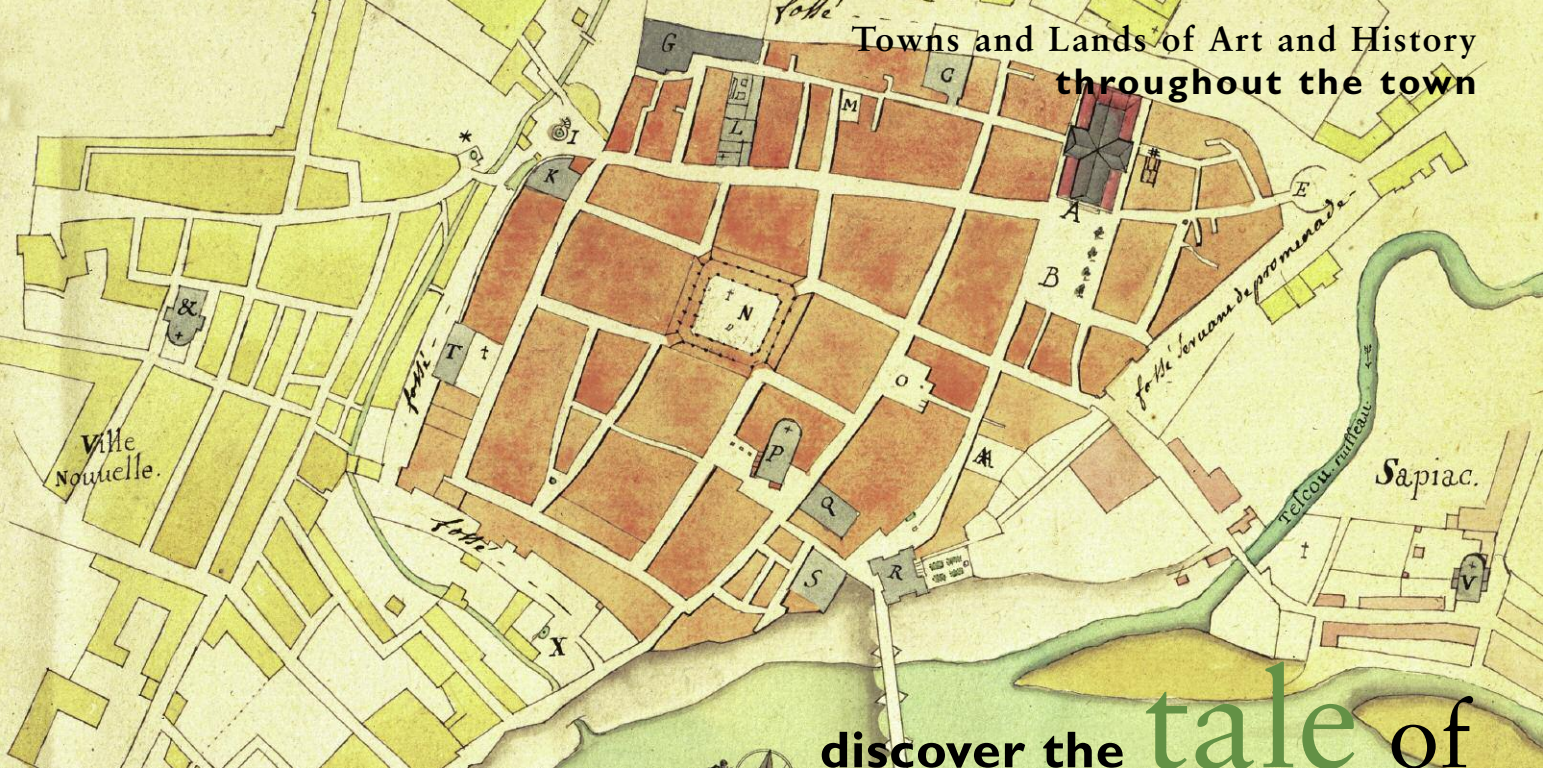


Towns and Lands of Art and History
throughout the town



discover the **tale** of
Montauban



The outline of a town

At the confluence of the Quercy, the Rouergue and the Aquitaine, in the heart of a vast agricultural region, Montauban rises like a sentry on the River Tarn.



Despite town planning operations conducted over the last century (restructuring of building blocks, openings, creation of squares), the town's original outline remains clearly visible. The former ramparts have made way for a ring road.

Born in 1144

Montauban was founded in October 1144 by the Count of Toulouse, Alphonse Jourdain. Thus, he satisfied the desire of the inhabitants of the small town of Montauriol to be freed from the influence of the Saint-Théodard abbey. The creation of this new city was to offer the Count of Toulouse full control of the north-western extremity of his territory and to develop trade activities there. Built according to a grid pattern arranged around a central square, it can also be considered as the first new medieval town in south-western France.



Montauban's coat of arms with willow branches and fleur-de-lis symbolises the town's incorporation within the French Crown in 1271.



The Cours Foucault, created in 1697 by the provincial intendant, Nicolas-Joseph Foucault, was a highly popular walkway among Montalbanians.

The town is said to owe its name to the willow tree

Montauban's name is generally attributed to *mons alba*. In Occitan, *alba* means "willow". This very probably alludes to the site's early appearance, *mons alba* referring to a hill covered with willows.

... nevertheless

Occitan etymology leaves room for doubt. Perhaps the town's name originates from the Latin *mons albens* ("white mountain", possibly referring to the white willow foliage?), as opposed to *mons aureolus*, ("golden mountain") later to become Montauriol. The first theory was to offer the Montauban coat of arms, representing a willow at the top of a hill.

