

'Beaux Detour in Ancient France'

ICFR Rally - Sunday 20/08/2017 to Friday 1/09/2017

This 12 night rally takes us on a journey through the region of Burgundy. We will see old and beautiful villages, out of the way places; and some of Roman France. We will visit the site of Caesars battle with Vercingetorix at Alesia and later in the rally we visit Guedelon Castle, a 25 year project to build a castle in the way it would have been built in the 13th C.



The rally involves staying at three sites and spending four nights at each site. The first site at Autun is in central Burgundy, approximately 50kms west of Beaune. The second site at Cosne-Cours sur Loire in the extreme west of Burgundy, is just 12 kms north of the famous wine village of Sancerre; and finally we stay in Montbard which is 75kms north west of Dijon.

The cost of the rally is approximately €360 per couple, which includes all site fees and the excursion to Guedelon, (entry fee, guided tour and lunch). On the rally we will have group hospitality (drinks and nibbles) most evenings, hosted by different couples, meaning that we will all take a turn. This will ensure that we catch up with each other regularly, share experiences and enjoy the incredible ICFR fellowship. We plan to take 12 units on this rally.

Autun

Autun is located at the entrance to Morvan, the regional nature park of Burgundy. Our site is on the outskirts of this small, interesting town which offers the visitor a journey through time.

Autun has preserved important traces and buildings from the Gallo-Roman and Medieval eras. Its Roman amphitheatre was the largest of its kind in the whole of the Western part of the Roman Empire and is certainly worth a visit.



In the town we have the opportunity to drive through two roman gateways, visit the the Temple de Janus, the Pyramide de Couhard and drive up to the Croix de la Liberation (Autun's post-war memorial).



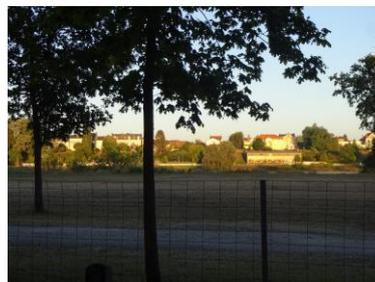
A journey into Morvan National Parc reveals its beautiful countryside with hidden lakes and parcs, one of which houses The Museum of Resistances. This museum, which offers an audio guide in English, gives a fascinating insight into the work of the Resistance and its relationship with the British.

The memorable town of Beaune, with its patterned tiled roofs and famous wine district is 50km away; and the wine district of Macon about 100km – both regions are worth a visit for those wine lovers amongst us!

Cosne-Cours sur Loire

This town is ideally situated from which to explore the area. It is just north of the memorable village of Sancerre, providing opportunities to visit the Loire wine region. Sancerre's "Caves de la Mignonne" has an annual wine fair at the end of August, which happens to coincide with our visit to the area!

View from our site, which is on the banks of the Loire, just across the river from the town



From Cosne we will visit this medieval castle under construction at Guedelon. The 25 year project involves a team of master builders and workmen building a 13th C castle from scratch, using tools and methods of the time, so no modern engineering. You may have seen a TV programme about this fascinating project. Our visit to Guedelon will include a guided tour and lunch.

The charming village of Rogny Les Sept Ecluses (the 7 locks) is 50k from the site and is famous for its impressive staircase of seven locks. It was built in the 17th C on the Briare canal, to connect the Loire and the Seine.

Today the ancient staircase of locks is bypassed by a more modern arrangement.



Montbard

Montbard, on the Burgundy canal, is the birthplace of naturalist Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte du Buffon. The town holds many treasures including the Buffon Museum and Park, which was landscaped between 1733 and 1742. Our campsite is adjacent to the aquatic centre 'Amphitrite' and the town centre is a 10 minute walk from the site.



The Abbey of Fontenay (UNESCO World Heritage site) and the castle of Bussy-Rabutin are nearby and well worth a visit.

We will visit the Museoparc (an interactive museum) at Alesia, on the site of the famous battle between Julius Caesar and Vercingetorix; you may well remember learning about it at school, or even from Asterix!

Bookings are now open and will close on Friday 13th January 2017. If you wish to join us on the rally, please complete the booking form and return it, with your deposit of £100, by 13th January 2017. If the rally is over-subscribed, there will have to be a ballot.