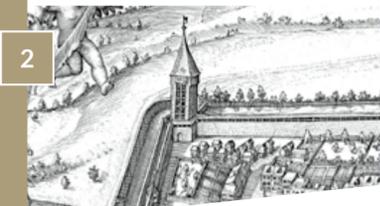




1397

ROMONT GATE TOWER

The Romont Gate Tower, main western entrance of the city, after its construction in 1397, following the integration of the district «des Places» in 1392. Powerful gate tower, reinforced with a redoute and bastions, between 1656 and 1667, evened in 1773 and then levelled in 1805-1807 as a field of manoeuvring, for exhibitions and fairs. Gate tower demolished in 1856.



1413

HENRI TOWER

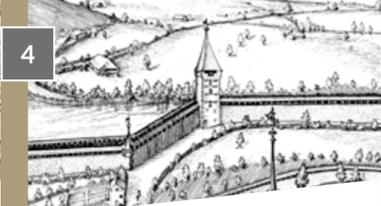
The Henri Tower, (Tour Henri), half-tower, 7 levels, height 31 meters, forming the angle of the mostly disappeared 3rd western wall. Works beginning in 1397, under Jean de Delle's leadership. Foundations about 1402, construction and joisting between 1411 and 1413, by Thierry, master mason.
Roof, allure and infill on the city side over the sandstone wall, about 1649. Re-tored between 1911 and 1915.



1403

PONDS GATE

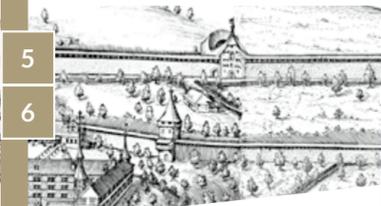
The Ponds Gate, (also Payerne or Givisiez Gate), 3rd main entrance of the city; during the Middle Ages, road coming from the powerful neighbouring lordship of Montagny. Defensive construction built during the same period as the Romont Gate between 1397 and 1403, with a boulevard in 1444-1445, demolished in 1827 followed by the gate tower and the guard house in 1861.



1413

AIGROZ TOWER

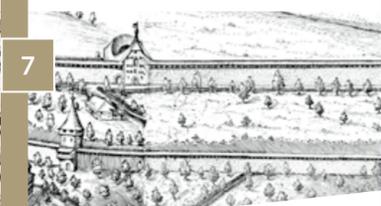
The Aigroz Tower, semicircular, built by Jean de Delle, between 1402 and 1413. The three upper floors were pulled down in 1825, and rehabilitated and converted into a dwelling around 1885. In front of the State and University Library, 1909-1910, and at the angle of the wall missing on the plot of Joseph-Piller street and the Père-Girard street.



1414

CURTILS NOVELS TOWER BELLUARD

The Curtils novels Tower (new gardens), square plan, between 1402 and 1414 and Belluard (Bulwark), semicircular, between 1490 and 1496, by Pierre Bergier (?), mason and Jentzli, carpenter. Unique building of this kind with the Munot at Schaffhausen. The 2 upper levels of the tower were demolished in 1537.
Alteration of the gunports in 1672 and 1683. Ditch filled at the end of the 19th century.
! Accessible from 27. August !



1416

BELLUARD WALL

The Belluard Wall, between 1397 and 1416, by Jean de Delle and Jean Lottiez called de Saint-Claude, with carpentry and three octagonal bartizans on the salients, dated 1647, between the Ten Years' War (1634-1644) and the Swiss peasant war of 1653, designed by State architect Jean-François Reyff. Complete restoration in 1920-1929.



1414

WHEAT TOWER RAZORS TOWER

The Wheat Tower, used as granary, entirely demolished in 1825. The materials were used to build the foundations of the Jesuit boarding school. Similar and contemporary to the Razors Tower, further east, semi-circular, 6 levels, height 29 meters, between 1411 and 1414, by Nicolet Girard. Infill of brick on the city side, above the curtain wall, 17th century.



