THE ORBANDALE WAY

+ to stroll

Chalon

Le Grand Chalon



FOLLOW THE GOLDEN TRIANGLES!

Let yourself be charmed by Chalon-sur-Saône, a friendly town where history and nature meet. Stroll around, explore and admire its architectural treasures, parks and gardens. Follow the Orbandale Way at your own pace and savour every moment.
Enjoy your visit!

Gilles Platret
MAYOR OF CHALON-SUR-SAÔNE



ST VINCENT'S CATHÉDRALE | SQUARE

ROUTE
ÎLE SAINT-LAURENT
1 710 M | 20 TO 30 MN

ROUTE
TOWN-CENTER
2 750 M | 45 TO 60 MN

1

PORT VILLIERS

The port consists of steps which were constructed around 1840 to make it easier for the many travellers to board the steam boats that navigated the river Saône.



2

STATUE OF NICÉPHORE NIÉPCE

Sculpted in 1885 by Eugène Guillaume who, in honour of the inventor of photography, made no charge for his work on this statue.

3

THE TOURIST OFFICE

Built between 1675 and 1710, this was a staging post for coaches and wagons, where horses were changed and merchandise stored.



4

NICÉPHORE NIÉPCE PHOTOGRAPHY MUSEUM

Formerly an office of the « Messageries Royales » (the first postal service), themuseum now explains the evolution of photography from its invention to the digital age.



5

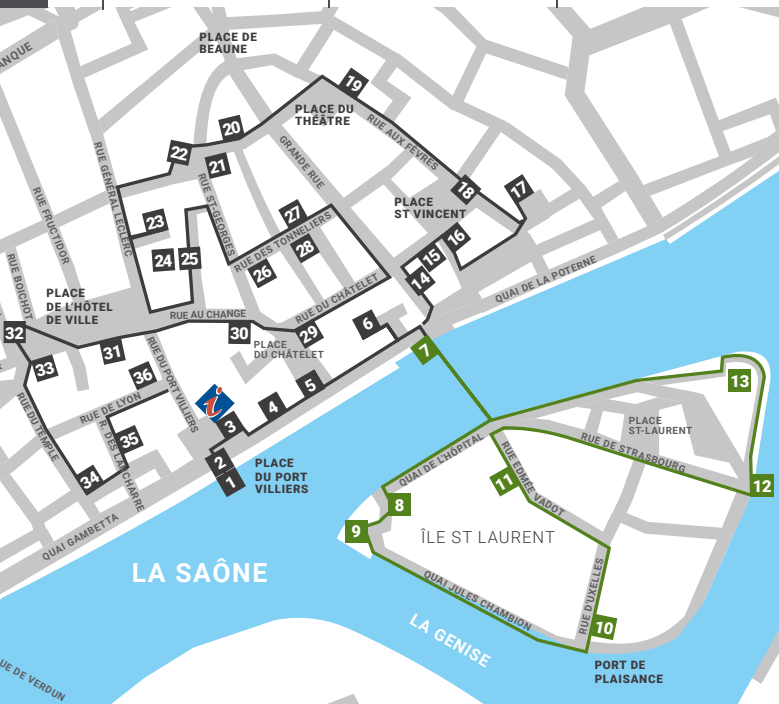
ESPACE PATRIMOINE

Built in 1773 facing the Saône, the former Hôtel Colmont-Fusselet is home to the Espace Patrimoine, which tells the story of 2000 years of Chalonnais history through its exhibitions and explanatory panels.

6

TOWER KNOWN AS « COCO LOUVRIER »

A watch tower which in the Middle Ages formed part of the fortifications on the banks of the Saône. It gets its name from a money lender who lived in the tower around 1800, and whose portrait can be seen in the Denon Museum.





7

ST LAURENT BRIDGE

Originally built by the Romans around 30 BC, it has since been rebuilt twice. In the 14th century it became crowded with houses and mills, which were all removed and replaced with obelisks in the 18th century. The bridge was destroyed by the Germans in 1944 and then completely rebuilt shortly afterwards in concrete faced with stone.



8

HOSPITAL

The creation of a hospital on the Ile St-Laurent goes back to the beginning of the 16th century. The original nuns' quarters, recognisable from the angled gable, date from that period. The main hospital buildings were built during the 19th century and replaced the original main hospital ward which was demolished in 1854. The dome, built in the 1770's, was completely remodelled during the hospital modernisation programme (1854 to 1870).



9

DOYENNÉ TOWER

Originally, it housed the staircase to the lodgings of the eldest of the canons of the Cathedral (in the current courtyard) Rue Edgar Quinet. In 1907 it was sold, taken down and sent for auction in Paris. A rich American patron of the arts, Frank Jay-Gould, bought it and gave it back to the commune which, in 1927 installed it on the Ile St-Laurent.

10

CRS BARRACKS

In 1450 the Cordeliers (Franciscan friars) from Dole formed a monastery on the island at the request of Philippe le Bon, Duke of Burgundy. Their establishment was entirely rebuilt between 1663 and 1693. In 1844 military engineers demolished the church to enlarge the barracks. Before 1914, these could house 4 companies each of 115 men; today the barracks are home to the 43rd Company of the CRS.



