

Tourist Office of Pays de Lauzun

tourisme@paysdelauzun.com

www.paysdelauzun.com



Our the Tourist Office centers :

Miramont-de-Guyenne

1 rue Pasteur
47800 Miramont-de-Guyenne
+33 5 53 93 38 94
Interactive information terminal 24h/24

Lauzun

5 rue Marcel Hervé
47410 Lauzun
+33 5 53 20 10 07
Interactive information terminal 24h/24

Allemans-du-Dropt

Interactive information terminal 24h/24



Visit

*Miramont-de-Guyenne,
A 13th century bastid !*



ALLEYWAY CIRCUIT

Miramont-de-Guyenne



Pôle
territorial
Val de Garonne -
Guyenne - Gascogne



HISTORY OF MIRAMONT-DE-GUYENNE

Miramont-de-Guyenne is a former royal bastide, originally called Miramont-de-Lauzun since it was founded on the lands of the Duke of Lauzun around 1280 by Edward I, King of England. Indeed, following the marriage in 1152 of Eleanor of Aquitaine to Henry Plantagenet, the future King of England, Aquitaine became English. The bastide went through the tribulations of the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453), became definitively French in 1453 and even obtained a charter from Charles VIII in 1494, this time French. This rare fact constitutes a peculiarity of our bastide.

The bastides, of which there are more than 400 in the south-west of France, developed throughout the 13th and 14th centuries. These new towns, founded by royalty or by the highest princes, were governed by rights and customs. The bastides are recognisable, as Miramont-de-Guyenne attests, by a chequered plan organised around a central square, from which all the main streets start. Enter the maze of small streets, let yourself be surprised by our bastide and discover its history at the rhythm of an almost perfect quadrilateral.

Duration of the walking tour: 50 minutes **Distance : about 2 km**

This booklet is a complement to the signs that you will discover in each alley. For your safety, please pay attention to the traffic and always use the pedestrian crossings. The Tourist Office declines all responsibility, thank you!



YOU CAN VISIT THE PAYS DE LAUZUN !



*Discover the beautiful countryside of Pays
de Lauzun. Explore cute towns and take a
moment to breath. Take your guide books at
our tourist office centers !*

13 Sainte-Marie church

In the heart of the medieval bastide, the small Romanesque church with its curious bulbous bell tower (curved dome), which stood proudly opposite the windmill of Toubens, was replaced in 1860 by the present church of Miramont-de-Guyenne.

The monument had to be completely restored in order to avoid the collapse of its main vaults. Inaugurated in 1963, the new church is now surrounded by a green setting that enhances its beauty. In 1967, the municipality of Miramont-de-Guyenne received, a few years later, the remainder of a grant allocated for the restoration of the church. By mutual agreement, it was decided that this money would be used to provide the building with the stained glass windows it was lacking. Enter the church to admire the work, an explanatory tour will accompany you.

Return to the Place of l'Hôtel de Ville. Take the time to walk around under the arcades (the sign is located opposite the entrance to the town hall).

14 Cornières

The "cornières" are passages that allow access to the central square through the corners, which are very narrow and prevent the circulation of carts. A bastide is characterised by straight streets that intersect at right angles, with the market hall in the central square.

In 1835 the municipal council of Miramont-de-Guyenne, presided over by its Mayor, Doctor Pierre Armand, adopted the following deliberation: "That in 1840, a market hall, a hotel for the town hall and premises for a communal school will be built in the town of Miramont-de-Guyenne. ". The hall, now destroyed, was therefore built on the Place de la République, the town hall in the centre of the bastide on the site of the old medieval hall and the municipal school on the newly created boulevards.

The logo, a heritage and tourist label, represents the construction plans of the bastides, which are usually in the form of a square or rectangular chessboard. The founding grid of the bastide appears as a distinctive sign, allowing an immediate understanding of the architecture of the centre and periphery.

MAP OF THE CIRCUIT



- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Consuls's path | 6 The prune's path | 11 Path of "Vert Galant" |
| 2 Tanner's path | 7 Grammont's avenue | 12 Templar's path |
| 3 Occitane path | 8 Place Martignac | 13 Sainte-Marie church |
| 4 Bakehouse's path | 9 Path of Albret | 14 Cornières |
| 5 Henri the 4th path | 10 Path of Kroumir | |

Turn left into path of Bernard Palissy.
Bernard Palissy was a potter, enameller, scholar and writer, born in Agen in 1510. A Protestant, protected by Marie de Médicis, he was forced to burn his furniture in order to bake "his clay".

