

Various ways of St. James (with brochures available in PDF-format)

- A - Constance - Einsiedeln („Way of Svabia“)
- B - Rorschach - Einsiedeln („Way of St. Gallen“)
- C - Einsiedeln-Flüeli-Ranft - Brünig („Way of Central Switzerland“)
- D - Brünig-Amsoldingen („Way of the Bernese Oberland“)
- E - Amsoldingen-Romont („Way of Berne/Friboug“)
- F - Romont-Lausanne-Genève („Way of Western Switserland“)
- G - Lucerne-Rüeggisberg-Schwarzenburg („Lucerne Way“)
- H - Rankweil - Einsiedeln („Vorarlberg-Appenzell Way“)
- K - Schaffhausn-Tobel („Monastery way“)

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Important pointer

Helpers and association members walked the route themselves to inspect it. As volunteers, they edited the brief route descriptions based on the state as encountered. The accuracy of the contents and specially the correspondence with the official Way of St. James way-posting cannot be guaranteed by the association „jakobsweg.ch » and the authors, also in the sense of a product guarantee. Pilgrims are therefore asked to follow the official Way of St. James way-posts if discrepancies occur, and to notify us.

Many thanks.

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Pictures: Wolfgang Hörer / Winfried Erbach, and several others

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On the Way of St. James in Switzerland



(5) Amsoldigen - Romont

„„Bern /Fribourg route““

Itinerary and directions for pilgrims

Signalisation - Via Jacobi

Sign in the direction of Santiago de Compostela
National Way of St-James No. 4 - Via Jacobi



Via Jacobi - shell shows in the left direction



Via Jacobi - shell shows in the right direction



Via Jacobi - french sign
Shell shows in the left direction



Via Jacobi Nr. 44
shell shows in the right direction



Signpost - Via Jacobi sign
on yellow background



Returning way

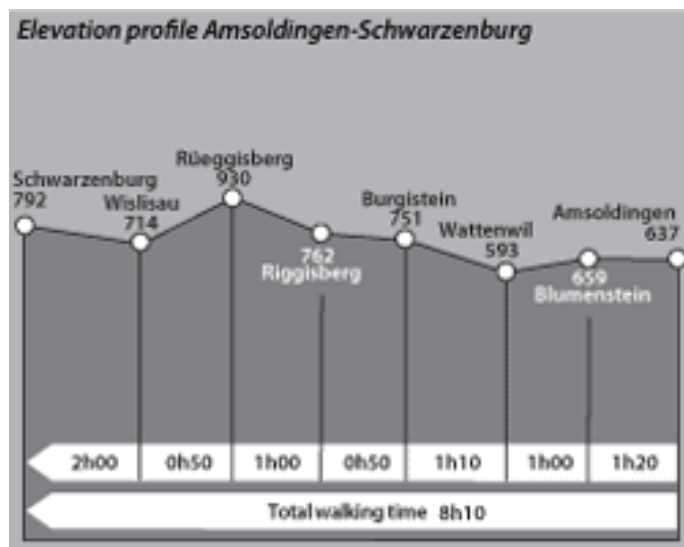
Amsoldingen - Romont - „Bern /Fribourg route“

81 km, waling time around 20 hours



The famous provost church St. Mauritius in Amsoldingen is the starting point of this section. The route takes us from the German-speaking and reformed Bernese Gantrisch region into the French-speaking and catholic Fribourg region, through hills and forests and villages still presenting the characteristic features of rural life. Shortly before Fribourg, language and culture change. The German “Freiburg” becomes “Fribourg”, and the German “Pilger” (for “pilgrim”) becomes “pèlerin”. Along the way, you will see many stately farmsteads with wide roofs and well-kept stables, built of wood and adorned with flowers. On the pastures cows are grazing, and while so far we saw mostly brown cows, in the Fribourg region, they are mostly black. Pilgrims will meet with a hard-working and often bi-lingual rural population. Although the farmers today till their fertile fields with modern machines, and the animals are kept in a near-industrial style, there is no hectic. In the hilly landscape, pilgrims enjoy an agreeable quietness and find their peace and composure. Along the way are places marked by old pilgrim tradition, inviting pilgrims to visit them and to meditate. There are so many old chapels and churches with statues of St. James and scallop symbols and with doors open to pilgrims; monasteries that invite pilgrims to a visit, for instance in Tafers the chapel with the famous gallows legend, and old inns that formerly were pilgrim’s hostels. The city of Fribourg as a stage-post for pilgrims offers many sights that recall a long pilgrimage tradition.

