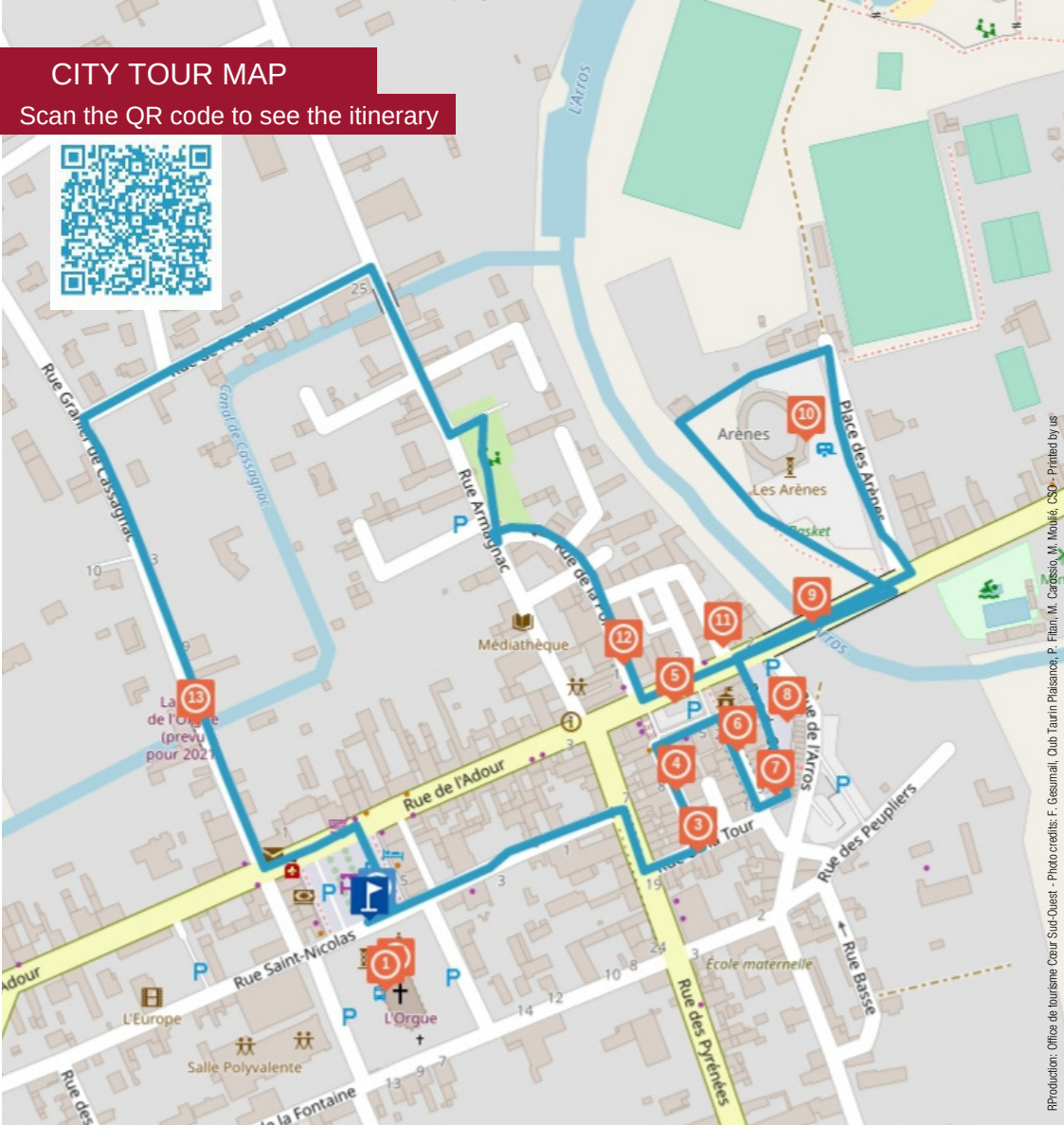


Scan the QR code to see the itinerary



**You can also discover this audio tour.
Follow your itinerary with the free
application available at: www.izi.travel
Enjoy your visit!**

izi. TRAVEL

21 Place de l'Hôtel de Ville - 32230 MARCIAC
05 62 08 26 60 - info@coeursudouest-tourisme.com
www.coeursudouest-tourisme.com



