

THE ATTIC
3RD FLOOR 9

On the 3rd floor of the museum, an incredible framework shaped like an upside-down ship's hull provides a special setting for the Time Museum's temporary exhibitions. The exhibitions explore the history of the city and the idea of time in its technical, scientific and also artistic and symbolic aspects.

THE FOUCAULT PENDULUM
COME AND SEE
THE WORLD TURNING
THE TOWER 10

The Foucault pendulum in the palace tower forms a link between the museum and the world around it. It is 13 metres high and reproduces the experiment carried out by Léon Foucault at the Panthéon in Paris in 1851 to make the Earth's rotation visible. Come and see a mind-boggling experience: the pendulum doesn't turn, but the Earth turns around it!

PANORAMA
OVER THE CITY
THE TOWER 11

You can take the steps up to the top of the tower and enjoy an exceptional view over the old town, the citadel, the green hills and the outskirts of Besançon.

THE FOUCAULT PENDULUM

The museum's active supporters

THE ASSOCIATION OF **FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS AND LIBRARY** OF THE CITY OF BESANÇON
«The Friends of the Museums and Library of Besançon», an association set up in January 1949, brings together friends of the arts and culture who take a particular interest in the museums and library in Besançon. It aims to foster their development and enrich the collections, promoting and raising awareness about their initiatives in favour of heritage, to encourage and spread the taste for traditional and contemporary arts.

Friends of the Museums and Library of Besançon
Officially recognised non-profit association
Fine Arts & Archaeology Museum
1 Place de la Révolution
25000 Besançon

Le CERCLE PÂRIS
PARTNERS AND PATRONS
OF THE BESANÇON CITY CENTER MUSEUMS
The aim of the *Cercle Pâris* is to promote the development of the Fine Arts & Archaeology Museum and the Time Museum. The association brings together partners and patrons providing financial support for exhibitions, publications, communications actions, tools for the public and specific projects.

To join the circle or for more information, please contact:
Marie-Anne SPONY, Secretary
marie-anne.spony@wanadoo.fr

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS / RECEPTIONS
It is possible to reserve the Granvelle Palace courtyard, the partners' room or the entire Time Museum outside of opening hours. For rates and more information, please contact the museum reception.



THE BESANÇON
TIME MUSEUM
A PALACE
AS A MUSEUM

THE TIME MUSEUM IS ONE OF A KIND,
OFFERING A JOURNEY THROUGH
HISTORY AND TIME.
The museum is housed in Granvelle Palace, a superb Renaissance building. It pays homage to Besançon's watch-making history and tradition.

In the palace's three storeys visitors set off to explore the rich and varied collections, from the sundial to an atomic clock, via tapestries recounting the life of Emperor Charles V. Celebrating man's perpetual quest to measure time, the museum also evokes Time in its symbolic dimension and its unending flight in precious objects and vintage paintings.

After admiring the Foucault pendulum and its demonstration that the earth turns, visitors round off the visit with the palace tower and a wonderful view over the city.

ACCESSIBILITY

The City of Besançon is committed to a proactive policy of welcoming visitors with disabilities to the city centre museums.
Almost all of the building is accessible.

A complete programme of specific or inclusive activities is on offer for all types of disability. The activities have been designed with members of the **Intercommunal Accessibility Commission**. Tools have been developed enabling anyone with a disability to visit the museum on their own, with their family or friends, thanks to:
- **visit aids** (visit companion, easy to read and understand booklet, tactile map)
- **tools to enhance perception and mobility** (sound markers, induction loops at reception and portable induction loops, folding stools, magnifying glasses with lights and wheelchairs)



PRACTICAL
INFORMATION

MUSÉE DU TEMPS

Palais Granvelle
96 Grande Rue, 25000 BESANÇON
t 03 81 87 81 50
e musee-du-temps@besancon.fr

OPENING TIMES

HIGH SEASON

From 1 April to 31 October, and during the school holidays (French zone A)
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri / 10 am-12.30 pm – 2 - 6 pm

LOW SEASON

From 2 November to 31 March (except school holidays)
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri / 2 - 6 pm

ALL THE YEAR ROUND

Sat, Sun and public holidays / 10 am - 6 pm non-stop

CLOSED

Closed on Mondays and on January 1, November 1 and December 25.

