

Table of contents

<i>Abbaye de Cîteaux</i>	2
<i>Abbaye de Fontenay</i>	3
<i>Alise-Sainte-Reine</i>	5
<i>Auberive</i>	6
<i>Auxonne</i>	7
<i>Beaune</i>	8
<i>Bèze</i>	9
<i>Chantier Médiéval de Guédelon</i>	11
<i>Château de Commarin</i>	12
<i>Châteauneuf-en-Auxois</i>	13
<i>Châtillon-sur-Seine</i>	15
<i>Dijon</i>	16
<i>Époisses</i>	18
<i>Flavigny-sur-Ozerain</i>	19
<i>Grancey-le-Château</i>	20
<i>Langres</i>	21
<i>Réserve naturelle de Chalmessin</i>	22
<i>Saint-Seine-l'Abbaye</i>	23
<i>Salives</i>	24
<i>Semur-en-Auxois</i>	25

Abbaye de Cîteaux...

...is a Cistercian monastery in the area of Saint-Nicolas-les-Cîteaux in the department of Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

The monastery has a great significance when it comes to origin of the Cistercian Order. From here, the rules of St. Bernard were spread and over 1,000 monasteries were founded (filiations) throughout Europe.

Location

The monastery is located in a valley of the Saône River, about 24 kilometers south of Dijon.

Distance to our farm: about 75 km

Attractions

The monastery was founded in 1098 by Robert of Molesme and is located in a swampy oak forest (Cîteaux derives from the Latin word for "reed"). In the 12th century there were two stone churches. The smaller received her ordination in 1106, the larger in the 1193.

They were, according to the Cistercian rules, stretched, cruciform basilicas with rectangular chancel and transept. Unfortunately, the original buildings were destroyed after the French Revolution. A few buildings have been preserved like the old library (Scriptorium) from the 15th century, and a wing of the small monastery.

About 1900 there was a new beginning of the Order, and for several decades monks have been living and working again in the monastery. The historic buildings were restored and can be visited. Besides the historical significance of the Order efforts are also made to draw the attention of the visitors to the spiritual roots of the Order. Even during the prayers of the monks you are invited to enter the flat domed classical church and you can participate in the Liturgy of the Hours. Also worth visiting is the monastery shop, where the famous monk cheese (see also Époisses), honey, crafts and books are sold.

Abbaye de Fontenay...

...is a Cistercian abbey in the field of the community Marmagne in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

The famous abbey gives a good impression of monastic life in the 12th century. It was founded in 1118 by Bernard of Clairvaux and on its ground you will find the oldest Cistercian church. The abbey is a unique demonstration area, as it was closed after the French Revolution, but has not been used like many others of its kind as a quarry. Instead, it was later used as a paper mill. Only at the beginning of the 20th century it was fully restored. Since 1852, the complex is a historical monument, in 1981, it became even a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Location

The abbey is located approximately midway between Châtillon-sur-Seine and Semur-en-Auxois, about 6 kilometers east of Montbard, in the valley of the river Fontenay. The road D 32, which goes from Marmagne to Touillon connects today the former convent with the outside world.

The position corresponds to the Cistercian tradition, to establish monasteries in remote valleys at a watercourse. Since fish was considered a major component of the cuisine of the Cistercian order, to ponds made from dammed streams are famous for the appearance of Cistercian abbeys. The surrounding wilderness avoided a distraction and temptation by the worldly affairs of the nearby towns and villages.

Distance to our farm: about 81 km

Attractions

The Abbey of Fontenay is the best preserved Cistercian monastery in Burgundy and shows the former community of monks.

It is divided into the areas of the church (a cruciform basilica with no upper clerestory), the monastery with dormitory, the refectory and chapter house, the abbot's palace, the farm buildings and the monastic gardens. It is surrounded by a wall, in which a bakery, a chapel and a score keeper's house are integrated.

The Fontenay abbey shows features of Cistercian architecture, which should be considered as independent in the Romanesque architecture. Besides the square plan with controlled building arrangement the lack of ornaments and colors is characteristic. The resulting elevated strength and simplicity is typical of Cistercian architecture.

