



The nearest town is Avallon, about 10 km to the west along the D957. There's an Auchan supermarket on the outskirts of Avallon on the road towards Tonnerre (D944). There's a great farmer's market on a Saturday morning in the covered market hall to the left of the boulevards and gardens in the centre of town. Half the town watches the other half of the town from the terrace of the café de Europe in the centre overlooking the roundabout! It has a wonderful atmosphere. Walk up the main street opposite (which looks as though it ought to be a pedestrians only street – signed 'pietons' but isn't) to find the tourist office, cathedral and, at the end, ramparts of the old town walls overlooking the tight little valley of the River Cousin - delightful.

Must visit...

Vézelay, west of Avallon. Mediaeval starting point for pilgrims walking to Spain ! Big cathedral. Touristy but worth it. In the village of St. Père, just before Vézelay is 'L'Espérance' - restaurant run by Marc Meneau, reputedly about the best in France ....Can anyone afford it?

Semur-en-Auxois. About 30 km to east of Montréal. Charming mediaeval fortified town with towers (splitting apart) and pretty little cathedral. On the way is Epoisses, famous for its lovely chateau and its creamy cheese.... consume both.

Beaune is an hour down the A6 motorway, the heart of red wine country. Town of pattern-tiled roofs. Touristy but classy shops, museums and restaurants. The mediaeval hospital is a 'must visit'. Beaune is the centre for touring the wine villages of the Cote D'Or (Nuits St. George etc.)

Chablis (white wine) is to the east of Auxerre, about an hour's drive north of Montreal/Avallon.

If you follow the little roads round to the north of Montréal, stop off at the town square in the centre of L'Isle-sur-Serein and have a drink in the bar opposite the church. There's also a very good restaurant in L'Isle (quite expensive but the best for a special occasion) called Le Pot d'Etain.

Dijon is the regional capital ... an hour and a quarter down the A6 (péage) and then down the long hill of the A38 into the city. A smart place for a day out (good shops, cinemas showing films with original speech and sub-titles in French) with excellent art gallery and museum in the old palace.

Look on the map to the east on Montréal to find the beautiful mediaeval hilltop village of Flavigny-sur-Ozerin where the film 'Chocolat', starring Juliette Binoche and Alfred Molina, was made. Well worth a visit.

If you want a day in Paris, get up early and drive to Montbard to the east of Montréal along the D957. Watch for the right turn to Montbard about 20 min down this road as you start the descent into the little river valley (allow 45 min overall) and catch the 7.30 a.m. TGV fast non-stop train to Paris' Gare de Lyon (takes 1 hr. 05 min). There's a choice of fast trains back in the early evening. You can park your car free at Montbard station.

Avallon styles itself the gateway to the Morvan National Park immediately to the south.... a large area of unspoilt hilly countryside with lots of sheep, white charolais cattle, chateaux, lakes for sailing, swimming, water sports. Popular with cyclists, walkers and naturalists.

There's a bar / brasserie in Montréal called 'Au\_Quinze' run by a brother and sister Marie & Arnaud where you can get a lunchtime meal, but every morning (latish) you'll hear a 'parp parp' of the bread van on the corner of the lane. And don't forget to walk up to the top of the village and see the collegiate church - a grand affair with mediaeval alabaster carvings done by a guy from Nottingham. 4 or 5 of the panels were stolen in 1971 - replaced by photographs!

The 3-dimensional carvings on the tops of the front pews are also a crowd-puller... amusing scenes of the Holy Family at home etc. circa 1550.

For evenings in we have a well stocked library of books, DVD and Videos.

Enjoy !

Graham & Christine.

0033 (0) 386 32 07 73

e-mail: [grahambattye@maisoncremeanglaise.com](mailto:grahambattye@maisoncremeanglaise.com)

The staff at the Avallon tourist office (just past the clock tower and just before the cathedral) are helpful and, of course, speak English (should you need to!)

Read and see more on our new and evolving website.....

[www.maisoncremeanglaise.com](http://www.maisoncremeanglaise.com)