



# THE GUIDE

IDEAS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STAY!



## Discovering Bourges

A City of Art and History, Bourges charms visitors with its rich heritage and peaceful atmosphere. Dominated by the majestic Saint-Étienne Cathedral, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the city invites you to step back in time through its ancient streets and remarkable monuments, such as the famous Jacques Cœur Palace. While strolling through the historic center, you will discover elegant private mansions, remnants of ancient ramparts, and carefully maintained gardens, before reaching the Bourges marshes—a true green haven at the city's edge. By day and by night, especially thanks to the “Nuits Lumière” trail, Bourges offers a unique cultural and heritage experience.

Blending history, nature, and a gentle way of life, Bourges is an ideal destination for a getaway rich in discoveries and emotions.

### IMPORTANT MEETINGS

1

EUROPEAN CAPITAL  
OF CULTURE

Laureate 2028

2

ST ETIENNE  
CATHEDRAL

UNESCO World  
Heritage

3

LE PRINTEMPS DE  
BOURGES

First festival of the year

### SOMMARY



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NIGHTLIFE

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Cultural Events

# Saint-Étienne

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## Cathedral

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The Saint-Étienne Cathedral of Bourges is one of the greatest masterpieces of Gothic art in France. Located in the heart of the city, it impresses visitors with its size, architectural unity, and richly decorated interior. Built mainly between the late 12th and 13th centuries, it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Construction began in 1195 under Archbishop Henri de Sully, on the site of earlier religious buildings. At the time, Bourges was an important city and the seat of a powerful archbishopric. Although construction lasted several decades, the cathedral maintains remarkable stylistic coherence.

A bold architectural choice sets it apart: it has no transept, unlike most Gothic cathedrals. This creates a vast, continuous interior space that enhances the vertical rise and depth of the nave. It is flanked by five aisles, a unique configuration that reinforces the sense of grandeur and light.

The western façade features five richly sculpted portals depicting biblical scenes, including the Last Judgment. Inside, the exceptionally well-preserved 13th-century stained-glass windows form one of the most complete medieval collections, illustrating biblical stories, saints' lives, and medieval trades.

Despite centuries of damage and restoration, the cathedral remains a powerful symbol of Christian faith and medieval artistic achievement. Today, it is a major historical monument and a remarkable testimony to Gothic architectural genius.

## Jacques Coeur

### Palace



Located in Bourges, the Jacques Cœur Palace is one of the finest examples of 15th-century civil architecture in France. Often mistakenly called a “castle,” it is actually a private mansion built for Jacques Cœur, a wealthy merchant and treasurer to King Charles VII.

Construction began around 1443 and ended around 1451. Having risen to power through international trade and royal service, Jacques Cœur wished to build a residence reflecting his success. He chose Bourges, then a royal capital during part of the Hundred Years’ War.

The palace combines Flamboyant Gothic style with technical innovations. Designed for comfort and prestige, it includes grand reception rooms, private apartments, a chapel, galleries, and well-organized service areas. Its façades are richly decorated with maritime symbols and personal mottos, including “À vaillant cœur rien d’impossible” (“To a brave heart, nothing is impossible”).

In 1451, accused of financial and political crimes, Jacques Cœur was arrested, his property seized, and he fled the kingdom. He died in exile in 1456, having barely enjoyed his palace.

Over the centuries, the palace served various functions and underwent restorations. Since the 19th century, it has been protected as a major historical monument and is now open to visitors.

It remains a powerful symbol of individual success, merchant wealth, and the transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance.

## Lallemant Mansion



Located in the historic center, the Lallemant Mansion is one of the finest examples of French Renaissance civil architecture. Built in the early 16th century for the wealthy Lallemant family, it reflects their social and financial influence.

Constructed between 1495 and 1518, it blends Flamboyant Gothic and Italian Renaissance influences. Its elegant courtyard features pilasters, sculpted medallions, classical motifs, and a magnificent ceremonial staircase.

The rich sculptural décor reflects humanist culture and Renaissance values. The building served as a residence, social showcase, and professional space.

Restored since the 19th century, it is now part of the Decorative Arts Museum and hosts exhibitions.

It stands as a remarkable testimony to the rise of the merchant bourgeoisie and Bourges' artistic prestige.

## The Marshes



Located near the historic center, the marshes form a unique natural and cultural landscape. Developed since the Middle Ages, they were transformed into market gardens supplying the city.

