

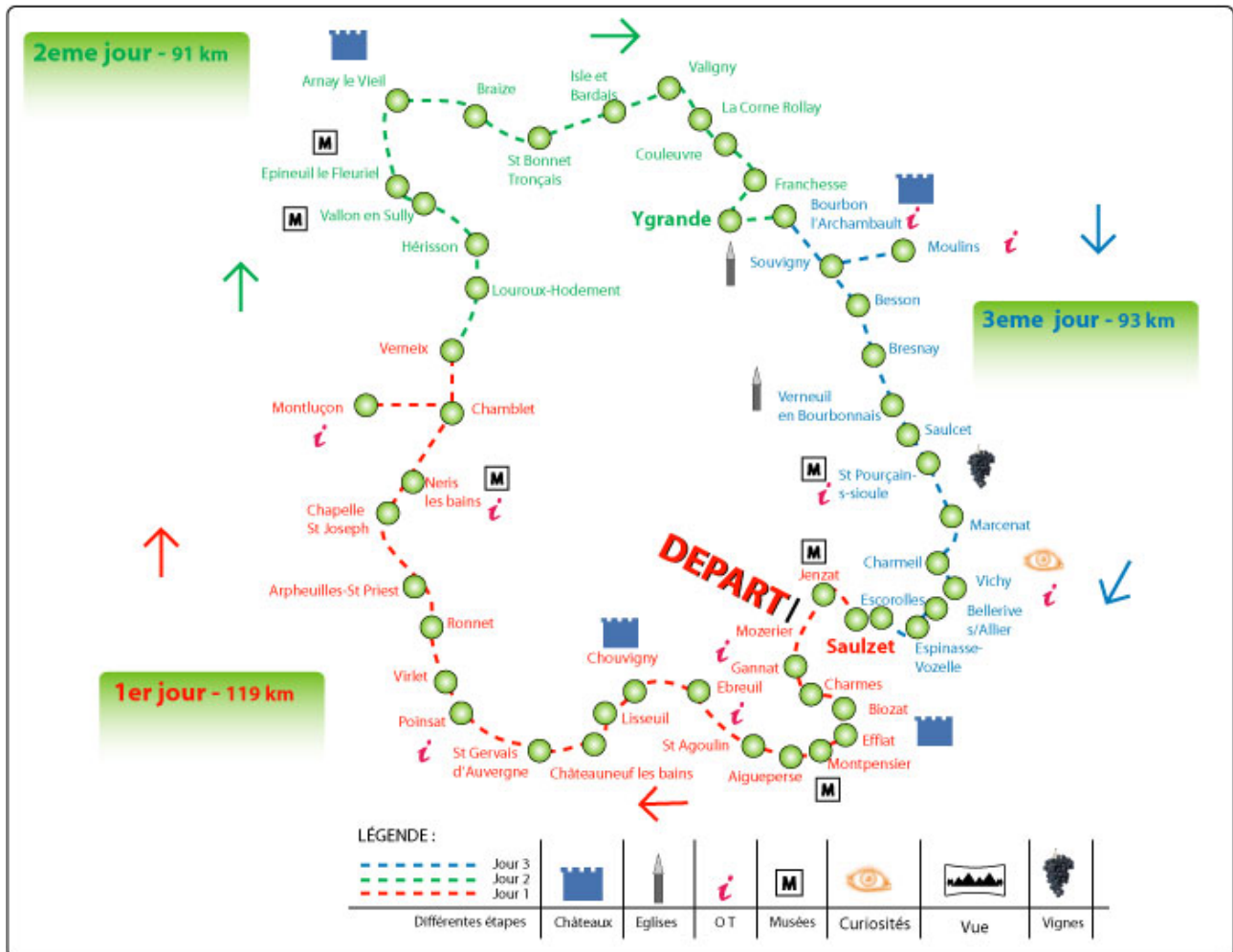


Spa towns, forests, bocages and Bourbonnais vineyard Circuit N°28



Bocages, copses, forests and small villages will prevail on this itinerary roads where the spa towns meet harmoniously the medieval villages on the hills of Saint-Pourçain vineyard.

<i>The travel book recommend the number of minimum days which can be devoted to the itinerary.</i>



Land of volcanoes and castles, Auvergne, scattered with lakes and forests, owns the richest Roman heritage in France and allies its modernity with the Vulcania park.

