



Dijon

The capital of Burgundy

With its proud history and strong traditions, for many years Dijon resisted the pull of the modern world. Beautiful stone walls, tiled rooftops, good food and easy access: it didn't take long to get the measure of the place.

Then, one day, Dijon realised that its richness and diversity were deserving of greater attention, that visitors should take their time to marvel at the treasures that lie behind its doors, to discover that there are as many ways to prepare boeuf bourguignon as there are passionate chefs, to step off the beaten track

and explore something new.

Today, a different Dijon awaits. A city that is not afraid to fuse its stunning heritage with modern art, popular music or molecular cuisine. A city that is constantly reinventing itself to give residents and visitors alike a quality of life that owes as much to its love of tradition as its ability to attract the very best and boldest chefs, artists, architects and urban planners. A city that acts as a gateway into a region of hills crowned with châteaux and abbeys, of slopes wreathed with vineyards.

A city worth visiting again and again.
A capital city.

Dijon in figures

- Inner city population: **156 133**
- Population of Greater Dijon area: **251 179**
- Number of students: **30 000**
- Working population: **68 700**
- **3 605** hotel rooms in Greater Dijon
- Nearly **500** restaurants
- Number of visitors
to Tourist Office: **+300 000**
- Of which: **67 %** French,
3 % from abroad



Magnificent Dijon

“If you come to Dijon, make sure you climb Philip the Good.”

From ancient stones to the very latest additions to the Dijon scene, a selection of 18 unmissable activities and attractions that embody the heart and soul of the Burgundy capital...

April

Visit the market and have a coffee in Place du Bareuzai

Wind your way through Dijon's markets and discover the locals' passion for food. Then take a well earned break on the terrace under the mischievous yet watchful eye of **Bareuzai**, the bronze wine-grower in the centre of the square.

May

Enjoy an evening Kir in Place de la Libération

Created by Jules Hardouin-Mansart in honour of Louis XIV, the square has since been pedestrianised by architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte, who added three fountains and covered the area with white Comblanchien stone. Locals and visitors alike relax in a semi-circle of terraces in front of the **Palais des Ducs et des États de Bourgogne** [Palace of the Dukes and Estates of Burgundy].

July

Explore the delights of the Dièse festival

Multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and undisciplined, Dièse has been introducing festival goers to new forms of digital, visual and musical expression for the past seven years. The festival is intimately connected to the history and heritage of the city centre, resulting in impressive staging for each artistic performance.

Ask for a little music with your coffee

The city's free music festival "Garçon, la Note!" ["Music Please, Waiter!"] sees terraces across Dijon playing host to musicians from the local area and elsewhere throughout the summer.

August

Sunbathe on Dijon beach

A benevolent area of high pressure transforms the beaches of Lake Kir for three months, with lifeguards, beach cabins, showers and ice cream sellers settling in for the summer. For those who don't like lazing in the sun, there's beach volleyball and football on offer.

September

Enjoy a coffee on the terrace of the Musée des Beaux-Arts

The museum's grand reopening is already creating a buzz. Bigger and more beautiful than ever, the museum will be welcoming back its famous alabaster statues of mourners, the *Pleurants*, following their triumphant tour of the USA, and now even has its own terrace. Do you take sugar?

Feel the rhythm at the Concert de Rentrée

With 25,000 people in the crowd, music reaches a whole new level! Who will grace the stage after last year's impressive line-up of Charlie Winston, Amadou & Mariam and DJ Kavinsky? Make your way to the front at 7.00pm to find out...

Hunt for treasures at Dijon's flea market

One weekend featuring sixty professional dealers selling antique furniture, vintage clothes and jewellery, crockery, postcards, books, lamps, toys, pottery and silverware. The organisers have thought of everything, and an expert will be on hand throughout the weekend.

October

Follow the Route des Grands Crus wine trail

The east-facing vineyards of the Côte de Nuits extend in a band from Dijon to Corgolain. As autumn decks the vines in warm, dazzling colours, travellers are reminded that "a good wine needs good vines".

November

Dine at the Restaurant des Saveurs at Dijon's International Food Fair

One of France's top five trade fairs, each year the Dijon International Food Fair welcomes one host country, 600 exhibitors, 200,000 visitors and 80 farmyard animals. In addition to a whole range of culinary activities and demonstrations, the gourmet menu prepared by one of Burgundy and Franche-Comté's top twelve chefs is not to be missed.

MAGNIFICENT DIJON

ALL YEAR ROUND

See Burgundy's
tiled rooftops
for yourself

The technique of glazing dates back to Roman times and arrived in Burgundy in the fourteenth century, where it became very popular. Don't miss the rooftops of the Vogüé, Aubriot and des Godrans mansions, the general hospital, Dijon's **Saint Bénigne Cathedral** and the **Château de la Rochepot**.

Climb Tour
Philippe le Bon

The tower stands 46 metres high and was built between 1450 and 1460, at the same time as the home of the second Duke of Valois. Climb the 316 steps to its terrace to enjoy a 360° view of the city.

Entrust your fate
to an owl

A well loved symbol of the people of Dijon, the small owl carved into the northern façade of **Notre-Dame** is said to bring luck; simply stroke it with your left hand and make a wish...