On the left :

1 Consul's path

The creation of the bastide begins with the signing of the act of paréage, a document recording the agreement between the owners of the land, a lord or abbey, and a king or viscount.
The rights granted to the inhabitants are mentioned in a "charter of custom" or "charter of foundation" which regulate collective life (statutes of the inhabitants, justice, the market and fairs, building spaces, land to be cultivated, etc.). The administration of the bastides is in the hands of the consuls who represented the population to the founders; these consuls prefigured the current municipal councillors.
A reproduction of the charter and a painting illustrating its signature can be seen in the hall of the town hall. You can also find the coat of arms and the statue symbolising the Miramont motto.

on the right :

2 Tanner's path

Some buildings were separated by a narrow space called "androne", which was intended to serve as a firebreak to limit fires.
The andrones allowed rainwater to flow away and waste water from kitchens and latrines to be evacuated.
Note the V-shaped incline of the street, with the drainage water in the centre of this "gutter". Moreover, to avoid inconveniences, the noble ladies dressed in long dresses would pass flush with the dwellings (on the high side), hence the expression "tenir le haut du pavé". This alleyway seems to have been destined for the tanners, situated near the Dourdenne stream, its location is strategic since the tanning work requires a lot of water.



The languages of Oc

Take the alley opposite, crossing Martignac's path.

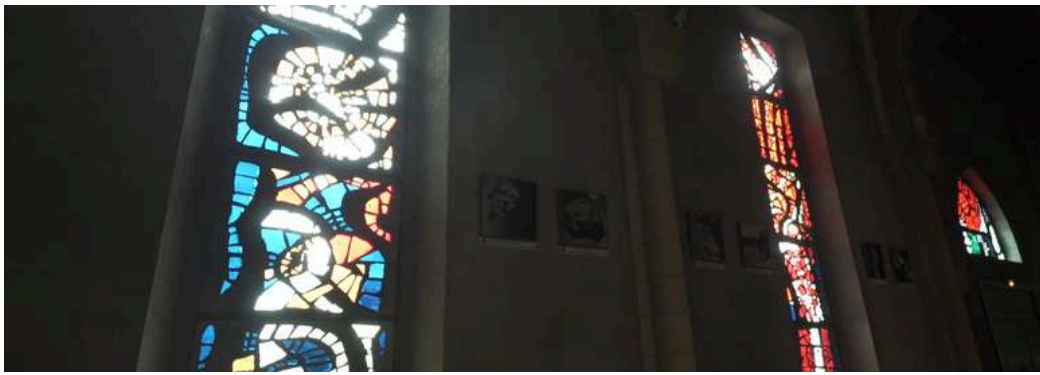
11 Path of "Vert Galant"

The literary expression "vert galant" is used to designate a man who is enterprising despite his age, green symbolising vigour.
Henry IV was known to have many mistresses and was said to be as ardent in the conquest of women as he was on the battlefield.
The expression "conter fleurette" comes from the love legend of the future king who, at barely 15 years of age, is said to have courted the daughter of the gardener of the Château de Nérac (in the south of the department). The girl was called Fleurette... the legend was born.
He became King of France and Navarre in 1589, and is best known for having put an end to the Wars of Religion (1562-1598) with the Edict of Nantes in 1598, granting religious freedom to all French people.

Return to Martignac's path, go up towards the Hôtel de Ville and turn left into Philippeaux's path. Take the first right.

12 Templar's path

Miramont-de-Guyenne was founded on the banks of the Dourdenne, on the site of a refuge and surveillance post of the Templars, a religious and military order responsible for protecting pilgrims in the Holy Land. This place was apparently destroyed by Simon-de-Montfort, Count of Toulouse, during the Albigensian Crusade (1209-1229).
In the Middle Ages, Nompars I de Caumont, Lord of Lauzun, donated the "land" of Mérignac (near Marmande) to the monks of Grandmont. The order of Grandmont in the Limousin obeyed austere rules, and the monks were known for their art of making enamel.
There is every reason to believe that it was from the priory of Mérignac, with its small surrounding rural community, that the bastide of Miramont-de-Guyenne was born.
The place was favourable for the installation of an urban centre in the hollow of a hillside crossed from west to south by a "royal" road, a crossroads between several other roads.



The stained glass windows of St. Mary's Church

Go around the roundabout and take Martignac's path. Turn into the first alley on the left.

9 Path of Albret

The name Miramont comes from the expression "qui mire (qui regarde) le Mont". The "Mont" being the hill of "Tous vent", which became "de Toubens" and is now part of the neighbouring commune of Saint-Pardoux-Isaac. This mount was topped by a mill which appears on the oldest engravings.

