



Limouxin
TOURISME

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Peregrinations Limouxines

Travel through the centuries

A bit of history ...

The site of Limoux has been permanently occupied since the Neolithic age. Our history begins as Gallo-Roman civilization was at its peak in Languedoc Roussillon. The building of organized cities was one of its main characteristics. It is the union of two households, Flacianum and Limosus, which is likely to be responsible for the foundation of the town of Limoux as we know it today, back in the 8th century. Over the centuries and the upheavals of history, Limoux has developed its own personality around the river «Aude», formerly named «Atax». More than 1000 years of history ...

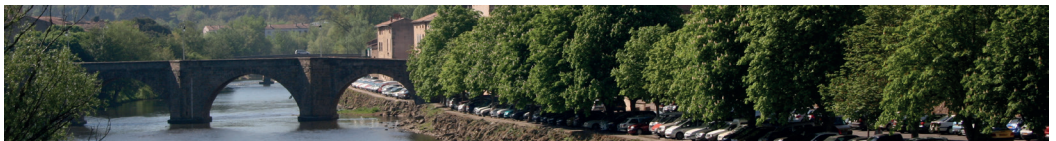
IX° century

It is in the charter of Charles the Bald, king of France in favour of the abbey of Saint Hilaire, that Limoux is mentioned for the first time. The town belonged to the archbishop of Narbonne. But in the tenth century, it passed under the authority of the Counts of Razès. Trusted by the king to administer the counties, they gradually exercised their sovereign rights. In the twelfth century, Roger de Béziers granted the inhabitants of Limoux the right to own their property. A period of peace began but it will be short-lived.



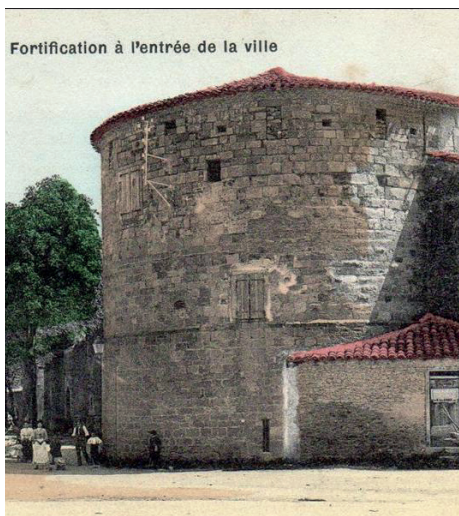
XIII° century

This is the beginning of the « Croisade des Albigeois ». The effects of the crusade, which became more and more like an inquisition, were felt hard in Limoux which was home to many Cathars. The town was occupied by Simon de Monfort and given as a fief to his lieutenant Lambert de Creichi who thus became Lambert de Limoux. Following the death of Simon, it was his son Amaury who succeeded him. The Counts of Toulouse, Foix and Trencavel opposed him, with the support of Limoux and its inhabitants. In 1226, Pieuze (village located 3 km from Limoux) is chosen for the holding of a council under the presidency of Guillebert de Castres, the « heretical bishop » of Toulouse. But their revolt was countered with the support of King Louis VII. The inhabitants expiated their devotion for their lord, and all property of the heretics was confiscated. Several families from France settled in Limoux, including Pierre de Voisins, an officer of Simon de Monfort. Limoux, ceded to the king and his ancestors, and joined the crown in 1296.



XIV° century

Since the Crusade against the Albigenses, a century has passed and Limoux seems to have forgotten its time of misfortune. Alas, in 1348, the black plague spread from Italy to Limoux. One misfortune led to another, in 1355 Limoux became a theatre for looting and destruction. The Prince of Wales or «Black Prince» claimed France as an inheritance. Thus, having flourished after the Black Death, Limoux was annihilated by the iron and the fire of its enemies. New fortifications are built to prevent another siege. Limoux is the main town of a viguerie since 1319. Its rights are confirmed by the king. Municipal institutions are set up with a degree of difficulty.



