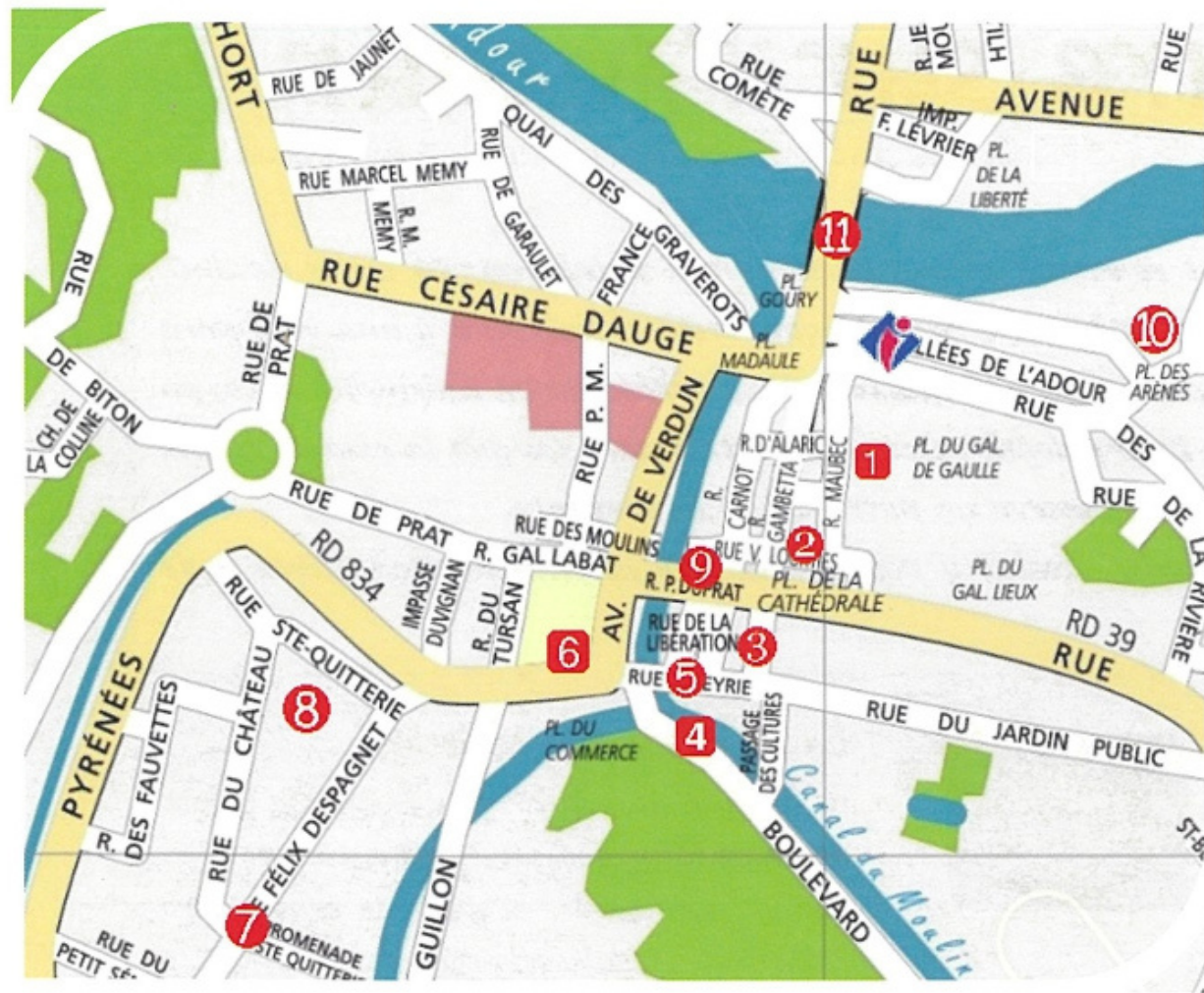


Tour of Aire sur l'Adour

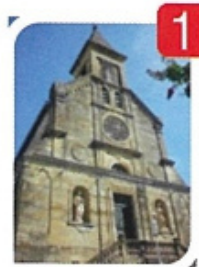


A few history...

