

THE ESSENTIELS CLOS DU COTENTIN

VALOGNES
BRICQUEBEC-EN-COTENTIN
SAINT-SAUVEUR-LE-VICOMTE



COTENTIN
#DISCOVERIES

VILLES
DU PAYS
D'ART &
D'HIKING
D'ORE



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COTENTIN
UNIQUE
BY NATURE

LET'S TELL A STORY

THE CLOS DU COTENTIN..



A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

This is the right place, the Clos du Cotentin includes **three towns rich with 2000 years of history: Valognes**, nicknamed "Le Petit Versailles Normand" (small Normandy Versailles). **Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte** "Bourgade jolie comme un village d'Ecosse" (as pretty as a Scottish village) and **Bricquebec-en-Cotentin** "La cité du Donjon" (the city of the tower). The cultural diversity is enchanting: castles, private residences, museums, classified churches...

For children, ask for the booklets "**Coucou les p'tits cailloux**" (Hi, little stones). These small booklets can be filled in by all the family and contain games and ways of discovering the heritage. You can collect all three: the first, about the medieval part of Valognes, the second on Bricquebec-en-Cotentin's Castle and the third on Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte's Castle (only in french).



Deepen your knowledge of the Clos du Cotentin with **guided visits and conferences** by the "Pays d'Art et d'Histoire", which take place throughout the year, as well as **treasure hunts, criminal investigations and workshops** for children (programs available). A team of guide lecturers with "a la carte" visits are also available for groups.



Did you know?

During the summer, every Tuesday afternoon, guided visits in french, in a horse-drawn carriage are organized, when you can discover the heritage of Valognes to the clip clop sound of horses' hooves! Ideal for a family activity. Enquire at the Tourist Office!





VALOGNES OVER THE CENTURIES...

ROMAN ALAUNA

Ancient Gallic city of the Unelles tribe, Valognes became during the 1st century of our era a Roman agglomeration. This town, named **Alauna had important civilian buildings** of which remain today some imposing ruins of Roman baths and the location of a theatre that held more than 3000 seats.

FROM DUCS TO KINGS

After the Viking incursions of the 10th century, Valognes entered the prerogative of the Dukes of Normandy. **The town is now concentrated around the ducal mansion and the parish church**, established at the edge of the Merderet river. In the 12th century, Valognes remained an important place of power, **a stopover for the dukes** when they frequently travelled between Normandy and England, via the port of Barfleur.

TIME OF WAR...

During The Hundred Years' War, Valognes and the Clos du Cotentin became the possession of Charles le Mauvais, king of Navarre, who fortified the ducal mansion and established his garrisons there. This fortress became the object of **unrelenting conflicts** while the plague and famine ravaged the countryside.

...AND PROSPERITY

The town, offered to Jeanne de France, daughter of king Louis XI, experienced a definite boom from the beginning of the second half of the 15th century. While the castle and the church were partly rebuilt, "Hôtel-Dieu" and a convent of Cordelier monks were founded, leather and sheet crafts developed and **the first noble town houses appeared**. This movement continued throughout the next century, making Valognes the **economic and administrative capital of the Cotentin peninsula**.

THE HEYDAY OF THE ARISTOCRACY

Victim of royal taxes and other heavy taxation, the Valognes craft industry tended to lose its vigor during the second half of the 17th century. This economic crisis, however, is forgotten thanks to the unprecedented phenomenon of the **multiplication of tower houses** built by a growing urban aristocracy.

MODERNISM

The French Revolution leads to the confiscation of church property and the end of aristocratic privileges.

The arrival of the train in 1858, encourages the **development of industrial and commercial activities**, linked notably to dairy production and the extraction of stone. This period is equally marked culturally by **important characters** such as the writer Jules Barbey d'Aureville, the painter Félix Buhot, the historian Léopold Delisle and the theorist and political personality Alexis de Tocqueville...

REBUILD

The major event of the 20th century remains the trauma of the **American bombing in June 1944 which wiped out a large part of the town**.

TODAY

Awarded the stamp of quality "Ville d'Art et Histoire" in 1992, Valognes is now a member with Briquebec-en-Cotentin and Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte of "**Pays d'Art et d'Histoire du Clos du Cotentin**", and focuses on highlighting its heritage and strives to share its architectural and artistic riches bequeathed by 2000 years of history.

BLUE CIRCUIT
LE GRAND QUARTIER

About 30 minutes walk.

