



L'ORIGINALE  
FRANCHE-COMTE

Bienvenue • Willkommen • Welkom  
**Wel**come

**TO GRAY AND TO THE HEART OF THE OLD TOWN**



*Marvel at it all!*



the Saône River



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# {Wander and wonder}

through the heart of a town full of stories and history.

The best way to discover the town of Gray is on foot. Come walk our narrow streets, passageways (discover what a 'traje' is) and stairs. Climb up to the old town and discover the gems waiting for you.

Gather up your courage and energy and start climbing: what you will find at the top is so worth it!!

## LEGEND



FOR GUIDED TOURS:  
BOOK AT THE TOURIST OFFICE  
Tel (33) 3 84 65 18 15  
tourisme@cc-valdegray.fr



MUSEUM



PARK AND GARDEN



BASILICA/CHAPEL



COACH PARKING AREA



CAR PARK



PUBLIC TOILETS



**01 Tourist Office**  
3 quai Mavia

**02 Private Homes**  
101 Grande rue - 1 rue Vanoise



**03 Former Hospital for the Sick and Poor**  
87 Grande rue

**04 Former Jesuit School**  
73 Grande rue

**05 Conflans Mansion**  
71 Grande rue

**06 Former Theuley Hospital**  
55 Grande rue

**07 St. Pierre Fourier Fountain**  
Rue du Marché

**08 Little Fountain Square**

**09 Old Corn Exchange Building**  
10-12 rue du Marché



**10 Gauthiot d'Ancier Mansion**  
4, 6 et 8 rue du Marché  
**St. Pierre's Tower**  
accès rue des Ursules



**11 Theatre**  
30 rue Victor Hugo



**12 Lime Tree Promenade**



**13 House for Everyone Park**  
rue Victor Hugo



**14 Nacia Esperanto Muzeo**  
House for Everyone  
19 rue Victor Hugo



**15 Carmelite Chapel**  
rue des Casernes

**16 Town Hall**  
1 place Charles de Gaulle



**17 Heritage Library**  
place Charles de Gaulle

**18 Paravis Tower**  
6 rue Pigalle



**19 Baron Martin Museum**  
6 rue Pigalle



**20 Museum**  
place de la sous-préfecture



**21 Notre Dame Basilica**  
place de la sous-préfecture



**22 Trépot House**  
rue de la Malcouverte

**23 Washing Place**  
Ile Sauzay



**24 Sauzay Isle Park**  
Ile Sauzay

**25 September 4th Square**

01

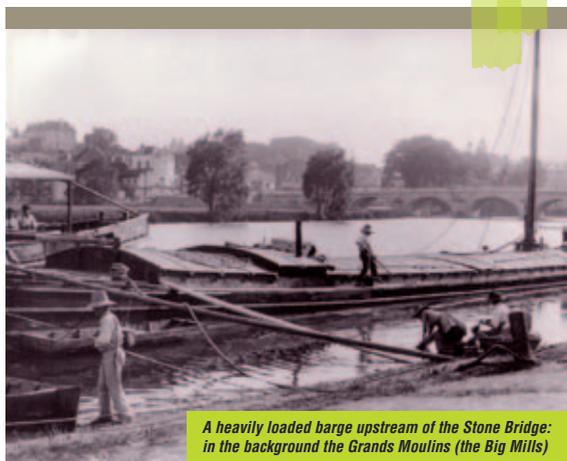


## TOURIST OFFICE

**Gray began its career as an important river port in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.** By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, located as it was in a prosperous industrial area at the end of the navigable section on the Saône River, a considerable number of warehouses lined the river shores. Gray was strategically located between Northern Europe and the Mediterranean. Boats transported iron, cast iron, wine, cereals and different types of flour.



