

CITY TOUR MAP

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• Respect the local population: the trails are
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Cœur Sud-Ouest
Marcas Madiran St Mont

BONNE VISITE

CITY TOUR



Maubourguet



Distance : 2,6 km



Difficulty : easy



2h00

Maubourguet through the various monuments that have marked
the history of the town and still influence the daily life of its
inhabitants.



1 Departure from the tourist office

2 The wash-house

Contrary to what the name wash-house suggests, these areas were mainly used for rinsing clothes that had been washed at home. The wash-house of Maubourguet is located on the overflow of the canal of the mill "Darré". Its water comes from the Echez (a tributary of the Adour river) from the "Dutaut" dam, 1 km upstream. Formerly a meeting place for the washerwomen of Maubourguet, the wash-house is now a quiet, shady area with picnic facilities.

3 The road bridge over the Echez

You are standing on the site of a battle that took place in 1814 between Soult's rearguard and Wellington's vanguard. Soult blew up the wooden bridge of the Royal Road (now the D935) with cannon fire. A few years later, in 1840, the new stone bridge in front of you was built. The bridge links Maubourguet to the main roads to Pau and Bordeaux and is one of the most used engineering works in the town.



4 The round tower

It marks the entrance to a 19th century bourgeois house and its gardens called "La Villa Gardey". It was used as a hospital during the First World War. The Villa Gardey is named after one of its former owners, the priest Osmin Gardey (1837-1914), a native of Maubourguet. In Paris, he was curate, then priest of Sainte-Clotilde, before becoming a canon in 1891. A papal letter from the Vatican appointed him "Prelate of the Papal Household" in 1911, and he then took the title of monsignor. It is believed that this round brick tower, the only one of its kind in the city, symbolised and supported his position in the ecclesiastical hierarchy. It is said that every time he returned, he was greeted at the station by the town's brass band. He died at the age of 77, having retired to Maubourguet.

5 The Darré mill (former Dutaut mill)

Situated on the Echez canal, the mill belonged in the Middle Ages to the prior of the Benedictine monastery of Saint-Martin-de-Celle, the former name of the town of Maubourguet. The prior's role was to ensure the smooth running of the priory, which was part of an abbey. The mill owes its name to its location at the western end of the ramparts,



To extend your visit ...

The totem pole : this is a work by the painter and sculptor Christian Aguirre called "gardien des 4 chemins" (guardian of the 4 paths), quickly renamed "totem" by the locals because of its height, its primary colours and the faces depicted on each side.

The confluence: this is where the Adour and the Echez rivers meet, with almost identical catchment areas but different sources of water: the Adour is fed by the Pyrenean peaks and the Echez by the foothills of the Pyrenees between Lourdes and Bagnères-de-Bigorre.

The Echez railway bridge: it is a true work of art, with three semicircular arches. In 1859, Napoleon III and his wife, the Empress Eugénie, crossed it by train. Their stop in the commune marked the inauguration of Maubourguet station, a little further on. Two years later, the population of Maubourguet reached its peak with 2,747 inhabitants.

The Faubourg mill: It was probably built in the 12th century by Centulle III, Count of Bigorre, before he gave it to the Hospitallers of Saint Jean de Jersusalem. It then passed into the hands of the Order of Rhodes and Malta. During the French Revolution in 1789, the building became a national asset. It was successively acquired by private owners. In the 20th century, it was used as an "electric factory" to supply the village with electricity, before finally being used as a home.



Le Château de Lussy: This 17th century building has a listed roof and facades. It has been privately owned by the Lussy family since 1609. It is not open to the public, but the building can be seen from the road.

The Roman milestone: In 2007, 4 agricultural milestones from the High Roman Empire were discovered. The one in front of you is the last one still visible to the public, the other 3 having been destroyed after an archaeological survey during the work on the town bypass. It has the shape of the capital letter gamma, from the Greek alphabet. Its function in ancient times was to mark the corner of a building and also its proximity to the river Echez.



