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ENGLISH EDITION

Discover Bulle

Historic walk





A thousand year-old market tradition

City center walk

Visit the historic city center of Bulle. Admire its monuments, its curiosities, its squares, its parks and its panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. At the Musée gruérien (Gruyère Museum) discover the town's animated models (1722, 1912, 2002) and the permanent exhibition *La Gruyère, footprints and detours*, created in 2012.

Find more pictures and info at www.la-gruyere.ch/tour
Smartphone app on www.notrehistoire.ch

Signposting



Throughout your walk in the city of Bulle, you'll find numbered panels listing places of interest and their founding dates.

Groups and guided tours

The Musée gruérien offers guided tours for groups (adults and/or children). Please contact us for more information.



Tourist Office

Pl. des Alpes 26
CH - 1630 Bulle
T +41 (0)848 424 424
F +41 (0)26 919 85 01

info@la-gruyere.ch
www.la-gruyere.ch

MON-FRI 9am-12pm, 2pm-6pm
SAT 9am-12pm
9am-4pm (from June to September)

Musée gruérien

Rue de la Condémine 25
CH - 1630 Bulle
T +41 (0)26 916 10 10
F +41 (0)26 916 10 11

info@musee-gruerien.ch
www.musee-gruerien.ch

October to May
MON closed
TUE-FRI 10am-12pm, 1.30pm-5pm
SAT 10am-5pm
SUN and public holidays 1.30pm-5pm

June to September
MON closed
TUE-SAT 10am-5pm
SUN and public holidays 1.30pm-5pm



The history of Bulle dates back to the 9th century. The town was then the seat of the main church of a wide region. Situated at the meeting point of several valleys and trading routes, it began holding weekly markets in the 12th century. The origin of the name "Bulle" is unknown. Old names for the town include Butulum (9th century), Bollo (1200), Bullo (around 1225) and in German, Boll.

In the Middle Ages, Bulle belonged to the Bishop of Lausanne who built the castle and ramparts. After the occupation of the Vaud region by Bern (1536), the inhabitants of Bulle became subjects of Fribourg. The bull on the coat of arms of Bulle is a "talking coat of arms" which owes its origins to the link between the patois term bolè (young bull) and the name of the town.

In the 17th century Bulle was an important centre for the export of Gruyère cheeses. The cheeses were gathered in its cellars before being dispatched to Vevey, Geneva and the fairs of Lyon.

In the 18th century, almost all the roofs of Bulle were covered with shingles or tavillons (wooden tiles). These did much to spread the fire that largely destroyed the town on 2 April 1805. Reconstruction lasted half a century.

The administrative centre of the district of La Gruyère since 1848, Bulle was linked to the national railway network in 1868. In 2012, the RER (regional express network) reduced the journey time to Lausanne and Bern to one hour. The opening of the A12 motorway (1981) added to the town's attractiveness: it had 1000 inhabitants in 1722, 4000 in 1912 and nearly 20'000 in 2013, following the merger with La Tour-de-Trême (2006).

1**ORCHESTRION** (1913)

The only example of its kind in the world, the Soléa is an orchestrion (mechanical orchestra) built in 1913 for the café-restaurant Le Fribourgeois by the firm Weber in Waldkirch (Germany). Demonstration on request.

2**BULL** (1996)

The bull is the heraldic emblem of Bulle. This sculpture by the artist from Ticino Nag Arnoldi was offered to the town in 1996 in memory of Pierre Glasson (1907-1991), a former member of the government of the canton of Fribourg.

2**ARTWORKS AT THE STATION** (1990)

The painting in the hall and the mosaics (1992) on the floor of the railway station are the work of Jacques Cesa. Covering an area of more than 300 m², the frescoes on the bus station walls were made in 1990 by Jacques Cesa, Georges Corpataux, Pierre-André Despond, Dominique Gex, Jacques Rime and Daniel Savary. They depict La Gruyère by day and by night.