*The home of one of the managers of the old Clementz vinegar factory (1885). Note the ornamentation on the facade.*



*A heavily loaded barge upstream of the Stone Bridge: in the background the Grands Moulins (the Big Mills)*

## PRIVATE HOMES

02

**Where Vanoise, Malcouverte and Grande Streets meet, you can see 2 houses with corbelled windows opposite each other.** When their owners looked out of the bay windows, they had

a view of the whole street at a glance. The lower house dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the upper one dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

03



## HOSPITAL FOR THE SICK AND POOR

Located on one of the two main streets in the mediaeval section of Gray, the hospital was designed and built by architect Jacques François Tripard. The land patent was granted by Louis XIV on 6 June 1715; construction began in 1716 and finished in 1747. The building is in the form of a Greek cross, with the chapel at its centre giving on to three of the arms, which were large rooms for the sick. The patients could follow Mass from their beds when the large glass doors were open. The tabernacle, the high altar and the pulpit date from the 18th century; the choir stalls and the chancel screen date from the 19th century. The frescoes were painted by the Menissiers, father and son; they worked from 1862 to 1865.

In 1854, a building giving onto the main courtyard was built. It was crowned by a pediment ornamented with 3 sculptures by Constant Grandgirard of Gray (1831-1912). They represent the theological virtues of Faith (the cross), Hope (woman holding an anchor) and Charity (woman holding a child). On the entablature you can see a Latin inscription, which translated is: "Happy is he who comes to the aid of the poor and the unfortunate."

The fourth arm/wing of the original building houses **an apothecary** dating from 1722. The 18<sup>th</sup>-century exquisitely woodworked shelves display 119 earthenware pots dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (solid blue pots, flasks decorated with yellow lilies and black leaves, 19<sup>th</sup>-century style chevrettes, pill containers...). The small laboratory contains other rare objects.

### CHEMIST'S



## FORMER JESUIT SCHOOL

04

**The School is now the Augustin Cournot Lycée (high school).** (Cournot was a philosopher and mathematician who was born in Gray in 1801 and died in Paris in 1877.) The school was under construction from 1659 to 1667; from 1880 to 1889 major changes were made in the buildings. Today, only two parts remain from the 17<sup>th</sup> century: the gate, which was moved to the bottom of the courtyard, and the chapel, which was consecrated in 1682.

## FORMER HOUSE OF THE CISTERCIANS OF THEULEY

06

**The abbey was built around 1550.** Monastic communities based in the countryside often owned a building in the city. In times of danger, this place, protected by the city walls, offered safety to the monks both for themselves and their possessions. The Norbertines of Corneux, another monastic order, also had a house in the city, located at the end of Vanoise Street, opposite St. Laurent Fountain.

## LITTLE FOUNTAIN SQUARE

08

**In the Middle Ages and during the Renaissance, many folk festivals took place in this square.** There was a fountain here in the 17<sup>th</sup> century; it was rebuilt in 1808 after a design by the architect Jean-Baptiste Mielle.



## CONFLANS MANSION

05

**This mansion is characteristic of the homes of the wealthy people of Gray in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.** The main building gives onto the street with a staircase in the inner courtyard; there is a carriage entrance (here, to one side), and a parcel of land extending behind with outbuildings, garden and orchard. The "viorbe", typical of Franche-Comté architecture (a tower enclosing a spiral staircase with doors to rooms opening off it which are housed in a separate construction), is particularly distinctive because of its size and its cut stone staircase. An anecdote: King Louis XIV banned the Marquis of Conflans who went to Holland. His mansion was given to the Jesuits, his neighbours.

## ST. PIERRE FOURIER FOUNTAIN

07

**Two cholera epidemics struck Gray in 1849 and 1854, and major sanitation changes in the water supply system were undertaken.** Construction of the fountain began in 1855 and finished in 1860. It has 2 levels and the basins are decorated in the Baroque style. At the top you can see a statue of St. Pierre Fourier, sculpted by Constant Grandgirard. Two marble plaques describe the works of this great Augustinian preacher from Lorraine, who took refuge in Gray during the Ten Years' War (1634-1644) waged between Louis XIII and Franche-Comté. He died at the Jesuit School in 1640 and was canonized in 1897 by Pope Leo XIII.



## OLD CORN EXCHANGE BUILDING

09

**This building, constructed on the initiative of wealthy mill owners, dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and was enlarged in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.** It has several floors and a well-ventilated loft, built expressly so the stored grain would not grow mouldy (note the height of the gable).



