

Saint-Lizier

Medieval city

TOURIST INFORMATION - COUSERANS PYRÉNÉES

Saint-Lizier information office

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www.tourisme-couserans-pyrenees.com



Legend

- Start of hike
- Start of Greenway
- Picnic area
- Bread Bakery
- Bakery
- Play Area
- Toilets
- Car park
- Gardens
- View point
- Bus stop

GR®78

SAINT - GIRONS
5MN

Please note seasonal opening times

● **BISHOPS PALACE - DEPARTMENTAL MUSEUM - NOTRE-DAME-DE-LA-SÈDE CATHEDRAL**
Open from Easter to All Saints day and school holidays.

● **SAINT LIZIER CATHEDRAL**
Open all year from 9am to 6pm.
Guided tours in July and August, and all year for groups (reservation required).

● **18TH CENTURY APOTHCARY**
Open school holidays, and all year for groups (reservation required).

1 11 PLACE DE L'ÉGLISE
Open all year, Tues. to Mon lunch.
Café, tea room from 10am to 8pm.

2 LA GRANDE DE LA CITÉ
End of May to end of Aug. Friday to Monday, 8am to 11pm, lunch and dinner, and brunch on Sundays.

3 LE CARRÉ DE L'ANGE
April to October, lunch and dinner, from Wednesday lunchtime, to Sunday lunchtime.

4 LE BUEN CAMINO (BAR - TAPAS)
All year. July and Aug : Tues. to Sat. Other seasons : Thurs. to Sat.

DAYS AND TIMES MAY VARY, PLEASE CHECK THEIR WEBSITES FOR UPDATES

SAINT - GIRONS
SHOPS AND CASH
WITHDRAWAL
5 MN
25 MN

TO THE PAYS DE TRACES !
5 MN

- 1** 18TH CENTURY APOTHCARY
- 2** SAINT LIZIER CATHEDRAL, ROMAN CLOISTER, BISHOPS TREASURE
- 3** HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE
- 4** 18TH CENTURY COVERED STREET AND PORTO DET CASSE.

- 5** RUE DES NOBLES
- 6** HOUSES ON ARCADES
- 7** RUE DE L'HORLOGE
- 8** FORMER PRESBYTERY
- 9** ANTIQUE REMPART
- 10** CLOCK TOWER
- 11** TOWN HALL

- 12** RUE NOTRE-DAME
- 13** CARRÉ BOURRASSOU
- 14** HALF TIMBERED HOUSE
- 15** RENAISSANCE HOUSE
- 16** POUTEROLLES CROSS
- 17** BISHOPS PALACE - DEPARTMENTAL MUSEUM - NOTRE-DAME-DE-LA-SÈDE CATHEDRAL

Check out all the walks around Saint-Lizier on our website !



Scan here for restaurant recommendations around Saint-Lizier !



Looking for something artistic? As you stroll through the village, don't hesitate to drop in at the various galleries you'll find !



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START :
PLACE DE L'ÉGLISE
DURATION : 1H30



FROM THE PLACE DE L'ÉGLISE:

1 18TH CENTURY APOTHCARY

To the south of the cathedral, you will find the Hôtel-Dieu, ancient hospital. The date of construction can be seen on the door lintel: 1764. It houses a perfectly preserved 18th-century apothecary: cherry wood furniture, earthenware pots, bottles, surgical kit and remedies with surprising names: «4 thieves' vinegar», «Dog oil», «Ratafia for the poor» and the famous «long life elixir»!

→ Guided tours only during holiday periods: information at the tourist office.

2 SAINT LIZIER CATHEDRAL, ROMANESQUE CLOISTER AND TREASURE

SAINTE-LIZIER CATHEDRAL
The Romanesque church, dedicated to Saint Lizier, dates back to the 11th century and is crowned by an octagonal brick bell tower built in the 14th century in the style of Toulouse. The chevet is the most remarkable part of the building, with a multitude of Gallo-Roman relics. The central apse and choir bay are adorned with a monumental collection of exceptional 11th-century Romanesque frescoes. The nave is in the Toulouse Gothic style, with a fine 15th-century stained-glass window to the south and a renovated 17th-century organ on the gallery.

