



# Buxy

DISCOVER THE MEDIEVAL HEART  
AT YOUR OWN PACE!



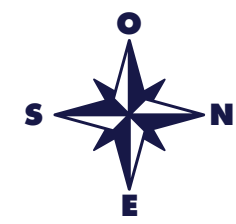
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Communauté de Communes  
**Sud Côte  
Chalonnaise**  
OFFICE DE TOURISME



Offices de  
Tourisme  
de France

The southern Côte Chalonnaise region boasts an unmissable heritage, as varied as it is fascinating. Castles, medieval towns, villages and hamlets make up the richness of this territory. Start your exploration in Buxy to get a taste of this magnificent territory. Despite the evolution of time and population, the area has managed to preserve its heritage and turn it into a tourist attraction. In the heart of the town, discover a rich historical and architectural heritage. Follow the signs on the town map to make sure you don't miss a point of interest.



- 1 L'enceinte fortifiée - Grande rue
- 2 Rue des Juifs
- 3 Maison Saccazand
- 4 Église Saint-Germain
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## A BIT OF *history!*

With its picturesque lanes, 12th-century Tour Rouge (a vestige of the town's fortified walls), Saint Germain church and old houses on rue des fossés, the town of Buxy has retained its medieval character.

The name Buxy probably comes from the Latin Buxetum, meaning a place planted with box trees. In the 10th century, Buxy was an important market town (chief town of the Vicaria Buxiencensi) and then, at the end of the century, became a provosty under the Counts of Chalon until 1237. It was on this date that Jean le Sage, Count of Chalon, exchanged his Comté de Chalon for three seigneuries with Hugues IV, Duke of Burgundy. Buxy remained part of the Duchy of Burgundy until 1477, when the King of France personally became Lord of Buxy.

The town's fortifications, of which the Tour Rouge is a precious witness today, date back to the period when the exactions of the Comte de Chalon brought King Louis VII of France to the Chalonnaise region.

The Battle of Buxy, on March 14, 1471, took place between the royal and ducal forces. After annulling the Treaty of Péronne, Louis XI resumed fighting against Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. In particular, he sent an army to seize Cluny, Charolles and Paray-le-Monial, before

encountering resistance at Buxy. The Burgundians were defeated in this battle, with the strength of each army estimated at around 4,000 men, according to the rough estimates of chroniclers. It was after this battle that Louis XI annexed Buxy.

During the Second World War, Buxy was cut in two, starting in June 1940, when the demarcation line was set up at the southern exit of the village. It remained active for 3 years.

**At the end of the 19th century, the train arrived in the commune of Buxy. A century later, it left to make way for France's first cycle path: the Green Way.**

In addition to its architectural heritage, Buxy is renowned for the quality of its stone, a late Jurassic limestone. Used, among other things, for reconstruction and exported worldwide. Buxy stone has been used and magnified by the famous sculptor Ivan Avoscan. You can admire one of his works as you pass the fountain on Place du Carcabot.

Buxy is also famous for its Montagny appellation, which it shares with three other villages (Montagny-lès-Buxy, Jully-lès-Buxy and Saint-Vallerin).



## *Don't miss it!*

### GUIDED TOUR

From July to September, the Tourist Office, in collaboration with the Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie de Buxy, invites you to discover the historic center of Buxy every Friday morning! Discover the village and its historical anecdotes. The Musée du Vigneron, a true symbol of the «art of the vine» so dear to our region, will bring your visit to a close.

**Tarif : 4 € per person / free -12 years old. Timing : 1h30. Reservations required at the Tourist Office. Guided tours available all year round on request and every Friday at 10am during the summer season.**

