

ANNUAL FORUM 2025

8. 9 & 10 APRIL 2025 - BESANÇON, FRANCE

INFO-PACK

WELCOME TO BESANÇON

Besançon, the place of birth of Energy Cities, is the host of our 2025 annual forum.

It is a city with extraordinary surroundings and generous nature assets, where you can reach wide open green spaces within the town itself in just a few minutes! With over 2000 years of history, the city was built on an exceptional natural site: an almost perfect loop of the Doubs River, dominated by 7 hills that surround the old town.

Its energy and climate policies and innovative projects have made it one of the pioneering local authorities in the green transition in France. It is committed to becoming a sustainable and resilient territory by leading initiatives and boosting local cooperation. It has been awarded the **European Energy Award Gold (EEA)** several years, and it is continually working to keep improving and renew the label.



HOW TO GET TO BESANÇON

BY PLANE

Besançon can be easily reached from five international airports:

- **EUROAIRPORT BASEL MULHOUSE FREIBURG** (150 km): at this airport there is a shuttle bus to Saint-Louis station, from there you can take a train to Besançon Viotte station that also stops in Mulhouse and Belfort (*duration between 2h and 2h30*).
- **GENEVA AIRPORT** (170 km): at this airport there is a shuttle train to Genève Cornavin Station, from there you can take a train to Besançon Viotte station that stops in Bourg-en-Bresse (*duration of 4h*).
- **LYON - SAINT-EXUPERY AIRPORT** (240 km): at this airport there is a tram that goes to Lyon Part Dieu station where you can take a direct train to Besançon Viotte station (*duration of approximately 2h40*).
- **PARIS - ORLY AIRPORT** (400 km): at this airport there are to options to get to the train station Gare de Lyon where you can you can take a direct train to Besançon Viotte station:
 - Metro (Line 14) to Gare de Lyon station.
 - RER train Line Orlyval B to Antony Station + Metro (line 14) to Gare de Lyon.
- **PARIS - ROISSY - CHARLES DE GAULLE** (430 km): at this airport there are to options to get to the train station Gare de Lyon:
 - RER B train to Gare de Lyon station.
 - Metro (Line 14) Gare de Lyon station.

Find more information about public transport in Paris [here](#).

BY TRAIN

Gare Viotte is in Besançon's city center, offering multiple connections to major French and European cities:

- **PARIS Gare de Lyon** (2h05)
- **PARIS ROISSY - CDG** (2h45)
- **STRASBOURG** (1h50)
- **LYON** (2h10)
- **LILLE** (5h15)
- **MARSEILLE** (4h30)
- **BRUXELLES** (4h50)
- **LONDRES** (6h)

Gare Besançon - Franche-Comté TGV is 15 minutes away from the city centre. It is connected to Gare Viotte with a TER shuttle bus.

You can buy your train tickets at the **SNCF website**.

ACCOMMODATION

Besançon offers different accommodation options, find recommendations on where to stay on the **Tourism office webpage**.

Recommended hotels:

Hôtel Vauban - Single room 75€ - Contact: contact@hotel-vauban.fr

Le Sauvage Hôtel - Single room 115€-135€ - Contact: on the website

Ibis centre ville - Single room 110€ - Contact: H1364@ACCOR.com

MOVING AROUND BESANÇON

Besançon is a town that can be easily explored on foot and it also offers different transport options.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT - TRAM & BUS

Download the app **Ginko Mobilités** to find all the information about the tram and bus lines. The tram runs from 5AM to 1AM 7/7 including bank holidays.

The contact number is +33 03 70 27 71 60.

TAXI

Find more information about taxis in Besançon **here**.

Contact them by phone (+33 03 81 88 80 80) or email (taxis.besancon@gmail.com).

VENUE

The Annual Forum 2025 will be held in different locations around the city.

Each journey will follow a different path around the city and **you can download the information sheets on the website.**

The main sessions will be organised in the following spaces:

Tuesday - April 8 from 17h00

Wednesday - April 9 from 08h30

Mairie de Besançon (Salle des portraits) - 52 grande rue / Place du 8 septembre

Thursday - April 10 from 08h30

Conseil Régional de Bourgogne-Franche Comté (Salle Victor Hugo) - 4 Square Castan

EXPLORE BESANÇON

Are you keen on exploring this beautiful town?

Besançon's heritage has been recognized twice by UNESCO: its Vauban fortifications are listed as a World Heritage Site, and its craftsmanship of mechanical watchmaking and art mechanics are listed as intangible heritage. It is also a town with an extraordinary environment and generous nature assets, where in a few minutes you can reach wide open green spaces inside the town itself.

All the must-sees are included [here](#).

Looking for more inspiration on what to do? Check [this website](#).



We hope you enjoy your stay in Besançon and forge meaningful connections during our annual forum!

See you soon!

The forum is co-organised with: