Fribourg
Living up the differences

Highlights
Practical tips to make your stay in Fribourg unforgettable!
Come to Fribourg – and prepare to be surprised.

As you discover the Old Town with its medieval streets and houses transposed into the present.

Come to Fribourg and cross its bridges… bridges between two cultures, bridges linking the past and the future, the traditional and the modern.

Come to Fribourg to experience its contrasts.

Fribourg’s funicular is the only one of its kind in Europe that is powered by waste water. This service, linking the City centre with the medieval old town, has been running since 1889.

**OUR TIP!**

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*Highlights*

- The view from the top of the tower of the St. Nicholas Cathedral over the Old Town and Fribourg’s Prealps.
- The Old Town and its two hundred Gothic facades, one of the largest ensembles of preserved medieval architecture in Europe.
- The bridges over the Sarine River, built mainly to cope with the rapid growth of the city in the 13th and 14th centuries.
Take in Fribourg’s special atmosphere.

The pedestrian streets, the friendly terraces of its cafés. Savour the city, explore its treasures, museums and monuments.

Discover the works of contemporary artists, such as Alfred Manessier, Jean Tinguely, Niki de Saint Phalle, Mario Botta and Jean Nouvel.

Take a walk through history, leaving the ramparts to discover the medieval layout of the Old Town. Imagine shops and crafts of another era as the streets guide you past the Gothic facades.

Cross the bridges, sense the evolution between old and modern, and look past the ramparts to catch a glimpse of the future.

Highlights

Indulge your curiosity in the museums:
- Art and History Museum
- Espace Jean Tinguely – Niki de Saint Phalle
- Natural History Museum
- Swiss Sewing-Machine Museum
- Fri-Art, Contemporary Art Centre
- Swiss Puppet Museum
- Cardinal Brewery Museum
- Chemins de fer du Kuesenberg (Model railway museum)
- Gutenberg Museum

Bible+Orient, Exposition cabinet

OUR TIP!

Visit the Art and History Museum and its gardens (Hôtel Ratzé) to learn about Fribourg’s history and art.
Immerse yourself in the past.

Discover the magic of the Old Town, tread the cobbled streets, reach out and touch the stone of the bridges and feel the passing of time.

Enter the St. Nicholas Cathedral and be awed by the grandeur and grace of the Gothic architecture. Be inspired by the artistry of the builders, stone cutters and craftsmen who created it over the centuries. Climb the 365 steps of the spiral staircase to the top of the tower and you might hear the chimes of some of its thirteen bells, among the oldest in Switzerland.

Discover Fribourg, its history and traditions with an audio guide. Available in French, German, English, Spanish and Italian at the Fribourg Tourisme et Région.

**Highlights**

- **The fortifications** that form the largest ensemble of medieval military architecture in Switzerland. Two kilometres of ramparts, fourteen towers, a large boulevard called the «Belluard», built in 1490, which is one of the few constructions of this type to have been preserved in Switzerland.

- **The Way of St. James**, the 9th century medieval pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, which passes through Fribourg’s city centre, then over the St. Apolline bridge (13th century) and on to the small city of Romont.

- **The fountains** and their statues, with evocative names such as La Force (Strength), La Vaillance (Valor), La Fidélité (Loyalty)…
Get energized by Fribourg’s athletes. Cheer the ice hockey team.

Take part in the annual Morat–Fribourg footrace commemorating the 17-kilometre run by a messenger brandishing a linden branch and bearing news of the victory at the battle of Morat in 1476.

Run in the Tzampata and climb over 1385 steps.

Experience vibrant Fribourg!

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**Highlights**

- **The Motta Lido**: from May to September, the first public baths in Switzerland to be built outside a body of water (1923). Admire the cathedral from the swimming pool, a veritable period piece with its enclosing walls topped with red tiles and its blue, numbered cubicles.

- **The Morat–Fribourg race** (October).

- **The Tzampata run**: up and down the steps of Fribourg’s Old Town (May).

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**OUR TIP!**

Switzerland’s first urban golf: discover the city as you play a 18-hole course.
Feast on a banquet of entertainments and experiences.

Taste the words, the magical stagecraft, the talent, the poetry of a stolen moment. Discover Fribourg’s theatres and their national and international productions, companies on tour and new creations, and a host of creative shows – puppets, clowns and comedians. You’ll be dazzled by the quality, audacity and originality of the bold and original Fribourg scene, in its new theatre, a jazz cellar or a concert hall.

Attend an unforgettable show at the new Equilibre performance hall, with close to 700 seats, located in the heart of Fribourg.

Our Tip!

All the important events – the theatre season, opera, dance and ballet performances, classical concerts, jazz, rock and shows for children – are listed on our website: www.fribourgtourism.ch
From city to countryside in no time at all.

Leave the bustle of the city – a few steps will take you into the magical wilderness of the Gottéron valley. Enjoy the bracing coolness as you follow the river and step into a world where you just might encounter dragons, sprites, or witches.

Or follow the paths along the lake of Pérolles through a nature reserve where you may be lucky enough to observe a goosander, gadwall, or teal among the reeds or by the cliffs in a grand and beautifully preserved environment.

An original way to discover Fribourg is to reserve a themed visit – legends, biodiversity, geology – at Fribourg Tourisme et Région.

**Highlights**

*Signposted walking trails:* Ritter, Schoch, Pérolles.

*The Waterway Trails:* this tour of the lake of Pérolles and the three rivers takes you on a journey of discovery along the water’s edge. There are two itineraries, of 8 or 11 kilometres, punctuated with 28 interpretive stops.

*Canoe/kayak rides*
Take a walk... on the traditional side.

