



THE MONTAUBAN TRAIL

WALK FROM ONE END
OF THE CITY TO THE OTHER



Cultural Heritage Center

CIAP // Centre for the Interpretation of Architectural Heritage

VILLES
& PAYS
D'ART &
D'HISTOIRE
DIRE

MONTAUBAN, CITY OF ART AND HISTORY

A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

The poet Antoine Bourdelle once described Montauban as « *This corner of French land, with its old town, its shades of light, and autumn-coloured buildings* ». Antoine Bourdelle is a famous sculptor and painter, and Montauban's prodigal son, who like his predecessor Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, was also fondly attached to his place of birth.

This walk is a tribute to these two great modern artists, whose works can be admired in the Ingres Bourdelle Museum, in the cathedral, and on the streets at the heart of the city. We invite you to journey through the centuries, and the history of Montauban, from the founding of the city in 1144 to the present day. Montauban was a busy commercial centre in the Middle Ages, and was the focus of many battles during the Wars of Religion. The city was alive with the sounds of industry under the "Ancien Régime", the political and social order prior to the French Revolution. It was a sanctuary throughout the wars of the 20th century, and has always demonstrated the tenacious character of its people, and was the birthplace of Olympe de Gouges.

Montauban is a city proud of its glorious past and its remarkable architectural heritage, set in a rich agricultural region, which now faces the future with determination, and welcomes you with all the generosity of the Southwest.

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THE HISTORY OF MONTAUBAN

**AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE QUERCY, THE
ROUERGUE AND AQUITAINE, MONTAUBAN STANDS
AS A SENTINEL ON THE BANKS OF THE TARN, IN
THE HEART OF A VAST AGRICULTURAL REGION.**

FROM ITS FOUNDATIONS TO THE REFORMATION

*Anyone who goes there to live and build their
home, will be protected from outside threats.*

(Excerpt from Montauban's founding charter, 1144).

FOUNDED IN 1144

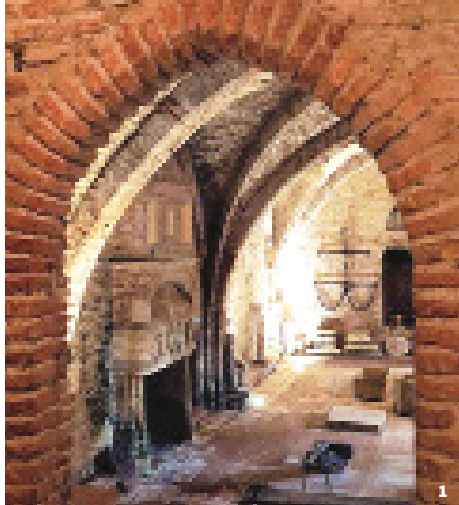
Alphonse Jourdain founded Montauban in 1144, on a plateau overlooking the confluence of the Tarn, the Tescou and Lagarrigue Creek. The Count of Toulouse did as the inhabitants of neighbouring Montauriol bid, which was to free them of the influence of St. Théodard's Abbey. But it was also to create a new city, to strengthen his position in the north-west, and to establish a secure base on the road to Paris. This new fortified town was called Mount Albanus (White Mountain) or Montauban, which either referred to the silver-coloured willow trees, or because it was the first construction on this site.

AN ADVANTAGEOUS LIBERAL CHARTER

The legal and economic provisions incorporated by the Count of Toulouse in its founding charter, attracted many artisans and merchants to Montauban. Soon, people started to leave the neighbouring village of Montauriol in favour of the new town. In 1195, a charter entrusted the town's management to ten consuls appointed for one year. However, the abbot of Saint-Théodard and the Count of Toulouse remained the lords of the city.

THE CITY GREW WELL BEYOND ITS WALLS

The town's economy started to develop once again, after the end of the Cathar revolt, in the second half of the 13th century. Saint James' church (église Saint-Jacques) was enlarged, while the mendicant orders (Carmelites, Franciscans, Dominicans, and the Order of St. Clare) built their convents outside the town, and established the first suburbs. When the last Count of Toulouse died in 1271, ownership of Montauban passed to the King of France.



A PROSPEROUS CITY

The local economy was booming at the beginning of the 14th century. The town was endowed with a bustling market and a thriving wine trade, benefiting from Montauban's position at the crossroads of transport routes: the Tarn is navigable as far as the Garonne. Merchants such as the Bonis brothers made their fortune in Montauban, as evidenced by their financial accounts which are still in today's archives. They show the many exotic goods that were traded in Montauban, including silk from Aleppo, fine cloth from Flanders and dates from Alexandria.

DESTROYED BY THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR

The plague in 1348 and the beginning of the Hundred Years' War, marked a troubled period for Montauban, culminating in the Brétigny Treaty (1360), which ceded Montauban to the English. The French returned to Montauban eight years later, after the French king granted it new economic privileges. But it was only in the second half of the 15th century, and the end of the war, that the city was restored to its former glory.

FROM THE WARS OF RELIGION TO THE REVOLUTION

In the first half of the 16th century, intellectual activism in student circles, favoured the development of Calvinist ideology.

