

Besançon, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, France

Wrapped in a horseshoe bend of the Doubs River and crowned by a Vauban citadel, Besançon is one of eastern France's most rewarding river stops — Roman ruins, Renaissance palaces, and a watchmaking legacy all within easy walking distance of the quay.

 River port (docked)  Typical call: 6-8 hrs  Euro (€)  French

🚢 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Docked at Besançon river port on the Doubs, 30 berths, seasonal (Apr 15–Oct 15)

Best For: UNESCO Citadel, Roman history, watchmaking museums, local Comté cheese

Walk to centre: 5-10 min walk from river quay to La Boucle old town

Don't Miss: Citadelle de Besançon (UNESCO) and the underground canal boat tour

 Getting around:  Taxi  €5–10 ·  Rideshare  Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Citadelle de Besançon — UNESCO Fortress** — Vauban's 17th-century masterpiece crowns Mont Saint-Étienne with 11 hectares of ramparts, three museums (Comtois...
- **La Boucle Old Town Walk** — Stroll the pedestrianised horseshoe of streets past the Porte Noire Roman arch, Saint-Jean Cathedral with its...
- **Underground Canal Boat Tour** — Board 'Le Vauban' or 'Le Battant' for a scenic river loop that passes through the impressive 375-metre tunnel carved...
- **Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans** — A second UNESCO World Heritage site 35 km southwest: Claude-Nicolas Ledoux's 18th-century 'ideal industrial city' is an...
- **Musée du Temps — Museum of Time** — Besançon was France's watchmaking capital.

BEST WALKS

- **La Boucle Historic Loop** 2.5 km · ~1 hr · easy (flat) — From the quay follow the river past Quai Vauban, turn into the old town at Pont Battant, pass the Porte Noire Roman arch, continue to...
- **Up to the Citadel** 1 km · ~20 min · steep uphill — From the old town, climb Rue de la Convention steeply uphill to the Citadel main gate.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:47AM–8:24PM · Jun 5:39AM–9:33PM · Aug 6:32AM–8:46PM · Sep 7:13AM–7:47PM · Oct 7:54AM–6:47PM	
Apr	60°	42°	12d	Euro (€)	
Jun	75°	58°	13d		
Aug	77°	60°	11d		
Sep	71°	55°	10d		
Oct	62°	48°	12d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Citadel is a half-day commitment. Budget at least 2 hours — the three on-site museums alone deserve unhurried time. Combine with the underground boat tour below for the full...

Book the best tunnel tour early. The underground canal boats are popular and run on fixed schedules; check at the Port de la

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Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Basilica of Saint-Ferjeux | A grand basilica housing the relics of Saint Ferjeux. | 2 Besançon Citadel | Vauban's 17th-century fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage site. |
| 3 Frac Franche-Comté | Regional contemporary art center with diverse exhibitions. | 4 Griffin Fort | Historic 19th-century military fort offering panoramic views. |
| 5 Astronomical clock | Intricate 19th-century astronomical clock inside Besançon Cathedral. | 6 The Little Train of Besançon | A tourist train offering scenic city tours. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |