

# The excursions at the Congress

Three excursions are scheduled during the Congress: in the morning on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> through the city or the citadel of Besançon ; in the afternoon on Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> to the Museum of Comté Houses or to the the Osselle cave, and full day on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans (with a light lunch there), and in the afternoon to the Lison Springs and a visit to a traditional cheese farm. On the evening of that day, back in Besançon, the Congress dinner will take place.

## Excursion options

You will have a choice between three options on Friday morning from 9.00 am to noon(A1, A2, A3) and two on Saturday afternoon (B1, B2) from 2.00 to 6.00 pm. On Monday, one excursion (C) from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. Cold drinks will be offered on each excursion. There is no limitation to your right for shooting 3-D photographs on all the excursions.

- A1: Discovering Besançon on a boat trip on the loop around the historic city on the river Doubs, the loop being completed through the tunnel under the Citadel.
- A2: Guided walking tour in the historic city, with a visit to the Fine Arts Museum.
- A3: Discovering Besançon with a small train going up to the citadel and visit of its museums.
- B1: The Museum of Comté houses at Nancray.
- B2: The Osselle cave.
- C: The Royal Salt Works at Arc-et-Senans, free visit of the gardens and the local museums, lunch at the "Saline", then a guided bus tour at the Lison Spring and visit of a cheese farm.

## The city of Besançon

A lot of outstanding historic 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries monuments, most of them built with the typical bluish and ochre stones from nearby quarries, are situated inside the loop of the river Doubs, less than one mile in diameter.

## The Fine Arts and Archeology Museum

Situated in the heart of the town, in the loop of the river Doubs, the Museum claims to be one of the oldest public collections in France. It dates back to 1694. New collections were added throughout the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries as a result of substantial donations. The Museum also receives prestigious collections from the Government, the results of archaeological excavations and major purchases. The Museum, housed in a former corn exchange inaugurated in 1843 and completely overhauled in the late 1960s by the architect Louis Miquel, a disciple of Le Corbusier, belongs to the network of the 22 largest regional museums in France. Thanks to the variety, quality and wealth of the collections, the Besançon Fine Arts and Archaeology Museum provides a sweeping overview of western art from prehistoric times up to about 1950. A model of the city, as it was in 1700, is also displayed in the Museum.

## The citadel of Besançon

Besançon's Citadel, one of Vauban's masterpieces, was built between 1668 and 1711. It extends over some 11 hectares and stands more than 100 metres above the old town, which lies below in a magnificent site almost entirely encircled by the river Doubs. The Citadel is a fortress that has been restored to a remarkably high standard, and is now a unique cultural and tourist attraction, where you can explore both history and the living world of nature.

**Living world of nature:** A unique museum in an exceptional site, illustrates the diversity of the living world : birds, mammals, including species in danger of becoming extinct, macaques, tigers, small nocturnal mammals, insects and arthropods, the Aquarium, naturalized collections of vertebrates, and a room devoted to astronomy and meteorology.

**History:** Vauban, his century, his work, and the history of the Citadel. Franche-Comté's people, landscapes and traditions. The Museum of Resistance and Deportation during WWII. Magnificent views over the city from the ramparts.

### **The Museum of Comté Houses at Nancray**

The purpose of the open air Museum of Comté houses is to preserve and develop Franche-Comté's rural heritage in all its diversity: architecture, furniture, farm machinery, botany (medicinal and aromatic plants, kitchen gardens, plants for dyeing and textiles), activity and folklore.

As in the tradition of Nordic open air museums, 25 buildings dating from the 17th to the 19th century have been dismantled stone by stone, beam by beam, and reassembled on the site.

In 35 acres of undulating parkland bringing to mind Franche-Comté's plains, mountains, valleys and plateaux, 25 Comté houses await you.

### **The Osselle cave**

Discovered in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, visited since 1504, its development started in 1751; and in 1826 skeletons of cave bears were discovered by the English paleontologist Buckland.

The "Grotte d'Osselle" is located in a cliff overlooking a meander of the river Doubs. During the French Revolution the cave was used as refuge. The underground river in one of the lower galleries is spanned by a small stone bridge (built in 1751) enabling visitors to see the so-called Organ Gallery. This cave is regarded as one of the most wonderful caves in Europe. Within the cave you can visit fifteen rooms each of varied shapes and character. The outstanding natural colours found here vary from blue to translucent orange. The cave is 8 km long, the tourist circuit 1300 m, the guided visit takes about one hour.

Besides the cave, you will visit an outstanding collection of minerals.

### **The Royal Salt Works at Arc-et-Senans**

Classified World Heritage of the UNESCO since 1982, the "Saline Royale d'Arc et Senans" is the masterpiece of Claude-Nicolas Ledoux (1736-1806), utopist architect of the Enlightenment. It also constitutes a rare testimony in the history of industrial architecture.

The "Saline Royale", a factory for the production of salt, was created at the wish of King Louis XV and built between 1774 and 1779, i.e. ten years before the French Revolution. At that time, the importance of salt was considerable. It was used mainly for conserving foodstuffs, glass and silverware manufacture, agriculture and medicine.

The manufacturing process was particularly complicated in view of the fact that its raw material ore was located ten miles away from Arc et Senans. Working on the principle that it is easier to make water travel than to travel through the forest to fetch it, underground wooden pipes were used to bring saline water ("saumure") from Salins, where it was extracted. As for the fuel required for the heating process, it was found just behind the salt works in the Chaux forest. When the salted water arrived on site it was heated in large pans so that the water evaporated. The salt thus recovered was sold either in grains or moulded into cakes, according to its destination.

The Royal Salt Works functioned as an integrated factory where nearly the whole of the working community was living. Built in the form of a semi-circle, it contained both residential and production premises, eleven buildings in all.

Obsolete because of new technologies, the "Saline Royale" closed its doors in 1895. Abandoned, pillaged and burnt in 1918, the Doubs' department acquired it, saving it from ruin, in 1927, then started to restore it. The Claude-Nicolas Ledoux Institute, an international centre for the Future, was installed in 1972. Three successive phases of restoration ended in 1996 when the restoration and revision of its lawns and gardens returned it to its former splendour. From that date it has been dedicated to the theme of the city, it hosts seminars, exhibitions and architectural schools...

The architectural character of the Royal Salt-works, its history and its rehabilitation make it a unique monument.

### **Lison spring**

The Lison spring is found deep in a blind valley, near the Edge-tool workshop ("Taillanderie") at Nans-sous-Sainte-Anne. Like the river Loue, of which it is a tributary, it is a fine example of the resurfacing of a river, typical of "karstic" areas. Various interesting features are found nearby, such as the "Creux-Billard" (an extensive hollow over 50 m deep) and the "Pont du Diable" (Devil's bridge). You will also visit a traditional cheese farm within walking distance from the spring.