

PARCOURS ISSOIRE

PAYS D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE
AGGLO PAYS D'ISSOIRE

ENGLISH VERSION

AUVERGNE
RHÔNE-ALPES

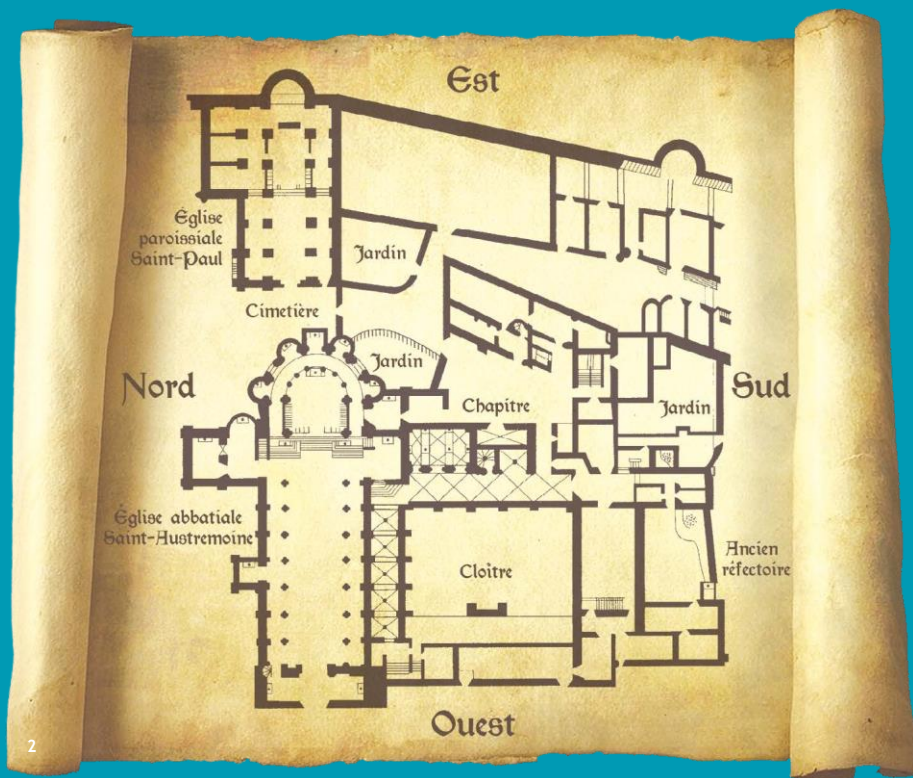


VILLES
& PAYS
D'ART &
D'HISTOIRE



1. Saint-Austremon stained-glass window

2. Map of the abbey in the 17th century (National Archives)



Réalisation
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Agglo Pays d'Issoire
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Crédits photos
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J. Damase

Maquette
VICE VERSA
d'après DES SIGNES
studio Muchir
Desclouds 2015

Impression
voir accord cadre

STORY OF A CITY

Issoire is a historical crossroad of historical exchanges between plains and mountains, stopover on the road to the Val d'Allier. The town grew under the protection of ramparts, near the abbey, until its opening in the 19th century and its transformation in the 1950s.

AN ANCIENT ORIGIN

The city occupies an alluvial terrace, by the waterside of the Couze Pavin, one kilometer to the west of its confluence with the Allier River. The origin of the name "Issoire", Iciodurum, evokes a duro, a fortified place, located near an ancient road attested by the Broc military milestone. If archaeology has highlighted the presence of villae around Issoire, the Gallo-Roman occupation remains unknown on the very site of the city.

A VICUS AND AN ABBEY, HOUSING SAINT AUSTREMOINE'S GRAVE

In the 6th century, Gregoire de Tours was responsible for the first mention of the village of Issoire, or vicus Iciodorensis. It is likely that Issoire was then the seat of a parish whose church was home to the tomb of Stremonius (Saint Austremoine), an evangelist and 1st bishop of Clermont in the 3rd century, who had retired and was buried in Issoire. His relics were then transferred to Volvic at the end of the 7th century, and then Mozac around 848.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY

The renewal of the cult of Saint Austremoine, at the end of the Merovingian period, seems to be the origin of the abbey, known from 927. In the 11th century, the monastery of Issoire was united with the one of Charroux (Vienne).

