



Point n°8 : Roman aqueduct vestiges

We can see near the white gate of the house, a facing on the ground made by small square rocks. It is aqueduct stones. Indeed, from the 6th century, Roman aqueduct of the Gier was used as a stone quarry, aqueduct stones are used to built other monuments.

Point n°9 : Town hall-Vingtain tower-post office

The current town hall was built between 1860 and 1861 with limestone rock. It has 2 grounds with a slate roof and mechanic tiles. Notice the flag weathercock and the lantern. At the roof timbers, you can see a face clock into a rock oculus decorated with roses garlands.

Vingtain tower is a square donjon of 5.85m sideways and 18.20m high. It was a part of the defensive system of our village. Mornant was protected by 22 towers and counted 3 gates: one on the north side, one on the east side and the last one on the south side. Today we can still see the houses disposal around the church, which indicates us the surrounding walls layout.

The tower's name, Vingtain, came from the tax that lords gathered to maintain the surrounding walls. It was a seigniorial right taken on the 20th part of the harvests. Then, the tower became a prison. In 1688, the lord and prior François de Murard installed at the bottom of the tower the justice oratory. During the French revolution, the tower and the adjacent monument, classified as historic monuments became town's prison. The first ground of the small edifice became the policeman house, dwelling of the jailers under the old regime. In 1937, its role as the official prison disappeared when a new gendarmerie was built "Avenue du souvenir".

The post office built between 1902 and 1905 at the location of houses which closed the square at the north hosted in a first time the peace justice and then the girls school. In the middle of the first ground, we can see Mornant's coat of arms sculpted into the rock. The two fifes (fifres in French) reminds us the Brignais's battle in 1362.

Point n°10 : Saint Pierre church

The first church was built during the middle age. Saint Pierre church was created in the 15th century and extended or modified many times : in the 19th century for instance where the church was extend with two rows.

The occidental façade was demolished and reconstructed in its primitive shape with Carémi statue. It's in 1967 that Jean Gabriel Mortamet, architect of historical monuments directed the inside restoration. The inside access is situated on the tower-bell side by the stairs near "la maison de pays".

At the inside, you will see liturgical objects into the chapel of Baptismal fonts and choir woodwork drawn by Pierre Bossan. Others treasures can be discover. Take a visiting leaflet into the death monument chapel, next to the portal.



LE PAYS MORNANTAIS

Discovering tour of Mornant



Beginning: Maison de Pays

**With the help of your map,
follow the numbers from 1 to 10.**

Each numbers on the map corresponds to a stop where you could read the explanations.

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Point n°1 : Introduction-maison de pays

Welcome in the center of Mornant. We will suggest you an itinerary to soak up the local history. Today you will discover the old medieval town, roman aqueduct vestiges, districts from the 19th century ...

You are now in front of “la maison de pays”. It is a building from the 16th century, extended in the 18th century. “La maison de pays” was bought by the town of Mornant in the 1980s and lend to associations to make exhibitions. It has been restored with Jean Gabriel Mortamet, architect in chief of historic monuments. La maison de pays offers exhibitions of art, craft and heritage from march to December. Free access.



Point n°2 : Prior house-castel street

Building of the 15th century, it was Savigny abbey’s property. Among its many priors, Mornant is proud to count Pierre de Ronsard, a famous Pléiade poet. In 1573, Charles 4, King of France gave the prior house benefice to Ronsard. However, he never came to Mornant and never took the benefice.

Notice the alcove with a statue of the virgin at the angle of the streets Joseph Venet and “la rue du chateau”. It is a copy made in 2012 thanks to a fund raising of the association “les amis du Vieux Mornant” (friends of the old Mornant). The original statue can be seen into Maison de pays.

Go on into “rue du chateau”. You will find an old merchant shop at number 3.

If you continue on this street, you will take the passage called “le passage de la Vaure” under a lintel **en accolade armoirée**. This traboule give you access to the street “rue de la république”.



Point n°3 : Saint Pierre Square-church chevet

Saint pierre church was created after the Castel’s demolition circa 1910.

This castle housed Mornant Lords and from the 16th century until the French revolution, a seminary of a fifty children. The houses around the square were built on the location of the surrounding walls. In former times, a cemetery stretched around the church chevet.

Notice the figure under the edge of the roof of the chevet with a form of a boar.

Point n°4 : Caremi

You can see on the right pilaster a statue that we call Carémi. It is shaped into granite.

What does this character represents? There is many explications. The name Carémi come from “Carême” (fasting). An immemorial using was that in the past, at the end of holy week, kids threw rocks on the statue Carémi.

Carémi.



Point n°5 : Aqueduct boulevard view

At the foreground on the high part of southwest valley which dominates Mornantet’s valley, you can see Condamine district, first extension of our town in the 1970s.

On top of the plateau, the regional parc of the Pilat is recognizable by its two mounts: the hogback of the oeillon and the hogback of the perdrix.

Between the plateau of Mornant and the Pilat massif, “les monts du Lyonnais” (mountains of the Lyonnais) : you can admire successively from left to high places : the bell-tower of Saint Maurice sur Dargoire lost into trees. Then the medieval village of Riverie on its hill which the houses are reunite around the castel then the village of Saint Sorlin, closer from us at the middle of the hill and recognizable by the massive house called “la cristinière”.

Into the hollow between the two summits, we can find the village of Saint André la côte. “Le signal”, 934m high is one culminant point of our region and a place where several walkers take the GR 7. The signal site is equipped with a panoramic footbridge to admire the view.



Point n°6 : Roman aqueduct « Mornantet bridge »

Roman aqueduct of the Gier is one of the four aqueduct which allowed Lugdunum to get drinking water during the antic period. With its 86 km long, it is the longest aqueduct of Lugdunum (Lyon). Previously, the Mornantet Bridge had 8 or 9 arches on 60m long and 12 m high. The name “Mornantet” reminds the brook at the bottom of the small valley. The thing that make this aqueduct an unique one is its ornaments : l’opus reticulatum. It is small square blocks of rocks that remind us alveolus of a bee nest. It is used mostly in Italia. On the other side of the boulevard, you can admire the canal and the inspection pit.



Point n°7 : Roman aqueduct « Canal and inspection pit »

During the aqueduct construction, Romans struck to a problem to cross the small hill where the village of Mornant is. The aqueduct should have done a large curve by the south east to avoid this difficulty. Romans realized a huge distance economy by digging a 20m deep tunnel.

The tunnel of Mornant with 825 m is the longest of the 12 tunnels on the layout of the aqueduct of the Gier. To do the maintenance, the cleaning and the repairs, the tunnels is equipped with holes to have access to the tunnel : the inspection pits. This inspection pit is 19m deep. With the help of 2 associations “L’Araire” and “Patrimoine en pays Mornantais”, the tunnel under Mornant had been explored by speleologists in 2008.

Discovering tour of Mornant

Légende / Caption

- Aqueduc - vestiges
Aqueduct - remains
- Office de Tourisme
Tourist Office
- Curiosité / Sight
- Départ Randonnées
Departure of walking
- Pêche / Fishing
- Aire de pique-nique
Picnic area
- Parking
- Camping
- WC

Jour de marché :
Vendredi matin
Market : Friday morning