Covering about 135 hectares, they are divided into thousands of small plots separated by canals, giving them the appearance of a “Little Green Venice.”

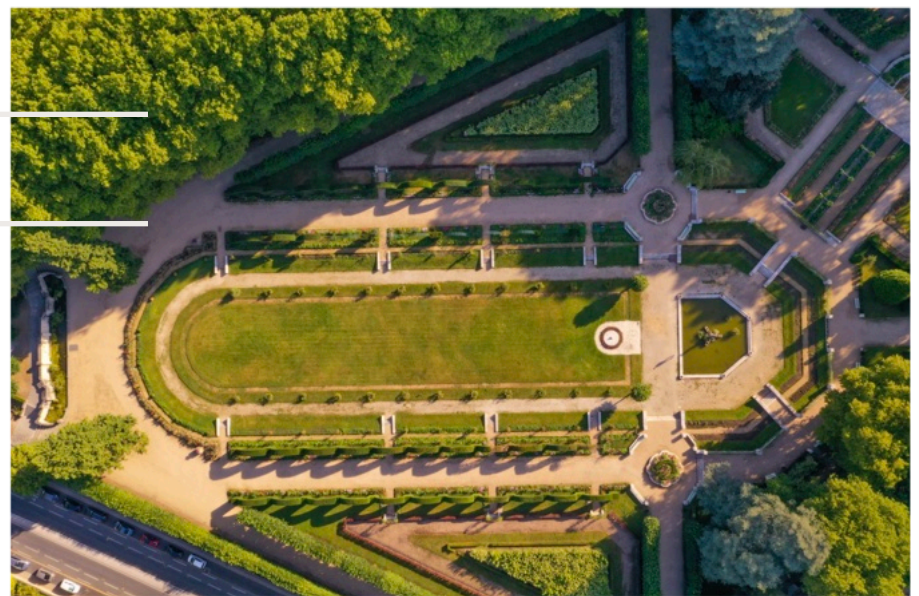
## Archevêché's Garden



Situated below Saint-Étienne Cathedral, these gardens were created in the 17th century in the French formal style. Once private, they are now open to the public.

They offer stunning views of the cathedral and provide a peaceful walk between history and nature.

## Prés Fichaux Gardens



Designed between 1930 and 1933 by Paul Margarita, these Art Deco gardens are among the city's most emblematic parks.

With geometric lines, terraces, fountains, and basins, they reflect Bourges' urban modernization and remain a popular meeting place.

## The Ramparts



Dating back to Roman times, the ramparts illustrate more than 2,000 years of history.

Reinforced during the Middle Ages, they played a major defensive and economic role. Today, preserved sections form a pleasant walking route and an exceptional historical testimony.

## The Nuits

### Lumière



This nighttime light trail offers a poetic and artistic way to discover Bourges' heritage.

Through projections, sound, and lighting effects, monuments come alive and tell the city's story. It is free, accessible to all, and encourages a fresh perspective on familiar landmarks.

## Christmas

### Market



Held each winter near the cathedral, the Christmas market transforms the city center into a magical place.

Wooden chalets offer crafts, gifts, and regional specialties such as mulled wine and roasted chestnuts. With shows, children's workshops, and festive lighting, it is a highlight for families.

## La suite

### Chic yet Relaxed Restaurant

- Modern, refined cuisine in a friendly setting.
- Refined, flavorful, and creative cuisine
- Modern and welcoming atmosphere
- Terrace in summer
- City center

Prices:

Starters: €14–17

Main courses: €25–27

Desserts: €10

Lunch set: €27 (3 courses) / €21.50 (2 courses)



50 rue Bourbonnoux  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 65 96 26

Sur réservation

3 min à pied

## Le Beauvoir

### Elegant Fine-Dining Restaurant

- Chic and intimate atmosphere.
- Refined, original cuisine
- Our favorite: veal sweetbreads

Prices:

Essential: €20

Emotion: €36

Epicure: €50

À la carte: €63



1 Avenue Max Dormoy  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 65 42 44

Sur réservation

9 min à pied

## La Pleine Lune

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### French Bistro Near the Cathedral

Bright setting with regional wines.