Coeur Sud-Ouest

Marciac Madiran St Mon

BONNE VISITE

CITY TOUR



Plaisance
du Gers

Production: Office de tourisme Cœur Sud-Ouest - Photo credits: E. Gesumail, Club Taurin Plaisance, P. Fitau, M. Carossio, M. Moulié, CSO - Printed by us

- Respect nature: take a bag to carry away your garbage, respect the flora and fauna.
- Respect the local population: the trails are closed to motor vehicles. Keep dogs on a lead. Respect private property.

 Distance : 2.2 km



Difficulty : easy



1h00

Founded in 1322, the Bastide was destroyed twice but rose from the ashes. The town flourished in the 19th century. The town acquired a 2nd square with arcades, a real curiosity in Gascony.



1 Departure from the square "Place du 11 Novembre"

Built in 1322 by Jean, the 1st Count of Armagnac and the Abbot of La Case Dieu, the Bastide of Plaisance has several features that distinguish it from other bastides. Bastides were created in the Middle Ages to combat the dispersion of the population, according to a highly organized plan:

From a central square or market hall, a grid of streets and lanes was created to facilitate access and the allocation of equal plots for building and farming. The central square was often surrounded by open galleries known as embans or arcades.

A document from the first half of the 15th century describes medieval Plaisance with its walls, suburbs, religious buildings, the garland square (a covered gallery surrounding a square in bastides) and the market hall above. Like many bastides in the plain, Plaisance's poor and incomplete defensive system meant that it was better able to repel a band of raiders than an organised army.

Unlike the present town, which has a star-shaped layout, during the Restoration Plaisance was a town that stretched along the Arros, with the arcaded square at its centre. At the beginning of the 17th century, a large part of the ramparts was destroyed.

Two squares occupy the central part of the town, in the heart of the Bastide. The square-shaped Place du 8 mai is surrounded by a covered gallery. It is accessed via four corner streets.

The "Place Nouvelle" or "Place aux Grains", where we are now, dates from 1841, with its two long arcaded galleries used as a market hall. It was the result of a commercial project by the municipal council of the July Monarchy, which was looking for a large grain market. Around 1850, Plaisance became one of the few bastides in Gascony (only Saint Clar has the same originality) with two arcaded squares: the Place Vielle, the heart of the old town, and the Place Nouvelle, around which the new suburb was built.

2 Eglise de l'Immaculée Conception

In 1837, the town council abandoned the project to extend the old Bastide church, the Sainte Quitterie, and built a new one because it was too small to accommodate the growing number of worshippers and because the population of Plaisance was growing rapidly.



12 Rue de la Porte

It takes its name from the fortified town gate (the Portal) which stood on this street, between the present houses at numbers 13 and 6, and which linked the town to the suburb of "Debat", meaning below or downstream from the town. This fortified gateway to the Bastide of which we discovered the foundations, in 1993 during urbanisation work, was demolished in the 1780s as it was in danger of collapsing.

In this old street, two large bourgeois houses with beautifully carved doors, rebuilt at the beginning of the 19th century, once belonged to the local elite of the Revolution and the Empire (nos. 7 and 9).

13 The Cassagnac mill

The large Cassagnac mill is a fine example of 19th century local architecture. It was built in 1864 by Bernard-Adolphe Granier de Cassagnac on the irrigation canal. It is a fine industrial building from the Second Empire, located in an important grain trading centre on the Middle Adour. From 1865, it strengthened the milling activity of Plaisance. Plaisance had 5 mills: the 16th century Moulin des Abbés de la Case Dieu (rue Sainte Quitterie), the Grand Moulin and Petit Moulin de Cassagnac, le Foulon and the Moulin du Tillet from the end of the 16th century.

