



Motorbike Trip In Aube and Haute-Marne

Leaving from : Langres (52) - Distance : 420 km

Joy of driving



Tourist attractions



Ease for two



Just think of Aube and Haute-Marne as being the playground for your next motorbike trip... It has pleasant roads with winding bends, as well as many tourist sites that are well worth a visit. And don't forget the region's wine-growing and gastronomic heritage.



A bit like in the mountains, any motorbike trip in Aube and Haute-Marne will have to deal with the weather, particularly on the Langres plateau, one of the coldest regions of France. Summer can be quite hot and sometimes stormy; winter lasts longer and is colder than in the rest of the Champagne region, than the northern half of the country. Autumn, relatively mild, is the prime time, although be aware that during grape harvesting time there will be extremely slow agricultural vehicles and very slippery crushed grapes on the roads.

Langres > Bar-sur-Aube

It isn't just the Seine, Meuse and Marne rivers which have their origins on the **Langres** plateau – Diderot was also born there. The city is worth a detour, particularly for its ramparts which are lit up in the evening. Near to the citadel are eight forts, built after the war in 1870 to protect the eastern border, which will interest lovers of military architecture. To leave Langres, head south towards Dijon as if you were going to the A31 motorway.

But don't turn off, and instead follow the road as far as Longeau-Percy: leaving the market town, turn right onto the D6, pass underneath the motorway and keep going as far as **Auberive**. In this village surrounded by forest you will find an old Cistercian abbey, a replica of the one in Clairvaux.



Your journey continues with a pretty, slightly winding section along the D428, which becomes the D928 at Côte-d'Or. Stay on the D928 until you reach **Châtillon-sur-Seine**. It was near here that one of the most extraordinary antique treasures was found, the Treasures of Vix, including the largest bronze vase (or krater) ever excavated (1.64m high, 1.27m wide, 208 kilos). You will pass nearby Vix when you head out along the Seine towards Mussy-sur-Seine and Bar-sur-Seine.

Sightseeings

Langres walled city

52200 Langres
T 03 25 87 67 67
www.tourisme-langres.com
3.5km of ramparts, 7 gates and 12 towers including the Navarre tower. Free access to the ramparts. Guided tours, audio guides and tourist train trips available.



Old Auberive Abbey

52160 Auberive - T 03 25 84 20 20
www.abbaye-auberive.com
Free admission. Open Wed-Sun (10am-12.30pm and 2pm-6.30pm) between June and September.

Du Côté des Renoir

9 place de la Mairie - 10360 Essoyes
T 03 25 29 10 94 - www.renoir-aube-champagne.com
Space dedicated to the Renoir family and the painter's studio. Entry €7. Open Wed-Mon 10.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-6.30pm.

Old Clairvaux Abbey

10310 Ville-sous-la-Ferté - T 03 25 27 52 55
http://abbayedclairvaux.com.
Birthplace of the Cistercian order. Guided tours daily March-Oct, and Wed-Sun in February and November. For times call 03 25 27 88 17.

Musée du Pays Châtillonnais - Treasure of Vix

14 rue de la Libération - 21400 Châtillon-sur-Seine
T 03 80 91 24 67 - www.musee.vix.fr
Housed in the Maison Philandrier, this museum contains the Treasures of Vix. Entry €6. Open 10am to 7pm July-August, 9am-12pm and 2pm-6pm September-June.

Arriving at the village of Courteron, leave the D971 and turn right towards **Essoyes**, village of the Renoir family. After a series of right angle turns in this village, continue on to the D67 towards Verpillières-sur-Ource. After around twenty kilometres the D396 will take you over the A5 motorway.



Next continue towards Juzennecourt along the main road which brought you in to Colombey. A small turn-off to the left serves as a shortcut to join the N67, which follows the course of the Marne river towards Joinville and St Dizier past **Vignory**, its beautiful Roman church and the ruins of a feudal chateau perched on a hill.

Continue on towards Bar-sur-Aube and the approach to the **Clairvaux** site, and take a left towards the old abbey which is now one of France's best guarded prisons. An ironic turn of fate for this hotspot of Medieval spirituality, chosen by Bernard de Fontaine as the location for establishing one of the four 'principal daughters' of the Cistercian order. The abbey belongs to the Ministry of Justice, which cleared the main historic buildings and carried out restoration work.