MONTAUBAN - THE FRENCH GENEVA

Montauban was known as the French Geneva and from 1560, was highly influential in the Protestant Reformation. In the following year, the population burnt down many Catholic churches, and used the debris to build fortifications. The peace treaty signed in Saint-Germain-en-Laye made the city one of the kingdom's four strongholds, and Montauban established itself as a significant Protestant bastion. Henri de Navarre, who stayed here on many occasions, extended the city's fortifications to include the outlying districts of Villebourbon and Villenouvelle. Under the auspices of national synods (church councils), the theological academy attracted numerous students and priests of renown. In August 1621, Louis XIII besieged the city. The local inhabitants resisted ferociously and the plague epidemic forced him to abandon his siege in November of the same year. Montauban resisted being incorporated into the French kingdom until 1629.

RE-CONQUERED BY THE CATHOLICS

After its recapture by royal forces, Cardinal Richelieu wanted to ensure the loyalty of this rebellious city. The establishment of royal stewardship ('Intendance') in 1635 and an Aids Court (1661) attracted Catholic nobility and consecrated Montauban as the new regional capital. The fortifications were dismantled, wharfs were built along the river, and tree-lined promenades established, which transformed Montauban visually into a classical provincial city. The return of Catholic religious orders, the reconstruction of the cathedral and episcopal palace, and the destruction of Protestant temples, underlined the control that the Catholic Church imposed on the city.

A SECOND GOLDEN AGE FOR MONTAUBAN

Despite the religious tension, peace returned, and urban modernization brought unprecedented economic prosperity to the city until the French Revolution. Its economy was built on the textile industry, ceramics, the silk trade and flour production, in which the Protestants invested heavily, as they became more and more insulated from the authorities. The growing number of mansions erected by local merchants and nobles, throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, attest to the city's great wealth.

THE URBANIZATION OF THE SURROUNDING SUBURBS

Montauban was growing fast, and soon became one of the largest cities in the Southwest, extending far beyond its original fortified walls. In the 18th century, the suburbs of Moustier and Lacapelle started to develop, as the city's bourgeois merchants and traders built their residences on the sunny slopes of the Tarn. This contrasted starkly with the more modest areas of Sapiac, Villebourbon, and Villenouvelle, which were essentially inhabited by agricultural workers. As the Revolution loomed, Montauban stretched over an area of 90 hectares, with a population of 27,000.

1. The Black Prince's room (Ingres Bourdelle museum)
built by the English in the 14th century © MIB

2. The siege in 1621, detail of a German map, 1622 © BNF

3. Hôtel Mariette d'Auriol,
staircase, 18th century © CIAP

4. Ingres Bourdelle museum,
view from the Saint James church's bell tower © CIAP



GOOD AND BAD TIMES IN THE 19TH CENTURY

The city became the prefecture of the Tarn-et-Garonne department, at a time of serious industrial crisis, but nevertheless displayed a strong sense of culture.

AN ADMINISTRATIVE GARRISON CITY

During the French Revolution, the departments were divided up such that Montauban was simply a regional administrative centre in the Lot, while Cahors became the prefecture. This decision made the city much less important as a regional administration, and added to its economic woes. The creation of the Tarn-et-Garonne department by Napoleon in 1808, allowed Montauban once again to fulfil a more important role as regional capital. After the creation of the third Republic, four garrisons were stationed in Montauban, making it one of the foremost military towns in the Southwest.

A CENTURY OF BUILDING

The 19th century was difficult for Montauban. The administrative and agricultural sectors could not make up for the downturn in industry, despite the creation of the Montech

Canal in 1844, and the arrival of the railway in 1856. Successive mayors launched numerous programmes to modernize the city, which triggered significant migration from the surrounding countryside. New roads were created to facilitate traffic flow, such as the Doumerc and Montauriol boulevards. These advances also led to the progressive covering of the Lagarrigue stream, the building of the Consul's Bridge, and promenades and squares, to improve the city for its inhabitants. The building of schools and barracks, and the reconstruction of St. John's and St. Orens' churches, contributed to the rapid development of the suburbs.

CULTURAL LIFE

Despite the economic difficulties, the city was a centre for intellectual activity. The «Académie des belles Lettres de Montauban» is dedicated to the promotion of literature, science, and the arts in the region. High Society met regularly at the Academy and the Archaeological Society, and the theatre was so popular in the 19th century that it was enlarged. A gallery was created based on the works of Ingres, and was soon followed by a museum of natural science.



IMPORTANT CULTURAL CHANGES

Following the crises and military conflicts of the 20th century, Montauban adapted its economy to serve the business and administrative sectors, which led to significant urban development and population growth.

A TIME OF RENEWAL

Montauban's development stagnated somewhat, between the French Revolution and the beginning of the 20th century. The Tarn flooded in 1930, and destroyed many of the houses on its banks. This encouraged people to move away from the river, and the city started to grow on the hills above, to the north and east. In the reconstruction work that followed the flooding, Montauban acquired an indoor market, public baths, a sailing club, and a community centre (Maison du Peuple). The increased use of reinforced concrete, and the Art Deco style, led to new forms of architecture. In The Glorious Thirty (Les Trente Glorieuses, 1946 - 1975), the city benefited from the development of trade and administrative work and its (commercial and residential) urbanization continued. Gradually came council houses, suburbs and industrial centres, but these started to eat into the surrounding countryside.



