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CARCASSONNE WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Press pack



Carcassonne Tourist Office

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THE CITY

The commune covers an area of 65km², with the Cité Médiévale covering 13 ha. The city of Carcassonne is home to 49,000 inhabitants, making it the most heavily populated city in the Aude after Narbonne. Within its walls, the old town is still home to 50 residents who have chosen to live in this unique setting.

The local industrial economy is weak, heavy industry is non-existent and the city is attempting to attract new business sectors. There are, however, certain companies that are still present:

Agri-food business LA FABRIQUE DU SUD (manufacture of ice creams)

UCCOAR Group (bottling plant)

Aude Coop (Co-operative of local producers from the Oc).

While artisan production is well represented in Carcassonne, agriculture is not and it is limited mostly to viticulture. Tourism contributes substantially to the local economy thanks to the worldwide renown of the Cité de Carcassonne and the Canal du Midi, both of which are classified by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

The Cité de Carcassonne, on the right bank of the River Aude, was classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997. It is the touristic highlight of the city, attracting more than 3 million visitors every year. It is made up of a collection of medieval buildings that are unique in Europe with regards to size and also their remarkable condition. The Cité is ringed by two belts of ramparts, an outer wall from the XIII century that stretches for 1650m and an interior wall that measures 1250m and dates back to the IV century. The collection of buildings is made up of the Comtal château, which houses the gem merchants' museum, barbicans, a basilica, a drawbridge and 52 towers.

The Canal du Midi is an exceptional work by Pierre-Paul Riquet, built in the XVII century, and has been classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO since 1996.

HERALDRY



Carcassonne – present day blazon

It can be described thus: an azure field charged with gold fleur-de-lys and the city gates, in brickwork, flanked by two silver topped towers, with silver portcullis opening into black, surmounted by a red escutcheon charged with a Paschal lamb regardant with head shrouded in gold, carrying a silver pole surmounted by a field banner.



The Cité Médiévale

Azure field charged with city gates accompanied by two crenelated silver towers and surmounted by an azure escutcheon charged with three gold fleur-de-lys.



The Bastide Saint-Louis

Azure field with countless gold fleur-de-lys, gold bezant at its heart, charged with a red roundel presenting a silver Paschal lamb carrying a gold cross with silver guidon charged with a sable cross.

Motto: Hic oves bene natae agnum comitantur – Here the well born Brebis lambs follow the sheep.

THE CITÉ MÉDIÉVALE



FROM THE DAWN OF MAN TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT

The most ancient traces of human habitation (VI century B.C) can be found on the promontory where the Cité stands. Around 300 B.C, the Volques Tectosages tribes subjugated the Iberians of the Languedoc. In 122 B.C, the Romans occupied Provence and the Languedoc. Here, they fortified their hill camp, which became known as Carcaso. They remained here in the region right up until the middle of the V century. The Visigoths then became rulers of Spain and the Languedoc. The Cité would remain in their hands from 460 to 725.

In springtime of 725, the Saracens took over the Cité. They were chased out in 759 by Pepin the Short, King of the Franks. Following the death of Charlemagne, the break-up of the Empire gave rise to the Feudal era. It was during the Trencavels dynasty, from 1082 to 1209, that the city was to undergo a time of exceptional enlightenment.

THE CRUSADE

During these good times, Catharism quickly developed. Raymond Roger Trencavel, Viscount of Carcassonne (1194-1209) tolerated and protected this heretic belief on his lands. He fought back the first wave of crusades, decreed by Pope Innocent III, and on 15th August 1209, following 15 days of siege, resistance ended. The Cité and the Trencavel's lands were handed over to the crusade's military commander, Simon de Montfort, and later on, in 1224, they were ceded to the King of France.

DESTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

Once it had become a part of the Royal domain, the destiny of the Cité was turned on its head. Under the successive reigns of Louis IX, Philip the Bold and Philip the Fair, it began to take on its present day appearance. A new town was born in 1260 on the left bank: The Bastide Saint-Louis. Burned down in 1355 by the Black Prince, it was immediately rebuilt. Whilst this new town became a hive of activity, the Cité affirmed its position as a Royal fortress.

THE END OF THE STRONGHOLD

The use of new techniques in warfare (gunpowder, cannons) and, above all, the fall back of the Franco-Spanish border in 1659 following the Treaty of the Pyrenees, led to its gradual abandonment. In the XVIII century, it was no more than an impoverished district, far removed from a city that had grown rich thanks to the trade in wine and the manufacture of textiles. It was only thanks to the work of Jean-Pierre Cros-Mayrevieille, a scholarly resident of Carcassonne, Prosper Mérimée and the famous architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc that it was saved from demolition and today welcomes millions of visitors who come to admire the finest example of a fortified town in Europe.

THE LEGEND OF DAME CARCAS



The legend tells that the army of Charlemagne stood at the gates of the Cité Médiévale when it was occupied by the Saracens. A princess, Dame Carcas, was the leader of the knights of the Cité following the death of her husband, Prince Balak. Charlemagne's siege of the Cité would go on for 5 years.

At the start of the 6th year, food and water were becoming increasingly scarce. Dame Carcas ordered an inventory of all the remaining stocks. The villagers brought her a pig and a sack of wheat. She had the idea of feeding the pig with the last remaining sack of wheat and then hurling the animal at the feet of Charlemagne from the tallest tower in the Cité.

Charlemagne, thinking that the Cité must be so well stocked with provisions that it could afford to waste a wheat-fed pig, lifted the siege. Upon seeing Charlemagne's army withdrawing from the plains in front of the Cité, Dame Carcas was overjoyed at the success of her plan and decided to ring all the bells in the town. One of Charlemagne's men said "Sir, Carcas... sonne!", meaning "Carcas is ringing". This is where the city's name is derived from.

THE VISCOUNT'S CHÂTEAU

A last line of defence, it was built in the XII century by the Trencavels, Viscounts of Carcassonne. Constantly altered during the following centuries, it remains a symbol of the rule of these powerful lords. It is one of the must-see monuments at the heart of the Cité Médiévale. In the interior of the Comtal Château, a film is projected onto a big screen that retraces the stages of construction of the Cité and offers unique views of the fortifications, the Bastide Saint-Louis and the landscapes of the Aude. The ramparts and the Viscount's Château nowadays belong to the French government and are managed by the Centre des Monuments Nationaux.



