Pont-en-Royans

PONT-EN-ROYANS

48, grande rue

VINAY

705 route de Grenoble

OUR TEAM IS AT YOUR SERVICE

+33 4 76 385 385 tourisme@saintmarcellin-vercors-isere.fr

SAINT-ANTOINE-L'ABBAYE

SAINT-MARCELLIN VERCORS ISÈRE

Place Ferdinand Gilibert

SAINT-MARCELLIN

2 avenue du Collège

ACCESS • BY THE ROAD: exit 9 on motorway A49 Valence-Grenoble or A48 Lvon-Grenoble BY TRAIN: Saint-Marcellin station on the Valence-Grenoble line

• BY PLANE : Airport Grenoble Isère ONCE YOU GET THERE :

By bus: Trans'Isère www.transisere.fr or SRADDA in Drôme

Passengers transport : Oboussier Evasion 4 Transport www.oboussier-evasion-4-transport.fr

WHY YOU SHOULD GO AT THE TOURIST OFFICE? > A gift shop to keep a great souvenir of your visit

> A free wifi access point > A ticketing service for guided tours and shows > We are labeled «Accueil Vélo» !

> DISCOVER OUR DESTINATION IN OUR OTHER GUIDES!

Available at the Tourist Office and for download on our website



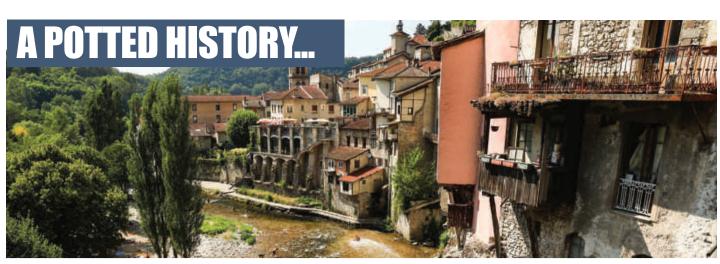




#saintmarcellinvercorsisere







The name Pont-en-Royans is derived directly from the bridge that spans the River Bourne here. A bridge between two rocky piers has stood here since the Early Middle Ages. The inns, stables and shops that sprang up afterwards soon formed a village in its own right, with records of a priory here as early as the 11th century. In the 12th century, the Béranger family built a small castle at the top of the rocky spur on the right bank overlooking the narrow gorge, adopting the motto "I hold sway over the bridge". By the 16th century, the timber trade, the castle's protection and the ingenuity of the townspeople had given rise to the prosperous cliffside town of Pont, which became the political and economic capital of the Royans region.

One of the first forms of commerce developed by the people here was the transport and trade of timber, with labourers felling trees in the forests of the Vercors and transporting the trunks down to Pont-en-Royans by donkey- and muleback. Upstream of Pont-en-Royans, it was not possible to float timber down the river. At Pont-en-Royans, the trunks were fastened together into rafts, which were then steered downstream by the loggers. The timber was transported down the Rhône all the way to Beaucaire in the South of France, where it was used to built the ships of the day, known as galleys. Pont-en-Royans has thus always been a place of transit and a strategic trading post, with produce from the lowlands changing hands for mountain goods.

The watermill on Place de la Halle, thought to have been built shortly after the Revolution on the site of the Sassenage fortified house, powered a wool manufactory where the wool was beaten, carded and spun. The millwheel was lost in the flood of 1851. In 1858 the building was converted into a woodturning factory by Claude Mary Mayet, who had emigrated to Pont from the Jura. His business flourished, at its height employing a workforce of 48 before moving to Sainte-Eulalie-en-Royans in 1902. The building remained in use as a finished timber store but caught fire in 1912 and was completely destroyed by bombing in 1944. Today, the multimedia library and La Halle contemporary art centre are housed in part of the old watermill.

Today, this medieval village forms the western gateway to the Vercors Regional Nature Park at the bottom end of the Bourne Gorge. It features architecture found nowhere else in the Dauphiné region: cliffside houses with colourful facades 'hanging' over the gorge. The village, which was listed as a historical monument in 1944, drew praise from the 19th-century author Stendhal. Its architectural attractions include the town walls, cobbled streets, terraced gardens and of course the bridge. The walk up to the old Trois Châteaux castle keep rewards you with a sweeping view over the Royans region. The Water Museum tells the story of how hydroelectricity came to the village. The building was once a monastery which later became a priory taken over by the Order of Saint Anthony in 1289. When this Order merged with the Order of Malta in 1780, the building again changed hands, later becoming a silk factory. During this period the buildings were extended. The silk factory operated until 1918. Compagnie Générale d'Électricité took over the buildings until the 1990s, and finally the Musée de l'Eau opened in 2002. Today the Legrand electrical goods company employs a workforce of around 40 nearby making electrical plugs and switches.