11

THE CHAPEL OF THE FORMER HOSPITAL

With its eclectic style, was built in 1873 on the site of a former hospital ward. Although taking inspiration from a variety of different periods, it was constructed using modern materials, including metal used for the roof supports.

12

GENISE BRIDGE

Dating from 1459, the bridge over La Genise, a natural arm of the Saône, was repaired in 1682 before collapsing in 1696. Rebuilt in 1699 with solid piers, domed deck and basket handle arches, it was enlarged in 1857 and strengthened in 1942.

13

QUAI DE LA MONNAIE AND THE PUMPS

PLACE THÉVENIN

The Quai de la Monnaie gets its name from when the Dukes of Burgundy minted money here during the Middle Ages. The pumps enabled clean water to be pumped up from the water table under the bed of the Saône, and were installed circa 1871, thanks to the generosity of the Thévenin family.





14

THE MOTHE HOUSE

9-11 RUE SAINT-VINCENT

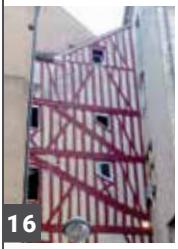
Dating from late 15th to early 16th centuries, the main body of the house was constructed of two parts, one in stone and the other half-timbered, linked by a tower enclosing a spiral staircase to the upper floors (visible from the street).

15

THE HOUSE WITH THREE ATTICS

7 RUE SAINT-VINCENT

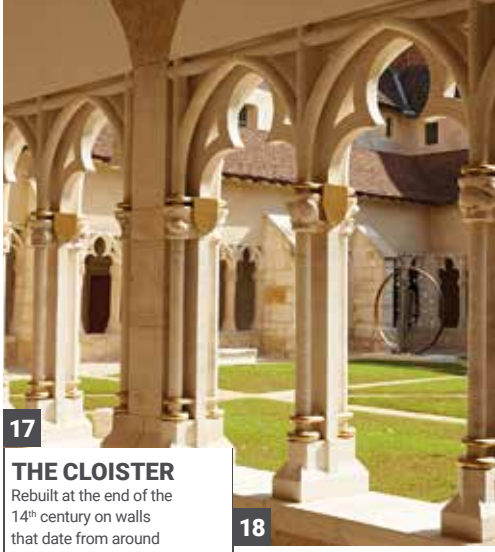
Built circa 1500 this house owes its name to its half timbered facade rising to high roofs which are pierced with three levels of skylights. It belonged to the Riboudeau family, wealthy Chalon merchants.



16

THE LOMBARDS' HOUSE

This stone tower house built in the 13th century would have belonged to one of the notable Lombardy Jewish families, known for their role as money lenders during the great fairs of the Middle Ages.
The church forbade this activity for Christians.



17

THE CLOISTER

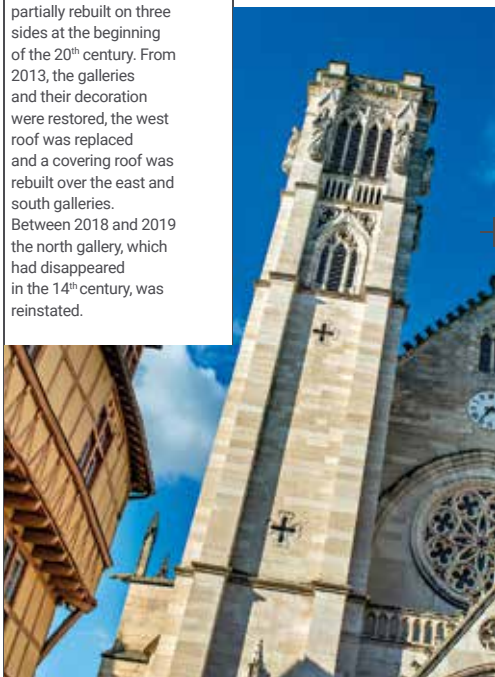
Rebuilt at the end of the 14th century on walls that date from around 1000AD, it is the only preserved cloister in Burgundy and Franche-Comte that serves a cathedral, in addition, it is the oldest in the region to still have full height walls. Originally covered by a simple wooden roof covered with tiles, in the 15th century a stone vaulted roof was installed. Damaged in 1562 by the Huguenots, divided up and sold off following the Revolution, it was partially rebuilt on three sides at the beginning of the 20th century. From 2013, the galleries and their decoration were restored, the west roof was replaced and a covering roof was rebuilt over the east and south galleries. Between 2018 and 2019 the north gallery, which had disappeared in the 14th century, was reinstated.

18

ST VINCENT'S CATHÉDRALE AND SQUARE

Built in the Roman and Gothic styles from 1080 to the 16th century. The facade which was destroyed during the Revolution was rebuilt from 1827 in the Neo-gothic style.

The Cathedral is currently being restored, and cannot be visited.