1414

MURTEN GATE TOWER

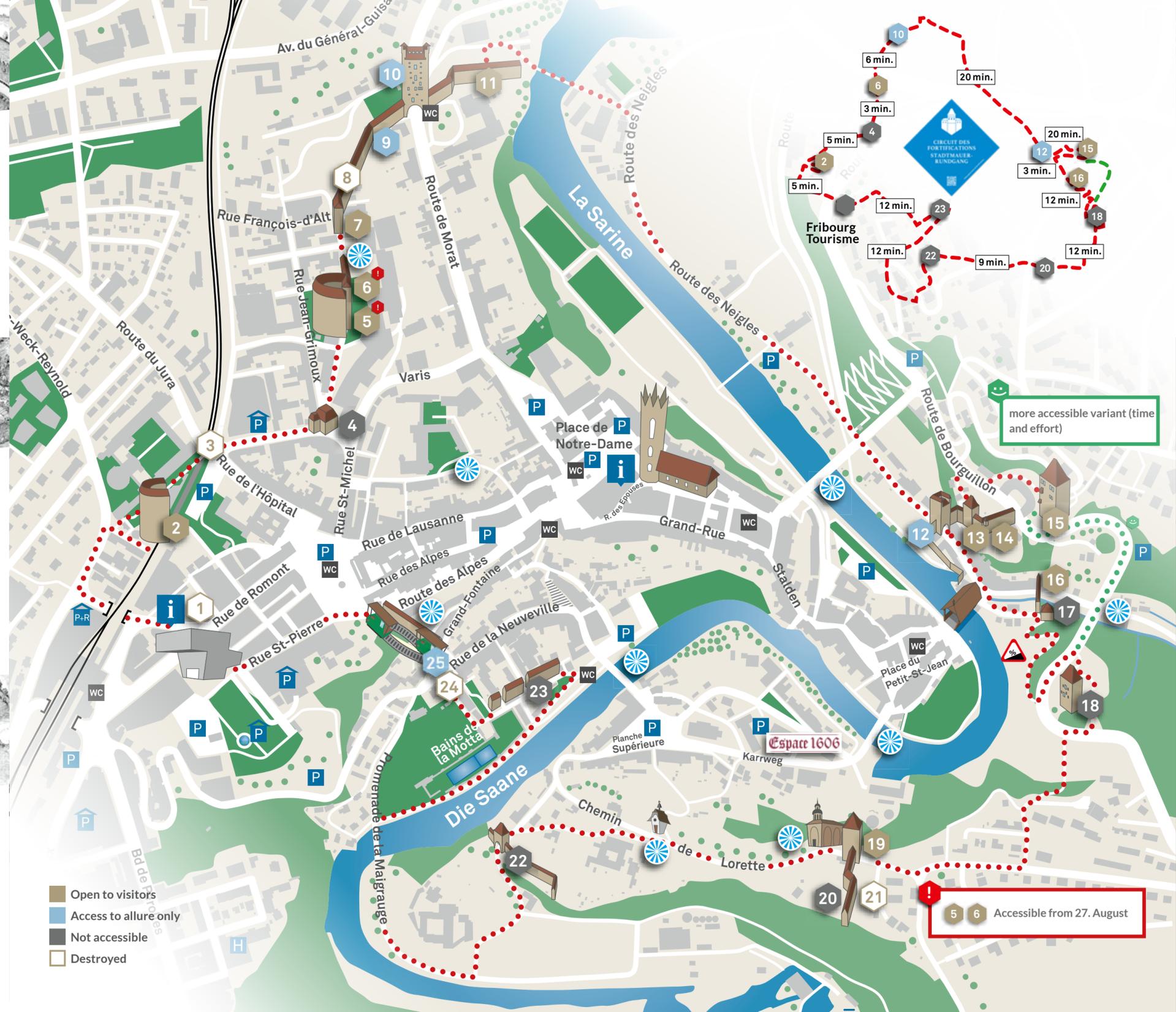
Murten Gate Tower, square, 7 levels, height 34 meters, highest tower in the city, 1410-1414. By Nicolas Girard, master mason, covering the Donnamary bridge and gate. Transformation of arrowslits into gunports and 4th facade on the city side, between 1560 and 1567.
Roof renovation in 1650-1653. Demolition of the boulevard in 1482 and widening of the gate in 1888.