Prices: €20–30 per person



12 rue Porte Jaune  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 69 42 04

Sur réservation

1 min à pied

## Le Rez-de-Chaussée

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### Rock'n'Roll Restaurant

Refined cuisine in a lively atmosphere.

Prices:  
Starters: €11–14  
Mains: €21–29  
Desserts: €8



8 rue Porte Jaune  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 65 99 60

Sur réservation

1 min à pied

## Le Bourbonnoux

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### Elegant City-Center Restaurant

Prices:

Market menu (lunch): €20

Savory menu: €30

Gourmet menu: €40



44 rue Bourbonnoux  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 24 14 76

Sur réservation

3 min à pied

## La Brasserie des Beaux-Arts

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A legendary Parisian-style brasserie  
reborn.

Prices:

Starters: €6–18

Mains: €10–34

Desserts: €3–13



1 Place Cujas  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 24 27 82

Sur réservation

2 min à pied

## La Mère Poule

### Modern & Friendly Restaurant

Prices:

Lunch set (3 courses): €25

Lunch set (2 courses): €14

À la carte:

Starters: €8–14

Mains: €9–19

Desserts: €6–9



28 - 30 rue des Cordeliers  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 68 91 82

Sur réservation

10 min à pied

## Les Petits Plats

### Du Bourbon

#### Refined bistro in a former abbey.

Former Michelin-starred restaurant.

Prices:

Lunch: €23

Full menu: €32



60-62 Avenue Jean Jaurès  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 70 79 90

Sur réservation

10 min à pied

## Délichou

### Neighborhood Restaurant

Homemade cuisine, many vegetarian and vegan options.

Prices: Reasonable



11 rue Bourbonnoux  
18000 Bourges  
09 82 27 59 59

2 min à pied

## Le Louis XI

For meat lovers, close to home.

Prices: €20–30 per person



11 rue de la Porte Jaune  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 70 92 14

1 min à pied

## Le Comptoir de Paris

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**Iconic traditional bistro.**

Prices: €20–30 per person



**1 rue Jean Girard  
(Place Gordaine)  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 24 17 16**

**1 min à pied**

## Manja

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**Casual Restaurant**

Warm welcome, homemade dishes.

Vegetarian and vegan options.

Prices: €20–30 per person



**8 rue de la Poissonnerie  
(Place Gordaine)  
18000 Bourges  
09 81 22 01 31**

**2 min à pied**

## Chez Popote

### Grill & Fire-Cooking Restaurant

Prices:

Starters: €9–18

Mains: from €21

Daily special: €14

Set menus: €17 / €21



6 rue de la Poissonnerie  
(Place Gordaine)  
18000 Bourges  
02 48 68 22 70

1 min à pied

## Papilles & bouchons

### Seasonal & Gourmet Cuisine

Prices:

Starters: €12–25

Mains: €25–29

Desserts: €11–15

Set menus: from €22



8 rue de la Poissonnerie  
18000 Bourges  
09 81 22 01 31

5 min à pied

## L'Incontournable

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**Rooftop terrace, tapas, cocktails.**

Hours: 11:30 am–2 pm / 5 pm–12:30 am  
Closed Sun & Mon



**2 rue Jacques Coeur  
18000 Bourges**

**2 min à pied**

## Le Levrette Café

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**Beer, cold cuts, and cheese boards.**

Hours: 5 pm–12:30 am  
Closed Sun & Mon



**1 rue d'Auron  
18000 Bourges**

**5 min à pied**

## La Cave des Beaux-Arts

**Vaulted cellar, wines and tapas.**

Hours: 3 pm–7:30 pm  
(10 am–12:30 pm Thu & Fri)  
Closed Sat–Mon



**10 bis rue des Beaux Arts  
18000 Bourges**

**2 min à pied**

## L'O2G

**Popular Youth Bar**

Hours: 5 pm–2 am (1 am Wed)  
Closed Sun–Tue



**75 rue Gambon  
18000 Bourges**

**7 min à pied**

## Brasserie Bos

Create your own custom beer.

Hours:

Tue–Wed: 11:30 am–2 pm / 5 pm–10 pm

Thu–Fri: 11:30 am–2 pm / 5 pm–1:30 am

Closed Sat–Mon



11 Allée Napoléon III  
18000 Bourges

30 min à pied

## Le Printemps

## de Bourges

### Bourges Music Festival

The city's must-see festival, held every year during the third week of April.

Five days of music across the entire city!