MONTAUBAN - A SANCTUARY FOR MANY

Montauban took in many refugees over the 20th century. Italians fleeing Fascism, and Spaniards escaping civil war, came to work in Montauban. In 1940, the city welcomed a stream of refugees fleeing the German advance, until the entry of the Wehrmacht in November 1942. The local economy restarted after the war, as people left the countryside, and refugees arrived from Algeria to work in the construction industry and agriculture. Between 1946 and 1982, Montauban's population increased from 36,000 to 55,000. In 2019, the city counted 61,372 inhabitants.

1. The Villebourbon railway station in the 1900s
postcard © Bibliothèque Patrimoniale

2. The Olympe de Gouges theatre
façade 1930 © CIAP

3. Cité Chambord
one of the first council houses in Montauban, 1952 © CIAP

MONTAUBAN TODAY

PROUD OF ITS RICH ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE CITY HAS EMBRACED THE 21ST CENTURY.

MONTAUBAN: THE SIXTH-LARGEST TOWN IN OCCITANIE

Montauban now has a population of 61,372 (census of 2019) and is spread over an area of 13,500 hectares. In 1999, seven smaller towns and villages were brought together into a “community of communes” which in 2002 was upgraded to form an “agglomeration”. In 2011, Montauban was named Greater Montauban - “agglomeration of communes” - and covered an area of 258 sq km and included eleven individual towns and villages: Bressols, Albefeuille-Lagarde, Saint-Nauphary, Corbarieu, Villemade, Lamothe-Capdeville, Montbeton, Reyniès, Lacourt-Saint-Pierre, Escatalens and Montauban.

MONTAUBAN AND ITS RIVER

Montauban has drawn its wealth from the Tarn for centuries, established mills on its banks, and benefited from prosperous river trade. The river showed itself to be a capricious ally, communities on its banks were devastated by flooding on several occasions, notably Sapiac and Villebourbon (1566, 1573, 1618, 1652, 1766, 1772, 1930). The most recent occurrences, in 1982 and 1986, led to a major flood protection

system being built along the Tarn and the Tescou, which was completed in 2010. Dykes, locks, and paths were built within reach of the city centre, enabling visitors to discover the many bird species nesting along its banks. After extensive engineering work, the section of the Tarn between Port-Canal and Corbarieu was reopened to navigation in 2011, almost a century after the last boat in 1926.

A CITY BUILT IN BRICK

The successive flooding enriched the clay soils around Montauban, which led to the establishment of numerous brick manufacturers. Bricks have been produced locally in Montauban since the Middle Ages, and has led to the construction of buildings in similar architectural styles. Buildings are often lime-plastered in white or yellow brown, to protect them from the weather, leaving visible only the surrounds of ornate doors and windows. These multi-coloured buildings brighten up the otherwise quite sober façades, and brickwork is difficult to sculpt into elaborate designs.



A CITY OF SCULPTURE

Montauban's streets and squares are decorated with more than forty sculptures, lending it the appearance of an open-air museum. The city is particularly proud of the ten works by Antoine Bourdelle, native of Montauban.

Visitors can admire a wide range of modern sculpture from 1871 to present day, including statues of its favourite sons, monuments to the fallen, female allegories, and contemporary abstract art. The city continues to add to its collection, new works were recently installed in the renovated Allée de l'Empereur and Allée Mortarieu.

RUGBY CULTURE (THE OVAL BALL)

The chants of supporters have been heard over the roofs of Sapiac since 1908. The Sapiac stadium was rebuilt after the war, and enlarged in 2017 to its current capacity of 11,937. It was nicknamed the “cuvette” after a type of washing bowl that was used at the time for personal hygiene. The stadium has been home to some of US Montauban's greatest performances and was where they were crowned champions of the French Rugby Union league against CA Bègles in 1967.



A REGION OF FINE CUISINE

The regular flooding of the Tarn deposited rich alluvial soils on the surrounding countryside, more than half of the Montauban region is now devoted to agriculture. The region produces apples, plums, chasselas grapes and melons and large quantities of vegetables, full to the brim of local sunshine.

These wares are available for purchase in farmers' markets (Villebourbon on a Wednesday, Saturdays in Allée de l'Empereur and Esplanade des Fontaines).

BEST PLACE FOR A PICNIC

Montauban offers many places to enjoy a picnic, Treil Park, the Carmelite Gardens, the Jardin Des Plantes, Port Canal... (See map p. 22.)

1. The arrows of Herakles
sculpture by E.Prouchet-Dalla-Costa ©CIAP

2. Local producers market
© Office de Tourisme

DISCOVER MONTAUBAN WITH WIVISITES

The Centre for the Interpretation of Architecture and Heritage (CIAP) has partnered with Wivisites to provide information about the city, for those who wish to visit without a guide. Discover the history of beautiful Montauban with a geolocalized tour guide providing written information and audio sources.

WIVISITES - USER GUIDE

> On your smartphone

1. You can download the Wivisite app from the Apple Store or on Google Play.
2. Scan the QR code
3. Discover Montauban, *a city of Art and History*



> On your computer

1. Go to this website: www.wivisites.com
2. Search *Montauban*
3. Discover the sights of Montauban on a historical walking tour.
4. Start your tour here !

SIGHTS IN MONTAUBAN NOT TO BE MISSED

Discover Montauban's main monuments, the Place Nationale, Saint James' church (église Saint-Jacques), the Pont Vieux and the Ingres Bourdelle Museum.

