

# 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: the extremely picturesque town nestles in the meanders of the Sarine river and extends from the river bank 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. Works by contemporary artists, such as Jean Tinguely and Mario Botta, can also be admired. The capital Fribourg not only creates the cultural bridge between the German and French areas of Switzerland, but also boasts numerous bridges with interesting architecture. There are 14 bridges in total in the urban area, the oldest of which were built in the 13th 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. The museums present a wide variety of themes, from modern art and cultural history and puppets to sewing machines. Chocolate is also high on the cultural agenda. The Villars Chocolate Factory, which is over 100 years old, has a shop and a small café. If you feel like something savoury after (too) many sweet treats, try the original Fribourg craft beers. There's also a new Food Tour: the five-course meal is called Taste My 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 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 City Card (for one or two days) includes the Urban golf, a little train ride, entrances in museums and public transport.

## OFF TO MIDDLE AGES



**Exploring the town:** the old Werkhof presents Fribourg as it appeared in 1606, with a model measuring 52 m<sup>2</sup>, accompanied by multimedia activities. Thanks to digital technologies, Martin Martini's engravings were superimposed on modern, digital maps to create a new kind of audio guide. For an individual tour of the town, you can take a journey through time to 20 important places in the town.

## ORIGINAL



**Contemporary:** Art lovers will find a lovely homage to the artist couple Jean Tinguely - Niki de Saint Phalle in their Espace. Some of the machine-like sculptures by the Fribourg artist (1925-1991) 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, December 5th 2020. [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 - The University of Fribourg is founded
- 2014 - Inauguration of the 852 m long Poya Road Bridge

## NUMBERS

- Population 82,749 inhabitants (urban area), 41,660 inhabitants (town)
- Languages French and German
- Altitude 610 m above sea level