### LE MUSÉE DU VIGNERON

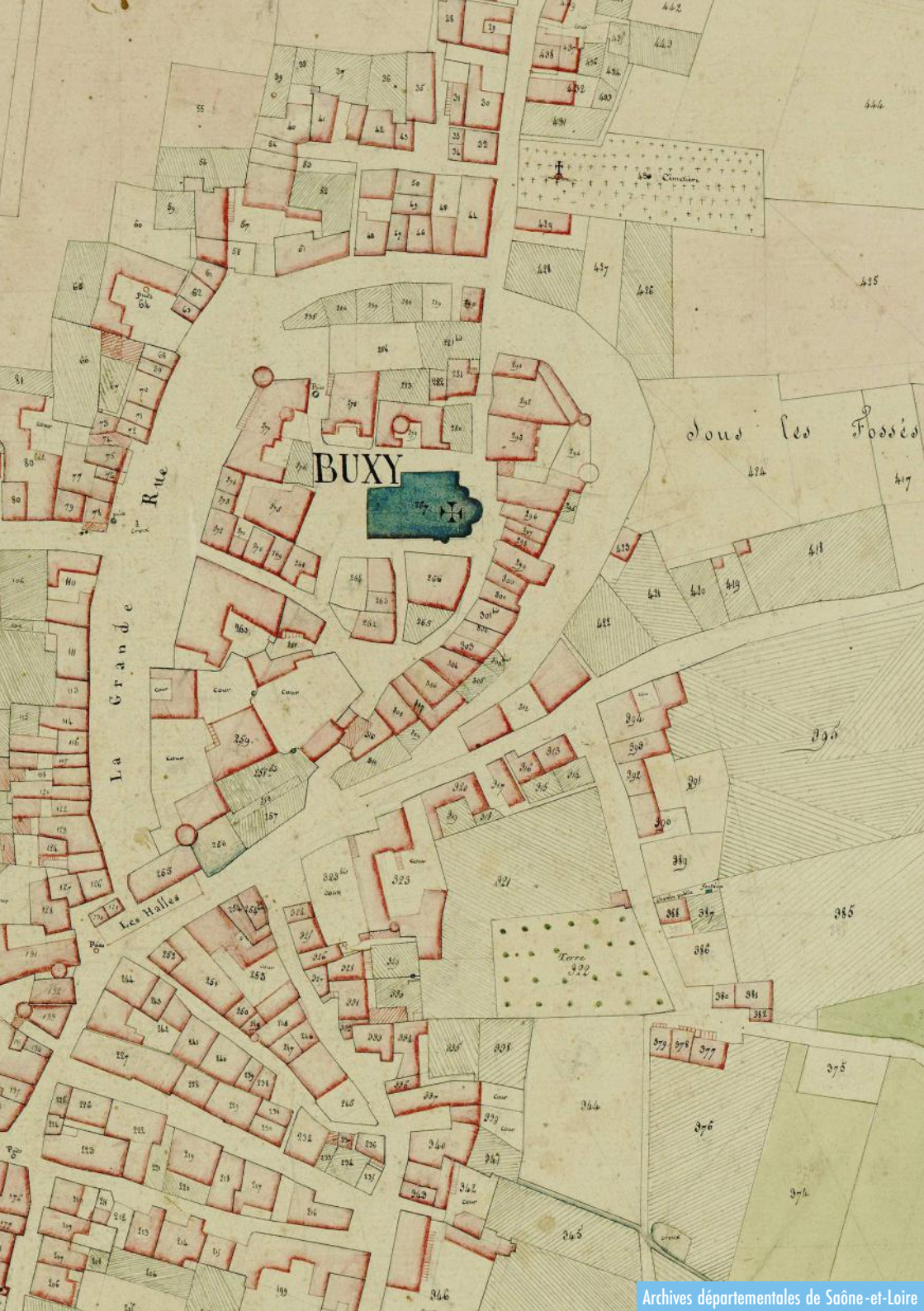
This museum, created by the winegrowers, is located in the center of Buxy. It offers a month-by-month look at the work of the vines, with objects dating from the 1850s to the 1950s. It's a tribute to the courage and know-how of our winegrowers.

**Guided tour and opening hours available on request from the Sud Côte Chalonnaise Tourist Office.**

### THE BUXY MARKET

Every Thursday morning, around the church.





1 

## L'enceinte fortifiée - Grande rue

The town of Buxy was fortified in the late 11th or early 12th century and remained so for three centuries. In the 15th century, when the King of France became lord of the town, the fortifications lost their importance and were gradually abandoned.

The ramparts were equipped with six towers, two of which are still fully visible: the Tour Rouge and the Tour du Roi. The fortifications also included 15-meter-wide ditches. To the west of the town, the ditches were filled in to create the Grand'Rue. Buxy was also a town of justice: until the Revolution, it was the seat of the provost court, which grouped together ten communities.

The oratory was located at the bottom of the Grand'Rue, near the market hall. Judicial functions such as clerks, lawyers, etc., gravitated around this court. The provost, then the king's prosecutor, were responsible for dispensing justice on behalf of the lord, then the king of France.

2 

## Rue des juifs

This street led to the Cour Marmagne, home to Buxy's Jewish community, the largest on the Côte Chalonnaise in the 14th century. In medieval times, Jews were marginalized in the kingdom of France, and money-lending activities were relegated to them, as they were condemned by the Church.