3**TOWN HALL** (1809)

The Town Hall building dates from 1809, four years after the fire that destroyed the town. Formerly the seat of the city burghers, it houses the communal authorities and stands on the Grand-Rue, the main shopping thoroughfare of Bulle.

4

SAINT-PIERRE-AUX-LIENS CHURCH (1816)



The church was rebuilt after the fire of 1805 and consecrated on 22 September 1816. The great organ is the work of Aloys Mooser of Fribourg.

5

HALLES (1787)



The Halles building dates from 1787. A trading centre for grain for the regions of La Gruyère and Pays-d'Enhaut, this edifice was one of the first to be rebuilt after the fire of 1805.

6

BANDSTAND (1907)



The bandstand, built at the initiative of the town's musical society, was inaugurated in 1907. It is situated on the square where Bulle market, a tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages is held every Thursday.

7

NICOLAS CHENAUX (1740-1781)



This statue by the sculptor Carl Angst inaugurated in 1933 represents Nicolas Chenaux (1740-1781), from La Tour-de-Trême, who headed a popular revolt against the patrician government of Fribourg in 1781.

8**LIME TREE** (2004)

The heart of the old town, a meeting place and the site where important matters were discussed, the lime tree was planted between 1730 and 1742. It was replaced by a new tree in 2004.

9**CASTLE** (1291)

Constructed from 1291 by the Bishop of Lausanne, the feudal lord of Bulle, the castle has retained its administrative vocation: it is occupied by the district prefecture, the court and the gendarmerie. The main tower reaches a height of 33 metres (108 feet). The inner courtyard is open to the public.

10**NOTRE-DAME DE COMPASSION** (1688)

The destination of many pilgrims in the 17th and 18th centuries, the Church of Notre-Dame de Compassion was founded in 1350 and converted in 1688-1692. It was served by Capuchin monks from 1665 to 2004.

11**CASTLE GARDEN** (1722)

The castle garden, mentioned on a map dated 1722, is a green haven in the center of town. Opened to the public in 1999, it is located on the path linking the Market Square to the Musée gruérien.

12

MUSEE GRUERIEN AND LIBRARY (1917)



The Museum and the Library collect and showcase the region's heritage. Founded in 1917 thanks to the generosity of the writer and journalist Victor Tissot, the institution took up residence in the Hôtel Moderne and moved to the existing building in 1978. Models of the town of Bulle (1722, 1912, 2002) and permanent exhibition *La Gruyère, footprints and detours*.

13

HÔTEL MODERNE (1906)



Built in 1906 in the mould of the luxury hotels of Lausanne and Montreux, and bankrupted one year later, the Hôtel Moderne is a remarkable testament to Belle Epoque architecture.

14

JOSEPH BOVET (1879-1951)



Monument sculpted by Antoine Claraz in 1957. In the centre stands Joseph Bovet (1879-1951), composer of religious and secular music, particularly famous for his song "Le Vieux Chalet".

15

TOUR DU TOCSIN (1836)



