



ALLEMANS-DU-DROPT LOT-ET-GARONNE



PLACE OF INTEREST
TO VISIT

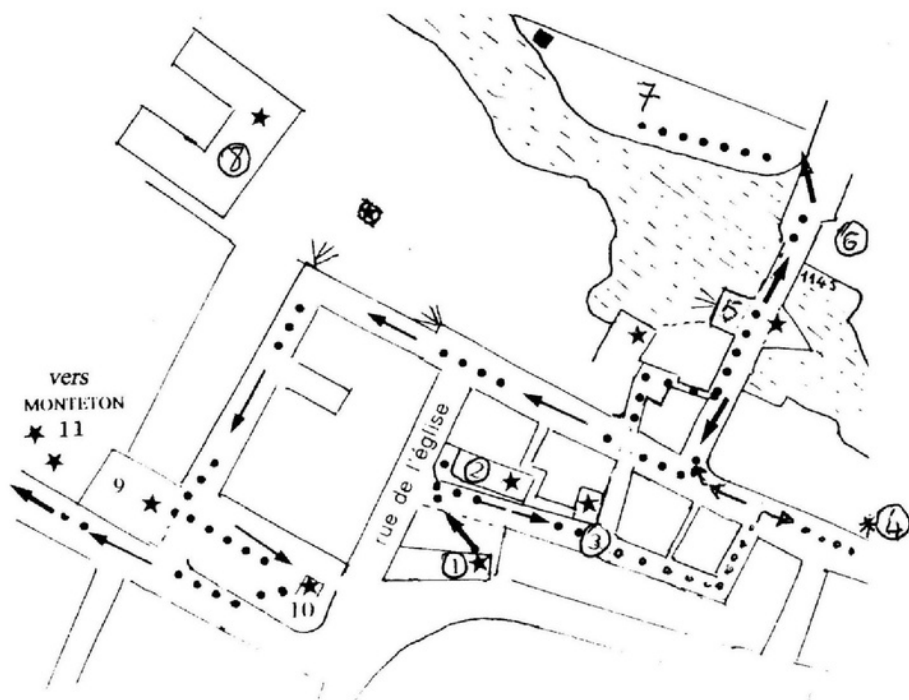
Leaflet of accompaniment to free visit



OFFICE de
TOURISME
du PAYS de
LAUZUN

Recommended itinerary for the visit

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|---|-------------------------------|
| <i>1 Bureau d'information touristique</i> | <i>7 Aire de pique-nique</i> |
| <i>2 Eglise</i> | <i>8 Château et tour</i> |
| <i>3 Vieille Halle</i> | <i>9 Buste Deluns-Montaud</i> |
| <i>4 Le lavoir</i> | <i>10 Halle aux Prunes</i> |
| <i>5 Le Dropt - Les Ponts - le Moulin</i> | <i>11 Lavoir - Pigeonnier</i> |
| <i>6 Camping - Base de Canoë-Kayak</i> | |





Welcome to Allemans du Dropt, a village situated in the North West of Lot & Garonne. Only a few kilometers separate the village from the Departments of the Gironde and the Dordogne.

Allemans lies on the left bank of the river Dropt, a small river that used to separate the tribes of the Nitiobriges (Agen) from the Petrocoriens (Perigueux). In 817 there was a Nordic tribe called the Allamans, who had lived on the right bank of the Rhine since the 3rd century and this is where the name Allemans originated.

2 THE CHURCH SAINTE EUTROPE

The church of Allemans du Dropt would appear to date back to the 10th century. Throughout the years it has undergone many alterations.

The Cemetery used to be in “la place de la Liberte” in front of the tourist office. It was just beaten earth and until 1832 it was used as both a marketplace for animals and a cemetery. It was moved to route de Marmande where the cemetery is now.

The Vestry built in 1779 was originally on a projection on the old cemetery and in 1887 was integrated into the church to the left of the choir stalls.

The Clock Tower dates back to the 10th century and was originally a Mitre tower with three openings and two bells. In 1845, the Council decided to replace the tower with a more modern bell tower. A front entrance (opposite the pharmacy) replaced the door, which originally opened onto the old cemetery. A large bell was installed in 1849.

The Weather-Vane on top of the bell tower is a carp. The legend is that Henry IV visited the parish and received a warm reception and a delicious meal of fish. As a thank you, he donated a golden carp to the parish.

The Presbytery was originally situated in the house at the side of the tourist office until 1853.

Discovered in 1935 and classified as an Historical Monument (1960), the wall paintings on in the inside of the church (painted on a background of mortar based on chalk and sand) date back to XVth century. These were restored on various dates (1966-1972-1995-1996) and more recently, in 2014.