Enveloped in the aromas of mulled wine and gingerbread, imagine that you’re Saint Nicholas on your donkey laden with baskets of goodies, making your way through the eager crowd, their hands outstretched to receive a treat... pushing your way through the throng assembled in front of the Cathedral to reach the esplanade where you’ll deliver your speech... and then, in a halo of red light, surrounded by bogeymen, you’ll bless the children and promise to return the following year.

Fribourg honours St. Nicholas, its patron saint, with a splendid celebration on the first Saturday in December (parade and market).

Highlights

- **The Carnaval des Bolzes**: one of Fribourg’s most popular events. Families, masked revellers, Guggenmusik bands and a shower of confetti are all part of the lively parade.
- **La Benichon**: an ancient feast of thanksgiving. The menu is made up of specialities and country dishes prepared with regional products (September).
- **Cheese fondue**: the traditional dish is a subtle blend of Fribourg’s cheeses (gruyère and vacherin).
- **Villars Maître Chocolatier**: since 1906 Villars honours tradition with its famous handmade chocolates.

**OUR TIP!**

Fribourg honours St. Nicholas, its patron saint, with a splendid celebration on the first Saturday in December (parade and market).
Move to the beat.

Lose yourself in the music, classical or contemporary, thrill to rock bands. Attend events – today’s musical trends are well represented on the local and regional artistic scene.

Share convivial moments in bars and cafés, seek out cozy spots in the old quarters and trendy renovated factory lofts favoured by the young, close by the university.

Take the opportunity to attend one of the many diverse festivals: film, organ, guitar, jazz, international folk music… special enriching cultural experiences and encounters that offer a window on the world.

Our Tip!

The Fri-Son cultural centre presents diverse shows, the musical and artistic trends of today and tomorrow.

Highlights

- The Fribourg International Film Festival, FIFF (March)
- The Belluard-Bollwerk International, BBI (July)
- The Jazz Parade «La Liberté» (July)
- The International Sacred Music Festival (annual, in July)
- The Fribourg Lieder Festival (annual, in July)
- The International Guitar Festival Fribourg (September)
- The International Festival of Organ Music Fribourg (September)
- The Advent Concerts of Villars-sur-Glâne (December)
The great chefs of Fribourg’s many gourmet restaurants will whet your appetite with masterfully prepared seasonal menus that highlight regional products with authenticity, creativity and elegance – an incomparable and unforgettable experience.

Try Fribourg’s specialities, typical regional dishes such as cabbage, ham on the bone, the local botzi pears, meringues with the rich thick cream from Gruyère, anise seed bread or «bricelets», thin waffle biscuits… and don’t forget to try the «cuchaule», a brioche-like sweet saffron bread to be eaten with the famous bénichon mustard, a delicious blend of sweet and spicy flavours.

Get together around a pot of fondue – half-and-half or vacherin. This shared dish creates a friendly mood, a special moment to be savoured along with the melted cheese.
Discover the pace and atmosphere of this student town with its 12,000 students and hundreds of professors of all nationalities.

Sense the economic vitality of this bilingual city at the crossroads of Switzerland and Europe, whose dynamic representatives carry Fribourg far beyond its borders.

Combine conviviality and efficiency – Fribourg has the hotel and conference facilities to host your congresses, seminars and meetings.

Fribourg looks forward to the future.

The Fribourg’s Innovation & Technology Park, soon to be built on the Cardinal Brewery site.

**Highlights**

- The University of Fribourg: one of the rare bilingual universities in Europe (French/German).
- The Fribourg Forum: 15,000 m² of exhibition space and large meeting rooms.
- The Fribourg Fair (September/October).
- The Fribourg Barrière Casino.
- Hotels and seminar rooms: for up to 500 persons in the city centre.

Fribourg Tourism’s congress service: for the organization of congresses, seminars and other events (preparation, technical organization, accommodation, catering and tours).

Our Tip!

Fribourg’s Innovation & Technology Park, soon to be built on the Cardinal Brewery site.
The power of silence.

Stop in a monastery and absorb the peaceful prayer-filled silence. Discover the wealth of religious art that has been tucked away in the Fribourg landscape for centuries.

Let the mystery of faith flow over you as you admire the stained-glass windows of the great masters Józef Mehoffer and Alfred Manessier at the St. Nicholas Cathedral. Take in the altarpiece by the Masters of the Carnation, a group of anonymous artists of the 15th century who signed their masterpieces with two red and white carnations, or stop for a moment of contemplation before the Black Virgin in the Church of the Cordeliers. And in the spring, witness living faith during the Corpus Christi procession.

Take the time to listen, let yourself be moved by the strains of the organ music in the St. Nicholas Cathedral, a symbol of Fribourg’s cultural heritage.

**Highlights**

**Monasteries:** Maigrauge, Montorge, Visitation and Hauterive.

**Stained-glass windows:** Mehoffer’s windows in the St. Nicholas Cathedral are among the most important European ensembles of stained-glass windows in the Art Nouveau style. Alfred Manessier also left his personal imprint on the cathedral’s Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre.

**A demonstration of the art of stained-glass:** Michel Eltschinger, master glassworker in Villars-sur-Glâne. Visit upon request.

**Organ concerts:** St. Nicholas Cathedral and Church of the Collège Saint-Michel.

**Organs:** Manderscheidt (St. Nicholas Cathedral and the Hôpital des Bourgeois) and Mooser (St. Nicholas Cathedral, Monastery of Montorge and Church of the Visitation). Visit upon request.

**Corpus Christi procession:** end of May beginning of June.

**A heritage of historical organs unique in Switzerland – the organs of Sebald Manderscheidt (17th century) and Aloys Mooser (19th century).**
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