THE BASILICA OF SAINT-NAZAIRE

« The Jewell of the Cité » (XI – XIV C).



Nowadays, all that remains of the Roman cathedral, started in 1096 and completed in the first part of the XII century, is a barrel vaulted nave, shouldered by 2 semi-circular vaulted aisles.

At the end of the XIII century, a transept and Gothic choir replaced the Roman chevet. Saint Nazaire is an example of the harmonious coexistence of Roman and Gothic styles. The roses of the transept (XIV C) and the stained-glass windows of the choir dating back to the

XIV and XV century are the finest in southern France (the tree of Jessie and the Tree of Life from the XIV century are located in the chevet's chapels and are genuine masterpieces). The Basilica allows visitors to see the tomb of Bishop Pierre de Rochefort (XIV C), the stone known as « the siege stone », the headstone of a knight (Simon de Montfort) etc....The organ is one of the oldest and largest in southern France (XVII and XIX C). Saint-Nazaire lost its status as a cathedral in 1801 to Saint-Michel, the church in the lower town. Mass is said every Sunday at 11h00.

THE CHURCH OF SAINT-GIMER (AT THE FOOT OF THE CITÉ)

Built in the XIX century by Viollet le Duc at the heart of the former barbican, which had once guarded the River Aude before it was destroyed.

THE THÉÂTRE DE LA CITÉ

In 1908, Doctor Jean Sempé put forward the idea of creating an open air theatre within the Cité. This was how the present day Théâtre Jean-Deschamps came to occupy the former cloister of Saint Nazaire, which was destroyed in 1792. Every year, the Festival de Carcassonne plays host to operas, ballets, variety shows and plays at this venue. The theatre can seat 3000 people.

<http://www.festivaldecarcassonne.fr>



MAP OF THE CITÉ MÉDIÉVALE



Legend

1. Comtal Château and internal rampart
2. Upper tilt yard
3. Lower tilt yard
4. Narbonnaise Gate
5. Aude Gate
6. Church of Saint Gimer
7. Maison de Montmorency
8. Manufacture Royale

MAP OF THE BASTIDE SAINT-LOUIS

Legend

- 1 Hôtel de Murat
 - 2 Hôtel de Rolland
 - 3 The Sénéchal mansion house
 - 4 Jacobins Gate
 - 5 Bastion Montmorency, Saint Martial, Tour Grosse
 - 6 Les Halles
 - 7 Place Carnot
 - 8 Port du Canal
- █ Route for audio-guided visit
█ Pedestrian access to the Cité Médiévale



THE BASTIDE SAINT-LOUIS



The Bastide Saint-Louis, built in 1260, boasts the peculiar feature of a chess board town design arranged around the Place Carnot, a central square with typical southern charm. Visitors can view its religious buildings, its mansion houses and stroll in the shade of the leafy public gardens.

A trip to Cavayère Lake, with its 100ha arboretum, should not be missed. Here it is possible to swim and take part in a variety of water sports and other sporting activities.

THE RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

SAINT-MICHEL CATHEDRAL

(XIV C) Constructed in the Gothic Languedoc style, its square bell tower is topped with an octagonal feature and it boasts stained glass windows and stained glass in the XIV century choir. The Treasures of the Cathedral: religious artefacts and a rich variety of objet d'art (canvases by the masters and sculptures) drawn from churches throughout the diocese of Carcassonne.

THE CHURCH OF SAINT-VINCENT

(XIV – XV C). It houses a 20.25m nave, with a 23.50m high vaulted ceiling that dates from the XVIII century and a square bell tower topped with an octagonal feature. Built in a radiant and flamboyant style, this bell tower measures 54m and served as a viewpoint for Delambre and Méchain when they calculated the length of the terrestrial meridian. It houses a carillon of 47 bells. Within the alcoves of the main entrance, there were 4 beautiful stone statues from the XIV century, which were moved inside because of their poor state. These statues represent Saint-Vincent in his deacon's robes, Saint-Louis, the founder of the lower town and two of the apostles.

CARMES CHAPEL

From the late XIII century.

NOTRE DAME DE LA SANTE CHAPEL

Constructed in 1523, it boasts a very beautiful statue of Our Lady dating back to the XIV century.

THE MANSION HOUSES

THE SÉNÉCHAL MANSION HOUSE

Reputedly the most ancient house in the lower town, it was the only building, except for the churches, to have been saved from the destruction of the town by the Black Prince. Its beautiful facade dates from the XIV century. 70 rue Aimé Ramond.

HÔTEL DE MURAT

(XVIII C). Nowadays, this is the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce. Boulevard C. Pelletan.

HÔTEL DE ROLLAND

This mansion house is the most representative example of the architectural style of the XVIII century. Today, it serves as the town hall. 32 rue Aimé Ramond.

HÔTEL DE ROQUE GUILHEM

(XVIII C). 42 rue Victor Hugo.

HÔTEL DE PELLETIER DU CLAUX

(XVI C). Rue Trivalle.

LA MAISON DE MONTMORENCY

It boasts a beautiful renaissance facade with sculpted wood panelling. 125 rue Trivalle.

THE PRÉFECTURE

This is housed in the former Episcopal Palace constructed in the XVIII century by Bishop Armand Bazin de Bezons, who was also responsible for the wide boulevards that surround the town and occupy the sites of the ancient disused quarries. Rue Jean Bringer

HOTEL DE ROUX D'ALZONNE

André Chénier College – XVIII century. Rue de Verdun.

HOTEL DE SAINT-MARTIN

Stairway tower reputedly by Viguier and the Hôtel Louis XIII interior courtyard from the XV and XVI centuries.

HÔTEL DE SAINT-ANDRÉ

Constructed purely in the Louis XIII style, interior courtyard, dating from late XV and early XVI century.