3 -THE OLD MARKET HALL

The covered market was rebuilt in 1732 after a fire.

Before the revolution in 1789, this hall belonged to the Lord of the Manor who had the right to all payments for its use and forbade anyone to trade outside of the village. It

was reserved for local traders who erected temporary fixtures for their merchandise: in 1908 there were 18 annual fairs (animal fairs, plum fairs...).

RUE DELUNS-MONTAUD

No. 4 on the left was a butcher's shop. The carcasses hung outside the shop.

No. 11 is the birthplace of Pierre Deluns-Montaud. He was born on the 5 June 1845 (d. 1907) and was mayor of Marmande, deputy of Lot and Garonne and then Minister of Public works in the French Government.

No. 12 is a good example of the traditional architecture of the region called colombage (wood filled with straw, earth and cement). Next door is a more sophisticated version using bricks instead of straw and earth and is called corbelling.

No. 13 is the birthplace of Raphael Tremouilhe who was the founder of the cattle breed "Blonde d'Aquitaine" famous in the region

RUE BARRITAUD

Do you know the speciality of this region? – “La prune d’Ente” (Plums Ente)

The monks from Clairac created this variety of plums by grafting local plums with those from Damascus brought back from the crusades.

This little street was named after M. Barritaud who commercialized the “Prune d’Ente”

4 - THE WASH HOUSE

Dating back to 1863, the wash house (lavoir) was used up until 1993. A restoration took place in 2010 by “les Compagnons du Devoir”.

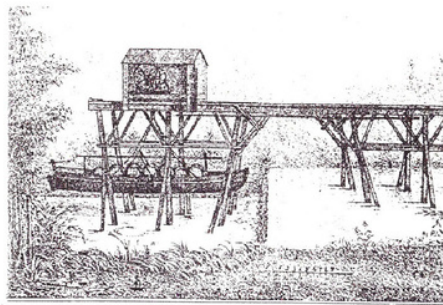
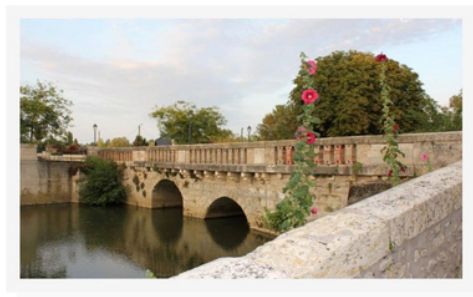
The washhouse was the centre of a country woman’s life – it served as a meeting point to catch up with the local gossip as well as the place where they came to rinse their weekly wash on hands and knees.



5 - THE RIVER DROPT

The river Dropt is 125km (78miles) long. The source is at Capdrot (Dordogne) and flows down to the Garonne at Caudrot (Gironde).

Originally the river was not navigable but with the construction of the Mill and the bridge things changed. Goods had to be loaded and unloaded and to overcome the problem of the water levels a transporter bridge was built (1825) and then a lock (1845). This considerably improved the navigation of the river for the boats (gabarres).



THE BRIDGES

Separated by an island, the bridge has undergone important changes throughout the ages. Built in 1145, the first was a romanesque bridge and used up until 1637; only one arch remains. This was succeeded by the Gothic (ogival) bridge that is still in use today.

THE MILL

Built in 1490, the mill used to grind the grain into flour and made bars of ice for restaurants in the area when iceboxes were still in use. The mill functioned up until 1967.

6 - CAMPING – CANOE AND KAYAK CENTRE

7 - PICNIC AREA

8 - THE CASTLE

The castle is private property. It dates back to the end of the 16th century and is the left wing of a medieval fortress, dating back to the 10th century. There remains a tower, classified as a historic monument.

At the side of the Castle is Rue de la Chateau, which were the outbuildings and used as a barn, stables grain store etc. Further along on route de Monsegur is 'The Orangery', which was where the gardener lived.

The first Lord of the Manor was Bertrand de Goth, a nephew of Pope Clement V and the last one was in 1789, M de Sansac.



9 - THE BUST OF PIERRE DELUNS-MONTAUD

Born in Allemans, Deluns-Montaud (1845 to 1907) was a government minister, public speaker, writer and journalist.

10 THE PRUNE MARKET HALL

Located in Place de la Marie, the Hall dates back to the 14th century and rebuilt in 1856 following a fire. It was an important market hall noted for trading the famous plums and fairs.



11- THE LAVOIR & THE PIGEON LOFT

Continue along Route de Monsegur and you will come to another Lavoir on the right-hand side. This is in its original state and has not been renovated and is fed by 'Le Jonquet' a stream at the side.

A little further along you will come to the pigeon loft. Pigeon lofts represented an important part of agricultural profit throughout France. The birds were used partly for food and partly for selling, but above all for their droppings or dung for fertilizing the crops and vines at a time when guano from America was very expensive.

