



 Cités
de caractère
BOURGOGNE-FRANCHE-COMTE

Saint-Gengoux le-National

DISCOVER THE MEDIEVAL CITY
AT YOUR OWN PACE!



BOOKLET CREATED
BY YOUR TOURIST OFFICE
SUD CÔTE CHALONNAISE



www.tourisme-sud-cote-chalonnaise.com

 Communauté de Communes
Sud Côte
Chalonnaise
OFFICE DE TOURISME

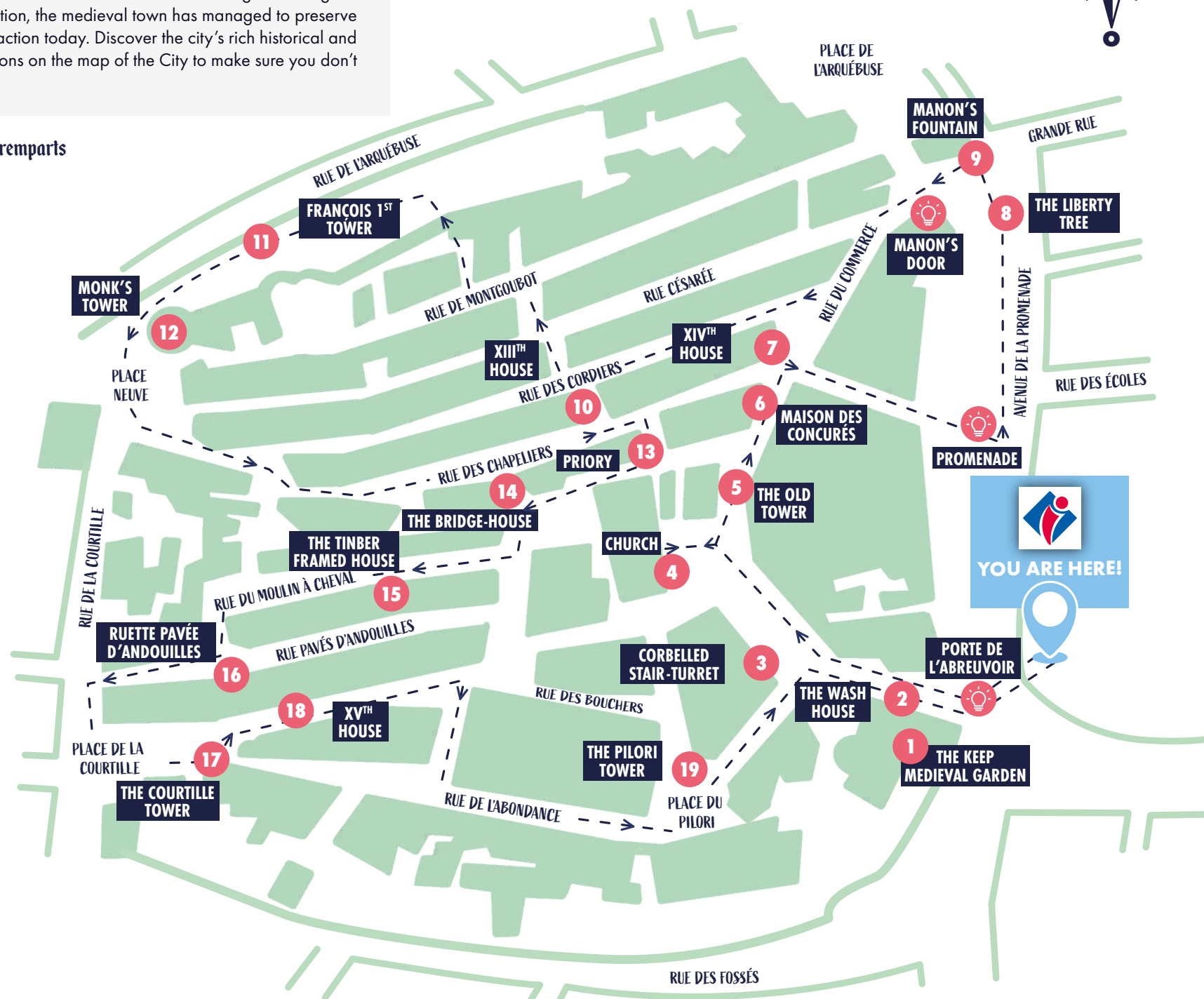
 Offices de
Tourisme
de France

The southern Côte Chalonnaise region boasts a remarkable heritage, as varied as it is fascinating. Castral heritage, medieval towns, villages and hamlets make up the richness of this territory. Take a tour of Saint-Gengoux-le-National for a taste of this magnificent region. Despite the evolution of time and population, the medieval town has managed to preserve its heritage, making it a major tourist attraction today. Discover the city's rich historical and architectural heritage. Follow the indications on the map of the City to make sure you don't miss any points of interest.



