



ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC
PAYERNE
ET REGION
In perfect harmony

www.estavayer-payerne.ch

Payerne

Connecting earth and sky



Self-guided QR-code tour
English version





Introduction to Payerne

The town of Payerne is situated at the entrance to the extensive flood plain of the River Broye in a rural wetland setting. The town centre is located on top of a hill formed by a former morainic mound, where the spires of the two medieval churches jut out above the skyline, pointing to the heavens. The large agricultural plain, which was recovered from marshland during the 19th and 20th centuries following corrective work on the River Broye, is also the site of Switzerland's biggest military air base. In Payerne, agriculture and aviation live side by side, leading the lines of communication to merge into an ongoing dialogue between the land and the skies.

QR-Codes

Throughout your visit, you can listen to audio commentary by scanning the QR codes featured on the information boards using your mobile phone.

You'll find many free apps compatible with iPhone and Android systems on the internet which allow you to read QR codes. We hope you have an enjoyable visit !

History

A hill in the heart of the plain

The first signs of civilisation on the hill at the heart of Payerne date back to the 3rd century AD. Away from the city of Aventicum, which was the capital of Roman Switzerland at the time, an influential family had a large villa built, which was to be a rich rural establishment. The town was later named Paterniacum after the Paterni family. At the end of the 6th century, Bishop Marius, maire saint and Bishop of Avenches, had a chapel built dedicated to the Virgin Mary. We don't know the exact location of this early site of Christian worship that was consecrated on 24 June 587.

Cluniac site

In the 10th century, Payerne was an important royal estate of Upper Burgundy. This kingdom, one of the last of the Carolingian dynasty, originally stretched between the Jura and the Alps. From 888 to 1032 it was governed by the Rudolphian dynasty. The memory of the wife of Rudolph II of Burgundy, Bertha of Swabia, Queen consort of Burgundy, is still very much alive in Payerne's consciousness. That said, we know very little about this woman who was probably the founder and benefactor of the monastery

History

in Payerne and who inspired local mythology for centuries. It was in fact through her daughter Adelaide, wife of Otto the Great of the Holy Roman Empire, that the monastery in Payerne was placed under the control of Cluny Abbey. Because of its location, Payerne was shaped by various dynasties and influences: for example Francia, Cluny and even Italy, as well as the Germanic north, Swabia and the Empire. For Cluny, which claims to be a second Rome, venerating the apostles Peter and Paul and setting itself up as a place of pilgrimage, Payerne was located in the province of Alemannia et Lothoringia, just like Romainmôtier, another major Cluniac site in Switzerland.

During the Middle Ages, the Cluniac prior of Payerne was ruler of the town. He designated a secular advocate to exercise temporal authority on his behalf. A community of Payerne residents independent of the priory with their own interests developed between the 12th and 14th centuries. The various advocates of the priory promoted this, in particular the counts and subsequently Dukes of Savoy, who were regularly appointed to the role of advocate from 1314 onwards. The town was granted the right to establish its own council in 1347-8. At the same time, the town's inhabitants started to turn towards the north, concluding a Burgrecht pact of alliance with Berne (1344), Fribourg (1349), Neuchâtel (1355) and Murten (1364). The Battle of Murten in 1476, in which a contingent from Payerne fought alongside the confederates, is one of the last demonstrations of the recurrent antagonism between monks and the bourgeoisie. Meanwhile, the priory was promoted to the rank of abbey in 1444, which is why we can now talk about the abbey church of Payerne.



In the age of Reformation and revolution

The 16th century, the age of the Reformation, brought major changes to the organisation of the town of Payerne. Bound by a Burgrecht pact with both Berne and Fribourg, Payerne was split between loyalty to the faith of its fathers, represented by Fribourg and the abbey, and loyalty to its ever more powerful Burgrecht partners in Berne, who actively promoted the evangelical movement. Quite early on, well before the Reformation was officially adopted in 1536, a small core of Payerne residents who had converted to the new faith welcomed the pastor Antoine Saulnier. Previously, however, the inhabitants of Payerne had reserved a very harsh welcome for Guillaume Farel when he first came to preach the Gospel in Payerne. After the Bernese conquest on 23 January 1536, the town of Payerne showed allegiance with the republic of Berne and adopted the Reformation, leading the last remaining monks to be expelled from the monastery.

