

THINGS TO SEE IN THE AREA

❖ The City of Castres :

Castres is the small and beautiful city in the south west of France.

We offer you a travel diary to visit Castres and our patrimony.

By strolling along its roads, you can rediscover the history of Castres through its monuments: the Bishop's palace and garden designed by Le Nôtre, old houses on the Agout, the façades of town houses bequeathed by the 17th Century,... Discover the Historic centre of Castres on a Saturday morning by wandering through the traditional market, at the Place Jean Jaurès and on the embankments, where fragrances and colors blend.



engraving series.

The **Goya museum** has a panorama of Spanish art that is unique in France with work from the great masters of the 14th Century up until present day, sculptures, furniture and a rare collection of weapons and coins. The museum has 3 paintings by Goya, as well as his great



With the National Center and Jean Jaurès museum you can retrace the life and commitments of this wonderful tribune born in 1859. It is also a research department centre, where temporary exhibitions are held.



At the end of the afternoon, relaxing and leisure activities at the **Gourjade park**: a vast area of greenery stretching over 53 hectares, a golf course, the Archipel swimming-pool and ice-rink complex, which all the family will enjoy.

If you visit us during the summer season, between the months of May and October, the **Coche d'eau boat**, «Le Miredames», will take you on a bucolic ride along the water.

Chambres et Table d'hôtes

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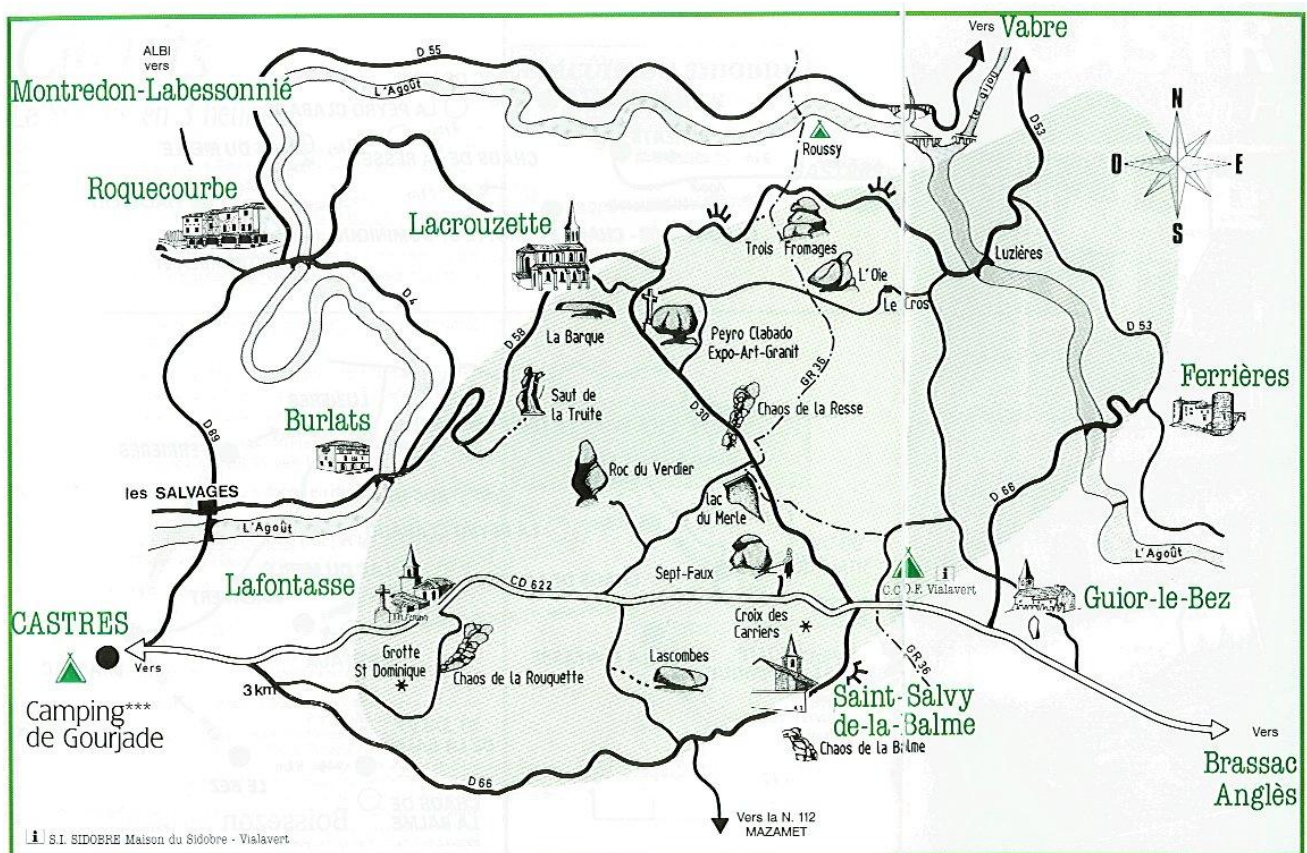
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❖ The Sidobre :

