

# FRIBOURG / FREIBURG

## INNOVATIVE BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO CULTURES

The Old Town of Fribourg/Freiburg is deemed to be one of the most beautiful in Switzerland. Its location alone is enchanting: the extremely picturesque town nestles in the meanders of the Sarine river and extends from the riverbank through the lower part of the town to the Old Town. Moreover, the many medieval buildings in the Old Town, with their Gothic façades, constitute one of the most important collections of its kind in Europe, particularly the façade of the town's landmark St. Nicholas Cathedral. The town fortifications, which are freely accessible during the day, offer new vistas and perspectives. With the help of augmented reality, the multimedia guide 'Frÿburg 1606' offers an immersive tour of medieval Fribourg. Visitors can also admire the incredible 52m<sup>2</sup> scale model (1:250) of the Old Town. The city is home to many works by contemporary artists like Jean Tinguely and Mario Botto as well. Fribourg not only creates the cultural bridge between the German and French areas

of Switzerland, but also boasts 14 bridges with interesting architecture, the oldest of which were built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The latest addition, the Poya Bridge, which was completed in 2014, is an impressive cable-stayed bridge with the longest distance between two piers nationwide.

The museums present a wide variety of themes, from modern art and cultural history and puppets to sewing machines. A stone's throw away from the Botanic Gardens is the Villars Chocolate Factory's shop and café. Chocolate lovers can also admire the incredible sculptures by master chocolatier Jorge Cardoso in the Rue de Lausanne.

Let's not forget the cool five-stop food tour 'Taste my Fribourg'. In the evenings, visitors are spoilt for choice with culture and gastronomy, including typical cosy bistros, trendy bars and an exceptional number of fine dining restaurants. >>



## URBAN GOLF



**Popular** – Fribourg has been offering urban golf since 2008. It is a way of discovering the town in a very family-friendly and entertaining manner. The 18-hole course goes from the centre via the cable railway (funicular) in the lower town, where it crosses old wooden and stone bridges. Mini-golf with additional features and a makeover! Moreover, the Fribourg City Card (for one or two days) includes urban golf, a ride on the tourist train, museum admission, and public transport. >>

## BACK TO THE MIDDLE AGES



**High-tech city tour** – 'Frÿburg 1606' is a multimedia guide that takes visitors back to medieval Fribourg. With the help of augmented reality, you discover what the streets would have looked like in 1606, enjoy 360° views, and observe the medieval townsfolk going about their business. The high point of the tour is a visit to Espace 1606, in the Old Werkhof, and its 52 m² scale model (1:250) of the Old Town. Based on the Martini Map of 1606, it shows the foundation and development of the city. >>

## ORIGINAL



**Contemporary** – Art lovers will find a lovely homage to the artist couple Jean Tinguely – Niki de Saint Phalle in their Espace. The exhibition includes some of the machine-like sculptures by the Fribourg artist (1925–1991). >>

## FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS



**Steeped in tradition** – The celebrations in honour of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of the city, take place every year and have been organised by the pupils of St. Michael's College since 1906. At the end of the afternoon, St. Nicholas, accompanied by his helpers, rides his donkey through the streets, handing out gingerbread to the waiting children. The highlight is his speech from the steps of the Cathedral, in which he casts a critical but humorous eye on the events of the past year. Be sure not to miss the different markets held on the same day. *Friday, 5 to Sunday, 7 December 2025.* >>

## KEY DATES

- 1157** The town is founded by Duke Berthold IV of Zähringen
- 1481** The canton of Fribourg joins the Swiss Confederation
- 1889** The University of Fribourg is founded
- 2020** 'Frÿburg 1606' multimedia guide is nominated for the prestigious Milestone tourism award
- 2023** City of Fribourg is named the 2023 culinary capital of Switzerland ('Ville du Goût')

## IN NUMBERS

**Population:** 39,269 inhabitants (city), 84,347 inhabitants (agglomeration)  
**Languages:** French and German  
**Altitude:** 610 m