The possession of a relic assimilated to the saint's skull, favoured the monastery's reputation and led to its reconstruction in the second third of the 12th century.

Located at the south of the church, the conventual buildings were organized around a trapezoidal cloister. From this Romanesque period remains the abbey Saint Austremoine and the chapter house vestiges.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ABBEY

Excavations carried out in 1982-1989 revealed several phases of reconstruction of the buildings. At the end of the Middle-Age, the abbot Antoine Bohier was responsible for the work required due to a lack of maintenance and to seismic incidents. Damaged during the Wars of Religion, buildings were modified during the 17th century, and then between 1702 and 1724, with the disappearance of the cloister and the reconstruction of the east wing (refectory and dormitory for monks).

THE EXPANSION OF THE MEDIEVAL CITY

At the north of the church, the route of the streets Chastel and Auguste Bravard preserves the memory of an enclosure protecting the monastery and a civil market town. This primitive core was reinforced by a caste mound, its shape suggested by rue Saint-Paul.



1. Republic Square, Grand Place

2. Manlière Boulevard, old view



In the abbey's movement, the city extended westward. The current belt of boulevards marks the route of the last fortifications, built in the 16th century, with three gates at the entrance of the streets of la Berbiziale, du Poteil and du Pont, which converged to the medieval Grand Place. Several mill races cross the enclosed city. These canals supplied enclosure ditches, mills and gardens.

THE URBAN COMMUNITY

As long as the lord of the city remained the abbot, the urban community enjoyed some autonomy. A communal charter was granted by Alphonse of Poitiers in 1270 and two consuls were appointed. During the 14th century, Issoire was a Good town in Auvergne, loyal to the royal power and a member of the Provincial States. In 1471, Louis XI granted three annual fairs.

The municipal power was established around 1480 with the Clock Tower's construction, under the influence of Austremoine Bohier, son of traders from Issoire, Chamberlain then Intendant of Finance under Charles VII and Louis XI.

The Grand Place occupied a vast influence in the urban topography, being the administrative and commercial centre of the city, it was lined with private mansions built by the ennobled urban elite.

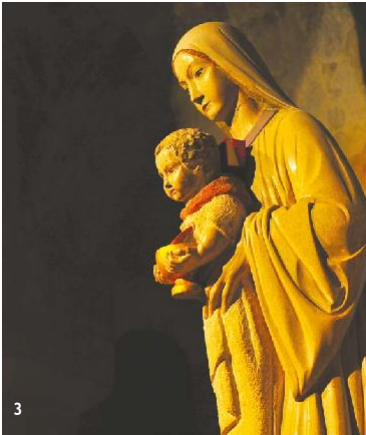
THE BIG MONEYMAKERS

These state officials were known for the career of the members of the Charrier, Bohier, Duprat, Ardier... families, who held important positions in the administration of the kingdom, such as jurist, financiers, and ecclesiastics.

Antoine Duprat (1463-1535) was undoubtedly the most amazing figure: man of power and influence, he was Chancellor of France from 1515 to 1535, and Cardinal Primate of the Gauls and legate of the Pope.

THE RELIGIOUS WARS - 16th CENTURY

Through its strategic position, Issoire was a political and military issue of the Religious Wars (1562-1598). Protestants and Catholics, then Leaguers and Royalists, fought for the city. In the hands of the Protestants through the Edict of Pacification of 1576, it was besieged in 1577 by the royal army. In 1590 the battle of Cros-Rolland took place in the north of Issoire, the city was then placed under the government of Yves Allègre, a royalist, murdered in 1592.



3. Crypt of the abbey, Notre-Dame du Précieux Sang, 1943

4. Issoire, aerial view



THE CHANGES OF THE 17th AND 18th CENTURIES

Issoire strengthened its administrative and judicial role. In 1629, it became the seat of an election (administrative and financial district). In 1700, the abbot handed over in justice to the king, who created a provosty. In the 18th century, Issoire was the seat of a subdelegation of the Auvergne Provincial Intendancy.