Return to the Square "Place du 11 Novembre".

VISITE AUDIO GUIDÉE

AUDIO GUIDED TOUR

You can also discover this audio tour. Follow your itinerary with the free application available at:

www.izi.travel

Enjoy your visit!

izi. TRAVEL

Scan to download the tour to your phone :



It was also the burial place of the priests of Plaisance, who were buried at the foot of the altar, and of certain bourgeois families of the town. At the end of the 18th century, the municipal archives were kept in the sacristy. In 1791, the three priests of the new county town took there an oath of allegiance to the Constitution. Disused from 1793, it was converted into a wheat hall in 1818 and demolished around 1840. The beautiful Spanish Renaissance door behind the Town Hall is the only remnant of this chapel. Today there is a monument to François Mitterrand on the Place du Souvenir. In spring, it is covered in flowers, a symbol of the city's flowering programme.

9 Bridge over the Arros

The mighty three-arched stone bridge of Plaisance was built in 1846-1847 thanks to the generosity of the Count of Saint Marsault, Prefect of the Gers. The old Place Saint Nicolas was named after him by the grateful community. This stone bridge replaced the old wooden bridge of the Bastide, which was regularly damaged or washed away by the violent and recurrent floods of the Arros. It was one of the town's main commercial facilities and contributed to the growth of the Plaisance market during the second half of the 19th century.

10 The Bullrings

During the Second Empire, the first wooden bullrings were built for the Landes races. They were rebuilt in the same material in 1921 and finally in solid construction in 1936.

The renovated bullring still hosts the traditional summer Landes races and, in recent years, a popular novillada.

At the end of the square is the large Plaisance sports complex, with facilities including 4 tennis courts, a bowling green, a lake, volleyball, football and rugby pitches, a skateboard track, etc. The stadium is the meeting place for Plaisance's sportsmen and women and for the USP (Union Sportif Plaisantin) rugby team, founded in 1906 by Louis Quériaud and Raymond Quéreilhac, who chose the same yellow and black colours for Plaisance's jerseys on their return from Cambridge University.

11 Impasse de l'Arros

An alley or "carrerot" in the Bastide, where three picturesque pontets could still be found in the 1930s. These covered passages connected the first floors of the bourgeois houses to the west of the lane with the barns facing them and overlooking the Arros. In the 18th century, this alleyway led to the three tanneries grouped to the north-east of the bastide, on the banks of the river.



Moreover, its dilapidated state and modest architecture were inappropriate for a town of this size, which was growing daily. Work began in 1854, with Hyppolite Duran as the architect.

The church was built in the neo-Gothic style, on a south-facing site overlooking the new square, with its monumental porticoed bell tower (built in 1868 using materials from the church of Sainte Quitterie) opening onto the square. It was consecrated in 1862 and dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. Inside, you can admire eight pillars that were carved until 1890 and then sculpted (around 1900). On the capital of the sixth pillar, which represents the ecclesiastical hierarchy, there are the two faces of the priests who built the church: the parish priests Palanque and Daran.



The Great Organ

A jewel of the Bastide's 20th century heritage, the cathedral organ was built by the Plaisance organ-building workshop and inaugurated in 1988 with Mrs F. Mitterrand as godmother. It is decorated with painted panels by the artist Daniel Ogier. His work is completed by stained glass windows on the theme of the Ascension, opposite the organ at the top of the chapel. The organ is made up of 3135 wooden and metal pipes ranging from 5.20 metres to 6 mm in diameter, 43 stops, 4 manuals and a pedalboard, and weighs a total of 5 tonnes.



3 The Angle Tower

To the south-west of the town stands an ancient corner tower. This square tower has been mutilated many times. On the northern face, two loopholes can be seen, one of which was used for a firearm. It was converted into a prison in 1791, when the city became the seat of the Court of the Sixth District, and is today, together with a section of the wall, the only remnant of the ramparts. The rest of the wall to the east is made of earth and rolled pebbles. The use of mediocre materials for the construction of the wall could explain the near disappearance of the ramparts in the modern city.