Follow this walking tour to 10 locations.

> All you need to do is scan the QR code!

Duration: 1 hour



DISCOVER MONTAUBAN

Discover the rich history of Montauban, visit the Pont Vieux (Old Bridge), Saint James' church (église Saint-Jacques), and the cathedral. On the streets of Montauban, admire the façades of numerous 17th and 18th century mansions. Discover the Place Nationale, which has been the vibrant heart of the city since the 12th century.

Follow this walking tour to 20 locations.

> Just scan the QR code!

Duration: 1.5 hours



WALK FROM ONE END OF THE CITY TO THE OTHER

DISCOVER THE PROUD AND GLORIOUS HISTORY OF THIS CITY OF BRICK, FROM THE FORMER JESUITS' COLLEGE TO THE CENTRAL SQUARE (PLACE NATIONALE), THE CATHEDRAL AND THE INGRES BOURDELLE MUSEUM.

1 THE CIAP // CENTRE FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF ARCHITECTURE AND HERITAGE

Discover the architecture and heritage of Montauban with the CIAP, founded under the auspices of the Historical Towns and Regions programme, situated on the first floor of the Former College. The permanent exhibition at the CIAP presents the major historical events which influenced Montauban's development, from its foundation in 1144 to the modern day. Discover works of art on loan from the Ingres Bourdelle museum, and the collection of archaeological and cultural objects which explore the rich tapestry of the city's history. The gallery includes a scale model of the city under Protestant rule, and under siege by Louis XIII's army in 1621. Children can take part in a treasure hunt and a dominoes memory game. Learn more about some of the hidden and unknown aspects of the city, in one of the themed exhibitions regularly hosted by the CIAP.

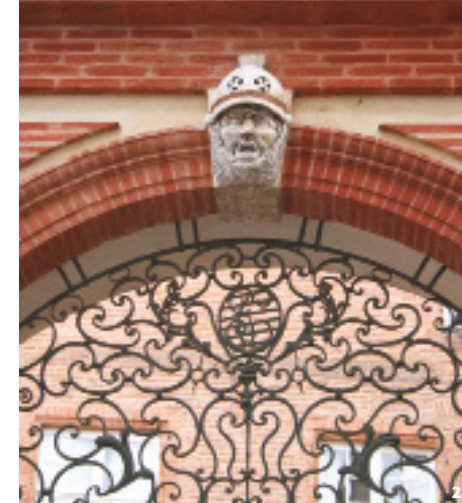
Entry to the exhibition area is free of charge.

2 THE FORMER COLLEGE

Cardinal Richelieu arrived in Montauban in 1629, and in 1676, the Jesuits acquired a mansion on the northeastern edge of the city, to build their new college and chapel (present-day Saint Joseph's church). The building surrounds two large courtyards, which result from several phases of renovation commissioned by the Jesuits. The gardens, originally situated on the other side of the building, no longer exist. It was repurposed as a foundry during the French Revolution, but was converted back into a school, which it remained until 1961. Today, it is home to the tourist information centre, the office for the development of culture and heritage, the dance academy and the CIAP.

3 THE OLYMPE DE GOUGES THEATRE, 1930

In the mid-18th century, the consuls commissioned the building of Montauban's theatre in Rue de la Comédie. The theatre turned out to be rather too small and in 1849 was rebuilt in the Italian style. The construction of Lefranc de Pompignan Square in 1878, freed up space around the theatre, and allowed a new façade to be built in 1931. Inspired by the Place Nationale, it is decorated with four bas-reliefs by the artist and sculptor Abbal, which represent *Dance, Music, Poetry, and Comedy*.



4 SAINT JAMES' CHURCH

Nothing remains of the original 12th century church, which was later rebuilt by wealthy Montauban families, to atone for their allegiance with the Cathars. A perfect example of southern Gothic architecture it has a vast ribbed vaulted nave, narrow windows, a polygonal apse and a Toulouse-style bell tower. The bell tower was transformed by the Wars of Religion into a watchtower, the nave into a salt-petre workshop and the choir into a small fort. The church still bears on its façade the marks of cannonballs fired during the siege of 1629. After being retaken by the Catholics in 1629, the King's minister Cardinal Richelieu, ordered the ruined church to be rebuilt exactly as before. The church was for a time a cathedral, between 1629 and 1739, as the previous one had been destroyed in 1561. Side portals were added in the 19th century, the façade was later embellished in a neo-Roman style, and the nave and choir were decorated with frescoes and sculptures.

5 RUE ARMAND CAMBON

At No. 10, is the 17th century Hôtel Lefranc de Pompignan which is distinguished by an impressive, ornately decorated doorway. Jean-Jacques Lefranc de Pompignan, poet and founder of the Montauban Academy, is rumoured to be the natural father of Olympe de Gouges, author in 1791 of the Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen. At No. 12 stands the former Protestant College, founded in 1579 with the patronage of the future Henry IV and his wife Margaret of Navarre. At the end of the 16th century, the Academy of Protestant Theology was installed here, which attracted many students, and some of the greatest pastors of their time. After a period of cohabitation with the Jesuits following the surrender of the city in 1629, the academy was transferred to Puylaurens in 1659.

