



Saint-Émilion Tourisme



Saint-Émilion

A journey through time



The 30 churches of the Saint-Émilion area

THE GRAND SAINT-ÉMILIONNAIS: LAND OF CHURCHES

The Grand Saint-Émilionnais offers a rich heritage highlighted by the presence of vines, punctuated by historical monuments from different periods and architectures, shaping our typical villages and hamlets.

Romanesque, Gothic or monolithic churches punctuate our territory, such as landmarks for visitors strolling from the Dordogne riverbanks to the limestone plateau. This preserved and valued heritage make the Grand Saint-Émilionnais an exceptional territory.

We wish you a pleasant discovery of the Saint-Émilion area!

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Belvès de Castillon

NOTRE DAME DE BELVÈS DE CASTILLON

The church was built in the 19th century at the place of an older one in a neo Romanesque style which was very popular in that time. Its simplicity reminds us of the medieval past of this parish. Only the bell tower suggests that the current church is newer.

Every day (no schedules available)
GPS: 44°52'42.1"N 0°01'53.5"W



This church shelters a Merovingian capital, which is listed as a “Monument historique” (French national heritage).

Francs

SAINT MARTIN DE FRANCS

This church was built in the 17th century in a neo Romanesque style, as the date 1605 indicates on the portal. Indeed, in the 16th century, it was a way for the newly established Grafreteau lord family to assert its power in the Castle of Francs.

Closed to the public
GPS: 44°58'18.2"N
0°08'28.3"W



The viewpoint over hills and dales and fake Romanesque sculptures depicting cherubs and skulls!



Gardegan et Tourtirac



The sculpted modillions and capitals of the façade and its proximity to the golf course!

SAINT MARTIN DE GARDEGAN

The Romanesque church is characterized by a façade with typical “poitevin” style (from the Poitou region), a portal with unsculpted archivolt, a flat apse and a simple nave. It is listed as a “Monument historique” (French national heritage). The bell and the square shaped bell tower date back to 1741.



No information about the opening.
GPS: 44°54'02.3"N 0°01'09.2"W



The sealed door on the southern side, which reminds us of the ancient presbytery that was destroyed during the French Revolution.

SAINT PIERRE DE TOURTIRAC

The church Saint Pierre aux Liens (or “ès Liens”) was fortified in the 12th century and has a typical local Romanesque style. Its wooden vault was made in the 19th century.

The church was damaged and partially burnt during the French wars of religion (16th century). It was restored in 1607, as well as its bell tower.



No information about the opening
GPS: 44°53'38.5"N 0°02'12.0"W



Les Artigues de Lussac

SACRÉ COEUR DES ARTIGUES DE LUSSAC

The Sacré Coeur church is a vast neo classical monument built between 1856 and 1903. It symbolizes the creation of this new parish in 1852 and town in 1870 after the church of the ancient Faize abbey was abandoned.

Closed to the public

GPS: 44°58'18.2"N 0°08'28.3"W



Its neo classical façade with pilasters and pediments, distinguishes it from the Romanesque and Gothic churches of the area.



THE ANCIENT FAIZE ABBAYE

This ancient Cistercian abbey was created in 1137. Only the western aisle of the cloister is still visible nowadays, behind the property. The church was disassembled and mined after the French Revolution. Only the foundations of the church remain.

Private property – closed to the public

GPS: 44°58'07.1"N 0°07'43.7"W



The academician Maurice Druon, who was the owner in 1974, was buried there.



Lussac

SAINT PIERRE DE LUSSAC

This ancient Gothic church was enlarged in the 15th century with side aisle, in order to respond to the population growth. Thanks to the Cardinal Donnet, a high neo Gothic bell tower was added in the 19th century.

Access depending on the opening of the city hall

GPS: 44°56'57.4"N 0°05'45.1"W



Sculpted corbels of the 15th century, in the side aisles.



Montagne



SAINT MARTIN DE MONTAGNE

This church was built in the 12th century with a Latin cross shape and has kept its nerved cupola and Romanesque sculptures. A massive square shaped bell tower raises on the crossing. It was crenelated during the French Wars of Religion (16th century). The nave and the western and southern portals were modified in the 19th century.

