

Day to day life: internet, transportation, markets (Au quotidien, internet, transports, marchés)

Main information and details about internet, transportation, markets and fairs.

Internet access

The city cyberbases:

In these cyberbases, internet access is free (limited to 1H per day, though) for people who possess the *vie quotidienne* card(see “useful cards” rubric) or the library card = *la carte de lecteur des bibliothèques*. Anyonelse pay per hour.

The cyberbases :

- City centre: Centre Pierre Bayle, 27 rue de la République.
- Planoise: Centre Nelson Mandela, 13 avenue de l'Île de France.
- Grette - Butte: Maison de quartier, 31 bis Rue Brulard.
- Montrapon - Fontaine ecu: Centre Pierre de coubertin, 1 Place de Coubertin.
- Clairs-Soleils: Centre Martin Luther King, 67 E rue de Chalezeule.
- Battant: Espace associatif et d'animation des Bains Douches, 1 rue de l'Ecole.

It is possible to attend computing classes in these cyberbases to learn how to surf the internet for example. Make enquiries directly to the cyberbases.

General cyberbases line: 03 81 87 84 27.

There are also private cybercafes where internet access is charged.

Transportation

- **GINKO buses in Besançon**

Besançon city and the villages around have a GINKO citybus network. Buses are running continuously (except at night) all across the city and connect Besançon with the surrounding towns.

The different ways to pay for Ginko buses transportation are:

- by taking seasons ticket, (monthly or yearly)
- by directly buying a single ticket to the driver in the bus.
- by purchasing tickets to the Ginko shop(Place du huit septembre, city centre) or

to tobacconists or newspapers agents. You can purchase different tickets depending on your needs and the different advantages.

It is good to know the season tickets (month ticket or year ticket) called Diabolo, Campus and Sésame give you free access to the TER train (local) over the *Grand Besançon* network.(Besançon and surroundings).

For more on GINKO city bus lines, go to GINKO shop (Place du huit septembre, city centre)) or look up the GINKO website: <http://www.ginkobus.com/>

- **Besançon Trains**

The main train station is called Besançon Viotte - 2 avenue de la Paix. Many local, national and international trains are going through this station.

There is also a smaller train station called gare de la Mouillère - Avenue Edouard Droz - that connects Besançon with some small towns and villages around. (Which also have small train stations.)

- SNCF Franche-comté website: http://www.ter-sncf.com/Regions/franche_comte/Fr/

- **Going on a bike in Besançon: VéloCité.**

The VéloCité system: stations, where you can pick-up and drop-off bikes, are spread all over the city centre and next neighbourhoods so you can rent a bike whenever you wish to. You will see them while walking around Besançon.

To pick-up a bike, you need a credit card or a season card (short- term or long-term). Put your card in the reader and follow the instructions on screen.

The first half-hour is free and fees are very cheap.

For people having difficulties with understanding French, a brochure in English called “Besançon by bicycle” can be downloaded from VéloCité website.

For more, contact the VéloCité customer service 0820 20 25 29 from Monday to Friday from 8h am to 12h am and from 2 pm to 6 pm or make enquiries to the city council’s reception (2 rue Mégevand, entrance B) or to the Town hall= l’Hôtel de ville (place du huit septembre) or look up the VéloCité website:

<http://www.velocite.besancon.fr/>

- **Car sharing**

Car sharing is a way to travel where several people use just one car to drive to the same place or almost.

Choosing car sharing means splitting car expenses: petrol, tolls, parkings, etc. As well as less traffic, less pollution and mutual help...

For more on car sharing and to find car sharers, look up the following website.

<http://www.covoiturage.besancon.fr/>

Other means of transport can bring you farther away like non-GINKO coaches network.

Besançon city website will help you find more about transportation:
<http://www.besancon.fr/> --> rubric « transports ».

Markets and fairs

- **Monthly fair**

Second Monday of each month: place Battant and square Bouchot from 6 am to 6h30 pm.

Warning: every second Monday of every month (except when the fair take place somewhere else), no parking on the whole parking lot area, indicated with signs.