What to discover : The Medieval strongholds on the Allier river (La Palice castle, Bourbon stronghold, Archambault stronghold), The Cantal Mounds and its numerous Plombs and Puys, (le Puy Griou, le Puy Mary), The balneotherapy and fitness resorts : Vichy, La Bourboule, le Mont Dore, Royat, Chatel-Guyon. Le Lioran, summer and winter sport resort, la Chaise Dieu and its annual sacred musical festival ,St Julien basilica in Brioude, the Puy en Velay Black Virgin, Clermont-Ferrand historical centre.

Wines : Saint-Pourçain, Côtes d'Auvergne

Local Produce/Gastronomy : tripoux (tripes), cheeses (bleu d'Auvergne, Cantal, fourme d'Ambert, salers, saint-nectaire), green lentils (AOC), Mineral waters, Velay verbena, tablets from Vichy.

Traditional Handicraft : knife factory (Thiers) laces (Brioude, Le Puy en Velay), traditional paper mill(Ambert), umbrellas (Aurillac.)



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1 Day 1 :

At the heart of the Bourbonnaise Limagne the Beauverges castle is an architectural jewel from the XIIIth century.

The wheeled hurdy-gurdies made by the stringed-instrument makers from Jenzat are known by all European experts.

At the junction of the Bourbonnais and Auvergne, Gannat gathers both regional cultures symbolized by the oil language and the oc language.

On the edge of the Montpensier forest at Biozat, you will find a beautiful monument from the Auvergnat Roman art in Saint-Symphorien church, and farther the XVIIth century castle of Effiat and its garden in the French style with an outstanding nymphet.

The Montpensier hill towers the village of Aigueperse a fortified place which keeps nobility hotels.

Through a picturesque road you will reach Ebreuil after having visited the Roche castle, a feudal manor and Michel de l'Hospital's birth place in the XVI th century. Then you will reach the gorges of the Sioule and their major sites : Roc Armand, Pont de Menat, fortified castle of Chou vigny.

Châteauneuf-les-Bains is a spa town perched in the vicinity of a granite wooded spur surrounded by a superb twist of the Sioule. You will leave the valley of Sioule through Saint-Gervais of Auvergne and you will reach the plateaux which overlook the valley of Cher.

Famous since Antiquity for its beneficial waters, Nérís-les-Bains harbours remains from the Roman and Merovingian age.

You will cross the verdant valley of Lamaron to reach the stopping point.

1 Day 1 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
SAULZET	D42	0.0	
JENZAT	D216	3.0	
GANNAT	D119	7.0	
CHARMES	D119	0.0	
BOIZAT	D437	5.0	
EFFIAT	D	4.0	
MONTPENSIER	D	0.0	
AIGUEPERSE	D12	4.0	
LA ROCHE	D12	0.0	
SAINT-AGOULIN	D12	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D207	7.0	
EBREUIL	D915	7.0	
CHOUVIGNY	D915	0.0	
PONT DE MENAT	D109	13.0	
CHATEAUNEUF-LES-BAINS	D227	16.0	
SAINT-GERVAIS-D'Auvergne	D227	7.0	
POINSAT	D103	16.0	
VIRLET	D527	4.0	
RONNET	D160	5.0	
ARPHEUILLES-SAINT-PRIEST	D160	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D1089	4.0	
CHAPELLE SAINT-JOSEPH	D155	5.0	
NERIS-LES-BAINS	D155	2.0	
LES FERRIERES	D155	0.0	
CHAMBLET	D39	5.0	
SAINT ANGEL	D39	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D30	4.0	
VERNEIX	D30	1.0	



Day 1 : The lodgings suggested by french-itinerary.com

. CHARROUX

La Maison du Prince Condé (Chambres d'Hôtes) - 8 place d'Armes - 03140 CHARROUX
Phone : 0470568136 - @ : jspeer@club-internet.fr

. SAINTE-CHRISTINE

Le Tilleul (Chambres d'Hôtes) - Les Abouranges - 63390 SAINTE-CHRISTINE
Phone : 0473858760 - @ : laurent.biancheri@wanadoo.fr

. VENSAT

Château de Lafont (Chambres d'Hôtes) - 2 rue de la Côte Rousse - 63260 VENSAT
Phone : 0473642124 - fax 0473645083

