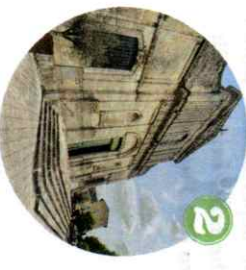


CASTILLON LA BATAILLE WALKING TRAIL TO DISCOVER THE TOWN

1



Departure
On leaving the Tourist Office, take the road opposite towards the XVIIIth century church of Saint Symphorien.



2

The church of Saint Symphorien

Aquitaine has few Baroque churches, and this is one of them. This church was built on the edge of the city's fortifications. It was built at the wish of Marshal Turenne, Viscount of Castillon, thanks to his generous bequest. Inside, on the right pillar near the altar, a marble plaque with a Latin inscription honours the Marshal.



3

The City Hall

This XVIII century building, with its south-facing rotunda façade, overlooks the Dordogne. Also built on the wishes of Turenne, it was originally a hospice. The particularity of its architecture (numerous windows and circular walls) was supposed to encourage the circulation of air to purify the building of bacterial infections. However, due to a lack of financial resources, its original purpose was never fulfilled.



5

The Iron Gate

Continue on your right towards the gateway with its many names: the river gateway, the postern gateway and, more recently, the Iron Gateway. Originally, there were three gates leading into the town, but only the last of these, dating from the 12th and 12th centuries (restored in 1995), has stood the test of time, earning it the nickname "Iron Gate". The large iron chain there dates from the 16th century. The Duke of Mayenne used it as a dam to the east of the river, to prevent Marshal Turenne from gaining access to the town during the Catholic siege in 1586.



6

The quays

Once you've passed through the gateway, you're on the quays. In the Middle Ages, Castillon was a fortified town consisting of an imposing castle and various facilities (mill, well, etc.) that enabled it to live independently in the event of a siege. A Protestant town with a reputation for rebelling against royal authority, Louis XIII ordered the town's destruction in 1624. The fortifications and castle, already ruined by the Wars of Religion, were demolished. The stones and rubble were used to build the quays and fill in a wide, deep ditch that ran under the present-day Place des Allées de la République (opposite the church).

4



Rue Vienné y Vienné

Coming out of the central avenue of the town hall, turn right into the narrow, steeply sloping lane (see black arrow on map) or follow the red line on the map. You will come to one of the oldest streets in Castillon, Rue Vienné y Vienné, also known as "Bien y Vienné". In the Middle Ages, it was the extension of a XII / XIII century fortified gateway overlooking the quays and the river, and welcomed and channelled the arrival of travellers and merchandise, most of which passed through via the Dordogne. Visitors were known as "Bienvenus", hence its name.



