

Discovery Tour of the Village of Bursins

Short walking tour of the village of Bursins, unaccompanied, lasting about an hour or less if returning to the starting point.

Self-guided walking tour brochure
produced by Jean-Marc Roland
Grand-Rue 14 - 1183 Bursins.
Tel. 079 380 61 25.
rolandlacroux@hotmail.com



1. PLACE DU SOLEIL (which means « Place of the Sun »)

This bus stop is where the postal bus line « Rolle-Bursins-Gland » or its opposite, « Gland-Bursins-Rolle » arrives. You are on the route de l'Etraz, formerly a Roman road linking Cossonay to Nyon. The most historic parts of the village are higher up, near the church.

To the south of the square you will see the commercial and communal/administration center of the village. This includes the community center where a variety of village events are held, the notable Auberge du Soleil, post office, bakery and tea room. To the north of the square is the village school which was built in 1882. In its courtyard is a fountain made of cast iron. The community bulletin board, where public notices and announcements of community events are posted, is north of the square, in a protected case.

This square, called « Place du Soleil », lies at the intersection of four roads: the route de Rolle passes near the communal sports fields and the Bursins cemetery which is notable for being the final resting place of the famous international actor Sir Peter Ustinov, the route de Gilly, the rue de l'Eglise which rises to top of the village towards the forest Molard, and the main street (Grand-Rue) which heads towards Vinzel.

2. THE CHURCH AND PLACE DES TILLEULS.

From the Place du Soleil, head uphill on the rue de l'Eglise, passing alongside a castle (N° 5) with a beautiful facade and its two small steps from the eighteenth century, then pass the church on your left to the Place des Tilleuls. Formerly there were two tilleul trees, and there still remains two large fountains. On the right is the castle en Cornaud (private property, N° 16) with its turret from the sixteenth century, on the left is a big house with green and white shutters, the Cure, home of the pastor of the Reformed Protestant Church, property of the Canton of Vaud. North of the square is a house called « Tower of Melly » (La Ruelle, N° 2) and its walled garden used now by the Hôtel de l'Union located at the corner of the square. Notice the beautiful sign of the inn (the meeting of the wine grower and the bourgeois).

The church is open during the day (press the button to unlock the lock according to the instructions on the back door under the porch). It contains major remnants of the Priory of Saint-Martin founded in 1011, following the donation by King Rudolph III of Burgundy to the monastic order of Cluny, charge with building a church and a priory. At the end of the thirteenth century, the monks built a fortified house located behind the church (chemin de Vinzel, N° 1). This beautifully restored house is the property of Bursins' Council. The Cure, with green and

white shutters, was built later on the monks' large wine cellars. The monks ran operated vineyards in Bursins and in Bougy-Villars. In front of the cellar, there remains a door to the wine press of the Cure on the ground floor of the house abutting the Bernese house (chemin de Vinzel N° 3). This house was home to the bailiff when the Canton of Vaud was occupied by the Canton of Bern in 1536. To the south-west of the church, there are remains from the late thirteenth century, a turret on the house of the vigneron Delaharpe (rue de l'Eglise, N° 7 to 13), a house which was certainly part of the rampart walls that had at least four towers. The monks of Cluny were repatriated in 1328 to the Romainmôtier Abbey which they were subservient to and which was under the direct control of Cluny. The church continued its local parish activities. Recall that the monastic order was a huge development in the Middle Ages, operating more than 1400 places of prayer and work in Europe and creating the first political and social organization parallel to large and small kingdoms more or less independent of one another. This movement is the focus of the European Federation of Cluniac Sites which currently includes approximately 150 sites of which the Bursins municipality is a member. Promoting friendship between peoples, heritage conservation and cultural tourism, this organization has received the title of Great European Cultural Route from the Council of Europe.

3. LA ROUTE DE SAINT-VINCENT

Between the castle en Cornaud and the Hôtel de l'Union, there is the route de Saint-Vincent which leads to Gilly passing by vineyards and below a magnificent park with trees hundreds of years old at the castle Saint-Vincent (private property). Return to the Place des Tilleuls.

4. LA ROUTE DE LA PERRETTE

At the Place des Tilleuls, continue up towards the forest of Molard which will eventually take you to the village of Burtigny. At the northeast corner of the walled garden, note the milestone dating from Roman times. On your right, visit the local art gallery Aux Deux Fontaines. Above left, you will see a house with shutters (private property, N° 5) and continue if you want to hike the « Sentier des Châtaignes » which winds through the woods above the village. On the right is the chalet of Perrette, also a private property, built in the style of mountain chalets in the early 20th century. Retrace your steps and take the chemin du Rosey

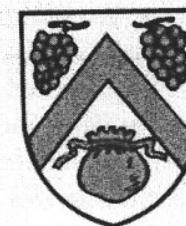
5. LE CHEMIN DU ROSEY

This narrow road gives access to the highest part of the village and takes you to the medieval Château du Rosey with its four towers, facades, and beautiful garden notable for its boxwood hedges. From here, is an excellent view of the vineyards, Lake Geneva

and the Alps. It is easy to see the Jet d'Eau in Geneva, a major tourist symbol of the city. Continue climbing towards the forest line, take the path chemin en Chenaud through a neighborhood of villas which merges onto the chemin de la Curtillode that descends left, back to the Place des Tilleuls.

6. LE CHEMIN DE VINZEL

This path leads you through the vineyards of the villages of Vinzel, Luins and Begnins. Very popular with walkers, the path was built for the wine growing operations which produce wines with the appellation « Vinzel ». Take this road and after about 150 meters turn left onto the chemin des Quatre Pieds. It quickly takes you down to the main street, passing by a few shops to arrive back at the Place du Soleil.



Bursins, April 2016.