

Visit of the old village of Cairanne (Vaucluse)

Summary of the presentation on : www.cairannevieuxvillage.eu



Leave the car at the parking P1 in front of the City Hall or on the parking P2 at the exit of the village towards Carpentras. Walk up the road at the left fork of the war memorial. Make a left on the St Genies path then a right on the "montée du Donjon" lane. Keep on walking straight ahead. Every stop has a display board with QR code.

Stop 1: The Cairanne's gardens: a remarkable tree: the Osage orange tree.

Stop 2: Eastern view on the vineyards, the Ventoux and the pre-Alps.

Stop 3: The Southern ramparts. They were most likely built in the 14th century. Against them are narrow three or four storeyed houses built inside the village for 500 inhabitants. They have modern openings.

Stop 4: The Saint Roch Chapel. Built to thank God for having spared the village from the 1720 plague.

Stop 5: The Autan gate. One of the two walled gates giving access to the village. It has been reshaped over the years. On the right, the old hospital (Cairanne's hospice until 1920).

Stop 6: The Dungeon. Oral tradition calls it the "Templars Tower". It was more of a watch tower than a real castle dungeon. Nowadays it's a clock tower with a campanile (bell tower). Inside there is a Video display :

Histoire et Patrimoine de Cairanne (History and Heritage of Cairanne).

Stop 7: Southwards view. It was a former sea gulf filled with the Rhône's alluviums and its tributaries.

Stop 8: The church is from the 19th century. Paintings are of the 17th and 18th centuries. The Northwards view : the terraces of the hills covered with vineyards and the hilltops covered with scrubland (garrigue) and cork oaks. On the North East, the river Aygues draws the former boundaries between the Comtat Venaissin and the Dauphiné, Province of the French kingdom.

Stop 9: Westwards view. Table of orientation. The river Aygues runs at the foot of the hill.

Stop 10: Flower garden.

Stops 11 and 12: The Sergeant's gate. The site has been quite modified. The gate was supposed to fit into the ramparts or into the constructions. The addition of a second gate in front of it, turned it into a barbican, that the assailants had to go through under the defenders attack, remaining stuck in front of the Sergeant gate placed in baffle. Typical military construction of the Middle Ages.

Stop 13: The chapel "Notre-Dame des Excès" built in 1632 after a plague epidemic that killed a lot of people (150 out of 800 inhabitants). The name Excès comes from the latin word "excessus"= death.

Walk down Chemin de la Fontaine behind the chapel to return to the parking lot.

M: Maison des vins and Roman artifacts.