The Hôtel-Dieu (rue de l'Ancien Hôpital) widened thanks to Paul Ardier de Beauregard and was transformed into a General Hospital in 1674.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE URBAN THREAD

The streets in the heart of the city still have their old route while the houses were partly rebuilt, their courtyards revealing a medieval base despite their destruction during the 16th century.

The city grew slowly outside the walls, in the districts located at the main gates that welcomed religious communities of the Counter-Reformation: the Sisters of Notre-Dame on Chancellor Duprat Square (1656), the Capuchin on the right bank of the Couze (1660). In 1629, an important convent of Benedictines was founded intra-muros, established in 1648 between the rue de la Berbiziale and the Grand Place.

THE OPENING AND EMBELLISHMENT OF THE CITY IN THE 19th CENTURY

The enclosed city opened onto the outside and the suburbs following the decommissioning of the fortifications.

After the Revolution, the monastery of Saint Austremoine temporarily housed the town hall then the secondary school (1804-1969), while the Benedictine convent was transformed into courthouse, court and jail, and the old Capuchin convent was turned into a hospital. Straight paths were built to link the Grand Place, renamed Place de la République, and the boulevards: rue de Chateaudun in 1810, rue des Pâtisseries (rue Gambetta). The Imperial road n°9 followed the west boulevards and crosses the river on a new bridge.

The boulevards surrounding the city drained a part of the activities and received administrative functions in large public buildings illustrating the architectural trends of the 19th century: grain market (1816) and neoclassical sub prefecture (1853), town hall-school (1896) and eclectic savings bank (1886).

The arrival of the railway in 1855 led to the creation of a perspective on the apse of the abbey and to the creation of the plant garden.

1. The Halle aux grains
2. Rochelambert's Hotel, Place de la République
3. Choir of the abbey, painted decoration by Anatole Dauvergne



THE RESTORATION OF THE ABBEY IN THE 19th CENTURY

The old parochial church of Saint-Paul, which occupied the site of the current Altaroche car park, was destroyed in 1804.

Since then, the abbey, which appears on the first list of national heritage monuments (1840), has attracted all the attention. It is the subject of a major restoration carried out by the architects Aymond-Gilbert Mallay and Auguste Bravard. The work carried out from 1835 to 1860 continued the church's extraction, decisively oriented its conservation, and contributed to its current unity. The climax of the restoration was the interior painted decoration, executed in 1859 under the direction of the painter Anatole Dauvergne.

BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY

At the beginning of the 20th century, Issouire was still a small town in the countryside, sub prefecture where 5 658 inhabitants lived in 1911. Shops, hotels, markets and workshop blossomed on the boulevards and along the national road 9. Between the main streets, districts with narrow streets were found, where the high-rise housing surmounted vast cellars.

FROM ONE WAR TO ANOTHER

The military district of Bange settled in the south of the city in 1912 (the current 28th transmission regiment). On the eve of the Second World War, the withdrawal of industries took place, boosting the industrial momentum around automobile and aeronautical equipment. The Ducellier company (Valéo site) settled in 1838, and then the Société Générale des Alliages Légers in 1940 (current Constellium site). The flattening workshop market hall was a spectacular construction by Auguste Perret. Emergency pavilions, of avant-garde design, were produced by Jean Prouvé, Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand.

THE GREAT THIRTIES

The boom in the post-war period of the aluminium market boosted the expansion of Cégédur's factory (1954). In 1977 Interforge's large forging press was inaugurated. The big industry attracted a new population (13 673 inhabitants in 1975) and generated the apparition of peripheral districts, organised in small buildings and garden cities: quartiers du Pailloux (1949), Murat (1952), La Safournière (1958), Pré-Rond (1975). Today, the city, within the Agglo Pays d'Issouire, is committed to developing cultural tourism and economic attractiveness.



FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER

DISCOVERY-ROUTE

1 SAINT-PAUL SQUARE - TOURIST OFFICE SQUARE

Location of the original core of the city - ancient medieval necropolis (spreading to Altaroche Square as well)

2 SAINT-AUSTREMOINE ABBEY - 12th CENTURY MH 1840

Large church (65 by 17 meters) built in sandstone (arkose). Typical plan of pilgrimage churches, with ambulatory choir and radiant chapels on semi-buried crypts. Apse whose rich decoration: small column, capitals, bead cords, chipping modillions, is completed by mosaics with geometric motifs and medallions of the Zodiac sign. Bell tower rebuilt in 1847. Bypass the transept and follow the nave, punctuated by seven large arcades. Enter the church through the facade rebuilt in 1841. Painting of the Last Judgement (15th century) in the current shop (on the right). Inside, the nave is reinforced with side aisles and tribunes. Figurative capitals: griffins, centaurs, eagles. Painted decoration by Anatole Dauvergne (1859). The capitals of the Choir are dedicated to the cycle of the Passion and Resurrection of the Christ. The ambulatory, arched with ridges, covers the sanctuary and serves the five radiant chapels. Access to the crypt, splendid prefiguration of the choir, by a staircase located at the entrance of the ambulatory. Enamelled shrine of the 13th century.

3 NICOLAS-POMEL CULTURAL CENTER

Rebuilt between 1702 and 1724, most recent part of the east wing of the monastery. houses Jean-Héliou galleries (contemporary art exhibitions) and the Georges-Duby Romanesque Arts Centre: vestiges of the medieval monastery and chapter house (12th-13th centuries), temporary exhibitions. (CLOSE)

Parvis Raoul-Ollier : the heart of the area of the ancient abbey. The location of the cloister The changes of the 17th and 18th centuries.

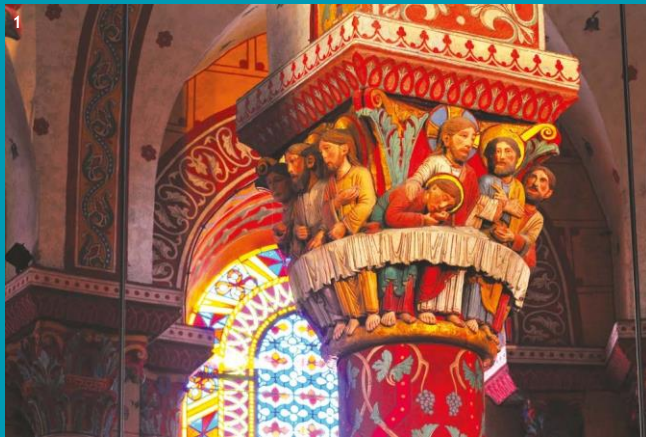
4 REPUBLIC SQUARE

This renamed in the 19th century, the Grand Place of the end of the Middle-Ages, showing the historical importance of exchanges. It was linked from its corners to the city's gates by streets with winding paths. The facades of the ancient private mansions that border it were reworked in the 18th and 19th centuries. At the back, there are main buildings with staircase towers and a courtyard, built on long narrow strips of plots of medieval origin. In the perspective of Châteaudun Street, which was built in 1810 to connect the square to the boulevard, is the Four Seasons Fountain, built in 1832 in Volvic stone by architect Louis-Charles Ledru.

