

# The Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

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## The sulphur springs of Yverdon-les-Bains

The springs were probably known and used even before the Roman era, at the time of the Helvetii, when the springs were a sacred place. Documents from the Middle Ages prove the existence of a spa centre as early as 1429, and mention several buildings.



Thermal Centre at Yverdon-les-Bains

By 1728, the authorities decided to have a new spa constructed. The 18th century saw major developments and brilliant success for the town and the spa. Then followed a period of decline; the spa lost its drive and popularity. The buildings were neglected and dilapidated.

In 1897, the local Council decided to reconstruct the spa centre and to renovate its hotel. During the First World War, the number of guests significantly declined again. However, the reputation remained intact, until the 30s.

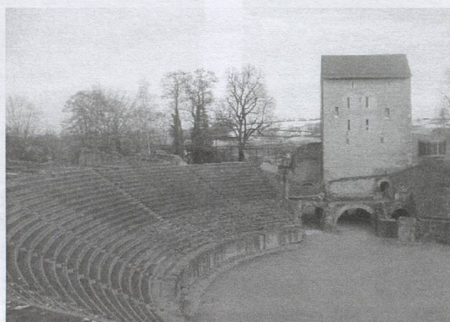
By 1960 the centre was again so dilapidated that it had to be closed. The Municipality purchased the spa, including the neighbouring Château d'Entremonts. Restoration failed twice, but the spa eventually reopened in 1977. Prospects for further thermal springs were successful in 1982, and a new outdoor pool could be added a year later. Today, the spa welcomes more than 1.200 visitors per day.

from the internet

## Aventicum

Prosperous commerce, flourishing trade, approximately 20,000 inhabitants, stately mansions and temples protected by a five kilometre long, nearly seven meter tall wall with over 70 towers: This was Aventicum, over 2000 years ago.

Aventicum, which is today called Avenches, was the capital of the Helvetians and of the Roman colony. At that time still located on Lake Murten, it became an economic, spiritual and cultural center thanks to its good traffic links and trade routes.



Amphitheatre of Aventicum

What remains today of the impressively large buildings are the eastern gates and a wall tower, the forum's thermal baths, the amphitheatre with a capacity of up to 16,000 persons, temple ruins as well as the Cigognier sanctuary. The museum displays important finds: the copy of the 33-centimeter-tall golden bust of Emperor Marc Aurel, mosaics, stone inscriptions and numerous artifacts of the Romans' daily life.

From the internet

*Aventicum is a popular Schullreise-destination. Especially the well-preserved amphitheatre captures the imagination of most students. When we were there, we saw a lion. A lion? Well, it was a rather small lion, and it followed us around, and it didn't attack us, but purred, and even the most timid student tried hard to capture its attention. Our lion was much more important to my students than all the Roman ruins...*

tb

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