- 1 **Saint-Georges bridge.**
- 2 **Hôtel de Beaumont,** 18th century. (see p. 6) ●
- 3 **Former payment of excise duties,** place de la Croix Morville.
- 4 **Chasse Anthonne,** the name of the "rue Burnouf" on its old route.
- 5 **Hôtel Saint-Rémy** - 38 rue des Religieuses.
- 6 **Birthplace of Leopold Delisle, paleographer** - 37 rue des Religieuses.
- 7 **Hôtel Grandval-Caligny,** 16th-17th century-32 rue des Religieuses (see p. 6).
- 8 **Hôtel du Louvre,** former post house, 16th-17th century - 28 rue des Religieuses. ●
- 9 **Hôtel du Mesnildot de la Grille,** currently Sainte-Marie school, 18th century - 16 rue des Religieuses.
- 10 **Hôtel de Thieuville** rue Pelouze. ●
- 11 **Maison du Grand Quartier,** 16th century, Regional Cider Museum. (see p. 6). ●

RED CIRCUIT
OLD VALOGNES

About 30 minutes walk.

- 1 **Public Garden,** 1964, ancient garden of the Hôtel de Gouberville. Portal to the ancient Ham priory of the 15th century.
- 2 **Home of Brégaïnt, a tanner.** The tannery, in the 15th century was still active at the beginning of the 20th century - 2 and 4 rue du Grand Moulin.
- 3 **Parcheminerie** (15th century), now the offices of Pays d'Art et d'Histoire - 21 rue du Grand Moulin. (see p. 6).
- 4 **Museum conservation**-Important Mill- Medieval tannery-19th century slaughterhouse - 16 rue du Grand Moulin (see p. 6).
- 5 **Pont-es-Rats,** view of the rooftops of Grand Moulin road.
- 6 **Fontaine Saint-François.**
- 7 **Former boundary wall of the Cordelier convent** China manufactory from 1792 to 1812.
- 8 **Saint-François washing-place** on the Saint-Jean stream.
- 9 **Washing-place and bridge** of the former Hôtel-Dieu.
- 10 **Stud-farm and former Hôtel-Dieu,** end of the 15th century. (see p. 6).
- 11 **Hôtel de Carnesnil,** 18th century - 46 rue Henri Cornat. ●
- 12 **Lycée Henri Cornat,** former seminar, 17th century - 36 rue Henri Cornat (see p. 7).
- 13 **Julien de Laillier** 19th century multimedia library - 25, rue Henri Cornat (entrance, place Pierre Godefroy) (see p. 7).
- 14 **Chasse Côte,** between 7 and 9 rue Henri Cornat.
- 15 **Hôtel Folliot de Fierville,** 18th century - Le Gisors, 15bis rue de Wéléat.

- 16 **Hôtel de Chivré,** 16th-17th century, redesigned in the 20th century - 11bis rue de Wéléat.
- 17 **Hôtel de Touffreville,** 17th century - 11 rue Wéléat.
- 18 **Courthouse,** 1834 - Place du Général de Gaulle (see p. 7).
- 19 **Town Hall,** rebuilt in 1955 - Place de Gaulle.

GREEN CIRCUIT
BENEDICTINE WALK

About 30 minutes walk.

- 1 **Place du Calvaire,** was once the medieval marketplace where the gallows were set-up during the Revolution.
- 2 **Notre-Dame de Protection Abbey,** formally the Capucin monastery, 17th century - 8 rue des Capucins (see p. 7)
- 3 **Hôtel de Chantore,** artist's workshop - 9 rue des Capucins.
- 4 **Hôtel de Baudreville,** currently the Franciscaine Sisters' convent - 3 Place du Calvaire.
- 5 **Hôtel du Mesnildot Sainte-Colombe,** currently the Sainte-Thérèse community home - 1 Place du Calvaire.
- 6 **Sainte-Marie bridge** with view on the back of the houses rue Pelouze-Rue des Religieuses.
- 7 **Lafayette bridge** with view on the back of the houses - Rue Saint-Malo.
- 8 **Secouret bridge,** Lavandière quay formally a place on the river where the water was not deep to walk across.
- 9 **Former Royal Benedictine Abbey** (currently the hospital) 17th century - 1 avenue du 8 mai 1945 (see p.7). ●

YELLOW CIRCUIT
FROM "LA POTERIE" TO "LA VICTOIRE"

About 45 minutes walk.