XVI° century

Under François I disorder arises, but, thanks to its fortifications, Limoux is not affected. However, soon trouble appeared, and caused much misfortune; Calvin's doctrines spread throughout France and reached Limoux. In 1562, the «Pacification edict» granted to the Reformers the free exercise of their religion in the suburbs and cities. Clashes between Catholics and Calvinists take place. Limoux is taken on the 6th of June and looted. 30 years of civil war ensued, annihilating any industry and plunging the people into complete despair. The plague that repeatedly affected Limoux only inflicts another layer of pain to its inhabitants.

XVII° century

The century is just starting as plague returns Limoux again and claims more than 3,000 lives. The succession of all these calamities will create disagreements between the consuls and the viguier. But, thanks to the fidelity of its inhabitants, Louis XIII established in Limoux in 1642 a « Sénéchal » and a presedential seat. The city then built a mental institution, the main source of its wealth.

XVIII° century

With the 1771 edict, municipal institutions evolved to gradually serve as a basis for a municipal system. In this climate, industry once again flourished (trade with Spain expands). Great events were preparing in the kingdom. The Revolution of 1789 and the disruptions that it entailed, with the reunion of the « states-general », made the city's administration evolve. No violence disturbs the establishment of these new laws which, thus, lead to Limoux gaining a higher degree of prosperity and serenity.

Then, Limoux was governed by the consuls and it was the beginning of the municipal institutions. This administration « In profit and in the utility of the res publica » makes Limoux one of the richest Provinces of the region. Agricultural production, wine (wheat, barley, wine) and especially industry (sheets) contribute to its growth.

er of the town

10. Pont Vieux

The Old Bridge was rebuilt after the terrible flood of 1891 during which the water reached more than 1m60 in the Church of St. Martin. View of the Portanel and the banks of the Aude, it underwent maintenance in 2008 on the occasion of «Toques et Clochers».

9. Rue Blanquerie

- N ° 11: Facade of the hotel Montfaucon dating back to the XIVth century. A Portanel (small door) gives access to the Old Bridge by the Banks of the Aude.
- The riversides of the Aude and the Portanel are from the XIVth century.

8. Rue Anne-Marie Javouhey

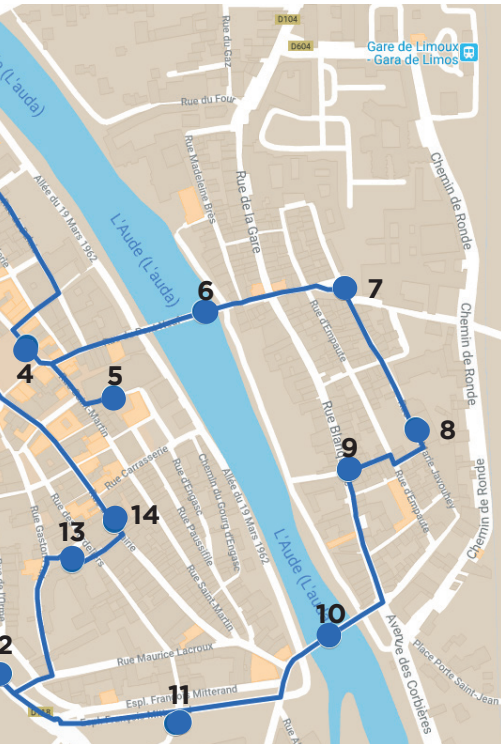
- Church of the Assumption: late nineteenth century. It has a statue of « Our Lady of the Rosary » dating back more than 750 years, Ex-Votos. The facade was restored in 2008 with the operation « Toques et Clochers ».

- Museum of Automata

7. Place du 22 Septembre

- In the centre, statue of the fountain «The Source» Sauvageau's work, donated on September 22nd 1892 by the Society of Arts and Sciences in commemoration of the centenary of the first Republic.
- Psychiatric Hospital: formerly a Dominican convent (XIVth) founded by Sister Anne-Marie Javouhey (of the order of Saint Joseph of Cluny) at the beginning of the 19th century.

- Chapel Saint-Jacques: built in the 16th century, with the convent of the Dominicans. Fortified in the sixteenth century. In 1790, the church and convent, became national property, they were then sold to Limouxins who then gave up their rights to the bishopric. In the nineteenth century the sisters of Cluny lead major works of restoration modifying the appearance of the building. It is now home to the Piano Museum.



