

Lions are everywhere in the streets of Belfort – sometimes vestiges of the past, sometimes architectural or decorative features. Are you ready for an adventure? Then take a walk on the wild side and start hunting. Scan the buildings, observe the monuments' finest details and let the symbol of the city appear to you in its many forms.

This fun, family-friendly urban safari is also a genuine exploration of the city, from its noble Old Town to the more commercial Place Corbis district. The town was split into old and new at the end of the 19th century. Construction work on Bartholdi's monumental Lion, started in 1875, was experiencing delays – people had to wait until 1880 to see it finished. In the meantime, the local shopkeepers had become impatient and, from as early as 1874, they had started using its image.



The **Lion of Belfort** had become a source of inspiration. Many household goods were now branded with its name and image – clothes, biscuits, paint, shoe polish, fishing equipment... In 1875, in rue Porte de France, one of the most important grocers in the town, whose house was founded in 1825, ordered a sculpted lion from Paris. Unrelated to Bartholdi's, it can still be admired on the storefront which he had renamed *Épicerie du Lion* (Lion Grocery Store). At the same time, in rue des Capucins, the Wagner brewery was launching its new *Lion Beer*. While the sign has disappeared, there remains today a naive lion and an industrial-style building.

By now the theme inspired by Bartholdi and used by the Belfort trades people had also found its way into the decoration of buildings, either in the form of wrought iron or stone ornaments. This playful hunt for effigies of the king of the animals will have you take a closer look at the City of the Lion.



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SELF-GUIDED *Belfort*
DISCOVERY WALKS



2 THE BARTHOLDI WALK
URBAN LION SAFARI



Easy



~ 01:15



2.2 KM

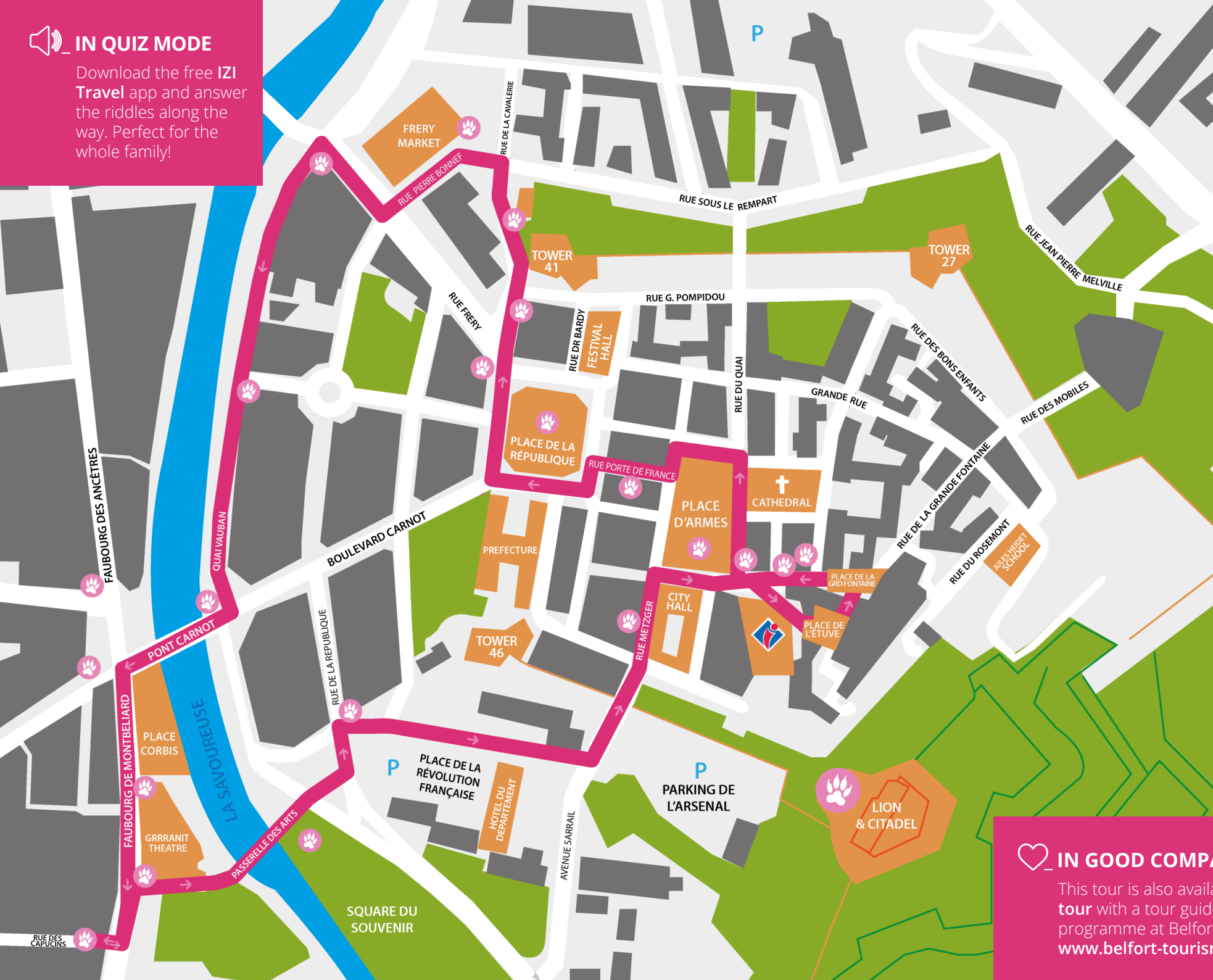


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