- 1 **Hôtel de Vauquelin,** 18th century - 26 rue de Poterie.
- 2 **Hôtel le Pelée de Varennes,** 18th century - 34 rue de Poterie.
- 3 **Hôtel du Plessis de Grenadan,** 18th century - 29 rue de Poterie.
- 4 **Hôtel le Trésor de la Roque,** 18th century - 40 and 42 rue de Poterie.
- 5 **Hôtel de Carville,** 18th century - 45 rue de Poterie.
- 6 **Hôtel de Blangy,** 18th century - 53 and 55 rue de Poterie. ●
- 7 **Hôtel le Poier de Portbail,** 16th and 18th centuries - 68 rue de Poterie.
- 8 **Hôtel d'Heu ou Hôtel de Camprond,** 16th and 18th centuries - 75 rue de Poterie. ●
- 9 **Maison Heurtevent** - 1 rue de Gréville.
- 10 **Quarry houses** at the edge of the old limestone quarries.
- 11 **Notre-Dame d'Alleaume Church,** 12th, 15th and 18th centuries - Rue du Bourg Fleury (see p.7) ●
- 12 **Ruins of the thermal baths of Alauña,** 1st century after J-C - Rue de Coubertin (see p.7). ●
- 13 **Chapel Notre-Dame de la Victoire,** 11th and 12th centuries.



 Historic Monument

FROM ONE MONUMENT TO ANOTHER...



2 HÔTEL DE BEAUMONT

L'Hôtel de Beaumont was built between 1767 and 1771. This luxurious setting accommodates a **spectacular staircase with two parallel flights**, which unite on the first level in a unique single staircase which is suspended in air. The back entrance opens onto large French gardens which can be visited during the summer season.



7 HÔTEL DE GRANDVAL-CALIGNY

The mansion dates back to the beginning of the 18th century. From 1871 to 1887, the apartments on the first level were **rented to the writer Jules Barbey d'Aureville**, who wrote part of his book "Les Diaboliques" there. Reserve for visits.



11 MAISON DU GRAND-QUARTIER (REGIONAL CIDER MUSEUM)

Remarkable example of an **artisanal building early Renaissance** which belonged to a craftsman, a dyer. The magnitude of the building reflects on the **economic prosperity of Valognes** in the XVIth century. Today, and now the **Regional Cider Museum**, with the most important French collection dedicated to the "golden blond of Normans" (cider). Visits during the summer season.



2 3 4

RUE DU GRAND-MOULIN

The Grand Moulin road is **lined with craftsmen's houses alongside the Merderet river that were built from the 15th to the 17th centuries**. Most of its inhabitants lived from leather related activities. The "**Parcheminerie**", **3** where today we find the building of "Pays d'Art et Histoire", was specialized in the manufacture or supports for official acts. **Le Grand Moulin 4** attested since the 12th century, notably preserves vestiges of bins and tanners' plains in the courtyard.

10 FORMER HÔTEL-DIEU

The creation of **Hôtel-Dieu in Valognes goes back to the year 1497**. The founder obtained the support of Jeanne de France, daughter of Louis XI and the foundation functioned until 1687, at which date the construction of a new hospital began. After the Revolution the building became a **military barrack**, then, a little before 1880 a **stud farm**. This former Hôtel-Dieu is now a **cultural center**. Free entrance (depending on opening times).

12 ANCIENT SEMINARY LYCEE HENRI CORNAT

The seminary of Valognes was built from 1654 on the site of the former manor of the bishops of Coutances. The building was later **transformed to a junior high school** before becoming a **state secondary school in 1969**.



13 JULIEN DE LAILLIER MEDIA LIBRARY



Created in 1715 by Julien de Laillier, abbot and parish priest of Valognes, the library was originally situated in

the seminary. Enriched at the time of the revolution, **the library was moved in 1930 to the building of today**. A room in the basement, exposes the lapidary collection, of the **famous "pierre d'altar"** of the ancient Ham abbey, **"the most ancient literary document of Normandy"** (late 7th century). Free access (depending on opening hours)



13 COURTHOUSE

The courthouse of Valognes **was built from 1834** and was completed on the western side by a prison which was later destroyed in 1944.



2 NOTRE-DAME DE PROTECTION ABBEY

The Benedictines came to this **ancient monastery**

of capucin monks in 1810. Seriously damaged in 1944, it was restored by the architect Jacques Prioleau. In the church are stained-glass windows by Léon Zack, and a **magnificent altarpiece** from the 17th century framing a **picture by Laurent de La Hyre**. The Benedictines make **altar bread and pieces of crystallized fruit**. It is possible to access the chapel and the shop.

9 FORMER ROYAL BENEDICTINE ABBEY

Driven from Cherbourg by the plague in 1626, the Benedictines came to Valognes. The church was built from 1635 and was consecrated in 1648. Confiscated at the Revolution, **the ancient Benedictine abbey has now been Valogne's hospital since 1810**. Outside visits only.



11 NOTRE-DAME D'ALLEAUME CHURCH

The old parish of Alleaume owes its name to the **ancient city of Alauna**. The primitive Romanesque church has been altered and enlarged throughout the centuries and contains an altarpiece in a half circle decorated with polychrome statues of terracotta. A hundred-year-old yew tree watches over the cemetery.