ERCORS REGIONAL NATURE PARI

THE MISSION OF THE VERCORS REGIONAL NATURE PARK JOINT SYNDICATE

To preserve and promote the natural environments and fauna, flora, rivers, etc. To support the sustainable development of its territory in the areas of agriculture, tourism, culture, energy, mobility, urban development and more.

BETWEEN ISERE AND DRÔME

The Vercors Regional Nature Park covers a vast mountainous area of 206,000 hectares. It takes in the territory of 83 towns and villages in eight rural regions: Piémont Nord, Quatre-Montagnes, Coulmes, Vercors Drômois, Royans, Diois, Trièves and Gervanne.

LOSE YOURSELF IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

The Park promotes and maintains a network of more than 4,000 km of waymarked trails enabling visitors to explore the beautiful countryside on foot, by donkey, on horseback, by mountain bike and more... Keep your eyes peeled and you stand a good chance of spotting marmots and ibex grazing or a vulture riding the thermals. The Park publishes a range of route guides for sale in the local tourist offices.

THE VERCORS, A FASCINATING HISTORY

The Park manages two history museums at Vassieux-en-Vercors. The Resistance Memorial is the focal point of a trail telling the story of key moments in the area's resistance against German occupation in the Second World War. The Museum of Prehistory is located on a flintknapping site abandoned 4,500 years ago by its Stone Age inhabitants.

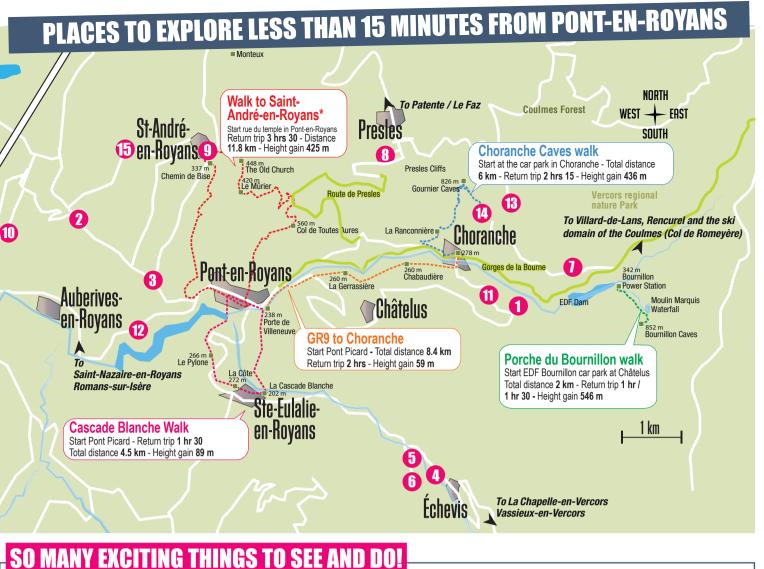
STUNNING, UNSPOILT SCENERY

With the completely wild 17,000-hectare Hauts Plateaux du Vercors National Nature Reserve at its heart, the Vercors is home to an incredible variety: cliffside roads and deep underground cave systems and a patchwork of landscapes ripe for exploring, adventure or simply standing quietly, taking in the view.

LOCAL PRODUCE AND TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

Vercors farm produce is highly prized, winning many accolades including PDO status, mainly because of the traditional farming methods, areas and breeds still farmed here. Vercors produce includes Bleu du Vercors-Sassenage and Saint Marcellin cheeses, Grenoble walnuts and Clairette de Die quality sparkling wine..

> www.parc-du-vercors.fr



🚹 Get up close and personal with farm animals and experience a working organic farm

Ferme du Clos - 210 chemin Le Clos 38680 Châtelus 04 76 36 10 94 - 06 01 35 20 49 - www.lafermeduclos.fr

- 2 Buy delicious farm pork directly from the producer **Ferme Micolod** - 45 chemin de Bimat 38680 Auberives-en-Royans 04 76 36 01 43 - 06 75 05 37 49 -www.fermemicolod.fr
- **6** See round a prestigious vineyard **Domaine Mayoussier** - 10 Rte du Belle - 38680 Auberives-en-Royans 07 89 02 39 48 - www.domaine-mayoussier.com
- Taste our famous trout of the Vercors... **Les Truites de la Vernaison** - Route des Goulets 26190 Échevis 04 75 48 68 11
- ... After fishing it!

La Guinguette du Pêcheur - 04 75 48 69 86 Route des Goulets 26190 Échevis

(f) All you ever wanted to know about animals in this travelling farm

À La Bicoque - Les Clots 26190 Échevis 06 61 45 30 32 - 07 81 12 19 31 - www.alabicoque.com

Tuck in to local Vercors produce in unusual surroundings and learn all about bees

Cabane Café - 620 Rte de la Grotte de Choranche 38680 Choranche 06 78 15 01 00 - 04 76 38 90 50 - www.cabanecafe.com

> Many different types of accomodation are also in Pont-en-Royans, ask us about the list!

