



VISIT OUR TOWN AND DISCOVER ITS BEAUTY...

On this map you will find all the information about Grimaud's exceptional sites - the most famous and the more secretive. Some have QR codes (indicated by pictographs in the list below). Scan them to learn more about the site.

1 MOULIN SAINT ROCH - G12*

This windmill dates back to the 16th century. First called the La Gardiole windmill, it became the St. Roch's windmill in the 17th century when the chapel named after the saint was built several hundred meters away. It is one of the town's 4 windmills. But there were many other mills which also produced flour - watermills. There were 9 in the area.

In the 1990s, the roof, the blades and the mechanics were restored. In front of the edifice there is a threshing area. In this area horses tread on sheaves of wheat. Sometimes, for increased efficiency, they dragged a stone roller. Once the dust and straw had been cleared away, the grains were taken to the mill to be crushed by two millstones. The miller put sails on the blades of the mill. He would carefully observe several conditions like the strength and direction of the wind, while the wheat was being ground. When the millstones ground fast enough it was possible to produce good flour.

These mills stopped operating at the beginning of the 20th century.

2 CHAPELLE SAINT ROCH - G12*

This chapel was built in the 17th century. Situated on one of the main roads to the village, it is dedicated to Saint Roch, who was often evoked for the protection against contagious illnesses like the plague.

Inside, paintings on the wall depict the saint's life. They were painted by Andr e Gavens in 1937. In the choir there is a medieval altar made from basalt.

3 EGLISE SAINT MICHEL - H12*

From the 11th century, Grimaud had a small church named after Saint Michael but we no longer know exactly where it was or what it looked like. It was replaced by this beautiful church with Roman Provençal architecture. The dimensions and quality of the construction of this church, built in granite and limestone, are an indication of the village's considerable wealth at the end of the 12th century and beginning of the 13th century. This building was originally covered in schist flagstones. Since then, the original architecture has been modified, such as the construction of the bell tower (16th century), the sacristy (18th century), and the widening of the southern doors. Due to a lack of space, the cemetery around the church was moved near the St. Roch's windmill at the end of the 19th century. Inside there are traces of old frescoes which decorate the walls and arches. Above the transept, an 1850 fresco depicts St. Michael, St. Peter and St. Bartholomew. The stained-glass and resin windows were made by the jeweller, Jacques Gautier in 1975. An organ was installed in 2015 by the organ builder, Pasqual Quoirin. During the Middle Ages the village stretched from the castle to the top of the hill and as far as the church. The Rue du Baladou ("small ball" in Provençal dialect) connected them all.

4 THE CASTLE - G12*

There is little doubt that man has been present on this hill, above the fertile plain, since at least the end of antiquity. The 11th century charters evoke the *castrum de Grimaldo*, which undoubtedly existed prior to that date.

The village grew and the economy developed for three happy centuries. This prosperous period ended in the middle of the 14th century. Economic and population crises due to the

to the plague and war obliged the inhabitants to assemble at the top of the hill where they built this rampart for their protection in the 1370s. The fortified front door was here, but only a few traces remain. The fortifications evolved with time. Basic in the 11th to 13th century, they were developed in the 15th century, and reached their peak in the 17th century. Abandoned at the end of the 17th century, and dismantled during the French Revolution, the castle was largely destroyed. Grand families followed, first related to Provence counts, then Charles II of Naples. In the middle of the 15th century, Jean de Cossa, a grand senechal, left his mark on the area when he founded the village of Saint-Tropez as we know it today. Then in the middle of the 18th century, the seigneurs from the powerful de Castellane family expanded the building and ordered the construction of the southern towers. Officially listed as a historic monument, there have been restoration works since the 1980s.

5 CHAPELLE DES PENITENTS - H11*

Built at the end of the 15th century, ND du Coulet was built at the entrance to the village. 1482, the date of construction is engraved in Roman letters on the lintel of the door (M. CCCC. LXXXII), the 8 is a punctuation sign). The primitive porch was filled in to expand the inside of the chapel. It became the home of the White Penitents congregation which helped the local population.

Inside, there is a 17th century altarpiece and the Piet  painted by Paul-Emile Barberi in 1808. There are also the relics of St. Theodor, and a variety of other statues, including Our Lady of seven Sorrows.

In the south-eastern corner, there is a stone engraved with an inscription in Gothic characters meaning: "His Grace of Fr jus gave 40 days of pardon".

6 RUE DE LA POMPE - H12*

The retirement home and the creation of the hospice.

The current retirement home was one of the gulf's first hospices. Called a "hospital" in the 17th century, the building sheltered paupers and orphans. It was later run by nuns, and also became the school for girls.