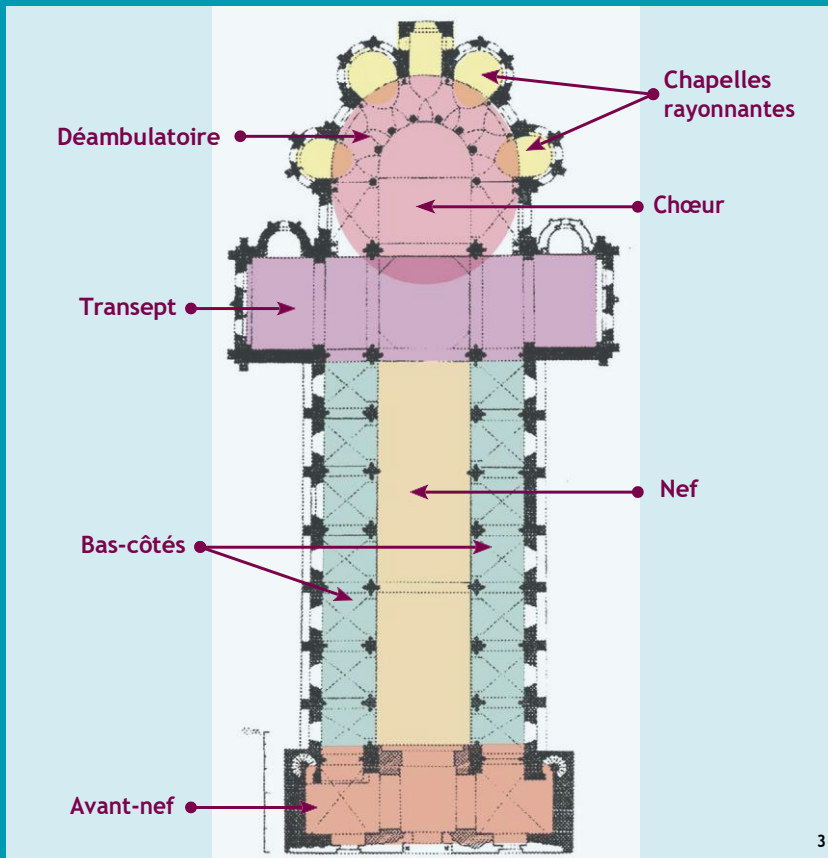
1. Abbey, apse, cycle of the Zodiac, medallion of the sign of the Taurus

2. Ambulatory, capital of the Last Supper

3. Map of the abbey



MH : classified as a historical monument
ISMH : registered as a historical monument





1. Arcade House

3. Clock Tower

2. Hotel Clement and Ledru fountain, Republic Square

4. Caisse d'Épargne, details of the façade



5 DUPRAT HOTEL (n° 27 of the Republic Square, 4 and 6 rue de la Berbiziale) - end of the 15th, 16th and 18th centuries

It can be identified by its rectangular corbelled tower. The first floor still has marks of openings in elliptical arches, old shops or dispensaries. Native house of Antoine Duprat (1463-1535), cardinal and chancellor of France, main counsellor of Francis I.

6 CLÉMENT HOTEL (n° 34, ISMH 2010) - end of the 15th, 17th and 18th centuries

A large urban hotel composed of two buildings linked by a high quadrangular staircase tower from the 15th century. On both facades are overlaid old commercial bays from the late Middle Ages and wide bays of the 17th and 18th centuries. Wrought iron bodyguard with curls patterns. Corner niche with gothic canopies housing a statue (repliqua) of Saint Austremoine.

7 ARCADES HOUSE (n° 1 rue Plssevin, ISMH 1981) - end of the 15th, 16th and 18th centuries

Unique residence built on Gothic arcades. This system could originally continue on a part of the square, housing external transactions and shops on the ground floor. Gabriel Roux (1853-1914), researcher and doctor was born here. His contributed to the discovery of penicillin.

8 BOHIER HOTEL (n° 3 rue du fer, ISMH 1965) - 16th, 17th and 18th centuries

Renaissance hotel whose construction is attributed to this important family of the urban elite of consuls, royal officers and ecclesiastics (including Austremoine, Thomas and Antoine Bohier). Imposing doorway in stone of arkose, the frame with prominent keystone. 18th century facade.

9 FAÇADES OF N°s 6, 8 AND 9 - (Rochelambert's hotel) - 18th century

Several facades with classical layouts border the southwestern part of the square. At n° 6, an elegant doorway sculpted in andesite with pilaster and entablature of ancient inspiration. At the n°9, a carriage door (oculus, garlands) and a balcony on consoles whose wrought iron bodyguard is decorated with a medallion bearing the monogram LR (La Rochelambert).

10 CHARRIER HOTEL (n° 18, ISMH 1983) - end of the 15th and 18th centuries

Andesite doorway whose tympanum is sculpted with a decoration of flamboyant Gothic arcatures. It is a large dwelling, bearing the name of one of the oldest urban families of the medieval urban bourgeoisie. In 1592, it was the scene of a gruesome event of the Religious Wars, the murder of the governor of the city Yves d'Allègre.



