

VILLAGES

Saint-Guilhem-le-désert, a jewel in the crown of Romanesque art, a unique location of calm and serenity

Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert is a monastic village endowed by Guillaume, Duke of Aquitaine and the Count of Toulouse, first cousin of Charlemagne and a valiant soldier to the crown, on 14 December 804. The monastery that still stands today dates back to the 11th century but has been restored and extended several times over the course of the centuries.

The village has a strong medieval identity that is very different from anywhere else in the region. Built along the Verdus stream at the bottom of the Val de Gellone, the narrow streets of Saint-Guilhem are surrounded by greenery, a real haven of peace, and the final resting of a soldier who became a saint.



GIGNAC, sit back and enjoy the legends



The historic centre of Gignac was built in the 13th century beneath an impressive medieval tower visible many miles away. Overlooking the road to Montpellier, the church of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce was built following a miracle orchestrated by the Virgin Mary in the 14th century. It was later rebuilt and became part of a pilgrim's route. Every year, the village's emblematic animal and protector, Martin the donkey, is commemorated in Gignac. Combining history and legendary traditions, Gignac has plenty to offer...

Aniane, The first monastic city



Founded in 782 by Witiza, the future Saint-Benoît of Aniane, the abbey's existence soon led to the construction of the present historic centre due to the large number of people who began settling around it. A fortified enclosure and Saint-Sauveur Abbey was already mentioned in the 12th century, a true model of medieval urban development.

The village is important in the history of the Hérault Valley, Aniane also has large and famous wine-producing estates.

Montpeyroux, a unique castellas



Don't miss Montpeyroux when you visit the Hérault Valley. This village lies on the border between the Causses limestone plateau and the famous wine-growing plain. Its exceptional heritage includes the castellas, an imposing 13th century fortress, providing one of the best sites in the area to go trekking with the family, starting from the village or from Barry.

Vendémian, ramparts and traditions

Vendémian is a plain and scrubland (garrigue) village situated at the bottom of the foothills of the limestone plateau in Aumelas.



The village continues to adhere to the old traditions, specialising in the production of the table grapes like the Chasselas or Servant varieties. Tambourin, a traditional sport from the Hérault Valley which is a sort of cross between tennis and basque pelota, continues to be played as in Gignac but that's another story.

Saint Jean de Fos, the strong traditions of the potters village



Saint-Jean-de-Fos owes its development to its proximity with the Devil's Bridge, built between 1028 and 1031, which has a highly strategic position along the road to Montpeyroux. Ceramic production in Saint-Jean de-Fos was first recorded in the 15th century, reaching its height at the beginning of the 19th century. The craft was passed on from father to son through generations of potters.

Today, village life is still shaped by the rhythm of its traditions. The village is atypical and the simplicity of the limestone is studded here and there with touches of green ceramic in the colours of hope...

Puéchabon, a wonderful example of a round medieval village

Puéchabon is a round village which took shape as the inhabitants gradually settled around an 11th century Fort, now vanished in the mists of time. The old church of St Pierre, which in earlier times was attached to the Fort, is all that remains today.



Unlike the villages in the vineyard-covered plain, Puéchabon is built in the midst of the garrigue (scrubland), where olive growing and forestry have always been the natural industries, together with the

Puéchabon is one of the villages with a totally rural feel to it, which has managed to preserve its medieval identity steeped in traditions...

Le Pouget, medieval and prehistoric treasure

Pouget is built on a « pioch » (small hillock) and is highly representative of the medieval villages of the Languedoc area. Le Pouget doesn't only house medieval architecture treasures, however. It also provides us with evidence of the settlement of human beings in the Hérault Valley over 2000 years ago. A few hundred metres from the village, the Dolmen of Gallardet provides us with a monumental edifice, a rare relic of prehistoric civilisations.



Saint Pargoire, one of the most beautiful snail-shaped round

Recorded as part of Gellone Abbey during the Middle Ages, the village of Saint Pargoire gradually grew in size as more and more people settled there. The main period of expansion at the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th century was a decisive moment in its history. windows in the 19th century, the building bears witness to an economic and architectural golden age.



As the village grew in size, the walls snaked around the church was rebuilt in the gothic style typical of the South of France, resulting in a wonderful example of rural architecture. Decorated with outstanding stained glass

NUMBER OF PERSONS	RATES
Group less or equal 20 persons	98 € (forfaiting rate)
More than 20 persons	4.90 € / person
Student (per school section)	84 € (forfaiting rate)
INCREASE : sunday and free days	30 €**
PREFERENTIAL RATES (January, february, november, december)	
Group less or equal 20 persons	84 € (forfaiting rate)
More than 20 persons	4.20 € / person