

# ROMONT RÉGION

## HEARTLAND OF GLASS ART

The small town of Romont, situated 22 kilometres southwest of Fribourg, has preserved much of its medieval heritage. Surrounded by impressive town walls, the small town is situated on a hill in the upper Glâne Valley. In fact, the hill is a 'drumlin', an oval mound moulded by the action of the Rhone glacier in the Ice Age. The present-day name Romont originates from Latin ('rotundus mons') and means round hill. The architectural treasures of the picturesque town include Romont Castle, the Abbey Church of Notre Dame de l'Assomption, the town fortifications, the Cistercian Abbey of La Fille-Dieu, a former Capuchin monastery and numerous merchants' houses and mansions. Romont has always been an important stage for pilgrims on the Way of St. James. Although it is 2,000 kilometres from the destination in Santiago de Compostela, the small town offers splendid highlights – and in the true sense of the word. The regional glass art

and in particular the Vitromusée, the Swiss Museum of Stained Glass and Glass Art housed in Romont Castle, are a crowd puller. The exhibitions include magnificent glass works from the Middle Ages to the present time. Renowned stained glass artists such as Brian Clark, Marc Chagall and Baldwin & Guggisberg have exhibited their works here. Valuable glass windows from different periods also adorn the churches and other buildings in the region, justifying Romont's reputation as the heartland of glass art. The glass-themed 'Vitroparcours' trail combines these sights and can be walked or cycled. The delightful countryside, which is characterised by livestock farming, invites visitors to discover it at leisure and under their own steam. You can easily combine your visit to Romont with a trip to the countryside, sightseeing in the hamlet of Rue or a visit to the Wallpaper Museum in Mézières. >>



## STAINED GLASS



**Glass and wallpapers** – Romont Castle is a fitting home for the Swiss Museum of Stained Glass and Glass Art. The collection includes sumptuous and fascinating stained-glass windows dating from the Middle Ages to the present day. >> The Wallpaper Museum and its impressive collection could not have found a better home than Mézières Castle, which still boasts 18<sup>th</sup> century wall coverings of its own. >>

## BAREFOOT



**Natural experience** – “Going barefoot heightens the senses. After a ramble in the countryside accompanied by a wealth of anecdotes, your feet feel totally liberated ... and your head as well!”, says Frédéric Perritaz, the architect of the barefoot trails in Villarimboud near Romont. ‘Le Pied Total’ invites visitors to explore the rich and diverse plant life in the garden of an old mill. Visitors who wish to spend the night in a tree bivouac have also come to the right place. >>

## GLASS TRAIL



**Vitroparcours** – The tour takes walkers on a fun and educational journey through the world of glass. The interpretive trail, which runs along the medieval town walls and castle courtyard, is a great day out for all the family. >>

## POWER OF THE MONASTERY



**Ora et labora** – The nuns from the Abbey of La Fille-Dieu in Romont meet seven times a day, and once a night to pray. When the nuns are not praying, the active Cistercian community produces consecrated wafers and various kinds of mustards, and sells them in their own shop, in stores and online. The monastery also continues its tradition of welcoming visitors. Women and men, who seek peace or spiritual assistance, can stay up to eight days here as a guest and enjoy the peace and quiet of its garden. >>

## KEY DATES

- 1240** Founding of Romont by Peter II of Savoy, and construction of the castle, abbey and town walls
- 1981** Founding of the Swiss Museum of Stained Glass and Glass Art (Vitromusée)
- 2006** Restructuring and expansion of the Vitromusée
- 2019** Launch of the ‘Vitroparcours’ interpretive trail

## IN NUMBERS

- Population:**  
5,505 inhabitants (commune),  
24,957 inhabitants (region)
- Language:** French
- Altitude:** 780 m