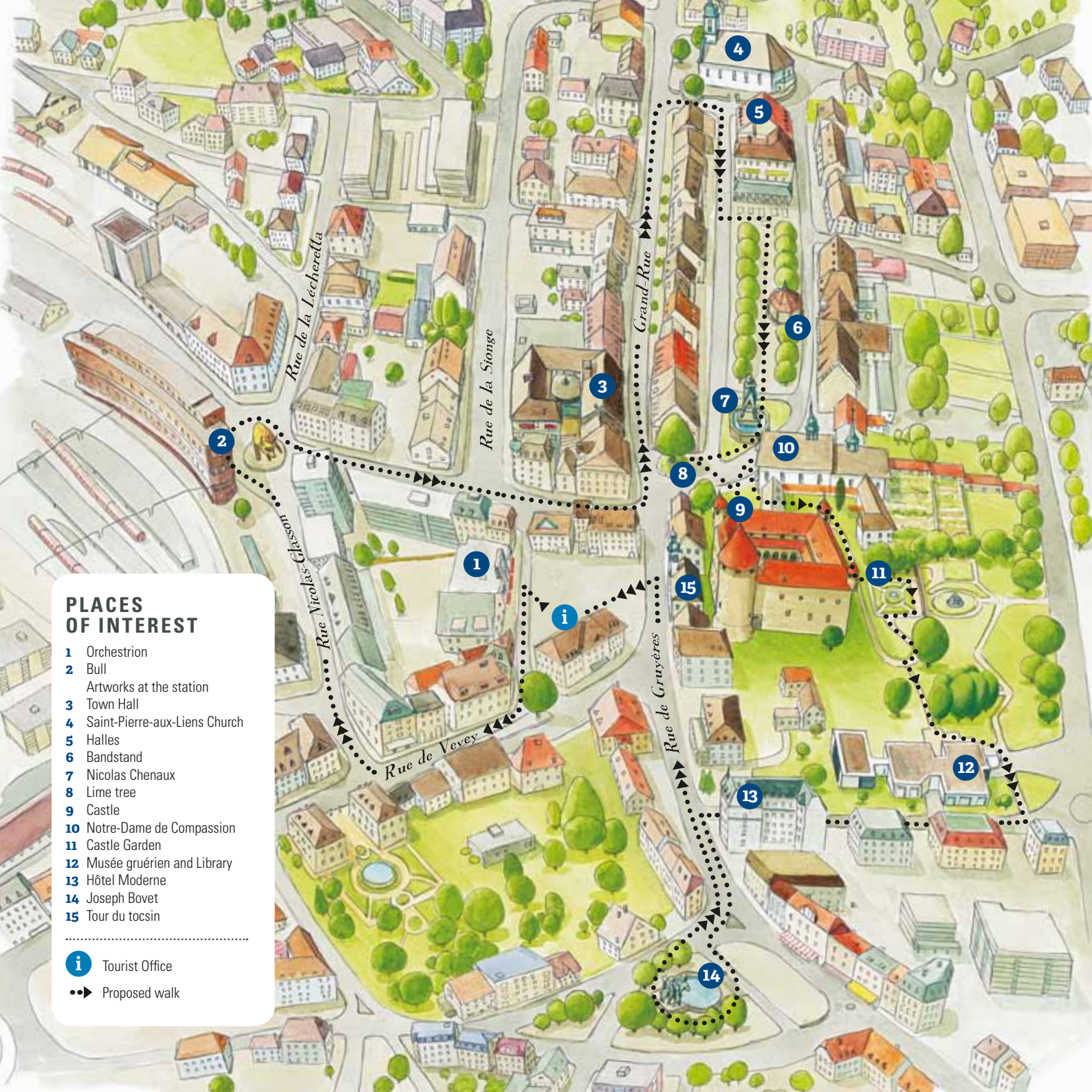
The steeple and clock of the tower are vestiges of the Porte d'Enhaut, one of the medieval gates leading into the town. The gate was demolished in 1836 to facilitate the movement of people and goods.