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- **Besançon markets :**

Battant: Place Jouffroy – Sunday and holiday, morning

City centre: Place de la Révolution – Tuesday and Friday morning, Saturday from 7am to 7pm.

Chaprais: Place de la Liberté – Wednesday morning.

Palente: Place des Tilleuls – Wednesday and Saturday morning.

Planoise: Centre Commercial des Epoisses, rue de Bourgogne – Tuesday, Friday and Sunday morning.

Planoise: Place Cassin – Wednesday and Sunday from 7am to 6pm.

Planoise: Centre Commercial Ile de France, Avenue Ile de France – Thursday and Sunday morning.

Covered market:

« Marché des Beaux-Arts », 6 rue Goudimel – Tuesday to Saturday from 7am to 7pm, on Sunday from 8am to 1pm. Fruits, vegetables, cheeses, meat, fish....

Useful Cards in Besançon (Cartes utiles lorsqu'on vit à Besançon)

They make access to multimedia libraries, recreational centres and city cyberbases easier and offer discounts or free tickets for daily life, cultural or recreational activities.

The *vie quotidienne* card (daily life card)

The *vie quotidienne* card gives access to multimedia libraries, recreational centres and city cyberbases.

Possessing this card allows you to book and rent books, films and music to the city multimedia libraries; to have access to Internet and computers in cyberbases in town; and to subscribe to leisure activities provided by community centres. Other services, like VéloCité discounts, are included. Make enquiries to the organisation that applies.

How much does this card cost?

Adults: 8 € a year

Reduced price for people benefiting from the *minima sociaux*: 4 € a year (upon proof presentation)

Under 18 years old: free

Avantages jeunes card: free

How to purchase the card?

You must go to a city department (libraries, community centres, cyber-base, etc)

To benefit from the card services, present it to every organization.

Which documents I have to provide to get the card?

- ID or the official family record book (*livret de famille*)
- Certificate of accommodation less than 3 months old (EDF bill, receipt of rent payment...)

--> For more information about the *vie quotidienne* card, please go to the city service that applies (multimedia libraries, recreational centres, city cyberbases).

The *Avantages Jeunes* card (advantages youth card)

The *Avantages Jeunes* card was designed for young people under 26 or students under 30. It is charged 7 euros for 1 year and offer many discounts and free tickets for recreational, cultural and leisure activities for daily life in Franche-Comté.

For more on this card, go to the CRIJ (*Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse*≈Youth information Local Centre) - 27 rue de la République - Tel: 03 81 21 16 16 - <http://www.jeunes-fc.com/>

Useful advice for foreigners students (Conseils pratiques à destination des étudiants étrangers)

First day in Besançon special:

It is strongly recommended to bring in your luggage,.

Several copies of IDs and official documents certified as a true copy necessary to apply for the residence permit properly.

- Secondary school diplomas
- University diplomas
- Birth certificate, with the parents ID, names and birth place.
- Passport photos
- Valid passport and visa

And do not forget:

- Warm clothes because the winter season can be very cold in Franche comté
- your music instrument
- your favourite book(s) or CD(s)
- a recipe book from your home country
- some photos and posters....

If you are coming in Besançon for the first time:

After reaching the Viotte train station (**Gare Viotte**), go to the main exit.

Right in front of you, approx. 100 feet away, there is a bus stop where you can catch the bus 8, campus direction. Get off at the terminus.

Before trying to get into a bus, buy a ticket, preferably a one-day ticket if you arrived in the morning and keep it safe so you can travel around the city all day for a reasonable price. And do not forget to obliterate your ticket before sitting down. But if you are coming into town on the afternoon or late at night, just buy a single ticket valid for 1 hour.

Be careful: If you are going to travel on several lines all day long, insist to get the day ticket.

More (story):

“My first week in Besançon was very expensive for transportation.

I spent up to 10 euros a day because I was travelling a lot to find a cheaper accommodation. I had no idea, it was my first time in France and in Europe, and

everything was new to me. I was a bit careless but mostly I didn't want to ask for more information because I didn't want to bother anyone. That was my first mistake. Very fast, I realized I was spending way too much, so before buying a bus ticket, I started to ask the driver for the cheapest ticket according to my trip. For sure, I saw a huge difference.