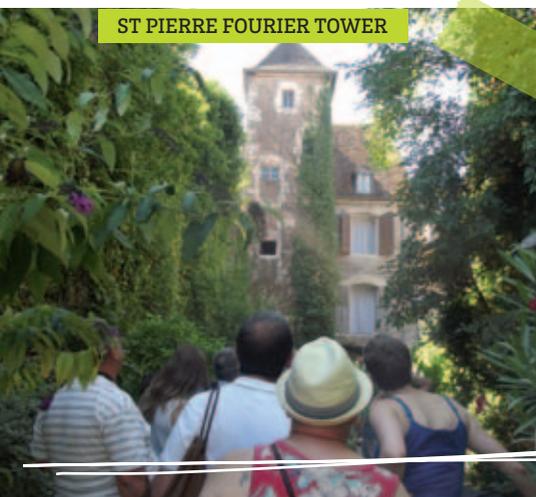
## THE GAUTHIOT D'ANCIER MANSION

10



*"Spes Mea Deus"  
(God is my Hope) was  
the motto of the Gauthiot  
d'Ancier family.*

### ST PIERRE FOURIER TOWER



Behind the mansion is the viorbe. Here, the staircase is wooden and it can turn! (It is the only one of its kind extant in France.) Once it rotated, it hid the entrance to a small work and meditation room, fitted out by Simon Gauthiot. It was an ideal refuge for Pierre Fourier when he fled Lorraine to escape the invading French troops and Cardinal Richelieu's persecution.

**During the Renaissance, the facade extended until No. 8 on the street.** Construction was begun by Guy Gauthiot at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and completed by his son Simon, a man of great influence, who was Provost Marshal for Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor from 1538 to 1548. The building is an interesting study in the transition from the Gothic style to that of the Renaissance. It was here, also, that Christophe de Bonhours made Pierre Fourier welcome in 1636.





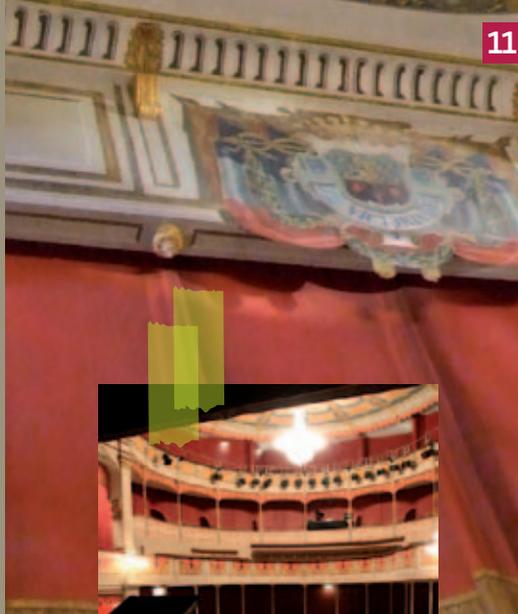
## THEATRE

11

Construction of the theatre lasted from 1846 to 1849; it was designed by the Besançon architect Jean-Baptiste Martin (who also designed the theatre in Dole).

All the décor of the auditorium, in the "Italian" style, is intact: paintings of muses and maenads radiating from the centre of the ceiling, the curtains, the downstage boxes... Most of the machinery for scene changes has also been preserved.

All this interior richness contrasts eloquently with the simplicity of the exterior. The theatre underwent 10 years of restoration; it was re-opened in the spring of 2006.



## LIME TREE PROMENADE

12

Created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this promenade is a typical example of the tree-lined avenues of the time.



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## THE HOUSE FOR EVERYONE PARK

**The Park, created by the Barefoot Carmelites (an order dating from 1593), was confiscated during the French Revolution,** and considerably reduced in size during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries due to the extension of Promenade Street in 1840 (today called Victor Hugo Street) and the construction of the municipal theatre and the neighbouring primary school. It is landscaped in the English style. It still has its original rustic pavilion, its pool, its grotto and waterway, all contained in a deep hollow already present in the city plans in 1790. Must-sees are the beautiful 18<sup>th</sup>-century portal by Claude-François Attiret and an analematic sundial on the ground, designed by an Esperantist.