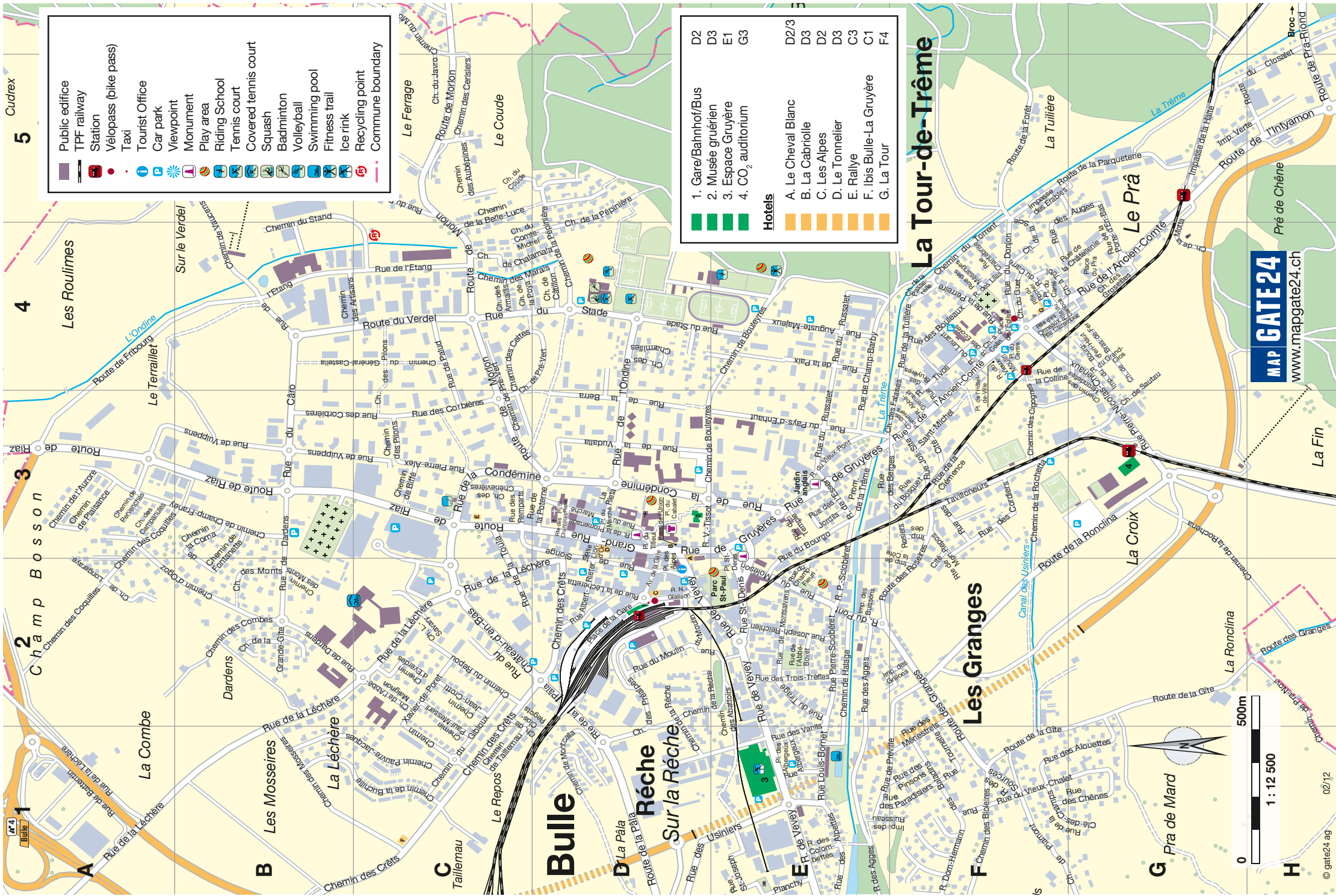
PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 Orchestra
- 2 Bull
Artworks at the station
- 3 Town Hall
- 4 Saint-Pierre-aux-Liens Church
- 5 Halles
- 6 Bandstand
- 7 Nicolas Chenaux
- 8 Lime tree
- 9 Castle
- 10 Notre-Dame de Compassion
- 11 Castle Garden
- 12 Musée grüerien and Library
- 13 Hôtel Moderne
- 14 Joseph Bovet
- 15 Tour du tocsin

i Tourist Office

••► Proposed walk





- Public edifice
- TPF railway
- Station
- Vélopass (bike pass)
- Taxi
- Tourist Office
- Car park
- Viewpoint
- Monument
- Play area
- Riding School
- Tennis court
- Covered tennis court
- Squash
- Badminton
- Volleyball
- Swimming pool
- Fitness trail
- Ice rink
- Recycling point
- Commune boundary

- 1. Gare/Bahnhof/Bus
 - 2. Musée grüerien
 - 3. Espace Gruyère
 - 4. CO₂ auditorium
- Hotels**
- A. Le Cheval Blanc
 - B. La Cabriolle
 - C. Les Alpes
 - D. Le Tonnelier
 - E. Rallye
 - F. Ibis Bulle-La Gruyère
 - G. La Tour

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