19

THE PICCOLO THEATRE

All that remains of the original 1776 theatre is the facade, where the taste for the antique style is visible in its sobriety and in the choice of ionic columns and capitals. The rest of the Italian-style theatre was completely rebuilt in 1886

20

THE OLD CHAMBION HOUSE

40 RUE SAINT GEORGES

This mid-19th century folly, mixing eastern fantasy and the Middle Ages, was built on a part of the former 13th century monastery of the charitable order of Saint Antoine.

21

THE SASSENAY MANSION

38 RUE SAINT GEORGES

Situated between a courtyard and a garden, the mansion belonged to the Du Blé d'Uxelles family, whose members had been governors of the Royal Citadel of Chalon during the 17th and 18th centuries.



22

THE DE VIREY MANSION

PLACE PONTUS DE TYARD

This former mansion of Enoch de Virey, mayor of Chalon, built in 1612 using brick and stone is attributed to the Lorraine architect Gentillâtre. It was doubled in size, imitating the existing building, during the installation of the Sous Prefecture during the 19th century

23

VILLA DENON

AT THE END ON THE LEFT OF THE IMPASSE VILLA DENON.

House of the parents of Dominique Vivant Denon, artist, diplomat and French administrator, who was the 1st director of the Musée du Louvre in Paris.



24

SAUDON TOWER

The tower, remains of the gallo-roman wall, formed part of the fortified house of Sieur Saudon, liegeman of the Count of Chalon, around 1000. In the 17th century it was integrated into the chapel of the Oratoriens convent.

25

BIRTHPLACE OF NICÉPHORE NIÉPCE

15 RUE DE L'ORATOIRE

Nicéphore Niépce was the inventor of the photographic process.



26

THE TOWN HALL BELFRY

In 1407 the city aldermen acquired a house for use as a town hall. The staircase tower raised in 1429 housed the bells that proclaim the power of the municipal institution. The belfry is all that remains today.

27

THE NOIROT MANSION

8 RUE DES TONNELIERS

This mansion was built around 1710 for a former mayor of Chalon in a quarter that was popular in the 17th and 18th centuries amongst the court nobles.



28

THE CHIQUET MANSION

5 RUE DES TONNELIERS

This huge rectangular mansion, in the antique style arranged around a courtyard, was built in 1770 for Madame Chiquet. In 1805 Napoleon 1st and then Pope Pius 7th stayed there.

29

THE FOUR SEASONS HOUSE

37 RUE DU CHÂTELET

Built in 1657 for Barthelemy Magnien, a parliamentary advocate. The Roman style bas reliefs in plaster show four faces in profile and carrying flowers, a sheaf of corn, fruit and a bundle of firewood representing the four seasons.



30

THE PERRY HOUSE

3 RUE AU CHANGE

In 1614 the lawyer Louis Perry, alderman and later mayor of Chalon, commissioned the architect Gentillâtre to build this classical and richly decorated house.

31

TOWN HALL

Opened in 1844, it is built on the remains of the 15th century Carmelite convent which became the tribunal (1822). The neo-classical facade is the work of the architect Eugene Piot.



32

DENON MUSEUM

Originally built over part of the Ursulines convent, the building was updated in the neo-classical style in 1820-1822 in order to house a free art school. The museum, inaugurated in 1866, contains collections of fine art and of archaeology.



33

CHURCH AND FORMER CONVENT OF ST PIERRE

The St Pierre church and convent were erected at the end of the 17th - beginning of the 18th centuries by Benedictine monks. Made the parish church in 1802, the facade was restored in 1900.

34

CHAPEL OF THE HOSPITALIERS

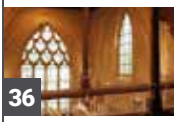
The only remains of the Templar commandery that came under the aegis of the Hospitallers of Malta in the 14th century, this 13th-century chapel houses the Musée du Souvenir du Combattant.

35

THE LANCHARRE CONVENT

10 QUAI GAMBETTA

A convent for the Benedictines who came from Lancharre. From 1626 onwards it covered a very large area.



36

CARMELITE CHAPEL

4 RUE DE LYON - ENTRANCE BY THE TOWN HALL

The choir in the flat apse of the 15th century Carmelite chapel, is the only substantial element remaining of this edifice, which was split into sections and sold during the Revolution. It now houses part of the town library.

THE ORBANDALE WAY

This trail is called “Orbandale” after the poetic name given to the town of Chalon-sur-Saône during the Middle Ages. In 1662, the historian Léonard Bertaut published a book entitled “The Illustrated Orbandale, or the Ancient and Modern History of the city and town of Chalon sur Saône”, and cites many sources which mention this name. According to him, the name takes its origins from the three golden rings (orbes in old French) which constitute the town’s Coat of Arms, and which symbolize the three rows of gilded bricks that appeared on the old boundary walls that encircled the town.





AUDIOGUIDE

Available from the Tourist Office, it will guide you along the Orbandale Way of Grand Chalon with information on the points of interest.
Ask for it at reception!

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