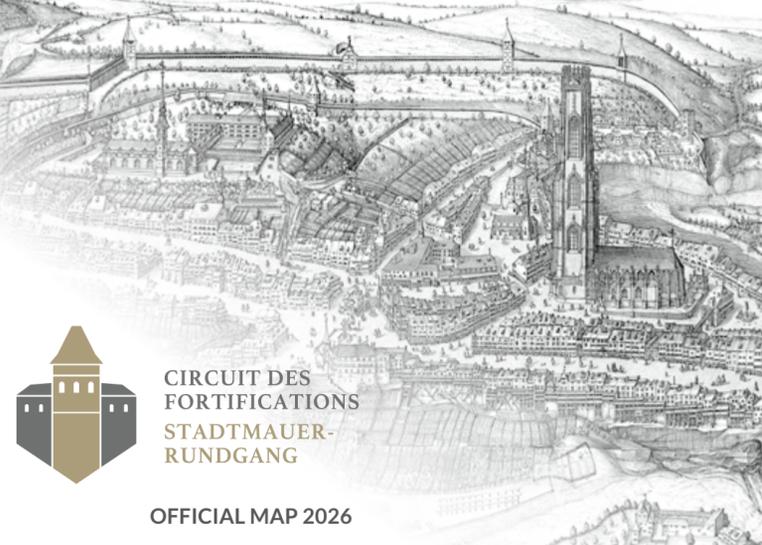
1416

EAST ENCLOSURE

East enclosure, 1410-1416, under the direction of Nicolet Girard. Reinforcement with gunports and three octagonal bartizans on the salients, dated 1647, between the Ten Years' War (1634-1644) and the Swiss peasant war of 1653, designed by State architect Jean-François Reyff. Complete restoration in 1920-1929.



- Open to visitors
- Access to allure only
- Not accessible
- Destroyed



CIRCUIT DES FORTIFICATIONS STADTMAUER-RUNDGANG

OFFICIAL MAP 2026

- Romont Gate Tower
- Henri Tower
- Ponds Gate
- Aigroz Tower
- Curtils novels Tower
- Belluard
- Belluard Wall
- Wheat Tower
- Razors Tower
- Murten Gate Tower
- East enclosure
- Bern Gate Tower
- Cats Tower
- Blacksmiths Brattice
- Red Tower
- Gottéron Gate and Wall
- St-Beatus Chapel
- Dürrenbühl Tower
- Bourguillon Gate Tower
- Bourguillon Wall
- Bourguillon Upper Tower
- Maigrage Gate and Wall
- Neuveville Southern Enclosure
- Pertuis Gate
- Grabou Enclosure

1157

Berchtold of Zaehringen establishes the City of Fribourg. Building of the first fortification ring.

1200-1253

The town grows beyond the first western enclosure, running parallelly to the Grabensaal gulch, and towards the Sarine with the adding of the district of Auge and then the district of Blacksmiths in 1253.

1280-1290

Building of the second western enclosure, limiting the district of the Hospitals, at the level of the depression of the Varis and the gulch of Grabou but also the district of the Neuveville, definitively incorporated in 1404 with the quarter of «Les Planches» on the right bank of the Sarine, which was connected to the city by a series of bridges as early as the middle of the 13th century.

1392-1404

Last medieval extension of the city in direction of the west, towards the gulches of «Montrevers» and «Les Places» with incorporation in 1392 of the suburbs of the present street of «Morat» and «Les Places» or «Hôpitaux-Dessous», followed by the realization of a powerful 3rd western enclosure between 1397-1416.

1370-1420

Last medieval extension of the city in direction of the west, towards the gulches of «Montrevers» and «Les Places» with incorporation in 1392 of the suburbs of the present street of «Morat» and «Les Places» or «Hôpitaux-Dessous», followed by the realization of a powerful 3rd western enclosure between 1397-1416.



1418

BERN GATE TOWER

The Bern Gate Tower, square plan, 6 levels, height 24 meters. Built before 1383 by master Rudy de Hohenberg. Works between 1402-1418. Brattice built in 1587, small cupola of the 1660s, and underneath relief with the arms of the city, 1664. Repair of the roof after a fire in 1660. Above the mouth of the Gottéron, closing of the battlements and brattices, 1st third of the 17th century.



1383

CATS TOWER

The Cats Tower, also called «Middle Tower» in the 18th century, open-gorged tower, 5 levels, crowned with battlements on an allure. Completed in 1383 by Rudy de Hohenberg, master mason. Height 33 meters. Hip roof in 1428. South closure on the city side by a brick wall, following the introduction of firearms in the 15th century. Restored in 1919-1921.