A town encircled by ramparts

Montauban was established at the confluence of the Rivers Tarn and Tescou and the Lagarrigue stream. Naturally protected, it offered a refuge for the surrounding population as from the late 12th century. However, the town was rapidly to extend beyond its ramparts. The arrival of religious orders, who had no choice but to establish their monasteries and convents outside the city walls, was to encourage the development of the first inner suburbs. Montauban surrendered to the Reformation around 1560. The following year, the population pillaged and burned down Catholic edifices, the ruins of which were used to reinforce fortifications. Henri de Navarre, who regularly stayed in the town, had the inner suburbs of Villebourbon and Villenouvelle developed within the new city walls.



Facade of the former Post Office. A proliferation of moulded brick decorations appeared throughout the 19th century, under the impetus of the Toulouse-based Virebent factory.



Villebourbon's former indoor market. Skilfully exploiting the potential offered by reinforced concrete, Marcel Renard designed a truly bright edifice.

A town reshaped by the intendants

The town became the regional capital upon the creation of an intendancy in 1635 and a *Cour des Aides* (sovereign court) in 1661, thereafter undergoing a genuine metamorphosis during the 17th and 18th centuries. Intendants supervised the demolition of the ramparts, the development of the embankments and of landscaped courtyards. They offered Montauban a classical look which is distinguishable to this very day. The intendants' efforts were then taken over by the Catholic clergy, who embarked on major projects including the cathedral in 1692.

Urban planning in the inner suburbs

In the 17th century, town houses were built by rich industrialists and Protestant traders, offering the town its permanent aspect on the left bank of the River Tarn. The following century was to mark the town's extension beyond the former ramparts. The inner suburb of Moustier, along with the quarter around Lacappelle, both developed, whilst the Montalbanian bourgeoisie settled in fine residences on the Beausoleil heights. They contrasted with the decidedly more modest dwellings in the Sapiac and Villebourbon quarters, essentially housing the working classes. Immediately prior to the French Revolution, Montauban covered a total of 90 hectares and was home to 27,000 inhabitants.

A century of major construction

In the 19th century, Montauban's successive mayors undertook to modernise the town. New roadways were opened in order to lighten the town and to facilitate transport : Rue Mary Lafon, Boulevards Blaise Doumerc and Montauriol. These openings were simultaneous to the progressive covering of the Lagarrigue stream and the construction of the Pont des Consuls fortified bridge. Esplanades, public gardens and squares were also developed for the pleasure of the town's inhabitants. In the historic centre, edifices of Neoclassical inspiration were built, and their facades were adorned with bas relief. These terracotta decorations were to become typical features of Montalbanian architecture. The churches of Saint-Jean and Saint-Orens bear witness to the Neo-Gothic trend.

The town today

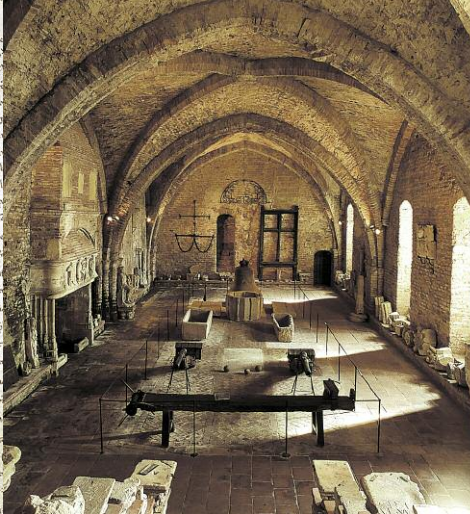
Up to the mid 20th century, Montauban appears to have remained somewhat dormant amidst its inner suburbs. The catastrophic flood in 1930, which destroyed the majority of the quarters on the banks of the Tarn, was to mark the dawn of a period of reconstruction, however lacking any genuine urban planning programme. A few buildings, such as the Villebourbon indoor market, were to bring a new architectural face to the town, making assertive use of reinforced concrete. After the war, the town was extended eastwards on flood free land. Industrial zones, housing estates and residential developments progressively swathed the surrounding countryside. Stretching over some 13,500 hectares, Montauban is one of France's vastest towns. Today, it is home to around 56,000 inhabitants.

The town over the centuries

After the Wars of Religion, the medieval city of Montauban, relying on trade and military activities and endowed with many a privilege, was to become a thriving industrial town with a classical face.



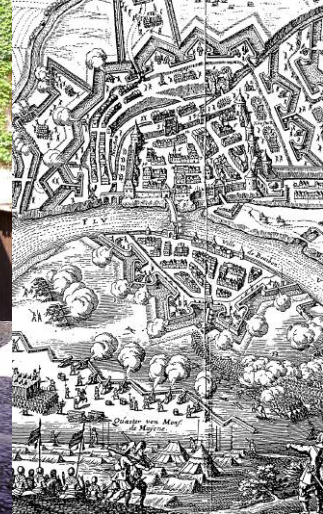
Medieval copy of the foundation charter of Montauban.



Built by the English during the Hundred Years' War, the Hall of the Black Prince, with its ribbed vaults, still bears the English leopard on one of its keystones.



The buildings comprising the Protestant theology college and academy were built from 1597 to 1598. A century later, they were transformed into a town house.



During the 1621 siege, King Louis XIII of France personally commanded his troops.

A free town

Si quelqu'un va dans ledit lieu pour y habiter et pour y bastir, il sera libre et à l'abri de toute poursuite étrangère.

(If anyone should go to the said place to live and to build there, he shall be free and protected against any foreign pursuit.)

Extract from the foundation charter of Montauban, 1144.

The legal and fiscal provisions featured in this text, granted by the Count of Toulouse, were to attract many craftsmen and traders to Montauban.