Unlike to the Abbey of Citeaux there is no more monastic community, only the visitors crowd at times the gardens, buildings and workshops.

Alise-Sainte-Reine...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

"Alise" reminds of "Alesia". And this is no coincidence, because there is evidence that this is the place where the Battle of Alesia took place, when the Gauls were defeated decisively by the Romans.

"Sainte-Reine" refers to the Holy Regina, who supposedly martyred here in the third century. Her remains were transferred 864 in the Benedictine abbey of Flavigny-sur-Ozerain.

Location

The village is located about 7 miles southwest of the Castle Bussy-Rabutin and approximately 7 kilometers north-west of Flavigny-sur-Ozerain.

Distance to our farm: about 59 km

Attractions

Every Asterix reader know Alesia, the scene of the decisive battle for 52 BC between the Romans under Julius Caesar and the Gauls under Vercingetorix. The place is not the only community which claims to be the ancient Alesia. But archaeological excavations during the 19th century imply that the historical Alesia was here.

There are still new insights in this Gallo-Roman settlement on the plateau of *Mont Auxois*. As a result of the recent excavations at the museum there is a find with the inscription *IN ALISIIA*. Thus, since 1865, the colossal statue of Vercingetorix has probably been on the right place.

The church of *Saint-Léger* is one of the oldest Romanesque churches in Burgundy. The building was originally a three-aisled, flat-roofed basilica with choir tower and apse. The aisles have been lost and the arcades walled, so that today only a single-nave hall remained. The south wall of the nave dates in the core of the 7th century whilst the north wall dates from the Carolingian era. The tower dates from the 12th century (the Merovingian-Carolingian system was originally without a tower).

Auberive...

...is a municipality in the department of Haute-Marne in the Champagne-Ardenne region.

Location

The town is located approximately 27 kilometers southwest of Langres at the river Aube, whose source is located a few kilometers in the south.

Distance to our farm: about 15 km

Attractions

The monastery of Auberive is a former Cistercian monk abbey and has a varied history. Founded in 1136 by Bernard of Clairvaux as daughter abbey of the primary abbey it was dissolved in 1791 during the French Revolution and converted into a women's prison in 1856. Later it was inhabited by Benedictine monks, later by Trappists. From 1960 to 2004, the monastery served as a summer camp. Today the building is used for exhibitions. The buildings were rebuilt in 1750. The cloister from the 17th century, which is situated north of the church, still has three wings with the chapter house with Gothic vaults. Also a water mill was preserved. The church of the 12th century, which was demolished at the end of the 18th century, is only partly preserved.

Auxonne...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

Between the 10th and 13th century here existed a county. In 1229 it received city charter, the city was later even mint. A castle protected the then militarily significant transition over the Saône. At the end of the 15th century, after the annexation of Burgundy to France a still existing defiant castle was built at the riverfront by King Louis XI. In the 17th century this castle as well as the city walls was developed into a bastion with moats.

Location

The town is located approximately 35 kilometers southeast of Dijon, on the left bank of the Saône.

Distance to our farm: about 84 km

Attractions

Auxonne is sometimes called the "Jewel of the Saône Valley". With its fortifications from the era of Louis XIV partly built on the concept of Vauban appears to be friendly and provincial. Napoleon served here 1787-89 as a young lieutenant, and in 1791 he stayed for some time in the city. Consequently, in the fortress tower you will find the *Musée Bonaparte*.

Worth seeing is also the church of *Notre-Dame* from the 13th century with a Gothic porch, which is rare in Burgundy.

Beaune...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

It is the center of the vineyards of the Côte de Beaune and is regarded as the wine capital of Burgundy. This area mainly produces red wine from Pinot Noir and white wines from Chardonnay grapes. The annual wine auction of the Hospices de Beaune determine the prices for the whole region.

Apart from Dijon, the community is one of the major centers of French mustard production. In the 19th century still 30s mustard makers were resident. You will find here also the last remaining family-owned and operated historic mustard mill of its kind in Burgundy.

Location

The town is located in the southern part of the Côte-d'Or, about 45 kilometers southwest of Dijon.

