



Fontaines, a village of Saône et Loire covering 2472 hectares of which 532 are woodlands and 35 are vineyards, has a population of around 2000 people. Located between Chalon sur Saône and Beaune it owes its name to the many water sources that rise in its territory that fed the fountains, wash-houses and water-troughs before joining the river Thalie. The two streams that trickle through the village have such importance to the locals that they often call them "rivers". In 1847, the village had no less than six corn mills and an oil mill. As a village of water and stone, today Fontaines offers visits to its church, its Heritage Centre, its old quarries, its calvaries and of course, its wash-houses. Those who appreciate wandering slowly will also enjoy the proximity of the Canal du Centre, which flows just 2kms east of the village, as well as the Green Way for walkers and cyclists, which runs alongside it. A bike path connects the centre to the Green Way and the Canal.

Find all the information you need for a great stay in Fontaines (self-catering cottages, B&Bs, restaurants...) on our application *Grand Chalon Tourist Office*, which can be downloaded free from the App Store and Google Play Store.

Grand Chalon Tourist Office

4 place du Port Villiers
71100 Chalon-sur-Saône
+33 (0)3 85 48 37 97
officedetourisme@achalon.com
www.achalon.com

Town hall of Fontaines

15 Grande Rue
71150 Fontaines
+33 (0)3 85 45 87 50
accueil.mairie@fontainesenbourgogne.fr
www.fontainesenbourgogne.fr



Find all our tips for a successful stay in the Chalonnais:



Photographies : A Chalon Tourisme • Mairie de Fontaines
• Quentin Demouron • Michel Bernot • Christian Bhatti



AVILLAGE
TODISCOVER



Discover Fontaines Village of water and stone



The Church of Saint Just



The church in Fontaines can be seen from quite a distance due to its bell-tower covered in varnished tiles. It houses a bell dated 1515, classed as an Historical Monument. The building, also classified, in the Cistercian style of architecture, dates from the end of the 12th century. It is dedicated to St. Just, who was the 13th archbishop of Lyon. It is listed as an historical monument.

Originally a fortified enclosure built by the villagers it protected. That didn't stop it being pillaged and partially burned in 1363, during the 100 Years' War. The bishops of Chalon, lords-temporal of Fontaines, had it rebuilt little by little, placing more accent on its Gothic characteristics. In the nave, one of the keystones carries the date 1448, which marked the end of these works. One of the last important modifications brought to its architecture was in 1829, with the enlargement of the choir in the Neo-Gothic style, and the initially flat (Cistercian) apse was removed.

The church fittings show the artistic flair of the village of Fontaines, the statuary and the baptismal fonts were carved by local stonemasons (Jean-Baptiste Ravet, François Protheau, Antoine Chauche) and the pulpit, dated 1875 (Rety pere et fils). There is also a wooden polychrome Virgin from the 16th century as well as two 17th century wooden medallions.

Also of note, the main altar created by the chisel of a master of religious sculpture from Lyon, Guillaume Bonnet (end of the 19th century); a remarkable Stations of the Cross; stained glass windows painted by Gaspard Poncet, pupil of Hippolyte Flandrin, that date from 1863. There are also some interesting tomb stones from the 17th and 18th centuries. Finally, recent maintenance work has uncovered some 13th century wall paintings on the choir vaults.

Open

from 15th June to 15th September
every day
from 10am to 6pm
**Free entry - Information
sheets allow self-guided visits or
on reservation :**

Tourist Office +33 (0)3 85 48 37 97
or www.achalon.com/reserver

Guided tours on request
all year on **+33 (0)6 78 57 31 01**

The Heritage Centre



Stone has profoundly marked the history of the village, as can be seen in the larger town houses or the simpler winemaker's houses, calvaries, dry stone walls, or the powerful architecture of the church of St. Just, built in the 12th century.

It has been archaeologically confirmed that "Fontaines stone" was used, for example, in the columns of the forum at Bibracte, in the Gallo-Roman gates of Arroux and St. Andre in Autun, the capitals in the St. Lazare cathedral, the Roman sculpture of "The temptation of Eve" by the sculptor Giselbertus? One could also mention a number of works of architecture or civil engineering in Chalon sur Saône, Lyon, Nice, Paris; bridges, buildings, church towers, war memorials...

In fact, Fontaines was originally a quarry village, of stonemasons and sculptors. The old quarries that are still visible above the village, at the foot of the St. Hilaire hill, attest to this. It is to remember those thousands of stone workers who laboured here from pre-historic times (Fontaines also has flint-knapping workshops) up to the middle of the 20th century that the village suggested in 2019 a permanent exhibition in the Heritage Centre. This exhibition takes the form of a complete journey taking the visitor "from the stone to the work".

This journey gives an understanding of the local geology; tells the story of the quarries; shows all the traditional tools used in stonemasonry, including some that are still in use today in the restoration of historic monuments; and concludes with the magnificent marble statue of "Innocence and Love" (1864) the work of Francois Protheau, a 19th century sculptor from Fontaines. Guided or by yourself, it's your choice, this journey is without equal in Southern Burgundy.