As from 1195, the town's management was entrusted to ten consuls, appointed for a period of one year. The Abbot Saint-Théodard and the Count of Toulouse remained, however, the lords of the town.

A prosperous city

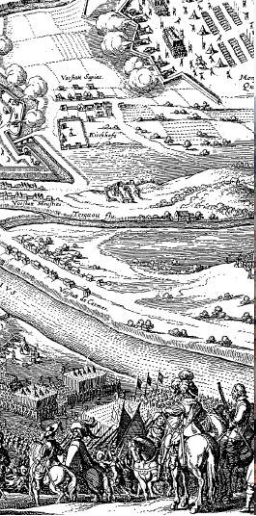
Hindered for a while by the Cathar crisis, Montauban's economy reached its peak in the late 14th century. The Bonis brothers' record of accounts is a precious relic from the period, bearing witness to the diversity of products sold in Montauban : silk from Alep, fine drapery from Flanders, dates from Alexandria...

Major construction work, including the church of Saint-Jacques and the Pont Vieux, also attest to the city's great vitality.

A border town torn apart by the war

The plague epidemics that struck Montauban as from the summer of 1348 were to mark the dawn of the city's decline. The Treaty of Brétigny, signed in 1360, conceded the town of Montauban to the English. Eight years later, the return of the French coincided with a new wave of privileges granted by the king.

However, it was only in the second half of the 15th century, and the end of the war, that the town recovered its bygone splendour.



The brick and stone cathedral towers above the entire town. It symbolises the Catholic recovery.



The former intendency, built in brick and stone, dates from the 18th century. It was later transformed into the préfecture and was extended in the 19th century.

The French Geneva

During the first half of the 16th century, intellectual effervescence among the student population was to encourage the emergence of Calvinistic ideals. At the heart of the Wars of Religion, Montauban rapidly asserted its position as one of the key Protestant strongholds, concurrently to La Rochelle. In 1570, the Peace of Saint-Germain-en-Laye designated Montauban as one of the kingdom's four fortified towns. The theology academy, founded in 1597, attracted students from throughout reformed Europe. In August 1621, Montauban valiantly resisted an attempted siege by Louis XIII's troops who had come to conquer the rebellious town. Montauban was only to surrender in 1629, following the capture of La Rochelle, and to open its gates to welcome the Cardinal of Richelieu...

The Catholic recovery

The desire to re-establish the Catholic faith and to control the rebellious city led to the construction of a new cathedral, the return of religious orders and the establishment of royal administrative bodies (intendency, *Cour des Aides*). Reconstruction was widespread throughout the town which, in the 18th century, was to enjoy unprecedented economic prosperity. The earthenware industry was thriving, whereas textile gained ground as from 1628 thanks, in particular, to the successful *drap de cadis* (warm woollen fabric).

A durable administrative vocation

Upon the creation of *départements* at the French Revolution, Montauban was relegated to the status of county town of the *département* of Lot. This decision was to considerably reduce the city's administrative authority, at a time when its economy was already struck by a serious industrial crisis. In 1808, the creation of Tarn-et-Garonne by Napoleon reinstated Montauban as a regional capital. The town was then to enjoy a period of intense intellectual activity with the creation of learned societies, the Ingres Museum and the Victor Brun Museum.

Revival

During the two World Wars, several regiments were stationed in Montauban, hence establishing its status as a garrison town. It also offered shelter for many refugees (in particular Spanish and Italian) fleeing from the war zone. This protective policy was to continue after World War II. During the *Trente Glorieuses* ("Glorious Thirty" post-war years), Montauban pursued its expansion, its growth relying on the development of administrative functions and the preservation of its agrifood industry.

A medley of flavours and skills...

Rich in colour, history and rural flavour, Montauban is a step-by-step discovery amidst the Midi's typically gentle way of life.

A pink town...

Montauban's exceptional architectural unity is reinforced by the omnipresence of red brick. Locally produced, it adorns constructions, from the humblest to the finest. Bricks are often protected by a coloured coating, only the painstakingly produced dressings on window and door frames remaining apparent. An evening stroll throughout the town's streets and alleyways offers an intense medley of pink and sky blue, illuminated by the last rays of sunlight.

...and green too

A succession of parks and green spaces punctuate the banks of the Tarn. To the northwest, the Cours Foucault with its chestnut trees overlooks the Île de la Pissote, an ornithological reserve. Further uphill, a promenade developed alongside the banks of the River Tarn, offers an opportunity to appreciate their charm. On the River Tescou, an enchanting pedestrian walkway meanders along the riverside through the botanic gardens. Finally, to the east, the rose garden boasts some 12,000 rosebushes with 1,100 different varieties, collectively forming one of Europe's finest sites.

Industry sustained by the River Tarn

In the 17th century, when peace was restored, Montauban became specialised in the production of *drap de cadis*, warm and sturdy woollen fabric which was exported as far as Canada, hence ensuring the town's renown. Other products contributed to Montauban's economic prosperity during the *Ancien Régime*, including, in particular, flour, leather, earthenware, brick and silk stockings. The River Tarn is navigable over one hundred kilometres, stretching from Gaillac to its confluence with the River Garonne, hence offering easy access to major Atlantic ports and, consequently, immense potential for the town's traders. After centuries of intense activity, the development of rail networks was to mark the decline of such river transport. In 1926, the Tarn was no longer listed among France's navigable waterways.