Attend a reception
at the Château du
Clos de Vougeot

The **Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin** [Order of the Knights of Tastevin] has carefully protected the tastes and traditions of the Burgundy region and Burgundy wine since 1934. 12,000 "knights" worldwide defend its high standards and are a reflection of its vitality. The receptions, held at the **Château du Clos de Vougeot**, take place a number of times per year and honour both celebrities and ordinary folk, united by their passion for the spirit of Burgundy.

Immerse yourself
in the twelfth
century with
the monks of
Cîteaux Abbey

In the heart of the forest to the south of Dijon lies the birthplace of the Cistercian Order, which spread throughout Europe and achieved a place in the history books thanks to St Bernard. Visit the historic buildings of this ancient abbey and learn about the monastic life and Cistercian tradition through 900 years of history.

Explore the rich
history of Dijon's
private mansions

Over 100 private mansions are thought to have been built in Dijon between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. Their richly decorated façades, imposing doorways, stunning courtyards and glazed tile roofs reflect both the prosperity of their owners and the unrivalled talent of their architects.

Turn back the
clock with the
Musée de la Vie
Bourguignonne

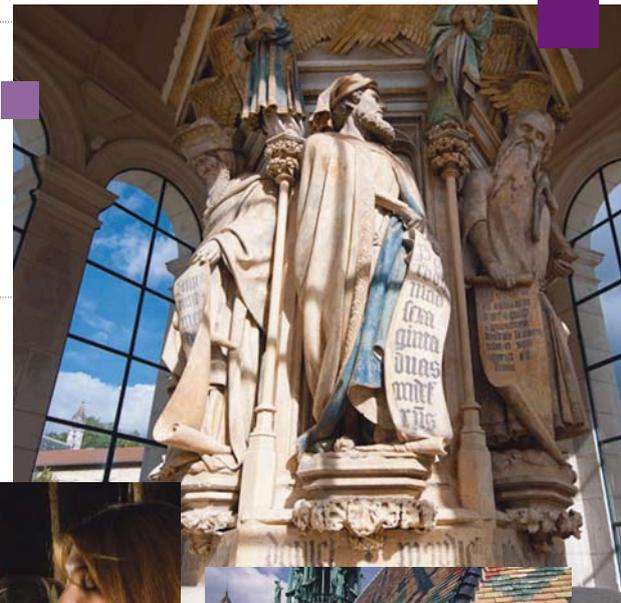
Housed in the impressive and imposing setting of the **Cistercian monastery**, the museum's collections transport visitors back to Burgundy at the end of the nineteenth century, with detailed models and reconstructions of everyday life at the time.

Recharge your
batteries at the
Puits de Moïse

One of the few remaining parts of the **Chartreuse de Champmol** monastery, which was built to mark the impressive rise of the Dukes of Valois, the **Puits de Moïse** [Well of Moses] is a real masterpiece. Carved by Flemish artists **Claus Sluter** and **Claus de Werve**, it is testimony to the extraordinary influence of Burgundian culture in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Take a tour of a
wine cellar in the
Côte de Nuits

Burgundian wine-growers are talented, passionate and welcoming: three good reasons to pay them a visit and take a look round their cellars. They're not hard to find; just look for a beautiful stone house with vines growing nearby.



Inspired Dijon

Could 2013 be Dijon's year of culture? With the return of its famous Pleurants (alabaster statues of mourners), the re-opening of the newly extended Musée des Beaux-Arts and the annual Concert de Rentrée, September will be quite simply unmissable. But never fear: whether indoors or outdoors, cultural Dijon has something to offer every month of the year...

From the Musée des Beaux-Arts to the Consortium: eight unique locations to enjoy culture in all its forms.

Housed in the former Hôtel des Ducs and much of the Palais des États—with even more to come following the completion of its extension in September 2013—the museum is home to a number of key collections. Don't miss masterpieces from the late Middle Ages, including the famous tombs of the Dukes of Burgundy, plus an extensive overview of the region's art and history, from the end of the Middle Ages through to the late nineteenth century.

The **Archaeological Museum** traces homo burgundianus from prehistoric times to the Middle Ages. It is located in the main wing of the old **Benedictine Abbey of Saint-Bénigne**, including the ancient crypt, where stone tablets bear witness to the region's extraordinary influence in the Early Middle Ages.

The Museum of Sacred Art is housed in the **church of the Benedictine Monastery** and displays a range of religious objects including paintings, sculptures and metalwork. The museum also depicts the daily lives of female religious orders.

A combination of botanical garden, natural history museum, planetarium and temporary exhibition space, the Jardin des Sciences is a fun and interactive way to discover the environmental diversity and mysteries of Burgundy, and beyond.

This tiny museum is worth a visit for two reasons: the life-size model of the famous bas-relief on the **Arc de Triomphe** and the imposing Gallo-Roman remains.

Housed in the impressive and imposing setting of the **Cistercian monastery**, the museum's collections transport visitors back to Burgundy at the end of the nineteenth century, with detailed models and reconstructions of everyday life at the time.