Surrounded by forest, **Joinville** is dominated by a hill bearing the ruins of a fortress, home of the Dukes of Guise. Here, the Renaissance is king, as that was when the first Duke built the Château du Grand Jardin with its flowerbeds, medicinal plants and fruit trees.

Returning to the D12, continue straight on as far as the village of Champignol-lez-Mondeville then turn right along a pretty little road to **Bar-sur-Aube**.



Bar-sur-Aube > Langres

The Champagne region's old market city, famous throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, still retains some traces of its 'golden age', notably the St Pierre church and some beautiful 16th and 18th century houses. To leave the city, head underneath the railway tracks, skilfully negotiate the fantastic chicane on the D384 and continue on towards Soulaines-Dhuys as far as Ville-sur-Terre. A series of small country roads, with plenty of winding bends and changes of direction, will finally bring you to **Colombey-les-Deux-Églises**. It is the curious destiny of this small village on the threshold of the Dhuits forest, typical of the upper Champagne region with its exposed white stonework, to be renowned for its links to Charles de Gaulle, his property La Boiserie, his grave in the little cemetery and the General's memorial.

The area around Joinville is called Le Vallage thanks to its numerous valleys. Your route continues on past **Thonnancières-Joinville**, where an extremely beautiful garden (3,000 perennials, 600 roses) was created around an old watermill. Next, take the first small road on the right towards Poissons to enjoy the winding bends of the Lacets de Mélaire on the steep slopes of 'little Switzerland', with a wonderful view across the surrounding forest and the valley. The top is an excellent spot for a picnic. Heading down, be careful of the extremely tight chicane.



From Poissons, follow the country roads until you reach Doulaincourt-Saucourt, then Rimaucourt near Andelot-Blancheville. A few kilometres further along the D674 you will arrive at St-Blin: on leaving the village, take the right turn towards **Bourmont**. A long 25km section on the very pretty D74 will take you to Montigny-le-Roi via Clefmont.

If you are running out of time and need to head back, stay on the D74 to return directly to Langres.

If you want to round off the trip with the village of Montigny, head towards the motorway and 300m before the entry slip road take the D132 towards Rançonnières. Lovers of antiquity should make a quick detour via **Andilly-en-Bassigny**, 3km away, to see its Gallo-Roman villa, built between the mid 1st century and the 4th century. Archaeologists are still carrying out excavation work at this site but it remains open to the public free of charge.



The penultimate section of the route, staying on the D14, is a particularly pleasant one. The villages which follow one after another on this road mean that high speeds are not possible, so make the most of it to enjoy this country drive, ornamented with simple curves and bends which are still truly wonderful to negotiate in the calm of this wooded landscape. On reaching **Fayl-la-Forêt**, just take a right onto the N19, a road which offers neither history nor surprises, and head on for 25km until you reach Langres and get back to where you started.

Great little restaurants

Lac de la Liez Auberge des Voiliers

1 chemin du bord du lac - Lac de la Liez - 52200 Peigney
T 03 25 87 05 74 - www.hotel-voiliers.com. Menus from €9.50 to €36. Closed Mondays and from December to March.

Prauthoy Motel St-Michel

RN 74 - 52190 Prauthoy - T 03 25 88 22 61
www.motel-saint-michel.fr. A biker named Philippe will serve you traditional dishes and Burgundy specialities, together with buffets. Serving between 7pm and 9pm, menus from €15. Open April to mid-October.

Bar-sur-Aube La Toque Baralbine

18, rue Nationale - 10200 Bar-sur-Aube - T 03 25 27 20 34
Menus from €16 to €58. Closed Sunday evening and Monday, and for holiday in January.

Villiers-sur-Marne La Source Bleue

Route de Doulaincourt - Gudmont - 52320 Villiers sur Marne
T 03 25 94 70 35 - www.hotelsourcebleue.com
An 18th century watermill in welcoming rural style, with cuisine focusing on fish. Set lunch menu €18, menus from €30 to €50. Closed Sunday evening, Monday and Tuesday. Closed for holiday from late December to late January.

Sightseeings

Charles De Gaulle Memorial

52330 Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises
T 03 25 30 90 80
www.memorial-charlesdegaulle.fr
Entry €12.50 (€14.50 including visit to La Boisserie). Open daily 1st May – 30th Sept 9.30am to 7pm, and Wed-Mon 10am-5.30pm from 1st October – 30th April.