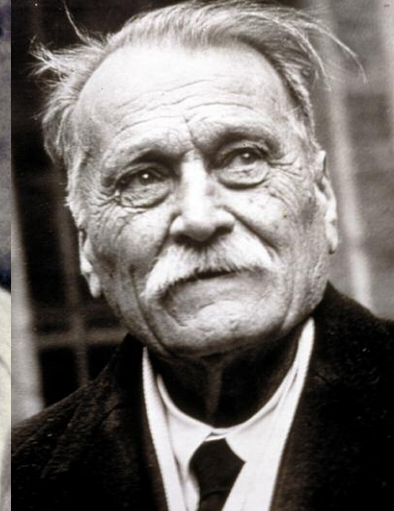
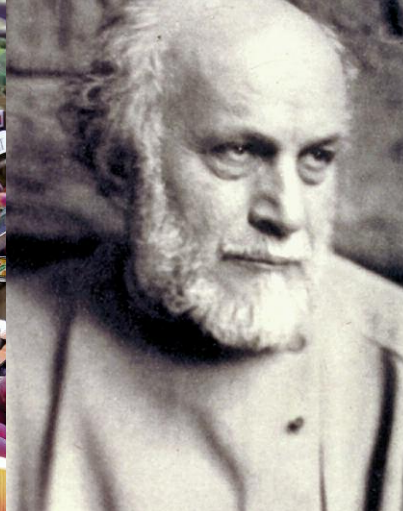
Detail of facade features,
Côte des Bonnetiers.



The 1914-1918 war memorial by Emile-Antoine Bourdelle stands in the heart of the Cours Foucault. The Montalbanian countryside is immediately behind it, covering 93% of the town's total surface area.



Laden with barrels of minot flour or cadis, barges skimmed over the River Tarn towards Bordeaux.



An inviting patchwork of colours entices the curious visitor to relish in this vast array of country flavours.

Emile-Antoine Bourdelle (1861-1929). His work is displayed in the Ingres Museum and throughout Montauban's squares.

Antonin Perbosc (1861-1944) Writer and ardent defender of the Occitan dialect. The library bears his name.

Market flavours and local accents

Montauban and its surrounding countryside have continuously produced fine fruit and vegetables. Sun-kissed apples, pears and peaches, along with red cherries, strawberries, plums bursting with sweet juices, golden chasselas grapes and delicious muscat-flavoured melon combine to illuminate the local markets. The Montalbanian table typically reunites a profusion of country produce. The air is filled with the delicate fragrance of Quercy black truffle, to accompany poultry and confit dishes. Patience is a virtue required to truly relish in the local *croustades*, *boulets de Montauban* and *Montauriols*, chocolate-covered cherries in Armagnac.

The local produce market is held on Wednesday mornings (Place Lalaque) and on Saturday mornings (Allées du Consul Dupuy).

“Allez Sapiac”

Since 1908, the Sapiac quarter has been resounding with the cries of keen supporters of Montauban's rugby team. Rebuilt after the war, and extended in 2007, the Sapiac stadium welcomes up to 9,200 enthusiasts during Top 14 and European Cup matches. The club won the French championship in 1967.

A liking for festivity

The summer season not only offers the town its finest colours, but it is also festival time. *Alors... CHANTE !* is an ode to French song, held in the month of May. A few weeks later, the Ancien Collège is home to Montauban's own film festival. Then in July, the shadowy setting of the botanic gardens welcomes *Jazz à Montauban*. Finally, every November, *Lettres d'Automne* brings a leading contemporary writer to the town.

Famous Montalbanians

- Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres (painter, 1780-1867).
- Emile-Antoine Bourdelle (sculptor, 1861-1929).
- Olympe de Gouges (woman of letters, 1748-1793).
- Jeanbon Saint-André (deputy of the National Convention, 1749-1813).
- Antonin Perbosc (Occitan writer, 1861-1944).
- Etienne Roda-Gil (lyric writer, 1941-2004).
- Roland Giraud (actor, 1942-/-).
- Philippe Labro (writer, 1936-/-).
- Daniel Cohn-Bendit (politician, 1945-/-).

A stroll from one site to the next

From the former Jesuits' College to the Place Nationale, via the cathedral or the Ingres Museum, discover the tumultuous yet glorious past of this proud brick-built city.



The facade of the former Jesuits' College once overlooked a vast garden, planted on the site of the town's old ditches.



The halls of the former intendency (today home to the *préfecture*) open out onto a charming landscaped garden with an icehouse.



The cathedral nave leads to a long choir which, in the past, offered shelter to the religious edifice's many canons.

1 The former Jesuits' College

The Jesuits arrived in Montauban in 1629, in the wake of Richelieu, later to purchase a town house in 1676 located in the town's north-eastern extremity, where they established their college and chapel (today the church of Saint-Joseph). The subject of several modifications and extensions, this austere architectural ensemble is centred around two courtyards, hitherto surrounded by gardens. The building was used as a gun foundry during the French Revolution, later to serve once more as a college up to 1961. Today, it is home to the Directorate for Cultural Affairs, the Dance Conservatory, the Tourist Office and the Heritage Centre. Opened in 2008, this new visitor centre offers a historical, architectural and sensitive portrait of the town.

2 The former intendency

In 1635, Montauban became the headquarters of the generality of Haute-Guyenne. In 1777, the intendant settled permanently in the Hôtel Prat Dumiral, beyond the former fortifications at the entrance to the Lacapelle suburb. The intendency has housed the *préfecture*, since the creation of the *département* of Tarn-et-Garonne in 1808 by Napoleon. The early construction comprised only two main buildings at right angles between the courtyard and the garden. The west wing was added in 1822, and doubled during the Second French Empire. The *préfecture* was extended in 2004 alongside the Allées de l'Empereur.

