

Mother Nature

le Pays  
de  
Stenay

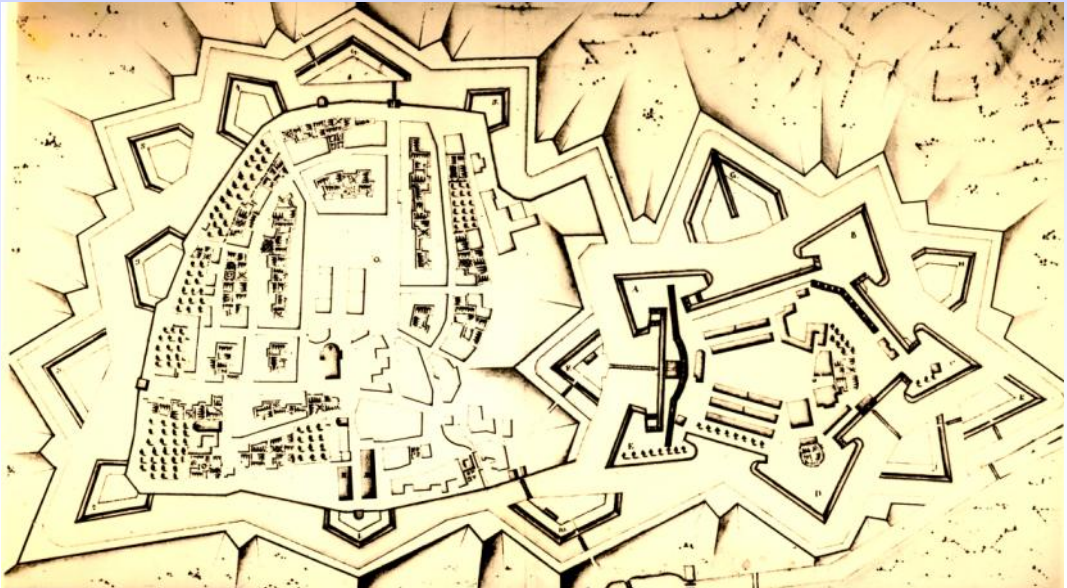
Culture and sights



# CIRCUIT TOUR OF THE OLD TOWN RAMPARTS



Follow in the footsteps of the old fortifications of Stenay between the town and the military citadel. This pleasant historic walk of about 1 hour 15 minutes leads you back in time through the meandering lanes and passages of Stenay



# Map 1 : Stenay today

The circuit and its most photogenic spots



The Washhouse

The Mill

The Park of the Forge

The Beer Museum

Carriage House and Armoury

The Governor's House

# CIRCUIT TOUR OF THE OLD TOWN RAMPARTS

**A short history :** Stenay, a gateway town situated on the edge of France and The Holy Roman Empire, fortified town and military stronghold, has always needed to protect itself behind fortifications.

The first walls appear to have been built from the **year one thousand AD** onwards. Throughout wars, sieges and the advent of artillery, they underwent certain modifications and it was not until around 1615 that the construction of the citadel was able to be completed.

After the town's final annexation to France **in 1654** and the repositioning of the borders further east, the necessity of having such fortifications ceased and the dismantling of the citadel began **in 1689**.

## START FROM THE TOURIST OFFICE

1

*On leaving the Tourist Office, turn left onto the street André Maginot and continue for about 200m.*



2

You will find yourself on the site of the old town **Gate of Bourgogne** (see photo), which overlooked the main road situated between the **"Rue des Hauts Remparts"** (street of the High Ramparts) and the **"Rue Stine"**. Occupied as the town hall, it was demolished **in 1925** to facilitate access to the city centre for vehicles.



Take the small pathway, **"Ruelle des Glacis"**, on the left. To the right, at 5 Porte de Bourgogne is situated a period house built **in 1881** by the engineer who constructed the canal.

On the pathway, to its left, you are walking alongside the wall of the **octroi** (see box) dating from **the 18<sup>th</sup> century**, on the site of the demolished ramparts.

3

**Octroi :** Toll tax paid on goods entering the town. This tax was abolished in 1948.

At the end of the street turn left. It is here that **VAUBAN** (see box), the famous French engineer, injured his left leg during the battle started by **KING LOUIS XIV** (see box) and his army to capture Stenay **in 1654**.

Crowned King on the 7th June 1654 in Reims, **LOUIS XIV** was only 16 when he and Mazarin joined Fabert and his whole army, including the young **VAUBAN**, to take Stenay after a siege of 56 days. The victory was celebrated in Paris. The dismantling of Stenay's fortifications was ordered by Louis XIV in 1689.



Louis XIV



Vauban



Follow the path, and at the next intersection, turn right. On the right there is a large open space partly occupied by a public garden, site of the open slope in front of the old fortification glacis and the former “**bastion de la clochette**” (bastion of the bell) (★ map).

④ Sloping towards the north, the path, named “**Ruelle des Glacis**”, follows a private park situated behind the wall on the left, created during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and constructed using parts of the demolished ramparts.