Château du Grand Jardin

5 avenue de la Marne - 52300 Joinville
T 03 25 94 17 54 - www.haute-marne.fr/legrandjardin
Entry €4. Open March to mid December: March, November and December weekends 2pm-5.30pm; April-October Wed-Mon, 2pm-5.30pm in April, Sept and Oct and 11am-12.45pm and 1.30pm-7pm in May, June, July and August.

Jardins de mon Moulin

Moulin de la Mazelle - 52300 Thonnance-les-Joinville
T 06 79 50 74 92 - www.lesjardinsdemonmoulin.fr
Open mid-May to the end of September, Thurs-Sun 10am-12pm and 2pm-6.30pm and by appointment on other days.

Gall-Roman Villa

52360 Andilly en Bassigny - T 03 25 32 88 54
<http://www.haute-marne.fr/archeologie>
Free admission. Open daily June – 18th Sept from 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-6pm.



www.tourisme-champagne-ardenne.com



Route taken from « 90 virées à moto France 2011 »

Michelin Cartes et Guides. Map : Michelin.

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Road book

In Aube and Haute-Marne

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Stage	Direction	Towards	On	Km in section	Total km
Langres	↑	<i>Dijon</i>	D674	11	11
Longeau-Percey	→	<i>Flagey</i>	D6	8	21
Carrefour	←	<i>Auberive</i>	D428	14	35
Auberive	→	<i>Recey-sur-Ource</i>	D428	20	55
Recey-sur-Ource	↑	<i>Châtillon-sur-Seine</i>	D996 puis D928	27	83
Châtillon-sur-Seine	→	<i>Bar-sur-Seine puis Mussy-sur-Seine</i>	D971	14	98
Mussy-sur-Seine	↑	<i>Bar-sur-Seine</i>	N71 puis à droite sur la D671	7	105
Courteron	→	<i>Gyé-sur-Seine</i>	D971	1	106
Gyé-sur-Seine	→	<i>Essoyes</i>	D70	10	116
Essoyes	→	<i>Bar-sur-Aube puis Cunfin</i>	D67	22	138
Rond-point	←	<i>Bar-sur-Aube</i>	D396	8	146
Clairvaux	←	<i>Champignol-lez-Mondeville</i>	D12	9	155
Champignol	→	<i>Baroville</i>	D70	12	167
Carrefour	←	<i>Bar-sur-Aube</i>	D396	3	170
Bar-sur-Aube	→	<i>Blaiser-les-Joinvilles</i>	D384	12	183
Ville-sur-Terre	→	<i>Thil</i>	D18	4	187
Thil	→	<i>Beurville</i>	D18-D132	10	197
Rizaucourt-Buchey	→	<i>Saulcy</i>	D203-D13	8	205
Colombé-la-Fosse	←	<i>Colombé-le-Sec</i>	D74	2	207
Colombé-le-Sec	←	<i>Colombey-les-Deux-Églises</i>	D74	7	214
Carrefour	←	<i>Colombey-les-Deux-Églises</i>	D619	1	215
Colombey-les-Deux-Églises	↑	<i>Juzennecourt</i>	D619	9	224
Juzennecourt	←	<i>Sexfontaines</i>	D44	10	234
Annéville-la-Prairie	←	<i>Lamancine / Bremont</i>	D169	3	237
Carrefour	←	<i>St-Dizier</i>	N67	27	264
Carrefour	←	<i>Fronville</i>	D200	5	269
Joinville	→	<i>Thonnance-les-Joinville</i>	D60	7	276
Carrefour	→	<i>Poissons</i>	Route locale	4	280
Poissons	←	<i>Annonville</i>	D16	4	285
Carrefour	→	<i>Maconcourt</i>	D114	8	293
Saucourt-sur-Rognon	←	<i>Doulaincourt-Saucourt</i>	D67A	17	310
Rimaucourt	←	<i>St-Blin</i>	D674	5	317
St-Blin	→	<i>Bourmont</i>	D16	14	339
St-Thiébauld	→	<i>Clefmont</i>	D74	27	365
Montigny-le-Roi	←	<i>Bourbonne-les-Bains</i>	D417	1,5	366
Montigny-le-Roi	→	<i>Avrecourt</i>	D132	8	374
Rançonnières	←	<i>Lavernois Varenne puis Terre-Natale</i>	D14	16	390
Bize	→	<i>Fayl-Billot</i>	D14	7	397
Fayl-Billot	→	<i>Langres</i>	N19	24	420