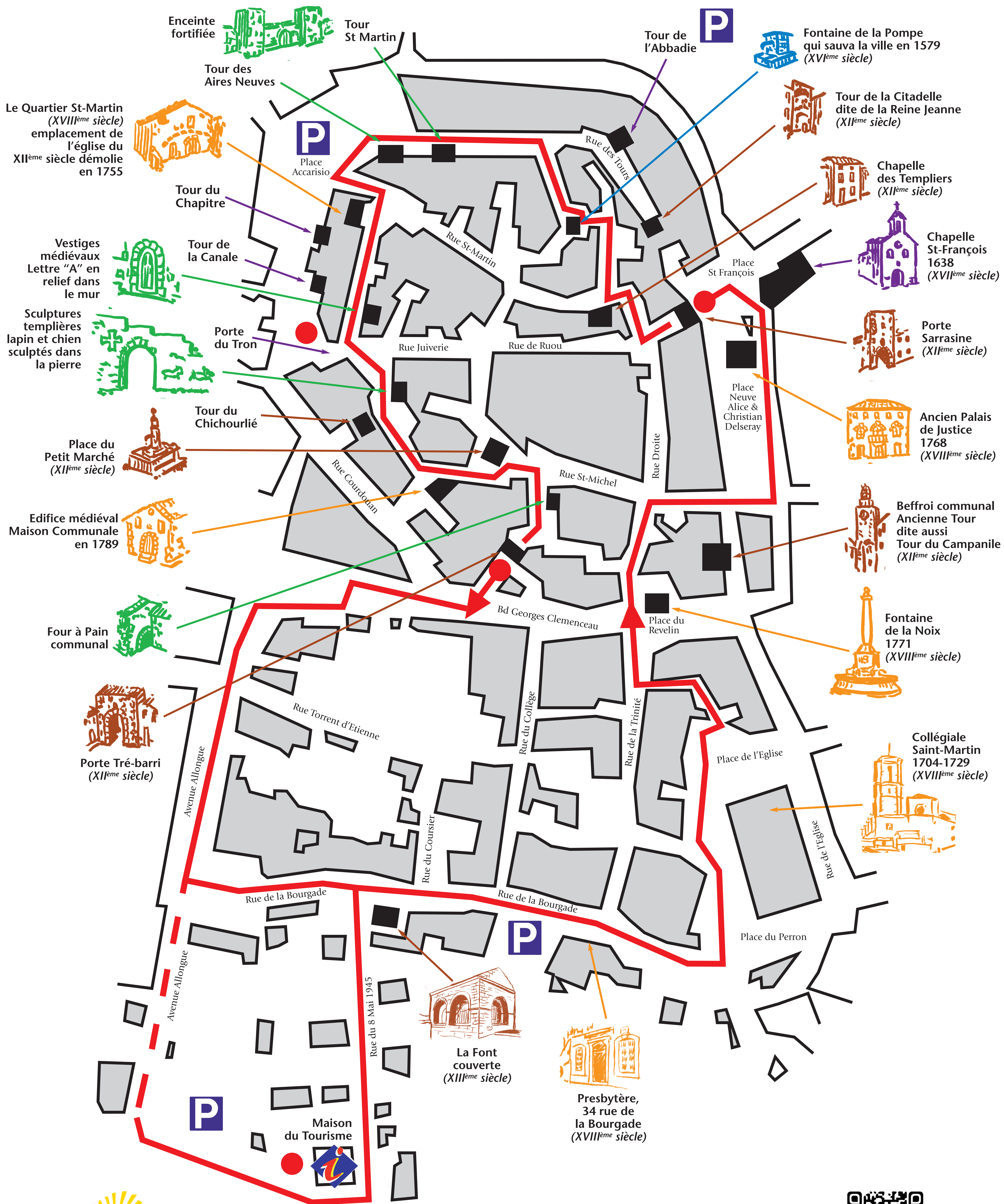


# CIRCUIT DU VIEUX LORGUES




 Ville de **Lorgues**

DON DE L'ASSOCIATION DES AMIS DE SAINT-FERREOL ET DU VIEUX LORGUES



***Vous êtes ici***







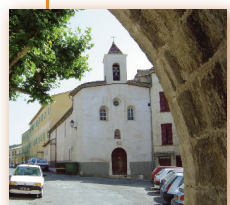
### E - L'ancien Palais de Justice (1768)

The façade of the former Court House has a beautiful curved door with an elegant wrought iron balcony above it. In the building, with royal assent, were administered police, justice and financial affairs. Lorgues was then one of only twenty two towns of Provence

entitled to administer justice and finance, making it the small local capital town.

### F - Porte Sarrazine (12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> centuries)

The fortifications of Lorgues were built by the Templar. Situated on the east side, the door was on the medieval route linking Brignoles to Grasse and frequented by pilgrims, merchants and soldiers. The barrel vaulted gateway is surmounted by a niche in which is found a statue of Our Lady. In the public passageway can be seen, intact, the grooves of the portcullis (la sarrazine) and other mechanisms of closure.



### G - Chapelle Saint-François (1633)

It was constructed to house the Brotherhood of the Grey Penitents, a company of pious men gathered together in the practices of devotion and charitable works until 1879. The interior contains beautiful 17<sup>th</sup> century choir stalls. The chapel is linked to a former hospice, a witness to the solidarity between

people of different ages and social classes.

### H - La Grange Templière

We know its location from the arch above the street named "Ruou", the name of the local Order of the Templar. Little remains of the building (a vaulted cellar survives that is part of a private property) that would have been used to store wheat, wine, oils, animal feed; evidence of the power and wealth of the Templar. In 1308 the templar had 138 tenures around Lorgues.