Aire sur l'Adour, the former Celtic Camp, was really founded by Romans after the "Gallic Wars" in 56 before Christ. The Visigoth king Alaric 2 enacted the "Breviaire" in 506. This compendium of laws was still used by lawyers until the 11th century. The history of the town was marked by the legend of Sainte-Quitterie. Her white marble sarcophagus in the crypt of the church of the same name attracts many visitors and especially the pilgrims on the Route of Santiago. The town still has an architectural heritage of great value because it was the seat of the bishopric during 15 centuries.

The Ancient Carmel

It was founded in 1853 by 6 Carmelites nuns by Lord Lanneluc's will, but it is Lord Epivent who inaugurates it. Moreover, his heart is preserved in an urn in one of the chapels! Raise the head and discover the blazon of the Carmelites. These nuns are inspired by the prophet Elie who lived on the Mount Carmel. He's represented here by 3 stars, which form a mountain, the crown of the Virgin Mary and a sword.



Zoom on... the cathedral St-Jean-Baptist

It was built at the end of the 11th century, during the Roman time. It was repeatedly burned and partially destroyed but fortunately it was always rebuilt and embellished. We can admire Romanic "absidioles" and "transept", wooden stalls of the 18th century, high altar of the brothers Mazetti and chapter room of the 14th century. And don't miss the classical Organs of the 18th century of Dom Bedos and the magnificent painted set of the 19th century.



The City Hall

The former Bishop's palace was destroyed during the French Religious War and rebuilt in the 17th century by Lord Gilles Boultaut according to the classical style (very symmetric and geometrical). Lord Fromentières is going to decorate it with formal gardens, secretariat and an amazing orangery.



The Market Hall

It was built in 1911 in the famous Art Nouveau style, which mixes metal and glass. It was a famous dedicated place to the "foie gras" until the WW2. Nowadays, lively markets are held there on Tuesdays and Saturdays.



The Bishop's house Court

This cozy brick house is the oldest of the town and dates back to the 14th century. The ecclesiastic justice took place here by the "Jurats", our former municipals councilors.



The Grain Exchange

The extraordinary "Halle" is an Historical Monument since 1974. It was built in 1856 and restored during the 1990' and in 2011 by the Municipality. Don't miss its gorgeous wooden framework!



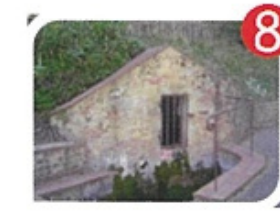
Zoom on... the Ste-Quitterie church

This church is a world heritage site by Unesco because it's situated on the Route of Santiago de Compostela. It owes its name to a young Visigoth Princess beheaded in the 4th century. She indeed refused to recant her Christian faith to marry an Arian Prince. Sainte-Quitterie became a real Legend! The church was built in the 11th century by Benedictines monks. It was significantly damaged in the 11th century and especially during the French Religious War in the 16th century. The Gothic "façade" of the 14th century has a remarkable bell tower and a stunning tympanum.



The Sainte-Quitterie fountain

There it is the martyrdom's place of the famous Sainte-Quitterie! Something has to be known: this fountain is well known for headaches, madness and ... heartbroken cures.



The Canal and the former mill

Located in the center of the town, the mill is fed by the water of the canal from the Adour. This canal is placed on the former Gallo-Roman's walls which became medieval moats. This gives an idea of the limit of the old town.



The bullring arena

High place of bullfighting, this arena built in 1972 is open for all kind of festive events. It was the meeting place of "Aficionados" during bullfighting and "Course-Landaise" (cows game without death sentence; men try to jump over or avoid them).



The Adour bridge

Aire sur l'Adour has a very long story with its bridges since the 13th century! We don't exactly know where was built the first one. It linked the Place of Liberté and the Street Carnot. Later, it was rebuilt in wood and then in stone.



Tourisme Aire Eugénie 05.58.71.64.70 ou 05.58.51.13.16 www.tourisme-aire-eugenie.fr
Guide of the Church Sainte Quitterie 06.77.02.43.44 ou 05.58.71.47.00