BEAUTIFUL MONUMENTS

THE HALLE AUX GRAINS

Beautiful timbers from the XVIII century on the site of the former pillory. The actual site is indicated with a circle on the square outside.

NEPTUNE'S FOUNTAIN

(XVIII century, by Italian sculptor, Barata.), This Caunes-Minervois marble basin adorns the Place Carnot, where the flower, fruit and vegetable market is held (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning).

THE JACOBINS GATE

Supported still by part of the internal walls, the base of one of the circular towers (XIV C) still survives near Saint-Michel Cathedral.

THE ANCIENT CISTERN OR FOUNTAIN

On the corner of rue de Verdun and rue des Etudes.

THE PRÉSIDIAL

Home to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Municipal Library.

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Eclectic in spirit, it displays a wide variety of paintings from the XVII to the XX century. The collection of glazed earthenware is also worth discovering (Moustier, Marseille...) as well as the tapestries and objet d'art. Temporary exhibitions.

THE LIBRARY

Home to over 200,000 documents, the library is an important part of the area's heritage, housing 735 manuscripts (some of which are illuminated) and autographs, more than 22,000

literary works (XVI to XIX century), 52 volumes of incunabula, regional works and a stock of novels and periodicals.

VARIOUS MONUMENTS

THE PONT-VIEUX

Dating from the XIV century and, until the XIX century, the only link between the two towns.

3 OF THE 5 BASTIONS THAT DEFENDED THE LOWER TOWN: SAINT-MARTIAL, LA TOUR GROSSE, MONTMORENCY

Late XV century and XVI century.

THE CALVARY GARDENS

Le Calvaire was established around 1820 on the site of one of the four bastions that flanked the city at the end of the XVI century (1560). It was recently opened to the public by the city council and it provides a haven of peace and a source of great joy for visitors and residents of Carcassonne.

THE PALAIS DE JUSTICE

Inaugurated in 1861, 6 monolithic columns, peristyle and pediment, by the sculptor Godin

THE MARKET



The fruit and vegetable market is held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings at the main square of the Bastide Saint Louis, the Place Carnot, which was known as the Place aux Herbes in 1852, and provides a meeting place for residents of Carcassonne. A clothes market takes place on the same days along part of the Boulevard Barbés. Every morning, from Monday to Saturday, visitors and locals can discover the flavours and aromas of local products in the covered market of Les Halles, a former corn exchange, which used to be the hub of the grain trade and where the stone weights, so essential to this trade, were kept.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

ANDRÉ CHÉNIER: a poet (1762-1794) who lived on rue Pinel. Enthused by revolutionary Paris, he teamed up with the Trudaine brothers to found the "Society of the Friends of the Constitution". He would send poems to his friends during several periods of exile arranged by his father that he endured in order to escape the law. He was finally imprisoned and his execution took place just a couple of days before the fall of Robespierre. He composed "Elegies" with romantic overtones. His "odes" and his "lambes", written from his cell, are a blend of revolt and despair. They would only come to be appreciated well after his death (after initial publication in 1819) by a generation of poets that he inspired.

JÖE BOUSQUET: Poet and writer (1897-1950). Wounded during the First World War, he was bed-ridden for the rest of his life and lived at home in 53 rue de Verdun, which has now become the Memory House. From there, he received anyone whom he considered to be creative during the first half of the XX century. Painters, poets and philosophers would line up in his bedroom, a room that can be seen today, just as it was when he was still alive. Permanent exhibition on the works of Joë Bousquet. Temporary exhibition linked to the cultural heritage of the department or the works of the artists of the Aude. This is also the headquarters of the René Nelli Centre for Cathar Studies and the Audois Research and Ethnographic Activities Group.

FABRE D' EGLANTINE: Actor, poet, politician, composer of the famous song "Il pleut bergère... ". The house where he was born is located on rue de Verdun, opposite the André Chénier College. The first person to report (anonymously) on the Paris Revolutions, secretary to Danton, deputy to the Convention, member of the War Committee, director of the Gazette de France, a post he used to attack the Girondins, his many activities during the Revolution also caused controversy, in particular his political and financial "affaires". Attacked by Robespierre himself, he was thrown out of the Jacobins, arrested, condemned to death and guillotined along with other Dantonists.

PAUL LACOMBE: (1837-1927), a composer who is counted among the founder members of the National Musical Society, lived on the corner of rue Aimé Ramond and Boulevard Camille Pelletan. Influenced by Mendelssohn, Schumann and Chopin, he composed pieces that were brimming with charm and elegance.

JACQUES GAMELIN: a painter (1738-1803) that lived at 72, rue Aimé Ramond. He found success with his paintings of battle scenes. He was elected painter of battles by the Saint-Luc Academy on 3rd February 1771. Fortune smiled upon him when his inaugural work for the Academy was given as a gift to the Holy Father and he began work on his masterpiece: the ceiling murals of the Palais Rondini Gallery at the Corso. He then returned to France. During the Revolution, he painted the battles and victories of the army of the Pyrénées Orientales. He managed to save a great many art works from being destroyed. He became a professor at the Carcassonne School of Art, where he continued painting until his death.

EUGÈNE VIOLLET-LE-DUC : (1814 – 1879) responsible for a wide range of restoration works : Saint Michel Cathedral in the Lower Town in 1856-1869, the basilica of Saint Nazaire –Saint Celse in the Cité (1844-1865) as well as the Cité and its fortifications : 1853-1879. These restoration works were accompanied by a number of construction projects, among them some rare examples of Parisian buildings and three religious buildings, including the church of Saint-Gimer in Carcassonne.

RENÉ NELLI: (1906 - 1982) from poetic works to philosophical studies, his talents were wide ranging. He carried out a number of works on the troubadours and court literature. After being mobilised briefly during the early part of the Second World War, he returned to Carcassonne, a land that welcomed writers escaping occupied France, such as Benda, Aragon, Simone Weil, Joë Bousquet. In 1945, during the Liberation, René Nelli was an active participant in the creation of the Institute of Occitan Studies.