My advice for any new students in Besançon, do not hesitate to ask for the best option before buying anything, and the most important, ask for student discounts of products as in Franche-comté many shops offer discounts to students."

Gilbert (Student in Economics)

Accommodation

- Where to start ?

Once you get to the campus (bus terminus), look for the CROUS

CROUS Besançon

40 avenue de l'observatoire

25002 Besançon

tél. : 03.81.48.46.98

www.crous-besancon.fr

The Crous can give you different accommodation options:

If you are having trouble finding a « cautionnaire » (surety bond) in France to stand surety for you, go and see the social workers of the Crous office, they will help you find a solution.

Warning!

If you are not a grant holder (*boursier*) student, you are less likely to be granted an accommodation at the Crous.

However, you can be given a temporary accommodation option (less than 15 days) while you are looking for another accommodation.

It depends on the number of available rooms and the Crous requirements.

Make enquiries to the Crous as they have other options to find a place to live (in individuals houses for instance)

Make sure the accommodation you are considering is in an area connected to the GINKO bus network.

There are several students associations according to different home countries.

Ask the Crous how to contact them as they might help you for your research.

Other option :

The CRIJ – Centre Régional d’Information Jeunesse ≈ Youth Information Local Centre

27 rue de la République

tel : 03 81 21 16 16

Open on Monday 1h30 pm-6 pm ; from Tuesday to Friday from 10 am to 12 am and from 1h30 pm to 6 pm. On Saturday 1h30 pm to 6

Accommodation department: 03 81 21 16 04

The CRIJ offers several types of accommodation, rental counselling , at individual’s house, small ads in free newspapers, temporary accommodation, *taxe d’habitation* (local tax paid by residents), insurance, flat-sharing, housing benefit, information about the *Avantage Jeunes* card.....look up the following websites:

www.jeunes-fc.com ; www.avantagesjeunes.com

More (story)

“With the Avantages jeunes card that costs only 7euros (6 euros are offered through a book voucher in libraries) so the card actually costs 1 euro (purchasing price) ;I was able to buy my first books with very big discounts. This way I saved money from my “books budget”.The Avantage jeunes card offer a large range of discounts in many fields (student life, cinemas, sport and leisure activities) all across the Franche-comté region. Do not forget to ask shoppers if discounts can be applied to their products upon presentation of the card.”

Yves(student in Human sciences)

To avoid

Many of you have already booked a hotel room.

Warning !

Hotels are quite expensive so do your best to not stay too long. Try to avoid them insofar as possible. Do not eat at the hotel either, the restaurants are very pricy and you would waste a lot of money. You’d rather buy a sandwich at a grocery store or at many shops. Compare prices.

More (story)

“My first day in Besançon, it twas raining, I decided to stay at the closer hotel I could find. I stayed there two weeks. When I checked-out, I paid my stay 850 euros, that is, all my savings. The following days were the hardest I had to go through in Besançon. (See the end on the STORIES rubric) Don’tt do the same mistake.”

Claude,(law student)

Useful Information

Transports

Going around in Besançon

Preferably, you should travel around by bus, the cheapest means of transport for students.

The most economical is to buy a monthly stamp + card = 26, 90 €

Go to the Ginko shop, 4 place 8 septembre (place St Pierre, city centre).

From Monday to Saturday: 1 à am to 7 pm

Phone calls

During your administrative enquiries and procedures (accommodation etc..) try not to use phone cabs in which you pay with coins. You'd rather buy a phone card in any newspaper agents or tobacconists as it is cheaper and the card has more units.

Opening a bank account

Having a bank account is compulsory to obtain a residence permit.

You need a permanent address to open a bank account.

It is advised to see different banks options and offers in order to determine the best for students, then the choice is yours.

Warning: read carefully the conditions written in the opening account contract before signing it. Do not hesitate to ask more details about the options because some of them are more expensive than others and your bank consultant might not point them out.

First day of the academic year: attendance is essential!

