of canon stands. www.auxonne.fr

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THE CITADEL OF BESANÇON

Covering nearly 12 hectares, encircled by a meander of the River Doubs, the **Citadel of Besançon** can rightly lay claim to being one of Vauban's most beautiful creations. From its ramparts, over 100 metres above the town, it offers some spectacular views.

This venue, unique in its genre, is home to three museums: **the Museum of the Resistance and of Deportation, the Musée Comtois, the Muséum with its variety of animal enclosures.**

My advice: begin your visit of the site with a stroll along the ramparts and follow the superb immersive audio-visual guide (15 minutes) in Saint-Etienne Chapel in order to fully understand the site and its genius creator. www.citadelle.com

THE CHÂTEAU DE JOUX: THE "BLUEPRINT" FOR VAUBAN

Located on a rocky outcrop that overlooks the lock at Pontarlier, the Château de Joux seems impenetrable. Following the peace treaty of Nijmegen in 1678, Louis XIV dispatched Vauban to fortify Franche-Comté. At the château, he reconstructed part of the dungeon and a third perimeter wall, renovated the great artillery tower, had deep moats dug, as well excavating a well to guarantee the water supply of the fort, and also had a fourth perimeter wall built.

The château acted as a veritable padlock between France and Switzerland and is a truly impressive site that is well worth an in-depth look. www.chateaudejoux.com

THE CITADEL OF BELFORT

The visit continues further north of the region with the Citadel of Belfort. Overlooking the town, the Citadel was a classic feudal château up until the 17th Century. Only the Tour des Bourgeois remains of this original structure. Among the 5 men who defined its history, the military engineer **Vauban strengthened its defences** on the orders of Louis XIV, notably thanks to the establishment of blockhouses, bastions and demi-lunes (1675).

My highlight: accessing the site on foot across the Porte de Brisach drawbridge and then taking the great tunnel. You realise the scale of the construction and the military precision of the work undertaken by Vauban! www.belfort-tourisme.com

In 2018, the network of Vauban sites marks 10 years of their classification by UNESCO ...it is the perfect opportunity to head off in the footsteps of Vauban in the place he called home!

<https://patrimoine.bourgognefranche-comte.com>

Discover more about Vauban [here](#)

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