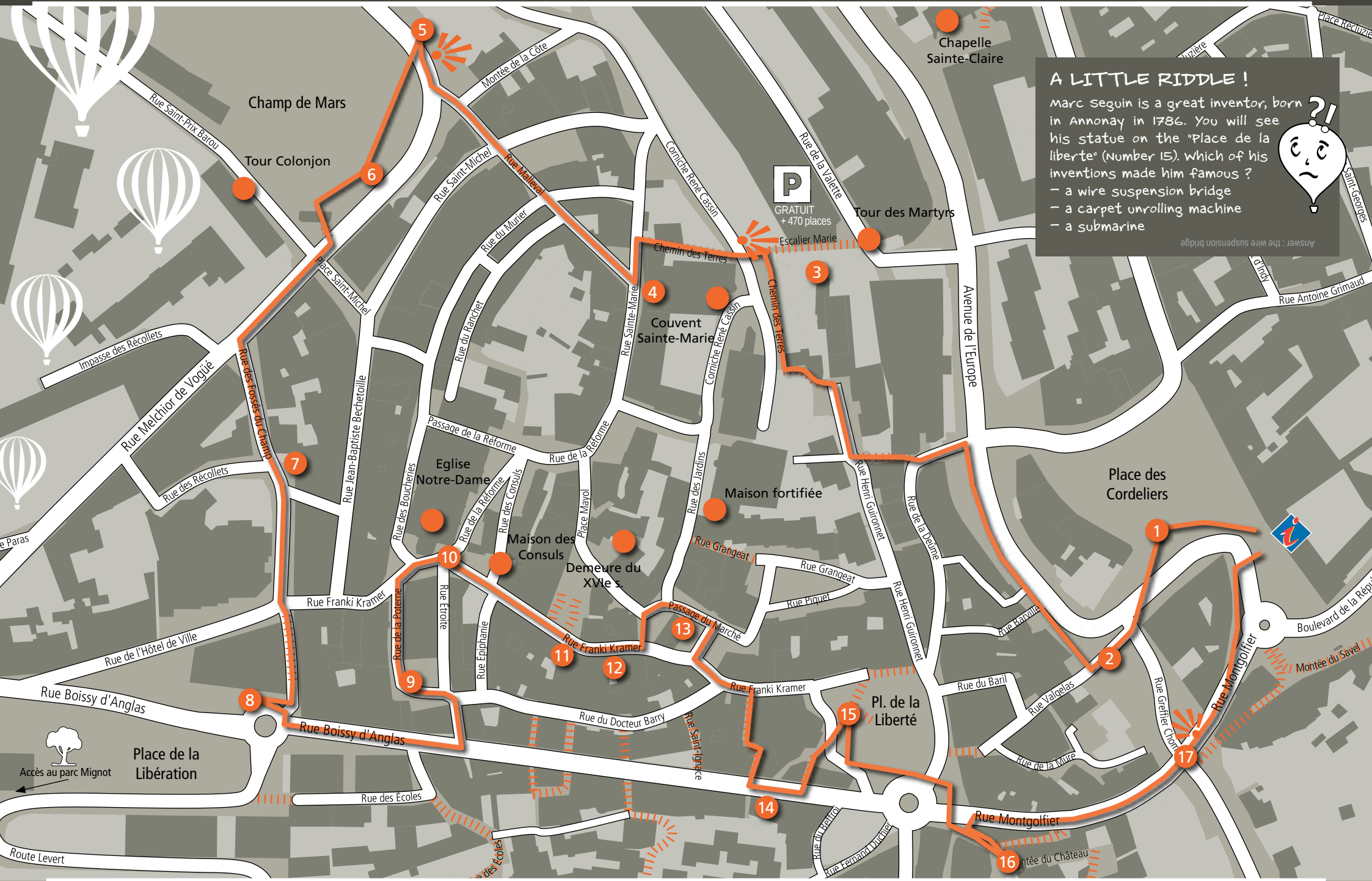


# ANNONAY, IN THE HEART OF THE OLD TOWN



### A LITTLE RIDDLE !

marc seguin is a great inventor, born in Annonay in 1786. You will see his statue on the "Place de la liberte" (Number 15). Which of his inventions made him famous ?

- a wire suspension bridge
- a carpet unrolling machine
- a submarine

Answer : the wire suspension bridge

The 2,200-metre walk takes around 2 hours and takes you through Annonay's historic town centre. There are 17 information panels set up near places and monuments that are emblematic of the town's history.