12 ALAUNA ROMAN BATHS



Amongst the most imposing relics of the Gallo-Roman presence in the Cotentin, they are the **best preserved of Normandy**. Built in the 1st century

of our era they bear witness to the **importance of Valognes during antiquity**. Designed on a symmetrical plan, the baths had about ten rooms. Free access.



BRICQUEBEC- EN-COTENTIN

THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES...



As reveals the etymology of its name, **the origins of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin** (from Scandinavian bekr, waterway, preceded by brekka, the slope) **is connected to the epic invasion of the Vikings** who became solidly implanted in the Cotentin at the beginning of the 10th century. The tradition attributes the foundation of the castle to the Scandinavian Anslech from which would come **the long line of Bertrams and succession of loyal knights.**

Robert VIII Bertran played an important role during the troubled times at the beginning of The Hundred Years' War. Having obtained the hand of a rich heiress for his son, he aroused anger from Geoffrey d'Harcourt, Sire of Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte, a 2nd suitor to this marriage. By revenge, he engaged in a private war against his rival. Condemned for these acts, Geoffroy d'Harcourt soon took refuge in the court of England and **encouraged King Edward III to conquer the Cotentin.** Robert Bertran tried in vain to resist the English army which landed at Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue on the 12th July 1346.



Shortly after, the death of Robert Bertran and his two sons, who died on the battlefields, came the end of a four-hundred-year dynasty.

Through marriage, **the castle and the barony of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin passed on to the Paisnel family** who also owned Hambye castle.

After a brief and fragile period of peace, **the war began again in 1418.** Bricquebec-en-Cotentin rapidly became occupied by the troops of king Henry V of England.

The castle remained dominated by the English until 1450 and then in 1452 Louis d'Estouteville, Saint-Michel's Mont's valiant defender came back to take possession, leading on to the

end of the Middle Ages.

At the beginning of the next century, **the barons of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin abandoned the fortress** to settle in their new residence, the Château des Galleries, situated nearby.