6. Pont Neuf

It was constructed to facilitate access to the « Grande Ville » from the « Petite Ville » and was a source of quarrels between the inhabitants. Made from wood originally (XIIIth), the Pont Neuf was rebuilt in stone in the 14th century. It is the oldest bridge in the city.

11. Esplanade François Mitterrand

Formerly Champs de Mars, it served as a practice ground to manoeuvre the soldiers of the garrison. Jacques Ruffié college inaugurated in 1911 and renovated in 1999.

12. Monument to the Dead

First world War 14/18 Surprising work of a sculptor from Lodève, Paul Dardé (1888-1963) where the French soldier is standing. Inaugurated in 1924.

13. Place Alcantara

Former Place au Bois, its name pays tribute to Joseph Alcantara, a resistant during the 2nd world War. The bell tower is Byzantine and topped by a dome of stone that belonged to the convent of the Cordeliers, today Sainte Germaine School. Community of Communes of Limouxin: old theatre built in 1830, destroyed by a fire in 1934.

14. Rue de la Mairie

Town hall (facade, banister, balconies). Consular House (XIIIth). Six quarters composed the city: Church, Trinity, Facade and private mansions.

15. Rue des Augustins

Chapel des Augustins (Mercy)

16. Rue du Marché

Old wall of the Augustinian convent (XIVth) destroyed in the fire of 1685. Traces of the old ogival doors. Base of the old bell tower.

17. Place Général Leclerc

- Halles (XIXth) : Restored in 2001, built on the ancient garden of the Doctrinaires (order established in Limoux in the 17th century).
- Opposite the location of the Convent of the Doctrinaires, are the Hotel de la Poste and Jacques Prévert Primary School.
- Hôtel Moderne et Pigeon: former Convent of the White Penitents, from the old chapel there remains a large window of stained glass overlooking the rue Barberouge. Former Victor Hugo Primary School: Palace of the officiality and the ecclesiastical judge.

18. Promenade du Tivoli

Musée Petiet : founded in 1880 has kept its charm from the «Belle Époque» with rooms audaciously painted, its high Zenith windows and its living room furniture. The artwork exhibited illustrates the painting of the second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth: academicism, postimpressionism. Marie Petiet Collection, Achille Laugé.

19. Roundabout of the 8th of May 1945

- Porte Toulzane: vestige of the old ramparts.
- Round tower or Lapasset: vestige of the old ramparts.

A few Names ...

Marie Petiet -1854-1893

Painter born in Limoux, she belongs to a family of artists. Her father Leopold and her uncle Auguste started a drawing school that quickly became a museum. Both of them bequeath to the City their workshop and their collection of paintings that became «Museum Petiet ». Her work is the representation of local daily life. Wife of Etienne Dujardin-Beaumetz.



Fabre d'Eglantine

Born in Limoux in 1755, he was first an actor, then devoted himself to poetry. He added to his name that of Eglantine. Partisan of the Revolution, he was Secretary of Danton then member of the commune, the convention, and finally committee of public safety. Accused of corruption, he mounted the scaffold, along with Danton and Camille Desmoulins, who publicly called him a thief.

Joseph Alcantara -1921-1944

Born in Limoux, Joseph Alcantara, was a deported STO in 1943 in Germany. He escaped from his work-camp and made his way to Limoux where he went underground. He joined the Resistance by integrating the maquis of Buc and Belcastel. Betrayed in an ambush at Lairière (11) with his companions Ito Donati and Gaston Auguste Prat he was killed on Friday, July 28, 1944 at the age of 23. Adjutant André Riffaut, the only survivor, was tortured at the headquarters of the Gestapo in Carcassonne.

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ICI TOUT DEVIENT EFFERVESCENT

tourisme@cc-limouxin.fr
www.tourisme-limoux-in-aude.fr

Office de tourisme du Limouxin

7 Avenue du Pont de France - 11300 Limoux
+33 4 68 31 11 82

Bureau d'information touristique de Couiza

17 Route des Pyrénées - 11190 Couiza
+33 4 68 69 69 85

Bureau d'information touristique de Rennes-les-Bains

Grand'Rue de la Mairie - 11190 Rennes-les-Bains
+33 4 68 69 82 94