16 The Bouscarret sports parc

It is one of the most emblematic sites of Maubourguet. Before it became a beautiful 5-hectare meadow, it was a small forest bordered on 3 sides by the Adour, hence the name "Bouscarret" (little grove). Its sporting vocation began at the beginning of the 20th century with the construction of a wooden bullring, a rugby pitch and an athletics track. Gradually, a pelota court, a football pitch, tennis courts, a swimming pool, a sports hall and, more recently, a city-park were added.

17 The Bouscarret mill

Originally part of the Saint Girons estate, its name changed with successive owners from the 18th century onwards. One of the most emblematic and influential figures in the commune of Maubourguet was Raymond de Lapalu, colonel and chevalier of the Legion of Honour. A royalist who emigrated during the Revolution, he was appointed mayor by the prefect from 1837 to 1846. Between the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, a sawmill and a woollen mill were added to the flour mill, increasing local employment. Finally, the mill was used to supply electricity to the village before becoming a private residence.

18 La place Lagardère, the former Foirail

Built in the old defensive ditches of the town, this area was for a time known as the Foirail, or cattle market. This was because the animals were sold here, away from the centre of the village, in order to maintain a certain level of cleanliness by devoting space to the fairs. In the 19th century, the Maubourguet stud farm stood on the site of the emergency centre,

testifying to the importance of horse breeding in the Adour valley. Horse races are even held at the Lieu-dit of L'Hippodrome, on the outskirts of the village, towards Marciac.

19 Les allées Larbanès

Planted in 1830 on the site of the medieval town's triple defensive moat, on the initiative of Mayor Cyprien Larbanès, the avenues are lined with magnificent plane trees planted in 1830. The trees were pruned into arbours in 1945.

20 The archaeological museum

Opened in 2011 in the same building as the Tourist Office. The museum contains a wealth of artefacts covering no less than 200,000 years of Val d'Adour history, including flint bifaces, stone and bronze axes, coins and other rare or unique objects. There is also a section of the Benedictine cloister of the monastery of Saint Martin de Celle and a slide show (in French) on the discovery of the mosaic, the museum's masterpiece, unique in its kind and listed as a historic monument in 1980.



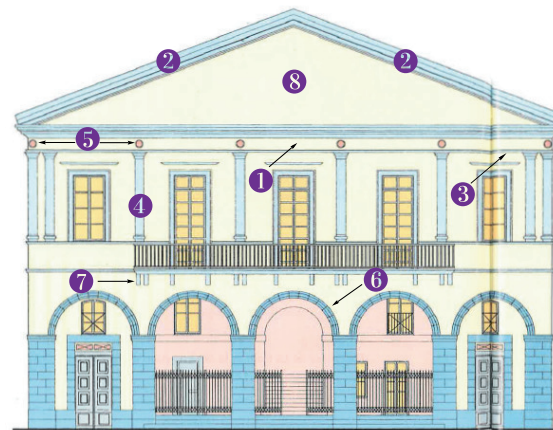
"Darré" meaning "to the west". Between 1771 and 1888, a sawmill, a fulling mill and a turnery were added to the mill. It was also the first mill in the town to produce electricity in 1900, before being converted into a bakery. It is now a private residence.

6 The Fountain François Mitterrand

Located in the heart of the city, this fountain is the work of the painter and sculptor François Cante-Pacos. In addition to its function as a roundabout, it commemorates the arrival of the President of the Republic for the Maubourguet celebrations on 21 August 1992. This modern work was inaugurated on 22 August 1997 in the presence of Danielle Mitterrand (wife of the President), Jean Glavany, then Mayor of the town, Christian Sauter, Secretary of State, Michel Charasse, former Minister, local councillors, and a large public.

7 The Town Hall

The town hall was built in 3 years, between 1846 and 1848, according to the plans of the architect Jean-Jacques Latour, a former student of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.



It stands out from the surrounding buildings because of its square plan, its height, its imposing volume, and its antique inspiration, known in architectural language as the Neo-Classical style.

For a better understanding of its facade, we invite you to follow this numbered plan:

- 1) The entablature, 2) the cornice, 3) the hood mould for water runoff, 4) the pilasters, that embellish the facade, are punctuated at regular intervals at the top with terracotta medallions (5).
- 6) At the ground floor, the semicircular arches in ashlar or masonry, follow one another and even continue inside the building.
- Above the main entrance, by way of a canopy, runs a long stone balcony supported by fourteen corbels, decorated with scrolls (7).
- 8) Dominating the balcony, and ending the facade, a large triangular pediment with moulded cornice and entablature offers an unusually bare field, awaiting a bas-relief or an allegorical sculpture.



