

Visit Bazouges-la-Pérouse



Welcome,

To guide you all along the 20 different stages of our tour, the guide book, corresponds with the plaques placed in the ground at the various points of interest. You will need about 1:30 hours to complete the tour. Starting here the plaque at your feet indicates which direction to take. Our visit will start here, and terminate here.

« My name is Vincent, and I have percheed my world as an artist on the high ground of Bazouges.

Close to the sky, but anchored to the ground. I am always looking for the Holy Grail...

Today, I have left my studio, to go and collect all the inspiration I can find: the knowledge of inhabitants from another time, the life of the monuments, the legends the memories, the history and present day energies.

If you like you can accompany me. You can ask questions, and we can share, in the pleasure and our imagination. »

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STEP 1 - The Hotel of "Poulet d'hier"



Starting at the Maire's office. Formerly known as the "Poulet d'hier" or "Travelers hotel". It became the Maire's office in September 1911. Prior to this, it was a popular hotel, where people would come and dine.

STEP 2 - Le Château de la Ballue

The château was built in the 17th century, before being transformed into a family home. It was a medieval fortress, with underground passages, which remain to this day. In the 17th century, the lord of the château was a very powerful man and could pass judgment on all manner of different crimes, and had the power to pass the death sentence, which he often did!



STEP 3 - The traces of ramparts

In 1588, France was in the middle of a religious war. To protect the town from attack, ramparts were built. This took two years to construct and was finished on May 12 th 1590. However, just after this, Sir Montbarot, governor of Rennes, of protestant faith, seized Bazouges. The village was occupied, the church doors destroyed and it's treasures stolen. Fortunately, the people of Bazouges found refuge at the Château de la Ballue.



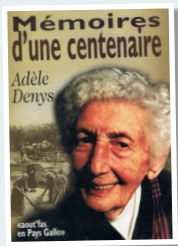
STEP 4 - Only apples

The apple tree, sacred tree of the Celts, is celebrated every year with a special festival known as the "Fête du Pommé". It takes 24 hours to make the pommé, and tradition dictates that people within the village take turns in stirring the dark liquid. The festival falls on the same day every year. The third Sunday in October. As well as the pommé being sold on this date, there is also plenty of dancing and music. "The Pommé" replaced butter, today it's used in many different ways.



STEP 5 - The memory of the earth

In the 16th century, we planted mainly wheat, then the cereals, potatoes, turnips and the "Lisette". What a pleasure to come back to Mother earth. Adele Denys "La Fidèle" born on the 24th October 1891, is still remembered in Bazouges. She left this world at the age of 103.



STEP 6 - Far from the forest



The forest of Villecartier is found in the softness of the valley. In the heart of the forest, we can see the saboteur's cabin. In the 19th century, the saboteurs had to respect a number of rules: no garden, no domestic animals, no outdoor fires and no burning leaves. Since 1934, there are no longer any saboteurs in the forest of Villecartier.

STEP 7 - The house of blue shutters

In this house, we could hear "Jouga", a traditional song, as well known as the traditional dance of the "Avant-deux" of Bazouges. This dance consisted of two different ways to dance "les Avants-deux" by two and the "avant-quatre" two couples together. And to this day it's still danced in Bazouges. This dance united the community, when a house was built. They danced together inside the building to flatten the ground.



STEP 8 - Le Château de Bellevue

The owner, Mme Delafosse, opened her garden to the « Fête de la Paroisse », we remember the old ways and talk about them in the shadows of the old trees.

"Le Cèdre" that we can find at the "Château de la Bellevue" is considered in the Orient as a sacred tree. It was used in the building work of the sanctuaries and the coffins. It symbolizes eternity and is shown on the national flag of Liban.



STEP 9 - The cemetery



Angèle Vannier and Adèle Denys are both placed in the cemetery of Bazouges. It's a lot calmer today than in the 18th century. The cemetery in Bazouges wasn't just a cemetery... but a place where apples and herbs were grown to earn money for the priest of the church to do more renovation. It was a place that was full of life! The cemetery was walked across to go from

one house to another, washing was hung out to dry and seeds were strewn on the ground between the tombs to be trampled on by passing villagers.

In 1834, the "Conseil de Fabrique", who handled the parish, announced the scandalous disorders.

A fence was made around it and the cemetery was closed and still in 1857, the linen was drying out and the children came to learn how to walk on the magic stone behind the chapel of Saint-Georges.



STEP 10 - Angèle's house

Angèle Vannier was an important person to the village of Bazouges (Artist, Poet, Celt, Blind...).