11 CLOCK TOWER - 15th, 19th and 20th centuries

Built around 1480, this symbol of municipal power adjoined the city's first shared house. The current Volvic stone facade dates from its reconstruction around 1840 by the architect Louis-Charles Ledru. Belvedere, temporary exhibitions.

12 HALLE AUX GRAINS - 1816 - ISMH

Monumental building in arkose (local sandstone) built by the architect Pierre Rousseau on the model of ancient temple: steps, Doric columns, and pediments. Incarnation of public power and of agricultural prosperity in the 19th century, which became a place of entertainment and encounters during the 20th century. Renovated in 1997.

13 JEAN-PROUVÉ ART CENTER

Old Benedictines convent (1648), which originally occupied a large area between rue Berbiziale and the Grande Place. The courtyard still has the cloister's arcades. After the Revolution, the building housed the jail and the court of justice and commerce (definitive in 2009). Jean-Prouvé contemporary art galleries are located on the first floor. Permanent exhibition: Donation Kim En Joong. Temporary exhibitions.

14 OLD CAISSE D'ÉPARGNE - 1883

At the corner of rue Berbiziale and du Palais is a building with an eclectic style (architect Etienne Guimbal), built to house this social organisation founded in Isoire in 1861. Brick facades with prominent seals and limestone decoration. Bas-reliefs illustrating the themes of prosperity and power (trophies, lion heads, horns of plenty, wheat sheaves, garlands). Skylight with buttresses and faux-marble decoration.

15 HOUSE BARTIN (n° 41 Berbiziale's street - ISMH 1981) - 18th century

Classical style hotel, facade with beautiful lintel made of arkose stone (local blond and pink sandstone), used in the 18th century as the office for collecting royal taxes. Two small human faces decorate the doorway, framed by pilasters and crowned by a low arch with a decorated keystone.



1. Town Hall

2. War memorial 1939-1945

3. Couze Pavin and dyke, André-Roux park

4. Castle of Hauterive



16 WAR MEMORIAL 1914-1918

Inaugurated in 1924 (Paul Raymond, architect, and Dunand-Roz, sculptor). Sandstone obelisk on pedestal, crowned by a funeral urn in Volvic's stone. Commemorative plaques.

17 WAR MEMORIAL 1939-1945

Built in 1952 by the architect Jean Dagon and the sculptor Raymond Coulon. Monument composed of a sculpted group (woman and child, allegory of absence and mourning) and a horizontal sign dedicated to the memory of the victims from Issoire during the Second World War: soldiers, civilians, deportees, members of the resistance. Wall of Remembrance, a pathway through the history of the city in the 20th century, artworks of the engraver Marc Brunier-Mestas.

18 POST OFFICE HOTEL - 1947

Marcel Jarrier's post war construction, Art Deco and regionalist style architecture (Genoise tiling), also showing the Reconstruction movement.

19 TOWN HALL - 1896

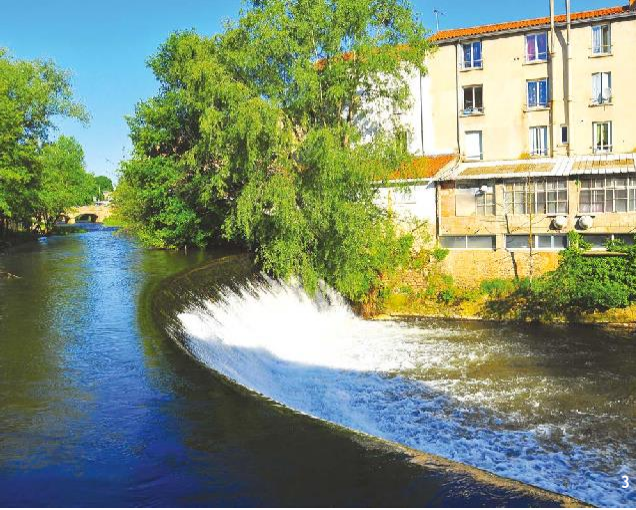
Old town hall-school of eclectic style composed of a central body and two side wings. Sandstone rubble facades with prominent seals, limestone decoration. Central avant-corps in the shape of a triumphal arc, celebrating the republican ideal: sculpted keystone of Marianne's bust, letters R and F interlaced with oak and olive leaves. In front of the doorstep, Basket Carrier in Art Deco style (Albert Poncin, 1926).

