



GROUPS
2024

WELCOME **TO PARAY-LE-MONIAL, IN THE HEART OF BURGONDY**

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart

This masterpiece, a jewel of medieval art, is the best conserved example of Cluniac architecture in Bourgogne. The church was built in the 12th century by Hugues de Semur, the most important of the abbots of Cluny. This ancient priory is still intact and so gives an impression of the splendour of the Cluny Abbey. At a moment when the grand abbey had practically disappeared, Paray III used the designs and architecture as those used by an order at the summit of its power. It remained a priory until the French Revolution. In 1875 it was established as a minor basilica by Pope Pius the IX and dedicated "Sacré-Coeur". Inside, the barrel vault has unique lighting. The choir is remarkable because of the painting of the 15th century apse. It opens onto the elegant ambulatory. During your visit you will reach the high chapel overhanging the nave. Outside you will appreciate the exceptional chevet, rising in stages from the ground to the bell tower. This Parish church was enhanced throughout the centuries by the work of numerous artists. During the renovation, between 1997 and 2005, J.-C. Detallante designed the lights, evocative of Romanesque bestiary. In 2011, the Way of the Cross was realised by the Enamel workshop of the abbey of Ligugé inspired by the watercolours of the artist P. Lafoucrière.

The Cloister

The cloister is next to the basilica. It leads us to find the way of life of the last monks of Paray-le-Monial. One can enter the cloister by the south door, which is interesting for the traces of medieval polychrome. The front of the priory is characteristic of classical art of the 17th and 18th centuries : a triangular pediment which shows the coat of arms of Cluny, attic windows, griffins and vintage cartouches.

The garden, of medieval inspiration, evokes the charm and mystery of the monastic gardens of the period. There are regular cultural events held in the galleries : exhibitions, concerts etc. By appointment, it is possible to visit an ancient monk's cell or the former dining room of the monks.





The historic centre

The town of Paray-le-Monial has made a considerable effort in the redevelopment and lighting of the historical centre. Whether night or day, it is a wonderful setting for the 4 major buildings, classified as Historic Monuments. During a walk, accompanied by the comments of our guide-lecturers, you may admire the Maison Jayet, which has a renaissance façade (1525-1528) characterised by rich ornamentation. A few steps on you will discover the tower Saint-Nicolas. This ancient parish church of the 16th century has had many uses : a prison, law courts. Now it is used for exhibitions. Then you will find the Museum of Hiéron. Behind the monumental façade is hidden a National Treasure. The Via Vitæ, of the goldsmith-jeweller Joseph Chaumet, is a tremendous piece of goldsmith's work in gold plate. It has one hundred and thirty eight figures in gold and ivory representing scenes of the life of Christ. One can also admire the 12th century Romanesque Tympanum from Anzy-le-Duc which is an historic monument. Following your route you reach the Chapel La Colombière. This Jesuit chapel shelters the relics of Saint Claude La Colombière, the spiritual advisor of Saint Marguerite-Marie. The chapel's exterior is plain but the interior is enriched with mosaics and stained glass by the brothers Mauméjean. This 1930s architecture is registered with the Historic Monuments and since August 2012 it has been classified as heritage of the 20th Century.



Guided tour of the Basilica and Cloister

7€/person
140€ (less than 20 persons)

1 hour 30



Guided tour of the basilica and the historic centre.

8€/person
160€ (less than 20 persons)

2 hours

The service team of the Paray-le-Monial Tourist Office are pleased to be able to offer guided visits of the Parodien heritage throughout the year. Please contact us to reserve your visit or to organise your trip. Our guides will help you discover a millennial heritage in the heart of a unique rural landscape.

Paray
leMonial
TOURISME

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