Thus, at the heart of economic activity, they were integrated locally. However, during his reign, Philippe le Bel expelled the Jews from the Kingdom in 1306. Some left, others converted.

The size of the community in Buxy probably exceeded one hundred people. After their expulsion, the Cour Marmagne became the Cour Goubot.







Maison Saccazand

3

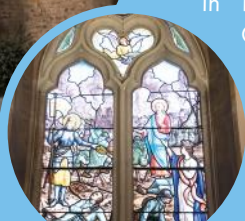
## Maison Saccazand

This building, dating back at least to the 16th century, was the home of Charles Claude Saccazand, who was the last King's Prosecutor of the Provost's Office. He played an important administrative role during the French Revolution, and died on December 8, 1792. You can admire the oriel window, a corbelled brick and timber-framed window and the dovecote.

4

## L'église Saint-Germain

The square was laid out in 1845. Prior to this, a cemetery had stood on the site, which was moved in 1769. Classified as a Monument Historique since 1943, Buxy's church has undergone numerous transformations over the centuries. The oldest parts of today's church date back to the 12th century, and are the remains of the church erected by the monks of Cluny. The church suffered damage during the Hundred Years' Wars



and the battle of 1471. It was then restored and the «Germaine» bell was installed. Today, the Buxy church houses three bells: Germaine, Magnificat and Pauline Henriette.

In 1518, two Gothic-style

chapels were added to the church. One of these chapels, located near the choir, houses a commemorative stained-glass window depicting two soldiers, Christ and Saint Joan of Arc, evoking the Second World War. A third chapel was built in the 12th century. The clock tower, still visible today, was built in 1528.

The church suffered further devastation during the Wars of Religion and the French Revolution. It was then restored and enlarged until the mid-19th century. During the restoration campaign between 1867 and 1869, the tympanum at the entrance to the nave was not sculpted due to a lack of funds. A century later, in 1958, the town council commissioned Robert Rigot, a Buxyn sculptor who had been awarded the Premier Grand Prix de Rome 4 years earlier, to carve the tympanum. He sculpted the 1867 design, found by Mr Renaud, in the Romanesque style, but unfortunately did not sign his work. The stone tympanum depicts Saint Germain and his mule during their visit to the Roman empress Placidia. From the 1990s onwards, major renovation work was undertaken to restore and modernize the church. However, today's church was not

5

## Rue de la Cure

In the Middle Ages, the Rue de la Cure was the main street in the village, linking the Porte de Beaune to the north with the castle's Basse-cour. It was also the main shopping street for the town's notables. At the time, shops were located on both sides of the street, along its entire length.

This street also housed the prison in the same building as the communal ovens. In medieval times, the ovens belonged to the Lord, who made them available in return for a tax.

The pump you can still see at number 20 rue de la Cure stands on the site of one of Buxy's oldest wells.



Rue de la Cure

6

## Tour du Roi

The Tour du Roi was one of 6 towers forming part of the town's fortifications. In ruins in the early 16th century, Guillaume Perrault, a judge in Buxy, restored it and the dovecote inside.

The remains of another tower are barely visible on rue des Fossés. The three other lost gates were the Porte de Beaune to the north, the Poterne to the south at the bottom of rue de la Cure, and the Grande Porte du Chateau to the west.



Tour du Roi



7 

## Rue des Fossés

As its name suggests, this street stands on the site of the old ditches that protected the town. When the fortifications lost their importance and were destroyed, the ditches were gradually filled in. In the first half of the 19th century, the street was planted with trees.

In the houses at the bottom of the street, cellars have been dug into the rock beneath the ramparts. These are now known as «caves refuge», as they were used as shelters during wars or attacks by brigands. They were used again during the Second World War. You enter the cellar through a window in Rue de la Cure, at a higher level than Rue des fossés. Once inside the cave refuge, you'll need an outsider to open the door for you. To discover a cave refuge, take part in a guided tour organized on Fridays during the summer season.



Rue des Fossés

8 

## Place du Carcabot

The origin of the square's name is uncertain. Was it the place where the «carcan» (pillory) was located, or the place where grain prices were indicated? The square has undergone many transformations over the centuries. The most significant of these took place at the end of the 19th century, when the watering hole at the foot of the Tour Rouge, which caused major flooding during violent storms, was filled in.

Today you can see the fountain created in Buxy stone by Buxynois sculptor Ivan Avoscan. After training as a stone cutter in a Buxy firm, he entered the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Lyon. He won the Prix de Paris and took part in a number of art fairs. From the 1960s onwards, he moved away from figurative sculpture, devoting himself to the creation of monumental works in public spaces.