Section Amsoldingen-Rüeggisberg-Schwarzenburg



Topographic maps of the section:

Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1207, 1208, 1186 and 1187

Scale 1:50'000 numbers 243 and 253

Amsoldingen - Schwarzenburg

32 km, walking time around 7 hrs 45 min.

Amsoldingen - Rüeggisberg

21 km, walking time around 5 hrs 15 min.

The route starts in front of the church and from the parking lot, turns off to the right and



Lake of Uebesiche



Parish church in Blumenstein



Parish church in Wattenwil

leads past the castle gateway, along the right-hand side of the lake of Amsoldingen via "Hübeli" and "Seematt" to the lake of Uebeschi and further on to the cantonal road. We follow the road upwards through the village of Uebeschi. At its exit we turn off to the right onto a field road that takes us in an eastern direction along the gentle hill past the farmstead "Gänsemoos" to the hamlet of "Schubhus". From there we take a field road via "Mühle" to Blumenstein. The church here, with glass paintings from the 13th century is worth a visit, but does not lie directly on our route. From the roundabout, we walk to the northern exit of the village to the inn "Bad Blumenstein".

There, we turn off to the right onto a field path taking us along the "Fallbach" (brook) via pastureland into the wooded "Längmoos" and to where the Fallbach joins the brook "Gürbe". After passing the wooden bridge (sawmill), we walk along the Gürbe, past the bridge "Chriegsried" to the next bridge where we turn sharp left into the village of Wattenwil. Past the roundabout and along the Dorfstrasse, we come to the reformed church. We turn to the right shortly behind the church and on a paved road and on field paths, we walk via "Hindere Rain" and past the houses of "Lörtscherei" to the village of Burgistein 150m higher up. After the inn "Bir Linde", we turn off right into a field path that leads us past a pond and below the castle "Burgistein" to the hamlet of "Weierboden". On the rise, we turn off to the right onto a paved carriageway and continue across

fields and meadows to the farmstead "Breite" (pilgrim's rest). A field path leads us from there northwards past the hamlet of "Elbsche" to the first houses of Riggisberg.

We follow the cantonal road until the village centre where we leave the Schwarzenburgstrasse and take the stairs up to the beautiful church of Riggisberg. From its terrace, we enjoy a magnificent outlook, ranging from the Emmental over the Lake Thun region and the Jungfrau region to the Gantrisch mountain chain in the foreground. We take the "Studigasse" past the church and up to the main road near the hospital. Shortly after, we leave the main road to take a field path on the left to come via mountain meadows, past the farm "Haselmatt" to "Tromwil". From here we continue first along the main road, and after "Mättiwil" on a field path branching off to the left, to the village entry of Rüeggisberg. The route follows the crest of a chain of hills and we enjoy a beautiful outlook to the Bernese Alps, the Gantrisch region and the hilly country of the Schwarzenburg region. In Mättiwil before Rüeggisberg, we join the leg of the Way of St. James that comes from Lucerne. From the reformed St. Martin church, a field path leads us down to the big parking lot in front of the ruins of the former Clunian priory. This monastery, founded in 1072, cared mostly to the well-being of the pilgrims, but was closed in the 15th century. The history of the monastery is documented in a small exhibition in the museum beside the parsonage.



Parish church of Riggisberg



Monastery ruins of Rüeggisberg



Monastery ruins



Pilgrims on the way

Rueggisberg-Schwarzenburg

11 km, walking time around 2 hrs 30 min.

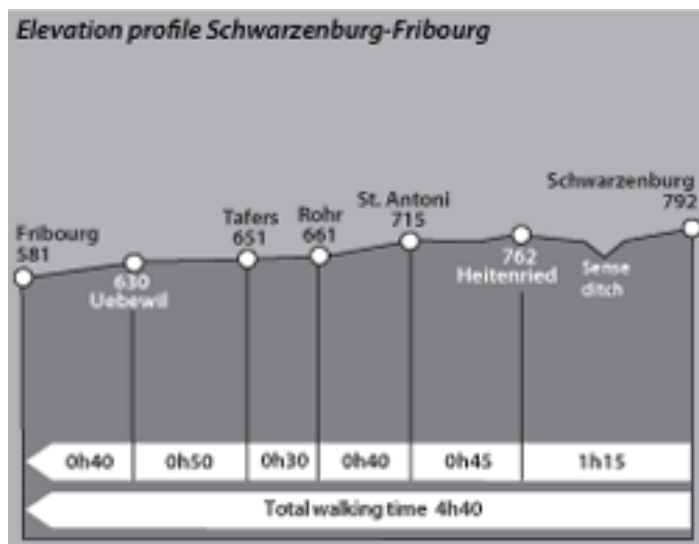
After the monastery, we turn westwards to the gate between two farmsteads. The former monastery way leads first along the edge, then through a wood, once across a street, then again through the wood down to Helgisried. From there we continue on a mountain and field path along the slope of the hill past the hamlets of "Schulhaus" and "Rohrbach" down to "Wislisau-Schwarzwasserbrücke" (bridge, and road bifurcation). From here westwards, first along the wooded banks of the river Schwarzwasser to the "Lindenbach" wood-bridge where we climb up