This private museum is housed in the sumptuous setting of the **Hôtel de Lantin**, home to Jeanne and Maurice Magnin, passionate collectors and committed patrons of the arts.

Japanese architect Shigeru Ban has retained the raw, minimalist, utilitarian spirit of the original industrial building. The aim of the Consortium project has remained the same since 1977: to develop a laboratory of modern creativity, at the cutting edge of artistic research and the latest experiments in the visual arts. The Consortium is one of France's leading art centres.

Musée
des Beaux-Arts

Musée
Archéologique

Musée
d'Art Sacré

Jardin
des sciences

Musée
Rude

Musée
de la Vie
Bourguignonne

Musée
Magnin

Le
Consortium



January

Dijon's cultural offerings range from folk to traditional to modern, but are always lively affairs!

Art Danse festival

Choreography and conversations with the public.

February

Festival of Chamber Music

Classical and contemporary chamber music performed by students in their second and third years at the PESM Bourgogne music school.

May

Coupes Moto Légende

Motorcycle event at the Dijon-Prenois racing track.

Salon des Antiquaires et de la Brocante

Antiques fair.

June

Estivade

A nine-day, family-friendly folk festival in the city's parks and gardens: entertainment from brass bands, choirs and folk groups.

Grand Prix de l'Âge d'Or

Vintage race car event at the Dijon-Prenois racing track.

July

Dièse festival

The most beautiful buildings in the city centre provide the setting for new forms of digital, visual and musical expression.

D'Jazz au jardin

Jazz concerts in the city's parks and gardens.

Garçon la note !

Concerts on the terraces of cafés and restaurants (July–August).

August

D'jazz à la plage

Jazz concerts at Dijon beach.

Fêtes de la Vigne

Biennial international festival of folk music and dance.

Concert de rentrée

Six hours of non-stop music featuring famous headliners and local names.

Musiques Sacrées du Monde

International festival of religious music.

Dijon Fête

la Gastronomie

Fantastic Pic Nic

September

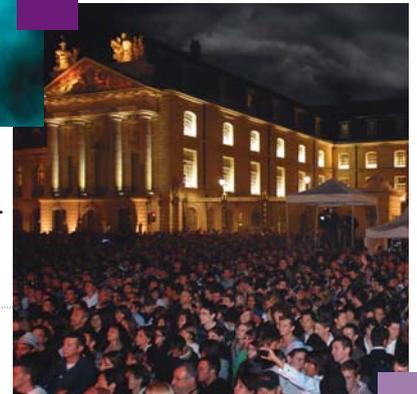
Rencontres

Cinématographiques de Dijon

Film symposium, screenings and talks.

December

Christmas Market



Twelve key dates in the history of Dijon

- **273:** Construction of castrum to protect Divio.
- **1220-1250:** Construction of Notre-Dame church.
- **1342-1477 :** Valois - de Mâcon period in Amsterdam, four successive dukes build a quasi state in the heart of Europe, with Dijon as its capital.
- **383:** Chartreuse de Champmol monastery founded to house the tombs of the Valois dynasty.
- **1681:** Construction of the Palais des États, where the clergy, the nobility and the commoners met every three years.
- **1841** Creation of water network by Henry Darcy. By 1847, running water could be accessed on every floor of Dijon's buildings.
- **1851:** Inauguration of the Dijon to Tonnerre railway line.
- **1873:** Construction of indoor markets by engineer Clément Weinberger.
- **1921:** First food fair.
- **1964:** Inauguration of Lake Kir, a 37 hectare expanse of water just outside Dijon.
- **2008:** Officially designated a "City of Art and History".
- **2012:** Inauguration of two tram lines.

Flamboyant Dijon

When you lift a stone in Dijon you find... another stone! Once the capital of the Duchy of Burgundy, Dijon has inspired every age and every style. Successive builders have cleverly managed to enrich the urban environment rather than degrade it, resulting in one of France's biggest urban conservation areas, extending across 97 hectares. This work continued throughout the twentieth century as the city slowly expanded into the suburbs.

Dijon was awarded the title of "City of Art and History" on 10 January 2008.

Two flagship sustainable development projects have been completed in Dijon in recent years: the **Elithis tower**, an energy-plus office block; and the **Junot eco-quarter**, combining residential, office and retail space. In a completely different style, the renovation of the Consortium was overseen by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, who relished the opportunity to revamp the post-Bauhaus structure of the original building. Further eco-quarters, to be constructed on former military sites, plus the future **Cité de la Gastronomie** (International Gastronomy Exhibition Centre) will further enhance the quality of life in Dijon for residents and visitors alike..

Contemporary Dijon

Eighteenth century Dijon

Architect Jules Hardouin-Mansart added a classic seventeenth and eighteenth century structure to the House of the Dukes of Valois to create a complex overlooking the city and its inhabitants.

The Dukes' Dijon

The splendour of the four successive Dukes of Valois lives on more in legend than in physical remains. Of the fourteenth and fifteenth century Gothic-style ducal palace, the living quarters, kitchens and two towers (**Philippe le Bon and Bar**) are still standing. While the dukes' tombs have moved from their necropolis, the **Chartreuse de Champol**, to the Musée des Beaux-Arts, the **Puits de Moïse** [Well of Moses] - the base of the great calvary that decorated the centre of the cloister and is now its only visible remains - is an absolute must see.