Distance to our farm: about 102 km

Attractions

The small town center has changed only little over the years: The historical part of the town is surrounded by a approximately 2 kilometers wall with eight fortifications from the 15th century. You will find there a network of narrow streets. In the center there are many magnificent buildings from the late Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Baroque period. Especially in the *Rue de Lorraine* you will still see houses from the 16th century.

The *Hôtel-Dieu*, a former hospital from the 15th century was used as a hospital until 1971. Today, parts of the old complex are used as a retirement home, while the rest can be visited as a museum and provides an interesting insight into the early modern nursing.

The *Church of Our Lady* is a Romanesque church whose architecture follows the type of the third abbey church of Cluny. It houses Gothic sanctuary tapestries with scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary. This series of 19 scenes was woven at the beginning of the 16th century from templates of a Burgundian artist.

The *Hôtel des Ducs de Bourgogne* is located near the *Hôtel-Dieu*. It is the former residence of the dukes of Burgundy in Beaune, whose half-timbered buildings grouped around a courtyard offer a picturesque scene. Today you will find in these buildings the Burgundian wine museum, dedicated to the history of wine.

Bèze...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

In 630, near the source of the river Bèze the Counts of Burgundy founded an abbey which has been completely rebuilt in the 17th century. Only the arcades in the park date from the 12th century. However, Bèze retained its medieval character. Several historic buildings, ruins of fortifications and winding streets invite you to stroll through the quiet village.

Location

The town is located about 30 kilometers south of Langres and about 30 kilometers northeast of Dijon.

Distance to our farm: about 38 km

Attractions

The limestone caves of Bèze are well worth seeing and can be visited via a 300 meter long underground river by boat. They can be visited daily from May to September and in April and October every weekend. The rest of the year they are impassable due to a high water level.

Near the caves is the source of the river Bèze. The promenade in front of the source is from the 18th century and is a listed building. The trees that line the promenade are between 250 and 300 years old.

The *Tour des Francs* is a guard tower from the 9th century and was part of the fortifications around the village in the Middle Ages. Unfortunately, it is nearly completely destroyed. It is called the "Tower of the Franks", because during the Franco-German War of 1870/71 it was used for defense by French volunteer corps, called *Francs-tireurs*. Further towers of the fortifications are the *Tour d'Oysel* with the attached wash house of the nuns and the *Tour des Chaux*, which is named for its whitish coloration.

The Abbey of Bèze was one of the first to own a convent school. Initially it was only a school for the young monks, but later also for the children of the aristocrats. Over the centuries, the facade of the building changed several times, so that it reflects the architectural styles of different eras. In the 19th century, the building housed the "Hotel to the Old Monastery", later it was used as a grocery store and bus stop. Until 1914 it was declared a national monument and preserved from demolition.

At the junction of road *Dom Clément* and the alley *Saint Prudent* you will see a pointed roof. Here was the altar area of the chapel of *Saint-Prudent*. This chapel was built between the 11th and 12th century, hosted the relics

of Saint Prudent. During the time of the French Revolution, the building was sold as national property and converted into living space.

In 960, under the auspices of Bishop Remi, the chapel of the 7th century was rebuilt of the villagers to the Church of *Saint-Rémi*. A picture on a table inside the church bears witness to this event. Over the centuries, the church was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt. Its last complete restoration was in 1995 and 1997.

Chantier Médiéval de Guédelon...

...is a construction project of a castle in the area of the community Treigny in the department Yonne in the Burgundy region.

As interesting the many ancient castles of Burgundy may be, one of the most visited places of Burgundy is Guédelon. The project has become a valuable cultural, historical and educational aspect. For the first time, the emergence of a major construction and medieval fortifications can be seen from the start to the end. Traditional techniques are rejuvenated or re-discovered, the concept on which the entire system is based, was made tangible, and thus provides a vital picture of life and way of thinking in the Middle Ages.

Location

Guédelon is situated about 140 kilometers southeast of Paris, some 40 kilometers southwest of the town of Auxerre, near the village of Saint-Sauveur-en-Puisaye.

