

MURTEN

PEARL ON LAKE MURTEN

Murten, the capital of the Fribourg Lake District, is a case of love at first sight. The small Zähringer town, in its idyllic location overlooking Lake Murten, simply delights everyone. The Old Town has nestled against its defensive town walls since the Middle Ages. The walls are part of a fortification that is very well preserved and accessible and beg to be explored. A real adventure, brimming with history that fascinates children and adults alike! Fortified towers, dungeons, narrow stairs and secret rooms bring Murten's turbulent history to life. The Battle of Murten on 22 June 1476, in which the Swiss Confederates defeated the army of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy... who then "lost heart", is still commemorated today. History buffs should visit Murten Museum in the old mill, adjacent to the town walls. Sporting enthusiasts take part in the legendary "Murten Marathon", which commemorates the victory and always goes to Fribourg in October. And for the young people of Murten, the school

festival "Solennität" at the end of June is an occasion to remember and celebrate.

A stroll in the Old Town through quaint lanes and arcades, past impressive town houses and historic fountains, is a must for all visitors. The view from the 13th century castle extends over the deep blue water of Lake Murten to the vineyards on Mount Vully. That is the place on the Fribourg riviera where winegrowers cultivate 20 or more varieties of grape, but mainly Chasselas and Pinot Noir. These splendid wines can be enjoyed in one of the typical taverns in the Old Town or on the bustling lakeside promenade... perhaps with a regional fish dish. This is a good time to discuss what to do next from a wide choice that includes cultural attractions, museums, boat trips, beaches, cycling tours and fine dining.

www.regionmurtensee.ch



TOWER OF BERN



Guided tour of the town: The zealous citizen of Murten, Dädu Marthaler, also officiates as clock winder in Murten's Tower of Bern. "It's always most exciting 10 minutes before..." he says and points to the creaking wooden steps up to the tower. The three weights that drive the clock's mechanism – original cannonballs from the Battle of Murten in 1476 – have to be wound up by hand every day. Dädu performs this honorary duty effortlessly. Murten's clock mechanisms all have great entertainment value. www.regionmurtensee.ch

A BOAT TRIP



Lake Murten: A boat trip can be romantic, cosy or practical. A round trip from Murten promises to be very enjoyable when delicious regional specialities are served as well. The waterway can also be used to enhance a cycling or hiking tour. Cycles are transported free of charge on Lake Murten. The Riviera on Mount Vully, with its magnificent views, enchant visitors with beautiful vineyard landscapes and plenty of culinary delights. www.navig.ch and www.dreiseenschiffahrt.ch

PAPILIORAMA



All year round: 1,001 butterflies and many exotic species to discover in the tropical forest, mangrove swamp and orchid ponds. The Nocturama shows the nocturnal jungle inhabitants. The Papiliorama in Kerzers has something for the whole family. www.papiliorama.ch

A WINTER TASTE EXPERIENCE



Murten from a different perspective: Murtner's culinary tales, this is the name of the wintry gastronomic journey of discovery in four acts. A knowledgeable guide provides informative tidbits about Murten's past between visits to different restaurants. A reservation is necessary. Visitors who stay here mid-January have timed their trip particularly well. The Murten Light Festival casts a spell on the entire Old Town, the town walls and the lakeside with first-class light art, poetic effects and a dazzling spectacle. www.murtenlichtfestival.ch

KEY DATES

515 - First mentioned as a defensive site called "Muratum"
1170 - Town founded under the Zähringer dynasty
1476 - Battle of Murten, victory of the Swiss Confederates
2002 - Expo.02 National Exhibition Monolith in Lake Murten
2016 - First Light Festival

NUMBERS

Population 8,200 inhabitants
Language German 83%,
French 15%
Altitude 453 m above sea level