

Q/ Jublains

29km/30'

An exceptional Gallo-Roman site among the very few in France North of the Loire river.

Roman capital of the Diablintes people. Walk around a remarkable site and visit the Roman baths, the Theatre, the Temple and the intriguing Fortress. Do not miss the little jewel of an archeological museum.



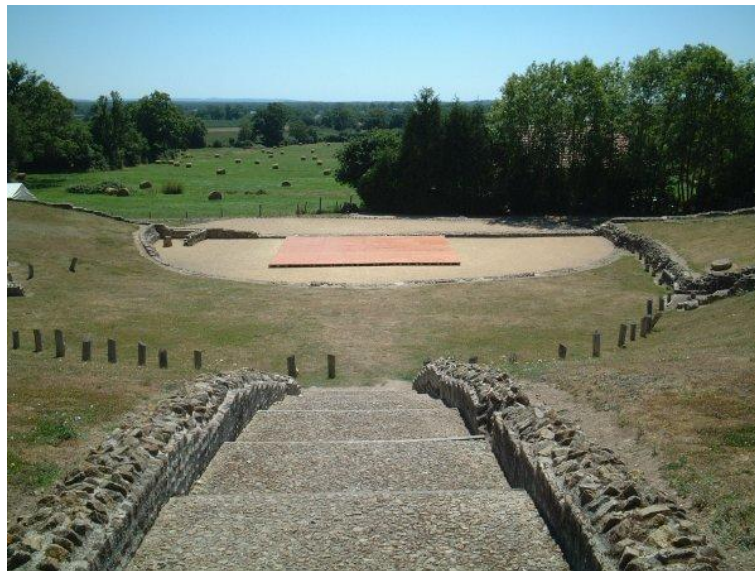
The Fortress

www.aqua.be/news/article-10596.php

The modern town of Jublains is built on the site of a major Roman settlement and Gallo-Roman town known as Noviodium (New Town). There are four major ruins that you can see today; the temple, the baths, the amphitheatre and the fortress. These, together with the museum, offer the visitor an insight into the ancient history of the area and its peoples.

Begin with a visit to the museum and start with the introductory video (in English on request). The exhibition as a whole explains the evolution of the Mayenne over time, and shows many artifacts found on the various sites and in the surrounding area. Explanatory texts are in English and German as well as French and an audio guide is also available. The museum includes a large model of the town as it would have been laid out during Roman times, and you can take a virtual reality tour of the fortress under your own control. The fortress is alongside the museum and is unique in design in the known Roman empire; it was funded by the Roman administration but appears to have been for storage rather than for military purposes.

Not far up the road is the amphitheatre, donated to the town by a wealthy Gaul named Orgetorix. Excavations have shown that the site held two successive theatres, perhaps to cater for changing tastes in entertainment. Nowadays it is used for music and drama performances during the summer.



The Amphitheatre

A church was built over the Roman baths, but these been excavated anyway (and the church is no longer in use as such, though the walls remain) , and this site in the town centre can be viewed whenever the museum is open.

The site of the temple is a few hundred meters to the North at the edge of the town, and explanatory texts are presented at various positions along the way, again in English, French and German.



On the way to Jublains, if you wish to take small roads, take the D238 out of St Germain, direction Ize. After crossing the D16, continue for half a kilometer and take a right on the D539 to St Thomas de Courceriers.

On the way to St Thomas, you will be rewarded as you pass through a very nice area comprising

- A beautiful stone Roman bridge across the Vaudelle (a perfect picnic site)



- The Chateau de Courceriers (private) and a mill right across the road



- And finally, “Le Portail”, which dates back to Louis XIV and was actually a toll gate (where the road takes a sharp turn –it used to be straight, and you had to go through the edifice).



Photo credit : Denis Transon