SUGGESTIONS OF WALKS

TO DISCOVER BRICQUEBEC-EN-COTENTIN

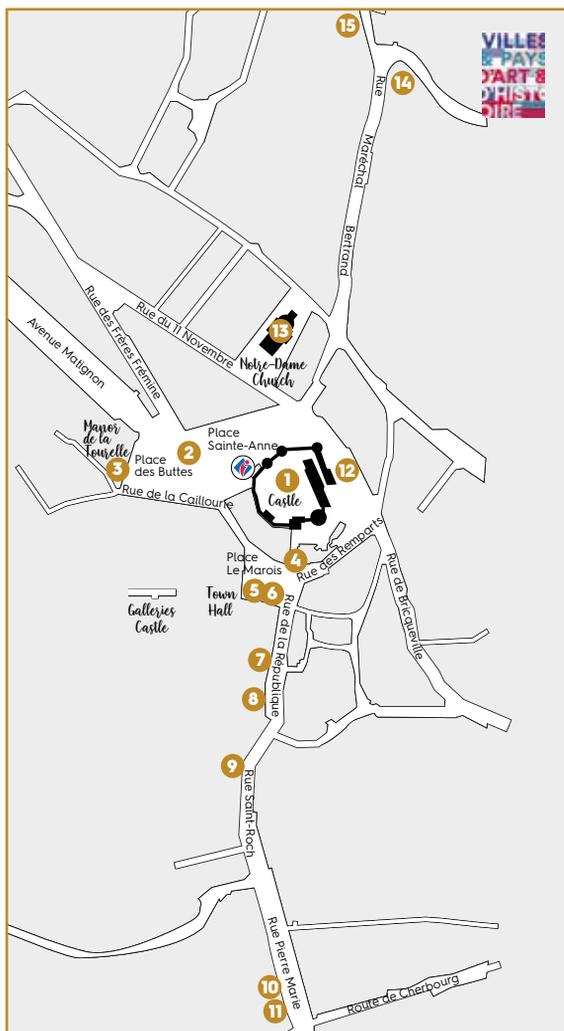


- 1 The castle.** (see p.10 and 11)
- 2 Place des Buttes and Place Sainte-Anne** host the large Monday market. Former seigniorial parc, probably intended to house the horses of the lord of the place.
- 3 Manor de la Tourelle**, built at the end of the Middle Ages, was an outbuilding of the castle and was, for a while, the residence of the chaplains of the baron of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin.
- 4 Statue of General Le Marois** (1776-1836). Originally from Bricquebec-en-Cotentin, he was the "aide du camp" of Napoleon, governor in Italy and heroic defender of Magdebourg.
- 5 Town Hall**, 19th century. This building replaced the old halls of the barony at the beginning of the 19th century.
- 6 Private mansion**, 20 rue de la République. Beautiful residence from the 18th century.
- 8 Place Gosnon Verger**, monumental portal composed of elements from the former parish church, destroyed at the beginning of the 20th century.
- 9 The old causeway reservoir** that supplied water to one of the wheat mills and belonged to the barony of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin.
- 10 N° 28 rue Pierre Marie**, **beautiful residence from the beginning of the 20th century**, in the middle of a park. It is said to have been built by Georges Wybo, the architect of Deauville's casino.
- 11 N° 30-34, rue Pierre Marie**. **Beautiful residence from beginning of the 17th century**.
- 12 Monument dedicated to the Frémine brothers**, poets and writers of the Cotentin, and to **Arman Levéel** (1821-1905), a sculptor, made famous by his equestrian statue of Napoleon in Cherbourg. All three are from Bricquebec-en-Cotentin.
- 13 Notre-Dame parish church** built in neo-gothic style at the end of the 19th century (1897-1900).
- 14 Remains from the former Notre-Dame parish church**.
- 15 Former hospice**, founded at the beginning of the 18th century by the Matignon family.

PLAN OF BRICQUEBEC-EN-COTENTIN

About 45 minutes walk.

Plan by D. Hébert, Inventaire général Basse Normandie



Historic Monument

THE CASTLE

BRICQUEBEC-EN-COTENTIN

The Charrier Tower communicated directly with a **building 5** attached to the northern castle wall, of which today, only a beautiful fireplace from the beginning of the 14th century exists.

The **Charrier Tower 4** was the barony archive storage place and now provides a space for temporary exhibitions hosted by the municipal cultural service.

The **Clock Tower 3** is open on the ground floor by a passage for carts and pedestrians. A bascule drawbridge made it possible to cross the ditches separating the castle from the town. Inside the passage, a mobile portcullis and a deadfall completed the defensive system.

The impressive **polygonal tower 2** was largely rebuilt in the 14th and 15th centuries on the foundations of an earlier tower. Divided into four levels it takes support from a cellar with a tank. The summit, which is accessible during guided visits offers a wide panorama of the surroundings.

The **mound 1** serving as a base for the tower of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin offers a remarkable example of medieval earth fortification. This was probably built during the middle of the 11th century.

Between the end of the large Romanesque room and the keep existed another **medieval dwelling 13**, which is known about from drawings dating to the early 19th century.



Did you know ?

Pascal Morabito's Pyramid of Memory, erected in the castle courtyard, is the mark of the passage to the year 2000. Composed of sand from the D-Day Landing Beaches, 2000 objects are buried there. Erosion will cause them to reappear over time for future generations.

This medieval dwelling came to join **the two polygonal towers of a second entry structure 6**, controlling access to the castle from the north.

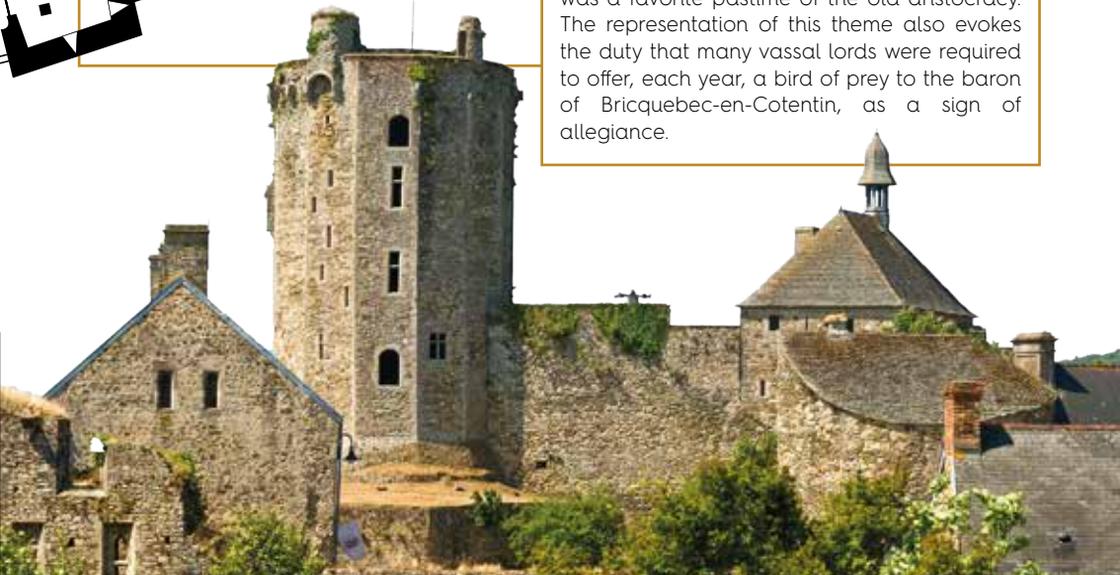
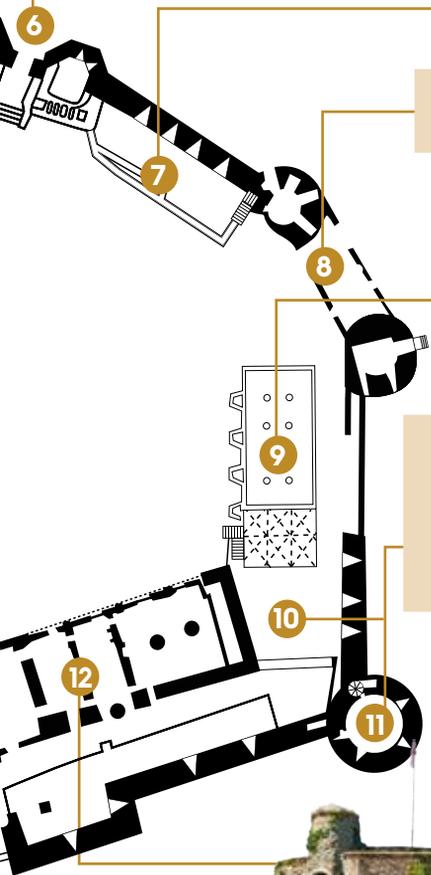
The portion of the northern surrounding wall 7 is pierced by two levels of openings which lit-up a building equipped with a pit of latrines probably intended for garrisons.