⑤ On the left, a small grassed lane runs alongside the park’s wall. At the end of the lane, on the left, are the remains of an old stronghold which overlooked the valley of the Meuse. Formerly, at this site, one could find the **bastion de la Grille** (★ map).

⑥ At the end of the lane, cross the “**Rue Pasteur**”. From here you can see on the left side of house number 28, a capital from the **Gate of Cervisy** (see photo), northern gate of the city, which was situated here.

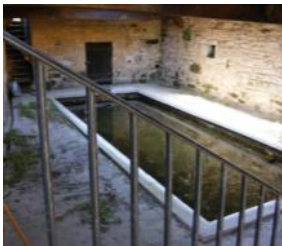


⑦ Now go down the small grassed “**Ruelle Malnoury**” lying entirely alongside the ramparts, which can be recognised by the smooth, equally sized stones forming the wall on the left side of the path. At the bottom of the path, you will join a road aptly named as the “**Rue Basse des Remparts**, (lower road of the Ramparts). On the left corner, there is a small rise, the remains of an old bastion (defensive wall), the “**bastion Saint François**” (★ map).

Turn to the left and onto the “**Rue Basse des Remparts**” and

⑧ notice the location of a former low postern (see photo + box) with a watchtower (see box) on its top, set at the bottom of the city wall.

⑨ Keep walking down the street until you arrive at a flight of stone steps on your left which lead to the “**Ruelle Charlotte**”, which passes by the “**lavoir des Minimes**” (washhouse) (see photo).



Originally called the “**Fountain of Wé**” (wé = water in Celtic), it became known as the “**lavoir des Minimes**” in the 17th century when the town gave it to the convent. An underground stream, which can still be seen today, links the two. The water leaves the washhouse by means of a little canal which used to pass under the city walls (nowadays the road “**Rue Basse des Remparts**”) where it continues through the gardens to rejoin the river Meuse.

The building just above the washhouse is now the town’s primary school, Albert Toussaint, formerly a convent for the poor, called “**Couvent des Minimes**” (see photo) and built in 1617. It was rebuilt several times, lastly in 1908. The monks’ cells and the cloister are still in perfect condition.



**Postern** = A small secret gate in the rear of a fort or castle leading to a ditch.



**Watchtower** = A tower built especially around the edges of fortifications, the top of which provides a good position from which to see anyone coming close.

10 Retrace your steps and rejoin the “**Rue Basse des Remparts**” turning left. Behind the wall, on the left used to be a farm and brewery (there were 5 breweries in Stenay). Looking onto the road is the arched doorway of the cellar to the old brewery.

11 50m further on, just in front of the Hotel du Commerce, is the square of the “**Porte de France**” (the Gate of France), named after the gate that once stood here. During recent building works, the base of the foundation of the fortifications was discovered.

12 Now take the “**Rue du Moulin**”, starting on the right side of the Hotel du Commerce. “**Rue du Moulin**” winds along the course of the former “**Bastion de France**” (★ map).



13 Enter the park on your right, named “**Parc de la Forge**” (see photo). This park, nowadays opened to the public, was created **after 1835** by the owner of the foundry in front of his home. Today this building serves as Stenay’s Social and Cultural Centre. This imposing building separated the previously private garden from the factory, which was operational for 229 years from **1776 to 2005**.



300m further, leave the park and cross the street to join the “**Rue de la Citadelle**” (Citadel road), by which you enter the citadel of the town.

14 Only a **part of the former city gate** (see photo) remains visible.



15 On your right, the **Governor’s House** (see photo), is now occupied by the “**Musée du Pays**” (Stenay’s local museum) and offices of The European Beer Museum. Built towards **the end of the 16th century** on the orders of the Duke of Lorraine, it was the residence of the Town Governor. After Stenay became French **in 1654**, it was used to house the Weapons’ Commander. From **1805 to 1978** it was used by the local police force.



**16** A few meters further on your left is the former home of the King's Lieutenant (see photo N° 30). This building, which dates from the **16<sup>th</sup> century**, served as the residence of the King's representative. Its partially semicircular conical tower, situated at the rear of the house, features a spiral staircase. The house is built on two parallel vaulted cellars.

**17** You have now arrived at the

heart of the former citadel. On the right is the **Carriage House and Armoury**, nowadays a private property and park.



Oast House = A building designed for kilning (drying) hops as part of the brewing process.

To the left, the site of the former barracks is today occupied by a row of small houses. The former stores building for the barracks situated behind these houses was converted into an oast house at the end of the **19<sup>th</sup> century/beginning 20<sup>th</sup> century** with the addition of another floor and two towers. The European Beer Museum has been housed in this building **since 1986**.



**19** The Citadel was separated from the town by a gate and walls and the Church of St Dagobert of which the only remaining feature is its **west portal** (see photo). This portal, now restored, can be visited by appointment at 3 Place Raymond Poincaré, next to the Tourist Office.



**20** Continue to the end of the street and turn into the "Rue Laennec" where you will see a large stone building running parallel to the street. This is the **former cavalry barracks** (see photo) built in **1747** by Vauban and used by the army **until 1940**. Now called "Résidence Vauban", this building recently renovated contains services on the ground floor and apartments on the higher floors.