Even if you are not done with paperwork and accommodation, you must attend the first session of the academic year. During these sessions you will be given all the information about your courses at the university, on this day you form the different class groups and you get to meet your professors who will introduce the amphitheatres and classrooms to you. In consequence attendance is strongly recommended.

Warning ! Even though the administrative procedure can be time-consuming try no to skip courses as some of them are really hard to catch up with.

Permanent enrolment and resident card application

While the permanent enrolment procedure at the University ask the enrolment office to make an appointment for you at the *Préfecture* to get a resident permit that will take over from the 3-months visa.

Address : PREFECTURE DU DOUBS

Direction de la Réglementation et des Libertés Publiques (Public liberties and ruling department)

Bureau des Nationalités

Service Etrangers

8 rue Charles Nodier- 25035 Besançon Cedex

To make an appointment (espace Chamars Avenue de la Gare d'Eau

Tél : 03 81 25 10 00

-In order to complete the application:

Do not forget :

- a proof of pre-enrolment or admission at the Franche-Comté University.
- a receipt of financial resources: the minimum sum of financial resources you need to prove is set by every Embassy of France (480 € a month approx.)
- A valid passport
- A proof of address (**Warning: Hotels is not valid as it is not considered as a permanent place of residence**)

The AVF Besancon (French cities welcome) (L'AVF Besançon)

L'AVF welcomes anyone who has moved in a new country or city to help newcomers to make friends.

The Besançon AVF offers: a careful attention, a varied activities programme, joyful meetings, information on the city and the county as well as the opportunity to get to know new people.

Centre Mendès France, 3, rue Beauregard: Open on Tuesday from 2h30 pm to 4 pm -

Tel: 03 81 53 48 03.

http://www.avf.asso.fr/minisites/Website/site/bourgognefranche-comte_besancon_presentation.php

Books and newspapers in foreign languages. (Livres et presse étrangers ou en langues étrangères)

You can rent books, newspapers and magazines in foreign languages in some libraries (multimedia or not), you can also buy them at the “*maison de la presse*” (a newspapers agent).

The type of articles and the languages available vary according to the libraries and multimedia libraries; make enquiries to them for more information.

(Multimedia) libraries in Besançon :

- Bibliothèque de Palente : 24, rue des Roses - 03.81.53.48.89.
- Bibliothèque d'études et de conservation : 1, rue de la Bibliothèque - 03.81.87.81.40.
- Médiathèque Aimé Césaire (Clairs Soleils) : 96, Ter rue de Chalezeule - 03.81.41.57.64.
- Médiathèque de Montrapon : 1, Place de Coubertin - 03.81.87.82.13.
- Médiathèque Nelson Mandela (Planoise) : 13, avenue Ile de France - 03.81.87.82.05.
- Médiathèque Pierre Bayle (centre-ville) : 27, rue de la République - 03 81 87 81 40.

A « *Bibliobus* » is also running, this bus transports books, comics, children books, CDs, VHS tape and stops in the different neighbourhoods of the city.

Ask for dates and hours when the *Bibliobus* will stop at libraries and multimedia one.

To be able to rent products to libraries (multimedia ones too) and to the *Bibliobus* you must possess a *Vie quotidienne* card. You can ask for it at libraries.

Maison de la presse

To purchase newspapers and foreign magazines in foreign languages.

58 Grande rue - Tél: 03 81 81 34 07 - <http://www.maisonpresse-besancon.com/>

Leisure, culture, associations: Where to get information? (Loisirs, culture, vie associative : se renseigner)

There are many ways to be entertained and meet new people in Besançon, in the city centre and everywhere else, according to each one's taste and possibilities.

Theater, dancing, lecture (libraries), cinemas, music, museum, shows, multimedia library, walks, painting, cuisine, sightseeing, meeting, excursions, manual leisure activities or sport of any type, and of course celebrations and event all year round !

Alots of these activities are free or very cheap (with the *vie quotidienne* card or the *cartes avantages jeunes* -for children and teenagers-). Some facilities provide leisure activities and sport for free or with very low fees.

Where one can find information?

- **Town council reception**

Place du huit septembre (or "Place saint Pierre"), entrance hall of the former Town Hall.