20 RAILWAY STATION DISTRICT - 1855-1865

Railway station built in 1855, following the opening of the Clermont-Issoire railway line: central pavilion with large arcades, extended by two wings, clock under curvilinear pediment and zinc roofs. Avenue built in the perspective of the abbey around 1860.

21 RENÉ CASSIN AND ANDRÉ-ROUX PARKS

Old Vernière Park (1865) redesigned in the English style (1961) and completed with a second garden on the right bank of the Couze Pavin in 1983. Ponds and water displays. Statues of the Lacemaker (Robert-Henri Busnel, 1926) and of the Republic (replica).



21^{Bis} DYKE AND DIVERSION OF THE MILLRACE

View on the dyke a small dam built on the river to facilitate the water's diversion toward the canal (mill race), that once supplied the Rocpierre mill in the past.

22 THE MILLRACE NEAR THE ESPAILLAT (Parguet's dead-end)

One of the oldest districts in the city, renovated in 2010. Crossed by the Parguet Canal, bordered by houses with washstones.

23 WAR MEMORIAL - 1864

Place de la Sous-préfecture, currently Alfred Lamy Square, a rare cantonal monument dedicated to soldiers of 1870. Volivc stone pyramid (Etienne Guimbal, architect, and Dunand-Roz, sculptor). Mobile guard statue by Henri Gourguillon.

24 SUB PREFECTURE - 1853

A sober construction, built on the side of the imperial road n°9 by the architect Aymond-Gilbert Mallay, from Clermont-Ferrand, restorer of the abbey Saint-Austreimoine.

25 NEO-GOTHIC CHAPEL - 1885

Etienne Guimbal's work for the convent and boarding school of the Sisters of Notre-Dame. La Gergovia Lace Schools (1908-1914), founded by Alfred Lescure. Current Institut Sévigné-Saint-Louis (not open to the public).

26 HOSPITAL CHAPEL - 1864

Old chapel of Capuchin convents, transformed into a hospital after 1791. The chapel was renovated in 1861-1864 according to Ledru's drawings, an architect from Clermont-Ferrand (not open to the public).