. SAULZET

Château de Beauverges (Hôtel) - Château de Beauverges - 03800 SAULZET
Phone : 0470901382 - fax 0470901382

. SAINT-GERVAIS-D'AUVERGNE

Le Relais d'Auvergne (Hôtel) - Route de Châteauneuf - 63390 SAINT-GERVAIS-D'AUVERGNE
Phone : 0473857010 - fax 0473858566 - @ : relais.auvergne.hotel@wanadoo.fr

Castel-Hôtel 1904 (Hôtel) - rue de Castel - 63390 SAINT-GERVAIS-D'AUVERGNE
Phone : 0473857042 - fax 0473858439 - @ : info@castel-hotel-1904.com

. PIONSAT

La Forge du Château (Chambres d'Hôtes) - Cour du Château - 63330 PIONSAT
Phone : 0473526916 - fax 0473526916

. VERNEIX

Château de Fragne (Hôtel) - Château de Fragne - 03190 VERNEIX
Phone : 0470078810 - fax 0470078373 - @ : fragne@chateauxhotels.com

1 Day 1 : Visits selected by french-itinerary.com

. JENZAT

Maison du Luthiers
Phone : 0470568178

Maison Bordet (Curiosité)
Phone : 0470568401

. EFFIAT

Château (Château)
Phone : 0473636401

. AIGUEPERSE

Hôtel de Ville (Monument)
Phone : 0473637270

. LA ROCHE

Château La Roche (Château)
Phone : 0473636581

. CHOUVIGNY

Château de Chouigny (Château)
Phone : 0470904495

. NERIS LES BAINS

Maison du Patrimoine - 03310 NERIS LES BAINS
Phone : 0470034211

1 Day 1 : The Notebook practises of french-itinerary.com

. MONTLUCON

Office de Tourisme - 5 Place Pignaud - 03100 MONTLUCON



Phone : 0470051144 - fax 0470038991 - @ : ot.montlucon@auvergne.net

. MOULINS

Office de Tourisme - 11 rue François Péan - 03006 MOULINS
Phone : 0470441414 - fax 0470340021 - @ : ot.moulins@auvergne.net

Cycles Foudard (Location de vélos) - 168 route de Lyon - 03600 MOULINS
Phone : 0470462261

. GANNAT

Office de Tourisme - Place des anciens d'AFN - 03800 GANNAT
Phone : 0470901778 - fax 0470901945 - @ : ot.gannat@auvergne.net

. EBREUIL

Office de Tourisme - Mairie - 03450 EBREUIL
Phone : 0470907755 - fax 0470907824 - @ : ot.ebreuil@auvergne.net

. SAINT GERVAIS D'AUVERGNE

Office de Tourisme - Rue E. Maison - 63390 SAINT GERVAIS D'AUVERGNE
Phone : 0473858094 - @ : accueil@ot.stgervais-auvergne.fr

. NERIS LES BAINS

Office de Tourisme - Carrefour des Arènes - 03310 NERIS LES BAINS
Phone : 0470031103 - fax 0470031103 - @ : ot.neris-bains@auvergne.net



Spa towns, forests, bocages and Bourbonnais vineyard, Circuit N°28

2 Day 2 :

A few miles from the Cher, you will find at the Fragne castle a refined home. You will recharge your energy in the vast park extensions at the foot of age old trees.

Travelling along the Espinasse forest and at the end of a bocage you will discover the village of Hérisson. This old fortified village which reflects in the Aumance water inspired many painters from the Barbizon school.

Through a maze of castles and churches the river Aumance will lead you up to the river Cher in which it flows at Meaulne.

You will cross the river at Vallon-en-Sully to reach Epineuil-le- Fleuriel, where you will have the opportunity to discover the « Grand Meaulnes' world », an autobiographical novel by Alain Fournier.

The road follows the circuit of the former Berry canal and reveals one of the most beautiful stopping point on the Jacques Cœur paths at the Ainay-le-Vieil castle. The severe bulk of the medieval walls surrounding the castle hides a main central building in a Renaissance style displaying an inner outstanding setting.

You will leave the valley of Cher to sink in one the marvels belonging to the heart of France.

On the edge of the Bourbonnaise Sologne the Tronçais forest is a peaceful haven, a festival of colours you will cross when following the Génois wood forest which leads to the superb pond of Pirot.

To reach Franchesse you will have to cross another forest abounding in game and discover villages and their churches remarkable for their streamlined church tower such as the one of Ygrande, the end of the itinerary.

