

Visitor map & sightseeing walk

Events below are subject to modification in 2020 due to the health crisis

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN PONT-EN-ROYANS

- 1 Savour the local cuisine at a family-run restaurant in the village centre, near the cliffside houses**
Hôtel-restaurant du Royans - 51 Grande Rue - 04 76 36 01 03
- 6 Taste waters from all over the world at the museum's Water Bar**
Hôtel-restaurant du musée de l'eau - Place du Breuil - 04 76 36 15 53
- 6 Tuck in to a regional dish on a panoramic terrace on the Bourne Riverside**
Hôtel-restaurant du Beau Rivage - 29 rue Gambetta - 04 76 36 00 63
- 1 Chill with a drink and a delicious ice cream**
Le Picard - Pont Picard - 04 76 36 00 59

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Guided tours meeting point
- Tourist Office
- Multimedia Library and La Halle
- Car park
- Coach park
- WC
- Picnic area
- Children's playground
- Swimming area
- Fishing
- Footpath departure point
- Breuil Hostel (group accommodation)
- Motorhome drainage point and parking
- Camp site
- Tobacconist – sale of fishing permits
- Pharmacy
- Petrol pump
- Electric car charging point
- E-bike charging point
- Cash point (ATM)

FOLLOW THE GUIDE

SEE THE SIGHTS OF THIS FASCINATING VILLAGE ON A GUIDED TOUR

he tour starts on the banks of the Bourne and continues underneath the 16th century cliffside houses and through the medieval quarter. It takes in five centuries of history, with anecdotes about daily life and a close look at the architecture of Pont-en-Royans, the Dauphiné's most unusual village.

RATES FOR 2020: Guided tour at night of the village : 6€/adult • 3€/ until 18 • Free under 12 • Duration: 1 hr 30

Tours for individuals in July and August at night.
Times and prices are on the website:
www.tourisme.saintmarcellin-vercors-isere.fr

Group tours: all year round by arrangement
for groups of 15 or more.
Information: **reservation-groupe@smvic.fr**

The Tourist Office also runs guided tours of Saint-Antoine-l'Abbaye all year round for groups and from April to September for individuals.

Family offer
For 3 bought = 1 for free

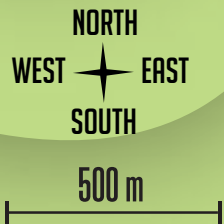
-25% OFF
from 6 adults

Information & tickets from the Tourist Office

SIGHTSEEING WALK

- 1 Porte de France
- 2 Rue de l'Horloge & the Clock Tower
- 3 Place du Temple
- 4 The Corbeille Quarter
- 5 Place de la Halle & the Multimedia Library/La Halle
- 6 The cliffside houses
- 7 Pont Picard
- 8 The watermills
- 9 Rue de Villeneuve & Rue du Merle
- 10 The Bourne riverside picnic area
- 11 Place du Breuil
- 12 The Church
- 13 The Water Museum

The Three Castles viewpoint



EXTRA INFO

Along the route you'll find a series of information panels explaining the history of Pont-en-Royans. Take the time to read them...

THE THREE CASTLES VIEWPOINT

Total distance: 2.5 km - Return trip: 1hr 30 - Height gain: 210 m

Looking down on the Royans and the Bourne Gorge and boasting a commanding view of Pont-en-Royans, the Three Castles Viewpoint is the perfect panoramic position from which to gaze at a landscape shaped by mankind. Starting in Rue du Temple, follow the 'Trois Châteaux' signpost and continue along Montée du Petit Clocher, following the yellow-and-green waymarkings. Climb the picturesque backstreets to Porte Agnès and continue along the path to Les Garides, where you turn right to Trois Châteaux. Return by the same route. Along the way, don't miss the medieval quarter (where the town's Protestants once lived), to see the magnificent opulent tufa-stone town houses with millioned windows. Look up and you'll see the pulleys attached to the rooftops, and don't forget to take a look at the hanging gardens.

