



The Church

Built in the XIIth century, this church is the smallest of the five major Romanesque churches in Auvergne. Unlike the others, it has no radiating chapels around the chevet.

Its pyramidal shape draws the eye heavenward; this is the result of the shouldered transepts supporting the octagonal tower. The arches, often in groups of three, probably symbolise the Trinity. On the chevet, transepts and side walls, various decorative features are to be found, namely arcatures, chequered friezes and rose windows; these are made of alternating black lava and arkose.

The well-lit interior is remarkable both for its harmonious proportions and for its architectural and symbolic interest. The capitals, though simple, are finely carved, mostly with leaf forms except for four on the northern side which include human figures and animals. A wall painting is still visible in the second bay of the northern aisle; dating from the early XVIth century. it shows the Annunciation and - a much rarer subject - the resurrection of Lazarus. The crypt houses a late XVth century polychrome pietà.



The Royal Château was built in the XIIIth century by the La Tour d'Auvergne family who established itself on this estate in 1281. It was continually enlarged and embellished up until the end of the XVth century.

A perfect example of a large medieval château carefully restored, this imposing fortress is a fine example of the military architecture of the Middle Ages with moat, ramparts, battlements, fortified towers and machicolation. The park and its gardens, currently being restored, offer a fine view over the village.

Guided tours

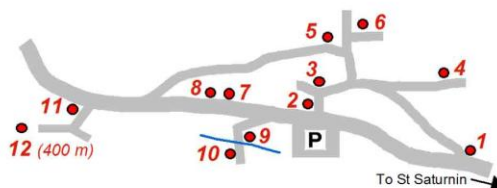
Church : July and August, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 4pm to 7pm

Castle : May and June, week-ends from 2pm to 6.30pm. July 1st - September 15th, daily from 10am to 7pm.

Chadrat



The hamlet of Chadrat, set on the sunny southern slopes of the Plateau de la Serre and protected from cold north winds, is a former wine-growing village. Ochre-coloured stone houses with their red tiled roofs give it the authentic charm of the old villages of Basse Auvergne (Lower Auvergne). Stroll around Chadrat and enjoy its many fountains and washing places.



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Two-sided cross | 7. Former school |
| 2. Baker's oven | 8. Washing-place |
| 3. Round tank | 9. The Taut |
| 4. Fountain | 10. Cellars |
| 5. Church | 11. Fountain |
| 6. Former cemetery | 12. St Anne's Chapel |

LES CHEIRES

L'Auvergne par Nature

Tourist Office
Saint-Saturnin reception area
Tel : 04 73 39 21 17

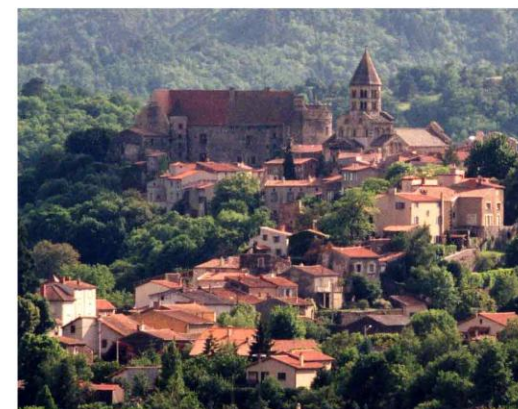
www.tourisme-lescheires.com

www.saint-saturnin63.fr



An outstanding natural and historic site

Built on a lava flow high above the gorges of the River Monne to the south and overlooking the Veyre valley to the north, St-Saturnin is encircled on three sides by the hills of the Regional Nature Park of the Volcanoes of Auvergne. Towering over the village, its church and castle with their volcanic stonework form a spectacular and remarkably homogeneous duo. The former is one of Auvergne's five major Romanesque churches; the castle, erected in the 13th century by the La Tour d'Auvergne family and embellished during the Renaissance, once belonged to Queens Catherine of Medici and Marguerite of Valois (Queen Margot). While walking round Saint-Saturnin and Chadrat, you will discover not only Renaissance dwellings and wine growers' houses, washing places and fountains, small squares and typical alleyways, but also dry stone walls and terraces.



Saint-Saturnin is one of the
"Plus Beaux Villages de France"