Distance to our farm: about 183 km

Attractions

On this trip to the Middle Ages, the visitor can see how a castle in its original size with medieval technology continues to grow from year to year. According to the principles of experimental archeology in this reconstruction project, only techniques from the 13th century are used. Accordingly, the artisans and staff are dressed in medieval robes and on the construction site there are no modern tools or equipment, other than personal protective equipment. All tools are made on the site itself. Transport work can be accomplished with horse carts. Around the construction site an entire settlement of medieval "suppliers" has emerged. In which artisans produce shingles, baskets, pottery, tiles, nails, tools, ropes, beams and wool clothing. In addition, on-site you can find horses, sheep, pigs, geese, chickens and ducks. Wood for the scaffolding is beaten in the surrounding forest, stones in the old quarry and transported by horse and cart to the workshops of the stonemasons. It can be used either cement or screws - the mortar is prepared on site from sand, clay and hydrated lime. Mortar and bricks are then placed handmade baskets and transported to their destination. Under the direction of Michel Guyot 50 fully professional workers and in the peak season up to 16 volunteers are expected to work on site until 2023. Between April and October, the site is open to visitors.

Château de Commarin...

...is a castle in the field of the community Commarin in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

The roots of the current castle are in a fortified house from the 12th century. Its present appearance it got through modernizations in the 17th and 18th century. Unlike many other French palace buildings, it survived both the French Revolution and the two world wars. The building and the park are listed since 1949.

Location

The town is located approximately 38 kilometers west of Dijon and about 5 kilometers north of Châteauneuf-en-Auxois.

Distance to our farm: about 80 km

Attractions

The palace complex consists of a main building and atrium, which is located on a castle island surrounded by a moat.

A two kilometer long avenue leads from the north-eastern side to the castle entrance which is marked by a wrought-iron gate. Two round towers with conical roofs remind of the medieval war times. The park with wide lawns and line trees, the barred gates and lounges with precious tapestries and furniture, take us back to the days of the monarchy.

The facility is privately owned but can be visited on a guided tour during Easter and All Hallows Day. In 2003 also the castle park is open to visitors. The palace is part of the route *Ducs de Bourgogne*. You should keep your ticket, because you will get discounted entry in other places of the castle route (see also Castle Bussy-Rabutin).

Châteauneuf-en-Auxois...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

The formerly fortified village of Châteauneuf, has retained its medieval character and was named after the castle Chateauneuf-en-Auxois, which is located on the western edge of the town. The silhouette of the village is made up of a substantial number of towers of the castle, the church and the houses of the village. Except of the castle, the village still retains some remnants of its fortifications. In the Middle Ages, it was a stage on one of the pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela.

The medieval city is one of the *Plus beaux villages de France* (most beautiful villages in France).

Location

The place is located on the crest of a truncated cone-shaped peak, overlooking the Burgundy Canal. It is situated approximately 42 kilometers southwest of Dijon and about 35 kilometers northwest of Beaune.

Distance to our farm: about 85 km

Attractions

In the streets of the old town you will be immediately caught by the quaint character of the medieval settlement. The sometimes simple, but also stately homes, all in the best restoration and maintenance status are from the 14th to 17th century and are built of solid stone masonry. Galleries, stair towers and sometimes even correct towers attest to the wealth of the former owners. These were generally no simple farmers and craftspeople, but rich wine merchants and traders from the nearby centers Beaune and Dijon.

The parish church of the 16th century contains remarkable statues of St. John and St. James from the 15th century, St. Philippe from the 16th century and a "Madonna and Child" from the 14th century. All four statues are listed buildings.

The castle Châteauneuf dominates the landscape of Auxois and should, after its construction as a fortified castle in the 12th century, secure the surrounding plain and the road from Dijon to Autun militarily. The fortress was built on the initiative of the Lord of Chaudenay for his son. His castle was situated further south and today you will only find the ruins.