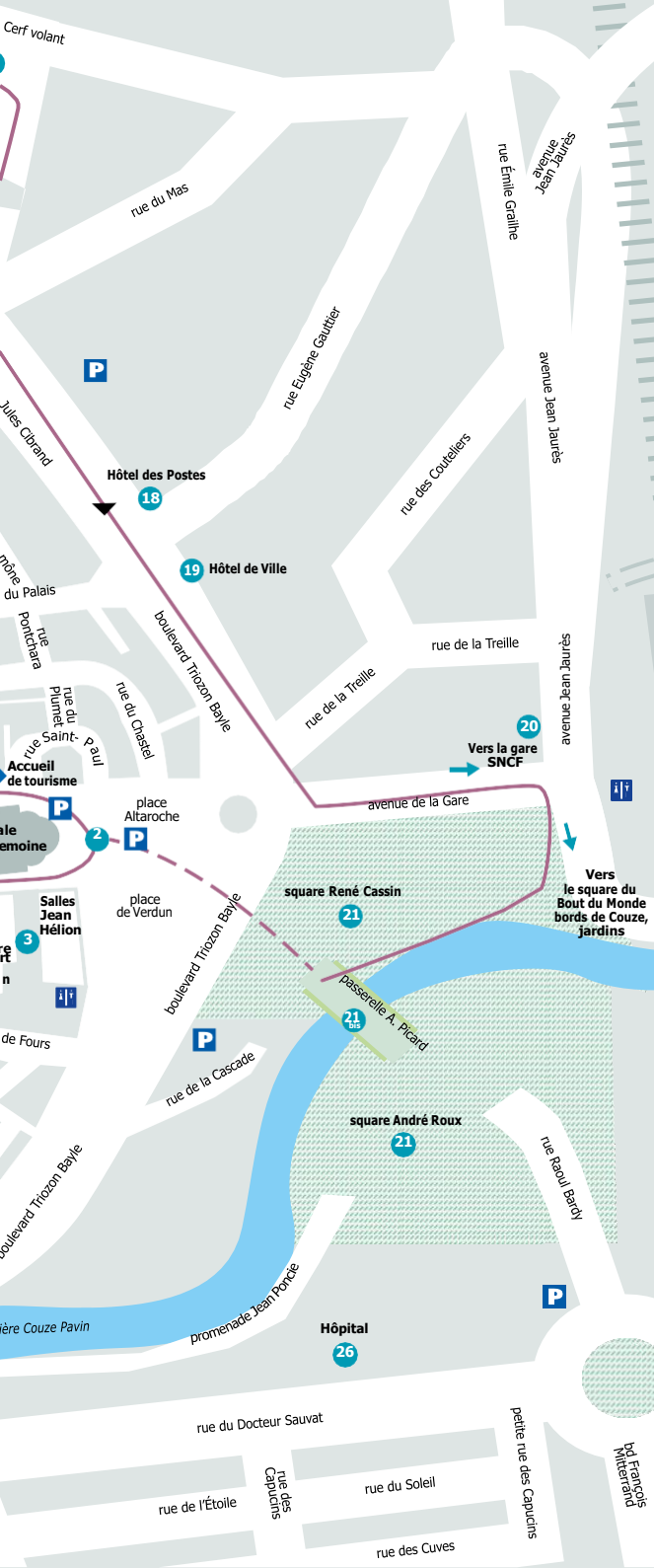
27 MILLRACE AND BARRIERE WASHING PLACE

The Guillard canal emerges to the west of the city from a diversion of the Couze Pavin. It takes the name of Barrière canal from the eponymous mill, and then heads towards the city. A spillway managed by a control valve allows the water level to be controlled here.

28 GARDENS OF HAUTERIVE CASTLE (ISMH 1991) - 17th and 18th centuries

Overlooking the city, a domain organized around a classic main building. Visits of outbuildings, terraced vegetable gardens, park and gardens, and ponds and fountains.





ISSOIRE

- 1 Pays d'Issoire Tourist Office
- 2 Saint-Austremon abbey-church
- 3 Nicolas-Pomel Cultural Center : Georges-Duby Romanesque Art Center, Jean-Héliou art gallery (work closure)
- 4 Republic Square
- 5 Hotel Duprat
- 6 Hotel Clément
- 7 Arcade House
- 8 Bohier Hotel
- 9 Hotel de la Rochelambert
- 10 Hotel Charrier
- 11 Clock Tower
- 12 Halle aux grains
- 13 Jean-Prouvé Cultural Center
- 14 Old Caisse d'Epargne
- 15 House Bartin
- 16 War Memorial 1914-1918
- 17 War Memorial 1939-1945
- 18 Post office Hotel
- 19 Town Hall
- 20 Railway Station District
- 21 René Cassin and Émile-Roux parks
- 21 bis Dyke and diversion of the millrace
- 22 Millrace near the Espaillet
- 23 War Memorial 1870
- 24 Sub prefecture
- 25 Chapelle néogothique
- 26 Hospital Chapel
- 27 Millrace and Barrière washing place
- 28 Toward the Garden of Hauterive Castle

City center circuit

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- **Tourist Office**, place Saint-Paul
04 73 89 15 90
issuire-tourisme.com
- **Land of Art and History** (not on the plan)
04 73 55 58 50 - capissoire.fr

« THE FULL MOON RAISED, COLOR OF APRICOT. AND ISSOIRE APPEARED, SPREAD OUT ON A HEM OF FLOOR. »

Henri Pourrat, *En Auvergne, Les Limagnes, 1952.*

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The Heritage Department

It coordinates the initiatives of the Pays d'Issoire. All year round, it offers activities for the local population and for schoolchildren. We are at your disposal for any project.

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