PROSPER MONTAGNE: (1865 – 1948), French chef and cook, author of a great many books and articles on food and gastronomy, we are especially grateful to him for the Larousse Gastronomique. He gave his name to the Prosper Montagné Club, an association of French agricultural professionals. He was made a Knight of the Legion of Honour.

CLAUDE MARTI: Occitan singer, writer and poet who was born in 1941 in Carcassonne.

STÉPHAN EICHER: rock singer and multi-instrumentalist, born in 1960 in Zurich. In 1993, he recorded an album entitled « Carcassonne » that would become famous.

OLIVIA RUIZ: Singer, born in Carcassonne in 1980, who found success with her first album, entitled « La Femme Chocolat » in 2006.

JEAN CAMBEROQUE: (1917 – 2001) painter and artist.

JEAN-MICHEL SIGNOLES: Born in Carcassonne in 1949, he was a French businessman and founder of the brand Chipie. He has been president and managing director of Goyard (luggage, leather goods) since 1998. He also established the Jean-Michel Signoles Foundation which aims to promote the city of Carcassonne.

THE PAINTERS OF TODAY

PATRICK ROBART paints the hillsides of the Corbières, the lakes of the Black Mountain, the beaches of the Mediterranean, the markets of the south, the Canal du Midi and, of course, the city of Carcassonne where he has chosen to live and set up his studio. In the heart of the Cité, in between the Comtal Château and Grand Puits, in his studio-gallery where his canvases are always on show, he will be happy to welcome you and show you his works.

PHILIPPE ABIZANDA « Zanda » works on his canvases using ink from China and mortars. The colours he employs call to mind those of the Occitan. Every canvas is a unique piece of art. His themes include the Cité Médiévale, the Cathar Châteaux...Music.

GÉRARD SIOEN: Photographer. Discover Cathar Country, its history, its heritage. « Its landscapes could only have made me love this region, of which I have covered 25,000 km over 3 years on the back of a motorcycle..... »

THIERRY LODZIAK: Painter, graphic artist and decorator. Pursuing his quest for new horizons, following the example of numerous other artists that constantly search for fresh sources of inspiration, Thierry Lodziak set up home in Carcassonne. The city of Carcassonne, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, became the final stop on his journey...

EVELYNE DOMINAULT: in the beginning, there was MATTER...« For me, it is the same; it is by researching matter that I became creative 18 years ago now (in 1993): thick jute canvas, cardboard, plaster, these are the preferred foundations for my work. I blend, inflate, stick, stitch, engrave. Every mark, even accidental marks, can hide a treasure trove of sensations... »

ARTISTS' WORKSHOPS

Art Contemporain - 22 Rue Aimé Ramond	06.80.10.74.09 (Mme Esteves De Cooman) 06.70.72.02.37 (Mme Dominault)
Atelier Clinard – 22 rue Aimé Ramond	04.68.47.32.38 / 06.82.34.17.97
Atelier d'Kalé - 20 Rue Barbès	06.21.43.28.33
Atelier Lodziak Art – 4 Rue Ledru Rollin	06 71 83 70 58
Atelier Thierry Torta – Domaine de Montquiers	06.24.15.45.80
Atelier Ty Guen – 20 Rue Voltaire	06.42.67.31.41 / 04.68.26.16.32
Atelier Robin	06.30.20.27.77
M galerie - 19 Rue Aimé Ramond	06.03.49.78.43
Atelier Jean Christian Fromage – 78 rue de Verdun	07.87.05.49.20
Gallerie Parallèle zéro – 3 chemin de Montlegun	06.71.83.70.58

GREEN CARCASSONNE

THE CANAL DU MIDI



The Canal du Midi, constructed in the XVII century under the reign of Louis XIV by the architect Pierre Paul Riquet, was classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996.

Plans for its construction were begun in 1661 and it was finally finished in 1681.

It is the oldest canal that is still in use in Europe, which, for over 200 years, guaranteed the transportation of merchandise. When competition in the shape of the railways arrived, it fell into disrepair. Its modernisation did not help and the last of the commercial barges used this green way during the 1970's. Nowadays, the Canal du Midi is used purely for leisure and tourism activities.

THE CANAL DU MIDI IN FIGURES :

- 240km long, from Toulouse to Thau Lake
- Width : 20 to 24 metres
- Depth : an average of 3m
- 7,000,000 m³ of earth was displaced
- 20 years to build
- 12,000 men and women worked on its construction
- The canal boasts 350 other structures, including 63 locks, 126 bridges, 55 aqueducts,
- 7 canal-tunnels, 6 dams and 1 tunnel.

It is possible to hire barge style boats without a permit and enjoy a cruising break for several days. Boat trips set off from Carcassonne. Bicycle hire.

THE PORT OF CARCASSONNE

The port of Carcassonne, awarded a Blue Flag in 2015, provides access to a number of services: water, electricity, sanitation, showers, hair-dryers, Internet, launderette (paying) and tumble dryer (paying). 100 metres from the port, the Bastide Saint-Louis (town centre) offers visitors a multitude of amenities (bars, restaurants, shops, grocery shops, artisanal local goods, taxis, service stations, local market on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday...).



PHILIPPE BENOIST

LA CAVAYÈRE LAKE



The lake occupies the valleys of three rivers, which gives it its original layout. When walking around it (approx. 1 hour walk), visitors can discover a wide range of landscapes and ecological habitats, from wetlands to arid zones, woodlands to fallow fields, from shaded areas to bright clearings. In the centre, an island is dedicated to nesting ducks and other species of waterfowl. A perfect spot for a walk, Cavayère Lake is also a leisure and fitness hotspot, a place where young and old alike can have fun. Games for children, water sports facilities, sandy beaches and turfed beaches, a rendezvous for anglers, an ideal spot for rambblers, it is a veritable haven of peace, fresh air and enjoyment. Pedalos, mini-golf, boules pitches, beach volleyball courts and an aerial adventure park all add to the attraction of the lake.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

BOWLING

A new space

GOLF

Located at the foot of the Cité Médiévale since 1988, the Golf de Carcassonne course provides enthusiasts with 18 holes to play.