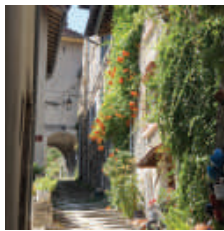
1 SIGHTSEEING WALK

1 Porte de France

The massive pillar still standing at the corner of the house here shows where the main gateway to Pont-en-Royans once stood. This gate was in the second defensive wall, built after the town had grown (probably in the 17th century). The name 'Porte de France' refers to the Dauphiné, an imperial territory surrendered to the French Crown in 1349 while still laying claim to its separateness and autonomy. The pillar's orientation shows that the stepped Rue de l'Horloge was once the main road into the town.

2 Rue de l'Horloge & the Clock Tower

Walk up Rue de l'Horloge and look at the architecture of the houses once occupied by wool workers. Notice details such as the old workshops and pulleys. The Clock Tower was originally a gate in the town ramparts. The base, built of a rock called molasse, features an ogival gateway and loophole and is thought to date from the 14th century. After suffering terrible damage during the Wars of Religion in the 16th century, a new wall was built further down the hillside and the town was rebuilt and enlarged. A tower known as the 'belfry' was quickly built on the base of the old gate to provide a lookout and sentry point, and also to house a clock (mentioned in records dating from 1598). It was probably here that the seigneur's toll collector collected the 'poutagne', a tax on all the men, animals and goods that passed through Pont-en-Royans.



3 Place du temple

The square down the hill was once the site of a Protestant church. With most of the townspeople having quickly adopted Calvinism in around 1560, the town became caught up in the fury of the Wars of Religion. Pont-en-Royans was recognised as a sanctuary for

Huguenots from the time of Catherine de' Medici, and peace was finally restored after Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes in 1598. The Protestants built a new church and a school, dated 1601, and major regional synods were held there. Louis XIV, determined to eradicate the Reformed faith, ordered the church's destruction in 1681.

4 The Corbeille Quarter

This quarter below the Castle was probably the site of the original settlement. Explore the maze of little streets here and keep an eye out for the old inscriptions and carvings left by the villagers. Imagine how the busy streets would once have felt.



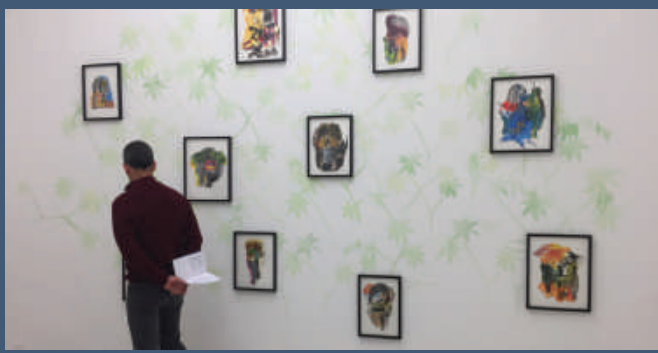
5 Place de la Halle & the Multimedia Library

For centuries, la Halle was the heart of Pont-en-Royans. As the market hall, it was where the Vercors producers and lowland merchants traded their goods. Great seasonal fairs were also held, filling the whole town right up to the walls and continuing right up to the 1950s. As the court of justice, it was where the seigneur (or his representative the chatelain) publicly conducted the rule of law. A cellar under the hall was used as a prison, and the ring to which the prisoner was manacled during the hearing is still visible today. As a meeting hall, it was where the townspeople gathered to hear announcements from those in power or to debate communal decisions under the supervision of elected magistrates or consuls. La Halle was gutted by fire in 1912. The 1944 bombing destroyed many of the workshops and cliffside houses above the Bourne here, enlarging the square to provide lovely views down to the old town and river. In 1986, the space under the square was turned into La Halle and the multimedia library.

La Halle, contemporary art centre

Dedicated to the contemporary arts and designed to showcase different aspects of the latest artistic endeavour, La Halle is home to a fascinating cultural programme of prestigious exhibitions all year round, accompanied by various educational and mediation projects for visitors of all ages.