3 Notre-Dame Cathedral

Built partly of white stone on the town's highest plateau, the cathedral symbolises the absolute power of the Catholic royalty over the former rebellious town. Consecrated in 1739, it is the work of three royal architects : François d'Orbay, Jules Hardouin-Mansart and Robert de Cotte. The classical facade bears the statues of four evangelists, surmounted by the king's coat of arms carved on the pediment. The interior unveils an edifice with harmonious lines, highlighted by an intricately ornate dome mounted on pendentives. The cathedral houses remarkable interior furnishings : stalls (18th century), a carved walnut organ (17th century) and a Napoleon III style canopy. One of Ingres' finest works hangs in the north arm of the transept, *The Vow of Louis XIII* (1824).



Detail of the Hôtel Mila de Cabarieu portico.



The first steps of the town hall's grand staircase are made of stone, followed by wood for the upper floors in order to lighten the overall structure. A wrought iron banister runs throughout.



The Hôtel de Monmilan's courtyard houses a statue of a dog within a niche, probably of a later date.



Arches punctuated with monumental pilasters, facade brick string-courses and the ribbed vaults of the Carmes Cloister are evocative of the Place Nationale.

4 The Hôtel Mila de Cabarieu

At number 24, Rue des Carmes, stands an impressive early 18th century town house. Named after the lieutenant in command of the provincial regiment of Montauban, who became the house's proprietor in 1777, this fine residence boasts a west wing adorned with a portico formed of depressed arches supported by imposing brick columns. The first floor grand reception room has preserved decorative features created by Ingres' father in 1789 and 1790.

The Hôtel Mila de Cabarieu is not open to the public.

5 The town hall

This town house belonged to Paul-Antoine d'Aliès de Réalville, president of Montauban's *Cour des Aides* during the 18th century. It was then used for a short period by the intendants before the establishment of the bishopric in 1823. Work in the adjoining street in the 1860s led to the reconstruction of the house's facades and portal. The clock and the town's coat of arms were added after town council took quarters within these walls in 1908. Successive alterations have, nevertheless, preserved the edifice's original outline.

6 The Hôtel de Monmilan

Built during the first half of the 18th century, the distinctive feature of this town house is its monumental portal adorned with four ionic columns. The wrought iron tympanum bears the intertwined initials of André Duval de Monmilan, the residence's proprietor in 1790 and heir to the Arduis earthenware production by royal appointment.

The Hôtel Monmilan is not open to the public.

7 The Carmes Convent

This ensemble bears witness to the return of the religious orders after the Wars of Religion. Completed in 1717, the cloister is reminiscent of the architectural harmony of the Place Nationale. Sold during the Revolution, the church has since been entrusted to the Protestant faith. Today, the monastic buildings house several municipal departments, along with the conservatory of music. Restored in 2006 in keeping with its medieval tradition, the garden comprises four plots with medicinal and ornamental plants, along with fruit and vegetables.

A stroll from one site to the next



Ginkgo biloba (left) and Lebanon Cedar (right) in the botanic gardens.



The assembly of the three-point arches, together with the use of reinforced concrete, enabled the construction of the Pont Neuf to include extremely delicate features and a markedly hollowed structure.



On the left bank of the River Tarn, fine town houses, the majority of which were built during the 17th and 18th centuries; in the background, the belfry of the church of Saint-Orens.



The Pont Vieux links either bank of the Tarn, and has, over the centuries, resisted the most spectacular of water levels.

8 The botanic gardens

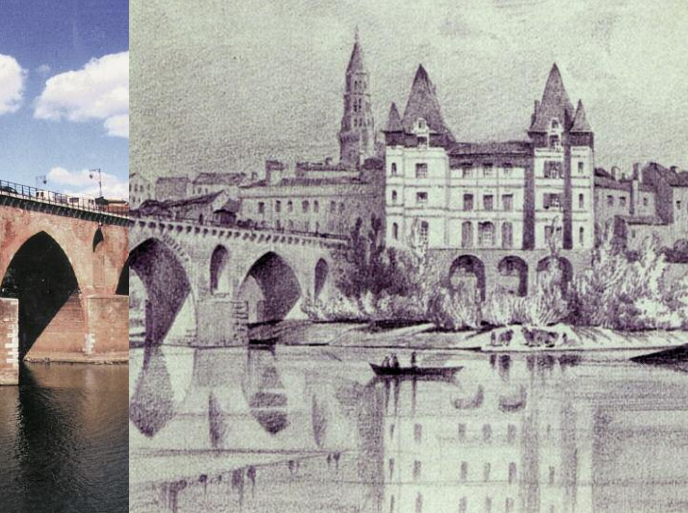
This landscaped garden was inaugurated in 1861. It covers a total surface area of 3 hectares on either bank of the Tescou. Inspired by romantic gardens, it offers a medley of curved pathways, patios, sculptures and rockeries. Around 400 trees and bushes take the visitor on a genuine journey across the globe via European hackberries, Chinese ginkgo Biloba and giant American redwood. This one originates from Indian territory, and was offered to the Osages and Cherokee tribes in 1996. Alongside the exit by Grand'Rue Sapiac, white mulberry trees remind us of the town's former silk-worm breeding activities (associated with its silk production).

9 The Pont Neuf

Long-awaited by the Montalbanians, the Pont Neuf was opened to traffic on the 29th of June 1913, offering an alternative to the often congested Pont Vieux. At a time when metallic bridges were still in fashion, the civil engineer Simon Boussiron opted for a decidedly modern design, in the form of a reinforced concrete structure. Thanks to two arches, respectively spanning over 53 and 56 metres, the relatively thin vaults and hollowed features, he successfully overcame the constraints of the Tarn's high water levels.