You won't believe it! As if nature has gone crazy, with Peyro Clabado challenging the laws of gravity, the Roc de l'Oie, the Saut de la Truite, a volcanic landscape that has gone wild... Enigmas and mysteries whose magic will enchant you and that you will love to solve.

The names of these granite rocks are already indicative of what you will see over there: **Peyro Clabado** is a 780-ton rock precariously sitting on hardly 1 square meter... The **Saut de la Truite** is a 25-meter high rocky cascade, the **Trois Fromages** look like piled up "camemberts"! Come and have a look at these wild rocks that have shaped the history of the land and of its people.

Come and discover this remarkable natural heritage along the foot paths, the biking trails or by the streams.



❖ Lautrec :



With its windmill - the only one still in operation in the South-West, St Rémy collegiate church, its famous pink garlic, its city walls, its pastel fields, Lautrec is a true postcard.

The medieval city is worth visiting for both and a medieval one with the Windmill still in operation, the half-timbered and corbelled houses, the central square and the XVth century covered market, the Salette Calvary.

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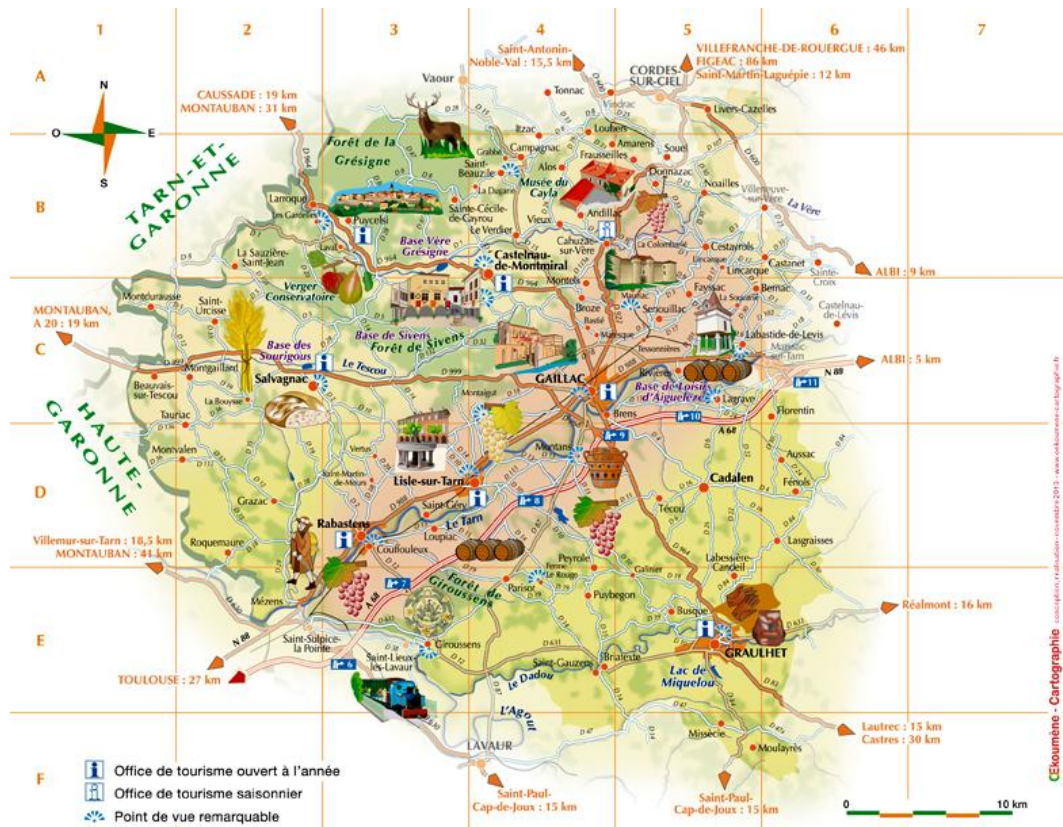
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On top of that, it is classified as a “plus beaux villages de France”. Hiking around the village offers magnificent panoramas over the Agout valley and the Montagne Noire.