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Under the Bernese regime, Payerne became a place of political exception in the Vaud region. Thanks to its former Burgrecht link which united it with Berne, it was not the only bailiff from Berne who represented the authority of the governors of Berne in the town of Payerne, but an advocate elected from among the local bourgeoisie whose main function was chief of justice.

Towards the end of the 18th century, Payerne was swept along in the wave of revolutions. Not long after the Vaud Revolution, the town was designated capital of the new canton "Sarine et Broye", which only lasted a few weeks. Payerne was then incorporated into the canton of Fribourg. In 1802, the inhabitants demanded to become part of the future canton of Vaud, which became independent in 1803.

The town, which is largely rural, saw developments in various areas throughout the 19th century. The major work on lowering the water level of the Jura significantly increased the farmable and habitable land on the banks of the Broye. Much of Payerne's growth was thanks to the tobacco crops and the tobacco industry. The 400 employees working for Frossard produce various tobacco products, including the famous Vevey cigars.

The town is known well beyond its borders for its charcuterie and pork-based products, of which the famous Boutefas is a prime example. And the locals even proudly call themselves Caions rodzé, which means red pigs in the local dialect.

Development of aviation

On 28 September 1910, Payerne welcomed the first flight linking two Swiss towns. Ernest Failloubaz took off in his Blériot aircraft from Avenches, landing in Payerne nine minutes later, thereby paving the way for the development of aviation in the region. Today, Payerne's military air base is one of the main air force centres of the Swiss military, with two barracks, a museum and a maintenance centre. Other civil industries linked to aviation and aerospace are also based nearby, such as the Solar Impulse solar-powered aircraft project and the S3 satellite launchers.



