

More space for better living: the canton of Jura is as big as... New York!

The area it covers of course, which amounts to 839 km². Because with its 73,000 inhabitants the canton of Jura is far less populated than the Big Apple. This is why it can offer much more space to its inhabitants. Each individual thus has a surface that is more than the equivalent of a football pitch to himself to do whatever he wants to do and to fulfil his aims.

The Jura is the youngest of the Swiss cantons. It was founded in 1979 from the unshakeable determination for liberty on the part of its inhabitants. Its capital is Delémont, and it includes 55 communes attached to 3 districts: Delémont, Porrentruy and the Franches-Montagnes. Its frontier with France is 121 kilometres long and stretches for 111 kilometres alongside the neighbouring cantons of Basel-Campagne, Soleure, Berne and Neuchâtel. The Jura is open onto all Switzerland, to Europe ... and to the rest of the world!

More space ... as early as 999!

Although the canton of Jura is only recent, its beginnings go back to the year 999 when the last king of Burgundy, Rudolph III, gave the Bishop of Basel the abbey of Moutier-Grandval together with its dependencies. After the departure of the last bishop-prince of Basel, who was chased out of his residence at Porrentruy by the French Revolution in 1792, the Jura then became part of the canton of Berne in 1815 through the Congress of Vienna.

The frequent disagreements and tensions between the French-speaking population and the German speaking canton of Berne led in 1947 to the constitution of the autonomous Jura movement and to its fight for Independence.

On the 23 June 1974, the majority of the Jura population declared that they were in favour of the creation of the canton of Jura. Successive votes led to the breakdown of the former historical region of Jura. On the 24 September 1978, the Swiss people and the cantons welcomed the new state, which assumed sovereignty on the 1st of January 1979. A further aim is to integrate the three districts which still remain Bernese.

On the 18 June 2017, the city of Moutier decides to join the canton of Jura.

More space for friendship and solidarity

The Jura Constitution emphasises the values of openness and solidarity that are so dear to the inhabitants of the canton. It bestows in particular wide-ranging rights to people of foreign origin living in the canton. They have the right to vote both at a communal and at a cantonal level, and are eligible in legislative councils at a communal level. In 2005, it is in fact an Italian who presides over the Delémont town council.

The geographical and political situation of the Jura, at the crossroads of two great European cultures, i.e. French and German, its fight for the defence of the French language and the creation of a sovereign canton have led it to develop a vast

network of friends and solidarity throughout the world. From Quebec to Wallonia in Belgium, from the Cameroon to the Aosta Valley, but also throughout the Jura mountain range and other Swiss cantons, the Jura cooperates in different domains, in particular economic and cultural.

More space ... more easily accessible thanks to the A16 motorway and the TGV express train

The canton of Jura is only 40 minutes from Basel International Airport and about 1 hour's drive from Zurich, Berne or Lucerne. Since December 2016, the Jura is even more easily accessible thanks to the A16 motorway which links Delémont and Porrentruy and which has been extended towards Bienne (to the south) and Belfort (to the north).

Today, the A16 form a link between Switzerland and France across the Jura, which is now strategically situated on a major axis of communication.

Since 2011, the region also benefits from the proximity of the new TGV train station of Belfort Montbéliard. Thanks to it, the canton of Jura is the closest Swiss area to Paris. Porrentruy, for example, is today only at 2:40 of the French capital. In December 2018, the new station will also be connected by train to the Jura with the reopening of the regional line between Delle and Belfort.

The construction of the A16 brought with it some fascinating discoveries. A site containing traces of dinosaurs of worldwide importance was brought to light near Porrentruy. Its paleontological treasures include several thousand traces of dinosaurs dating back 152 million years. The site is developed to attract both scientists and tourists alike.