10 The left bank of the Tarn

The Villebourbon quarter stretches across the bank opposite the Pont Neuf, and owes its name to Henry IV, the first Bourbon king of France. During the Wars of Religion, the quarter reunited two former inner suburbs, protected by a bastioned fortification. The proximity of the Tarn facilitated the establishment of millers, dyers and linen producers. Their sumptuous town houses align the embankments, developed as from the 18th century. The quarter was rebuilt and modernised following disastrous flooding in 1930. A few examples of art deco architecture punctuate the urban landscape, in particular in Place Lalaque (the former indoor market).



The former Episcopal palace, today the Ingres Museum, extends a majestic welcome to visitors at the entrance to the town.



Portrait of Caroline Gonse, Ingres



The bird room in the Victor Brun Museum.

11 The Pont Vieux

Already planned within the town's foundation charter dating from 1144, the bridge was only actually built in the early 14th century, following approval and support from the King Philip IV the Fair. Hitherto protected by towers, it was an integral part of the town's defences. This 205 metre-long bridge comprises a flat roadway, quite exceptional at the time. Its seven arches armed with cutwaters and high openings have enabled the bridge to resist the Tarn's cruellest water levels.

12 The Ingres Museum

During the Hundred Years' War, the English undertook to build a new fortress on the site of the former count's castle. However, it was never completed. In 1664, the bishop Pierre de Bertier had a striking palace built on the vestiges of the English construction, which today houses the museum's lower rooms. Overlooking the Tarn, this vast town house encircles a courtyard, closed by a blank wall adorned with a majestic porch. After the French Revolution, it was used as the town hall, to be progressively transformed into a museum during the 19th century. Today, the low rooms house stone and archaeological collections, a fine collection of earthenware, along with temporary exhibitions.

On the ground floor, two halls house sculptures by Emile-Antoine Bourdelle. The first floor is devoted to the work of Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres. A collection of paintings, objects and antiques is displayed, within an exceptional scenographic setting. The second floor offers the visitor a panorama of 17th and 18th century European painting.

13 The Victor Brun Museum

The Victor Brun Museum collections are displayed on the second floor of the former palace of the *Cour des Aides*, the facade of which was rebuilt in 1836, bearing witness to the Neoclassical movement. Opened in 1854 above the commercial court, the museum is an invitation to immerse oneself in the history of life and earth sciences. Among the many species presented, the bird collection is one of the most remarkable throughout Europe, thanks to its wealth and excellent state of preservation. The palaeontology collection includes a noteworthy series of phosphorite fossils from the Quercy region. Finally, the mineralogy display cabinets include, in particular, fragments of the famous Orgeuil meteorite which struck Montauban in 1864.



Little egret.



Alongside the Quai Montmurat, the impressive brick facades of the conventual buildings conceal the austere architecture of the cloisters.



Door knocker.



Portal of the Hôtel de Lefranc de Pompignan.

A stroll from one site to the next

14 Île de la Pissote

In the heart of the town, the Île de la Pissote is a remarkable reserve for nesting birds. Mallard ducks, common moorhens, common kingfishers and grey wagtails cohabit on the riverside. However, the finest spectacle is up in the trees ! From late winter to early summer, they offer shelter to a colony of reproducing black-crowned night herons, cattle egrets and little egrets.

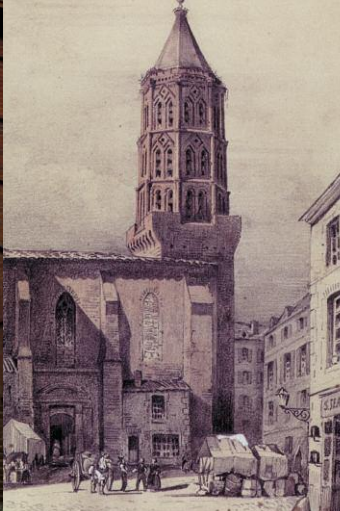
15 The Quai Montmurat Convents

When religious peace had been re-established (1629) and the religious orders had returned to the town, new convents were built. Three of them align the Quai Montmurat. First of all, the former Clarisse convent which, after 1631, was to replace an older establishment. After the French Revolution, it became the Protestant theology academy and, today, houses the Protestant Jean Calvin retirement home. The convent built by the Carmelites as from 1642 stands a few metres away. It has housed the Departmental Directorate for Planning and Infrastructure since 1981. Finally, the former Capucine convent, transformed into a theological seminary in the 20th century, is now a prestigious hotel.

16 The Hôtel de Scorbiac

The Hôtel de Scorbiac stands against one of the towers which protected the former Montmurat gate, today disappeared. A fragment of the tower has, nevertheless, been preserved in the garden. This town house suffered serious damage during the 1621 siege and was modified in the 17th century. Many a prestigious guest has been welcomed to the Hôtel de Scorbiac, in particular Henri de Navarre, Louis XII and the Cardinal de Richelieu.

The Hôtel de Scorbiac is not open to the public.



The church of Saint-Jacques in 1856.



In the heart of the city, Place Nationale embraces a fine arrangement of pilasters. It appears to be so regular, and yet...



Under the south and west covered galleries, the keystones bear their reconstruction dates.

17 Rue Armand Cambon

At the corner of Rue Léon de Maleville stand the vestiges of the Navarre college founded in 1579 by the future King Henry IV and his wife the Queen Margot. Built only from 1598 to 1599, the establishment was later extended to house a Protestant theology academy. It was administered by Jesuits following the town's surrender in 1629, later to be transferred to Puylaurens in 1659. The Hôtel Lefranc de Pompignan (late 17th century) is located at number 10, and boasts a richly adorned monumental portal. Jean-Jacques Lefranc de Pompignan, founder of the academy of science, literature and the arts, was father to Olympe de Gouges, the author of the Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne (Declaration of women's and female citizens' rights) in 1791.