GROUP FACILITIES

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri / from 9 am



ADMISSION

One ticket / Three museums

Time Museum, Fine Arts and Archaeology Museum and Victor Hugo birth place.
Valid once on each site for one year.



See prices by scanning QR Code

RESERVATIONS

For activities for young visitors, adults, groups and our cultural programme: please call 03 81 87 80 49 or send an email to reservationsmusees@besancon.fr

VISIT AID APPLICATION

Free download on your smartphone or tablet to rent at the museum reception (€3).

ACCESS

Disability access: access for visitors with reduced mobility and disabled visitors

By tram: Lines 1 and 2, get off at Chamars or Révolution (a 10-minute walk)

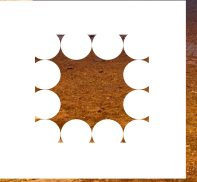
By bus:
Lines 4, 6, 10 and Ginko Citadelle line, get off at Granvelle
Lines 3, 4, 6, 10 and Ginko Citadelle line, get off at Saint Maurice

Parking: Granvelle car park (places limited) or town hall

<http://www.mdt.besancon.fr>
f <http://www.facebook.com/mdt.besancon>
e @museesducentre.besancon

besançon
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**MUSÉE
DU TEMPS
BESANÇON**
Palais Granvelle

FROM THE GRANVELLE PALACE... ...TO THE TIME MUSEUM

The palace's central position in the city when it was built, its splendour and the wonderful collections housed there all reflect the political importance of **Nicolas Perrenot de Granvelle** in Europe in the first half of the 16th century. The counsellor of Emperor **Charles V**, along with his wife, Nicole Bonvalot, and above all with his son, Cardinal **Antoine de Granvelle**, brought together an important collection of art, medals, manuscripts and artefacts. On the death of the last heirs of the Granvelle family, in the late 17th century, **Abbé Boisot** strove to bring the scattered collection together again. This collection formed the original basis for the Besançon library and museums. Granvelle Palace is the perfect setting for the collection. It was purchased by the city of Besançon in 1864. From 1952, it housed the History of the City Museum. After major restoration work, it was replaced by the Time Museum in 2002.

SCIPIONE PULZONE
Portrait of Cardinal Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle, 1576



THE FIREPLACE ROOM, BESANÇON IN THE 16TH & 17TH CENTURIES, FREE IMPERIAL CITY

1ST FLOOR ①

In the late 13th century, Besançon was recognised as a «free city» in the Holy Roman Empire, depending directly on the emperor, but with an autonomous government. In the 16th century, **Charles V** needed a representative of imperial authority in Besançon and entrusted the task to Nicolas Perrenot de Granvelle. To establish his authority as a statesman in the city, he had a palace built there in 1534. It marked the introduction of the architectural styles of the Renaissance in Besançon and in the County of Burgundy (today Franche-Comté). The new style spread through urban building projects and in furniture, as can be seen in the magnificent dresser by the cabinetmaker Hugues Sambin.



ANONYMOUS
Stag with Granvelle coat of arms, first half of the 16th century

THE GALLERY OF TIME MEASUREMENT

1ST FLOOR ②

Measuring the passing of time involves identifying the rhythms and regularities in natural phenomena. Following the apparent movement of the heavenly bodies, of the sun, of course, as well as the moon and stars, people marked out time on the basis of astronomy. The sundial divides up the days, the calendar fixes the rhythm of the years. Time can be watched and can also be made. The birth of clockmaking from the Middle Ages led to the appearance of time created by man: mechanical time. «The Sun lies, the Clock tells the truth,» became the watchmakers' motto. In the gallery a selection of timepieces are on display. They show the technical and aesthetic development of time-measuring instruments.