Medieval Dijon

Rib-vaulted passageways, streets and back alleys bordered by mansions of Burgundy stone and corbelled, timber framed houses with multi-coloured roofs all lead to Notre-Dame and its gargoyles, plus the ducal palace just a few hundred metres away.

Roman Dijon

The ancient town of Divio was fortified during the late Roman Empire. A few sections of the castrum - a wall that must have stood ten metres high - can still be seen today, including a tower. Two necropolises have also been identified, including one that was in use in the second century AD.

Multimodal Dijon

Dijon's aim is both highly ambitious and unprecedented: to reduce car travel from 53% to 40% of all journeys. The strategy is to make public transport, walking and cycling more attractive. The two new tram lines, opened in 2012; 23 bus routes, including 102 hybrid buses; 40 "Velodi" bicycle stations; and the free city centre shuttle bus all aim to help change the city. Shoes are not provided for walking, however.

Dijon Michelin-starred

With the Climats de Bourgogne vineyards applying for recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Cité de la Gastronomie set to open in the city, it's clear that food and drink are two of Dijon's major assets. Most importantly, in Dijon, food and drink are both a shared passion and a passion to be shared, which makes all the difference...

IT ALL STARTS WITH GREAT PRODUCE...

Mustard

The tiny mustard grain becomes hot when crushed in vinegar, and its digestive properties have been known since ancient times. In 1750, the mustard maker Jean Naigeon came up with the idea of replacing vinegar with verjuice, taken from white, unripe grapes, and it is thanks to this recipe that Dijon mustard became famous around the world.

Blackcurrants

Dijon crème de cassis is only made in Dijon, from blackcurrants harvested in the Hautes-Côtes-de-Nuits area. When combined with Aligoté white wine, it becomes Kir, which takes its name from the famous canon and former mayor of Dijon.

Spiced bread

Pain d'épices (spiced bread) originates in China and is made using wheat flour, honey and spices. Adopted by Duke Philip the Good, the bread gradually developed over time until it was honoured with the following entry in the Grande Encyclopédie of 1885: "In France, the finest pain d'épices is thought to come from Dijon".

AND GREAT ADDRESSES...

Les Halles de Dijon

Under the vaulted metal ceiling designed by Gustave Eiffel, over 250 market traders sell a host of regional specialities: Rosette du Morvan salami, andouillette (Chablis sausage), Bassou snails, Burgundy truffles, Gâtinais honey, Bresse chicken, Charolais beef, the cheeses Époisses and Crottin de Chavignol, and more.

Boutique Maille

The Maille mustard store keeps with tradition and sells mustard from pumps in earthenware pots. Mustard fans can choose from dozens of different mustards, from the more classic flavours (blackcurrant, tarragon, marc brandy) to the more original (grapefruit and green peppercorn, fig and coriander, blue cheese).

La Rose de Vergy

It's hard to choose the best reason to pay a visit to La Rose de Vergy: its fifteenth century store converted into a tea room, its 8-spice pain d'épices, or perhaps simply its perseverance as one of just two pain d'épices producers left in Dijon. By the way, did you know a nice baguette of pain d'épices topped with chutney or tapenade is a dish fit for a king?

Bourgogne Street

This place is a little like the guardian of the temple. It sells Burgundian produce and nothing but Burgundian produce, and often plays host to passionate local producers keen to show off their skills and share a few of their secrets...

MICHELIN-STARRED DIJON

THERE'S NO REASON WHY YOU CAN'T STRAY A LITTLE...

Marsannay-la-Côte

The leafy village of Marsannay is the starting point for a number of walking trails through local vineyards. Take some time to enjoy this charming and traditional village, tucked away in the peace and quiet of the surrounding hills.

Gevrey-Chambertin

Of the 16 Grand Crus (highest quality vineyards) that make up the Côte de Nuits, nine are found in Gevrey-Chambertin! However, all this prestigious wine has not gone to the locals' heads, and the village offers a hearty welcome to visitors following the Route des Grands Crus wine trail.

Nuits-Saint-Georges

Nuits-Saint-Georges is a cosy, picturesque wine-growing village in the heart of the Côte de Nuits. It was here that the Cistercian monks built a winery with four presses and a cellar, upon which was later constructed the Château du Clos de Vougeot.

SIMPLY FIND YOURSELF A TABLE...

In Dijon, the cuisine of Burgundy is celebrated in all its glory and, in some cases, reinvented. Below are a few tasty morsels from the region's classic repertoire...

Les escargots de Bourgogne

The snails are kept inside their shells, covered with butter mixed with chopped parsley and crushed garlic, then cooked in the oven.



Le jambon persillé

Cubes of ham are cooked in a broth of Burgundy white wine, mustard and wine vinegar. The ham is then covered in a parsley jelly flavoured with onions, shallots, thyme, bay leaf and garlic.

Le bœuf bourguignon

Pieces of beef are stewed in red wine flavoured with onions, garlic, lardons and a bouquet garni. The dish is cooked slowly over a low heat.



