

Tour
Information



The Jura Mountains by Rail





Travel

Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to France.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

French consulate: PO Box 57, 6A Cromwell Place, London SW7 2EW; Tel (020) 7838 2000/1. Information Service: Tel (0891) 887 733, Fax: (020) 7838 2046. Opening hours: 0900-1130 (and 1600-1630 for visa collection only) Mon-Fri (except British and French national holidays).



Tickets

You will be issued with a return train ticket. Please take care not to lose your tickets and please check that the details on your tickets are accurate. Your ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.

Standard Premier on Eurostar tickets is indicated by two asterisks in the class type section in the top right hand corner. A light meal will be served to passengers travelling Standard Premier on Eurostar. Standard class Eurostar tickets do not include any food or drink on board, although there is a buffet car serving drinks and snacks.

TGV tickets do not include any food or drink on board, although a buffet car is available.

Train Seats

On all legs of the journey you have reserved seat and carriage numbers which are shown clearly on your ticket.



Baggage

As with most trains, passengers are responsible for carrying baggage onto and off the train. Baggage can be stored on overhead shelves or at the entrance to the carriages. Trolleys are available at St Pancras and Lille, but bags do need to be carried on to the platform. Porters are sometimes but not always available at St Pancras.

Travel Editions recommends a luggage delivery service called **thebaggageman**, where your suitcase can be picked up from your home before departure and delivered straight to your hotel; therefore removing the worry about carrying your cases onto and off the trains.

For further information:

<http://www.thebaggageman.com>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Transfers

On arrival in Besançon, transfer by coach to Malbuisson (approx. 1 hour) and the Hotel Le Lac.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

Hotel Le Lac, Malbuisson

Located in a delightful area of the Jura Mountains close to Lake Saint-Point, the family owned 3-star Hotel Le Lac offers panoramic views of the stunning surroundings. Facilities at this charming characterful hotel include bar, outdoor swimming pool, garden with a lovely view and cosy bedrooms with private bath/shower, hairdryer (ask at reception), TV, telephone, and wi-fi. Rooms at Hotel Le Lac do not include coffee/tea making facilities, so we suggest you bring a travel kettle if required.

Meals are taken in the hotel, at the rustic restaurant *A La Ferme* and a fondue night at their restaurant *Du Fromage* for a truly typical local flavour.

For more information visit their website
<http://www.hotel-le-lac.fr/>



Food

General de Gaulle once asked, with a certain amount of pride, how it was possible to rule a country which produced 365 different kinds of cheese; the Jura region makes an important contribution to this selection. *Comté, Tête de Moine, Morbier, Mont d'Or, Bleu de Gex, Munster, Emmental* and the runny *cancoillotte* are enjoyed with bread and fruit, or used as an ingredient of one of the many cheese-based dishes of the area, such as the *fondue comtoise*. Various *charcuterie* specialities are also found in the area – *Porc de Franche-Comté, Jambon de Luxeuil, Saucisse de Morteau, Saucisse de Montbelliard, langue de boeuf fumé* (smoked beef tongue) and *Saucisse d'Ornans* (invented in 1986, pork and *chanterelle* smoked sausage). Other popular dishes include *coq au vin jaune*, trout (cooked in red wine, white wine or with walnuts), *escargots*, and various kinds of mushrooms (*chanterelles, morilles*).

Traditional sweets include *Tarte aux myrtilles* (bilberry tart), *Galette de Goumeau, pain d'épice* (ginger bread), *gâteau aux noix et au chocolat* (chocolate and walnut cake), and *pet de nonne* (choux pastry *beignet*). Coffee is always served after the meal and will be black, in a small cup, unless a *café au lait* (or *crème*) is requested.

Almost all restaurants offer two types of meals: *a la carte* (extensive choice for each course, generally more expensive) and *le menu* (a set meal at a fixed price). The bill (*l'addition*) will not be presented until it is asked for, even if clients sit and talk for half an hour after finishing their meal. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.

Generally speaking, mealtimes in France are strictly observed. Lunch is as a rule served from noon to 1330, dinner usually from 2000-2130, but the larger the city, the later the dining hour.