Tasty home cooking in an old farm of the Vercors next to Presles cliffs

Le Dragon Vert - Chemin de Jalline, Rte de Pont-en-Royans 38680 Presles - 04 76 36 12 96 - www.ledragonvert.fr

- Spanish cooking in a lovely village **El Txoko** - 85 Rue du bourg 38680 Saint André en Royans 06 16 24 53 79 - 04 76 38 28 06 - www.el-txoko.fr
- A sewing studio made in Saint-Marcellin Vercors Isère Couséa - 595 imp de Renardière Le Veyrand 38680 Auberives-en-Royans - 06 82 17 20 31 - www.cousea.pagesperso-orange.fr Well-being moments for you or your pet
- **Shiatsu Laurence Bussy** 200 ch. Combe Bernard 38680 Châtelus - 04 76 36 07 58 - 06 75 89 97 51 - www.etre-sain.com Buy exactly what you need for all the mountain
- and outdoor sports

Expé - 2925 Route du Vercors 38680 - Auberives-en-Royans 04 76 36 02 67 - www.expe.fr

- (R) Climbing training and healthy stay Entre ciel et pierres - 495 chemin des Falaises 38680 Presles
- 04 76 36 09 45 www.entrecieletpierres.com Wonder at a brand new sound and light show in the cool surroundings of a cave
- **La Grotte de Choranche** 2865 rte des Grottes 38680 Choranche - 04 76 36 09 88 - www.visites-nature-vercors.com
- For special moments shared with a horse **L'Ecrin d'Eden** 40 ch. du centre équestre 38680 St-André-en-Royans - 04 76 36 30 05 - www.l-ecrin-d-eden-centre-equestre.fr

THE ROCK-HEW



> Presles Road by bike

These spectacular mountain roads were built during the second half of the 19th century, requiring a huge effort to overcome the extreme challenges of the terrain. The only way to connect this mountainous area with the surrounding lowlands to encourage trade was to dig roads out of the mountainside. This mammoth undertaking has left a legacy of incredible vertiginous viewpoints all along the cleverly engineered roads of the Vercors. Explore these tunnels blasted through the rock and roads hanging over the void on a bike if you dare or the relative safety of a car!

> IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Due to the health crisis, the information contained in this guide is subject to change without notice and should be therefore considered with caution Please, ask us or directly to the establishment requested to organize your stay.



Grand Carvaval April

The annual carnival, which we call the 'Carvaval', is THE event of the year and has been going for nearly 15 years. Organised by Pont-en-Royans Foyer Culturel. A colourful, fun day crammed with totally free events and entertainment which brings all the generations together

Fête de la musique June

When it comes to this annual nationwide music festival, Ponten-Royans is a must. There's a packed programme of all sorts of musical styles on offer and lots going on besides

Local produce and crafts market

June to September

Every Monday during the summer, local craftspeople and food producers showcase the fruits and flavours of their labour on the banks of the River Bourne.

Fridays on the Square July & August

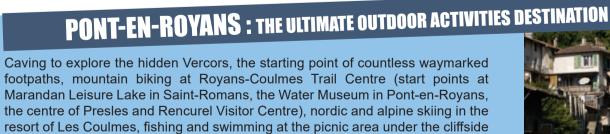
Every Friday night in July and August at 8pm, come and listen to a variety of musicians performing on the square by the Musée de l'Eau, in amazing surroundings overlooking the Bourne. Pop-rock, blues, rock, French popular music and more... There's something for everyone!

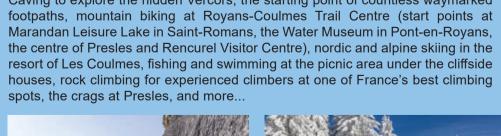
Camp 4 Vercors August

Camp 4 is a rock climbing event designed to appeal to youngsters (and oldsters too!). It's all about climbing and having fun in good company. And it's a great way to get to grips with the Vercors' iconic climbing sites.

Woodcraft Fair August

A huge exhibition and sale on the banks of the Bourne of all sorts of things made of wood. Demonstrations of traditional crafts and more.













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 a 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

-25%

OFF from

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

& tickets from the Tourist Office

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

II 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.

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.



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.

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.



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

projects for visitors of all ages. Free entrance | 04 76 36 05 26



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.

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 Coulmes Mountains. They missed the ravioli from back home so made their own, replacing the hard-tofind 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 whitestone 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!



👊 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 carvedwood altarpiece

13 The Water Museum



nteractive, 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





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 publics@lahalle-pontenroyans.org

