

# FRIBOURG

## INNOVATIVE BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO CULTURES

The old town of Fribourg is deemed to be one of the most beautiful in Switzerland. Its location alone is enchanting: It enjoys an extremely picturesque location in the meander loop of the River Sarine and extends from the riverside via the lower town to the centre of the old town around the Cathedral with its force field. 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. Works by contemporary artists, such as Jean Tinguely and Mario Botta, can also be admired. The capital Freiburg/Fribourg not only creates the cultural bridge between the German and French areas of Switzerland, it also boasts numerous bridges with interesting architecture. There are 14 bridges in total in the urban area and the oldest were built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The newest, called Poya Bridge, which was completed in 2014, is

an impressive cable-stayed bridge with the longest distance between two piers nationwide.

As a multicultural and lively arts and university town that bridges two cultures, it has a great deal to offer in terms of fine dining and culture. The museums present a wide variety of themes, from modern art and cultural history to puppets and sewing machines. Chocolate is also high on the cultural agenda, at the Villars Chocolate Factory, which is over 100 years old, and has a shop and a small café. If you feel like something savoury after eating (too) many sweets, you can try the original local beers created in Fribourg. The Botanical Gardens are a good place to get some fresh air. In the evenings, visitors are spoilt for choice with theatre, jazz, rock music, dancing and much more, including typical cosy restaurants, trendy places and an exceptional number of top gourmet addresses.  
[www.fribourgtourisme.ch](http://www.fribourgtourisme.ch)



## URBAN GOLF



**Popular:** Fribourg has been offering urban golf for ten years now. 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 City Card (for one or two days) includes mini-golf, the mini-train, many other sights and public transport.

## ORGAN MUSIC



**Church music:** A concert on the historic organs of St. Nicholas Cathedral is touchingly beautiful. Wednesdays, 12:15 am – 1:00 pm, *July/August*. Organ vespers may be heard in the Franciscan Church on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 pm. The International Organ Festival takes place from *19 – 23 September 2018*. The International Festival of Sacred Music from *30 June – 8 July 2018* is a much-frequented highlight of classical music in Switzerland.  
[www.academieorgue.ch](http://www.academieorgue.ch)

## ORIGINAL



**Contemporary:** Art lovers will find a lovely homage to the artist couple Jean Tinguely - Niki de Saint Phalle in the Espace. Some of the machine-like sculptures by the Fribourg artist, who died 27 years ago, are also exhibited.

## ST. NICHOLAS DAY FOR ALL



**Steeped in tradition:** The celebrations in honour of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of the town, 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 rides his donkey through the streets, handing out gingerbread to children with his helpers. The highlight is his speech from the Cathedral balcony, in which he takes a critical look at the events of the past year. Be sure not to miss the sweets and handicrafts market held on the same day. *Saturday, 1 December 2018*. [www.st-nicolas.ch](http://www.st-nicolas.ch)

## KEY DATES

- 1157 - the town is founded by Duke Berthold IV of Zähringen
- 1490 - Completion of St. Nicholas Cathedral
- 1481 - The canton of Fribourg joins the Swiss Confederation
- 1889 - Fribourg University is founded
- 2014 - Inauguration of the 852 m long Poya Road Bridge

## NUMBERS

- Population** 81,981 inhabitants (urban area), 38,521 inhabitants (town)
- Languages** French and German
- Altitude** 629 m above sea level