

Heritage tour #1

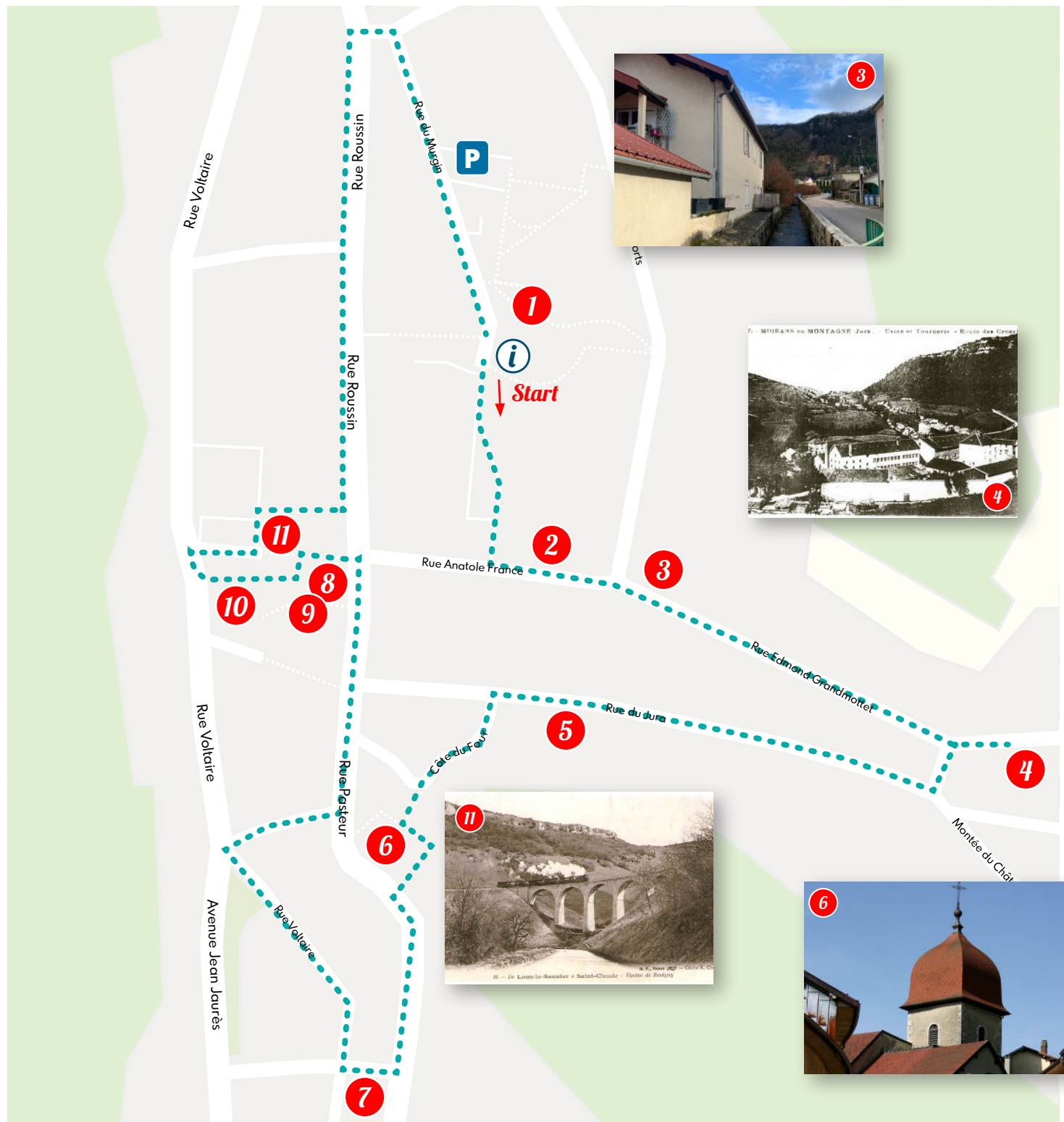
MOIRANS-EN-MONTAGNE



terredemeraudetourisme.fr
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- Distance : 1,7 km
- Length : 45 min long
- Starting point : tourist information office



Whether it's alone, with family or with friends, let yourself wander on this 1.7km walk and discover the heritage of Moirans-en-Montagne. Moirans-en-Montagne is a little town of 2088 inhabitants and the capital city of toys. Each year, it attracts a lot of visitors thanks to the Toy Museum.