Impressum

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Cover picture: © UFT/STV



1403

BLACKSMITHS BRATTICE

Blacksmiths Brattice, rebuilt between 1917-1921 by the architect Frédéric Broillet, element of the allure reconstructed during the first restoration of the enclosure wall built between 1376 and 1403. Member of the Federal Historical Monuments Commission, Broillet directed the first major restoration projects in the canton of Fribourg, including the city fortifications.



1387

RED TOWER

The Red Tower, quadrangular, circa 1387, 5 levels, height 38 m. Sandstone, type «pierra rossa» (red stone), hence probably its name. Beams, floors and hip roof, 1578-1579, following a fire caused by the daughter of the guardian. Prison and place for the execution before 1848. Restored in 1908-1909 and 1924.



1416

GOTTÉRON GATE AND WALL

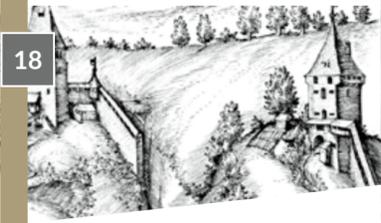
Gottéron Gate and Wall, built between 1376 and 1383, additional north part around 1436-1442. Roof added to the allure in 1441-1442. Southern salient and half-timbered guard house, 1586. Transformation of the battlements into musketslits and the four brattices, 1626-1627. Enlargement of the door in 1872, restored in 1916-1918. Closing the valley of Gottéron, site of the mills..



1684

ST-BEATUS CHAPEL

St-Beatus-St-Roch and St-Ignatius de Loyola Chapel, 1684-1686, transformed in 1732, on the entrance, a statue of Saint Beatus, the hermit who defeated the dragon, and setting up of the current altarpiece with three statues, St. Beatus, late seventeenth century, between St. Nicholas of Myra and St. Ulrich (?), early 17th century. Bell dated 1682, work of the local founder Hans Wilhelm Kley.



1270

DÜRRENBÜHL TOWERL

Dürrenbühl Tower, (Dry hill), quadrangular, 4 levels, about 1370. Elevation and crowning of machicolation between 1398 and 1406 by Jean Lottiez, called de St-Claude, master mason. Demolition of the 5th level and the pyramidal roof, 1620s-1630s. Demolition of the wall during the construction of the road of Bourguillon (1838-1841). Restored in 1925.



1367

BOURGUILLON GATE TOWER

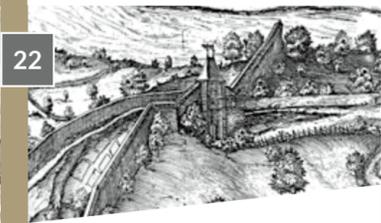
Bourguillon Gate Tower, open-gorged tower, 4 levels, height 29,5 meters, between 1350-1367, transformed between 1402-1410, crowning, corbelled openings and attic built in 1422- 1424, inner infill of bricks, 16th century. At the entrance, State coat of arms dated 1821, coat of arms of Fribourg and the Empire painted in the middle of the 16th century, brattice, around 1587, with roof of the 1660s.



1367

BOURGUILLON WALL BOURGUILLON UPPER TOWER

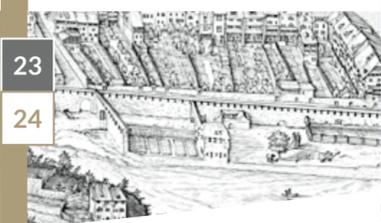
Bourguillon Wall, lined with a wall of counter-scarp, at the upper entrance of the Planches, 1350-1367, raised in 1387-1392. South bartizan, 1418-1419, reconstituted in 1929-1930. To the south, Bourguillon Upper Tower, serving as a powder magazine, destroyed by lightning in 1737. City side, guardhouse, 1711, facing the door of the powder magazine, 1562. Chapel of Loreto, 1647-1648.