Village road of Schwarzenburg

the steep banks, then on open fields past the farmstead "Granegg" up to Henzischwand. Further on, first northwards, then on a field path towards the west through the marshland to Elisried. Here, we turn left onto the paved road and later come to the main road which we cross near the inn "Schönentannen". On the left side we take a field path ascending over a chain of hills to Schwarzenburg. We walk through the place as far as the railway station. In the village centre, somewhat hidden, is the reformed church Maria Magdalena. Its 17th century tower has a tapered diameter, giving it a peculiar aspect. The Schwarzenburg castle stands at the edge of the village. It was built in 1573-75 and housed the district administration until 2010.

Section Schwarzenburg-Fribourg/Freiburg



Topographic maps of the section:
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1185 and 1186
 Scale 1:50'000 numbers 242 and 243

Schwarzenburg - Freiburg

21 km, walking time around 4 hrs 30 min.

Schwarzenburg - St. Antoni

9 km, walking time around 2 hrs.



„Torenöli“



Sense river with old Grasburg castle



Sense river

To the west of the station, we turn right into the Bernstrasse. Past the Coop general store and opposite the parking lot, we turn left and on a little road across fields, we come to "Wart". This was placed beside the Roman Road from Aventicum to the Bernese Oberland, and presumably had a watchtower. On the field road we come down to a farmstead. Before we reach it, the path turns right into the wood. Past the sandstone rock we come down to "Torenöli". The name is derived from an oil mill in the "Sensegraben" (ravine of the river Sense). Here we can perhaps allow us a side-trip to the "Grasburg". This Imperial Fort built in the 12th century, decayed and became a ruin in the 16th century. What is interesting is that there existed an escape route from the Grasburg into the Sensegraben.

In earlier times, the medieval way, the so-called "Fryburgstrass", led from "Torenöli" first along the river Sense, then across it. It was a steep path and the then uncontrolled river had to be forded by the draught animals that pulled heavy carts, while the pilgrims had to gain the other side on a rocking footbridge. The descent of 500m was a path hewn into the sandstone and paved with pebbles from the river. The traces of the edges of the wheel hubs, and of the steps are still visible today and are witnesses of earlier usage. Today, a well-marked path leads from "Torenöli" down into the popular nature preserve of the Sense with its riverside soil, and the ruin of the Grasburg in the background. Upriver, we come to the "Sodbach" bridge over the Sense, a covered wooden construction from the year 1867. Beside the wood-bridge, a concrete bridge was built in 1979. Here we cross the cantonal border and after a short stretch, we turn off to a hollow road leading upwards. On the sandstone walls at the side of the path, inscriptions are visible. After the



Wayside shrine

steep ascent we reach even ground and come to a wayside shrine dedicated to St. James. From here, a small road leads us to the village edge of Heitenried.

The St. Michel church stands on the right and is visible from far away. At the main road is the pilgrim's hostel, newly built 2010 in the former cheese dairy. We cross the main road near the bus stop not far from the pilgrim's hostel and descend over meadows down to the "Lettiswilbach" (brook). Through a hollow way we descend to the hamlet of Winterlingen (Apolonia chapel). There we turn right to reach the western edge of the fir-tree forest. From here we proceed to the left westwards over fields past "Niedermonten" and "Cheer" until the first houses of St. Antoni. On a street in the residential quarter, and crossing the main road, we come to the catholic parish church St. Antonius. We refresh ourselves at the fountain there before we enter. In the interior, we see the old baptismal font (St John baptizes Jesus), a Brother Nicolas statue, a high altar of stone, and the baroque Antonius chapel from the 15th century, integrated in today's church.