Its cupola from the late 12th century, sign of the arrival of the Gothic style in the region.



Summer: every day from 9.30am to 7.00pm
Winter: every day from 9.30am to 6.00pm
GPS: 44°55'50.8"N 0°07'46.4"W



SAINT GEORGES DE MONTAGNE

This church was built in the 11th century, close to the ruins of a Gallo-Roman villa. It was given to the Saint-Emilion parish in 1110. The vault of the nave, built from wood and rubble, contrasts with the sculpted portal that was made of local cut stone.

Gallo-roman marble capitals inlaid in the wall of the nave, sculpted modillions of the apse and its 23 meters high bell tower.



Summer: every day from 9.30am to 7.00pm
Winter: every day from 9.30am to 6.00pm
GPS: 44°55'38.6"N 0°07'57.3"W



NOTRE DAME DE PARSAC

This little monument made of cut stones in the 11th century was completed with a bell tower porch in the early 12th century. The nave was early vaulted in the end of the 12th century, which proves that the parish was rich and dynamic in the Middle ages. The town of Parsac has been attached to Montagne since 1973.

Its surprising protective sculptures in the choir and the view over the valley.



Summer: every day from 9.30am to 7.00pm
Winter: every day from 9.30am to 6.00pm
GPS: 44°54'25.9"N 0°05'51.4"W

SAINT BRICE DE NÉAC

Completely destroyed in the 19th century, this church was entirely rebuilt in a neo Romanesque style. The architectural codes from its origin of the 11th century are obvious in the plan and the adornments: vine foliage, polylobes and saw teeth patterns.

Access by contacting *Virginie PETIT* on
+33 6 47 23 20 29

GPS : 44°56'09.5"N 0°10'57.9"W



A nice view over Saint-Emilion and Pomerol from the presbytery.

Petit-Palais et Cornemps

SAINT PIERRE DE PETIT PALAIS

The decor of its 12th century façade is inspired by Romanesque models from the Saintonge and Angoumois areas (Charente and Charente Maritime regions). The church was fortified in the 16th century. A part of the nave collapsed in the past. In the 19th century, the conservators created a rib vault. The entire monument has quite a sober style but the western façade is very decorated with numerous sculptures. This rich Romanesque decor attracted many researchers in the 19th century, which led up to the classification as a "Monument Historique" (French national heritage) in 1846.

Open every day from 9.00am to 4.00pm
(Closed on winter week-ends)

GPS: 44°58'54.9"N 0°03'45.0"W



Find "Boy with Thorn" on the façade!
(Theme inspired by the Antiquity)

NOTRE DAME DE CORNEMPS

This church is dated from the 11th century thanks to the conjoint use of cut stones and rubbles. The noble parts are highlighted: the apse and the portal. In 1587, during the Wars of Religion, the nave was destroyed by an attack caused by the protestants. The apse was sealed off in the second part of the 17th century.

Closed to the public

GPS: 44°54'02.3"N 0°01'09.2"W



The stones of the nave have a fishbone pattern, as in the Antiquity.

Puissequin



Its polychrome façade, rare in the area.

SAINT PIERRE DE PUISSEQUIN

The church, as the castle, were used as a defence line for the village with a still visible brattice. It has kept its Romanesque painted façade from the 12th century. A “litre funéraire” is visible on the facade: a horizontal black painted line which indicates that the church is also a burial place for local lords. Some Gothic elements were added in the 13th and 14th centuries, as the village was prosperous.



Open every day from 10.00am to 6.00pm

GPS: 44°55'23.6"N 0°04'23.9"W



Located in the heart of a calm valley, at the foot of the chateau de Monbadon.

SAINT MARTIN DE MONBADON

This church was built in the late 11th century. The Romanesque nave, bell tower and apse were embellished in the late 12th century. Only a part of the original apse has been preserved. The other part was rebuilt in the 18th century and proves that the Romanesque style persisted in that time because it was the symbol of a past prestige.