Place du Carcabot

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## Rue de la Cure - La Poste

This building was the former home of one of Buxy's notaries, Abraham Cornu, who practiced for 54 years in the 17th century. 5 to 6 notary offices were open simultaneously in Buxy, demonstrating the town's prosperity, with a population ranging from around 300 in the 15th century to almost 1,500 by the end of the 17th century. The house then passed through several owners before becoming the Cure until 1908, when a new one was built on rue haute de la Gare. Finally, in 1911, the Post Office was transferred to this site.

The post office arrived in Buxy in 1794 and was located at the top of Rue de la Cure. When the electric telegraph was introduced, the Post Office moved to a house in the Grande Rue in 1879.

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## Les Halles

The last Halle aux grains was built in 1836 and also served as a justice of the peace and town hall. Today, it stands on the sidewalk in front of the Tour Rouge and straddles Rue de la Gare. This hall, which you can see on the postcard, was demolished in 1957. The oldest was probably built in the 12th century.



Archives départementales de Saône-et-Loire



B. Ferraud, édité à Bourg (Ain)

Buxy. — Les Halles



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## Tour Rouge

The emblematic Tour Rouge is one of the remains of the medieval town's fortified walls. The tower was used as a guardhouse by the national militia from 1789 onwards. The Latin quotation on the building is a recent addition, however, and means «Drink the wine I have mixed for you».

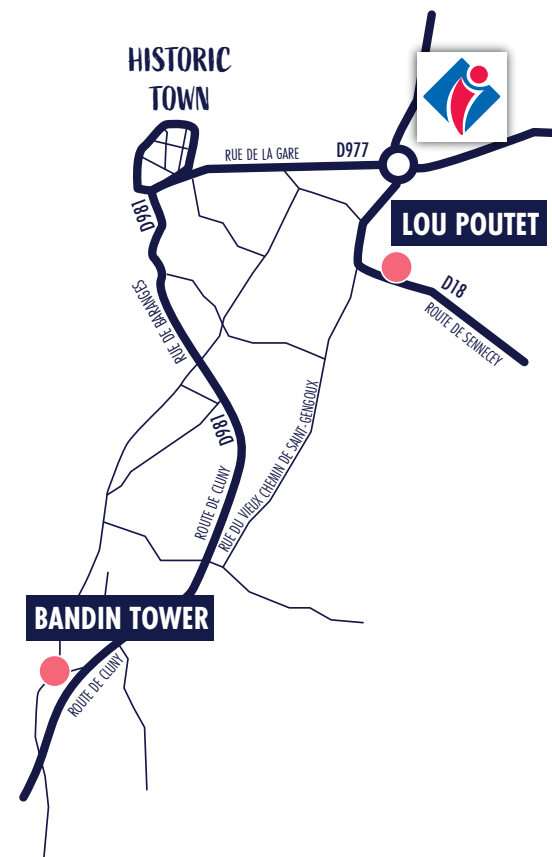
But why the «Red» Tower? Because it's covered in (red) tiles, which replaced the original lauze stone in 1554.

## Ligne de démarcation

Following the Franco-German armistice of 22 June 1940, this internal border separated France into two zones: to the north, the part occupied by the Germans and to the south, the unoccupied zone under Pétain's administration. The department of Saône-et-Loire was thus cut in two until 1 March 1943, when the line was officially abolished following the German army's invasion of the southern zone on 11 November 1942. The town of Buxy was crossed by the demarcation line, which followed the road from Chalon-sur-Saône in the direction of Montagny-lès-Buxy and Cersot.



Lou Poutet



Tour Rouge



Two German checkpoints, complete with sentry boxes and barriers, were set up at «Lou Poutet» and «La Tour Bandin» (which served as a temporary prison for arrested illegal immigrants). Residents, whose daily lives were disrupted, had to show a pass (Ausweis) to cross the line. For those who were unable to obtain one, smugglers could help them across fields and dirt tracks to avoid German patrols. Today, a lectern on the Voie Verte bridge tells the local story of this border. An engraved post at «Lou Poutet» and a plaque at «la Tour Bandin» recall the location of the former German barriers, forming part of a departmental memorial trail initiated by the Voluntary Resistance Fighters Association (CVR 71).

Tour Bandin





## The Chalon-Cluny railway line

The project for a railway line between Chalon and Cluny was launched in 1864 by the general councillor of Buxy. After a survey of the communes by the Prefect of Saône-et-Loire, the project was adopted. However, it was not until October 20 1888 that the line was opened. More than 20 years were needed to carry out field studies, discuss the route, choose the station locations closest to town centers and raise the funds needed for construction.