7 HERITAGE MUSEUM - H12*

Discover this museum housed in magnificent buildings: a village house, an old forge, and the former oil mill which date back to the 16th century. The collection has been assembled over 30 years, and retraces the bygone days of this part of the Massif des Maures. Different activities like the cork and timber industries, olive oil and wine production are represented in the museum galleries. On the upper floors you will discover costumes and scenes from past daily life, with the reconstitution of a living room, bedroom, and barn - the typical layout of a home in villages like Grimaud.

8 PLACE NEUVE - H12*

Situated high on the hill, Grimaud often lacked water. The village's two wells and the several springs in the surroundings were not enough for the village's 900 inhabitants and livestock. In the 16th century, water from an abundant spring a few kilometres from the village was piped to the village's fountain, situated near the church. Unfortunately, this system only lasted a century. Only a few traces remain, including the Pont des F es (bridge). As a result, the town lacked water again until 1884, when thanks to a steam machine, the groundwater on the plain was pumped to the village to supply the houses. This fountain was built in 1886 on a new square to commemorate the end of the work and the arrival of water in the village. A dedication on the back of the edifice expresses the village's gratitude to the town which made the construction possible.

The Rue des Hoirs which leads to Place Neuve was named Rue des Orts in bygone days (from the Provençal word *ort* which means garden). You can still see pretty gardens on either side of the street.

GRIMAUD VILLAGE - FORMER CAPITAL OF FREINET

The oldest traces of occupation in the town are Neolithic. During the iron age and antiquity, the population grew on the hills and the hillsides. There is little known about the centuries prior to the year 1000. Just how present the Saracens were in the massif is yet to be ascertained.

The first charters of the year 1000 mention a fortified habitat perched on the hill: the *castrum* of Grimaud. The name of the village surely comes from the name of an important land-owner. For the next 300 years, the village developed and grew. It became the capital of Freinet, this vast area which is now the Communaut  de Communes. The St. Michel's church is an indication of the wealth of the Grimaudois. That period ended with the 14th century, when difficulties made the construction of a rampart necessary to protect the inhabitants. In the 15th and 16th centuries the village grew, with the creation of new neighbourhoods. The castle was permanently abandoned during the French Revolution. Until the end of the 19th century the village had many traditional rural activities. At the turn of the 20th century, these activities began to disappear, and tourism developed. Originally winter tourism, it was largely replaced by summer tourism in the middle of the 20th century.

PORT GRIMAUD

The coastline has always been frequented, particularly in the surroundings of the Saint-Pons-les-M res hamlet, a junction between major routes and landing stage for the village of Grimaud.

Port Grimaud spread over a marshy area and an alluvium plain named La Giscle. Originally this area was only used for farming and hunting. The development of tourism on the coast only began in the 1960s. In 1964 the architect Fran ois Spoerry, bought the land to build what every sailor dreams of - a house with a boat moored at the bottom of the garden. Once he had decided that, Fran ois Spoerry imagined a village where the land and the sea would meet. He chose traditional architecture which he found more "gentle" than other big property development projects of the period. He proposed typical Provençal style houses to which he added other Mediterranean influences.

The architecture of this lakeside town is a success. In 2002 it was listed as "Heritage of the 20th century" by the French Ministry of Culture.



9 PLACE VIEILLE - H12*

This charming square is the centre of village life, where petanque players and other inhabitants meet.

10 PLACE DU CROS - H12*

Cros means hollow in Provençal dialect. Under the existing paving stones is a well tank which catches the rain water from the surrounding roofs. The Cros covered passageway gave access to Ritchen gardens and other farmland which stretched to where the Place Neuve is located today.

11 LA PLACETTE AND THE HISTORIC CENTRE - H12*

The centre of the village keeps the soul of the medieval market town which went from the castle to St. Michel's church. The buildings are squat, the streets sinuous, and you can still see beautiful door and window frames dating from the 15th and 16th centuries, a prosperous period for the village.

12 RUE DES TEMPLIERS AND MAISON DES ARCADES - H12*

In bygone days, called Grand-Rue, Rue Droite, Rue des Juifs, it was the main street of the village. Rich and important families of the capital of Freinet - the former name of the area - had their homes on this street. The buildings with arcades (15th - 16th centuries) are home to shops and businesses. On the corner of the Rue du Portalet ("small gateway" in Provençal dialect) is the old town hall. 1555, the date of the neighbourhood's construction, is on the keystone. The building opposite was home to the powerful seigneurial family, De Castellane. On the corner of Rue du Four - where there was a baker's oven - the Christ's monogram is engraved: IHS, followed by MA (Virgin Mary) and the supposed date of the building's

construction, 12th December 1566. In the middle of the 20th century, an alleged presence of Templar knights in one of the buildings on the street was mentioned. Despite the fact that we now know this is not true, the street still bears their name. The Maison des Arcades is a cultural centre open to the public offering regular exhibitions of various artists.