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## NACIA ESPERANTO MUZEO

**“Bonvenon” means “Welcome” in Esperanto. And you are. This museum is the only one of its kind in France. It contains archives and many books that are written in Esperanto, a universal language.**

*Free entrance: reservation required for a guided tour  
Tel (33) (0)3 84 64 87 30 or (0)6 21 51 38 69  
[www.naciaesperantomuzeo.fr](http://www.naciaesperantomuzeo.fr)*

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## CARMELITE CHAPEL

**Under construction from 1666 to 1671, this chapel attracts your attention with its richly-decorated portal and the beauty of its doors.** The Baron Martin Museum holds its seasonal crafts exhibitions here.



16



## THE TOWN HALL



The motto of Gray is "Triplex Victoria Flammis" or "Three Times Victorious over the Flames". And therein lies its history. After the first fire in 1324, which was accidental, Gray was burned by mercenary soldiers in 1440 and then again by Louis XI's troops from 1477 to 1479. Each time, like a phoenix, the town rose from the ashes. It experienced its Golden Age during the 16<sup>th</sup> century with the expansion of river commerce and the presence of a political élite established in French Flanders (an area including Lille and Dunkirk) and Comté (as Franche-Comté was called at the time).

A masterpiece of the Comtoise Renaissance, under construction from 1567 to 1572, the Town Hall has a 37-metre-long facade with Corinthian columns on the ground floor and composite columns (Ionic and Corinthian) on the first floor. Its architect, Richard Maire of Besançon, used materials of different colours so that the limestone walls highlight the pink Sampans marble from the Jura. Nine rounded arches give on to the square; the bay windows on the first floor, formerly mullioned, are embellished by entablatures with scrolled acanthus leaves on top. In the middle you can see the coat of arms and the motto of Gray. The roof is made of coloured glazed tiles. As was customary at that time, the building served two purposes: the first floor was reserved for municipal activities and the ground floor was reserved for markets. Two fountains were added on either side in the 19th century, decorated with sculptures by

Constant Grandgirard. The one on the left is the painter François Devosge (1732-1811), founder of the Dijon School of Design (now the School of Fine Arts) and the one on the right is the mineralogist Jean-Baptiste Romé de L'Isle (1736-1790), founder of crystallography. Both were from Gray.

On the western side of the facade, you can see a sundial, engraved and painted on the stone. It has a multitude of arrows: the ones pointing outward are for the hours, the ones pointing inward are for the half hours, and the shortest ones are for the quarter hours. The style (the metal part which casts the shadow) is decorated with a sun. On either side of the noon line you can see the first letters of the months. The motto is classic: "Lucem demonstrat umbra" ("Shadow Reveals Light"). The building to the east, set back, houses the library and its precious collections.



## THE HERITAGE LIBRARY

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**Heritage collections exist because of the seizure, as of 1789, of goods/material/possessions during the French Revolution.** Here, most of the manuscripts and early printed books belonged to the religious communities of Gray and its environs. The library contains about 25,000 volumes. It was housed in the Jesuit School as of the beginning of the 19th century and was moved in 1858 to its present location: this building was constructed especially for it near the Town Hall.

*Opening Times: the second Wednesday of the month from 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm. Tel (33) (0)3 84 65 69 01*  
*Group guided tours can be booked at the Baron Martin Museum. Tel (33) (0)3 84 65 69 10*  
[www.bibliotheque-gray.fr](http://www.bibliotheque-gray.fr)

 « Bibliothèque municipale de Gray »



# THE BARON MARTIN MUSEUM

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The light panelling decorated with bouquets and children playing in this royal chateau, which is a classified Historical Monument, harmonises perfectly with the museum's art collections and the park, which is in the shelter of a rampart and a tower.

You will find three floors to explore: 14 rooms hold the fine arts collection, a spacious area is reserved for archaeology and there is an exhibition hall.

The furnished chateau has retained almost intact the 19th-century ambiance where privacy, love of art and sensitivity to nature blend together.