Today, especially the rectangular keep with its little window hatches, emerging from the ramparts cylindrical towers, the loopholes in the walls,

the round towers and the two former entrances witness the time of origin. The castle was surrounded by a wide moat, separating it from the village. In the 15th century, Philippe Pot, enlarged the castle and made it cozier. The courtyard was limited by two gothic accommodation wings. The main wing and the observation room was the generously sized and fireplace equipped *Grand Logis*. Inaugurated in 1481, the chapel is painted in the colors of the Pot family: black and red. Here is a replica of the grave monument of Philippe Pot, the original is shown in the Louvre. From the windows of the "round room" you can look down to the wide Auxois country and the foothills of the Morvan.

Châtillon-sur-Seine...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

Location

The town is located on the upper reaches of the Seine, about 40 kilometers below the source, approximately 51 kilometers northwest of Salives.

Distance to our farm: about 51 km

Attractions

The church *Saint-Vorles* is one of the oldest churches of Burgundy. It stands on a hill overlooking the city and dates from the 10th century. It is built in massive early Romanesque architecture with elements of southern Burgundy and Carolingian elements. The lower chapel is part of an even older house of prayer. St. Bernard, who studied in 1098-1108 the city, had here one of his Mary visions. Saint Vorles was another local miraculous saint of the 6th century, whose remains rest since the year 868 in this sacred building. From the 16th century came the great sculptures of the group burial of Christ, shown in a moving funeral.

Nearby are the ruins of the castle of the Dukes of Burgundy in the 12th century. At the foot of the chapel hill is the source of Douix, a place of worship since Celtic times, and ordained since the christianization of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At its water-rich basin children can play marvelously.

The Archaeological Museum houses a rich collection of various objects from all eras of human history. Centerpiece of the museum is the treasure of Vix: A huge bronze vase. It was found in the grave of a Celtic princess, who had been buried in a four-wheel cart. Only in 1953 this tomb was discovered north of the city Vix - with treasures from the 6th century BC, chokers in fine gold work, the remains of the enormous ceremony cart and the 1.64 m high, 1100-liter jug crater mentioned, that weighs at least 208 kg.

Dijon...

...is the capital of the department of Côte-d'Or and the Burgundy region.

Dijon is the traffic, commercial and industrial center and location of the University of Burgundy, which was founded in 1722. The city is famous for its mustard and an important trading center for Burgundy wines. Since 1966 a 97-acre area in the historic center was classed the largest historical monument zone of France.

Location

The town is located on the western edge of the Saône-level, about 45 kilometers northwest of Beaune. The town is situated at the river Ouche situated next to the Burgundy Canal, which connects the city with the river Saône.

Distance to our farm: about 46 km

Attractions

With the "Tour of the Owl" visitors can explore the unique and historically significant landmarks in the city. 22 outstanding attractions are marked with in plaster embedded bronze plaques with the image of an owl.

Heart of the city is the *Palais des Ducs et des Etats de Bourgogne* the Ducal Palace in the late 17th century, with its classic-cool facade. In this building of one of the most important art museums in France, the *Musée des Beaux-Arts*, is housed. It houses works of art from ancient Egyptian times up to the 20th century.

The palace is dominated by the 46 meters high tower *Tour Philippe-le-Bon* from the 15th century - after the 316-step climb you will have a brilliant panorama. The semi-circular, colonnaded *Place de la Libération*, from the 17th century, forms the forecourt. In the area surrounding the Ducal Palace you will find beautiful mansions (*Hôtels*) from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

A little further east, the road leads to the two towers of the *Saint-Michel*, which has due to its two hundred years of construction (around 1500) a peculiar mixture of Gothic and Renaissance style. It contains numerous works of art in its interior.

To stroke the owl - as with the left hand - brings luck, and that is why the small stone figure at the buttresses of *Notre-Dame* (13th century) already quite worn. Squeezed in between houses you will find the unique facade - with rich, Gothic statuary, mostly false gargoyles, which were carefully renovated by the restorers of the 19th century. The most precious

possession is the Black Madonna church, *Notre-Dame de Bon Espoir*, from the 12th century - the patron saint of the city. The statue is one of the oldest wooden French Mary sculptures.