Drink

Wine is by far the most popular alcoholic beverage in France, and the choice will vary according to region. Set up by the Romans, the Jura *vignoble* is one of the oldest in France and praised by Pliny the Younger as early as the first century AD. Along with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, this wine produced in this area grows many less known grape varieties, such as the red Poulsard and Trousseau and the Savagnin, used to produce the famed *Vin Jaune* (or yellow wine, aged in a barrel for about 6 years). AOC Château-Chalon exclusively produces *Vin Jaune*. Local AOCs include Côtes du Jura, Crémant du Jura (whites), L'Etoile and Arbois (reds). Try the particular Macvin AOC (wine fortified with local brandy *marc*) and the *Vin de paille* (literally *straw wine*, a dessert wine made with grapes dried, traditionally on straw, before being pressed).

Local liqueurs include the famous *Chartreuse*, originally produced by the monks of the Chartreuse monastery, and *génépi*, also a herb based liqueur.

In elegant restaurants the wine list will be separate from the main menu, but in less opulent establishments will be printed on the back or along the side of the *carte*. The waiter will usually be glad to advise an appropriate choice. If in doubt, try the house wine; this will usually be less expensive and will always be the owner's pride.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner – daily



Destination

The Jura, a region of fresh air and open space, forests, lakes and mountains in eastern France, hugging the Swiss border, occupies an undiscovered yet beautiful corner of France. A delight for Francophiles - scenic beauty combined with historic interest, fascinating architecture and distinctive local cuisine and wine - this area is almost unknown in the UK, yet richly rewards the discerning visitor.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Malbuisson & Hotel Le Lac

In a wonderfully scenic spot above the Lake Saint-Point, Malbuisson is a tranquil village, typical of the Franche-Comté, sandwiched between the water and the forest. There are plenty of walking trails through the forest and around the lake – the perfect way to appreciate the village’s spectacular surroundings.

Arc-et-Senans and Arbois

Home of the Royal Saltworks, *Arc-et-Senas* was the brainchild of the great Parisian architect Claude-Nicolas Ledoux. He designed an ideal town-plan in which he envisaged a development built in concentric circles around the main buildings. Planned as a whole town, it was only the buildings used for salt production that were completed in 1775, leaving behind an excellent example of architecture built around a philosophy. The project has nonetheless left a legacy of fine buildings and a small museum dedicated to the idea.

Surrounded by row upon row of vines, the wine town of *Arbois* is famed for its silky rosé wine and distinctive sherry-like *Vin Jaune* (yellow wine). The town is equally renowned as the home of the great scientist Louis Pasteur, whose house and laboratory is completely preserved, converted into a museum, which we will have time to visit. Sitting in the bottom of a valley the town is wonderfully picturesque, perfect for a leisurely stroll along the pretty streets.

For more information about Arc-et-Senas:

<http://www.ot-arcetsenans.fr/en/>

For more information about Arbois:

<http://tourisme.arbois.com/en/home.htm>

Besançon

The Franche-Comté’s capital, Besançon and the handsome buildings of its old town are squeezed into a loop of the Doubs River. Due to its position, the town has quite a military history, the most obvious relic being the imposing *Vauban citadel* that sits on a hill above the town and offers magnificent views of the area. It now houses the *Musée Comtois* of local history, which focuses on the Resistance. Elsewhere in the town, main sights include the beautiful Renaissance *Palais Granvelle*, dating from the early 16th century, *Victor Hugo’s birthplace* at no. 140 Grande Rue, the *Porte Noir* Roman arch, and the *Astronomical clock*, a true symbol of the town's watchmaking heritage. Don't miss the *Musée des Beaux Arts* that houses works by Bellini, Rubens, Goya and local hero, Courbet.