St. Antoni - Tafers

4 km, walking time around 45 min.



Parish church St. Antoni

The route passes on the left side of the church and leads down along the edge of the wood. Through a hollow path we come by a crucifix of stone and to the hamlet of "Wysebach". Beside the Sebastian chapel, we cross the main road and walk over the field to the bridge over the brook "Taverna" which we cross. Walking beside the brook westwards, past a small resting place with Madonna statue, we come to "Rohrmoos". Here, we turn off to the left to the road coming from Rohr (with the Holy Cross chapel) and joining the Fribourg main road. We use its sidewalk until Tafers where, on the left-hand side, we find the church and the two chapels. On the left is the St. James chapel, first documented in 1665. The new cobblestone pavement in front of the chapel is arranged in the form of a scallop. The facade on the portal side shows the legend of the gallows or hen's miracle. The baroque altar shows the apostles John, James and Peter. Somewhat further on stands the bone house chapel from 1753 with a crucifixion group. The catholic parish church St. Mar-



Wissenbach way



Parish church in Tafers

tin, built 1786-89, stands opposite the two chapels. The choir and the polygonal spire date from the 16th century. The church square with its beautiful fountain shows a stately farmhouse, decorated with flowers. It was built in 1780 as a schoolhouse, then served as sexton's house, and now is a museum of local history and culture.

Tafers - Fribourg

7.5 km, walking time around 1 hour and 45 min.



Chapel with legend of the gallows

In front of the museum we turn right, cross the main road and walk northwards through a residential quarter, then turn off to the left and cross the Dündingerstresse. On a field path, heading north-west, we come to the farmstead "Lamprat". There, the path turns off into the wood "Lampratholz" and then leads over the open field to the hamlet of Menzswil, and further, past the Maria chapel to the bifurcation. To the right, on the paved road, we continue westwards past the domain "Hinter Bruch" (with the St. Jost chapel) and the little wood "Dälhölzli" to the castle of Uebewil. Passing the portal of the private castle, also the stables and farmhouses, we come to the chapel Our Blessed Lady, which, unfortunately, is closed. We leave Uebewil and, passing an old, weather-beaten stone crucifix, we come to the outer quarters of the city of Fribourg. In the Bellevue quarter, we reach a very busy crossroads over which the traffic flows into the city. We use the new underpass to gain the other side. A steep incline leads to the chapel St. Bartholomew, built 1473. The chapel, surrounded by busy roads, is empty, abandoned and fenced off.



Chapel in Uebewil



City of Fribourg

City of Fribourg

The chapel St. Bartholomew at the crossroads on the "Schönberg" is the starting point of our round tour through the city of Fribourg. Starting from here, we follow the city's own St. James way-posting. We reach the medieval "Red Tower" following the Rue St-

Barthélémy and the Route François Arsent downwards. Here, we come to a part of the city wall, built in the 13th century. Somewhat at an angle is the Cat's Tower (14th century). Descending the stairs beside the city wall, we come to the tower of the "Berntor". The three towers are depicted in the coat of arms of the city of Fribourg. Some steps past the Berntor, we come to the inn "Zum Engel" that formerly accommodated pilgrims. This inn, protected by the archangel Raphael, stands in close vicinity of the "Bernbrücke", the compulsory gateway for all pilgrims and travellers coming from the eastern side. In earlier times, the wealthy pilgrims chose the inn "Drei Könige". At the end of the Bernbrücke, we come to the "Jean-François-Reyffplatz", and from there past the "Auberge de la Cicogne" with its ornamented facade to the "Place du Petit-Saint-Jean". Here, on a pillar of the fountain dedicated to St. Ann (the protector of the tanners), stand four angels making music, and a St. James pilgrim. On we go, up the "Samaritergasse" (Samaritan lane). The Samaritan fountain depicts Jesus in conversation with a woman Samaritan who scoops water. Formerly, the St. James hospital stood at the Samaritan lane. It accommodated penniless pilgrims. Today, a sandstone relief of the patron saint is to be seen. The short "Passage des Augustins" on the right leads up to the Augustine church from the 13th century. After reaching the top, we follow the Grand-Rue, and then the little lane "Rue des Epouses" (street of the newly-weds) that brings us to the St. Nicolas cathedral. The main portal (14th century) shows the Last Judgement. The figures on the walls of the portal were created in the 15th century. Also the interior of the cathedral is worth seeing. The altarpiece shows St. James with a scallop on his clothes. In all, there are half a dozen pictures of St. James in the cathedral. We leave the cathedral through the main portal. Straight on, beside the "Route de Morat", we can see the Notre Dame church from the 12th century, with the Samson fountain, and behind it, the Franciscan church ("Eglise des Cordeliers"), with monastery. Both churches are frequently visited by pilgrims. From the cathedral, the route leads us to the left into the "Rue du Pont-Mure" to the town hall with the St. George fountain. Opposite the square "Nova Friburgo", on the Rue de Lausanne, we come to the convent and church of the Ursuline nuns. Crossing the Georges-Python square, we arrive at the Rue de