One of the showpieces of the restoration of the historic center is the renewal of the market hall. Built in 1873 as per Parisian tradition, it was restored in 1993-95 in detail. Now *Les Halles* is a rich array of delicacies from cheese to forest honey and a lively meeting place. But the quarter of merchants and craftsmen is also an ideal area to stroll between half-timbered gables, bay windows and circular staircase towers.

The archaeological museum, which you find in the surviving monastic buildings of the former abbey of *Saint-Bénigne*, is rich in Celtic, Roman and Merovingian finds. Under the adjacent Gothic cathedral *Saint-Bénigne* of the 13th century, are the remains of at least two older churches, the spacious crypt of the earlier building from the 11th century and the martyrs grave of the apostle of Burgundy, Saint Benigno.

The abbey church of Saint Bernard has a magnificent Italian Baroque interior and contains a museum of sacred art, the *Musée d'Art Sacré*. In the former convention buildings you will find the museum *Musée de la Vie Bourguignonne*. It presents a collection of Burgundian rural and urban life from the everyday life of the 18th to the beginning of the 20th century. Highlight of the exhibition is a street line with original furnished shops from former Dijon.

Époisses...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

The famous French cow's milk cheese *Epoisses de Bourgogne* is produced here. Similar to the cheese from Langres, it is washed several times with a brandy named *Marc de Bourgogne* during the aging process. It was invented in the early 16th century by Cistercian monks of the Abbey of Citeaux and became one of Napoleon's favorite cheeses.

After World War II, the cheese was almost forgotten until in 1954, Robert and Simon Berthaut established their dairy Berthaut and started the production in 1956. This pervasive and complex-tasting cheese can be enjoyed in different stages of maturity.

Location

The town is located approximately 15 kilometers west of Semur-en-Auxois, halfway between Dijon and Auxerre.

Distance to our farm: about 84 km

Attractions

In the 6th century the castle was an important stronghold of the Duchy of Burgundy. The castle dates from the 14th century, but has kept its fortress-like floor plan: A wall with a ditch and seven rectangular towers shield the site. The interior can only be reached via a courtyard which served as a refuge for the villagers in sieges. Interesting is the finely crafted fountain from the 16th century.

For 300 years, the property is owned by the family. The current castle facade and precious furnishings are from the 17th - 19th century. Only in the 17th century, when there was no feudalism, no private wars, the owners transformed the castle's fortress into a residential building. Large windows were installed and the interiors were furnished elegantly. The galleries and salons are decorated with paintings and memorabilia of famous visitors such as Henry IV and Chateaubriand.

Noteworthy is the pigeon's tower in the park of the 15th century with over 3000 pigeons - an emblem: per hectare of land owned one niche was permitted.

Flavigny-sur-Ozerain...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

The castle town seems to come from another time. The houses and fortified gates are, as the church of *Saint-Genest*, mainly from the 13th-15th century. Cars remain under the trees in front of the walls and towers, inside it is tight and quiet, but very busy. In the Middle Ages, however, the importance of this place was significant, because from 866 there was the pilgrimage to the relics of St. Regina (see Alise-Sainte-Reine).

The medieval city is one of the *Plus beaux villages de France* (most beautiful villages in France).

Location

The town, situated on a promontory, is surrounded by three rivers Ozerain, Recluse and Verpant and is situated about 17 kilometers east of Semur-en-Auxois.

Distance to our farm: about 64 km

Attractions

The Abbey Church of *Saint-Pierre* is famous for its pre-Romanesque crypt, which dates back to Carolingian times, and was only rediscovered in 1956. Today it is well lit for visitors, so that the ornaments on the columns can be fully effective.

In the former Benedictine Abbey, the traditional production of the famous candy *Anis de Flavigny* is located. Distinctive is, that each of the candy has a core of real anise. These delicate sweets are also available in other flavors as anise and are sold in boxes with oval wonderfully nostalgic pastoral couple, rose or violet decor.

The *Jardin des Plantes Textiles* is a botanical garden specializing in plants that are used for textiles, baskets and ropes. It was created in 2002 as a complement to the Museum *Maison des Arts Textiles & du Design*.