**21** At the end of the barracks (about 140m long), take the "Rue Vauban" on your left. To the right is the "lavoir Millot" (washhouse - see photo) built by the town between the two World Wars and recently changed into a residence.



**22** We arrive again at the "Porte de Bourgogne", which is the end of your tour.

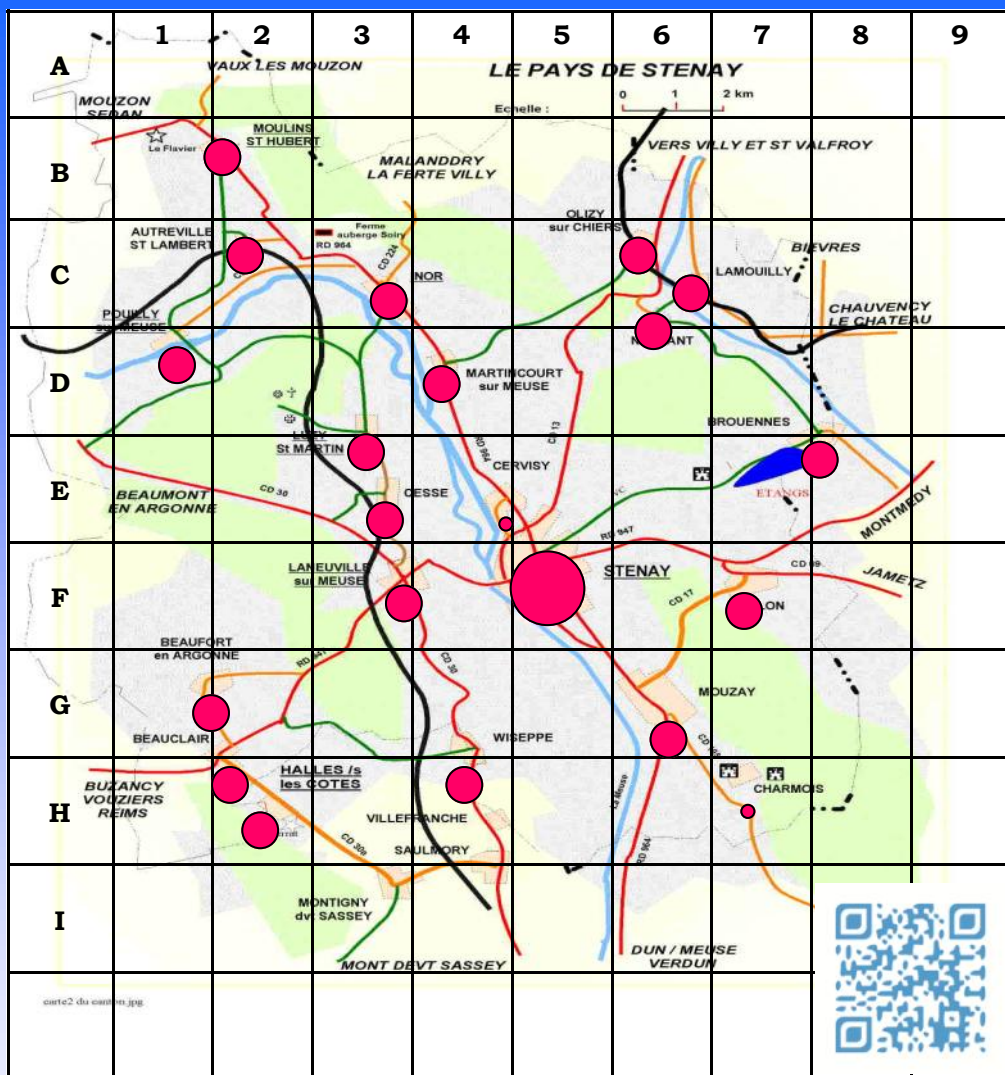


# Map 2 : Stenay, fortified town in the 17<sup>th</sup> century



The Arcades

**Bastion :**  
Polygonal fortification  
two faces and two  
flanks projecting from  
an enclosure.



## THE 19 COMMUNES IN THE STENAY TOWN DISTRICT

**C2.** AUTREVILLE SAINT LAMBERT  
**F7.** BAALON  
**H2.** BEAUCLAIR  
**G1.** BEAUFORT EN ARGONNE  
**E8.** BROUENNES  
**E3.** CESSÉ  
**H2.** HALLES SOUS LES CÔTES  
**C3.** INOR  
**C6.** LAMOUILLY  
**F3.** LANEUVILLE SUR MEUSE

**E3.** LUZY SAINT MARTIN  
**D4.** MARTINCOURT  
**B2.** MOULINS SAINT HUBERT  
**G6.** MOUZAY  
**D6.** NEPVANT  
**C6.** OLIZY SUR CHIERS  
**D1.** POUILLY SUR MEUSE  
**F5.** STENAY  
**H4.** WISEPPE

Designed and printed  
 by the Stenay  
 Tourist Office