Some of the masterpieces in the museum are: *Woman with Parasol* by James Tissot, the academies and pastels by Prud'hon, the bright-coloured 1900s portraits by Aman-Jean and Boldini, a winter landscape by Averkamp, a crown of flowers as a spiritual garden by Brueghel de Velours, *Portrait of a Young Boy with a Dog* by Jacob Van Loo, *The Gallant Pedlar* by Boucher, a view of Vesuvius by Turpin de Crissé, a painting of two shepherds by Rosa de Tivoli, a self-portrait by Oudry ... all this just below the ramparts. Three different exhibitions are featured every year.

### Opening Times

Wednesday to Monday, closed Tuesday

From 2 May to 30 September

10.00 am - 12.00 noon / 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

From 2 January to 30 April and from 1 October

to 31 December: 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Tel (33/ (0)3 84 65 69 10

[www.musee-baronmartin.fr](http://www.musee-baronmartin.fr)

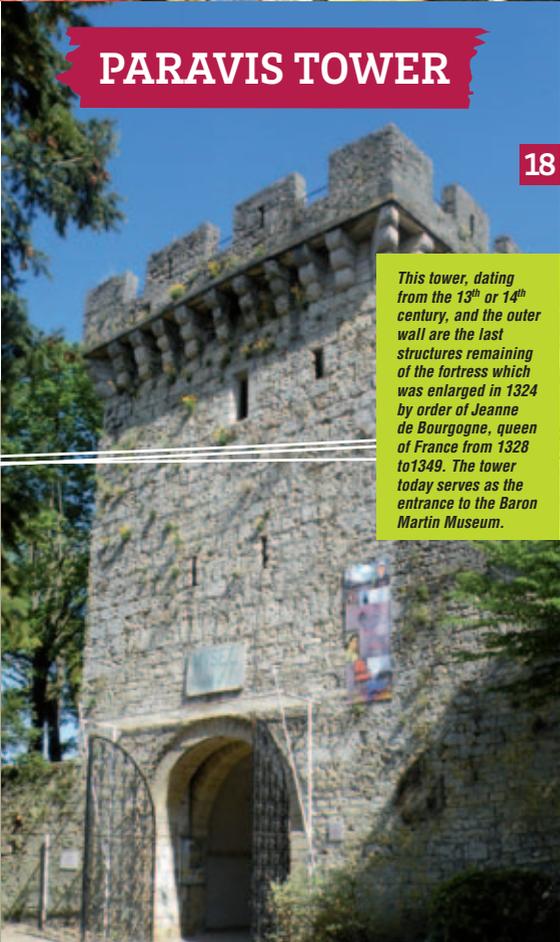
 « Musée Baron Martin - Officiel »



## PARAVIS TOWER

18

This tower, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the outer wall are the last structures remaining of the fortress which was enlarged in 1324 by order of Jeanne de Bourgogne, queen of France from 1328 to 1349. The tower today serves as the entrance to the Baron Martin Museum.



# MUSEUM

Here you will find a vast collection of insects, birds and fossils. Your guides are very knowledgeable and love what they do.

*Seasonal temporary exhibitions. Free entry.*

*Reservation required for guided tours.*

*Tel (33) (0)3 84 65 69 10 or (33) (0)3 84 65 06 15*

*[www.museum-gray.org](http://www.museum-gray.org)*

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MUSEUM



## NOTRE DAME BASILICA

The original 12<sup>th</sup> century church was destroyed during the wars led by Louis XI. Reconstruction took place between 1478 and 1559. The western facade, however, was finished in 1863 when the neo-Gothic porch was added.

The tympanum, defaced during the French Revolution, was sculpted by C. Grandgirard. The interior is characteristic of the last Comtois Gothic period: the pillars have no capitals, and the ribs of the vault are in direct contact with them. There is no intermediary level between the large arches and the high windows in the central part of the nave: this period was marked by a constant search for the vertical effect.



21

The original 17<sup>th</sup>-century organ built by Valentin and Riepp is in the Basilica as well as an interesting collection of art and furniture: a painting of Christ at the tomb by Lulier (16<sup>th</sup> century); opposite this is a sculpture in wood of Christ at the pulpit from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the 11.5 metre-high genealogical tree of Jesse (Jesus' tree) in the tracery of the axial bay window of the choir. The roofing of the steeple was destroyed during the 1940 bombings; it was redone in 1950. The church was granted the status of basilica in 1948 because it houses both a miraculous statuette of the Virgin Mary (it is called "Notre Dame de Gray") and the heart of St. Pierre Fourier.