Les œufs en meurette

The eggs are poached then served on toasted garlic bread with sauce meurette, a sauce consisting of red wine, lardons, onions and shallots.

Le poulet Gaston Gérard

The chicken is firstly browned in oil or butter, then left to cook. The sauce is made with the cooking juices, grated cheese, Burgundy white wine, mustard and cream.

Le coq au vin

The rooster is cut into pieces and cooked in a mixture of pearl onions, garlic, lardons, carrots, mushrooms, parsley, marc brandy and red wine.

Stars in their eyes

William Frachot - Hostellerie du Chapeau Rouge (**)

Stéphane Derbord - Restaurant Stéphane Derbord (*)

Jean-Pierre Billoux - Le Pré aux Clercs (*)

Nicolas Isnard et David Le Comte - Auberge de la Charme (*)

Dominique Loiseau - Loiseau des Ducs (*)

Dijon the fashion addict

City centre or shopping centres? Dijon prefers not to choose. Instead, it offers residents and visitors alike the most exciting and practical shopping options. All 1250 of them...

Hunt for
bargains in the
antiques quarter

The boldness and aesthetic delights of Dijon's many antiques, furniture and interior decorating stores combine with the charm of its medieval streets to create the perfect environment for a modern-day stroll rooted in the past

Retailers rally together

Shop in Dijon" is a new project bringing together all 12 unions of shopkeepers and craftspeople in Dijon. Their aim is to work together to make the most of the newly renovated spaces along the tram line and show off their wares beyond the limits of the castrum!

SHOP IN DIJON : Tél. +33 (0)3 80 50 99 90

Wander through
the city centre

The historic city centre is home to the big fashion stores and shops selling Burgundy specialities. The main shopping street, Rue de la Liberté, is lined with buildings dating back to between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries, many of which are classed as historic monuments. The entire street is set to be pedestrianised in spring 2013.

A stone's throw from Fnac (France's leading entertainment retailer), the Dauphine shopping centre features popular chains such as Monoprix and Nature & Découvertes and is a favourite meeting spot for locals. After all, it's out of the weather and has a huge sweet shop...

Take a trip to the
shopping centre

The arrival of the tram inspired the Toison d'Or shopping centre to open fifty new stores, including France's seventh Apple Store, and extend the site by 11,000 m², in the hope of beating its record of 6 million visitors in 2011.



Dijon the night owl

Don't tell anyone, but Dijon isn't always wise! Below are a few suggestions to help you understand why Dijon really chose the owl as its mascot...

GO TO A SHOW...

Theatres

Parvis Saint-Jean, Jacques Fournier, Théâtre des Feuillants, Grand Théâtre, Athéneum, Théâtre Mansart: Dijon's theatres are distributed across the city and each offer a full programme covering a wide range of productions, from the more classical to the more modern. There's the bell; take your seats!

Le théâtre Dijon Bourgogne

The TDB is a national drama centre that puts on four to five bold and contemporary productions each season.

Music venues

The Zénith's original 7000 seats simply weren't enough, and the venue can now hold 9000 people. The more intimate setting of La Vapeur - dedicated to modern pop music, plus rock and jazz - has two performance rooms and five rehearsal studios. Dijon's Opera House explores music, song and dance, hosting productions in its auditorium and grand theatre. And after fifty years cruising the waterways, the Péniche Cancale barge is now a popular venue.

Be prepared to take the plunge! The Bistrot de la Scène was founded in 1987 to introduce new artistic creations to an audience spanning both the generations and the social classes. Here, "an artist is someone who gives the rebellion its song, the resistance its dream, the downcast their liberating laughter".

Cinemas

Dijon offers no less than 31 different screens on which to enjoy films in either their original language or French. Choose from a multiplex, art house or family friendly cinema.

ENJOY A DRINK...

The campaign to win UNESCO World Heritage Site status for Burgundy's vineyards has boosted locals' passion for wine. So it's hard for visitors to avoid the city's wine bars, where locally produced meats and cheeses can also be enjoyed. There's a huge range of watering holes to choose from, including outdoor terraces in summer, local restaurants, cocktails bars and lounges; no one ever leaves Dijon feeling thirsty.

HAVE FUN...

Why not start with a drink opposite the town hall? Then perhaps move on to Rue Berbisey and Place Émile Zola, where you'll find plenty of bustling bars, people speaking in all kinds of languages, and more exotic restaurants. The market quarter has a range of more trendy options, and by the end of the night you're likely to find yourself in the République area, via the antiques quarter and -why not - Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau. What are you waiting for?!

From September through to June, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, let the night bus drivers be your guide.

Dijon, city of light

Evening visitors can also enjoy Dijon's stunning architectural heritage. Already dark? Not a problem. Carefully designed lighting (environmentally friendly, of course) keeps the city looking beautiful. The squares and main monuments are all brightly lit in a modern style.



Quirky Dijon

Reserved for those in the know and the most enthusiastic visitors, check out these alternative attractions, unusual experiences and a few little secrets to be shared only with those you really trust...



Climb Tour Philippe le Bon

After 316 steps, you reach a terrace. Look out, and all around you lies the city. Unlike the big wheel erected for New Year's Eve, Philippe le Bon offers uninterrupted panoramic views across Dijon all year round.