In the corner of her house, there is the old roman-Gallo way that she could drive down to get to the gates of Martigné. These gates were called “Châtelet”, they blocked the access to the fortified manor. A draw bridge and “douves” completed the defensive system dating from the 15th or 16th century. At the end of the 20th century, a chapel was still in site from the grounds of the manor.



Today, it's owned by the community of Bazouges and has been re-stored by the APPAC, Association for the Promotion of Patrimony of Antrainsais and Bazougeais.

STEP 11 - Sandrine's house the memories of Jean

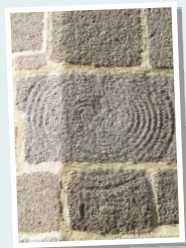
In 1945, the village had a population of 723 people, there were approximately 117 shops, and 23 cafes. The half-timbered house was run by Miss Canto, who everyone knew as Sandrine.

She sold crockery, pottery and also herrings. The shop keepers did lots of activities. Sandrine rented out the chairs for the church and it was her that told everyone in the village about different things that had happened.



STEP 12 - The Church

Initially the current church of Saint Pierre and Saint Paul had six aisles. Because of the damage sustained during the French revolution, the church was rebuilt with ancient materials. It was reduced to three aisles. The work lasted from 1844 to 1885. To this day, we can still see the magnificent stained glass windows which date back to the 16th century.



STEP 13 - The Maze

In the oldest part of the church, you will find the universal symbol “Le Labyrinth”. It's found on the buttress, supporting the west facing wall. This symbol is always found in sacred places, in Brittany they are often found in the stones of the dolmens.

From the 12th century, they started appearing in churches.

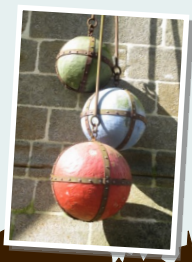
STEP 14 - A village for experimenting art

Following the “rue de l'église”, they are three balls, three worlds...

We will find three balls of wood, suspended by three antique chains.

So, what are they ?

To find the answer, you need to see the Village association centre of contemporary art, in Bazouges-la-Pérouse.



STEP 15 - The Motte's garden

Continuing to our right. In Motte's garden, we not only find comfort and tranquility, but also the souvenirs of children's toys and maybe also traces of the old feudal mote.



STEP 16 - In the place of the monument

In the corner of the "rue de la Motte", it is the place where we find the speech stone, where after the second mass of the day news. Just to our right here is the house of the kings prosecutor.

He would preside over was announced justice in the name of king and represents public action.



STEP 17 - To the scream of "chat huant"

Judge...condemne...men did this at times without realizing it.

In Bazouges, "les Chouans" were, of course, the opposite of the republic army troupes and each camp was recognized by their colour : the whites and the blues. "Les Chouans" were the whites, by definition of the white flag of the monarchy. The republican troupes are the blues from the colour of their uniform.

At the end of 1793, "Les Chouans" got into Bazouges. The requirements of what to provide for an army: food, weapons and animals.



STEP 18 - The house of the hanged

On the front of the house, we find 10 masks in graved into the stone. Local rumour has it that these masks are indeed death masks taken from executed prisoners.

STEP 19 - The place of Champ Jacquet

The palace of justice was built in the 19th century in place of the Champ Jacquet. The first floor was given to trade and the Marie installed the flooring, the little halls around the houses and the big halls under the room of justice.

The prison was just next door, it was destroyed shortly afterwards. In 1911, "La Place du Champ Jacquet" grew, the big and the small halls disappeared.

In the 19th century, we celebrated the planting of the may tree on the first of May, in Bazouges where people sang :

« Voici le mois de mai,
Que les roses boutonnent
Que les jeunes garçons,
En port' à leurs mignonnes... »



Bazouges was certainly in the middle Ages a stop located on the paths of pilgrimages to St Jacques de Compostela and to the Mont Saint Michel. In the spirit of the great paths, each may I, a hike starts from the forest of Villecarter to get to the Mont Saint Michel in the day. Coincidence : in the Celtic calendar, May 1 marks the festival of Beltaine, dedicated to the god of light Belenos. This god would have as a son Gargan (our giant Gargantua). Near the Mont Saint Michel, the Rock of Tombelaine (Tombe-belon) reminds Belenos and the former name of Mt St Michel is, of course, the Mt Gargan! In the nineteenth century was celebrated, on May 1, in Bazouges by planting the tree in May and the young man went singing in the countryside...



STEP 20 - The Lord's house

Last but not least, we end our historical tour in front of a nobleman's house dating from 1573, built by the Lords of Bazouges.



STEP 21 - The end !



To finish our tour of Bazouges-la-Pérouse, we find ourselves back in front of the tourist office formerly a black smith forges.

Thank you for your attention.

A bientôt ! (See you soon !)