SWIMMING

Members of the public can go swimming at the activity centre at Cavayère Lake, Grazaille swimming pool during the winter or Païcherou swimming pool in summer.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

For the sportier visitor, bikes and mountain bikes are available for hire to help them enjoy the riches of our city, as well as the Canal du Midi. Two agencies offer bike hire: Evasion Deux Roues and Génération VTT.

WALKING

A wide variety of walking routes are located in and around Carcassonne. The GR 36 crosses the city of Carcassonne and makes up part of one of the routes to Santiago. Cavayère Lake, the banks of the Aude, as well as the quays of the Canal all provide special places for walks. Free guides to local walking routes are available at the Tourist Office.

TENNIS

The Tennis Club Accacia, a covered complex that stretches over 5000m², is the main league club in the region, and its facilities make it unique. For the last 15 years, they have organised the Open de Tennis and have also hosted major events, such as the finals of the French National 1A Championships.

The Club ASPTT Carcassonne, more oriented towards leisure and culture, boasts a sporting complex that is located on the banks of the River Aude in a magnificent setting, at a site known as Païcherou. It is very well known by the people of Carcassonne and it plays host to the Open de Pentecôte.

KARTING

For thrill seekers, the karting track of Carcassonne provides a range of challenging leisure activities for birthdays, stag and hen parties.

SPA

Establishments that offer steam room, sauna, massages and pampering treatments are situated in the heart of the Bastide Saint Louis.

COOKERY COURSES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES....

Combining a visit to Carcassonne with one of a wide range of courses is easy to do: discover our gastronomy through cookery workshops, wine appreciation classes in the wine estates, flower arranging under the tutelage of a florist that has been awarded the "Meilleur Ouvrier de France" label and is qualified to teach...



www.festivaldecarcassonne.fr

The Festival de Carcassonne will take place from 4th July to 1st August 2016.

Theatre, classical music, dance, opera and a variety of concerts with an international flavour will be the main themes of this event, where eclecticism is the watchword. Different heritage sites, such as the Cité Médiévale and a variety of locations within the Bastide Saint-Louis, are used to bring together culture and entertainment.

At the same time, more than 48 free concerts by national and international artists will be held at the Bastide Saint-Louis.

This ambitious programme has seen the number of visitors grow constantly, with nearly 250,000 attending in 2014.

Being recognised under the France Festival label and having been referenced by the French Federation of International Festivals, the Festival de Carcassonne has become one of the key events of the French summertime. The Festival de Carcassonne was voted the 9th best festival in France during a SACEM survey in April 2013.

Press contact: Sébastien Del Bosque

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FESTIVAL
de CARCASSONNE

OTHER EVENTS

From beginning of July to end of August 2016, a tournament in the tilt yard, in between the 2 ramparts of the Cité Médiévale. In a grandiose setting, the knights face up to one another in combat to the death, to the thunderous sound of horses' hooves. Contact : 04 68 10 24 30



FIREWORKS ON THE 14TH JULY

On 14th August 1898, the « Cadets de Gascogne » entered Carcassonne. This delegation was made up of literary, artistic and political personalities.

On this occasion, the city of Carcassonne organised a grand feast in honour of these prestigious visitors. To conclude the festivities, they used Bengal lights to simulate a fire and transform the Cité into an enormous shimmering stone. It was such a success that they decided to keep this tradition of fire going, and to do the same thing again every year on 14th July at 22h30.



MEDIEVAL FAIR

In the month of October, to our great delight, the Medieval recreationists of the south bring the city walls to life during 2 days of festivities: changing of the guard, combats, town life, artisan crafts, audience participation, music, conferences, shows... "Medieval" Carcassonne pulsates to the sound of armour and swords, blazons and songs.

Contact : 06 82 83 54 94



FÉRIA DE CARCASSONNE

End of August. An event dedicated to the cultures of the south, with fanfares and processions, Sevillana dances... A popular, festive and friendly event. Concerts and free entertainment, as well as around 50 bodegas.



CORRIDAS

During the FERIA du Sud there are bull themed spectacles, novilladas where the animals are not harmed and bull running in the arenas of Carcassonne (Espace Jean Cau). These are organised in order to promote and maintain the heritage of the bull in Carcassonne.



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

In December, Carcassonne puts on its Christmas coat and uses its imagination to serve up a festive Christmas to young and old alike. From the city centre to the Cité Médiévale, the whole town lights up and provides passers-by with entertainments that are each more surprising than the last, thrilling attractions, concerts, street theatre, decorations and magical illuminations....



GASTRONOMY



Carcassonne's cuisine is typical of the south-west and is based on products from the farm, such as poultry and vegetables. At its heart, it is largely inspired by the recipes of the south. In addition to the fresh fish, grilled or cooked in sauce, it is possible to also find terrine or even escalope of duck foie gras. There are specialities of Carcassonne, such as local hams and confit duck gizzards. Sweet specialities like Petits Carcassonnais, chocolates, chocolate cake and biscuits from the Cité and the so-called Briques de la Cité, fried treats made with sugar or chocolate, found in all the boutiques of the Cité de

Carcassonne. « Carcassonnaise Ice Cream » is unique, based on Micheline liqueur and created by the restaurant l'Auberge du Grand Puits within the Cité Médiévale.

The region around Carcassonne provides other specialities, such as pâtés made with goose or duck liver, artichoke salad served with cured pork liver, all vying for position alongside stews created with wines from the Corbières or Minervois regions, Cassoulet (made with dried beans, pork meat and rind, sausages and goose or duck confit) and fricassees of green beans or beans.

Other specialities are closer to those of the Languedoc terroir, like escargots à la Languedocienne (made with onions, ham, tomato and a persillade). They are on a par with the fricassees of green beans and beans, Bages bourride, the bouillabaisse or the Saint-Jean du Minervois flan (made using Muscat de Saint-Jean, honey from the Corbières and eggs).

Nevertheless, the great local speciality remains the unmissable « Cassoulet », whose history goes back to the XVI century when the bean arrived by ship from the faraway Americas. This white bean seduced the south of France. A veritable poor man's dish, housewives would leave it to simmer over the fireplace, adding any ingredients they had over time. Its name derives from the "cassole", the terracotta plate in which it was traditionally prepared.