The former Navarre college and the Hôtel Lefranc de Pompignan are not open for visits.

18 The Olympe de Gouges theatre

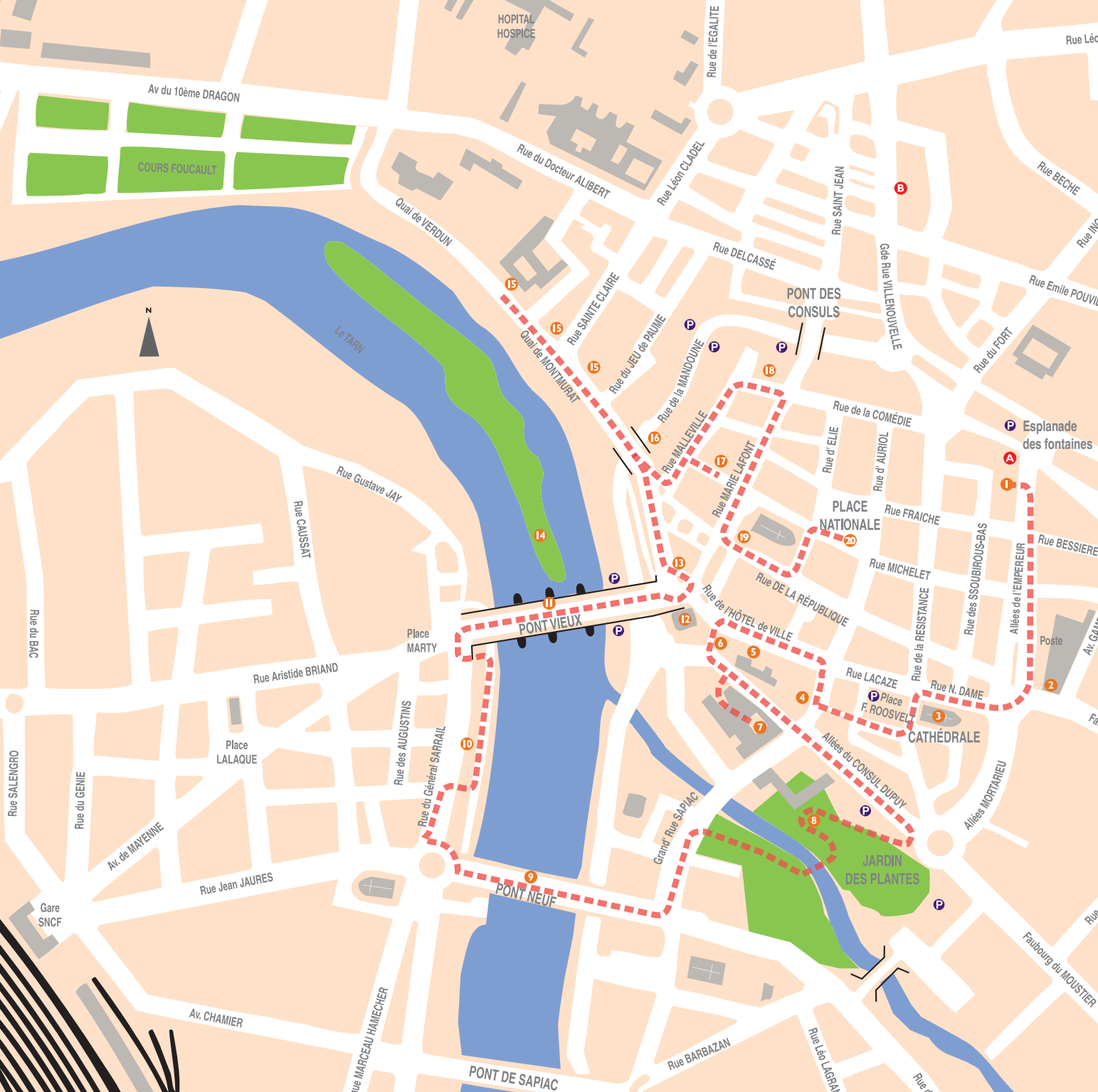
In the mid 18th century, the consuls endowed Montauban with a theatre. However, it proved to be too small and was rebuilt in 1849, inspired by its Italian counterparts. The creation of Place Lefranc de Pompignan in 1878 was to provide further space around the theatre, hence enabling the construction of a new facade in the 1930s. The theatre's impractical entrance located Rue de la Comédie was then closed. Of similar inspiration as the Place Nationale, the facade is adorned with four bas reliefs by the sculptor Abbal, representing Dance, Music, Poetry and Comedy.

19 The church of Saint-Jacques

Along with the Pont Vieux, it is the town's only remaining medieval vestige. All that remains of the second 13th century church are the Toulouse-style belfry and part of the nave. The flat chevet was replaced by a polygonal apse in the 14th century, a period during which the town enjoyed great prosperity and the church became the parish seat. Transformed into a watchtower (belfry), saltpetre workshop (nave) and small fort (choir) during the Wars of Religion, the facade of the church of Saint-Jacques still bears the scars of cannonball fire dating from the 1621 siege. Used as a cathedral from 1629 to 1739, it was later adorned with new lateral portals and a tribune in the 18th century. The Neo-Romanesque facade portal surmounted by a mosaic, dates from the 19th century.