Fribourg cathedral



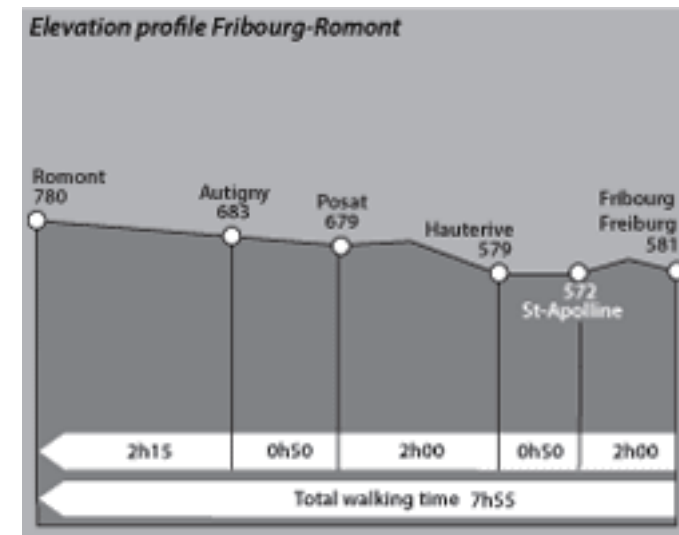
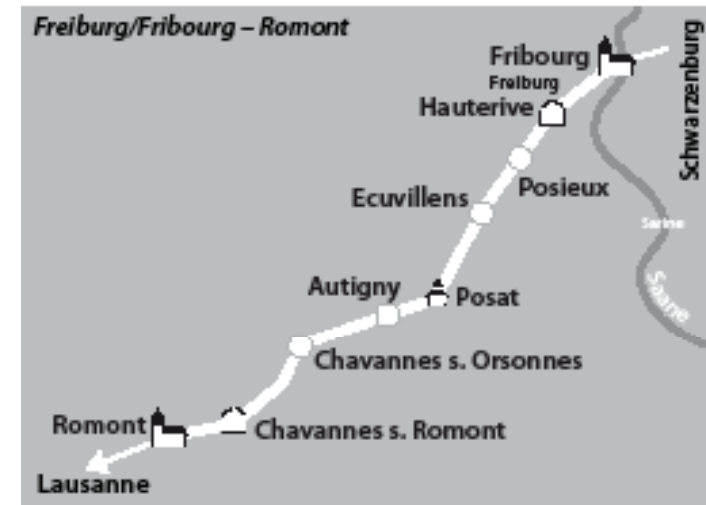
„Hochzeitergasse“



Old town

Romont that leads us to the railway station.

Section Freiburg/Freiburg-Romont



Topographic maps of the section:

Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1184,1185 and 1204

Scale 1:50'000 numbers 242 and 252

Fribourg - Romont

28 km, walking time around 7 hrs 30 min.

Fribourg - Posat

13.5 km, walking time around 3 hrs 30 min.

(N.B. Those who want to spare themselves the 35 minutes' walk through the busy roads of the suburbs can take the line 2 bus from the station square, and ride until Moncor, bus-stop Belle Croix. The stone crucifix stands 5 minutes' walk south-east of the general store.) On the Avenue de la Gare, we pass the station by and come through the underpass to the busy Avenue du Midi. Soon, we turn off to the right and come to the more quiet Route de la Vignettaz and after an upwards incline of 200m, and to the left, we reach the Route de la Gruyère. We follow this street for 200m and then turn off to the Route du Grand Pré. We follow this street to its end, where we continue on a footpath beside the hill Champriond as far as the Chemin de Bel Air, just to leave this later, turning left to take the Route de Villars on which we come to the roundabout. Here, we cross the Route de Cormanon and go to the stone crucifix at the edge of the wood, bearing the inscription St-Jacques. Since 1470 (construction of a chapel), this Belle Croix site has been an important passage for St. James pilgrims.