Pierre Willommet, 1737



1 + FAILLOUBAZ
LE AVIATEUR ATTERRI A PAYERNE
- 28. 9. 1910 -

Historic sites and buildings

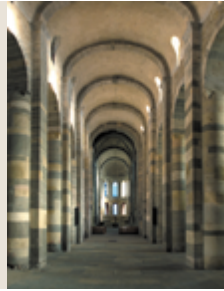
1. Café du Marché



5. Courthouse



2. The Abbey Church



6. Parish church



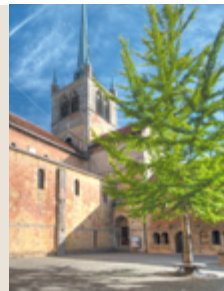
3. Castle courtyard, cloister courtyard



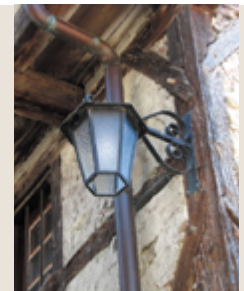
7. Banneret Fountain



4. Bernese castle

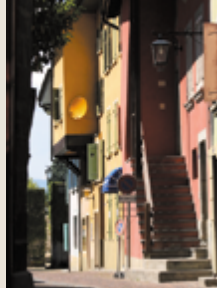


8. Passage du Portail



Historic sites and buildings

9. Rue des Blanchisseuses and porte de Berne



13. Footbridge, the taming of the Broye



10. Deer park



14. Vuary



11. General Jomini statue



15. Guillermaux road bridge, workers' houses and Catholic church



12. Barraud Tower, the defensive walls



16. Queen Bertha wine cellar

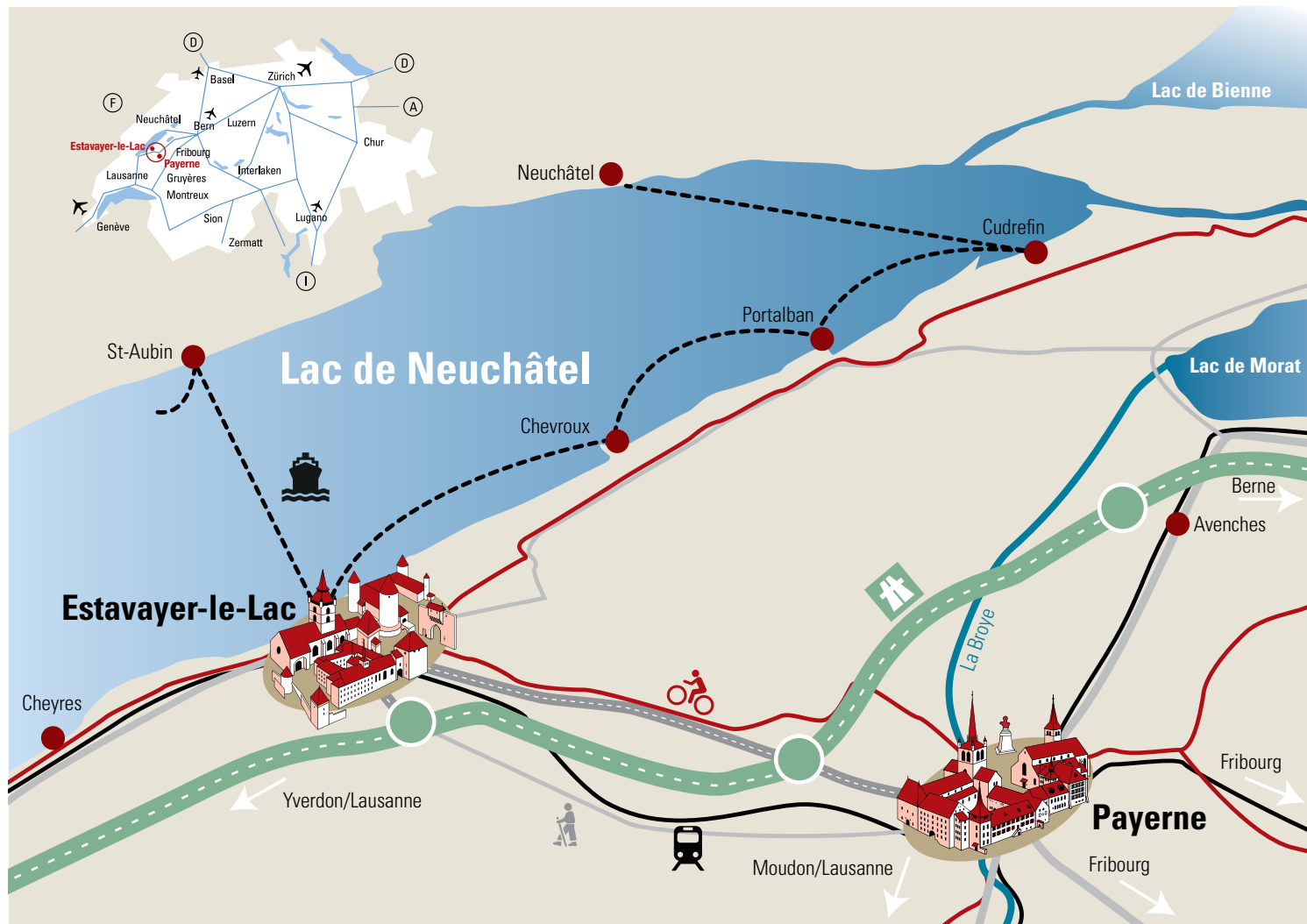




Historic sites and monuments

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| 1. Café du Marché | 7. Banneret Fountain | 12. Barraud Tower, the defensive walls |
| 2. The Abbey Church | 8. Passage du Portail | 13. Footbridge, the taming of the Broye |
| 3. Castle courtyard, cloister courtyard | 9. Rue des Blanchisseuses
and porte de Berne | 14. Vuary |
| 4. Bernese castle | 10. Deer park | 15. Guillermaux road bridge,
workers' houses and Catholic church |
| 5. Courthouse | 11. General Jomini statue | 16. Cave de la reine Berthe |

Our region



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