The Guebwiller Region
Region of art and history

Urban Circuit

let us tell you the story
of Guebwiller

Greetings, oh Florival (Florigera vallis), you almost rival paradise, with your bountiful hills and your sloping vineyards canopied by the branches of the grapevines.

FLURANDUS / 11th century monk
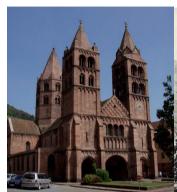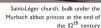
The **region of Guebwiller** belongs to the national network of Towns and Regions of art and history.

The architecture and heritage department of the Ministry of Culture and Communication awards the "Towns and Regions of art and history" title to local authorities who have made a special effort to enhance and promote their heritage. This title guarantees the skills of the guide-lecturers and heritage officers, in addition to the high quality of their activities. From ancient ruins to 20th century architecture, these towns and villages show the sheer diversity of France's heritage at its best. Today, this network of 164 towns and regions offers you a wealth of knowledge and know-how to be enjoyed right across the country.

COMMUNAUTÉ DE COMMUNES DE LA
RÉGION DE GUEBWILLER
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VILLES
D'ART
ET
D'HISTOIRE

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Saint-Léger church, built under the Murbach abbot princes at the end of the 12th century

Guebwiller during the mid 19th century. The first industry that would leave a profound imprint on the valley landscape appears. Lithography

Ceramics by Théodore Deck, kept at the Musée Deck et des Pays du Florival

Cloister of the former Dominicans convent

Notre-Dame church project, featuring two towers and a decorated pediment

Cité Bourcart

The history of Guebwiller is closely related to the abbey of Murbach. The heart of the current town was built around St. Léger's church (4) and the Burgstall (3). Enclosed by fortifications between 1270 and 1287, Guebwiller was the administrative capital of the principality of the abbey of Murbach from the 13th century right up to the French Revolution. In 1759, the abbey of Murbach was transferred to Guebwiller and a new abbey, Notre Dame church (16), was built in the town, and canonic houses constructed around it. The Revolution saw the abbey's assets sold off to industrial property developers and Guebwiller become a major manufacturing town, second in importance in the department only to the city of Mulhouse. The urban landscape underwent considerable change, with the construction of factories (7-17), villas and also housing estates for local workers (8-10) outside the town itself.

1. Hôtel de ville (Town Hall) A flamboyant building in the Gothic style, completed in 1514 by Marquart Hesser, a rich cloth merchant.

2. No 69, 104 and 116. Art Nouveau Houses, built by architect Adolphe Sautier. He incorporated the undulating lines that were the fashion.

3. The Burgstall, an octagonal-shaped urban château, dating back to the late 12th or early 13th century. In all likelihood, it was used as a town residence for the Prince Abbots of Murbach.

4. Of late Romanesque style, St Léger's church was built between 1182 and 1235 at the behest of the Abbot of Murbach, using pink sandstone from the Vosges mountains. It replaced a chapel on the same site.

5. The Cave Dimière (tithe cellar). Built at the same time as St. Léger's church, between 1220 and 1230, the tithe cellar was designed to hold the tithes paid to the abbey of Murbach. On one of the cellar doors on the south-west side of the building, there is Guebwiller's oldest coat-of-arms, which dates back to 1555.

6. 2 rue des Blés. This Renaissance building with an oriel window housed the Guebwiller local court until 1585.

7. Schlumberger factory, built of pink sandstone. The concrete building Nouvelle Société de Construction (now known as NSC Schlumberger) was founded in 1920.

8. Villa du Bois Fleuri. Built by Charles Bourcart using a historical style, it is surrounded by an English-style park with countless trees.

9. A number of workers' housing estates was built in Guebwiller at the instigation of Jean-Jacques Bourcart, a local industrialist. They each included a plot of land where the workers could grow vegetables, etc.

10. No.16 – The old Commander's residence. The lintel of the door to the staircase turret bears the date 1604.

11. Synagogue built in 1869 and ransacked in 1940. The inside part is characteristic, with the galleries set aside for women, while the men remained on the ground floor.

12. The house where Guebwiller ceramicist Théodore Deck was born. Deck is famous for having discovered the secret of how to make Persian blue, also known as Deck blue.

13. Old Dominican monastery, built in the 14th century in the typical style of the mendiant orders. It is made up of monastic buildings, a church and a cloister. Don't miss the remarkable 14th to 18th century mural paintings in the nave.

14. Ziegler Greuter factory. Built in 1806, on the site once occupied by the former Dominicans convent. Turned into apartments following World War II.

15. Canonic district. In 1759, the Murbach monks received permission to transfer their abbey to Guebwiller. Work started on the neo-classical Notre Dame church in 1763. It is surrounded by canonic houses, the oldest of which today is home to the Florival museum.

16. Old De Bary silk-ribbon factory, now the Théodore Deck lycée.

17. Wine grower's house with a wooden balcony. The courtyard is accessible by a porch right in the arch.

18. No. 54. This building has been a shop ever since its construction in 1617.