→ Free admission - Guided tours: information at the tourist office.

ROMANESQUE CLOISTER

Through a door at the back of the cathedral the 12th century cloister is the only Romanesque cloister in the Ariège. The upper gallery was built at the end of the 18th century. The north gallery features elegant capitals made by a Toulouse workshop that worked on the Daurade church. The decoration consists of plant motifs: plaits, basketwork, interlacing, palmettes and a few historiated

scenes.

→ Free admission - Guided tours: information at the tourist office.

BISHOPS' TREASURE

The treasure is visible from the cloister (wooden door). It features a number of items that bear witness to the city's episcopal life: crosses, mitre, reliquaries, chalices, ciboria, statues... and the famous Renaissance bust of Saint Lizier.

→ Guided tours only during holiday periods: information at the tourist office.

LEAVING THE CATHEDRAL:

3 HALF TIMBERED HOUSE

With 15th century corbelled floors and mullioned windows.

4 18TH CENTURY COVERED STREET AND PORTO DET CASSE

Gascon name meaning oak door.

GO UP THE RUE DES NOBLES

5 RUE DES NOBLES

These beautiful 18th-century houses are the former canons' houses. Look at the sculptures and the dates of construction. The most curious sculpture is on the corner of house no. 8. Many of the village's houses were built or renovated in the 18th century.

6 HOUSE ON ARCADES

which features a beautiful 15th-century timber-framed façade.

GO THROUGH THE ARCADES AND UP RUE DE L'HORLOGE

7 RUE DE L'HORLOGE AND PLACE DES HOMMES

Note at no. 11 the beautiful wooden door decorated with a knocker in the centre of a lion's head from the 17th century. Opposite, a plaque reminds us that «Poullitou», the town's former carillonneur, used to live here.

8 FORMER PRESBYTERY

On the left, the former presbytery housed the «Sainte-Marie» boarding school for young girls (1750). Today, the building is used as a secular public space: a hall for weddings, conferences and the town council.

9 ANTIQUE RAMPART

Opposite, is the ancient rampart. Made of small limestone rubble stones and rows of bricks, it dates back to the end of the 4th century. Almost all of it has been preserved, serving as a foundation for contemporary buildings (medieval ramparts, town hall, bishops' palace, medieval and modern houses). It is 740 metres long, 8 metres high and 2 metres thick, with 12 towers, 10 of which have survived. The rampart follows the natural slope of the street, a characteristic of Roman construction techniques.

10 CLOCK TOWER

Formerly known as the «Iron Gate», it was the ancient gateway to the city of Saint-Lizier.

11 TOWN HALL

The Saint-Lizier coat of arms can be seen above the town hall door: a blue bell on a gold background. Its coat of arms is also represented, in pebbles, on the ground in front of the entrance door. The town's motto in Gascon is «Quan me tocan, que heou butch!», meaning «If you touch me, I'll make a racket!».

TURN RIGHT, AND UP RUE NOTRE DAME

12 RUE NOTRE-DAME

A pretty cobbled street, with a 15th-century timber-framed house on the left.

TURN LEFT AT CARRÉ DE BOURRASSOU



A LITTLE HISTORY...

It was around the time the rampart was built (late 4th or early 5th century) that Saint Lizier became the centre of power for the Consorani, the Gallo-Roman people who gave their name to the Couserans!

Towards the end of the 5th century, the town became the seat of the Bishopric of Couserans, whose second bishop was Lycerius or Glycerius, who was canonised and gave his name to the town.

13 CARRÉ DE BOURRASSOU

At the entrance to this alleyway, on the archway, a shell reminds us that Saint-Lizier was home to a religious brotherhood of Saint James. Saint-Lizier is still a stopover on the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela, the «route du Piémont Pyrénéen» (GR78), and welcomes pilgrims.

This public passageway is one of the town's most beautiful alleyways, taking you back to the Middle Ages: timber-framed houses, cobbled street, central gutter, andrones (small alley between houses to prevent fire spreading in the event of a blaze).