Porte de l'Abreuvoir - Les anciens remparts

- 1 The Keep - Medieval Garden**
- 2 The wash house**
- 3 The corbelled stair-turret**
- 4 Saint-Gengoux Church**
- 5 The Old Tower**
- 6 Maison des Concurés**
- 7 XIVth House**
- La Promenade**
- 8 The Liberty Tree**
- 9 Manon's Fountain**
- Manon's Door**
- 10 XIIIth House**
- 11 François 1st Tower**
- 12 Monk's Tower**
- 13 Priory**
- 14 The Bridge-House**
- 15 The Timber Framed House**
- 16 Ruelle Pavée d'Andouille**
- 17 Courtille Tower**
- 18 XVth House**
- 19 Pilori Tower**



The town's name over the centuries:

The town owes its name to the first church, dedicated to Saint Gengoux by the monks of Cluny. It became known as Saint-Gengoux-le-Royal after the passage of King Louis IX (Saint Louis). In 1793, the town changed its name to Jouvence. It was not until 1814 that it was once again named Saint-Gengoux-le-Royal. In 1848, at the birth of the Second Republic, Saint-Gengoux-le-Royal became le-National, but became le-Royal again in 1852, when the Republic fell. In 1881, the town was definitively renamed Saint-Gengoux-le-National, although its inhabitants kept the name Jouvencelles and Jouvenceaux.



A BIT OF history!

The medieval streets of Saint-Gengoux-le-National are as historic as they are lively and bustling with shops, revealing a treasure trove of charm. A visit to this medieval village with its rich history is highly recommended. Situated at the crossroads of 5 busy roads linking Autun, Cluny, Chalon, Tournus and Mâcon, among others, the town of Saint-Gengoux has occupied an important strategic position since Roman times. In the 10th century, following the foundation of the Abbey of Cluny, some twenty kilometres away, the village came under the jurisdiction of the monks, who named it Saint-Gengoux (in Latin: villa sancti gangulphi). In the 12th century, the abbey came into conflict with the Count of Chalon and the monks appealed for help to King Louis VII, who, although King of France, had no lands in Burgundy. He took advantage of this situation to establish his influence over the region

by negotiating the division of Saint-Gengoux with the monks (a pariage contract) in exchange for his protection. He then established a châtelainie (royal judicial centre), built a castle and ramparts and authorised the first fairs.

The dual tutelage of the abbey of Cluny and the King of France led to an enrichment of the town and an increase in its population. Many traces of this rich past can still be seen today as you stroll through the streets of the town centre.

In 2017, Saint-Gengoux-le-National was awarded the "Cité de Caractère Bourgogne-Franche-Comté" label, which recognises small towns with all the historical traces of urban activity that have managed to preserve a first-rate urban, architectural and landscape heritage.

Don't miss it!

LE MUSÉE DU PATRIMOINE

Located beneath the Tourist Information Office, it features a number of temporary exhibitions.

Open for exhibitions only.

LE JARDIN MÉDIÉVAL

Located in front of the Cure (the castle's former keep), it lists more than 50 species of plants.

Free access all year.

LE MARCHÉ DE PAYS

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month and every Tuesday morning in summer.

Avenue de la Promenade

ATELIER CÉRAMBOIS

This artistic and creative workshop in the heart of the medieval city is open to everyone, enabling them to create their own artistic projects using ceramic or wooden objects.

6 rue des Chapeliers - 06 03 20 33 94

LE BARON PERCHÉ

Spend a relaxing moment in this bookshop - café - games. **2 Route de Joncy - 09 51 06 28 72**

LA CHAUDRETTE

A sales area for local craftspeople and producers. You'll find a wide range of products: wines, condiments, terrines, natural cosmetics, handmade creations, etc.