Open every day from 9.00am to 6.00pm

GPS: 44°56'21.6"N 0°02'47.8"W



Saint-Christophe des Bardes

SAINT CHRISTOPHE DES BARDES

This 12th century church has a remarkable sculpted portal. Its original single nave was extended in the 16th century. A new plaster vault was made in 1859 and a new bell tower with its spire in 1860. The particularity of the church is a series of seven contemporary stained glass windows, made by a Bordeaux glassmaker master named Bernard Fournier.

Open every day from 9.00am to 5.00pm
GPS: 44°53'49.0"N 0°07'20.8"W



On the wall of the nave, two tide dial are engraved. They were formerly used to indicate the times of prayer and other liturgical acts.



SAINT CIBARD

This 12th century church is dedicated to Saint Cibard, whose name comes from a Roman patrician "Eparchius". He was a monk and hermit who settled in the town of Angoulême in the 5th century.

The church is characterized by a pure Romanesque style, but its added Gothic extra height makes it unique in the region.

Closed to the public for works for 4/5 years
GPS: 44°56'09.5"N 0°01'19.3"W



The height of the extern walls made in local cut stones was raised with rubble in the Gothic times.



Saint-Émilion



The view over the ancient chapel Notre Dame de Mazerat, transformed into a contemporary wine cellar a few years ago.

SAINT MARTIN DE MAZERAT

This Romanesque church was built in the 12th century. The southern door opens under a Romanesque portal, whose capitals are decorated with monsters. The top of the bell tower was destroyed during the Wars of Religion in the 16th century by order of the Saint-Émilion “Jurats”, members of the city council. Indeed, they wanted it not to become a way for Protestants to take over the own.



Closed to the public

GPS: 44°53'34.3"N 0°09'51.3"W



Its cloister from the 12th and 14th centuries, meditation place symbolizing the Garden of Eden. Many events take place there nowadays.

EGLISE COLLEGIALE DE SAINT-EMILION

The foundation of the college of Augustinian canons (monks) in the 12th century led to the construction of this church. Only the western façade and the nave with its cupolas remain from the Romanesque monument. The Gothic style appeared in the 13th and the 16th centuries with the transformation of the transept and the choir. Wall paintings from the 12th to the 16th centuries still ornate the church.



Summer: every day from 7.00am to 7.00pm

Winter: every day from 7.00am to 8.00pm

GPS: 44°53'38.3"N 0°09'25.0"W



It is the largest monolithic church in Europe!



EGLISE MONOLITHE DE SAINT-EMILION

The monolithic church is a subterranean religious monument that was carved in the early 12th century. Its proportions are impressive: 38 meters long and 12 meters high. It was sculpted in the 12th century and painted in the 14th century. Damaged during the French Revolution, it was restored in the 20th century.

*Open all year long: guided tours only,
organised by the tourist office*

GPS: 44°53'36.1"N 0°09'22.9"W

Saint-Etienne de Lisse

SAINT-ETIENNE DE LISSE

This Romanesque church from the 11th century has a trefoil plan, which is rare in the Gironde region. Before 1840, a bell tower raised on the transept crossing but it was destroyed to avoid it collapsing.

In 1845, the bell was molten down again and placed in the raised staircase. The church shelters 6 wooden stalls that were sculpted in the 15th century that come from the collegiate church of Saint-Emilion.

Summer: open from 9.00am to 6.00pm

Winter: open from 9.00am to 5.00pm

GPS: 44°52'47.1"N 0°05'51.5"W



On the way to Saint-Laurent des Combes you can see an ancient chapel in ruin, dedicated to Saint Fort.

Saint-Genès de Castillon

SAINT GENÈS DE CASTILLON

The decor of its façade from the 12th century is inspired by the Romanesque models of Saintonge and Angoumois (Charente and Charente Maritime regions). The very ornate façade contrasts with the other parts of the monument, very simple, which was fortified in the 16th century and was altered by the collapse of a part of the nave. It was restored in the 19th century with a rib vault. The rich ornate façade attracted numerous researchers in the 19th century, which led to the classification to the "Monuments Historiques" (French national heritage) in 1846.