The former Protestant College and the Hôtel Lefranc de Pompignan are not open to visitors.

1. Saint James church, belltower from the 13th century © CIAP

2. Hôtel Lefranc de Pompignan, portal, 17th century © CIAP



6 THE HÔTEL DE SCORBIAC

The Hôtel de Scorbiac was built against one of the towers which once protected the Montmurat gate. A round section of the tower remains, standing against the garden wall. Severely damaged during the siege of 1621, this private mansion was rebuilt at the beginning of the 18th century by the architect Cotin. The Hôtel de Scorbiac, probably welcomed prestigious guests including Henri de Navarre, Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu.

The Hôtel de Scorbiac is not open to the public.

7 THE ISLE OF PISSOTE

The Isle of Pissote is known for the remarkable birds that nest there. Ducks, Coot, Kingfishers and Yellow Wagtails live together on the banks of the island. But of most interest is what happens in the trees! In spring, a colony of Black-Crowned Night Herons come to breed here, as well as Cattle Egrets and Little Egrets.

8 THE MONTMURAT AND VERDUN QUAYS

The Quai Montmurat was built by order of Pellot, the quartermaster, in 1660, and today is a beautiful setting for the three convents that were erected here. The convent buildings are evidence of the Catholic reappropriation of Montauban after the city's surrender in 1629. The nuns of the Order of St. Clare settled here as early as the 13th century. Expelled from the city during the Wars of Religion, they returned in 1631, and started to rebuild their convent in 1641. It became a Protestant school of theology after the Revolution, and now hosts the Jean Calvin Protestant retirement home.

A few metres further on is the Carmelite Convent, built in 1642, occupied since 1981 by the Office for Urban and Rural Planning (Direction départementale des Territoires). The Capuchin convent, built in 1631, was subsequently transformed into a prison and then into a wool mill. It became an important seminary at the beginning of the 20th century, and is now a hotel. The Saint-Théodard Institute can be found at the end of the quay. The building was a private residence in the 18th century, and hosted a Catholic secondary school in 1830, later to be converted into the Saint-Théodard independent Catholic school. Today, the building is still a school.



9 THE COURS FOUCAULT

In the second half of the 17th century, bishops and royal administrators joined forces to make Montauban a modern, landscaped and airy city. In 1679, the royal administrator Joseph Foucault created the first public promenade here. The promenade had a dual purpose: first to reinforce the crumbling banks of the Tarn and to offer the people of Montauban a more pleasant area to walk and exercise outdoors. The Cours Foucault (promenade, avenue) extends over five hectares, was planted with elm trees, and was soon adopted by the city's well-to-do as a place to be seen, and to «take the air». At one end of the central promenade is a large monument to the victims of the First World War (1914-1918), created by the artist and sculptor Antoine Bourdelle.

10 LISTEN TO THE STORY OF THE TARN

Walk along the banks of the Tarn, where both upstream and downstream from the Pont Vieux, you can appreciate the beautiful architecture, the history of the city, and the impressive views.

Pick up your copy of the booklet "Focus on Montauban - the banks of the Tarn" which is available from the CIAP and the tourist information office.



11 THE VICTOR BRUN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Opened in 1854 on the site of the former Court of Aids, the Museum houses fascinating collections in the fields of natural history: zoology, mineralogy, palaeontology...

Many interesting specimens are available to view across five large halls arranged in the style of a traditional museum. The most notable are probably the emblematic Orgeuil meteorite, the enormous Indian elephant from the Pinder Circus, the incredible phosphorite fossils from the Quercy, and a large collection of 1500 birds including most European species.

In addition to the permanent displays, the museum organizes temporary exhibitions every year which focus on one specific aspect of their collection.

1. The former convents of the Poor Clares, the Carmelite and the Capuchin © CIAP

2. The 1914-1918 war memorial
A. Bourdelle, 1921-1932 © CIAP

3. The birds collection of the natural history museum
© Patrick Bastide



12 THE INGRES BOURDELLE MUSEUM

During the Hundred Years' War, the Treaty of Bretigny (1360) ceded Montauban to the English, who began to build a fort on the right bank of the Tarn, the left bank having remained under French control. By 1369, when the English left, the building was still incomplete.

In 1664, Bishop Pierre de Bertier decided to build his new episcopal palace on the ruins of the old fort. This huge private mansion is built around a courtyard, surrounded by a protective wall inset by a grand gateway. It became the city hall after the French Revolution and also housed the first municipal museum and art school.

On his death in 1867, Ingres bequeathed to his native city, the artwork that remained in his workshop, including 4,500 preparatory drawings, as well as his collection of antiques and his famous violin. The museum houses collections by another native of Montauban, Antoine Bourdelle (1861-1929), sculptures and paintings, engraved

For more information and to buy a ticket: www.museeingresbourdelle.com

13 THE OLD BRIDGE

The bridge was planned in the founding charter of the city in 1144, but was not built until the start of the 14th century, with the support of King Philippe the Fair (Philippe le Bel). The bridge was a feat of engineering, extending some 205 metres between the river banks, which were at different heights. Completed in 1335, the Pont Vieux was originally protected by two towers, and included in its centre, a chapel dedicated to St. Catherine, patron saint of bargemen. These structures were taken down over the centuries to favour easier movement of people within the town. Equipped with cutwaters (avant-becs), vents (ouïes), high arches, and robust piles, it has withstood the worst of the floods on the Tarn for seven centuries.