- **Besançon Info'cité**

Besançon Info'cité, reception and information service to answer your questions about day-to-day life: accommodation, healthcare, leisure, family, sports, infant, environment, administration paperwork, etc...

Phone: 03 81 625 625 from Monday to Friday from 8 am to 12h30 am and from 1h30 pm to 6 pm.

http://www.besancon.fr/index.php?p=1161&art_id=3993

- **Tourist office**

For more information on events, where to go out, visits, leisure activities...in Besançon and around. Go to the tourist office. The tourist office is based at 2 places:

- Parc Micaud (2 place de la 1ère armée française): From Monday to Friday from 10 am to 6 pm.

- Town Hall (Place du 8 septembre): Every week days and holiday from 10 am to 6 pm.

www.besancon-tourisme.com - Tel.03.81.80.92.55.

- **The CRIJ (Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse≈ Youth Information Local Centre)**

27 rue de la République – Tél : 03 81 21 16 16.

<http://www.jeunes-fc.com/>

Where one can find information about associations?

- **1901 centre**

Many associations provide a wide range of activities and support many causes. According to your taste, wishes, passions or needs you can meet people with the same hobbies as you. Association gathering foreign countries nationals are very common and are a good way to meet compatriots. Some associations defending human rights could also come in very handy.

The *centre 1901* releases an association's directory you can get for free at the *centre 1901* or at the reception of the Town hall. Place du 8 septembre.

1901 Centre.

35 rue du Polygone, Entrance rue Michel Servet –Tél : 03.81.87.80.82.

<http://www.besancon.fr/index.php?p=724>

--> For more, you can also look up the Besançon city website:

<http://www.besancon.fr/>

Community centres (Maisons de quartier)

Community centres

- **Planoise community centres**

Nelson Mandela Centre

13 avenue de l'Île de France, tel.: 03 81 87 81 20

planoise.mdq@besancon.fr

On Monday from 2pm to 7pm, from Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 12 am and from 2pm to 6pm

http://www.besancon.fr/index.php?p=1221&art_id=4234

- **Grette/Butte community centre**

31 bis, rue Brûlard, tel.: 03 81 87 82 40

grette.mdq@besancon.fr

On Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8h45 am to 12 am and from 1h30 pm to 6 pm ; On Tuesday from 1h30 pm to 6 pm.

<http://www.besancon.fr/index.php?p=1219>

- **Montrapon Fontaine-Ecu community centre**

--> *Antenne de Montrapon, Centre Pierre de Coubertin*

1, place Pierre de Coubertin - Tel: 03 81 87 82 80

From Monday to Friday 9 am to 12 am and from 2 pm to 6 pm, on Saturday 9 am to 12 am.

--> *Antenne de Fontaine-Écu*

26 B rue Fontaine-Écu - Tél : 03 81 80 01 92

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2 pm to 6 pm, on Wednesday from 9 am to 12 am.

http://www.besancon.fr/index.php?p=1220&art_id=4227

- **Espace associatif et d'animation des Bains Douches**

1, rue de l'Ecole

Tel. : 03 81 41 57 58

bains-douches@besancon.fr

On Tuesday and Thursday from 1h30 pm to 9 pm, on Wednesday from 8h30 am to 12 am and from 1h30 pm to 7 pm. On Friday and Saturday from 1h30 pm to 6 pm

<http://www.besancon.fr/index.php?p=1222>

- **MJC Palente**

24 rue des Roses – Tel. 03.81.80.41.80

Opening hours: From Monday to Friday from 8h30 à 12h am and from 1h30 pm to 6 pm

www.mjc-palente.fr

- **MJC Besançon – Clairs Soleils**

Centre Martin LUTHER KING

Tel: 03.81.41.55.66, ou 03.81.50.69.93

www.mjc-besancon.fr

On Monday: 1h30 pm-7 pm, on Tuesday: 9-12am/1h-7pm, on Wednesday: 9h-12am/1h-6pm, on Thursday: 9h-12am/2-7pm, on Friday: 10-12am/2-7Pm, on Saturday: 9-12am.