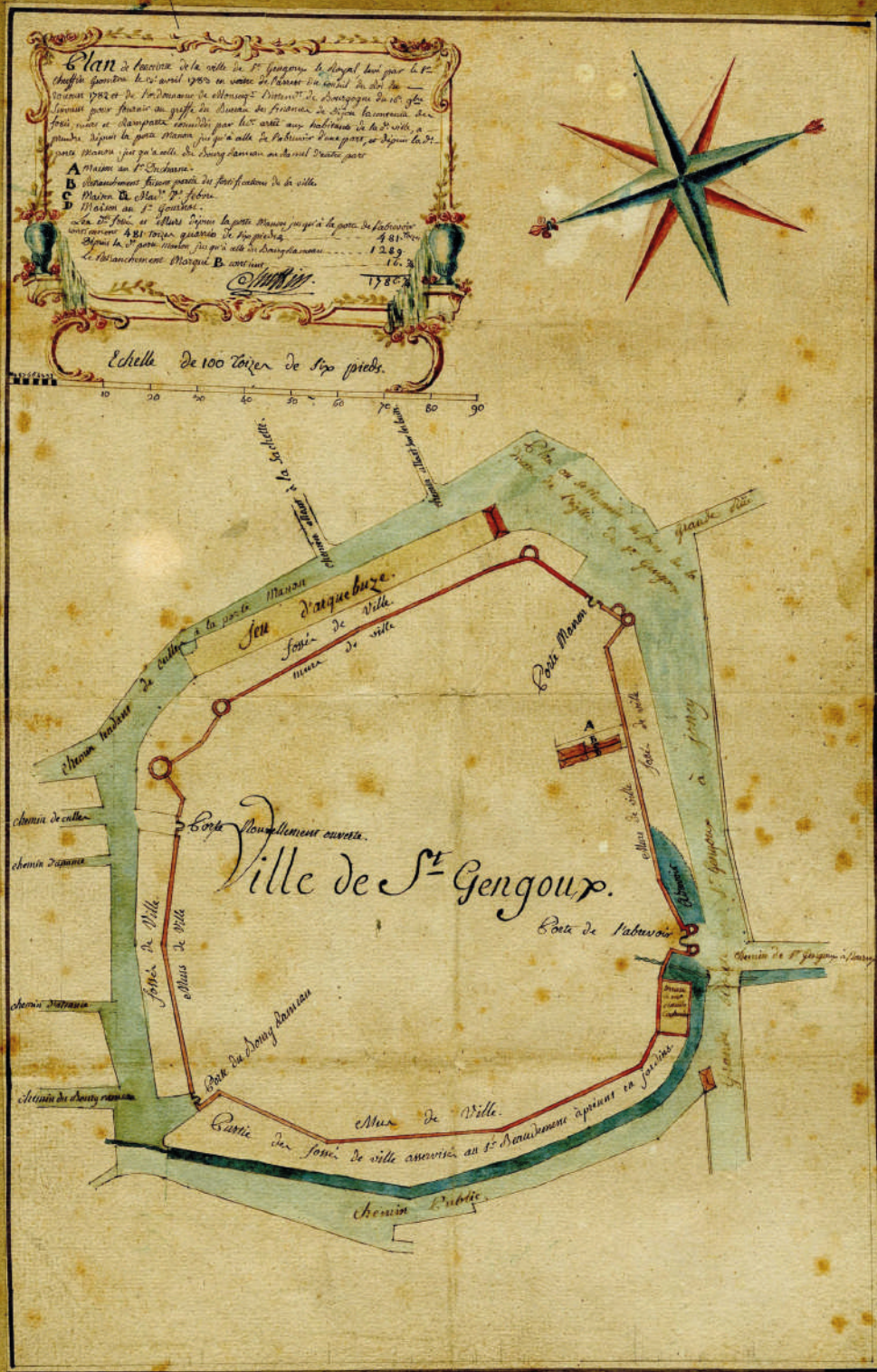
Impasse de la Vieille Tour

LA CRÉMAILLÈRE

11 artists bring this arts and crafts gallery to life in the historic centre.

Rue du Commerce - 06 14 13 71 52





Porte de l'Abreuvoir - Les anciens remparts

King Louis VII of France authorised the construction of ramparts to protect the town from plunder by the Count of Chalon. Construction of the fortifications began in 1200, during the reign of his successor, Philippe Auguste, and was completed under Louis IX. A large part was destroyed four centuries later, on the orders of Henri IV. The last fortifications were ceded to the town in 1782 by King Louis XVI.

The town's defensive system was completed by ditches and towers. Four entrance gates gave access to the town of Saint-Gengoux. The Porte de l'Abreuvoir was located near the current roundabout (the remains of a tower can be seen under the roadway, near the Monument aux Morts). Another gate was located at the top of the village (see point 12), the Porte du Bourg-Hameau opened up the town to the west, and the fourth gate, known as the Porte aux Loups, was located to the north-west.

As the population grew, the first wall became too small. A second, larger enclosure was therefore built.