Guided night tours

Dijon's main monuments and squares are all lit up after dark, meaning the city can also be explored at night. A discreet and exclusive way to discover its architectural treasures while everyone else is sleeping. But shh! Not everyone knows about it...

The Owl Trail

Dijon's very own mascot, the owl, leads bird-loving visitors on a 37-stage trail back in time so you can enjoy the city's charms at your own pace. Don't worry about losing your way: the bird's marks are firmly imprinted in the pavement...

Segway tour

This electronic, all-terrain vehicle transports amateur acrobats through the streets of Dijon and along the Coulée Verte green corridor towards Lake Kir. A fun, original and futuristic way of exploring the city. Plus it's 100% green! In July and August, Segway tours are also available at night - spread the word.

Florissimo

Every five years, Dijon turns tropical. Exotic plants and flowers create a luxurious garden in this unique exhibition; the only one of its kind in Europe. But you'll have to be patient; the next blossoming is scheduled for 2015!



QUIRKY DIJON

Le Vélotour

Every year since 2006, the residents of Dijon have got together with family and friends for a mass bike ride around the city. The most unlikely locations are opened up for the occasion; it's not often you get to cycle through the post office sorting centre with 10,000 other riders or coast down the ramps of underground car parks!

Dijon,
green city

Dijon has no less than 760 hectares of parks and gardens, both public and private. The city that revealed the genius of Jean-Jacques Rousseau could certainly not ignore the importance of striking a balance between architecture and nature. Today, Dijon paints the town green. From regular mowing to careful weeding and even cleaning the trees with black soap, nothing is left to chance when it comes to maintaining national green standards.

The lion hunt

Their muzzles raised, sat back on their haunches, lying down, in stone and in wood: Dijon's lions only hide so they can surprise visitors better. Perhaps some of them inspired Charles Bombonnel, a nineteenth century Dijon resident who liked to hunt wild animals...

Maison Millière
tea room

Built at the end of the fifteenth century, this timber framed house is classified as an historic monument. It is also the only tea room in the world where you can bump into Cyrano de Bergerac.

The Dijon
bestiary

A whole host of domestic, wild and mythological animals roam the streets of Dijon, often well hidden from beasts from beginning to end.

Philosophy
in the Jardin
de la Nef

The *nef* (nave) in this garden belongs to the ancient church of Saint-Étienne Abbey. Throughout the years, it has retained its love of knowledge and study, and is now a library devoted to philosophy, psychology, the social sciences and science and technology.

Tales and legends

The House With No Roof

Jean Carquelin, a baker by profession, famous for his delicious pastries, was implicated in a dark case involving missing children. He was sentenced to death and executed. His house, still visible in **Place Bossuet**, lost its roof in testimony to his vile deeds.

The Jacquemart

The jacquemart on **Dijon's Notre-Dame** is the oldest and most famous of these mechanical bellstriking figures. Today the church is home to a whole family of jacquemarts, but the father was originally given to Dijon in 1383 by the city's first duke, in honour of his troops' bravery during the storming of Coutrai.

The Lucky Owl

Carved into the corner of a buttress on Notre-Dame, Dijon's owl is thought to bring good luck. Anyone who touches it with their left hand and truly believes in its power will see their wish come true. Its origins are also magical: nobody knows why it chose to nest here. Is it the signature of the church's architect? A symbol of wisdom for the city's mayors, who used the adjoining chapel? Make a wish and - you never know - you might just find out

The Gargoyles of Notre-Dame

The gargoyles decorating the façade of this altogether stunning Dijon church are hugely impressive. Fifty-one chimera, monsters and other mythological creatures have taunted passers-by since the thirteenth century. And it doesn't look like they'll be stopping any time soon.

The Bareuzai

The Bareuzai - a wine-grower treading grapes into his wine press—looks down on passers-by from atop his pedestal. His name comes from "bas rosé" (pink stocking) or "bec rosé" (pink nose), and is a nickname that used to be given to wine-growers from the parish of Saint Bénigne in Dijon, to distinguish them from the "culs bleus" (blue bottoms) who lived in Saint Philibert.



Around Dijon

Dijon lies in the heart of a rich and varied region, of which it is the capital. So why not enjoy the great outdoors as part of your visit to the city: explore abbeys, châteaux and quaint villages perched on a hillside or nestled in the curve of a river!

STONE

Abbeys

Behind a fortified wall lies the medieval village of **Flavigny-sur-Ozerain**, with its abbeys and picturesque little streets, the breeze carrying the sweet smell of anise. Founded in 909 or 910 AD, the Benedictine Abbey of Cluny dominated intellectual life in Europe from the tenth to the twelfth centuries. It then passed its prestigious baton to **Cîteaux Abbey**, under the charismatic leadership of Bernard de Clairvaux. By the end of the twelfth century, the Cistercians had spread throughout Europe: the Order boasted 762 monasteries at its peak. The beautifully preserved Cistercian Abbey of **Fontenay**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers visitors an insight into the life of the Cistercian monks, from the forge to the herb garden. Eighty kilometres to the west, the **Basilique Sainte-Marie-Madeleine de Vézelay** was consecrated in 1104, eight years after construction first started following the initiation of the First Crusade under Pope Urban II.