LIQUEURS FROM CARCASSONNE

This may be a land of wine lovers, but it is also a land of imagination, and Micheline became the emblematic liqueur of the city of Carcassonne during the last century. History tells us that Michelin Boato discovered a magic potion in the IV century, an elixir of youth whose secret recipe went to the grave with him. In 1856, following an archaeological dig, the secret recipe was unearthed. At the end of the XIX century, more than ten distilleries were producing this liqueur that was awarded the title Queen of Liqueurs during the Paris 1900 Great Exposition. Or-Kina is another liqueur created using a base of wine and quinine tonic wine and which enjoyed great success during the 1900's. It has a unique flavour and is different from any other liqueur. Hypocras is an old medieval aperitif made with aromatic plants. Etablissements Cabanel, 72 allée d'Iéna: the Cabanel company, based in Carcassonne, keep alive the tradition of this slightly bitter tasting aperitif with its inimitable flavour.

RECIPE FOR CASSOULET LANGUEDOCIEN

To serve 10 :

- ❖ 150g chopped onion
- ❖ 400g fresh sausages
- ❖ 5 confit duck legs, cut in two
- ❖ 250g pork neck, loin or shoulder
- ❖ 1 dry ham bone
- ❖ 1 trotter and 1 knuckle of pork
- ❖ 1 Kg white beans
- ❖ 150g garlic powder, 10 cloves
- ❖ 300g pork fat



The night before, prepare a stock using the fat, trotter, knuckle, ham bone and a Bouquet garni. Cook for 2h30 over a low heat. Remove any excess fat by skimming well and then salt heavily. After having carefully picked through them, soak the beans overnight. Even if you are planning to sleep in, remember to get up and change the water at least 2 or 3 times.

In the morning, begin to prepare the dish. Strain out the fat, trotter, knuckle, ham bone and Bouquet garni. Sieve the stock. Roughly break up the cooked meats and squeeze the Bouquet garni to extract its quintessence. In a pan, fry the confits and set aside.

In hot fat, brown the diced pork shoulder and then do the same to the garlic and onions, finely chopped. Strain out and set aside.

In a pan of clean and cold water, blanch the beans: skim carefully and leave to cook for 5 to 10 min over a low heat before draining. Moisten with stock, add all the meats as well as the browned onions and garlic, season generously with pepper and adjust the salt as required. Place in the "cassole", distributing the pieces of confit and sausage, which should have been chopped into 10cm lengths and browned in a pan.

Place in the oven for approximately 2h at a low heat (thermostat 7) 210°.

Push down the pieces of meat at regular intervals, and stir in the rest of the stock if it appears to be needed.

If this is prepared the day before, it will just need reheating. In this case, keep back some of the stock in order to rehydrate the dish. Reheating this dish for 10 servings will take 2h in an oven. Of course, this is a basic recipe that, nevertheless, adheres to the fundamentals of the original recipe.



The Domaine d'Auriac : Chef Philippe Deschamps serves regional and traditional cuisine. Beautiful meats, game in season, fish from small scale suppliers, family recipes bring them all together...

1 Michelin Star



La Barbacane : Often recommended by the most renowned gastronomic guides. Chef Jérôme Ryon offers up a menu that combines the freshest regional products to create innovative dishes where every detail is important.

1 Michelin Star



Le Parc: Set under the shade of centuries old trees, a modern welcome awaits, bathed in warming light. The chef here, Franck Putelat, was revealed to the public when he won the Silver Bocuse at the World Cooking Contest.

2 Michelin Stars

THE VINEYARDS

CARCASSONNE and its Cité Médiévale are the jewels of the Languedoc. Thanks to their reputation and geographical location, they are seen as the capital and gateway to the vineyards of the AUDE department.

In this way, from north to south, east to west, the visitor's eyes are drawn to the different wine growing estates and their minds wander between dream and reality.

Thanks to their great quality, the wines that are produced on these lands have acquired a reputation among professionals and amateurs alike. In fact, the variety of soil types, the position and altitude of the vines and the Mediterranean climate with its continental oceanic influences all contribute to the creation of flavoursome wines, which have original and authentic characters.



The **MINERVOIS** is located in the north-west and stretches across endless terraces, producing distinguished reds with the aroma of wild red fruits, as well as white wines and rosés that are fresh, rich and aromatic.

The **CABARDES** in the north-west, bordered by the Canal du Midi and the Black Mountain, flows across gently sloping hills. The red and rosé wines, created using Mediterranean grape varieties (Grenache, Syrah) as well as oceanic varieties (Merlot, Cabernet, Cot), offer an appealing complexity and balance.

The **MALEPERE** is dominated by the Merlot grape variety, along with the Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, and is the most western of the wine growing areas. A touch of the south is brought by the use of Grenache and Cinsault. The reds and rosés are well structured and develop a broad aromatic palette of flavours.

LIMOUX is a terroir where sparkling wines reign supreme, with its famous Blanquette (the oldest brut in the world) and its Crémants, which include the gentle Limoux Blanc with its Chardonnay base and, more recently, the Rouge, which uses predominantly Merlot grapes.

The **CORBIERES** is a land of contrasts, overlooking the Gulf of Lion, and is the most widespread appellation in the department. Its reds are full bodied and intense, with a real potential for cellaring. The delicate and floral whites offer a beautiful harmony and the rosés are pleasant and vibrant.

FITOU is a patchwork terroir of wind and sunshine, sea spray and lakes, and became the very first "appellation controlée" for red wines in the Aude (1948). Its wines are created using Carignan, a traditional grape variety, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah and are exuberant, elegant and well rounded.