Closed to the public

GPS: 44°53'53.0"N 0°03'56.5"W



The chiming clock is composed of 4 bells. They were made in 1887 in the ancient Vauthier bell foundry of Saint-Emilion (were the "Salle des Dominicains" is currently situated).

Saint-Hippolyte



SAINT-HIPPOLYTE

The church, situated on the plateau of Ferrand, was built in three times. The choir dating back to the 14th century is actually the ancient chapel of the Chateau Saint-Poly, the family residence of the Bétouleau family. Elie de Bétouleau was a poet in the 17th century. The nave has been covered by a visible framework since the 16th century. The square shaped bell tower was built in 1783. The church was entirely restored in 1980.

The church is "lost" in an ocean of vines.



Closed to the public
GPS: 44°52'51.0"N 0°07'10.3"W

Saint-Laurent des Combes



SAINT LAURENT DES COMBES

In the past, the life of the village was situated close to this church. Because of the new railway in the 19th century, the activity developed at the bottom of the hill. The Romanesque church from the 12th century was restored in the 19th century. Its façade is now very sober and topped by a stone Latin cross.

Offers a wonderful view over the hillsides of the historical Saint-Emilion Jurisdiction.



Closed to the public
GPS: 44°52'55.1"N 0°08'09.7"W

Saint-Pey d'Armens

SAINT PIERRE D'ARMENS

This Romanesque church from the 12th century was modified several times. It has a triumphal arch and interesting Romanesque capitals. The façade was modified in 1863 when the bell tower was raised and the canopy was built. The cross of the cemetery dates back to the 16th century and is listed as a “Monument Historique” (French national heritage).

Ask for the key at the city hall in exchange for a piece of ID.

GPS: 44°51'21.4"N 0°06'47.8"W



You might notice a sarcophagus of a child (12th century) in the cemetery.

Saint-Philippe d'Aiguille

SAINT PHILIPPE D'AIGUILLE

This Romanesque monument from the 11th and 12th centuries was altered by several transformations. The nave has been covered by two cupolas on pendentives since the 12th century. The transept and the Gothic apse were rebuilt in the 16th century. The apse was restored after a violent storm in 1929.

Summer: every day from 9.00am to 7.00pm
Winter: every day from 10.00am to 6.00pm

GPS: 44°54'50.0"N 0°01'54.6"W



Numerous neo Romanesque sculptures of the façade and the porch.

Saint-Sulpice de Faleyrens

SAINT SULPICE DE FALEYRENS

The church was built in the late 11th or early 12th century at the place of a former Merovingian monument. It was modified in the 19th century and restored in the 20th century. Only the triumphal arch, the apse, four capitals of the sanctuary and a few modillions on the cornice remain from the Romanesque part of the church.

Ask for the key at the city hall in exchange for a piece of ID.

GPS: 44°52'28.7"N 0°11'28.1"W



The consecration stone dates back to the early 12th century.

Sainte-Terre



The bell-wall and its different styles.



SAINT ALEXIS DE SAINTE-TERRE

Earth from Palestine was brought back from the first crusade in the late 11th century and placed on the highest point of the parish. The church was built from the Romanesque period to the end of the Gothic times (portal) and was enlarged in the 19th century. The bell gable was built in the second half of the 18th century in a Baroque style.

Closed to the public

By appointment (0033 557 47 15 48)

GPS: 44°49'43.2"N 0°06'46.9"W

Tayac



The contemporary rib shaped hall nearby the church, built by DM-Architects De Marco in 2017.



NOTRE DAME DE TAYAC

Its structure and sculptures testify that the church dates back to the 12th century. The Romanesque improvements are now only visible around the apse. The church was deeply transformed in the 16th century by developments and fortifications, which gives it a massive appearance.

Closed to the public

GPS: 44°57'14.2"N 0°00'38.7"W

Vignonet



The scallop shells left under the porch by pilgrims going to Santiago de Compostella.