The rampart then joins **two thick circular towers 8**, between which a house was inserted in the 19th century.

The crypt 9 corresponds to the ground floor of the ancient 12th century seigneurial chamber. The ceiling was replaced in the 14th century by an exceptional vaulting of the intersection of the ribs. A chapel which has now disappeared, was next to the Lord's chamber.

At the back of the ancient stately chamber are the remains of a **medieval dwelling 10** from the 14th century. With two levels of housing, this home communicated directly with the walkway and the **"Tour de l'Epine" 11** (Thorn Tower). This large 14th century corner tower served as an annex to the dwelling.

The building with the "Hostellerie du Château" offers a completely spectacular example of a **large ceremonial room from the romanesque period 12**. Within, is a scene that represents ventry, game hunting, which was a favorite pastime of the old aristocracy. The representation of this theme also evokes the duty that many vassal lords were required to offer, each year, a bird of prey to the baron of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin, as a sign of allegiance.



SAINT-SAUVEUR- LE-VICOMTE THROUGH-OUT THE CENTURIES...



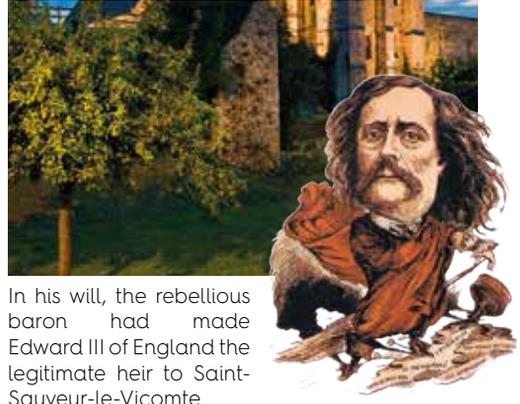
The origin of the castle dates back to the 10th century, when the Cotentin became part of the Duchy of Normandy. The attribution of the title of viscount, of the masters of this barony, reveals the high status that they held under the first dukes. Roger le Vicomte, who lived under the reign of duke Richard 1st (946-998), was the first seigneur of Saint-Sauveur of which history kept the name.

The barony of Saint-Sauveur passed on to the Harcourt family in 1214 and gave its most striking figure of the castle to history : Geoffroy d'Harcourt. Armed knight in 1326, he dreamt of marrying a rich heiress of the Bessin, but found himself rejected to the benefit of Guillaume Bertran, son of a sire of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin.

By revenge, Geoffroy engaged in a private war against his rival. In the tense context of the beginning of the Hundred Years' War, the episode took an unexpected turn : Geoffroy d'Harcourt took refuge with the king of England, already at war against France, and incited the king to disembark in Normandy. Arriving at the Hougue on 12th July 1346, the army, led by Edward III ravaged the Cotentin. The journey was prolonged and ended with the well-known battle of Crécy.

Amongst the french knights decimated during the battle was the sire of Bricquebec-en-Cotentin's son but also Jean d'Harcourt, Geoffroy's brother. Repentant, the rebel asked forgiveness from the king of France. Philippe le Valois granted his pardon and charged the lord of Saint-Sauveur with important powers for the defense of Lower Normandy. However, the obedience of Geoffroy d'Harcourt was only of short duration.