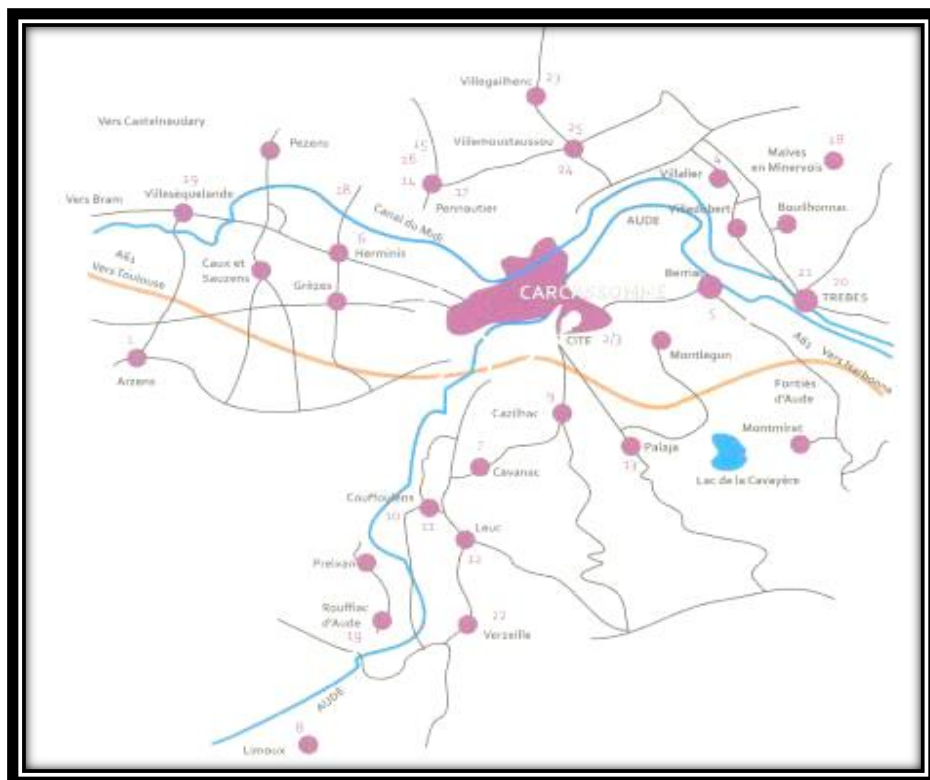


VIN DE PAYS CITE DE CARCASSONNE

With this sort of history throughout the terroir, wine production extends right across the Cité de Carcassonne.

The wine producing men and women are passionate, exacting and proud of their unique identity.

Their reds, rosés and white wines provide a harmonious balance between Atlantic grape varieties (Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon) and those of the Mediterranean (Grenache, Syrah, Carignan). Respectful of their past and of their terroir, every day they add to their history, one which is intimately linked to the Cité Médiévale itself. Resolutely looking to the future, they are gaining recognition every day thanks to their unfailing desire to produce the very best they can and to share this magnificent heritage with everyone.



- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 La Malepère cellar | 10 Plô Roucarels | 19 The Voie Romaine & Cabardés vineyards |
| 2 LEGTA Charlemagne | 11 Château de Couffoulens | 20 Château Millegrand |
| 3 Domaine Fontaine Grande | 12 Domaine Saint Martin | 21 Domaine de la Roque |
| 4 Alliance Minervois | 13 Domaine le Bordeur | 22 Domaine Ste Marie des Pins |
| 5 Domaine de Sautès | 14 Lorgeril Vineyards | 23 Alliance Vineyards |
| 6 Château de Serres | 15 Domaine de Loupia | 24 Domaine O' Vineyards |
| 7 Carsac Vineyards | 16 Domaine Lalande et Rivoire | 25 Domaine de la Mijeane |
| 8 Anne de Joyeuse Cellars | 17 Château d'Auzias Paretlongue | |
| 9 Sarrail Vineyards | 18 Château Malves Bousquet | |

SYNDICAT DES VINS DE LA CITE DE CARCASSONNE

Domaine Saint Martin - 11 250 Leuc

Tel. +33 (0) 4 68 78 75 88

Email: info@vins-citedecarcassonne.com

www.vins-citedecarcassonne.com

THE OCCITAN

Occitan, or Langue d'Oc, was spoken in the southern third of France, and in parts of Italy, Spain and Monaco. In the middle ages, it was the administrative and judicial language, alongside Langue d'Oïl. Today, it is taught in Carcassonne by the « La Calandreta » school, which has a campus in the very heart of the Cité Médiévale. Teaching here involves immersing students in a bilingual schooling system (Occitan-French) during nursery and primary school.

THE OC GROUP

A collective of artists and specialists in digital imaging technologies that collaborate on arts projects that aim to promote Occitan. The OC's works are centred on music, shows, films and literature. OC offers a unique musical style that blends vocals with ancient and electronic instruments. Their lyrics are based on texts written in the Oc language and call to mind the history, legends and dreams of the Languedocian civilisation. Through their creativity, OC immerses the public into a mysterious atmosphere where the notion of time is based purely on historical lines.

<http://www.ocmusic.org>

CATHARISM

Cathar Country is often associated with the Aude department. It is not marked by a historical boundary and its history has an impact on most of southern France. The Aude can be said to be the land where events linked to this particular history occurred most frequently. The châteaux, the abbeys and the museums that provide some of the department's riches are, at the same time, witnesses to and storytellers of these events. Catharism was part of a reform movement that characterised its era, as well as being a quest for a sense of being. Other movements at the very heart of the Catholic Church existed at the time, such as the Benedictine and Cistercian orders.

In the XII century, a Christian religion different from Catholicism grew in southern France: Catharism.

This new belief was based on Christianity, but was highly critical of Catholicism and was rapidly spread throughout all of the Occitan area. Pope Innocent III, in order to counteract this movement, decided to launch the Crusade against the Albigeois. Very quickly, this Crusade joined forces with the geopolitical war taking place between the Lords of the north and those of the Occitan. Trials held by the Inquisition finished off the work that had begun with numerous sieges and burnings of Cathar followers. Although Catharism was eradicated, it remains a symbol of the tolerance, freedom and spirit of openness of Occitan culture. It left its mark on the region and its identity.

Nowadays, very few vestiges of this history remain. The châteaux, abbeys and museums of Cathar Country have become symbols of this conflict; the châteaux that served as refuges for the Cathars were subjected to many sieges, the abbeys were charged with reinforcing Catholic power and supporting the Crusade. As the centuries passed, the look of these monuments has greatly changed, but their history will forever remain linked to this great tragedy of the medieval era.

