



Fribourg, Neuchâtel & Jura

POP 515,000 / AREA 3311 SQ KM / LANGUAGES FRENCH, GERMAN

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Why Go?

A far cry from the staggering Alpine scenes more readily associated with Switzerland, this gentle corner in the west of the country remains a 'secret'. From the evocative medieval cantonal capitals of Fribourg and Neuchâtel to the mysterious green hills and thick dark Jura forests, from the land of three lakes to gorgeous medieval villages such as Gruyères and St Ursanne, it proffers a wealth of sights and escapes off the tourist track.

Travelling here is a brilliant sensory experience...and that includes the taste buds: savour tradition-rich Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) cheeses, let absinthe's green fairy dance on your palate and make sure you try meringues smothered in double cream at least once. And when you need to repent, thousands of kilometres of waistline-saving walking, cycling and cross-country skiing trails – not to mention sailing, skiing and water sports – save the day.

Best Places to Eat

- » Auberge de Mont Cornu (p92)
- » Georges Wenger (p95)
- » Café Tivoli (p87)
- » Café des Arts (p91)

Best Places to Stay

- » Auberge aux 4 Vents (p81)
- » Eulenhof (p86)
- » L'Aubier (p89)
- » La Ferme du Bourgoz (p88)

When to Go

Summer is the perfect time to visit these verdant cantons, when the green seems greener and the sunflowers make for a sea of yellow. In autumn, restaurants serving 'la chasse' (game-based dishes) are worth stopping in, while the wine harvest in the Vully region makes for an appealingly tipsy time. Late spring is a good time for outdoor activities, as is early autumn.

① Getting There & Around

Rail connections to/from the main cities, Fribourg and Neuchâtel are straightforward. By road, the A12 freeway linking Bern with Lausanne and Geneva roars down the Canton de Fribourg's central spine.

CANTON DE FRIBOURG

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The southernmost of the three cantons, Canton de Fribourg (population 273,200) totals up 1671 sq km on the drawing board. Pre-Alpine foothills rise grandly around its cold craggy feet; Gruyères with its sprinkling of small mountain resorts pierces its heart; and Fribourg heads the canton up



Fribourg, Neuchâtel & Jura Highlights

① Enjoy cheese dreams after a day's dairy-fied indulgence in **Gruyères** (p87)

② Eyeball the mad-cap creations of **Jean Tinguely** and **Niki de Saint Phalle** (p80) in Fribourg's atmospheric Old Town

③ Take a big hearty gulp of Vully wine, *saucisson du*

marc and old-fashioned fresh air at the **Owl Farm** (p86) in Mur near Lake Murten

④ Fall under the spell of medieval **Neuchâtel** (p89)

⑤ Delve deep into the Jura to discover local life on a **Jurassien farm** (p95) in Réclère

⑥ Feed all five senses with a good dose of Swiss chocolate at the **Cailler factory** (p88)

⑦ Gambol with the green fairy via a nip (or two!) of absinthe in the **Val de Travers** (p93)