In the forest of Belle Croix, the two routes of the Way of St. James bifurcate; to the right to Payerne (signpost Montagny Payerne), and to the left to Romont (signpost Ecuwillens Romont). We take the fork to the left, leading in a south-western direction through the forest. At its edge, we come to the upper quarters of the suburb Villars-sur-Glâne. We descend the residential quarters on the slope offering a good outlook, skirt the church compound including the cemetery, and cross the railway line Fribourg - Romont. Along the

*Ville de Fribourg*

road, we come to the path that leads down on the right-hand side to "Ste-Apolline" and to the water purification plant. At the corner of the wood, we cross the river Glâne on an old stone bridge. At the end of the bridge is a wayside chapel, built 1566 with a picture showing the former bridge. The route leads in a south-western direction, crossing an access road, up into the wood (Bois-de-Monterban). At the southern exit of the wood, we either continue straight on, cross the main road Hauterive-Posieux and come directly to Posieux, or we turn off to the left and make

a side-trip to the "Abbaye de Hauterive". Going there, we pass the "Institut Agricole de Grangeneuve". The Cistercian abbey was founded in the 12th century, and the church was built in 1150. Of special interest are: The tomb of the founder, the carved choir stalls, the glass paintings of the gothic choir window from the 14th - 15th century. The monastery

building was built in the 18th century. After the abbey had been abolished since 1848, today's monastery Hauterive was elevated again into the rank of abbey in 1973. After visiting the abbey, we return to the Institut Agricole. We pass it by towards the edge of the wood south of it, go along the wood and walk westwards over fields to Posieux. There,

*Chapel of Posieux*

the Chapelle du Sacré Coeur is only a few metres above the road. At the exit of the village, we turn off left onto the road on which, crossing the motorway, we come to Ecuwillens. We traverse the village with its beautiful parish church, and at its end, turn off left to the path that leads us past the airfield. In a southern direction, along the edge, then through the wood, and across the field (Champ de la Croix), we come to Posat.

*Abbaye de Hauterive***Posat - Romont**

14.5 km, walking time around 4 hrs.

We follow the main road through the place. At its exit, we come to the inn La Croix d'Or, where, on the right-hand side, the path leads to the Chapelle de Posat. Below the chapel, we drink water from the fountain which according to oral tradition should be wholesome. After the chapel we descend westwards along the wood's edge down to the river Glâne which we cross on a wooden suspension bridge, in order to come, on the opposite side, through the wood (Grands Champs) to the fields "Devant le Pas". Here, the path turns westwards and across fields and meadows, past the hamlet of "La Crétausa" to the village of Autigny. On the southern side of the parish church, we traverse the place and continue, first westwards, then south-westwards. Past Gondran and along the wood's edge, we descend to the river Glâne. We turn off right to the path leading along and then across

*Chapel of Posat*

the river on a bridge (Vers-le-Moulin). Over pastureland and through the wood, we come up to Chavannes-sous-Orsonnens. The baroque chapel from the 16th century with its beautiful murals is worth seeing. On the wall of the right-hand side, also St. James is depicted. We pass the church by as far as the road bifurcation at the village exit. Keeping to the right, and following the course of the rivulet "La Neirigue", we come to the hamlets "La Fortune" and "Fuyens" and over the field (Courts Champs) to Planchevret, where the path turns off to the right. At a distance, we soon see



Abbaye „Fille de Dieu“

the castle hill of Romont. The route leads us further in a western direction across cultivated fields and meadows past the farmsteads of “Les Marais”, “Longeraie” and “La Foule”, until shortly after, it turns off towards the abbey “La Fille-Dieu”. The abbey was founded in the 13th century. Above the portal of the nunnery, the date 1635 is inscribed. The early-gothic arches of the choir with the dark stalls and the modern glass paintings give the convent church a mystic atmosphere. The nuns gladly give accommodation to pilgrims if they arrive in daytime. To the west of the convent, we reach the village-part Chavannes. From here, we climb in serpentines up the hill with the medieval town of Romont that invites us to a round tour.