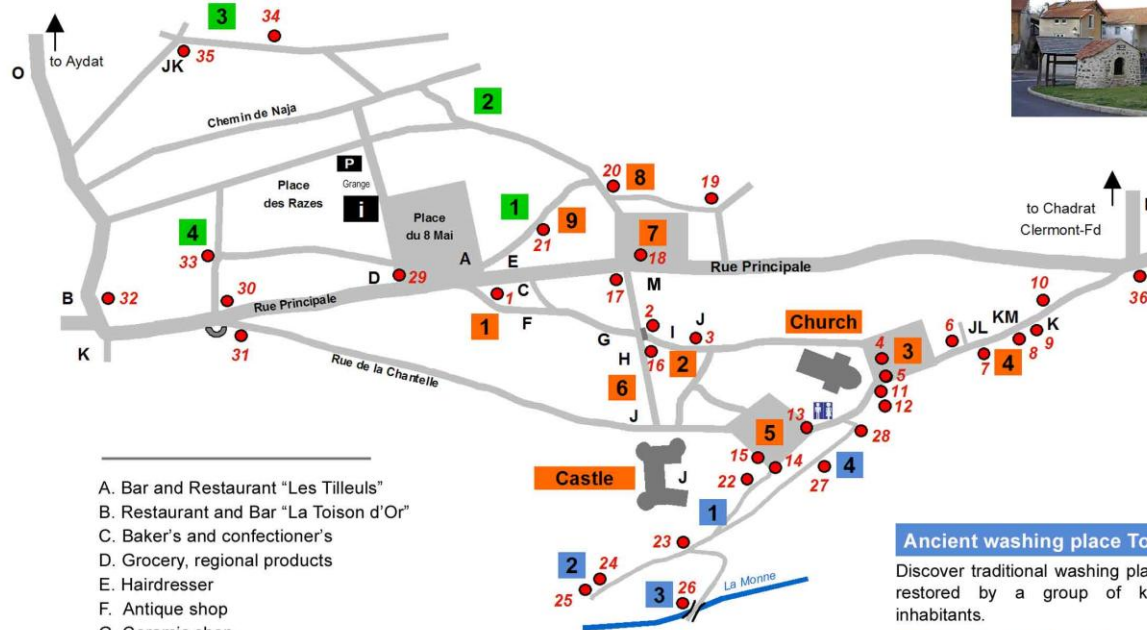
Saint-Saturnin

c'est aussi...

Brown information panels installed in the village will enable you to learn all about its history and to enjoy the sights. The yellow, red and blue logos on the panels represent heritage, religion and water, respectively. The sentence "Saint-Saturnin c'est aussi..." (is also) means that the village has far more to offer than its two main monuments, the castle and the Romanesque church..



On the maps, these panels are identified by red dots and red figures 1 ●



- A. Bar and Restaurant "Les Tilleuls"
- B. Restaurant and Bar "La Toison d'Or"
- C. Baker's and confectioner's
- D. Grocery, regional products
- E. Hairdresser
- F. Antique shop
- G. Ceramic shop
- H. Art Gallery
- I. Enamelled lava stone shop
- J. Guest house
- K. Self-catering
- L. Tea room
- M. Sculpture workshop
- N. Fish-farm (trout on sale)
- O. Garage

Nature Tour

- 1 Rue des Granges
- 2 Rue du Marché
- 3 Chemin de Vocan
- 4 Rue de Rochemanie

Ancient washing place Tour

Discover traditional washing places restored by a group of keen inhabitants.

- 1 Chemin de la Freydière
- 2 Lavoir de la Freydière
- 3 Pont sur la Monne
- 4 Lavoir du Creux du Tieu

Main tour

(Walking tour - 30 minutes)

1 Rue des Farges (Smithy Street)

The name of this street comes from "forges" (ie. smithies), but today the type of activity has changed : cobblers and farriers have been replaced by antique and craft shops.

2 Rue de la Boucherie (Butcher Street)

When you go through the archway, you enter the mediaeval fort. There used to be a butcher's shop here, hence the name of the street. A Renaissance house boasts a remarkable XVth century façade.

3 Place de l'Eglise (Church Square)

This square was the heart of the village until th XIXth century. The splendid Renaissance house is the Hôtel Villot whose name comes from the captain-governor of Usson castle. At the entrance of the old cemetery, you can read a sentence meaning "we used to be like you, one day you will be like us, think on this".

4 Rue Noble (Noble Street)

In this street, smart residences - pied-à-terre of vassals - adjoined modest dwellings that were grouped together in blind alleys. The street provided the main access to the village until the opening in 1860 of the present main street.

5 Place de l'Ormeau (Elm Square)

The fountain dates from the Renaissance period. The escutcheons on the stonework around the base may bear the arms of the La Tour d'Auvergne and Broglie families.

6 Côte Grosjean (Big John Hill)

This street is on the site of the former moat below the ramparts that encircled the original town. Two square towers can still be seen.

7 Place du Marché (Market Square)

At the end of the XIXth century, the Puy-de-Dôme was the second wine-producing area in France. Only a few small vineyards can be found around Saint-Saturnin today, but there remain many wine growers'houses. They are tall and narrow like the houses on this market place.

8 Rue du Marché (Market Street)

According to oral tradition, the leper quarter was located here. The large old house with its mullioned Renaissance window is likely to have been a leper hospital. A dovecote shows the importance of pigeon breeding in Auvergne in former times.

9 Rue des Granges (Barn Street)

This succession of barns is evidence of the intense agricultural activity in the village until mid-XXth century.