

CLAIRVAUX-LES-LACS



terredemeraudetourisme.fr
03 84 25 27 47



- Distance : 2.1 km
- Length : 45 min long
- Starting point : tourist information office

Whether you are alone, with family or with friends, come and discover the rich heritage of Clairvaux-les-lacs and its origin from Franche-Comté.

Clairvaux-les-lacs, a town counting 1400 inhabitants, is renowned for its emerald green lakes. Considered as the capital of the lake region of the French Jura, and classified as a touristic epicenter, it is with great success that vacation rentals, campsites, souvenir shops and entertainment activities chose to settle there.

1 The solar clock

Through 1st rue du Jura, enter the city hall court and observe the solar clock. A solar clock is used to find the solar zenith in a given location. When the sunrays go through the split disk and reflect themselves in a point of light on a vertical axis, it is noon in Clairvaux-les-lacs. It is the most useful time for the inhabitants, which is why it is called Méridienne.



As a reference to what is written above the clock, what does "Carpe diem" mean?

Answer: Seize the day (as if there is no tomorrow)

3 The tower of Clairvaux castle

It is the only vestige left from the castle of Clairvaux-les-lacs. Nowadays, only one tower remains from the four that were there at the origin. Could you believe that in the beginning, one could distinguish several areas in this castle: a courtyard, a dovecote, a big fountain and two chapels. In fact, the structure was imposing as it spread over 4 hectares, a big advantage when defending against the enemy!

Unfortunately, the castle was burned in 1637 as well as the center of the village. Later, this remaining tower had different use: she was a prison and then a house.

Please note: you cannot visit the tower.



4 The church of Saint-Nithier

Saint-Nithier was the head of the deanery of Clairvaux-les-lacs in the 17th century. He settled in this town to convert the inhabitants to Christianity. It took years to convince the population, whose majority was polytheist.



7 The Great lake of Clairvaux



The lakes of Clairvaux originate from a glacier. They are located in a little recess carved by the glacier in the plateau of Champagnole.

Some archeological digs allowed us to find some remains of a lakeside site next to the Great lake, dating back from the Neolithic Age. This site is now registered as UNESCO World Heritage.

What is a lakeside site?

Answer: A group of villages settles along a lake, a river or swamps and which have houses on stilts to avoid possible floods.

2 The sequoia

This sequoia is one of the tallest in Franche-Comté. This species of majestic trees is known for its resistance to mushrooms and insects. Its life expectancy is set at 3000 years old, which is enormous for a plant.



5 Bell tower of Franche-Comté

Every visitor that comes to Franche-Comté can't help but notice those colorful bell towers that overlook villages. The bell tower of Franche-Comté is characterized by its onion-shaped dome (said imperial) and can be covered with glossy tiles. The most common patterns are the chevrons, the diamond, the flecked or the horizontal strips. The least common ones are the florets or the abstract.

Which geometrical shape and which colors compose the bell tower?

Answer: Yellow, copper-colored and black diamonds



La Fruitière 1900

At an 8min drive away from Clairvaux, discover the Fruitière 1900!

You can participate in a guided visit and see the traditional way of making comté cheese with ancestral methods

Contact :
25 Grande Rue, 39130 Thoiria
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6 The old trainline

In 1898, the countryside railroad was launched, a network of steam tram line that went from Lons-le-Saunier to Saint-Claude, going through Clairvaux-les-lacs via this little bridge.

As the trainline had a lot of technical difficulties with its engines, going through two World Wars and a major economic crisis, it definitely ceased to exist in 1950.

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