The Keep - Medieval Garden

When Louis VII authorised the construction of fortifications around the town, he also authorised the building of a castle. Built during the reign of Philippe Auguste, it was completed in 1206. It featured a powerful keep and was flanked by four turrets, which were dismantled in 1606 on the orders of Henri IV. Only the keep remains, which later became the presbytery in 1664, after Louis XIV handed it over to the congregations. Its freestanding staircase tower was later added to the north façade and dates from 1683.

The medieval garden, inaugurated in 2010, appears to occupy the site of the drawbridge that spanned the stream in front of the keep.

Le donjon





Le lavoir



2 

The wash house

Saint-Gengoux-le-National lies at the confluence of several streams, most of which have been channelled. Historically, the water from all these streams was diverted to fill part of the ditches surrounding the ramparts.

Before the washhouse was built in the 19th century, a large fountain, known as the "Fontaine de Jouvence" after the French Revolution, contained a well fed by several springs, as well as a fountain that poured its waters into an 18-metre-long washhouse. This complex is now covered by the road.

The current washhouse is fed by the same source and features an impluvium, a large opening in the roof designed to provide maximum light to the basin. The roof is supported by cast-iron columns and the size of this washhouse is remarkable.

3 

The corbelled stair-turret

As a royal town, Saint-Gengoux-le-National was governed from 1246 by a bailli (the King's local representative). The baillif's house is in rue de l'Église. The entrance is surmounted by a bracketed lintel leading to a corbelled staircase. This half-cylindrical staircase is overhung by a system that transfers the load to an arch, which is itself consolidated by an iron chain, giving it great solidity.

This magnificent spiral staircase is located in a typical 16th-century house.

Escalier à encorbellement



4 

Saint-Gengoux Church

In 1120, the Benedictines of Cluny decided to build a "Great Church" under the name of Saint-Gengoux. During the Wars of Religion, Protestants set fire to the church, destroying the choir and nave, while the transept and bell tower held out.

In 1562, the church was again burnt down by the Huguenots, but it was rebuilt in 1566 with the addition of the clock tower, which provided access to the bells and enabled surveillance of the valleys.

In 1802, the four chapels adjoining the church were demolished to build a corn market. The three-storey octagonal Romanesque bell



tower remains typical of the Cluniac style, although the squat roof was replaced by a pointed spire in 1867. The church is 40 metres long and 16 metres wide.

Since August 2004, the church has been registered with the Federation of Cluniac Sites. Inside, numerous statues, coats of arms and some frescoes have been preserved.

5 

The Old Tower

Enter the small dead-end alleyway by passing under a "pontet". Here, amongst the old houses, you'll find a rustic tower, one of the oldest in the town. It was located on the first enclosure dating from the early 13th century. Its conical shape reinforces its position.



La vieille tour



Maison des concurés

6

Maison des concurés

By virtue of a papal bull of 1482, the confreres lived as a community within an association called the "Mépart". They had to come from the village and be studying. The bishop of Chalon then ordained them as priests, thus making them confrères. The corner of the rue du Commerce and the rue de l'Espérance is flanked by a decorative watchtower, the symbol of this street.



Maison du XIV^e

7

XIVth House

This property belonged to a wealthy bourgeois in the Middle Ages. The window frames date from different periods. The "trilobes" date from the 13th century and the "acolades" from the 15th century.

La promenade

Situated outside the town walls, the promenade was occupied by gardens that provided food for the inhabitants. After Louis XVI gave the town its last fortifications, it was demolished. The ditches surrounding the walls of Saint-Gengoux were not sufficient to absorb all the rubble from the old walls. The ditches were filled in and the Promenade was included in the Napoleonic land register of 1817. It was in the 19th century that the buildings lining the Promenade from top to bottom were constructed. These buildings were used for commercial purposes as soon as they were built.

8

The Liberty Tree

After the Revolution, a "tree of liberty" was planted in 1792. The oak was replaced in 1802 by a chestnut tree, one of Burgundy's remarkable trees. Unfortunately, this two-hundred-year-old chestnut tree was too ill to be felled in 2017.



Arbre de la liberté

9

Manon's Fountain

The Manon spring, located outside the village near Les Buis, supplied Saint-Gengoux via a channelled stream. Its waters fed the Fontaine de Manon, a beautiful monumental fountain in a niche overlooking the promenade.

Manon's Door

This gateway was part of the defensive system surrounding the medieval town. It was preceded by two towers, one of which still exists. Polygonal in shape, it is built into the house at the corner of the rue du Commerce and the place de la Fontaine. You can still see the loopholes, which were part of the defensive features of the entrance.



Fontaine de Manon

Maison du XIII^e

10

XIIIth House

This house is one of the oldest in the City. Its early 13th-century architecture can be recognized by its small size and window frames. On the right are the remains of a medieval store. At that time, Saint-Gengoux-le-National had some sixty such shops.