2 Day 2 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
VERNEIX	D39	0.0	
LOUROUX-HODEMENT	D39	8.0	
HERISSON	D157	5.0	
CHASTELOY	D157	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D110	6.0	
VALLON-EN-SULLY	D64	5.0	
EPINEUIL-LE-FLEURIEL	D	2.0	
BUHARD	D	7.0	
LA PERCHE	D	3.0	
AINAY-LE-VIEIL	D1	3.0	
MELSON	D1	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D101	5.0	
BRAIZE	D250	5.0	
SAINT-BONNET-TRONCAIS	RF	3.0	
ISLE-ET-BARDAIS	D	8.0	
LES BRUYERES	D	0.0	
VALIGNY	D14	3.0	
LA CORNE ROLLAY	D14	4.0	
COULEUVRE	D14	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D534	5.0	
FRANCHESSE	D135	8.0	
YGRANDE	D135	11.0	

2 Day 2 : The lodgings suggested by french-itinerary.com

. VERNEIX

Château de Fragne (Hôtel) - Château de Fragne - 03190 VERNEIX
Phone : 0470078810 - fax 0470078373 - @ : fragne@chateauxhotels.com

. YGRANDE

Château d'Ygrande (Hôtel) - Le Mont - 03160 YGRANDE
Phone : 0470663311 - fax 0470663363 - @ : reservation@chateauygrande.fr



Fait partie du Pass'Reve, Consultez la rubrique Bons plans

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Day 2 : Visits selected by french-itinerary.com

. VALLON EN SULLY

Maison des Arts et Traditions - 03000 VALLON EN SULLY
Phone : 0470065100

. EPINEUIL-LE-FLEURIEL

L'Ecole du Grand Meaulnes
Phone : 0248630482

. AINAY LE VIEIL

Château (Château)
Phone : 0248635003



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3 Day 3 :

When arriving at the Ygrande castle a splendid home in a 40 hectare park you will admire the magnificent landscapes of the Bourbonnaise countryside. Before discovering the valley of Allier, take time to admire the stone spire of the XIIth century church in the village of Ygrande.

Bourbon-l'Archambault, towered by the remains of the castle belonging to one of the dynasties which deeply marked the history of France gives out the discreet and exotic charm of the spa towns from this province.

The abbey unit of Souvigny is remarkable. The priory church Saint-Pierre-et-Paul consecrated in the XIth century, has kept two church towers from the primitive Roman building.

You will approach the valley of Allier scattered with multiple castles (Fourchaud, Bostz, Rochefort).

Before reaching Saint-Pourçain, which gave its name to the vineyard, will cross vine-oriented villages such as Verneuil-en-Bourbonnais where its half-timbered houses and the ruins of the feudal castle provide a medieval aspect.

In the past some outstanding « white wines » earned the reputation in favour of Saint-Pourçain vineyard known since Antiquity. Nowadays it is mainly the gathering of wines produced from Gamay et de Pinot noir which earned the reputation and the fame for the red and rosé wines from this vineyard.

To reach Vichy you will cross one of the most immense forest of Limagne. Before reaching the stopping point climb up to the summit of Puy Grenier to admire a vast panorama over the Charmeil wood, the valley of Allier and the whole Limagne area.

3 Day 3 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
YGRANDE	D94	0.0	
BOURBON-L'ARCHAMBAULT	D134	10.0	
SOUVIGNY	D34	10.0	
BESSON	D292	10.0	
FOURCHAUX	D292	2.0	
BRESNAY	D34	1.0	
VERNEUIL-EN-BOURBONNAIS	D415	10.0	
SAULCET	D	2.0	
SAINT-POURCAIN-SUR-SIOULE	D130	2.0	
LORIGES	D130	0.0	
MARCENAT	D142	11.0	
SAINT-REMY-EN-ROLLAT	D6	5.0	
CHARMEIL	D27	4.0	
VICHY	N209	5.0	
BELLERIVE-SUR-ALLIER	N209	5.0	
CROISEMENT	D215	3.0	
VOZELLE	D215	0.0	
ESPINASSE-VOZELLE	D215	5.0	
ESCUROLLES	D27	5.0	
SAULZET	D27	3.0	