13 THE TOWN HALL - H12*

The existing town hall occupies two buildings which were reorganised in the 1980s. This building was the "Clastre" from at least the 16th century. It was home to the parish priests. In the 19th century, the town hall moved in, along with the justice of the peace, and the boys' classroom. In the beginning of the 19th century, the teacher used the small garden below as a kitchen garden.

14 DISCOVERY TRAIL FOR NATURAL AND HISTORIC HERITAGE - G12*

15 OF THE PONT DES F ES VALLEY - D4

This small valley is named for the relics of a bridge which was used from the 16th to 17th century to transport a pipe over the La Garde stream to supply the village with drinking water. This unique system and the natural wealth of the area contributed to the valley being listed as a "remarkable site" in 1927. A hiking trail, with a dozen information panels, is ideal for discovering the local heritage, as well as the wildlife and flora typical to the Massif des Maures coastline. And more particularly, this type of temporary stream and the alternation between forest, riparian woodlands, and rocky areas.

16 ORATOIRE SAINT JOSEPH - E5

This wayside oratory is one of many in the territory. These little shrines usually public, are situated near places of worship or on junctions. This Oratory of St. Joseph is a reminder of the St. Joseph's chapel which no longer exists and was situated at the entrance of the village

17 CHAPELLE NOTRE DAME DE LA QUESTE - D6

Like other edifices in the region, this chapel was built at the end of the 11th century. During the Middle Ages an important agricultural fair developed, as well as Marian devotions. In the 16th century it became necessary to expand the church. Finally, the expansion was too ambitious, and only the big nave was built in the middle of the 17th century.

During the French Revolution the chapel was seized then bought by the Grimaudois who returned it to the town. The chapel keeps an interesting collection, including a magnificent 17th century altarpiece, and a painting of the Rosary Donation. St. Lambert is represented in a reliquary bust and a painting. The nearby spring named after him is said to have miraculous properties. The watering place on the road is a sign of the importance of the agricultural fair. When the chapel was restored in 2002, Coline Fabre created particularly contemporary stained-glass windows.

18 CHAPELLE DE BEAUVALLON - C9

This small chapel was built at the same time as the estate. The garden is adorned with the bust of the promoter Emile Berheim sculpted by artist Chana Orloff. This district, formerly agricultural, developed thanks to winter tourism at the end of the 19th century. From the 1910s, Bernheim built there an estate around a golf course, as well as a Grand hotel, now turned into a private estate. Many renowned architects worked on the reconstruction of villas. Two of them are listed as Historic Monuments: the *Villa Vent d'Aval* by Pierre Chareau and the *Villa Seynave* by Jean Prouv . These private properties are not open to the public.

19 EGLISE SAINT FRAN OIS D'ASSISE - I16**

The massive style and the imposing arcatures are reminiscent of the Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer church. Inside, the single nave is sober. Above the platform, you can see a series of stained-glass windows by Victor Vasarely.

From the top of the church tower there is a spectacular view of Port Grimaud, the bay of Saint Tropez, and the plain. In the distance, you can make out the Grimaud village and castle on the hill.

20 ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTATION - I15**

Created by architect Fran ois Spoerry at the end of the 1960s, the lakeside city of Port Grimaud presents a resolutely Mediterranean architecture. Some fa ades are decorated with *trame-l'oeil* paintings representing architectural motifs (columns, oculus, capitals), statues or figures like the Provençal woman leaning on her balcony on the Place du March  (market square).

Under the arcades, there are also remarkable mosaics of black and white pebbles inspired by the Portuguese *calçada* and evoking the type of shops in front of which they were located at the creation of the marina.

21 PLACE FRAN OIS SPOERRY - THE MONUMENTAL FOUNTAIN- K14**

The buildings on this square have beautiful blue and white ceramic decorations. The monumental fountain, decorated with Azulejos glazed tiles bears a portrait of the founder of Port Grimaud.

22 PLACE DU 14 JUIN - J16**

This square, located in the first part of Port Grimaud, was named as a reminder of the date of the building permit for the lakeside city. Getting approval had been difficult because of a strong opposition. In the past it was too dangerous to live on the isolated plain. They were situated close to the farmland, making access easy.