The names of our bastide were successively Castellario-Miramontis, Miro-Monte, then Miramont-de-Lauzun and Miramont-du-Dropt. After the Great War, noting that only Miramont was spoken of, which led to confusion with the five other Miramonts in France, the town council asked that the words "de Guyenne" be added to the name of Miramont, which thus became Miramont-de-Guyenne.

At the end of this alley, turn right onto Jules Ferry's boulevard. Take the second street on the right, passing under the Kroumir gate (the sign is at the end of the alley).

10 Path of Kroumir

After Joseph Soussial's death, his widow Anne continued to live in the family home, the Château de Braguet, located opposite her husband's factory. When she died on 14 February 1937, she bequeathed her house to the commune in order to establish a facility for the "elderly". The town council accepted this bequest, but it was not until 1940 that the first boarders moved in, paying 12 francs per day (= €2.40!).

This establishment later became the Soussial Foundation, a retirement home managed by the department. The EPHAD was moved in 2020 to new buildings on the route de Marmande.

At the end of this alley, turn right into Jean-Jaurès path. Then turn right into rue Pasteur, and left into ruelle Occitane.

3 Occitane path

LOccitania is a cultural and historical region in southwest France. The main elements that characterise it are its culture and its language, spread throughout France by the troubadours in the Middle Ages. Occitania gave its name to the language, Gascon is a dialect spoken south-west of the Garonne.

Translation of the sentence on the sign: "Hi tourist friend, you who pass by us, never forget that in Occitania, you will always be welcome!"

Dovecote in Fournils Lane



In the middle of this alley, turn left into Bakehouse's path Fournils.

4 Bakehouse's path

The pigeon house is a symbol of prestige and economic wealth, for the feeding and selling of pigeons, but especially for the cheap fertiliser, the droppings.

As you can see in this alleyway, the aviary is built over a bread oven, as it might be over a barn or a cellar. You did not have to be a nobleman to own an aviary, you just had to be a landowner. Ownership of a dovecote (a tower-like building) is traditionally reserved for the nobility and abbeys, such as the dovecote at Allemans-du-Dropt (photo) which belonged to its lord.

In the middle of this alley, turn right into path of Amours. At the end, turn right into Templar's path. Then turn left into the path of Viguerie and left again into Henri the 4th path.

5 **Henri the 4th path**

In 1966, the idea of creating a lake and setting up a vast tourism and leisure complex took shape on a 40-hectare natural site with a 10-hectare lake. This site was completed by the construction of gîtes and the development of a campsite. Today the Lac du Saut du Loup, 2km from the centre of Miramont-de-Guyenne in the direction of Lavergne, is a natural area that cannot be ignored in the Pays de Lauzun. Walkers, fishermen or sportsmen, it is the ideal place for those who love nature.

Go down the alley and turn right.

6 **The prune's path**

The plum was cultivated in the Damascus region of Syria in the 12th century, when the Crusaders brought it to France. History will remember the crossing of a Damascus plum tree with a local plum tree by the monks of the Abbey of Clairac, thus giving birth to a new variety, the "Prunier d'Ente", alluding to the old French word "enter" which meant to graft. It was also these monks who, in the 12th century, at the end of a year of overproduction, found that sun-drying the fruit would enable them to keep it all year round.

The prune was born. Since 2002, this product has benefited from the Protected Geographical Indication "Pruneau d'Agen".

The market of Miramont-de-Guyenne on Monday morning



Saut du Loup Lake

At the end of this alley, turn left into Montesquieu's path, then right into the path of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Then turn right onto Boulevard Georges Clémenceau. You will arrive at Martignac's place (the signs are in front of the Crédit Agricole branch).

7 **Grammont's avenue**

One day while in garrison at Saint-Étienne, the deputy and military officer de Grammont noticed various carriages carting coal, and was revolted by the brutality of the drivers who cruelly used the whip or the goad to force the horses or oxen to climb a fairly steep hill. As a cavalry officer, he founded the Ligue Française de Protection du Cheval (LFPC) in 1850, which still exists today.

On the other hand, General de Grammont is wrongly credited with the creation of the Société Protectrice des Animaux (SPA), founded in 1845 by Doctor Etienne Pariset.

8 **Martignac's place**

On 20 November 1837, the municipal council of Miramont-de-Guyenne erected a statue of him in the square that now bears his name.

Its location allowed his widow to contemplate her husband from her new home.

Proud of the career of this native of the country, recognised by King Charles X who appointed him Minister of the Interior, this honour was followed by his burial in the Père-Lachaise cemetery in Paris.

The statue was cast in 1942 by the Vichy regime.