

Discovery of the old Allanche

Allanche walking tour



This walking tour will guide you through Allanche. The town unveils its secrets through a series of panels. This guide is a translation of those panels.

The tour begins outside the Tourist Office of Allanche.

Length of the tour : 1h



1 THE CASTLE OF THE DIENNE OF CHEYLADET

The Dienne of Cheyladet were lords of Allanche, and built this castle (which is nowadays the town hall) between the 17th and the 18th centuries. There was a tower, a belfry and a campanile, facades with arched or mullioned windows, a chapel and fountain.

An ambitious project concerning land acquisitions faced hostility from some inhabitants.

The Lieutenant General François de Dienne de Cheyladet was in charge of 30 000 men and took the city of Strasbourg in 1681. Then, he handed over the keys to Louis XIV, thus reinforcing the France's Eastern border.

2 MICHEL DE L'HOSPITAL (1505 - 1573)

Chancellor of France, humanist, poet and legal expert.

His family was originally from a little village called l'Hôpital, near Allanche. They had a house located in this place, where you are actually. He made his mark on the History of France, because he created commercial courts, the calendar year starting on the first of January and endeavoured to pacify the country during the Wars of Religion.

In tribute to his action and work in general, his bust is displayed at the National Assembly, the Senate and the Louvre museum.

3 ABBOT DOMINIQUE DE PRADT 1759 – 1837

He was born in Allanche on the 23rd April 1759 and was known as the "Talleyrand du Cézallier". Chaplain of Napoleon and Ambassador in Warsaw. He was as well archbishop, diplomat, agronomist, traveller and publicist.

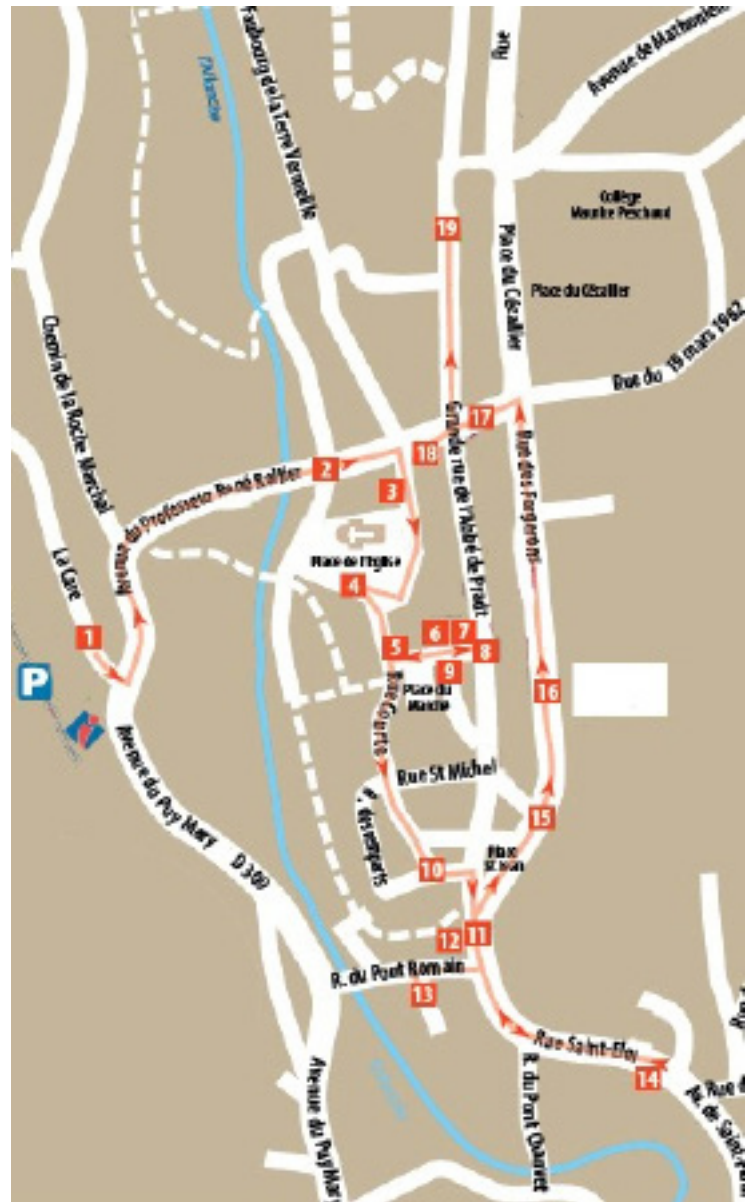
As an essayist, he dealt with topics like slavery, decolonization, and the geopolitical situation in Europe. He was the inventor of the right of intervention in the Greek War of Independence. He had also a good reputation in South America because he helped some countries to liberate themselves from the Spanish yoke. In his domain des Prades located near Allanche, he conducted some agronomic experiences on cows and horses. He left a significant amount of money in order to make Allanche less isolated.