- 1

Place des Cordeliers
- 2

Pont Valgelas
- 3

Tour des Martyrs
- 4

Chapelle Sainte-Marie
- 5

Square de Backnang
- 6

Champ de Mars
- 7

Ancien tribunal
- 8

Place de la Libération
- 9

Place Poterne
- 10

Place des Forges
- 11

Temple protestant
- 12

Maison Jarnieux
- 13

Place Grenette
- 14

Chapelle de Trachin
- 15

Place de la Liberté
- 16

Porte de l'ancien château
- 17

Pont Montgolfier

## ANNONAY THROUGH THE AGES

Located at a crossroads that has probably existed since ancient times, Annonay was a small capital of the Haut-Vivarais region in the Middle Ages, on the pilgrimage route to the Black Madonna of Le Puy. In the 14th century, when the town had 14 churches and religious foundations, it was surrounded by a double wall, with a multitude towers and dominated by the Bourgville Castle.

After being severely hit during the Wars of Religion, the town asserted its industrial vocation from the 17th century onwards. Drapers, tanners, tacksmiths, parchment-makers and soon paper-makers, all based on the banks of the Cance and Deûme rivers, contributed to the town's renown.

Shortly before the French Revolution, it was in Annonay that the Montgolfier brothers first took an aerostat into the air. At the same time, Marc Seguin was born in the town, and his inventions went on to become world-famous.

At the height of the industrial revolution, the city was adorned with monuments, new boulevards, a large number of dwellings and a crown of castles and mansions.



### DID YOU KNOW ?

To write, before the invention of paper, parchments were used, made from sheepskin. Annonay, who produced a lot of them, still possess a parchment factory.

## TAWERS AND TANNERS

The purity and properties of the waters of the Cance and Deûme rivers have favoured the establishment of leather industries in Annonay since the Middle Ages. For centuries, the workshops of tanners, leather workers (sheep and goat skins) and parchment makers occupied the bulk of the town's working population. The many tanners' houses, with their wooden galleries and balconies for drying the hides, lined the banks of the rivers. On the eve of the French Revolution, the tannery in Annonay produced 75 tonnes of leather a year, while the 80 tanneries specialising in lamb and kid processed 25 tonnes of hides. The 19th century saw the expansion and industrialisation of this activity. New processes were developed and the quality of the products meant that some of the production could be exported. In 1872, the Meyzonner factories developed a special quality of waxed calf for the British market. Their workforce grew from 300 in 1892 to a thousand in 1938. The legacy of this golden age, in the service of the luxury industry, is still carried on by around a hundred workers in the town.



## THE FIRST FLIGHT

Joseph Montgolfier, one of 15 siblings, was born in 1740 and 1745 into a family of renowned paper-makers. After observing the properties of hot air, Joseph conducted his first experiments in 1782 in Avignon, where the Montgolfiers regularly travelled on business. In the months that followed, the balloons, made of canvas and paper, were perfected. The official demonstration of the first flight took place in Annonay on 4 June 1783, in the presence of the assembly of the Estates of Vivarais. The crowd gathered on the Place des Cordeliers to watch the imposing aerostat take off at a height of over 500 metres. Three months later,

the experiment was repeated at Versailles in the presence of Louis XVI, with three animals on board who survived the ordeal. On 19 October 1783, a new 2200m³ hot-air balloon took Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier and the Marquis d'Arlandes, the first aeronauts in history, into the skies over Versailles.

### ! MYSTERY...

What's above the portal of the Trachin's chappel (Number 14 of the tour)?

Answer : the faces of Guy Trachin and his wife, founders of the chapel.





ARDECHE  
EMERILLES PAR



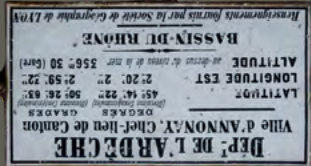
AGGLO  
Annonay Rhône

Ville d'Annonay

FAMILY FRIENDLY DISCOVERY OF THE HISTORIC CITY CENTRE



Photo Les Petits Oignons



TRUE OR FALSE ?  
We have been producing paper in Annonay for a very long time. At first, paper was made with old rags.

Answer : True



Photo Renaud Vezin

# ANNONAY CULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR IN THE HISTORIC HEART OF THE TOWN



## THE PAPER IN ANNONAY : A LONG HISTORY

Invented in ancient China during the third century before J.C. , paper spread along the silk roads, and then the Arabs imported it to the West during the middle ages. Auvergne is one of those important production centres. Originally from this region, the Montgolfier family, who have been producing paper since the sixteenth century, settled down in Annonay's region in 1692, marking the beginning of an exceptional industrial saga.