8 The hall

In the beginning there was a wooden market hall on the site of the present town hall. In 1849, a second market hall was built on the ground floor of the new town hall.

Then, at the beginning of the 20th century, the inhabitants asked for a covered building for the sale of grain. It was then decided to build a third covered market in the new square. Completed in 1909, it is said to have been designed in the style of Baltard (famous for the Halles de Paris), but it was definitely an architect from Tarbes, Gustave Labat, who drew up the plans.

9 La place de la libération

Sometimes confused with a bastide square, this 1-hectare public space in the city centre was created in the 19th century. The project was initiated in 1829 by the mayor Cyprien Larbanès and completed by his successor, Fortuné Horcat. It took on its urban appearance with the development of two successive municipal housing estates: one started in 1817 on the south side, the other in 1832 on the west and north sides; several commercial activities were set up around the square, including three small mills. This large tree-lined area was known successively as the Place Aux Grains, the Place du General de Castelnaud, the Place du Marché and the Place D'Armes, before being renamed the Place de la Libération in 1945.

10 The war memorial

Artwork by the sculptor Octave Larrieu, born in Argentina (1881-1965). He arrived in Maubourguet in 1919, where he received numerous commissions for war memorials. A year later, the town's monument was erected, representing a draped woman,

an allegory of a grateful nation, offering the crown of victory to a dying soldier.

11 Notre Dame de l'Assomption's church

The building was dedicated to Saint Martin de Celle when it belonged to a Benedictine monastery. It is a precious example of Romanesque art that bears witness to a thousand years of history. Its architectural style has evolved through successive transformations since the 11th century. The monastery was founded with monks from the abbey of Alet in Languedoc under Eraclius and Bernard, Bishop and Count of Bigorre respectively (1035-1064). This Benedictine monastic settlement was strategically located on the pilgrimage route to Saint Jacques de Compostelle. The church was built on the site of a Gallo-Roman temple, an early Christian basilica and a Carolingian church.

During the Wars of Religion (1569), the Protestants destroyed it, leaving it in ruins. The church was closed shortly after the Revolution of 1793. Major renovations were carried out at the end of the 19th century and most recently between 1983 and 1985.

To find out more about its history, we invite you to consult the double-sided display case on the site, which tells the story of the church.

12 "Les Nymphes de L'Adour "statue

This work by Fulcan, dating from 2013, depicts two nymphs from Greek mythology associated with water. Sculpted in bronze, the nymphs stand 1.65 metres tall, facing a small fountain. The two figures embrace each other with purity and grace, like two rivers meeting at their confluence. It is said that this sculpture is an allegory of the Adour and Echez rivers as they intertwine.

13 The old abattoir

The building was built in the 1830s for the slaughter of animals before being converted into a small market hall. It is located in the Place de l'Adour, on the site of the city's old defensive ditches. Before it was built, animals were slaughtered in the first wooden market hall, on the site of the current town hall. The planned construction of a new town hall and the desire of elected officials to create a space for public health purposes led to the practice being moved to the outskirts of the town, near a stream and out of sight of women and children. The bricks used to frame the south door of the building came from the demolition of the city walls in the 19th century.

14 The white bridge

Originally made of wood, it was renovated in 1882 before being made of concrete in 1934. It is a truly beautiful footbridge for pedestrians and cyclists.

Its harmonious curves make it an elegant and pleasing work of art. It gives access to the Bouscarret from the Faubourg and is therefore a shortcut to the city centre.

15 The bullrings

From the second half of the 19th century, various types of ephemeral wooden bullrings were used. The first part of the concrete bullring was built in 1978, while the last phase of renovation was completed in 1993. The new bullrings are 37.5 metres long and 28.5 metres wide and has a capacity of 1,850 seats. The horseshoe shape is characteristic of the "Course Landaise" and makes the show more fluid and dynamic. When bullfights are held here, the bullfighting club completes the ring by modifying the "talanquère" (a barrier separating the bull from the public).