20 Place Nationale

In the heart of the town, the square remains the focal point of the medieval grid pattern plan. Its trading vocation was established as early as the Middle Ages. The square's northwest angle formerly housed the "maison commune", the seat of the municipal authorities. Reduced to ruins by two successive fires in 1614 and 1649, it was entirely rebuilt thanks to royal generosity and to the consuls' determination. Completed in the early 18th century, it forms a harmonious and homogenous restored architectural ensemble. The facades conceal deep buildings embellished with pleasant inner courtyards adorned with galleries and staircases.



Av du 10ème DRAGON

COURS FOUCAULT

HOPITAL HOSPICE

Rue du Docteur ALIBERT

Rue de l'EGALITE

Rue Léon

Rue BECHE

Quai de VERDUN

Rue Léon CLAUDEL

Rue SAINT JEAN

B

Rue DELCASSÉ

PONT DES CONSULS

Gare Rue MILLENOUVELLE

Rue Emile POUVILLON

Rue du PORT

Quai de MONTMURAT

Rue SAINTE CLAIRE

Rue du JEU de PALME

Rue de la MANDOUNE

Rue de la COMÉDIE

Esplanade des fontaines

Rue Gustave JAY

Rue CAUSSAT

14

Rue MALLEVILLE

Rue d'ELIE

Rue d'JOURD

A

PLACE NATIONALE

Rue FRAICHE

Rue BESSIERE

Rue du BAC

Rue Aristide BRIAND

PONT VIEUX

Rue de LA RÉPUBLIQUE

Rue MICHELET

Rue des SSOUBIROUS-BAS

Poste

Rue des AUGUSTINS

Rue du Général SARRAIL

Rue de l'HÔTEL de VILLE

Rue LACAZE

Rue N. DAME

CATHÉDRALE

Place LALAQUE

Place F. ROOSVELT

Allées du CONSUL DUPUY

Allées MORTARIEU

Rue SALENGRO

Rue du GENIE

Av. de MAYENNE

Rue Jean JAURES

Gare SNCF

PONT NEUF

Grand' Rue SAPIAC

JARDIN DES PLANTES

Faubourg du MOUSTIER

Av. CHAMIER

Rue MARCEAU HAMECHER

PONT DE SAPIAC

Rue BARBAZAN

Rue Léon LAGRANGE

Rue



A stroll from one place to the next

This discovery trail offers you the opportunity to discover Montauban's history and heritage, throughout 20 key sites (presented over the previous pages).

On the banks of the Tarn, in the shade of a square or the verdant backdrop of the botanic gardens, take the time to enjoy a pleasant stroll...

For those looking for more detailed knowledge on the town, the heritage centre offers permanent and temporary exhibitions, flyers and brochures, together with many tours in the company of Ministry of Culture approved guides.

The town's 20 key sites

- 1 former Jesuits' college
- 2 former intendency
- 3 Notre-Dame Cathedral
- 4 Hôtel Mila de Cabarieu
- 5 town hall
- 6 Hôtel Duval de Monmilan
- 7 Carmes Convent
- 8 botanic gardens
- 9 Pont Neuf
- 10 left bank of the Tarn
- 11 Pont Vieux
- 12 Ingres Museum
- 13 Victor Brun Museum
- 14 Île de la Pissote
- 15 Quai Montmurat Convents
- 16 Hôtel de Scorbiac
- 17 Rue Armand Cambon
- 18 Olympe de Gouges theatre
- 19 church of Saint-Jacques
- 20 Place Nationale

- A** tourist office
- B** Resistance and Deportation Museum
- P** car parks

Other brochures from the same collection

- Discover the tale of the town hall
- Discover the tale of the botanic gardens
- Discover the tale of the Ingres Museum
- Discover the tale of the Victor Brun Museum
- Discover the tale of Montauban theatre
- Discover the tale of the rose garden
- Discover the tale of Montauban's protected environment
- Discover the tale of Montauban's 20th century architecture

Credits

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Centre du patrimoine
Montauban



Discover the tale of **Montauban**, a town of art and history...

...in the company of a Ministry of Culture approved guide

Your guide is there to welcome you. He/she is familiar with the finest features of Montauban and will offer you pointers to help you to fully appreciate the importance of a square and the development of the town throughout its different quarters.

Your guide is there to help you. So please feel free to ask questions.

The heritage centre

The centre coordinates initiatives launched by the historical town of Montauban and organises events all year round for Montalbanians and school group. The centre's staff would be delighted to assist in any project aimed at discovering the town.

If you are travelling by group

Montauban offers visits all year round, upon reservation.

Specifically designed brochures can be sent by the tourist office upon request.

Information, booking

The heritage centre

Ancien Collège - 2 rue du Collège

F-82000 Montauban

Tel: +33 (0)5 63 63 03 50 / Fax: +33 (0)5 63 91 31 77

artethistoire@ville-montauban.fr - www.ciap-montauban.com

Tourist Office

Esplanade des fontaines

F-82000 Montauban

Tel: +33 (0)5 63 63 60 60

Montauban is part of the **national network** of Villes et Pays d'Art et d'Histoire

(French Towns and Lands of Art and History)

The Ministry of Culture and Communication grants the label, Villes et Pays d'art et d'histoire to local authorities committed to revitalising their heritage. It guarantees the proficiency of staff and the quality of the activities they propose. From antique vestiges to 20th Century architecture, towns and lands of art and history put the great diversity of their heritage on show. Today, a network of 137 towns and districts offer their skills and know-how across France.

In the vicinity,

Cahors, Figeac, the Pays des bastides du Rouergue, the Pays de la vallée de la Dordogne lotoise, the Pays des Pyrénées cathares and the Pays des vallées d'Aure et du Louron have all been awarded the Villes et Pays d'art et d'histoire.

Entirely built of red brick.
Large, porous bricks that gently whistle
when slid one on top of the other and arranged
in piles.