14 HALF TIMBERED HOUSE OF «JULES THE TAILOR»

This timber-framed house belonged to the town's former tailor. Known for being very small, the story goes that he used to sew sitting cross-legged on a table. Just around the corner from this house is the «carré de Jules», the narrowest street in the town.

CONTINUE TO RUE MAUBEC, TURN RIGHT, THEN WALK UP THE LE CARRÉ DE LOUISE, TO YOUR RIGHT.

15 RENAISSANCE HOUSE timber-framed, with a remarkable door.

NEXT YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF YOUR WALK :

DETOUR IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

16 THE POUTEROLLES CROSS

Take a country diversion up to the Croix de Pouterolles, a former place of meditation for bishops. Go down to the left and follow the signs for «Pouterolles». Follow the road for 150 metres, then take the path on the right. At the crossroads, turn left and walk as far as the Pouterolles cross to admire the view. Retrace your steps. At the crossroads, turn left towards Bishops Palace. At the road, turn right, cross the car park, go through the gates and straight on to the terrace of the «Le Carré de l'Ange» restaurant.
→ Carry on to n°17.

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY :

after number 15, turn right and continue until you reach rue Notre-Dame. Go up the stairs on the left. At the top, cross the courtyard to the right and go down the covered staircase.

17 BISHOPS PALACE - DEPARTMENTAL MUSEUM - NOTRE-DAME-DE-LA-SÈDE CATHEDRAL

The Palace was built for the Bishop Monseigneur de Marmiesse in 1654, to give prestige to the small diocese of the Couserans. The Palace has had several lives: first as a symbol of religious power, then as a psychiatric hospital, and today as a formidable place of remembrance and heritage! Discover the history of the Couserans and the development of the site from antiquity to the present day, thanks to a modern museography. With rare collections, interactive displays and exceptional settings, you're in for a real journey through time. Adjacent to the palace, the superb Notre-Dame-de-la-Sède cathedral, known as the «Sistine Chapel of the Ariège», will dazzle you with its remarkable Renaissance paintings.
→ infos : www.sites-touristiques-ariège.fr ou au 05.61.05.10.10.

TWO CATHEDRALS!

Two churches were built in the Romanesque period: Notre-Dame-de-la-Sède cathedral within the bishops' palace and Saint Lizier cathedral in the market town. The latter houses the treasury of the Couserans bishops and has a Romanesque cloister. At least 77 bishops succeeded one another until the Concordat of 1801, which abolished the bishopric of Couserans.

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

The village is also a living reminder of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, and a stop on the «Chemin du Piémont Pyrénéen» (GR78).

Several of Saint-Lizier's monuments are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites as part of the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela (for more information: www.chemins-compostelle-patrimoine-mondial.fr). The village is one of the «Grands Sites Occitanie». Its many monuments bear witness to the city's rich historical past, and are a must-see!



TO GO BACK TO YOUR STARTING POINT

Turn left down the pebble staircase just before the terrace of the «Le Carré de l'Ange» restaurant. Cross the terraced gardens to the next pebble staircase. Continue downhill via the steps in the narrow passage of the carré des Evêques (a small, shady alleyway). Rejoin the road and return to Place de l'Eglise (starting point).

EXTEND YOUR WALK :

View from the garden of the former presbytery and Place des Étendes. From the cathedral, walk down Rue Neuve (on the left as you leave) and at the end of the street, cross over and take the small cobbled lane past the artist's gallery/workshop. Go straight ahead, climb the stairs and you'll arrive in the garden of the former presbytery. What a view! Retrace your steps and walk down Rue du Puits. At the junction with Place des Barris,

turn left and walk up to Place des Étendes. The houses around this square have balconies or «estendes» for drying crops and/or laundry. This feature gave the square its name. On the right, on the façade of the timber-framed house (on the other side of the street), a shell and a bumblebee are carved, testimony to the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and its brotherhood. Retrace your steps or continue straight ahead to reach the Vigne de l'Évêché car park.