More space, more contrasts

Contrary to certain preconceptions, the Jura is not a mountain canton. Apart from the Franches-Montagnes which are 1,000 metres above sea level, the districts of Delémont and Porrentruy are situated on the plain and enjoy a mild climate. Boncourt, in the far north, is even the lowest point in French-speaking Switzerland, at an altitude of 364 metres. In these regions of plains and hills, green meadows alternate with cereal cultures and fruit orchards which in particular produce the famous Damassine. There are also several hectares of vineyards. On the High Plateau of the Franches-Montagnes, wild horses, majestic pines and large-roofed farmhouses combine to form a characteristic landscape that is unique in Switzerland. The country of the horse merits its name, for the Franches-Montagnes breed is the only one that is native to Switzerland. The canton of Jura also contains a network of small townships which in addition to having a large number of monuments, organise cultural and popular activities throughout the year. This gives the canton its warm and welcoming character. Delémont, Porrentruy, Saint-Ursanne and Saignelégier, Jura's small towns and market towns, have known how to preserve their mediaeval atmosphere and the monuments, castles or private town residences that contribute to their charm and attractiveness. These towns are also fortunate in having the necessary educational establishments, modern sports and cultural facilities so that they are attractive places for people to live in and can offer an exceptional quality of life.

More space for innovation...

Technological companies nestling in a green setting ... The Jura has a long industrial tradition and excels in state-of-the-art sectors such as watchmaking, microtechnology or automation. Over 40% of the active population works in Jura industry, and the region employs more than 7,000 persons from over the border.

Jura industry relies on small- and medium-sized companies which are particularly flexible and innovative, which also focus on services to companies, life sciences and the leisure industry. With the Basel economic centre in close proximity, the Jura offers unique know-how and the skills of men and women dedicated to quality and to innovation. A large proportion of the production of Jura companies is destined for export. Per capita, the Jura exports more than the canton of Zurich.

The Economic Promotion of canton of Jura offers a wide range of services to companies wishing to set up their activities in the Jura.

... for education and vocational training...

The main raw material of the Jura is its grey matter! The authorities and professional circles attach great importance to educational establishments and vocational training. The canton offers a vast choice in this regard. In particular, it has its own famous school of watchmaking and micro technology, a high school, commercial and technical schools, and a computer school. The Jura is one of the partners of the BEJUNE Educational College, situated in Delémont, of the ARC College, and of the HES-SO, the University for Professional training, the administrative centers of which are located in this canton. A pioneer in the field, the Jura has created an innovative "Sports-Arts-Studies" structure that has been recognized by Swiss Olympic. The Boncourt Basket Club, twice Swiss Champion, is one of the partners of this structure, together with the other leading clubs of the region. Per capita, the Jura is the canton which has the most teams that are part of the national league in the major sports.

... for leisure, festivities and get-togethers

Sports activities in the Jura are not just limited to competitors. The omnipresent and unspoilt natural surroundings are ideal for all types of open-air sports, at no matter which season, with each person being able to practice sport at their own pace. From golf to rock and mountain climbing, not to mention canoeing, horse riding, cross-country skiing or mountain biking, the Jura offers every opportunity for discovery and unexpected amazement.

The choice of activities also extends to the cultural domain, which reflects the identity and the diversity of the people of the Jura. In particular, the astonishing museums, modern or classical art galleries, open-air exhibitions (such as the "Balade de Séprais" or several classical or modern music festivals held in beautiful spots (for instance, at Saint-Ursanne) are there to discover.

The canton of Jura, a region that seems just like a big village where everyone knows everybody else, likes to enjoy life. On July 8th, 2012, the region hosted the Tour de France, whose 8th stage crossed the Franches-Montagnes and Saint Ursanne to arrive at Porrentruy.

From the Jura Carnival to the copious Saint-Martin's meal, not to mention the Mediaeval Celebration at Saint-Ursanne, the "Marché-Concours" at Saignelégier and the "Fête du Peuple" at Delémont, the men and women of the Jura continue to cultivate these extremely lively traditions where they can meet one another in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and invite all their friends from outside.

The canton of Jura ... quite simply more space!