Tour François I^{er}



François Ist Tower

This tower, which has remained intact, was part of the fortified enclosure of the Cité. From the end of the 15th century, a group of archers practised "bird shooting" from this tower. Competitions were organised between companies from neighbouring towns. The big event of the year was the "Tir à l'oiseau" (bird shooting), reserved for members of the company. The wooden bird was placed on a pole at the top of the tower. The winner was the person who snatched the last piece of the bird. Under the reign of François I, the harquebusiers replaced the archers.



The Monk's Tower

It was the same height as the Tour François Premier, but larger in diameter. It used to house military personnel. You can see the "loopholes", archways that have been converted into gunports.



Tour des moines



The Priory

This building was inhabited by monks, hence its name. This 15th-century outbuilding still contains a remarkable Gothic chapel.



Prieuré



The Bridge-House

The bridge overlooks the Rue des Moutons. In the Middle Ages, it was used to link two houses in order to enlarge the dwelling of a bourgeois from the Cité. One of the facades is framed by a Renaissance-style pediment.



Le Pontet



The Timber Framed House

Built in the flamboyant Gothic style, this building can be seen from both rue des Moutons and rue du Moulin à Cheval. Its Burgundian timber-framed architecture dates from the second quarter of the 15th century, while its foundations date back to 1410.



Ruette Pavée d'Andouilles

Andouilles are non-conforming, unsaleable cobblestones from the production of sandstone cobblestones in the Saint-Gengoux region. They were then donated to neighboring communes.

Maison de bois



Ruette pavée d'Andouilles



Tour de la courtille

17 

The Courtille Tower

This square is dominated by an irregularly-shaped house with a staircase tower. It probably stood on the City's first enclosure.

18 

XV^e House

Cette maison médiévale possède de This medieval house has some wonderful remnants of window frames. On the left is a door with a Renaissance-style frame.

19 

The Pilori Tower

The Pilori Tower stood on the Cité's first enclosure. It was so named because it once dominated the Place Pilori.

The tranquility and charm of this square should not obscure the fact that, in the Middle Ages, royal justice needed a pillory to be served.



Tour du pilori



Maison du XV^e

Why Jouvence ?

After several meetings of the commune's General Council in 1793, the town was renamed Jouvence to remove the term "Royal" and the name of a Saint, which seemed inappropriate after the Revolution. Jouvence was chosen in reference to the town's fountains and location. A decree from the Convention ratified the name on March 4, 1793.

Who was Saint-Gengoux ?

Gengoux was a contemporary of Pepin the Short, founder of the Carolingian dynasty. He was born in the east of France, not far from Langres (in today's Haute-Marne). A just and generous man, he was also a good warrior. One of the legends surrounding his life is that he discovered his wife's infidelity. Instead of punishing her, he decided to separate from her and move to other lands. However, his wife's lover killed him in 763. According to legend, both lovers were struck with physical deformities as punishment.

Gengoux, to whom many miracles were attributed and whose life was exemplary, was soon considered a martyr. His fame did not wane, and he was canonized in the early 10th century. He is considered the patron saint of people unhappy in their marriages, and is venerated for bringing peace to troubled homes.

Relics of the Saint are preserved in the church of Saint-Gengoux-le-National. A piece of the tibia head was brought back in 1899 by the town's archpriest.

Other activities

ENJOY A LEISURELY RIDE ON YOUR BIKE!

Come and discover the leisure area at the former Saint-Gengoux-le-National railway station, where you can rent bicycles to explore the magnificent greenway. Get ready to pedal along this peaceful itinerary, specially designed for cyclists. Enjoy the beauty of the surrounding countryside, the picturesque landscapes and the soothing atmosphere that reigns along the greenway.

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 OF BUXY

Explore the historic center of Buxy with our tour booklet, available from our tourist information offices or as a download from our website.

Bibliography :

Histoire de Saint-Gengoux-le-Royal,
Gérard Mignot

Histoire de Saint-Gengoux-le-National,
Marguerite Rebouillat

Bulletin annuel 2021 S.E.H.N.

Archives en ligne des Archives départementales
de Saône-et-Loire

TOURISM OFFICE
Sud Côte Chalonnaise

Place de la Gare

71390 BUXY

+33 (0)3 85 92 00 16

4 Avenue de la Promenade

71460 SAINT-GENGOUX-LE-NATIONAL

+33 (0)9 77 35 14 40

tourisme@ccscc.fr

www.tourisme-sud-cote-chalonnaise.com