In 2000, the village served as the setting for the film *Chocolat* starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp.

Grancey-le-Château...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

Location

The town is located about 40 kilometers southwest of Langres and about 45 kilometers north of Dijon.

Distance to our farm: about 3 km

Attractions

The castle was built from 1705 to 1725 by Jacques Eléonor Rouxel de Grancey on the site of the medieval fortress built in 1098 by Ponce de Grancey. The fortifications around the castle and the village date also from the early 11th century. At the entrance to the castle you will find the collegiate church of *Saint-Jean-l'Evangeliste* built in the gothic style, which was founded in 1365 by Eudes V. and Mahaut de Noyers.

The parish church *Saint-Germain* is located 1 km from the village. Its oldest part is the chancel area which dates from the 13th century and was built in the Romanesque style.

There were two other churches in Grancey: the Priory of *Saint-Nicolas*, which was demolished in the 18th century and the Chapel of *Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, which served as a chapel of the local leper colony.

La roche qui pleure ("Weeping Rock") is a rock formation in a narrow valley between our farm and the village. According to a legend, the wife of a landowner of Grancey-le-Château died one day in the fall at the feet of the rock, only one day before her husband returned from the Crusades. The landowner cried so much that the rock retained it. Two "eyes" were opened in the stone, and often you can see the rocks cry. Since that day, the valley is also called "The Valley of October".

Langres...

...is a municipality in the department Haute-Marne in the region Champagne-Ardenne.

In Langres the famous French soft cheese made from raw milk of the same name is produced. Speciality of *Langres* is that it is washed by the manufacture several times with a brandy named *Marc de Champagne*. It has an intense spicy smell and taste, but is a bit milder than the similarly prepared *Époisses*.

Location

The city is situated on a promontory of a plateau with the same name. On the plateau of Langres you will find the sources of some of the major rivers in France, for example, the Marne, the Seine and the Aube. Langres itself is situated at the headwaters of the Marne, which is part of the Marne-Saône-Canal.

Distance to our farm: about 43 km

Attractions

Since the 2nd century Langres is protected by fortifications. These were expanded and modernized in the 19th century. Some parts of this plant are the remains of buildings from Gallo-Roman times. Today, the city is surrounded by a 4-km walk-system with twelve towers and seven gates. The most impressive city gate is probably the *Porte des Moulins* of the time of Louis XIII.

Worth seeing is also the cathedral *Saint-Mammès*, built in the 12th century and thoroughly restored in the 18th century. It combines in a successful way, the last Burgundian Romanesque influences with the first tentative applications of Gothic. Its classical facade dates from the 18th century.

Réserve naturelle de Chalmessin...

...is a nature reserve in the area of the village of Vals-des-Tilles in the department Haute-Marne in the Champagne-Ardenne region.

It exists since 1993 and is located in the forest. Here you will find one of the most remarkable peateries of the plateau of Langres. Since the last Ice Age of 8000 years ago, in this narrow valley, very special circumstances allow the preservation typical mountain flora and fauna.

Location

The area is located approximately 12 kilometers northeast of Grancey-le-Château, near the border with the department Côte-d'Or.

Distance to our farm: about 10 km

Attractions

The Swamps of Chalmessin is one of 6 national nature reserves in the Champagne-Ardenne region. This 24-hectare reserve contains a variety of habitats with a remarkable biodiversity. More than 20 rare and endangered plant species in the region are represented here (for example, the Blue monkshood). Numerous animal species, such as 59 bird species, butterflies and dragonflies (for example, the Southern Damselfly) live here in sufficient numbers. A specially created on lands exploration path makes it possible to explore this area. On this nature trail through the moorland you will find information boards about the residents of the park and the unspoiled nature. Additionally, Highlanders were settled here, so that they can retain the area open.

Saint-Seine-l'Abbaye...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

The panorama of the town is dominated by the church of *Saint-Seine*. It formerly belonged to a Benedictine monastery, which was already founded in the 6th century by St. Sequanus. It is one of the oldest monasteries of Burgundy and was the germ of the present settlement.

Location

The village is situated in a valley near the sources of the Seine, about halfway between Dijon and Flavigny-sur-Ozerain.