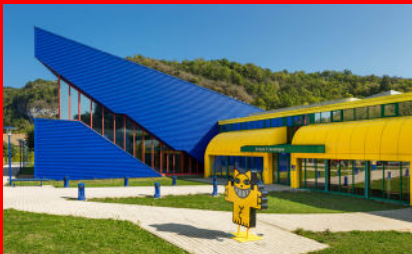
1 Musée du Jouet

Birth of the toy capital city

The story of wood craft begins with the monks of Saint-Claude abbey : a lot of pilgrims were asking for holly objects. That is why peasants started to work with wood, as a way of having an income.

At the end of the 19th century, wood-turning workshops were multiplying. They were generally along rivers and used hydraulic power. The production of holly items decreased to be replaced by wooden toys. In 1820, the first whistles and flutes were made, in Moirans-en-Montagne.

After the Second World War, some factories like Smoby turned to the production of plastic toys while others like Villac stuck to traditional wooden toys. Due to those factories, Moirans-en-Montagne became the "toy capital city" in the 50s.



The special architecture of the Toy Museum

The architect that made the plan of the museum, Guy Bonnard, wanted to represent a big LEGO, lost in the meadow of the Jura.

In order to put some more enthusiasm and to add value to the field of Jura toys, which highly exceed the frame of a normal museum, this one developed itself and was awarded with the label "Musée de France".

2 War memorial

This memorial was built in 1922 as a tribute to the soldiers from Moirans who were killed during the First World War.

It represents a naked woman, crying the loss of her children. It holds the sentence "France thoughts towards her deceased". But the inaugural of the memorial never happened because of the controversy that the statue provoked.

3 The Murgin aqueduct

It was built to manage the canal of the Murgin after several floods that occurred between 1906 and 1910. Despite that, the floods kept happening, as you can see on this picture taken in 1958.

5 The school Saint-Joseph

In 1650, the abbots of Saint-Claude built a house with a tower to collect the tithe and other seigniorial taxes. That house, located in rue du Jura, became the school Saint-Joseph.



Imagine, in this street in the 17th century, what could have been there instead of the school? Clue : you could have seen some knights !

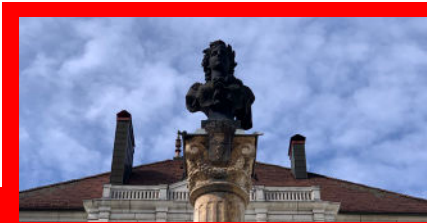
Answer : a fortified castle



8 The Square Robert Monnier

Built in 1884, this fountain with a twisted column and a capital displays the city's coat of arms; on it, you can see the face of Moor* man.

* person from Mauritania



9 The fresco

On your left, you can see a beautiful fresco. This work of art represents a wonderful world where birds are means of transportation for children. What about you? Would you like to travel on a bird's back?



4 The chimney of the old Dessoy factory

It belonged to the Grandmottet factory, which was working with wood. Restored in 2009, it is the vestige of the use of steam power, which was used to activate the chassis and the machines.



6 The Church of Saint-Nicolas

The church of Saint-Nicolas, made in the gothic style from Franche-Comté, was built in the 15th century and is classified as Historical Monuments since 2007.



Which animal can you find at the top of the church cross?

Answer : a rooster

10 The fresco of Bibiville wood-turning workshop



In the eighteen hundreds, the first wooden toys were made by wood-turning workshops in Moirans-en-Montagne. A few years later, the city even created their speciality : the bibi. It is a whistle made out of box tree, that you could put at the extremity of an inflatable balloon. That is why the city took the name of Bibiville in the nineteen hundreds.



In the fresco, are you able to find : Ludy - some bibis - tops - a puppet

7 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 Moirans-en-Montagne.

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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If you liked this tour, get the one for the towns of Arinthod, Orgelet and Clairvaux-les-lacs.

11 The Fresco Vuitton Décor

It was made in 2017, as a representation of the old market gardener of Moirans-en-Montagne, le Père Vazeille, who was in the rue de l'Hôtel de Ville long ago. The shop "Art du Bois" is a reference to the work of wood, which was a very present job in the city.