4 ROMAN CHURCH 12th - 14th - 15th CENTURIES

This is a rare example of a fortified church. It was built in the 12th century by Benedictine Monks from la Chaise-Dieu. They founded a monastery here, on the location of the school Saint Joseph.

During the trouble periods of Middle Ages, the church was extended between the 14th and 15th centuries in order to become a fortified castle. It thus became the place who protected the city.

This roman church is composed by three naves ended by one apse and two apsidal chapels very well conserved with their external modillions. It contains a rich furniture, like for example baroque altarpieces or polychrome statues. The Church of Allanche remains a privileged witness of the events and needs of the population throughout history.



5 MONUMENT DE L'ESTIVE (SUMMER PASTURES)

Made of lava from Bouzentès (near Saint Flour). The sculptor is Jean Chauchard. Here to remember that Allanche is the capital of summer pastures. It pays tribute to the farmers of Cantal and the famous breed of cow called Salers.

It was built in November 1996, on the initiative of François Auriol (1949-2005) and Christian Léoty (former mayor). The Fête de l'Estive (an event celebrating each year summer pastures) was created in 1992 by François Auriol, Philippe Deiber, Hervé Laurent and Pierre Jarry (mayor at the time).

6 THE RIGHTEOUS AMONG NATIONS OF ALLANCHE

Sister Marie-Etienne (born Philomène Rolland) and Sister Marie-Angèle (born Jeanne Dessaigne) were honoured "Righteous among Nations" in 2002 by the French committee for Yad Vachem.

Head teacher and teacher during the Second World War, they both hid Jewish children here in the school Saint Joseph between 1942 and 1945.

Thanks to their bravery and actions, Colette, Jacqueline, André, Danièle... all of them Jewish children, were saved from a tragic fate.



7 THE COVERED MARKET

Thanks to the legacy of Charles Bonnet in 1890, this hall was achieved in 1895 following the project of the architect Jean Jacques Dautet, in the Place de la Croix. His son, Jean Dautet was a doctor and acted like a hero during the First World War.

This hall is still a great example of the steel architecture from the 19th century, looking like the Pavillon Baltard. During the 19th century, new construction techniques were developed. You can see an open volume under the saddle roof, with a highlighted apparent metal framework: pole, lattice beams, tympanum at the extremities and roofs surmounted by roof lights.

8 LORDS OF MERCŒUR

They were very powerful and famous lords from a Carolingian origin. In 778, the Emperor Charlemagne had given to the founder of the dynasty called Itier de Mercoeur the advantage of the Auvergne's province. This chivalric race gave a saint to the Church: Odilon de Mercoeur, abbot of Cluny (995). At the beginning, the barony included nine districts in Auvergne and in Gévaudan, including Allanche and Maillargues, where they had an important castle destroyed by Richelieu's order in 1633. The lineage of Mercoeur ended in 1321 with Béraud VII, raised at the court with the sons of Philippe le Bel. He was part of the King's council, where there was all the great personalities of the Kingdom.

9 MUNICIPAL PARK

This is a body of water who belonged to the Castle of Allanche built in the XVII century. Then, it became a playground, and a meeting place (concert, second hand trade, and other events). In the 1950', the famous French actor Jean Paul Belmondo stayed several times here in Allanche. He stated that his vocation came while being in Allanche: "Allanche helped me express my desire to become an actor... A wonderful memory marked by a few studies and a lot of fun..."



10 THE SOUTEYRANE DOOR

The Souteyrane door of the medieval city, also known as the southern door, was shaped with two stone arches. A staircase leaded up to the top, where there was a statue depicting Saint Jean Baptiste, patron of the town. The door was open through the fortifications and destroyed under the Empire. However, there is still a jamb with a niche that holds the statue of Saint Jean Baptiste.

The city of Allanche was fortified in various stages:

- In 1364, the fortification of the church with the construction of two towers
- In 1438 begins the creation of a surrounding wall around the city

Ramparts are still visible along the river Allanche.

11 TEACHER RENÉ ROLLIER

A life of fight against leprosy. Born in Allanche in 1917, he went to Morocco in 1947 with his wife, after some studies in dermatology. During 39 years, his biggest concern will be the fight against leprosy. Tireless worker and author of a thousand of publications, he repeated constantly that the most unfortunate patient had to be treated with the same consideration as the wealthiest. Also, he stated that no matter if they had a banal or rare disease, they must be treated with concern.

In 1966, the Leprosy Centre in Casablanca decided to employ patients. They made tapestry in order to fight against idleness and relax their fingers, because working with a needle was a very good occupational therapy.

12 ROGER ALHEINC 1891-1965

During spring 1944, he was the cantonal chief of the resistance, known by the locals as Roger. In June, he led a thousand of volunteers from the canton to the Mont Mouchet marquis. In August, he contributed to the Liberation Committee in charge of restoring the Republic.