Dukes of Burgundy wine presses

With their enormous counterweights of 4 and 8 tonnes, these wine presses processed up to 100 barrels per day: approximately 23,000 litres of wine. The presses were entirely reconstructed in 1404 on a foundation laid in the previous century and, along with the presses at the Château du Clos de Vougeot, are the biggest and oldest "treulx" in Burgundy.

Châteaux

Overlooking the valley of Armançon, Châteauneuf and its imposing twelfth century castle defend a strategic position between Dijon and Autun. Its contemporary, the **Château de Bazoche**, was after many centuries purchased by celebrated French military engineer Vauban, who used it as a base to draw up his plans for almost 300 projects and strongholds. The Renaissance also left its mark on Burgundy, primarily in a series of châteaux along the river Yonne: Maulnes, Ancy-le France, Tanlay and Saint-Fargeau. It was the seventeenth century, however, that saw the construction of the **Château de Cormatin**, where French writer and politician Alphonse de Lamartine would two centuries later draw up his "republican and socialist project" that inspired the revolutions of 1848.

And as part of an ongoing project - the only one of its kind in the world - Burgundy's list of châteaux is not yet complete! Stonecutters, masons, lumberjacks, carpenters and blacksmiths - not forgetting weavers and rope makers - are currently building a castle in Guédelon using techniques and materials from the thirteenth century.

Hospices de Beaune

Founded in 1443, the Hôtel-Dieu de Beaune became a real "Palace for the Poor", thanks to donations and legacies. It now contains a magnificent collection of objects, furniture and tapestries from the Middle Ages, including an internationally renowned masterpiece: Rogier van der Weyden's polyptych *The Last Judgement*.

Château du Clos de Vougeot

The monks of Cîteaux Abbey began by building a winery in the middle of the surrounding vineyards, with four oak presses and a great cellar that could hold 2000 barrels of wine. They then constructed a dormitory above the cellar. In 1551, the 48th Abbot of Cîteaux added a renaissance manor to the existing buildings.

The château was handed over to the *Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin* [Order of the Knights of Tastevin] in 1944 and is now one of the leading centres for the promotion of Burgundy food and wine. While it does not have its own vineyard, it is bordered by the Grands Crus vineyards of Musigny, Les Échezeaux, Romanée-Conti and Chambertin.

AROUND DIJON

WATER

Vallée
de l'Ouche

Prior to entering Dijon, the River Ouche snakes its way through a beautiful valley, steep-sided but never gloomy. It is bordered by charming little villages including La Bussière and Barbirey-sur-Ouche. The Vallée de l'Ouche railway is open on Sundays and bank holidays, giving visitors a chance to experience the charm of an old-fashioned rural steam train on one of the oldest lines in France. Watch out for the cows!

Canal
de Bourgogne

The Burgundy Canal is 242 km in length and links the River Seine to the Saône and the Rhone. A peaceful and perfectly preserved environment that anglers are quite willing to share with barge lovers and long-distance cyclists alike!

Lacs
du Morvan

Located in the north of the regional natural park, the great lakes of Morvan are a must-see for hikers and other nature lovers. The biggest and most famous of the lakes is Lac des Settons, created in 1858 to transport wood.

EARTH

Wine trail

The most famous wine-growing area in the world stretches 65 km across gently rolling east-facing slopes, yet is barely more than 5 km wide. The easiest way to explore this unique landscape and appreciate its riches is to follow the Route des Grands Crus wine trail from Dijon to Beaune. Make your way between villages of Burgundy stone surrounded by their own prestigious vineyards, home to passionate wine-growers who love their land and its traditions. Don't forget your corkscrew!

Fromagerie
Gaugry

Fromagerie Gaugry transforms 9,000 litres of milk per day into a total of 700,000 cheeses every year. The leading producer of unpasteurised époisses cheese, Fromagerie Gaugry has gradually expanded its range to include Palet de Bourgogne and Petit Gaugry, a pasteurised version of which is produced for export. Launched in 1946, the Ami du Chambertin cheese has done much to raise the reputation of this small family business among cheese lovers worldwide.

All the secrets of the blackcurrant: its history, how it is grown and processed, and its many uses across Burgundy and worldwide, spread over 1000 m² of museum space. A guided tour of the Védrenne distillery ends as it should, with an opportunity to taste crème de cassis, liqueurs and eaux-de-vie.



Two modern, fun and interactive tours introducing you to grapes and wine, from vineyard tools to the mystery of bubbles. It ends with a guided tasting of wine or sparkling wine (Crémants de Bourgogne).