In the North of France, pigeon lofts could only belong to the nobles or the clergy. However, such restrictions never applied in this region, the possession of a loft being ***a right allowed to the proprietor who had sufficient land to ensure that these voracious birds would not stray on to the neighbours' land to feed.***

In the Dropt Valley pigeon lofts were assigned to immigrants who came to populate and cultivate this area after the terrible devastations of the Hundred Years War, the Religions Wars and plague epidemics.

Built on what was formerly a small manor farm this dovecot (a name reserved for manorial pigeon lofts) is in the Perigordian style, and although it cannot be dated exactly, its construction indicates the beginning of the 17th century.

Seven stone pillars surmounted by jutting stones support the beautiful hexagonal shaped dovecot or capitais that prevented rodents from entering.

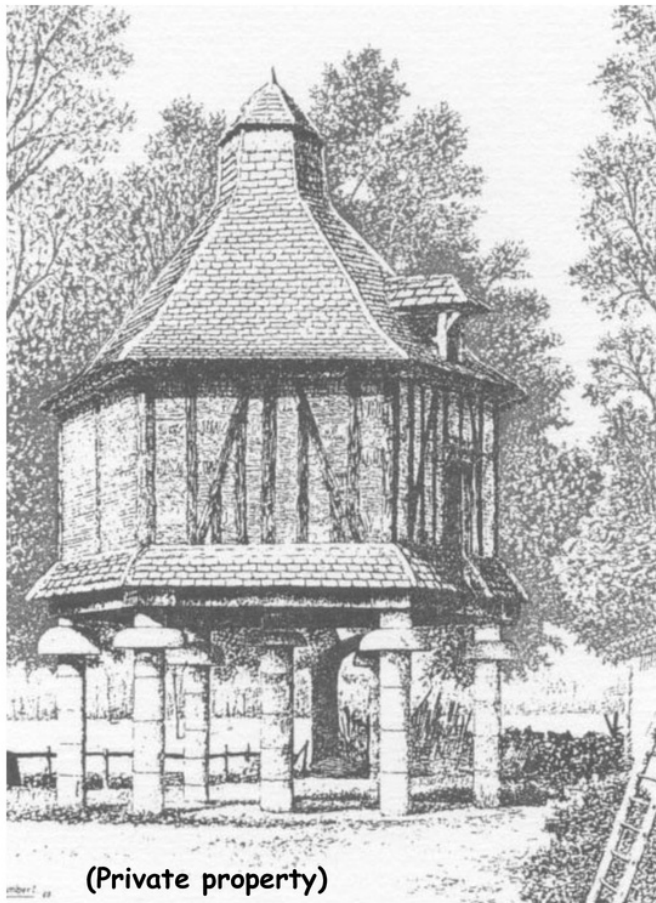
The birdcage, the upper part of the building is constructed of scantling, i.e. a foundation of oak supports filled in with brick and roofed with flat tiles on a steep slope.

The spike at the top is in zinc, but was no doubt originally of baked clay.

Outside a small projecting roof (the firestone) above the column provided extra shelter

The East facing entrance provides a platform for birds to take off from. A second exit and resting place is provided by the lantern opening above. At the time of restoration, a further south-facing opening was closed up.

There is beautiful straight timberwork inside. The willow nesting baskets were hung up on the walls.



The crown or
peak of
construction

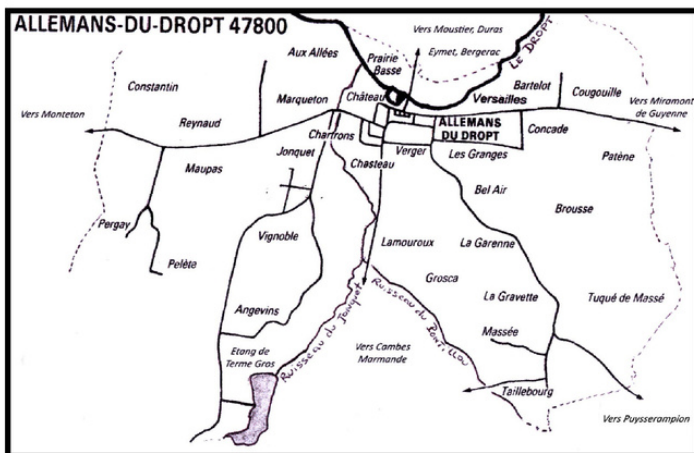
Lanterns or
flight

Platforms
and resting
places

Flight
platform
dripstone

capital

The restoration carried out not only preserved this beautiful monument, but restored its original appearance. It does honour to the owner, who carried out the work at his own expense.



**You want to know more and meet our
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