<http://www.payscathare.org>

RUGBY AND THE PEOPLE OF CARCASSONNE



ASC XIII

ASC, owned by the famous Taillefer family, won its first French championship title on 20th May 1945, beating Toulouse 13 - 12 at the Stade Jean Laffon in Perpignan.

Carcassonne's rugby league players would write the most glorious pages of the history of the « Canary » jersey by adding 3 further French titles in 1950, 1952 and 1953.

The ASC XIII is the most successful rugby league club in France, with 10 French championship titles and 11 French Cup victories. The Club has contributed a great deal to the reputation of the city of Carcassonne!

USC XV

Since gaining promotion in great style 6 seasons ago, US Carcassonne has today become the leading sports club in the city.

The Yellow and Whites are led by Christian Labit, one of France's most famous rugby union players and the former iconic N°8 for Stade Toulousain. They are now one of the top 20 French rugby union clubs, the second most popular sport in the country.

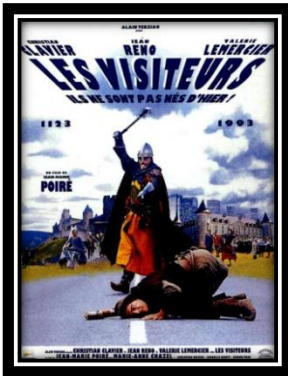
As a genuine driving force in the sporting and economic life of the city, USC makes Carcassonne come alive whenever it hosts a match in the PRO D2 league, thanks to its supporters, its 400 partners and the Stade Albert Domec.

The club also has a ticket office and boutique, which are located a short distance from the stadium, at 32. rue Antoine Marty.

FILMOGRAPHY OF CARCASSONNE



- 1924 Le miracle des loups by Henry Dupuy Mazuel
- 1928 Le tournoi dans la Cité by Jean Renoir
- 1929 La merveilleuse vie de Jeanne d'arc by Marc de Gastyne
- 1934 Sans famille by Marc Allegret
- 1935 Ademaï au Moyen Age with Noël Noël
- 1944 La fiancée des ténèbres by Serge de Poligny
- 1961 Miracle des loups with Jean Louis Barrault, Jean Marais and Roger Hanin



- 1964 Le Corniaud de Gérard Oury with Bourvil and Louis de Funès
- 1968 The Lion in Winter with Peter O'Toole and Katherine Hepburn
- 1976 Casimir le grand
- 1982 Une glace avec deux boules by Christian Lara
- 1985 The Bride of Frankenstein with Sting
- 1991 Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves by Kevin Reynolds, starring Kevin Costner
- 1992 Les visiteurs by Jean Marie Poiré, starring Jean Reno and Christian Clavier
- 1997 Le destin de Youssef Chahine
- 2001 D'artagnan by Peter Hyams
- 2008 La lettre pour le roi by Pieter Verhoeff
- 2011 Labyrinth by Kate Moss

ACCOMODATION IN CARCASSONNE

Carcassonne boasts a range of accommodation that suits the needs of any visitor, whether individuals or groups, for leisure or business. It has 41 hotels/aparthotels in a range of categories, with 1862 rooms and apartments.

Hotels

Two 5* hotels	83 rooms
Seven 4* hotels	355 rooms
Thirteen 3* hotels	532 rooms
Eleven 2* hotels	402 rooms
Two 1* hotels	137 rooms
Two NC hotels	50 rooms
Three 3* aparthotels	272 apartments
One NC aparthotel	31 apartments

A great many guest houses, accredited gîtes and a 4* camp site at the foot of the Cité complete the accommodation offer. A list of accommodation providers is available on our web site:

<http://www.tourisme-carcassonne.fr>

ACCESS / TRANSFERS



BY AIR :

Connections with:

- **England:** London, Liverpool, Nottingham
- **Ireland:** Dublin, Cork,
- **Scotland:** Glasgow
- **Belgium:** Charleroi (located 55 km from Brussels, Belgium),
- **Portugal:** Porto.

All the routes listed above are operated by Ryanair.

Aéroport de Carcassonne en Pays Cathare - Tel : 04.68.71.96.46

Reservations: Ryanair

BY RAIL:

TGV Barcelona – Carcassonne

S.N.C.F de Carcassonne Railway station

Information: Tel: 36.35 (from abroad: 33 892 35 35 35)

BY ROAD :

Autoroute des 2 Mers A 61, RN 113 - D 118

BY COACH

Cars Teissier Tel (+33) 04 68 25 85 45

Kéolis Aude Tel (+33) 04 68 25 13 74

TAXI :

A.A.C.R.T. Station Jardin André Chénier Tel : 04 68 71 50 50

MINIBUS WITH CHAUFFEUR

Bod.Aude : Tel. (+33) 06 03 18 39 95 bod.aude11@orange.fr

Sun Tour : Tel. (+33) 06 84 76 39 01 www.sun-tour.fr

S.J.P Evasion : Tel (+33) 06 73 76 87 19 www.sjpevasion.fr


Vin & Merveilles : Tel (+33) 06 12 27 47 01 www.vins-et-merveilles.com


URBAN TRANSPORT NETWORK:


Several different ticket types are available:

- tickets valid for 1h across the entire network for €1 single or €8 for a book of 10,
- tickets valid for a full day's travel across the entire network for €2.60 single,
- Airport tickets that allow visitors to take the shuttle bus that links the airport with the city centre for €5 single.
- Travelcards are also available for longer stays.

UNDERGROUND PARKING

 Parking André Chénier (340 spaces) - Tel: 04 68 72 30 10

 Parking des Jacobins (211 spaces) - Tel : 04 68 47 64 83

 Parking Gambetta (403 spaces) - Tel: 04 68 71 34 11

WELCOME TO CARCASSONNE !!!



If you would like to request images that are free of rights, as well as any other information, please get in touch with the Communications team.

MARIE CROUZET – PHILIPPE MIRO – SARAH SEGUY

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incoming@carcassonne-tourisme.com

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