### I - Tour de la Citadelle

The highest (15m) and the most imposing of the towers of the old city wall, built on several levels, its current appearance dates from the reconstruction of the building after the Renaissance in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. On the city side the tower is "ouverte à la gorge", that is to say a tower open at the inside so that it could not be used as a refuge to future assailants. In contrast, the exterior side of the tower is built prominent to the rampart with its loopholes and archers loops.

### J - Fontaine de la Pompe (19<sup>th</sup> century)

In the middle ages wells for the public were equipped with a mechanical pump. It saved the inhabitants from dying from thirst during the siege of the village in 1579, at the time of the wars of religion. Later the small fountain was made into a washing place for the use of the local residents.



### K - Rue des Tours

We can clearly see the remains of the fortifications of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, a defence system which would play its role up to the time of the Renaissance. We attribute the construction of the 'barri' (the wall, composed of 12 towers and of 600m of ramparts) to the Templar based at the Commanderie du Ruou. This sector was the high quarter of the town in which were installed many powerful groups:

the Cisterciens of Thoronet, longtime co-governors of Lorgues, in the rue des Badiers, the canons of the chapter in the rue and the ruelle Saint Martin and the remainder of the town leaders dependent on the Count de Provence, co-governor, in the sector of Pati.

### L - Les Aires Neuves (Place Accarisio)

A space on the periphery of the town, built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, where the wheat was beaten in preparation for the mills. The livestock market was here close to the many sheepfolds that were in the area. Today, we see a parking area shaded by the plane trees. Notice in the lower part, the tower restored in 1991 (private) built with a substantial base. See also the mill of Saint Martin (1776) noticeable by the massive silhouette of its strong wall that would have been above the presses. It is one of the eight olive oil mills which took its energy from the water in the local canal which was part of a network of aqueducts.



### M - Fontaine du Tronc (19<sup>th</sup> century)

The noise of thunder (tron) made by water gushing from a source close by, the Canal, gave this fountain its name. The 19<sup>th</sup> century town councillors wanted this small monument to be as beautiful as it was useful, so crowning it with a stone vase (Medicis).

### N - Rue Vieille Horloge

The Templar' sculptures, a donkey (or as some think, a sheep), a dog, a Maltese Cross, signal, perhaps, a Templar establishment, maybe a small inn (without proof). The tower of Chichourlie, one of the towers of the fortifications, on which was situated up to the 16<sup>th</sup> century the town clock. Its name comes from a variety of olives whose form and colour resembles the jujube fruit (olive oil mill close by).



### O - Le Marché

Formerly a place of negotiations around the fountain now reduced to silence. Under the imposing plane tree dating from 1830, we admire the bubbling source which flows into a beautiful wash basin where we imagine we can hear, once again, the chattering of the washerwomen.



### P - Porte Tré-Barri

In Provençal "beyond the rampart". Restored in 1723, at the site of a medieval opening, the gateway is actually a public passage, impassable to cars. It is where you can pause from your walking tour to visit the beautiful oil mill that is next to the gateway and that houses the Rob-Julien museum.

Thanks to Christian DELSERAY and Jean-Claude LARROQUE

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Edité par

Photo : [www.photogeovarc.com](http://www.photogeovarc.com) - Tél. : 06 23 86 05 75



# Walking tour of the old town of Lorgues



### A - Collégiale Saint Martin (1704 - 1729) Classified Historic Monument

This imposing building dominating the village of Lorgues with its restored bell tower can be seen from afar. Seen close up the structure is sober and symmetric. The facade of the church is decorated by the statues of Saint Ferréol, the patron Saint of Lorgues, the Virgin Mary. The church was designed by the architect François Veirier of Aix-en-Provence and the building work carried out by Pomet of Toulon. The first stone was laid by Monseigneur de Fleury then Bishop of Fréjus. The interior decoration and furniture are from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Worthy of particular notice are the main altar in marble, the choir stalls and lectern from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the statue of the Virgin and Child attributed to the school of Pierre Puget, the organ constructed by August Zeiger, the pulpit, the altarpieces and the paintings.

### B - Le Campanile - the clock is a Classified Historic Monument

It sits proudly above the rooftops of Lorgues. Since it was installed in 1623, under Louis 13<sup>th</sup> the clock has marked out the hours of the village. Perched on the highest tower of the ancient walls of the fortified town the clock is surmounted by a cylindrical bell tower in wrought iron. The ancient clocktower symbolises the spirit of the community, its openness and its desire of liberty.



### C - Fontaine de la Noix (1771) Classified Historic Monument

For the prestige of Lorgues, the three consuls of the 18<sup>th</sup> century wanted to have a fountain as elegant and classic as the fountains of Aix-en-Provence. Aesthetically pleasing, tradition has it that the fountain would make euphoric all that would drink at it; because, it is said that, on the first day the fountain flowed abundantly with wine! The column, in marble, is surmounted by a ball "the walnut" hence the name "the fountain of the walnut" given to it by the inhabitants of Lorgues. The three marble plaques engraved in Latin recall the history of the village and notably the privileges accorded to it. We can see the shield that bears the motto of Lorgues represented by a lion and a dog - Strength and Fidelity.



### D - Fontaine de la Place Neuve (17<sup>th</sup> century)

It was situated a little higher before being moved in 1768 and placed in front of the former Court House. Bronze canons distributed the water for the whole neighbourhood. A communal wash basin was strategically placed so that the inhabitants could do their laundry in the shade of the plane trees.