Romont



Collegiate church of Romont

We start the round tour at the reformed chapel where we cast a glance down to the abbey La Fille-Dieu. Then we turn into the Rue de l’Eglise. Via the Place de St- Jacques, we come to the collegiate church Notre-Dame de l’Assomption. The house of God was built in 1451 on the foundation walls of a church burned down in 1434. The gothic glass paintings from the 14th-15th century, the stone pulpit from 1520 and the carved choir stalls from 1466 (depicting St. James) are noteworthy. After a few steps we reach the castle whose outward appearance today goes back to the 16th century. The inner court shows a big water-wheel (1772), and the interior houses a unique museum of glass painting. Opposite the castle stands the café-restaurant « La Croix Blanche – Au Suisse”, built in 1576. From the city wall with its towers, we see the Fribourg Alps far away.

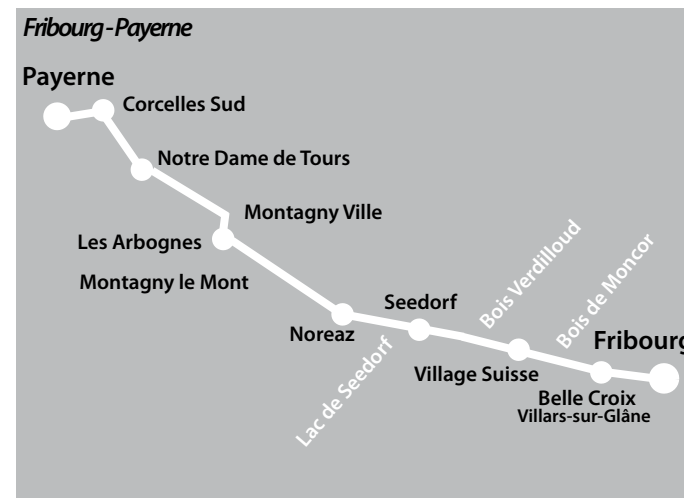


Collegiate church of Romont (interior)

Route via Payerne

Section Fribourg-Payerne - Lucens

34 km, walking time around 8



Fribourg - Noréaz

8.5 km, walking time around 2 hours

On the Avenue de la Gare, past the railway station and through the underpass, we come to the busy Avenue du Midi. On this road, we soon turn off to the right onto the less busy Route de la Vignettaz, and, going upwards for 200m, reach the Route de la Gruyère which we follow for 200m, in order to turn off to the right onto the Route du Grand Pré. We follow this route to the end where we continue on a footpath beside the hill Champriond to the Chemin de Bel Air. Later, we turn off to the left to the Route de Villars and to the roundabout. Here, we cross the Route de Cormanon and go over to the stone cross at the edge of the wood, with the inscription “St-Jacques”.

Since 1470 (construction of a chapel), this site of Belle Croix has been an important transit place for St. James pilgrims.



From the cross we follow the forest path to the right as far as the bifurcation of the two St. James routes and follow the fork to the right (signpost direction Montagny-Payerne). After a short stretch, we reach the top of the wooded hill with the clearing and the resting place near the water reservoir. On the right-hand side, we walk down to the general store, where we continue on the right into the "Bois de Moncor". We traverse the wood in a north-western direction and cross the motorway using the wooden overpass,

and shortly before leaving the wood (near the wooden hut), we turn off to the left to a forest path that takes us to the western edge of the wood and further to "Village Suisse". Here, we cross the main road and after a short stretch, we turn off to the left into the "Bois de Verdillod". We traverse this wood in a south-western direction, and at the crossways (with resting place and shelter), we turn off to the left in order to come to a forestry road more to the south, taking us westwards to the wood's edge. We continue due west, first on a field road, then on the main road past the farmsteads "Pra Fert" and "La



Sonna" until Seedorf, consisting of a few farmsteads and the "Château de Seedorf". The castle as it stands today was built in 1769. Now it houses a cantonal school for mentally handicapped children (boarding school). We remain on the main road leading us westwards past Seedorf to Noréaz with the modern parish church. The community's coat of arms shows three St. James shells on a blue background.

Noréaz - Payerne

8.5 km, walking time around 2 hours



The route passes through the village, past the "Auberge Fleur-de-Lys", then leads to the right into the "Chemin de St-Jacques" which joins a field-path at the western end of the village. We follow the path westwards down to the hamlet "Moulin de Prez" in the wooded ravine of the river Arbogne. Here we turn off sharp right, follow the river in the wooded valley "Vallée de l'Arbogne" (with aqueduct, sources used by the Romans for Aventicum) and come in a northern direction past "Les Pelons" and the "Moulin des Arbognes" with the imposing saw mill, into the small village of Les Arbognes. To



the left we see the round tower of the castle ruin of "Montagny-les-Monts", which we can reach over a small stone bridge and a mountain road. An iron stairway leads to the tower's crown from where we enjoy a magnificent outlook over the wooded hills into the valley of the river Broye. Also the catholic church "Notre Dame de l'Immaculée Conception" is worth a visit. Its interior shows beautiful frescoes from the year 1646, and a Madonna with child, made of stone, from the time around 1500.