1. The Old bridge and the Ingres Bourdelle museum

© Service Communication /
Ville de Montauban

2. The Ingres Bourdelle museum

la salle Ingres © MIB





14 THE DISTRICT OF VILLEBOURBON

illebourbon is named in honour of Henri de Navarre, the future Henry IV and first king of the Bourbon lineage who, during the Wars of Religion, created this new district by amalgamating two older suburbs within imposing fortifications. It became home to many industries, flour mills, brick and dye factories, that took advantage of their proximity to the Tarn. The quay is lined with 17th and 18th century mansions built by wealthy owners of textile mills and traders, whose ground floor vaulted rooms housed workshops and warehouses. The level gauge on the quay recalls the flood of March 1930 during which the waters rose to 11.5 m above the riverbed. The district was redeveloped after the flood, and modernized to create wide streets and several beautiful Art Deco buildings.

15 THE COVERED MARKET

The covered market was designed by architect Marcel Renard and was inaugurated in April 1935. The architect took full advantage of the possibilities offered by concrete reinforced with glass, to build a bright and functional structure, a single large roof 24 metres long and 12 metres wide. Markets were held here until 1967 but the building has since been repurposed and has been used as a gymnasium, a bus station and a circus school. The covered market was designated a protected historical building in 2005.

16 SAINT ORENS' CHURCH

Saint Orens' church was inaugurated in 1891 and was designed by the diocesan architect Léopold Gardelle. It withstood the flood that partly destroyed the Villebourbon District in 1930. Paradoxically, the disastrous flood allowed the building and the bell tower, designed by the architect Germain Olivier, to be completed, thanks to generous donations from Paris City Hall to the stricken city. At 65 metres, it is the highest bell tower in the department. The church houses exceptional Art Deco stained-glass windows made by the master glassmaker André Rapp.

17 THE NEW BRIDGE

The bridge links the Sapiac District to Villebourbon, and was opened in 1913. The chief engineer Simon Boussiron used reinforced concrete at a time when most similar structures were built in metal. The bridge joins the original Pont Neuf spanning the Tarn, which was extended by the bowstring Pont de Lissac over the canal de Lissac, which is now underground. Boussiron resolved the challenge of bridging the Tarn (due to flooding) by building two relatively thin hollow arches of 53 and 56 metres long, made possible by using reinforced concrete. The Pont Neuf was designated a protected historical monument in 2005.

18 THE JARDIN DES PLANTES

This landscaped garden was inaugurated in 1861, and extends over three hectares on either side of the Tescou. It includes curved alleys, terraces, sculptures and rockeries and was designed in the image of romantic French gardens. The garden contains nearly 400 trees and offers a botanical journey through Hackberrys, Chinese Ginkgo Biloba and giant American Sequoia. In 1996, the Sequoia, representing strength and endurance, was planted in the Jardin des Plantes' Native American Garden, to honour the Osage and Cherokee tribes.

19 THE CARMELITE CONVENT

The Carmelite Convent is a testament to the return of Catholic orders after the Wars of Religion. Place Nationale influenced local architecture heavily, inspiring the cloister of the Carmelite Convent, completed in 1717. The church was sold at the time of the French Revolution, and is now part of the Protestant Church. The convent buildings once housed a school for young Catholic girls, but is now home to part of the city's administration and the Conservatory of Music. The convent garden was redeveloped in 2006, and is now composed of four plots planted with a mix of ornamental and fruit trees.

1. The covered market © CIAP

2. Saint Orens church
detail of a stained glass window
made by A.Rapp © CIAP

3. The New bridge © CIAP

4. The jardin des Plantes
entrance gate © CIAP



20 CARMELITES

Here once stood the Carmelite gate, one of the entrances through the fortifications. At number 28 is the Hôtel Delbreil, an imposing private mansion built in the 17th century. Higher up (at No. 24), a remarkable portico supported by brick columns, gives onto a large courtyard at the entrance to the Hôtel Mila de Cabarieu, a private mansion which was redesigned at the beginning of the 18th century. *These mansions are private and not open to the public.*

21 THE CITY HALL

The city hall was previously a private mansion belonging to Paul-Antoine d'Aliès de Réalville, president of the Court of Aids in the 18th century. It housed the royal administrators (intendants) for a time, before the installation of the bishopric in 1823. The redevelopment of the roadway in 1860 led to the reconstruction of the façades and the portal. The coat of arms and the clock were added after the city hall was established here in 1908. Later redevelopment work did not alter the original layout of the building.

22 PLACE DU COQ (SQUARE)

Place du Coq was built after the destruction of the main Protestant temple in 1664 and offers a breath of fresh air in a dense urban area. The collapse of the Lauthier Tower in 1910 cleared further space on the road to the city hall (rue de l'hôtel de ville). The tower served as a belfry and the bell is now under conservation in the Ingres Museum. To the southwest is Montauban High Court, an extension of the neo-classical courthouse built from 1837 to 1839 by the architect Fagneau.