As much as by personal ambition as by the desire to restore Norman independence, he joined forces with Charles de Navarre, another opponent to the king of France and resumed his guerrilla. His death in a military skirmish at the end of November 1356 ended the adventures of this fiery knight.



In his will, the rebellious baron had made Edward III of England the legitimate heir to Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte.

During the following years, the fortress accommodated an English army which subjected the region to looting. The king of France took until 1375 to take back the castle.

The second part of The Hundred Years' War was less hectic.

In 1682, Louis XVI ordered the setting-up of a hospice and prison in the building that had become ancient.

During the landing in June 1944, the fortress was hit by several American bombs which demolished part of the enclosure and the entrance building.

The castle is classified a Historic Monument from 1840.

The 17th century hospice, entirely reconstructed after 1944, was placed outside of the castle in 1996.



WALKING SUGGESTIONS

DISCOVERING SAINT-SAUVEUR-LE-VICOMTE

- 1 **The castle** (see p. 14-15). 📍
- 2 **Former hospice cemetery.** Burial place of Barbey d'Aureville.
- 3 **Bust of Barbey d'Aureville**, by Auguste Rodin (1909).
- 4 **Town Hall** inaugurated 31st May 1959.
- 5 **Louise Read Media library.** Former girl's school.
- 6 **Hôtel du Chevalier de Montressel**, the uncle of Jules Barbey d'Aureville, where the writer was born, 2nd November 1808 during a game of cards.
- 7 **Post office**, inaugurated in 1938.
- 8 **Example of a Middle Ages residence**, n° 13 rue Bottin Desyllès. with a covered passage of which the façade was completely re-organized in the 18th century.
- 9 **The Presbytery** which occupied a grand residence at the beginning of the 17th century.
- 10 **Parish church.** Constructed in the 18th century, largely rebuilt after The Hundred Years' War war, then restored in the 19th century, houses a high-quality group of religious statues.
- 11 Residence, n° 56 rue Bottin Desyllès. **Another characteristic example of an urban dwelling.**
- 12 **Museum Barbey d'Aureville.** The collections dedicated to the famous author of "Diaboliques" are to be found in the family home of the writer, a beautiful 18th century urban residence. 📍
- 13 The **"Old Presbytery"** offers a solitary and bewitching aspect, which inspired Barbey d'Aureville with one of the episodes of "L'Ensorcelée".
- 14 **Sainte-Marie-Madeleine Postel Abbey**, former Benedictine abbey, founded in the 11th century by Néel le Vicomte. Sold at the Revolution, it served as a stone quarry and would have probably disappeared today if Sainte-Marie-Madeleine Postel hadn't in 1832, decided to settle there with her community and undertake its restoration. 📍

PLAN OF SAINT-SAUVEUR-LE-VICOMTE



Historic Monument





THE CASTLE

SAINT-SAUVEUR-LE-VICOMTE

The castle of Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte consists of two successive enclosures delimiting a high and lower courtyard.

This scheme, formally made up with a third enclosure protecting the lower part of the town, is representative of military architecture from the time of The Hundred Years' War. Construction was completed between 1356 and 1355 under the authority of king Edward the third. Damaged by the siege of 1375, the building, restored by king Charles V was the subject of various improvements over the 15th century.



The North Tower **8**, sometimes called the old stronghold, houses three arched levels. Above the ground floor used for storage, is a living room with a fireplace, latrines and window with bench seats, then, a second floor with the same amenities.

The entire portion of **the northern enclosure 7** appears to have been destroyed in the 15th century, before being rebuilt following a different lay out. It connects **the remains of the dovecote tower 6** then rejoins a **second tower 5**, which in 1473 bore the name of "Tour des Cygoines (storkes)" in reference to the English captain John of Storkes who was appointed by Edward III in 1367.