3 Day 3 : The lodgings suggested by french-itinerary.com

. COGNAT-LYONNE

Château de Lyonne (Chambres d'Hôtes) - 5 route de Montiegnnet - 03110 COGNAT-LYONNE
 Phone : 0470566160 - fax 0470566160 - @ : chateau-de-lyonne@wanadoo.fr

. SAINT-REMY-EN-ROLLAT

Château de Gerbe (Hôtel) - 181 route de Marcenat - 03110 SAINT-REMY-EN-ROLLAT
 Phone : 0624980716 - fax 0470419603 - @ : info@chateau-de-gerbe.com

. YGRANDE



Château d'Ygrande (Hôtel) - Le Mont - 03160 YGRANDE
Phone : 0470663311 - fax 0470663363 - @ : reservation@chateauygrande.fr
Fait partie du Pass'Reve, Consultez la rubrique Bons plans

. BOURBON-L'ARCHAMBAULT

Grand Hôtel Montespan Talleyrand (Hôtel) - Place des Thermes - 03160 BOURBON-L'ARCHAMBAULT
Phone : 0470670024 - fax 0470671200 - @ : HotelMontespan@wanadoo.fr

. VICHY

Le Pavillon d'Enghien (Hôtel) - 34 rue Callou - 03200 VICHY
Phone : 0470983330 - fax 0470316782 - @ : Hotel.pavi@wanadoo.fr

Aletti Palace (Hôtel) - 3 place Joseph Aletti - 03200 VICHY
Phone : 0470302000 - fax 0470981382 - @ : contact@aletti.fr

. BELLERIVE-SUR-ALLIER

La Rigon (Hôtel) - Route de Serbannes - 03700 BELLERIVE-SUR-ALLIER
Phone : 0470598646 - fax 0470599477 - @ : hotel-la-rigon@wanadoo.fr

. ESPINASSE-VOZELLE

Aux Jardins de Thévenets (Chambres d'Hôtes) - Chemin des Thévenets - 03110 ESPINASSE-VOZELLE
Phone : 0681143911 - fax 0470565704 - @ : chaulieu@wanadoo.fr

. SAULZET

Château de Beauverges (Hôtel) - Château de Beauverges - 03800 SAULZET
Phone : 0470901382 - fax 0470901382

3 Day 3 : Visits selected by french-itinerary.com

. BOURBON L'ARCHAMBAULT

Forteresse médiévale (Château) - 03160 BOURBON L'ARCHAMBAULT
Phone : 0470670230

. SOUVIGNY

Musée - 03000 SOUVIGNY
Phone : 0470436038

Eglise Prieurale et St Paul (Eglise) - 03000 SOUVIGNY

. VERNEUIL EN BOURBONNAIS

Notre Dame sur l'Eau (Eglise) - 03000 VERNEUIL EN BOURBONNAIS
Phone : 0470454880

. SAULCET

GAEC Famille Laurent (Viticulteur) - Montifond - 03500 SAULCET
Phone : 0470454513 - fax 0470456018 - @ : famille.laurent@wanadoo.fr

Cave François Roy (Viticulteur) - Venteil - 03500 SAULCET
Phone : 0470453546 - fax 0470456496

. SAINT POURCAIN

Union des Vignerons de Saint Pourçain (Viticulteur) - rue de la Ronde - 03500 SAINT POURCAIN
Phone : 0470454282 - fax 0470459934

. SAINT POURCAIN SUR SIOULE

Musée de la Vigne et du Terroir - 03500 SAINT POURCAIN SUR SIOULE
Phone : 0470456207

. VICHY

Pastillerie (Curiosité) - 03200 VICHY
Phone : 0470309470

3 Day 3 : The Notebook practises of french-itinerary.com

. BOURBON-L'ARCHAMBAULT

Office de Tourisme - 1 Place des Thermes - 03160 BOURBON-L'ARCHAMBAULT



Phone : 0470670979 - fax 0470670979 - @ : ot.bourbon-larch@auvergne.net

. SAINT POURCAIN SUR SIOULE

Office de Tourisme - 13 place Maréchal Foch - 03500 SAINT POURCAIN SUR SIOULE
Phone : 0470453273 - fax 0470456027 - @ : ot.saint.pourcain@auvergne.net

. VICHY

Office de Tourisme - 19 rue du Parc - 03200 VICHY
Phone : 0470987194 - fax 0470901945 - @ : ot.vichy@auvergne.net