23 VIEUX PALAIS PASSAGE

This name refers to the first Court of Aids, transferred from Cahors to Montauban in 1661. The court was responsible for judging the region's financial, fiscal and customs affairs, and from 1663 to 1673, sat in this private mansion which was rented to the city by Mr. Blazy. At the end of the passageway, the Hôtel des Caryatids, built in 1835, is noted for its loggia (covered exterior gallery), which opens onto Roosevelt Square. The caryatids and the decorations on the façade are moulded in terracotta, and were manufactured by Virebent.

24 CATHEDRAL - OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Built at the highest point of the city in the aftermath of the Wars of Religion, its pediment bears the arms of the King of France. The cathedral symbolizes the omnipotence of Catholic royalty over the former rebel Protestant City. Consecrated in 1739, the cathedral was designed by three royal architects, François d'Orbay, Jules Hardouin-Mansart and Robert de Cotte. The four statues of the evangelists on the façade, are copies of the works of the sculptor Marc Arcis. The original works, in a bad state of repair, were taken down and placed inside the cathedral.

The interior breaks with the aesthetics of Saint James' church (église Saint-Jacques). The high glass windows illuminate the nave, further accentuated by the brightly whitewashed walls. The cathedral houses remarkable items, including a 17th century walnut organ, an 18th-century pulpit and a Napoleon III canopy from the 19th century. The northern arm of the transept houses one of Ingres's major works, the Vow of Louis XIII (1824). In 2010, the French state financed the renovation of the Great Sacristy, which is now open to guided tours organized by the CIAP.

25 THE PREFECTURE

Built at the entrance to the Lacapelle Faubourg, Dr. Prat Dumiral's private mansion housed the intendant, the king's representative in Montauban, at the end of the 18th century. It was therefore normal for the public authorities to acquire it to house the Tarn-et-Garonne prefecture, which was created by Napoleon in 1808. The original mansion consisted of only two main buildings, arranged at right angles, between the courtyard and the garden. The west wing was added in 1822 and at the end of the Second Empire, was expanded and remodelled to accommodate the evolving needs of the administration. The prefecture was moved to a contemporary building on the Allée de l'Empereur, and has been welcoming visitors since 2004.

1. Coat of arms of Montauban

de gueules au saule étié d'or ayant six branches sans feuille, trois à dextre et trois à senestre, au chef cousu d'azur chargé de trois fleurs de lys d'or.

2. The Lauthier tower, postcard, 1900s ©Bibliothèque Patrimoniale

3. Cathedral Our Lady of the Assumption, copper roofs © CIAP

4. The Tarn-et-Garonne prefecture, façade onto the garden © CIAP



26 ALLÉE DE L'EMPEREUR

At No. 7, a monumental double-flight staircase marks the entrance to a vast mansion. Built in the 18th century by M. de Pullignieu, president of the Court of Aids, the mansion was later purchased by the Bonnezeux family, and then sold to the city for use as a military club. The Post Office can be found at No. 6 Allée de l'Empereur, built in 1926 by the architect Charles Giroud. The structure combines modern and traditional styles, built in reinforced concrete with brick and stone cladding. It was further extended upwards in 2012.

27 MAISON DU PEUPLE

This building was constructed between 1931 and 1934 as part of a social and economic renovation program initiated after the flood of 1930, thanks to the many donations received by the city council. It originally housed butchers' shops in the 17th century and the neo-18th century design, built by architects Olivier and Jannin, preserved the semicircular arcades. The building initially housed workers' unions and local associations, and included meeting areas, a public school room, a library and a large community hall.

28 LA PLACE NATIONALE

Most of the roads of the original city converge on the Place Nationale, which is a source of pride as one of the oldest squares in France. The Place Nationale had long been home to the municipal authorities. Here were located the consular house, the pillory, and the proclamation pillar, used to display public notices and make announcements. Today, the Place Nationale is a centre of commerce, which has been its true function for nearly 900 years.