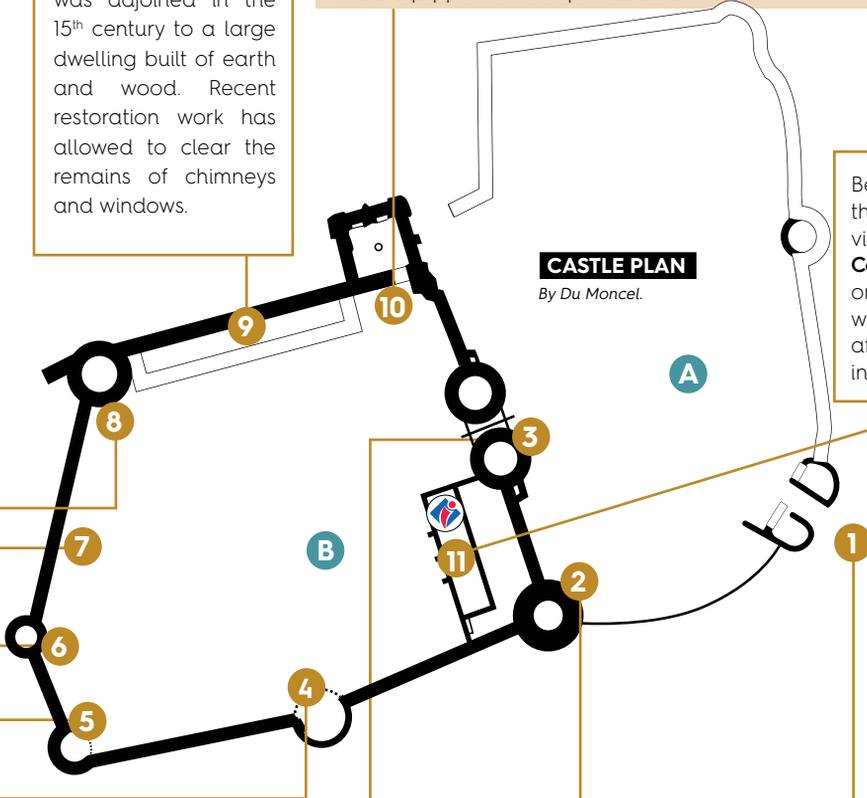
The western surrounding wall, partially destroyed in 1944 and then restored by "Historical Monuments", incorporates the remains of the **"Tour Hollande" 4**. This name probably evokes the English knight Thomas Holland.

Opposite the chapel stands the **imposing stronghold of the castle 10** from the 15th century. The rectangular plan with buttresses reproduces the model of the master towers built by the dukes of Normandy in the Romanesque period.

This plan was a practical solution, allowing military functions to be combined with residential use. Access was by an external staircase leading to the door of the first floor. A screw placed in a buttress at an angle permitted access to each of the four levels. The living rooms were equipped with fireplaces and latrines.

The eastern boundary wall 9, connecting the rectangular tower to the north tower was adjoined in the 15th century to a large dwelling built of earth and wood. Recent restoration work has allowed to clear the remains of chimneys and windows.

Before leaving the courtyard, the visitor discovers the **Castrale chapel 11** on the right, which was restored after the bombing in 1944.



CASTLE PLAN
By Du Moncel.

The high court B is accessible by an imposing **gatehouse 3** formally preceded by ditches and spanned by a drawbridge. This building has kept the traditional name **“Logis Robessart”** in reference to its presumed constructor. Partly destroyed in 1944, the “Logis Robessart” was restored in the 1950s by “Historic Monuments”.

The southern tower **3** was called **“Tour d’Aillet”** in the 14th century. Within the two levels of the tower are residential floors with bench windows, fireplaces, closets and stone sinks. This tower is traditionally named “the prison tower” but only dates as this from the end of the 17th century. Much of the prisoners’ graffiti is still perfectly legible.

The lower courtyard A once contained a chapel founded shortly before the year 1000 and was the ancestor of the Benedictine abbey. It also had prisons and buildings used for barony administration. Opening onto the village through a **door 1** with two towers, the lower courtyard was once surrounded by a moat.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CLOS DU COTENTIN

TO DISCOVER AS WELL

BRICQUEBEC-EN-COTENTIN

- The Abbey** : for those who love charcuterie!
- Etang de Cattigny** : for a walk, some fishing or a picnic!

SAINT-SAUVEUR-LE-VICOMTE

- National forest** : enjoy a stroll in the great outdoors!
- Lait Douceur de Normandie** : come and make candies with your children.
- Forest Adventure** : will you dare to go up high...
- Etang de l'Avent** : for a family, nature outing or a short fishing trip.
- Leisure centre** : canoeing, archery, climbing, it's up to you...

AND AROUND

- Camp Patton in Néhou** : get a close-up view of a Sherman N4 tank.
- The German Cemetery in Orglandes** : remember the fallen German soldiers.
- The Bois des Roches in Rocheville** : discover megaliths and legends!
- The Cul de fer in Colomby** : a bucolic site with three small Roman bridges.
- The Mont de Besneville** : three old mills and a 360° panorama.
- Etang de la Lande in Magneville** : a short stroll by the water.
- Animal Park in Montaigu-la-Brisette** : discover animals from five continents.
- Labyrinth in Yvetot-Bocage** : find your way back and answer questions in the middle of the corn.
- The Pirate stopover in Saint-Martin-le-Hébert** : boats for children to drive on their own!
- Saint-Jouvin chapel and fountain in Brix** : miraculous water!



COTENTIN
UNIQUE
BY NATURE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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