SAINT BRICE DE VIGNONET

This church (12th century) is situated in the place of the ancient village of Vignonet where you could cross the Dordogne River by crossing a ford. Today, this is also where ends the tidal bore named "mascaret" flowing up from the Gironde estuary. The nave was enlarged with side aisles in the 18th century. Benches of the porch permitted the organisation of the market and public meetings.

Closed to the public

GPS: 44°50'37.5"N 0°09'43.5"W

Glossary - Architectural elements

APSE

end of the choir of a church on the side of the high altar (inside part named "Chancel")

ARCHIVOLT

bands or mouldings (moldings, Am.) surrounding an arched opening

BRATTICE

small balcony with machicolations, usually built over a door with the purpose of enabling defenders to shoot or throw objects at the attacker huddled under the wall

CAPITAL

stone that crowns the top of a column, most of the time decorated with foliage, animals...

CHOIR

part of the church which houses the altar and whose access is restricted to the clergy

CORNICE

protuding and continuous crowning construction whose main function is to discharge rainwater away from the facade

MODILLION

one of a set of ornamental brackets or grotesque figures placed under a cornice

NAVE

part of a church between the portal and the choir in the longitudinal direction in which the faithful are seated. One can distinguish the central and lateral naves.

PEDIMENT

triangular architectural ornament or in semi-circle shape, over a gate or a facade

PILASTER

rectangular pillar projecting from a wall, purely decorative

POLYLOBE

association of small round arches

PORTAL

monumental door integrated in a facade

RIB

arch or branch of a Gothic vault, which crosses it diagonally. Also used to talk about a pointed arch.

RUBBLE

small size stone, rough, roughened or squared (building rubble), the wall was usually set in mortar

SIDE AISLE

lateral nave of a church

SPIRE

pyramidal or conical part which crowns a bell tower

STALL

seat of the choir where only canons can sit

TRANSEPT

transverse part of the church plan, which cuts the main nave, giving it the shape of a cross

TREFOIL PLAN

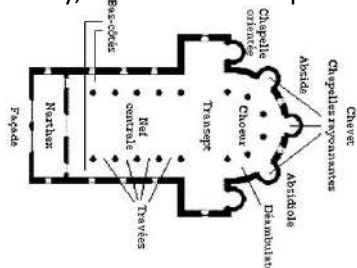
church outline in the shape of a clover with the apse and the transept ending with radiating chapels (semi-circular protrusions)

TRIUMPHAL ARCH

arcade situated at the entrance of the choir

TYMPANUM

solid infill of the space above an arch over a doorway, which is often sculpted



Glossary - Architectural styles

BAROQUE

Artistic trend that appeared in the early 17th century and used movement and full-size structures with exuberance

GOTHIC

Architectural style that was formerly developed in France as from the second part of the 12th century. It is characterized by the technique of the flying buttresses and rib vaults that lighten the structure to bring more light and impressive heights.

NEO CLASSICAL STYLE

It was used from the second half of the 18th century to the early 19th century, succeeding to the classical, Baroque and Rococo styles, using elements from the Greco-Roman architecture.

NEO GOTHIC

This architectural style was born in the middle of the 18th century in England, reviving medieval shapes that contrast with dominant classical styles on that time.

NEO ROMANESQUE

Very popular style in the late 19th century, inspired by the Romanesque style from the 11th and 12th centuries.

ROMANESQUE

This architectural style is essentially religious and characteristic of the European Middle Ages (10th to 12th centuries). It is characterized by the round shape arch, the barrel vault or pointed, the cupola and adornments mixing geometric, fantasy, biblical patterns or everyday life patterns.

POITEVIN STYLE

Romanesque architecture from the Poitou region. It is characterized by the lack of tympanum and the adornments with geometric or plant patterns around the doors. On two levels, the façade is divided into three parts: a portal and two walled openings.

Credits

Heurisko, Steve Le Clech, Guillaume Le Baube, Daniel Faure-Dupont, William Ellison, Bastien Pierre, Francis Leroy, Saint-Emilion Tourisme