1367

MAIGRAUGE GATE AND WALL

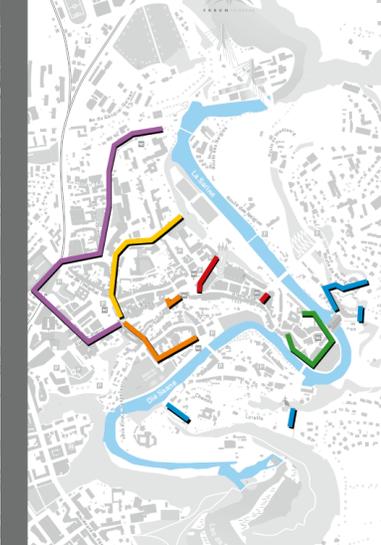
Maigrauge Gate and Wall (latin Magra Augia, poor meadow), built between 1350 and 1367, restored in 1402, roof from 1444. Brattice from 1626. In the half-timbered lodge on the 2nd floor, fireplace chimney dated from 1587. Beyond, the farm of the Abbey of the Maigrauge, 1st half of the 18th century and the Cistercian abbey, occupied without interruption since its foundation in 1255.



1380

NEUEVILLE SOUTHERN ENCLOSURE PERTUIS GATE

Only a few fragments are left from the Neuveville Southern Enclosure, still under construction around 1380, integrated into the buildings that were built after its destruction in 1800. The Pertuis Gate, built between 1277 and 1290, closing the Grand-Fontaine and the Neuveville streets lined with tanner houses, was destroyed in 1822.



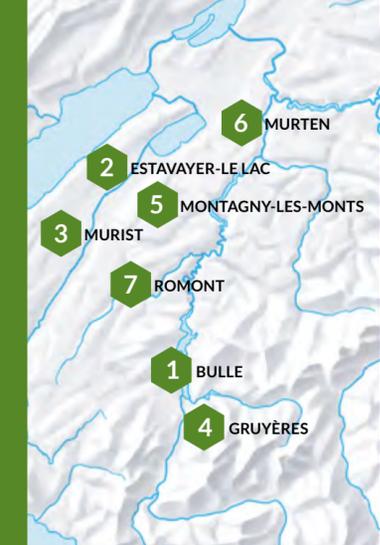
- 1157 Walls and foundation city demarcated by the Grabensaal and the Stalden gate
- 1st quarter of the 13th century First eastern wall protecting the «Auge»
- 1280-1290 Second western wall protecting «le Quartier des Hôpitaux»
- 1277 - 1380 Walls of the Neuveville and the Pertuis
- 1350-1383 Second eastern wall protecting the district of the «Forgerons» and closing «les Planches»
- 1392-1404 Third western wall protecting the district of «Hôpitaux-Dessous»



1410

GRABOU ENCLOSURE

Grabou Enclosure, 1410, above a natural ditch, called «graben». Stairs built in 1839, rebuilt after a rockfall in February 1988 caused by the construction of the Pertuis buildings. «Moving panorama» on the remains of the enclosure from the water counterbalancing funicular, last one of that kind with the «Elevador do Bom Jesus» in Braga (Portugal) and the Nerobergbahn in Wiesbaden (D).



Highlights in the canton

Symbols of power, the medieval castles of the canton have fallen without a fight after the financial woes of their masters, except the castle of Murten.

Some were used to house the bailiffs, others were sold, used as a quarry or left in ruins: Ober Maggenberg, Arconciel, La Roche, Pont-en-Ogoz, Illens, Montsalvens, Bellegarde, Montagny or Bossonnens.

Apart from the castles of Gruyères and Vaulruz, those of Petit-Vivy, Corbières, Attalens, Rue, Surpierre and Vuissens remained in private hands.



1299

BULLE

The Episcopal Castle, around 1289-1299, built under the reign of Guillaume de Champvent. Savoyard square type, with 3 main buildings leaning on curtain walls and large isolated tower at the southwest corner. Bailiffs' castle from 1537, large wooden gallery above the inner courtyard, redevelopment of the bailiffs' apartment, redevelopment of the bailiffs' apartment and large ceremonial room in the north wing 1763-1768. Prefecture since 1848.



1270

ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC

Chenaux Castle, 1285-1293, built for Pierre and Guillaume d'Estavayer, after the model of Grandson Castle. Belongs to Fribourg since 1488. Carpentry rebuilt between 1503 and 1531. Prefecture since 1798. Reduced version of the Savoyard square and witness of the brick architecture of Piedmont. Doubling of the enclosure with brays, towers in bricks, 1433-1443, under Humbert the Bastard.



1303

MURIST

«La Molière» Tower remains from a castle which was already in ruins in 1580, probably built according to a square plan by Conon V de la Molière after the dismemberment of the lordship of Font in 1303. Property of the State of Fribourg in 1636, who built a hip roof. Two floors with fireplace for each of the co-lords. Served as a sandstone quarry in the 19th century.