❖ Gaillac and vineyard :

You must taste the Gaillac wines for their fragrance from our South-West soils, for the variety of their wine producing regions red, rosé, white, sparkling, ”perlé”. The wine enthusiasts will love the age-long history of the wine, going back to the Gallo-Roman times.



Although very large (the vineyard spreads over more than 70 Tarn villages), the quality and trademark of the Gaillac wine are achieved through meticulous and specific winemaking methods, the result of age-long traditions. The names of Syrah, Gamay, Merlot, Cabernet or Sauvignon are more than familiar here. What about finding out more?

❖ Albi :



Unique thanks to its color, its power and its harmony.

The Episcopal City is structured around 2 real medieval fortresses:

- The Saint-Cecile cathedral, the biggest brick cathedral in the world.
 - The Berbie Palace, former fortified town of the bishops.
- Nowadays: Toulouse-Lautrec museum, the painter's biggest public collection in the world.

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It includes 4 medieval districts located around the cathedral:

- Castelviel, cradle of the city.
- Castelnaud, picturesque district with narrow streets and half-timbered houses.
- The Saint-Salvi town with the collegiate church and the Saint-Salvi convent, wonderful group of buildings from the XIIIth century, a combination of Romanesque and Gothic architectures.
- Combes and Tarn riverbanks with its Old Bridge, built in 1040, key to the commercial prosperity of the Middle-Ages.

The omnipresence of bricks is illustrated by the cathedral and the Berbie Palace, biggest brick-built constructions in the world. The cathedral of Albi shows an exceptional model of Southern Gothic Style given it the looks of a fortress.

❖ Cordes sur Ciel :



Cordes sur Ciel fascinates all those who discover it because it is initially like a mirage: that of **a city launching itself into the sky**.

It is a **living piece of history and art**, holding alive in its stones the memory of all those who have passed through it **since its creation in 1222** by the *Count of Toulouse*.

Its exceptional site, its remarkable architectural heritage, make it one of the most significant medieval cities of France, and **one of the key sites of European heritage**. It has been classified in the Grands Sites Midi-Pyrénées!



❖ Monestiés :



At 20 kilometers north of Albi, Monestiés instills calmness and tranquility, serenity, and a love of life and the greenery of nature.

In 2001 Monestiés was classified as one of the most beautiful villages in France: it invites the visitor to wander around its picturesque alleyways full of traces of the past: the gateway and bridge of Candèze, the Griffoul fountain and other architectural curiosities...

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Don't forget to look at the paintings in the Bajen Véga museum and to admire the statues of the château of Combefa, the 15th century listed building which is the jewel in Monestiés crown.

❖ Castelnau de Montmiral



This “bastide” or fortified village near Albi overlooks the Vère valley and lies in the heart of the Gaillac vineyards. It was founded by Raymond VII, Count of Toulouse, and its church is home to the reliquary cross of the Counts of Armagnac, adorned with 310 precious stones.