Traditionally, paper is obtained from rags, decanted and shredded in paper mills, just like the ones installed a long time ago next to the river "Deume". Over the centuries, the fabrication's quality improved most notably thanks to a string of inventions to which the Montgolfiers and other paper makers from Annonay contributed. Like the invention of velvet paper in 1777, of coloured paper and velvet paper in 1809. Thanks to these innovations, and the success of the first ever aerostat flight in history, the Montgolfiers' will see, in 1784, their manufacture in Vidalon-lès-Annonay turned into a royal manufacture.

Afterwards, production became more industrial, and at the end of the 19th century, a dozen industrial sites started to grow around Annonay, owned by leading names in stationery : Montgolfier, Canson or Johannot, organised to support the lives of over a thousand people, the Vidalon paper mill has shops, places of worship, a nursery and a primary school, founded in 1876.

In the second half of the 20th century, Annonay different historic factories fused within the international group Arjomari and the Montgolfier brothers' birthplace, in the heart of Vidalon's family owned factory, which is turned into a museum.



## RIDDLE

IN 1783 in Versailles, in front of the king, the montgolfier brothers made their Hot Balloon fly with 3 animals on board : A duck, a rooster and a..

...Pigeon ? Sheep ? Dog ?

Answer : A sheep



Photo Angel Salazar

## ANNONAY BRIDGES

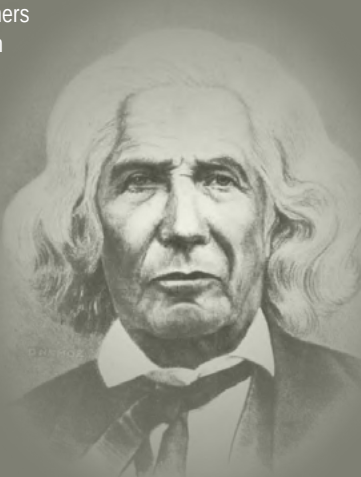
Founded at the junction of two rivers, in a steep valley, Annonay has had many bridges and walkways through the centuries. The oldest one in good condition is the one of Valgelas, built in the 13th century to link the Cordeliers convent to the fortified town. Its humpback profile makes it one of the most picturesque monument of the city. A bit further away to the south is the Montgolfier bridge, built during the first napoleonic empire, from which there is a fine view of the Deume and the old tanners' quarter.

## MARC SEGUIN, INVENTOR AND HUMANIST

Born in 1786 in Annonay into a family of drapers, he is the great nephew of Joseph Montgolfier. At the head of the family enterprise, he and his brothers devised numerous technical improvements to enhance the production of their machines. From 1821, he became interested in the building of bridges. Inspired by British and American chain bridges, he invented the wire cable suspension bridge, the first of which was thrown into the banks of the Rhône at Tournon in 1825. By not being costly, and allowing a long range, the Seguin bridges will be a great success : in about 15 years, more than 200 bridges will be built.

In 1827, he filed the patent of a revolutionary steam machine : the tubular boiler, whose efficiency opened up hitherto unhoped-for possibilities for the steam locomotive. Marc Seguin began equipping boats on the Rhône, then adapted it to locomotives. Twelve Seguin locomotives were built in the Lyon workshops between 1829 and 1835, and put into service on the railway line between Saint Etienne and Lyon, operated by the Seguin brothers.

At the end of his life, Marc Seguin, who had deliberately neglected to protect his inventions, moved to his Varagnes estate in Annonay, where he set up scientific laboratories and published numerous works. He also devoted his fortune to founding charitable institutions in his hometown, and created the Pré-Matré housing estate. He died in 1875 at the age of 88.

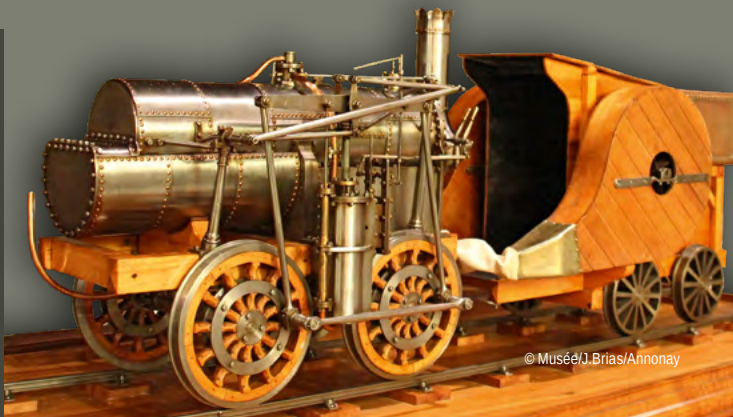


## CHARADE

My first word describes the weather in Ardecche during the summer  
My second one is the third word of the tourist office's name

My third one is a round shaped air-filled object  
You often see me in Annonay's sky !

Answer : 1 : Hot / 2 : Air / 3 : Balloon / Hot-air balloon



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