Open

from 15th June to 15th September
Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 2pm to 6pm
Free entry

Guided tours all year long on
request on **+33 (0)6 78 57 31 01**

The old Quarries



The quarries at Fontaines have been exploited for cut stone since Roman times, in the Middle Ages, and then more intensively during the second half of the 19th century until the 1960s. Originally worked underground, quarrying was later carried out in open cast.

Until recently, the Fontaines quarries have employed many families; the various trades of the quarry and stonemasonry passed through the generations from father to son, each learning on the job. Sometimes, in the workshop of a father or an uncle, a local artist finds an outlet for his talents. Quarriers and stone masons gave work to other forms of trades; builders; lime burners; transporters... we mentioned Ravet, Chauche, Protheau... stonemasons who became sculptors. And Fontaines, being a wine growing village, benefitted all these people whom the stone dust had made thirsty.

The old quarries have left their mark at the foot of the hill of St. Hilaire, like the cut of an axe in the stone, an almost continuous gash cuts the hill for almost a kilometre. These quarries hold the memory of the quarriers and stone masons who worked here. And in the village church, the walls, the houses, those very obvious marks left by their tools

The old quarries

Free access all year
Guided tours on Thursdays mornings from **15th June to 15th September on booking** : www.achalon.com/reserver,
the rest of the year on request on **+33 (0)6 78 57 31 01**
Approximate duration : 1 hour 30

The wash-house walk

Free access all year
Guided tours on Fridays mornings from **15th June to 15th September on booking** : www.achalon.com/reserver,
the rest of the year on request on **+33 (0)6 78 57 31 01**
Approximate duration : 1 hour 30

The Calvary Walk

Distance: 8kms
Approximate time: 1hr 30mins

1 Church of Saint Just

This calvary dates from the early 19th century and is located in front of the church. It has a cross whose arms finish with 8 petalled flowers.

2 Vicarage courtyard

Hidden behind the courtyard wall, this cemetery cross in wrought iron is dated 1841. It is mounted on a stone plinth that carries now illegible inscriptions.

3 Cemetery

Road-side cross dated from 1730, with the figure of Christ held by strong, sculpted nails. Opposite, St Andrew, patron saint of Burgundy, crucified.

4 Place des Platanes

This commemorative cross from the end of the 19th century, has a plinth which bears an inscription dedicated to the memory of a certain François Rety.

5 St. Nicolas

18th century cross at the crossroads, showing on one side, Christ with the crown of thorns and on the other, the Virgin and child.

6 RD 981

On the side of the main road, this road-side cross carrying the date of 1878, is mounted on a trapezoidal plinth which dates to the 16th century.



7 Clos St. Blaise

This commemorative cross is in the memory of a certain Pierre Verjus, cultivator and winemaker. It is dated 1866.

8 Les Fontaines

A cross road cross from the middle of the 19th century shows on one cross piece a crown of thorns and on the other a heart in the round.

9 Le Paquier

This calvary dating from the 17th century, shows on one face a naive image of Christ and on the other a small console above a dais.

10 La Platiere

This commemorative cross dated 1750 and 1766 carries a rustic Christ and on the back, a heart interlaced with three nails.

11 Rue des Champs

This 18th century road-side cross presents on one side, a small Christ, and on the other a veiled Virgin and child.

The Wash-house Walk

Distance: 5.5kms
Approximate time: 1hr

1 The Mill Wash-house



This wash-house, rebuilt in 1924 is rectangular in shape. The doorway and openings are in the form of arched arcades, surrounded by red brick walls. Carried on three walls, the pitched roof covered in flat tiles, is surrounded by gutters which enable the water to be evacuated directly into the stream. Its style and deliberately decorative aspect make it very different from the other village wash-houses.

2 The St. Nicolas Wash-house



This octagonal wash-house was built in 1832 and has a roof supported by solid beams. It is fed directly from a water source the "Goulotte" via a small stone channel taking the water right into the basin. In front of the wash-house, another basin called the "Gassou" (from the local patois "gassouiller" which means to paddle), built in the form of an inverted broad cone, and which served as a drinking trough for cattle and footbath for horses.



3 The Fontaines Wash-house



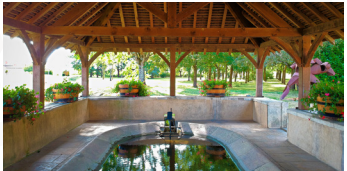
Built in the quarter of the same name, not far from the water source that feeds it, it dates from 1877. Not easily seen from the road, you have to open the access door to find it. Its originality comes from its roof in the Roman style of an impluvium. It has washing stones on all four sides and on the outer rims, stone benches for the women to put their laundry and baskets.

4 The Rue Chamilly Wash-house



Built in 1849, it runs alongside the road and is rectangular in shape with a pitched roof. Two doors and a window at the front, a window on the stream side, all arcaded, ensure there is plenty of light. Fed by diverting the stream, the rectangular basin has wash stones on all four sides. A stone drain surrounds the basin.

5 The Quart Canot Wash-house



Built in 1866, it gradually fell into disuse until its restoration in 1994, using the original plans. It has an oval basin, fed by a large stone drain along the entry axis. The water drains out on the opposite side. As with most of the other ancient wash-houses, the north and west sides are closed in against the weather. However, it is largely open to the light.