Veteran of the First World War (14-18), he was decorated with the Legion of Honour as a soldier. In 1945, he was also honoured with the Croix de Guerre (war cross) and the Medal of the Resistance. Roger Alheinc held a doctorate in economics and was director of the Bank of France for the foreign trade. He was the mayor of Allanche from 1945 to 1948, and general councillor of the canton from 1945 to 1951.



13 THE GRIFFOUL FOUNTAIN

It was built in 1825 and set it up in 1834 by the mayor Jean Benoit Bertrand. At the time, there was just two drinking water points: this one and the Thuron fountain. The drinking water became republican thanks to a deliberation from the municipal council in October 1886. The mayor and his municipal councillors choose this type of fountain called La Liberté (based on the original work of Eugène Louis Lequesne). It was carried out by the Fonderies du Val d'Osne in Haute Marne.

Graeco-roman goddess, half Diana and half Artemis, her hairstyle is adorned with the Oudiné star. She has her shoulders covered with a lion skin cape. As you can see, she stands with determination, with the left hand on her hip and the right hand grabbing a spear. In order to highlight the fighting attitude, she wears a helmet with a crest and a quiver.

14 CHARLES GANILH 1758 - 1836

Deputy of Cantal from 1815 to 1823, legal expert and economist. Lawyer at the Parliament of Paris during the Revolution, he was delegate by the safety committee to go to Versailles in order to inform the Constituent Assembly about the emotion in Paris on the 14th July of 1789. He was imprisoned during the Terror.

Charles Ganilh has a way with words, and wrote works about political economy and financial science: Political essay on people's income, Systems of political economy and Theory of the political economy. He was born in this house, and the ground floor was dedicated to his notarial activity.

15 TRAIN STATION OF ALLANCHE, LINE BETWEEN BORT LES ORGUES AND NEUSSARGUES

Inaugurated by the Minister of Public Works on the 5th of July 1908. The train station of Allanche has contributed to the opening of the line Bort les Orgues – Neussargues. Built by the Compagnie d'Orléans, this railway was very interesting because it was the shortest route between Béziers and Paris. At this time, the transport of wine was important from the Languedoc (a region in the South of France) to Paris.

The activity of the train station was increased by the transport of cattle toward summer pastures in the Cézallier and during the famous agricultural fairs in Allanche. That is why we gave to the railway the nickname of "Transhumance line".

It was also the link between Allanche and Paris for the important community of Auvergnats (people from Auvergne) who had settled in the capital. Nowadays, this railway is still use for touristic purposes. You can rent a Vélorail (rail bike) and get the chance to discover the amazing landscapes of the Cézallier.



16 ROMAN BRIDGE

Built at the beginning of the 18th century.

In a region marked by a roman culture (fanums of Mathonière and Veyrines) and by trade, Allanche was at the crossroad of two ways:

- One coming from Clermont, passing by Issoire and Ardes toward Dienne, and Aurillac from the Col de Cabre
- The other one from Saint Flour toward Marcenat

In 1722, on the advice of Mr de Cheyladet, the Marquis of Beringhen (director general of Bridges and Roads in France) encouraged the governor of Auvergne to let him work on this bridge. On the 8th of June 1723, the contractor Jean Madaule won the contract for 25 132 pounds.

That Roman Bridge will replace the old wooden bridge, measuring 36 toises (an old unit of measure which represents 70 metres) long and 16 feet wide (4.9 metres).

17 MONSEIGNEUR LOUIS DELCUSY 1794-1876

Born in le Bousquet de Saint Anastasie, Louis Delcusy was a generous bishop who attended ecclesiastic studies at the seminary of Saint Flour. He became curate and then diocesan missionary. Later, he was appointed priest of Murat and then priest of the Saint Géraud abbatial church in Aurillac, where he will initiate the reconstruction.

Consecrated Bishop of Viviers in 1857, he became some years later assistant to the Sedia Gestatoria (throne where the Pope sits) and has participated at the first Vatican Council. After his death, he left an important amount of money in order to enhance the church and maintain paths around Allanche.

18 GEORGES POMPIDOU 1911-1974

President of the Republic (1969-1974), Prime Minister (1962-1968), Deputy of Cantal (1967-1969).

Georges Pompidou was born on the 5th July 1911 in Montboudif (Cantal). He was a professor of literature, bank general manager, senior official and director of Cabinet for the General de Gaulle before taking up a successful political career.

Throughout his life, he kept strong links with his family and friends from Allanche. In this house, he met up with his uncle and godfather Camille Chavagnac, and his first cousins Suzanne and Maurice Chavagnac.

In this street, he became friend with the two brothers Louis and Maurice Peschaud. The last one will be mayor and general counsellor of Allanche from 1948 to 1971.



Tourist Office

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