For more information about Besançon:

<http://www.besancon-tourisme.com/>

Baume-les-Messieurs, Nozeroy and Château Chalon

One of the “Plus Beaux Villages de France”, *Baume-les-Messieurs* sits in a spectacular position at the meeting point of three dramatic valleys, its stone houses clustered around a 13th century Benedictine Abbey. This small monastic settlement enjoys a wonderfully tranquil setting and highlights include the church of *Saint-Pierre*, an austere *hotellerie* and one of Europe’s greatest triptych altarpieces, dating from the early 16th century.

A charming hilltop town, *Nozeroy* has much well-preserved medieval architecture including a gateway, church and the ruins of a castle.

Another of the “Plus Beaux Village”, gorgeous and picturesque *Château Chalon* keeps watch over acres of vineyards from its hilltop perch. It was here that the local *Vin jaune* was first produced.

For more information about Château-Chalon:

<http://www.chateauchalon.com/>

Neuchâtel and Château de Joux

Dominating the landscape from its location, the *Château de Joux* commands the pass 'Cluse de Pontarlier' in the Jura Mountains. The fort was remodelled by Vauban in 1690 and then modernised in 1879 and used as a prison between the 17th and 19th centuries. Today it sits on the route into Switzerland and houses a museum of arms. Popping over the border into Switzerland we continue to *Neuchâtel*, an attractive and historic lakeside town that is home to 32 sites that are listed as Swiss heritage sites of national significance, including a picturesque old town, *Collegiate Church*, *Castle*, *Prison tower* and several good museums most notably the *Musee d'Art et d'Histoire*.

For more information about Neuchâtel:

<http://www.neuchatel tourism.ch/en/home.html>

Ornans & the Vallée de la Loue

A delightful town strung along the Loue River, Ornans is noted as the birthplace of the great realist painter Gustave Courbet, who painted it and the beautiful surrounding landscape in a host of works. His house has been turned into a little museum. One of the most beautiful valleys in the Jura, the neighbouring *Vallée de la Loue* inspired many of his paintings and several belvederes offer splendid views.

For more information about Ornans & Vallée de la Loue:

<http://www.ornans-loue-lison.com/>

Reading Suggestions

Graham Robb, *The Discovery of France*.

A general introduction to French culture, landscape and history, it also features an excellent insight into the distinctive character of France's regions.

Bernard Levin, *From the Camargue to the Alps: A Walk Across France in Hannibal's footsteps*.

As the title suggests, English journalist Bernard Levin follows the Carthaginian military commander's path across France to Italy, describing history, landscape and culture on his way.

Wink Lorch, *Jura Wine: with local food and travel tips*.

A detailed, in-depth study of Jura wine, from the grapes, the climate to the wine producers and the region's history, this makes for an interesting and enjoyable read.

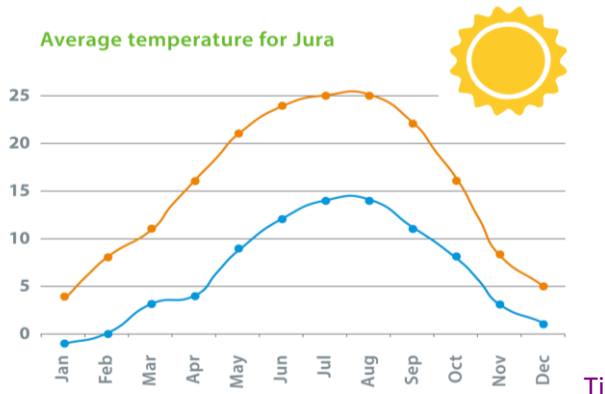
Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in the Jura at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT +1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – French.

Religion – Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Victory in Europe day (08 May); Ascension day; Whit Sunday; Whit Monday; National day (14 Jul); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Armistice day (11 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Switzerland – Franc. 1CHF = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of 1000, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 CHF. Coins are in denominations of 5, 2, 1 CHF and 50, 20, 10, 5 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the

country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Department stores are open 0900-1830 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1200-1430. Some food shops (particularly bakers) are open Sunday mornings, in which case they will probably close Monday. Many shops close all day or half-day Monday. Please note that most museums close on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 20 7431 8201 or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

Consular services Paris

16 rue d'Anjou

75008 Paris

France

Tel: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00

Fax: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 27

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00.

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