THE GALLERY OF TIME MEASUREMENT

THE TAPESTRY HALL

1ST FLOOR ③

The tapestry hall takes its name from the seven tapestries decorating the walls. This wall hanging, recounting the life of **Charles V**, explores another dimension of time: history. It introduces the chronological aspect of events, the passing of time seen as a succession of dates and historic highlights: battles, the capture of towns, royal weddings, etc. On the walls of the room three centuries of the history of Franche-Comté are displayed, from the late 14th century to the late 17th century. Wedged between the kingdom of France and the Holy Roman Empire, Franche-Comté (the County of Burgundy) changed rulers several times. It was annexed to the Duchy of Burgundy, then fell under the rule of the Habsburgs. Its golden age came under the rule of Emperor Charles V and then Philip II, a period illustrated by the Granvelle Palace. In 1674, it was conquered by Louis XIV and became definitively part of France.



THE TAPESTRY HALL

THREE CENTURIES OF HOROLOGICAL EVOLUTION

2ND FLOOR ④

From the late 17th century, technical progress led to major breakthroughs in the accuracy of time measurement. The watch was both an item of jewellery and a timepiece. Great changes took place in its appearance, mechanisms and production methods. Over the 19th century, watchmaking refocused on a handful of production centres. In France, **Franche-Comté became the centre of most production**, due to its proximity with Switzerland. Besançon developed into the capital of French watchmaking. The city specialised in ordinary watches and ladies' watches.



ANONYMOUS
Complications watch, late 18th c.

FRANCHE-COMTÉ, LAND OF WATCHMAKING

2ND FLOOR ⑤

On 16 December 2020, UNESCO listed the skills of watchmaking and the mechanical arts as part of humanity's intangible cultural heritage. The listing highlighted a living tradition embodied by the French-Swiss «Jurassian Arc», from Geneva to Schaffhouse, from Bienne to Besançon. In Franche-Comté, the mid-19th century marked the real upsurge in regional clockmaking. The industry mainly concentrated in four areas. Upper Jura, around Morez and Morbier, produced clocks for building façades and the famous Comtoise clock, while the Montbéliard area made watches and wall clocks. In Besançon, production was specialised in making and decorating watches, while in Upper Doubs clock components, tools and watches were made. In the 1970s, the arrival of quartz and outsourcing to Asia triggered the collapse of a large part of the regional industry, which is however still present in Besançon and Upper Doubs.



LIP watches

THE LEROY 01, THE MOST COMPLICATED WATCH IN THE WORLD

2ND FLOOR ⑥

The Leroy 01 is the Time Museum's masterpiece, an absolutely unique piece of mechanical watchmaking. The watch was made by the Louis Leroy firm for an extremely rich Portuguese client, Antonio Augusto de Carvalho Monteiro. It has 24 complications, including a display of the sky at night in Paris, Paris, Lisbon and Rio, the time in 125 cities, plus the temperature and altitude. It took seven years of research to produce the movement, made up of 975 pieces. The components were manufactured in Switzerland in the Joux valley and assembled in Besançon. The Leroy 01 is a real encyclopaedia of watchmaking complications combined in a single watch. For 85 years it remained the world's most complex watch.