4 Rue du Général de Laterrade

For a long time, this street was known as the Rue de la Tour, as it linked the main square to the corner tower of the Bastide. In this street you can admire a beautiful 18th century house, the Maison Barrieu, which belonged to a dynasty of lawyers during the Age of Enlightenment. Also worth seeing at the corner of the street, is the remarkable restoration of the barn and orangery of the Jaymes family, one of whose members was mayor of Plaisance in the first half of the 20th century

5 Place du 8 Mai

This is the historic heart of the present town. It corresponds to the central square of the "petite bastide", built at the end of the 14th century as a result of the shrinking of the "grande bastide", founded as a paréage in 1322 by Jean 1er Comte d'Armagnac and the Abbé de la Case Dieu and destroyed on 19 October 1355 by the Black Prince, son of Edward III, King of England. Today's Place du 8 Mai still has one of the characteristics of the new towns founded in

Gascony between 1250 and 1325: houses built on arches forming the "garlande" of the square, a veritable shopping arcade.

From the Middle Ages until the end of the 18th century, the central part of the square was occupied by a covered market, a typical bastide building. The lungs of the town, it was not only the centre of commercial life, but also of political life, as it housed a covered building that was used both as a meeting place for the village council and as a school. A prison was even built there during the reign of Louis XV.

The square stone to the north-east of the square, opposite number 2, still marks the site of the well. These well-built houses all belonged to the commercial bourgeoisie of the city. One of them, number 1, has a gable decorated with spheres with the Latin inscription "Peace in this house 1750", while the only half-timbered house on the square dates from the 16th century and is one of the oldest in the bastide.

The neoclassical Town Hall, much admired by foreigners during the Restoration, was built in 1818. In the first half of the 19th century, the square was used as a bullring for the Landes races. Spectators stood under the arches, protected by wooden barriers attached to the stone pillars by metal fittings, some of which still remain.

From the 14th century to the present day, the present Place du 8 mai has had several names: Grande Place under the Ancien Régime. Place de la Révolution in 1793. Place Vielle to distinguish it from the Place Nouvelle (or Place de l'Eglise) built in 1841. Place de la Liberté during the Belle Epoque. Place du 8 Mai today.

6 Rue Sainte Quitterie

This is the old rue du Portal de Dessus de la Bastide, as it contained the fortified gateway to the town, which was located between the small car park of the war memorial and the house no. 12. This gate, known as the "Portal de Dessus", connected the small fortified town with its "faubourg" or "barry de dessus", located above or upstream of the Bastide. It was also known as the Sainte Quitterie district because until 1868 the parish church of Plaisance was consecrated to "Sancta Quitterra". This street is the bourgeois street of the city, with a concentration of fine 18th and 19th century houses. The two oldest houses in Plaisance can still be found on this street, both half-timbered and dating from the 16th century.

7 Ruelle St Nicolas

For a long time, this street was known as the "rascal" or "hot" street of the Bastide. The "carrerot" (alleyway), which has now disappeared,

"is marked by the pink cobblestones of the Square du Souvenir.

In the 1960s, two picturesque passages or pontets still crossed it, linking the first floors of the bourgeois houses on the west side of the street to their half-timbered barns on the opposite side.

8 Square du souvenir

A small fortress overlooking the river, it has housed the chapel of Saint Nicolas (a modest building with a clock) since the 15th century, as an annex to the parish church of Sainte Quitterie, which stood outside the walls. Despite its modest architecture, the chapel of Saint Nicolas played an important role in the religious life of the inhabitants of Plaisance from the 15th century until the Revolution, thanks to its location in the heart of the bastide. As the baptismal font of the parish, it was used to celebrate the baptism of all the newborn babies in the town. It was the headquarters of the two brotherhoods in the town: those of Saint Nicolas and Saint Eutrope (patron saint of the cripples).