Free entrance | 04 76 36 05 26
publics@lahalle-pontenroyans.org



6 The cliffside houses



The two banks of the Bourne next to the bridge were once lined with around 30 cliffside houses 'hanging' over the river. Some date from the 1630s to 1660s, the period of reconstruction after the Wars of Religion. Building several floors of rooms directly over the Bourne made it easy to draw water from the river, fish and discard wastewater directly into it. It also meant that the rooms could be wider with taller ceilings and that several windowed floors below road level could be used as workshops or cowsheds. Most of the timber used for the corbelling is very old, and in places the rock has had to be reinforced.

7 Pont Picard



This bridge over the River Bourne gave the town its name, an indication of its strategic importance and great age. It was one of the few points at which people could travel between the mountains of the Vercors and the Isère and Rhône Valleys. As a result, Pont-en-Royans became an important commercial and urban centre. The bridge spans a deep chasm known as the Gouffre Picard; the origin of this name is lost in the mists of time. Road building gradually changed the village, and several of the cliffside houses over the River Bourne were demolished. The bridge was modernised and widened in the late 19th century to make it easier for carts and, later, motorcars to cross. It is still much used today.

8 Les moulins

Elements of a watermill construction are still visible under Pont Picard. You can make out the vertically mounted waterwheel which used the flow of the river to rotate the shaft connected to a stone above. These are the remains of a hemp-beating mill. From the water intake on the Bourne, a millrace fed most of the river's hydraulic power through a tunnel dug in 1851 underneath the houses to the 'grand moulin' next to Place de la Halle. This large watermill, in place since the Middle Ages, was used variously as a fruit press, flour mill and walnut mill. Prior to the millrace, the millwheel was frequently damaged by the violent floods that plagued the Bourne. You can see the sluice gates used to regulate the water flow, clever engineering that supplied the town with electricity from 1898 to 1950 and even generated surplus power until 1985.

DID YOU KNOW ?

It is thought that the local speciality, ravioles, was brought here by loggers from Piedmont in Italy who settled in the Royans and the Coules Mountains. They missed the ravioli from back home so made their own, replacing the hard-to-find meat filling with one made from cheese, parsley and radish leaves. They called this new dish ravioles. Don't miss the chance to try this delicious local dish!

9 Rue de Villeneuve & Rue du Merle

In the 16th century a new quarter grew up on the far side of the river and the shacks originally built on the North Road were replaced by the stone houses of the Villeneuve (Newtown) quarter. A new wall with towers was built to control access to the town via the gates at Porte de France and Porte de Villeneuve, whose Romanesque whistestone arch still stood until a few years ago. Rue Bob Ten Hoope here is named after the famous Dutch artist (1920-2014), who lived in Pont-en-Royans for decades.

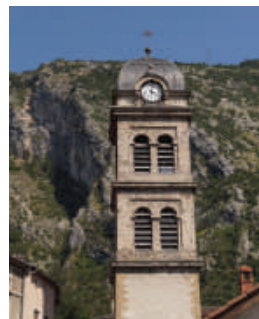
10 The Bourne riverside picnic area

Walk down the steps on the left bank of the Bourne and you'll come to this lovely area of greenery on the riverside underneath the cliffside houses. There is a picnic area, children's playground and a waterfall if you feel the need to cool down!



11 Place du Breuil

In the late 18th century, the former cemetery opposite the church was replaced by a pretty square lined with lime trees. Still an integral part of village life today, it is used for produce markets and is the site of the Town Hall and Musée de l'Eau. On the square you can still see the chains used to tie up the animals during the great 27th of April and St Peter's Day fairs, renowned throughout the Royans in the 19th century.



12 The Church

A Church of St Peter has existed here since the 10th century. In the Middle Ages it formed the centre of a vast parish but was burned down during the Wars of Religion and replaced by the one you see today. The building, which is open to visitors, contains a magnificent 18th century carved-wood altarpiece.

13 The Water Museum



Interactive, fun, educational... The Water Museum on the site of the old silk manufactory takes you on a journey where you'll learn about the element of water in all its forms. Don't miss the Water Bar, where you can taste the world's rarest and finest waters.
04 76 36 15 53 | musee.eau@wanadoo.fr
www.musee-eau.com