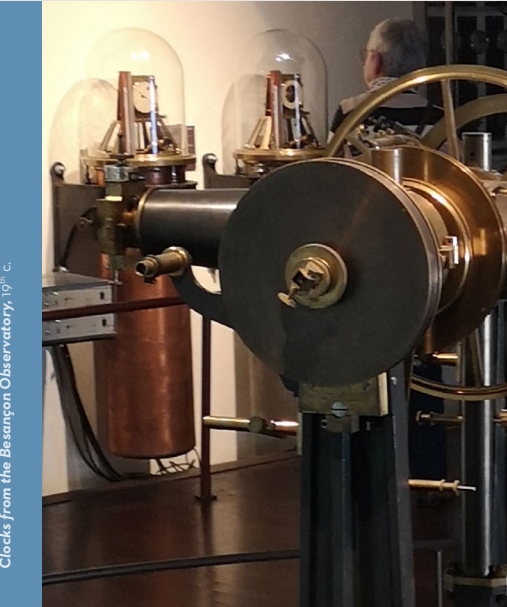


LEROY, Leroy 01, 1904
Watch with astronomical complications

THE FACTORY OF TIME

2ND FLOOR ⑦

For time-measuring instruments to be reliable, they need to run in a regular way and at a steady rate. So a reference time needed to be established so that timepieces all tell the same time. Producing, checking and transmitting a time signal has been the job of **Astronomical Observatories** since then. Until the mid-20th century, the regularity of the apparent movement of the stars, seen through telescopes, was the most reliable time reference. After the development of the atomic clock, in the 1960s, an even more stable time was acquired, involving a network of atomic clocks. The Besançon Observatory is one of those contributing across the world to setting international atomic time.

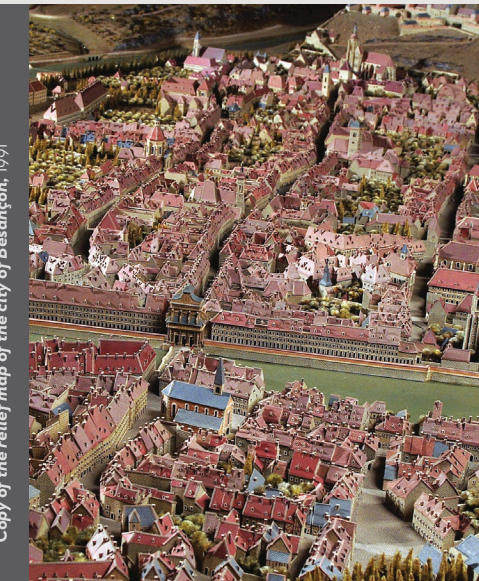


Clocks from the Besançon Observatory, 19th c.

RELIEF MAP

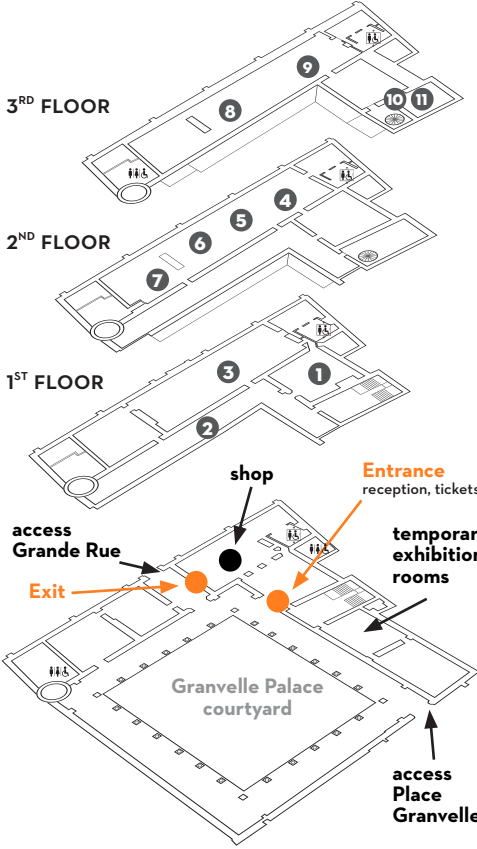
3RD FLOOR – GRAND ATTIC ⑧

The Besançon relief map in the Time Museum is an identical copy of the original, made between 1720 and 1722, and now kept in the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris. A series of relief maps was launched by Louis XIV in 1668 and expanded in line with the Sun King's conquests. These three-dimension models had a military purpose, helping to prepare war operations, while demonstrating the power of France. The Besançon relief map highlights the city's strategic position, which had already been noted by Julius Caesar, as well as the work on fortifications ordered by Vauban after Louis XIV conquered Franche-Comté in 1674.



Copy of the relief map of the city of Besançon, 19th c.

PLAN



GROUND FLOOR