1282

GRUYÈRES

The castle of the counts of Gruyère, after the model of the Savoyard square. Large round tower between 1270 and 1282. Esplanade, chapel and transformation of the dwelling between 1476 and 1540, redevelopment between 1680 and 1771, for the bailiffs in place from 1555. Property of the Bovy-Balland family and romantic decor under the direction of Daniel Bovy, Property of the State of Fribourg since 1938.



1367

MONTAGNY-LES-MONTS

Ruins of the castle of Montagny, built in the 12th century dominating a new town built between 1269 and 1309, rebuilt between 1508 and 1509, sold in 1802 as a national asset and used as a quarry until 1827. Large circular beffroy-tower, 4th quarter of the 13th century. Seat of a lordship founded around 1146, vassal of Zaehringen then Savoy, bailiwick of Fribourg from 1478.



1283

MORAT

The castle, seat of a lordship, property of Savoy from 1318 to 1476, common bailiwick of Bern and Fribourg until 1798, attached to Fribourg in 1803. Great square tower of the lords of Oleyres to the southeast, 1238-1255, completed by Peter II and Philip of Savoy, 1255-1283. Sem circular towers and main building, 1260s, main building south, 1538-1541, with emblazoned relief, 1540.



1242

ROMONT

The castle of Pierre II of Savoy, with big tower, 1240-1242, main building north, 1249-1265 and Savoyard square closed in 1260-1265. Baillival seat from 1536, prefecture from 1798 and Swiss Stained Glass museum (Vitromusée) since 1981. South curtain wall, around 1261 with entrance and brattice, 1586-1589; west curtain wall for most of the 4th quarter of the 16th century; bailiwick dwelling to the east, 1579-1591.

Fribourg 1606

A journey through time and history!

Practical informations

The walk starts near Fribourg railway station, by the Tourist Office. The other accessible castles and ruins in the canton are mentioned on the opposite map.

You enter History and places that are not generally open to the public and not suitable for mass tourism. They have been adapted and secured to allow access to as many people as possible. The spaces are accessible by stairs and are only accessible by people who can walk without help.

- Stay cautious and vigilant: you are entering solid, but old buildings.
- Do not run on the stairs and on the allures.
- Respect the Heritage, so that others may enjoy it after you.
- Children must be accompanied and watched by an adult.
- Do not smoke on the towers and the walls.
- The towers and the passageways are not places for relaxation and meals, but places of observation.
- The access is forbidden to animals, rollerskates, scooters, skateboards and electric vehicles.
- It is strictly forbidden to write or make graffiti on the walls.
- Watch out, making selfies can be really dangerous

Enjoy your walk!

fribourgtourism.ch/heritage

OFFICIAL MAP 2026

CIRCUIT DES FORTIFICATIONS
STADTMAUER-
RUNDGANG

FRIBOURG
TOURISM
FREIBURG

WALLS, TOWERS AND MEDIEVAL CASTLES OF FRIBOURG, CITY AND CANTON

1st May to 1st November 2026*
Every day, 9 AM – 7 PM
*Exceptions: please refer to the plan

Download the free
Fribourg Tourism AR
application and get the
map in digital version!

Glossary

BASTION: projecting and low work, jagged, with two faces and two flanks, developed since the beginning of the 16th century.

BELLUARD: from the dutch «bolwerk», advanced work or embankment for the artillery. Term also used for walks planted with trees arranged on the medieval ditch embankments.

BRATTICE: small overhang or overhanging box defending the base of a wall or entrance, ground pierced with holes for the firing.

COUNTERSCARP: wall of a ditch on the side of the assault or retaining wall covering this wall.

CURTAIN WALL: wall between two towers or two bastions.

DUNGEON: originally, part of the castle reserved for the master, stately residence in the heart of the castle. Not to confuse with big towers or main towers of the Savoyard and Fribourg castles.

INFILL: basic masonry, filling between poles of a half-timbered construction.

JOISTING: all the beams composing the framework of a floor.

RAMPART: retaining wall containing an embankment for resistance to artillery. Not to confuse with the high walls (muraillies in French)! The so-called «Ramparts of Fribourg» are high walls, nicht einen Wall.