Opposite the Basilica, a portal and a few buildings remain which were part of a convent of the Order of the Most Holy Annunciation (the Blue Nuns). During the French Revolution the convent was used as a prison for suspects during the Reign of Terror.



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## THE TRÉPOT MANSION

**22** Former home of the noble family the Vandenesses, dating from the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was named "Trépot", because in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was located near a jeu de paume (real tennis) court, then called a "tripot".

## WASHING PLACE

Dating from 1825, this old washing place from Mont le François was falling into ruin when the Tourist Office bought it in 1972 for a nominal fee. It was reconstructed on the left bank of the Saône River on Sauzay Isle, below Stone Bridge, and connected to the water system.

**23**



## SAUZAY ISLE PARK

**24** This park was created after World War II in a field. The arm of the river which ran behind the houses was filled in and the isle as such no longer existed. Today, this park, very near the city centre, is a place to relax on the bank of the Saône River.

**25**

## SEPTEMBER 4TH SQUARE

The name of the square commemorates the date of the proclamation of the Third Republic. You can also see the war memorial in memory of those who died in the War of 1870 (Franco-Prussian War). The bronze statues of this monument, which dates from 1901, were sculpted by Jules Aimé Grosjean (born in Vesoul in 1872, died in 1906).

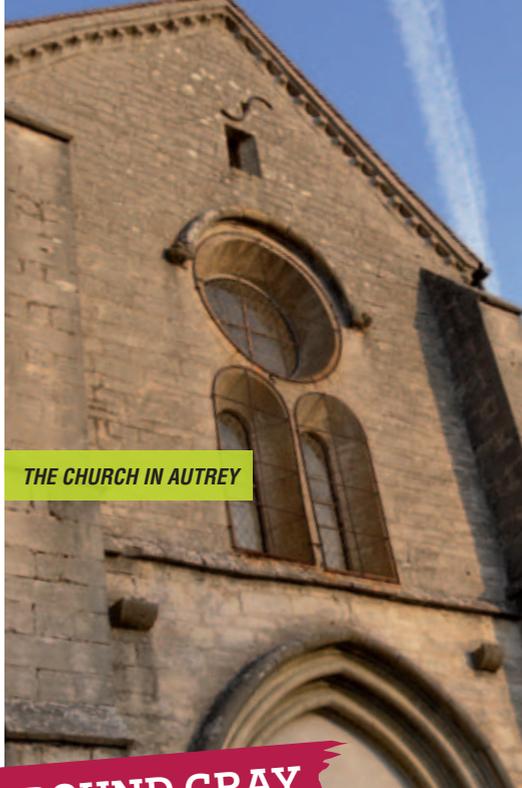
*View of Villeneuve Quay and the lock.*



**ALTARPIECE IN GRAY-LA-VILLE**

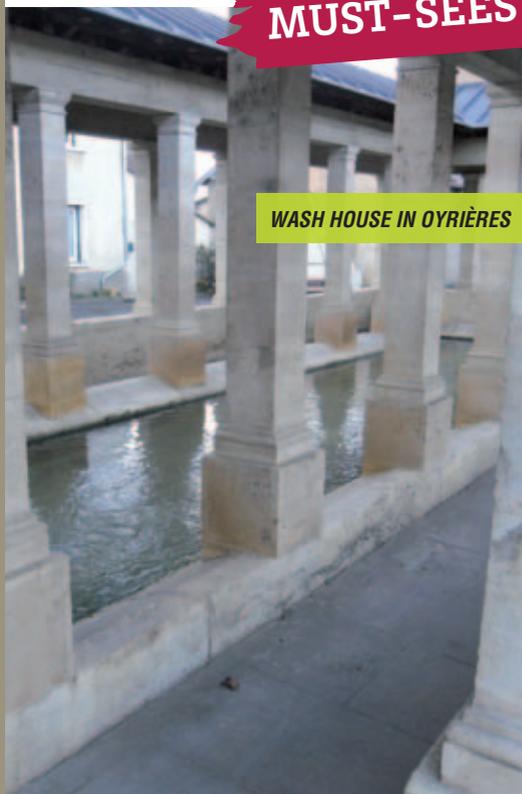


**THE CHURCH IN AUTREY**

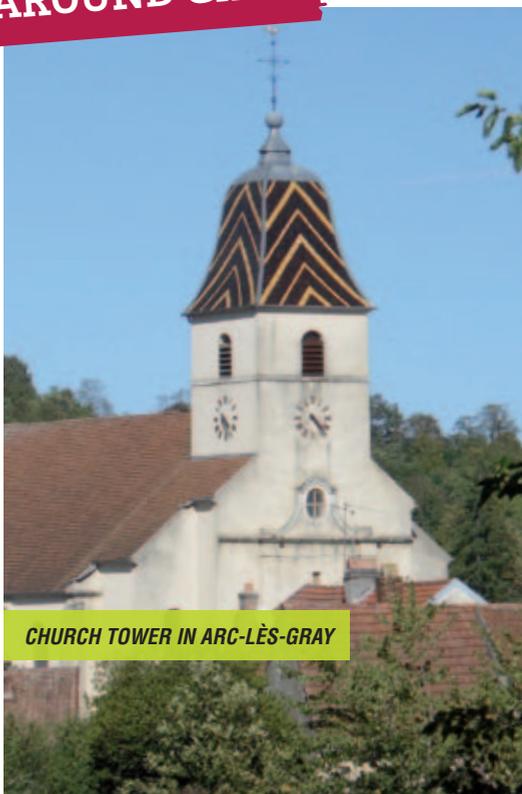


**MUST-SEES AROUND GRAY**

**WASH HOUSE IN OYRIÈRES**



**CHURCH TOWER IN ARC-LÈS-GRAY**



## **SAINT LOUP CHATEAU**

Originally a fortified manor house, the chateau became what it is today during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The old chapel and the huge park (60 ha.) are also very worth visiting.

*Guided tours: reservation required*  
St- Loup-Nantouard 70100  