Distance to our farm: about 54 km

Attractions

Today you can see only few of the monastic buildings as the abbey was destroyed during the French Revolution mostly. Only a beautiful park, the former abbot's palace from the 18th century and the famous abbey church survived.

The Abbey church of *Saint-Seine* is one of the finest examples of the Burgundian Gothic. The construction of the church started in the 13th century but before its completion it was destroyed by a fire. Only the chancel and the left transept could still be used. In the late 14th century it was rebuilt. They begun with the right transept, then the nave was built. The western front was preceded by an atrium. Particularly noteworthy is the typical Burgundy floral interior. As a conclusion of this phase of construction the triangular pediment was created. Only in the 15th century, the north tower was built. Interesting are also the wall paintings of the early 16th century influenced by the Renaissance style and the elegant stalls in the style Louis XV. inside the church.

Salives...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

The name probably derives from the Latin words "aquas saliva" (fountain), presumably a reference to the springing source of Tille (another etymological approach is from the Latin word "sacriba" (sacred spring)).

Location

The town is located about 18 kilometers southwest of Grancey-le-Château and about 45 kilometers north of Dijon.

Distance to our farm: about 15 km

Attractions

The church of *Saint-Martin* combines a sanctuary of the 11th century with a chapel of the 15th century and a longhouse from the 17th century (which was rebuilt in the 19th century). The mesh around the sanctuary is a listed building and contains several symbols of the Templar and various motifs from the Passion of Christ. You can also find numerous statues of saints. Behind the church is the "Cross of supplications" with all the symbols of the Passion of Christ.

The keep of the 11th century is symbolic of the place. It is 18 meters high and up to 2.8 meters thick. A special feature is the door at the top on the southeast side. The tower was restored in 1997.

The city wall was built in the 13th century in order to protect the village as a strategic place. Over the centuries, parts of the wall were torn down and the stones were used as building material, until it was recently purchased by the community and restored by a financial support from European funds and the French state. The wall, punctuated by 17 towers, has a length of 1.4 kilometers and surrounds the whole village (some segments were not restored). The medieval gate *Porte de Montarmet* marks the entrance to the village.

The wash-house was built in 1842 on a source of Tille. Noteworthy is the series of four arcs on the outside of the building. The concept for the renewal of the source enclosure was designed by artist John M. Armleder.

Semur-en-Auxois...

...is a municipality in the department Côte-d'Or in the Burgundy region.

As per the legend *Semur* was built by the legendary figure of Hercules on his return from Spain. What we know is, that in the 7th century there has been a castle. The name *Semur* first appears in the 8th century in the founding document of the Abbey of Flavigny. Its etymological origin derives from the Latin words "senes muros" (the old walls).

Location

The town is located in the western part of the department Côte-d'Or, about 20 kilometers south of Montbard.

It is located on a bend of the river Armançon, which at this point cuts a granite rock deeply. The town is situated around the four towers of the former castle, and merges with the rose-colored rock.

Distance to our farm: about 75 km

Attractions

The medieval city gate *Porte Sauvigny* was built in the 15th century. With its two towers, formerly a moat, a drawbridge and a portcullis it marks the entrance to the city. By the quiet pedestrian street in the city center you get to the churchyard.

The church of *Notre-Dame* is considered as a remarkable example of Gothic art. The largest part of the building dates from the first half of the 13th century. The facade and the towers were built in the course of the 14th century. Finally, in the 15th and in the 16th century the porch was added and the side chapels were set. The church was restored in the middle of the 19th century by the architect Viollet-le-Duc.

On the stained glass windows you can see expressions of the local guilds. Outside you discover falsework and devilish gargoyles. The two buildings are now part of the town hall.

The *Rue de Rampart* goes around the four surviving round towers of the former citadel, including the *Tour de l'Orle d'Or*, which is named like that because of its glittering roof and before the establishment of the *Pont Joly* it represented the entrance to the city. From this bridge you have a picturesque view over the city. The walk on the promenade planted with lime trees offers also a beautiful view over the river and its surroundings.