Back at the valley bottom, there is a bridge over the Arbogne. On the main road, we first follow the course of the river until we cross it near "La Planche" to reach the village of Cousset in a western direction. At the western end of the village, near the roundabout, we turn off to the right, cross the railway line and the Arbogne near Les Granges and soon after, we turn off to the right to the church "Notre Dame de Tours". The small church belonging to the small community of Les Granges dates from the 13th century and was refurbished several times. Its baroque main altar has a Madonna surrounded by rays, and two side altars. After visiting the church, we take to the paved path along the wood's edge to the big crossroads at the eastern end of Corcelles-près-Payerne. The route leads on the road straight on, and after a short stretch, we turn off to the left. We continue due south past houses to the Arbogne which we cross in order to reach the railway line. We follow the line until shortly before the station of Corcelles Sud. Here, we turn off to the left, cross the railway line and skirting the "Le Sansui" quarter partly on the road and partly on a path via the "Chemin de Sansui" to the main road "Route de la Fenettaz" leading to Payerne. We follow it, cross the "Route de Corcelles" and the railway tracks and come to the "Route de la Gross Pierre". At the roundabout before the old town, we turn off to the left and come to the "Rue de la Gare" in an arc to the railway station of Payerne.

Ville de Payerne



Our round tour starts at the station where we turn off to the right to the old town wall with the Barraud tower, built 1395. Through the old town, we come to the reformed parish church Notre Dame (13th/14th century). In front of the church stands the fountain with the standard-bearer figure from 1442. The three-nave church has a magnificent organ built by Melchior Grob, dated 1787. In the southern side-nave, we see a wall painting from the 16th century, showing the grave-shroud of Christ. In the northern side nave, we find the sepulchre of 1817 with the presumed mortal remains of the Burgundian queen Bertha. To the right beside the church stands the late-gothic court-house from 1571 with the outdoor stairs. To the



Payerne old city wall

right of the stairs, across a courtyard, one reaches the former abbey church Notre-Dame. The three-nave pillared basilica was built in the 11th century at the suggestion of the abbot of Cluny. The long naves, the mighty pillars consisting of square stones of differing colour, and the huge barrel vault imbue the viewer with reverence. The church is a magnificent example of Cluny-period architecture. In 1536, the Vaud was conquered by the Bernese, and the reformed creed was introduced. The abbey was dissolved. Today, the church is a museum. To

the left of the apse is a chapel from the 14th century, painted all around with depictions of angels. To the right of the apse is the "Grailly"-chapel from the 15th century, painted with a Pietà, a merciful Madonna, and depictions of various saints. In a niche of the wall on the left side, one can see a modern organ from 1999. At the other end is the narthex (vestibule) with frescoes from the 12th century, among them Christ as judge. A flight of stairs leads to the St. Michel chapel on the upper floor with a collection of old capitals. Behind the abbey church, we find the old fountain of the locksmiths (Fontaine des Serruriers) with a statue from 1533. At the street to the north stands the Croix Blanche, an old inn. Now we turn southwards and come to the station where we again meet the Way of St. James.

Section Payerne - Lucens/Curtilles



Payerne - Lucens

17 km, walking time around 4 hours



Along the Broye river

From the station, we follow the signposts of the Way of St. James in a western direction as far as the catholic parish church Notre-Dame. After the church, we turn to the left, to the river Broye. From here, the Way of St. James leads us 16 km southwards along the eastern banks of the Broye as far as Lucens. On the shore-way, we cross first the railway line, then the access road of the motorway. Then we come along the railway line and after that across meadows near the river banks, and through short stretches of wood to the bridge of Granges-près-

Marnand. Here we cross the main road and walk along the Broye further on southwards. On the path bordered by poplar and birch trees, we pass small woods and the railway station of Henniez, until shortly before Lucens. Already the castle of Lucens with its mighty round tower is visible. In Lucens, we cross the Broye, and at the next bridge, turn off to the left to Curtilles where we join the leg of the Way of St. James that comes from Romont and continues to Moudon.