Tel (33) (0)3 84 32 75 69  
[www.chateau-saintloup.com](http://www.chateau-saintloup.com)



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## **VELESMES AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM**

One person's passion becomes another's delight! Discover a private collection of the tools, machines, cars, motorcycles, bicycles and trades of our countryside from bygone times up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

15 rue de l'Hermitage  
Velesmes-Échevanne 70100  
Guided tours: reservation required  
Tel (33)(0)3 84 32 70 73  
[remyrougeol@gmail.com](mailto:remyrougeol@gmail.com)

**WALKING TOURS EVERY DAY  
ALL YEAR-ROUND!**



## Walking Tour



What a good way to discover Gray in all directions, any day and all year-round! You will be in the company of one of our most faithful “ambassadors”, who will have the pleasure of taking you to interior courtyards, walled stairs (tertres) and viorbes. They will take you to all the nooks and crannies of the city. Tours in French, English, German and Dutch.

Group tours by expert tour guides are also available: reservation necessary.

**Taste our Regional  
Products!**



## **“If it’s Tuesday, it Must be a Day in Gray!” or how to discover heritage and local products on the same day**

Every Tuesday during July and August, Gray offers you a unique opportunity to go on a tour led by an expert tour guide. You will see and learn about significant city buildings and the roles they played in history. You’ll be introduced to the Hôtel-Dieu, interior courtyards, the Town Hall, the Basilica, the Theatre ... and afterwards there will be a tasting of regional products, where you will savour our regional products and meet others on the tour who may be local, regional or international. A rich day is in store for you!

Everything begins at 10.00 am

Please make your reservation at the Tourist Office

Tel (33) (0)3 84 65 18 15

[tourisme@cc-valdegray.fr](mailto:tourisme@cc-valdegray.fr)



Region  
**BOURGOGNE FRANCHE-COMTÉ**  
Department  
**HAUTE-SAÔNE**



Bienvenue • Willkommen • Welkom  
**Wel**come



Tourist Office  
**VAL DE GRAY**  
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