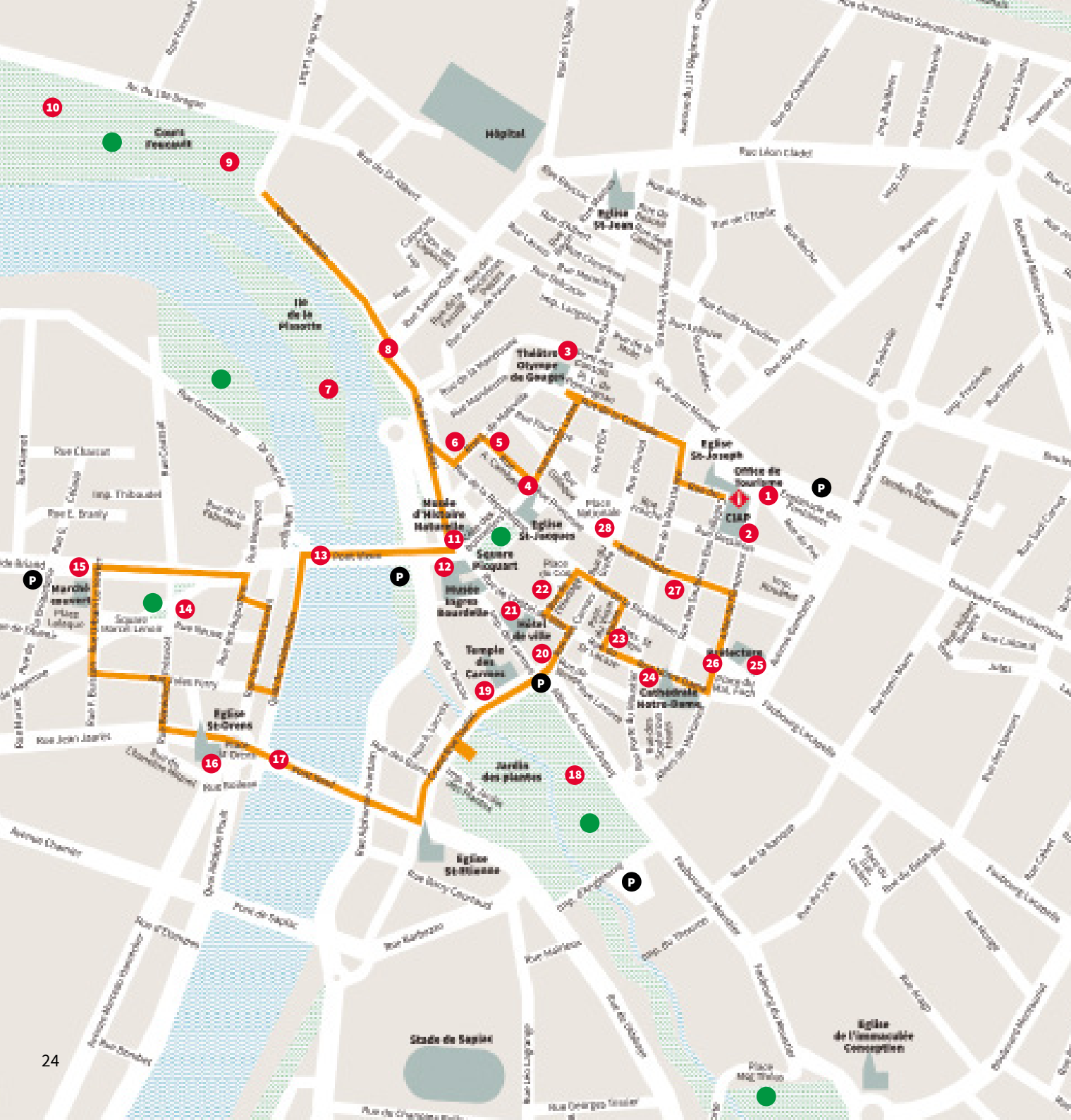
Destroyed by fire in 1614 and 1649 the square was entirely rebuilt thanks to the generosity of the crown, at the behest of the consuls. This major reconstruction work was completed at the beginning of the 18th century. The alignment of façades carved with decorative columns (pilasters), the systematic use of brick, and crossed ribbed vaulting, reflected the desire to unify the architectural styles of the surrounding buildings, facilitate air circulation and make them less vulnerable to fire.

The façades were renovated to their former glory between 1999 and 2009. The extensive program to replace the square's stone tiles began in 2021 and was inaugurated in July 2022, regenerating this area of prized architectural heritage, where residences, commercial and cultural activities coexist in harmony.



1. Allée de l'Empereur
sculpture of Camille Claudel
by Patrick Berthaud

Place Nationale
the north and east façades



A WALKING TOUR FROM ONE END OF THE CITY TO THE OTHER

This discovery trail offers you the opportunity to discover Montauban's history and heritage, throughout 20 key sites

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..;

- 1 CIAP
- 2 Former College
- 3 Olympe de Gouges theatre
- 4 Saint James' church
- 5 Rue Armand Cambon
- 6 Hôtel de Scorbiac
- 7 Isle of Pissote
- 8 The Montmurat and Verdun quays
- 9 Cours Foucault
- 10 Listen to the story of the Tarn
- 11 The Victor Brun natural history museum
- 12 Ingres Bourdelle museum
- 13 Old bridge
- 14 District of Villebourbon
- 15 Covered market
- 16 Saint Orens' church
- 17 New bridge
- 18 Jardin des plantes
- 19 Carmelite convent
- 20 Rue des Carmes (Carmelite)
- 21 City hall
- 22 Place du Coq (square)
- 23 Vieux palais passage
- 24 Cathedral Our Lady of the Assumption
- 25 Prefecture
- 26 Allée de l'Empereur
- 27 Maison du peuple
- 28 Place Nationale

CAR PARKS



BEST PLACE FOR A PICNIC



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«IT IS BUILT OF RED BRICKS THAT WHISTLE SOFTLY (...)»

This is how Emile-Antoine Bourdelle described the city, in «la Ville», undated, part of the Ingres Bourdelle Museum collection.

Montauban belongs to the national network of Cities and Regions of Art and History

This national network is composed of 202 towns and regions which publish and circulate information about France's architectural and cultural history.

The tour recounts the fascinating story of Montauban through its streets and architecture, the Ingres Bourdelle Museum, and the Museum of the Resistance and the Combatant (musée de la Résistance et du Combattant). The CIAP offers tours, exhibitions, conferences and events all year round.

The Cultural Heritage Centre, a department of the Directorate for Cultural Development and Heritage, includes the CIAP (Former College / 25 Allée de l'Empereur), the Museum of the Resistance and the Combatant, the Municipal Archives and the Heritage Library (espace Perbosc / 2 Bvd E. Herriot)

For more information contact the CIAP

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