

TOURISM IN BERRY

BOURGES, CITY OF THE "NUITS LUMIERE"



The architectural heritage of Bourges is unique and amazingly rich. It is worth spending some time here to see the many splendours of another age.

A walk along the fortifications gives you the opportunity to admire the remains of the 4th century gallo-roman walls. The old town with its renaissance half-timbered houses, shop signs, stone and wood carvings, narrow staircases and cobbled streets and the names themselves are all precious reminders of times gone by : l'enclos des Capucins et des Bénédictins, l'enclos des Jacobins, la cour fleur de Lys, la rue du four au Roi, de l'Alchimie, des Vertus, l'impasse des galants verts...

Cathédrale Saint-Etienne

UNESCO world heritage



A unique masterpiece of gothic architecture. It has five magnificent doorways flanked by two asymmetrical towers, opening into five aisles. The inner aisles are remarkably high and there are no transepts. The extraordinary colours of the exquisite 13th century stained glass windows reveal scenes of daily life in the Middle Ages :

trades, clothing, fauna and flora. The splendid glass work of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries retrace the evolution of this craft.

Le Palais Jacques-Cœur

" To brave hearts, nothing is impossible "



Jacques Cœur was an exceptional trader endowed with innovative ideas which enabled him to acquire an immense fortune. He lent King Charles VII, exiled in Berry, the money necessary for his reconquest and consequently was appointed "argentier du Roi" (steeward of the royal expenditure and banker of the court) in 1438. He was ennobled three years later.

Entrusted with various missions and functions his power increased considerably. His downfall and exit from court life was as rapid and surprising as his rise to power. The palace is a rare and beautiful example of civil gothic architecture.



Les nuits Lumière de Bourges

An enchanting walk through the floodlit streets.
May-June-September : Thursday, Friday, Saturday
July and August : every evening from dusk

Un Eté à Bourges

Every evening in Summer there is a concert, recital or other high quality entertainment in the heart of the city. From June 21th to September 20th.



The old town

La Grange aux dîmes
La rue Bourbonnoux
La promenade des remparts
La place Gordaine
La " maison natale " de Jacques Cœur
L'Eglise Saint Pierre
L'Hôtel Dieu

Les Musées

Hôtel Lallemand - Museum of Decorative Arts



This early French Renaissance edifice was built between 1490 and 1515-1518. The refined façades showing Antique and Italian inspiration. The oratory ceiling has 30 coffers with christian or symbolic motifs. There are collections of furniture, many with marquetry or lacquer, a collection of 16th and 17th century tapestries as well as " objet d'art " and 15th-18th century paintings

Musée des meilleurs ouvriers de France

The work and masterpieces of high skilled craftsmen in France.

Musée du Berry - Arts et Traditions Populaires



The Hôtel Cujas houses 250 gallo-roman stele, sculptures made for the Sainte-Chapelle of Jean de Berry. A remarkable exhibition retraces country life in the 19th century and another shows the work of the Talbot family, famous potters from La Borne, a village North of Bourges.

Musée Estève - Hôtel des Echevins



Built in 1489, it housed the city hall for three centuries. In 1624 a classic style gallery was added to the gothic style building. To-day it is a perfect setting for the works of Maurice Estève, the painter (1904-2001).

Natural History Museum

Walks and gardens

Les Marais de Bourges

In past times this marshland was part of the natural defence of the city. To-day the 300 acres of gardens crossed by canals and rivers is a delightful walk within easy walking distance from the city centre.



Le Canal du Berry

This canal, first opened in 1831, is an ideal place for walkers or anglers alike. Walks or bicycle rides along the towpath are a delight for everyone.

Le Jardin de l'Archevêché

This delightful garden designed in 1730 with lawns and beautiful flowerbeds is a perfect setting for the nearby cathedral. In summer you can enjoy entertainment at the more recent bandstand and the children can amuse themselves in the play area.

Le Jardin des Prés-Fichaux

Previously just marshland, this garden was created in 1923 and 1930 in the Art-Deco style. The trees and plants, ponds and fountains, the rose garden and sculptures are a real delight.