The Cassissium

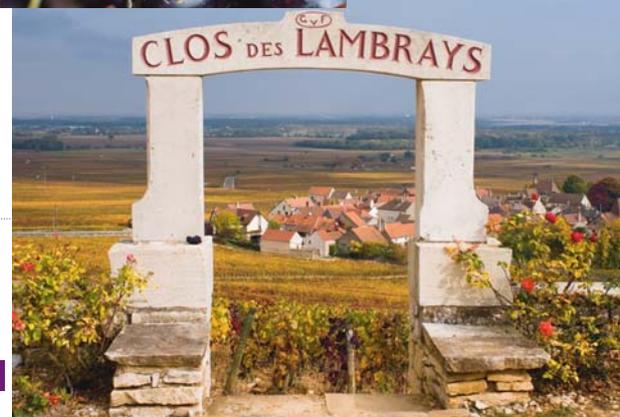
The Imaginarium

Fruirouge Farm

On a plateau in the heart of the berry producing area that provides the raw materials for Dijon's cassis distilleries, Fruirouge Farm produces traditional jams, alcoholic and soft drinks and condiments. Don't miss the blackcurrant fruit jellies!

L'Escargot
Bourguignon

Helix aspersa comes out of its shell! A farm where you can look at, buy, taste and even learn to cook snails.



MuséoParc
Alésia

IRON

This re-enactment centre explores Caesar's Siege of Alesia, including the site, the myth and the Gallic Wars. The most impressive element of the museum is undoubtedly the life-size reproduction of around 100 metres of fortifications and part of the Roman camp.

Bibracte:
The Museum of
Celtic Civilisation

On Mount Beuvray once stood Bibracte, the capital of the Gallic Aedui people. With a huge excavation site serving as a permanent workshop, this futuristic museum has offered a fascinating insight into Celtic civilisation and cities since 1995.

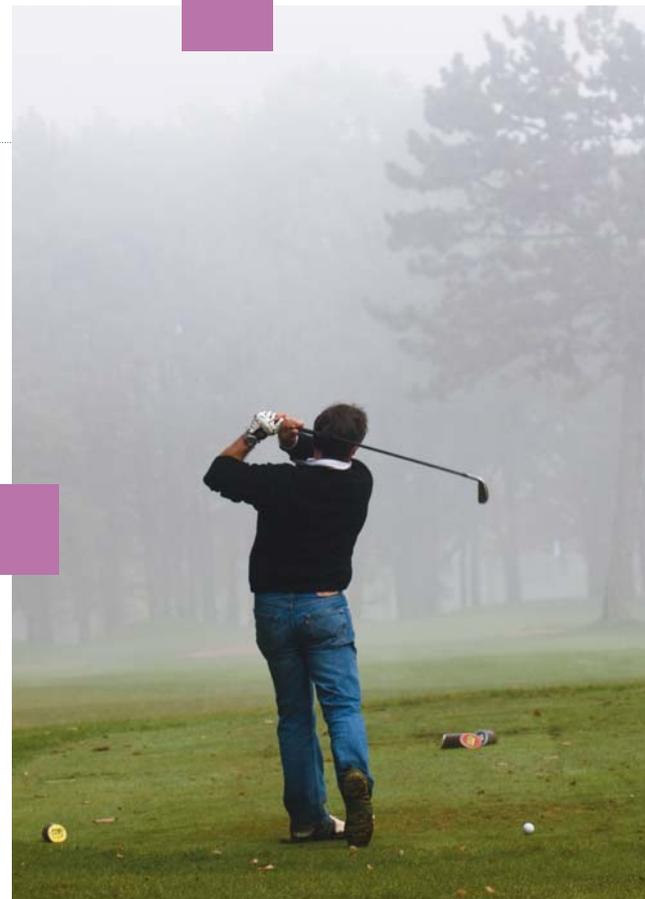
SPORT

Dijon-Prenois
motor
racing track

The vestiges of Renault's first Formula One victory still haunt the twists and turns of this track, which was extended in 1975 to 3.8 km. The track is now used primarily for historical events (Grand Prix Historique de Bourgogne, Grand Prix de l'Âge d'Or), national competitions (Super Série FFSA, Swiss championship) and motorcycle racing, plus driving courses and karting.

Jacques Laffite
Dijon Bourgogne
Golf Course

This 18-hole golf course in a forest setting is an unmissable stop on the French circuit. Particular care has been taken to protect the natural environment, with policies to manage water and reduce the use of chemicals introduced in 2006 and 2008 respectively.





Practical Dijon

Getting to Dijon

By train:

Daily TGV trains from Paris and the main central European cities

- Paris: 1 hr 35 mins
- Paris Charles de Gaulle airport: 1 hr 35 mins
- Lyon: 1 hr 45 mins
- Lausanne: 2 hrs
- Strasbourg: 2 hrs
- Zurich: 2 hrs 25 mins
- Lille: 3 hrs
- Marseille: 3 hrs 15 mins

By car:

Fast motorway access from Paris and central Europe:

- Paris (A6)
- Lille and Belgium (A26/A5)
- Metz and Luxembourg (A31)
- Strasbourg and Germany (A36)
- Geneva and Switzerland (A40/A39)
- Lyon and Italy (A31/A36)



Staying in Dijon

There are **68** hotels in Greater Dijon, ranging from unclassified to five stars: **3 605** rooms in total.

Guest houses are available in the city and various charming locations in the surrounding area for a less conventional stay.

For visitors who value their independence, there are around 20 self-catering properties close to the historic city centre.

And in summer there's always the option to camp, with 100 or so pitches available at a leafy site near Lake Kir.

Book a hotel: www.visitdijon.com

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