- **Comité de Quartier Rosemont St-Ferjeux**

1 avenue Ducat

Tel. 03 81 52 42 52 - Fax 03 81 51 26 91

comite.stferjeux@wanadoo.fr

From Monday to Friday from 8.30 to 12 am and from 2 to 6 pm, on Saturday 9 to 12 am

All the data of the different community centres in Besançon and surroundings are on the following website: <http://www.besancon.fr/index.php?p=506> (Besançon city website).

Recreational centres for children

For children, recreational centres are open during holiday time or week-ends (when school is not open). Professionals take in charge the children to entertain them through many funny activities and games.

More information: town hall reception, *CRIJ*, *Info'cité*, *centre 1901* or community centres.

People in need, isolated and destitute **(Pour les personnes qui sont démunies, isolées et qui ont besoin d'aide)**

Organisations, bodies and associations can provide help, counselling and guidance to anyone in need.

Social workers

Proxim'Social- Information and advice department (you can contact them directly or on the phone).

0805.01.2530 free for landline call

Open on Monday to Friday from 8h30am to 12h am and from 1h30 pm to 5h30 -
9 rue Picasso (CCAS de Besançon).

Social workers from medical and social centres called Centres Médico-Sociaux (CMS) de quartier.

You have to go to the CMS in your neighbourhood.

Medical and social centres (CMS) in Besançon:

- CMS Bacchus (city centre) - 1 place Bacchus - 03 81 25 87 00
- CMS Planoise - 7 avenue Léonard de Vinci - 03 81 51 00 41
- CMS Saint Ferjeux - 30 rue Caporal Peugeot - 03 81 41 40 10
- CMS Saint-Claude - 6 rue Jean Wyrsh - 03 81 50 31 41
- CMS Tristan Bernard (Palente - Clairs-Soleils) - 19 rue Tristan Bernard - 03 81 25 44 44
- CMS Montrapon - 7 chemin de l'Epitaphe - 03 81 50 42 84
-

Charity organisations

Diverse type of counselling are provided according to needs as well as leisure activities programmes, clothes and food distribution or cut-price sales...

The main charity associations are the following:

- le secours catholique: 14, rue d'Alsace - tél : 03 81 81 41 91.
- le secours populaire: siège: 7, rue Xavier Marmier - tél: 03 81 81 63 91.

- la croix rouge: 4 ter Faubourg Rivotte, esplanade Henry Dunant - Tél: 03 81 81 82 22.
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Les espaces solidaires (City Solidarity Centres)

These centres provide help for a large number of problems as well as support to anyone isolated or in an unstable situation.

Solidarity centres :

- City centre (head office): 12 rue Champrond - Tel : 03.81.41.21.19.
- La Grette: Maison de Quartier Grette/Butte, 31 bis rue du Général Brûlard - Tel: 03.81.87.82.40.
- Planoise: 5 bis rue Dürer - Tel : 03.81.25.00.91.
- Montrapon/Fontaine-Ecu/St Claude:
- Maison Quartier Montrapon - Tel : 03.81.87.82.80.
- Maison Quartier Fontaine Ecu - 26 B rue de Fontaine-Ecu - Tel: 03.81.80.01.92. Tél : 03.81.81.23.88.
- Palente: Social workers - 128 rue des Cras - Tel : 03.81.60.70.65. Reception and office - 24 rue des roses - Tel : 03.81.80.00.18.
- Clairs Soleils : Martin Luther King Centre, 67 E rue Chalezeule - Tel : 03.81.41.22.94.

The solidarity centres also offer workshops of creation called *ateliers créatifs* (cooking, Do-It-Yourself, manual activities...) To participate, you need to sign up on Monday morning to the head office, 12 rue Champrond (city centre) de 10h à 12h.

For more information, you can go directly to the solidarity centres.

Other one:

Les Amis De Ma Rue Là (Groupe d'entraide mutuelle ≈ Mutual help group)- 12 rue Champrond - Tel: 03.81.82.37.78.

In order to go to food or clothes distributions, one is usually redirected by a social worker when they notice one is in need, and do not go to distributions directly.