Work began in 1876 with the Belgian company selected by the département, but soon came to a halt due to lack of funding. The General Council then declared that the company's concession had lapsed, and decided to have the railway line built by the département. It turned to the PLM (Compagnie des chemins de fer de Paris à Lyon à la Méditerranée) to supply the rails.

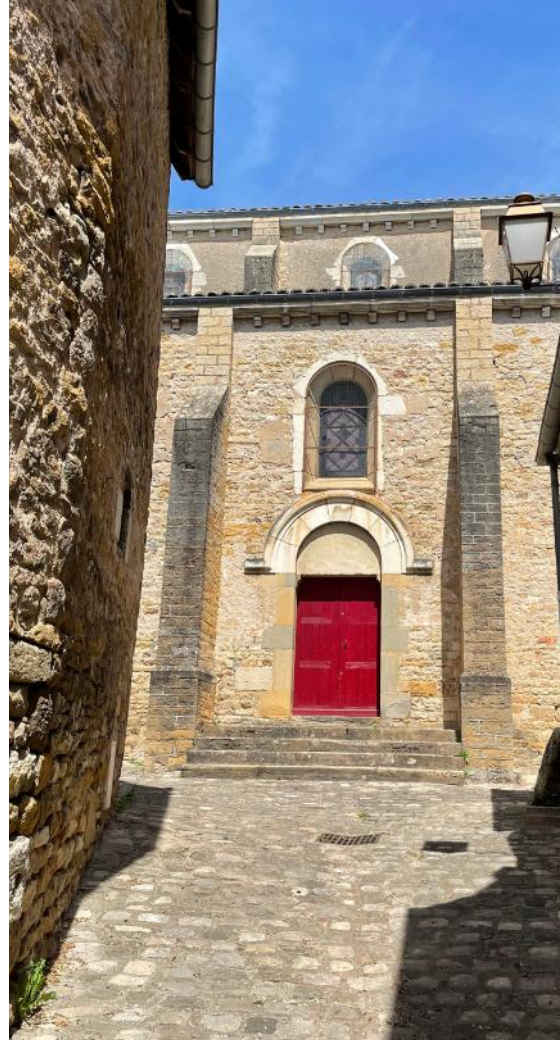
In 1882, the definitive route was established and work began in April. In the summer of 1885, the PLM supplied the rails and ballast. In 1887, the track was laid, signals installed and passenger buildings constructed. The official acceptance train, with members of the Ministry of Public Works Commission and PLM representatives on board, passed over the line on September 20, 1888 and was a great success.

The section linking Saint-Gengoux-le-National to Montchanin opened in June 1889. It was built to serve the coalfield without passing through Chagny or Chalon-sur-Saône. It is 27 km long, with 2 tunnels and 3 viaducts, including the Crainseny viaduct.

The line that had linked Chalon to Mâcon since 1939 saw its service modified when the demarcation line was established. Two services were created, one linking Chalon to Buxy and the other Mâcon to Saint-Boil. The line was re-established on May 3, 1943, after the demarcation line was abolished.

Despite protests and the creation of a coordinating committee to defend the SNCF line from Mâcon to Chalon via Cluny in 1966, the line was officially closed on November 1, 1968. Only 5 stations, including Saint-Gengoux-le-National and Buxy, remained open for freight traffic until 1991. The Conseil Général acquired the railroad in 1994, with the aim of turning it into a long-distance footpath, as the track is located in a rural setting.

The 46-km greenway was inaugurated on August 30, 1997.



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## Other activities

### ENJOY A LEISURELY BIKE RIDE!

Join the Office de Tourisme Sud Côte Chalonnaise, place de la Gare in Buxy, where you can rent electrically-assisted bicycles to discover the magnificent voie verte. Get ready to pedal along this peaceful itinerary, specially designed for cyclists. Enjoy the beauty of the surrounding countryside.

### DISCOVER THE SOUTH OF THE CÔTE CHALONNAISE

Our tourist guide is the ideal travel companion for all types of travelers, whether nature lovers, gourmets or history buffs. From emblematic sites to hidden treasures, you'll find all the nuggets of our territory to make your stay unforgettable.

### DISCOVER THE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE OF SAINT-GENGOUX-LE-NATIONAL

Explore the historic center of Saint-Gengoux-le-National with our tour booklet, available from our tourist information offices or as a download from our website.





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