

## Circuit of the town of Lignières

### Leave from the Market Hall

#### 1. The Market Hall

It was built in 1592 by Antoine de Brichanteau, the lord of Lignières, at the time. For a long time it has housed the markets for which Lignières was famous in the 19th and 20th centuries.

#### 2. The Tourist Office

Note the exposed beams on the facade of the Tourist Office. The house with exposed beams were built until 1600.

**Cross the square towards the Veterenary Clinic and go left towards...**

#### 3. The church of Our Lady of Lignières

Note that one enters the church by way of a bridge which is very rare. This can be explained by the fact that the church was once the chapel of the medieval chateau.

Originally a Norman-style church of the 12th century it was modified in the

17th century and enlarged in the 19th century. The central part dating the 12th century consist of :

A door without a tympanum ( common in the Berry ) topped by a chequered archivolt.

Capitals at a man's height so that they could be seen.

Note the polished leaves, the monsters devouring the head of a damned person and the pecking birds.

The "modillions" which represent the heads of animals and people.

Above, a statue of the Virgin as a child is posed on the fortifications of the town.

One can make out an inscription "They make us guardians of their town. 1936-1867".

On both sides of the nave the sides were added during the 19th century. Each has a door topped by a tympanum and an archivolt.

One of the entrances is on the left

At the end the apse is vault in a quarter sphere.

One can admire the statue of the nursing Virgin ( 7 in France ).

In the choir on the left is the oratory of

Jeanne de Valois. Her father, Louis XI, had a fireplace installed so that she would not get cold during her long hours of prayer. She became St. Jeanne de France after her beatification in 1952. A sculptor made her statue clothed in the Annonciade (the order she found in 1500 ). Her face was made from her death mask. On each side of the choir you can take the famous Berrichon Passages. Go into the chapel sacred to St. Francis de Paule.

Here you can admire : the black screen ( a vertical decorated backplate) in the baroque style of the screen is a plaster tableau showing the descent from the cross. On the right the pulpit dates from the 17th century. The decorations ( the caryatids, drapes etc.) come from the priory at Orsan as do the pews. The baptismal fonts, further to the right, are dated 1548. The stained glass windows were made by the Master Glazier, Lobin de Tours, in 19th century.

**On leaving the Church go to the left and note...**

#### 4. The Mill

This was working until it burnt down in 1998. The building belongs to the Bourbon-Parme family owners of the chateau of Lignières.

**Carry on along this street** and pass the theatre of **Les Bains Douches**, the scene of modern music.

**On your right** is the Anne Sylvestre square with a shield of the arms of the town.

#### Stop at the Town Hall

Look at the opposite side where are found...

#### 5. The couvent of the Ursulines

( rue des Lignièris )

In the 17th century François Grognet, head of the Chapter at the time, founded the couvent to house the Ursulines of Loches. Later the Archbishop of Bourges had the present building built. ( 18th century)

#### ***At the same place...***

#### 6. The gates of La Châtre, of Bourges and of Issoudun

One can find the traces of different walls and ditches. There were three gates, that of La Châtre was between the present Town Hall and the building next to the pharmacy.

Opposite the Town Hall the rue de Lignèris owes its width to the old town ditches.

On the left are several beautiful town houses.

#### 7. The Primary School

In a 19th century building children are still welcome for their education. On a curvilinear tympanum are symbols of the Jules Ferry School - a terrestrial globe, set square, compasses and books.

One can picture the Issoudin Gate on arriving at the Post Office.

**Go up the rue Louis Demay and...** just at the side

#### 8. L'Hotel Dieu

This was already referred to in the 15th century under the name Hotel Dieu. This place served at the time to care for the sick but also as a place of refuge for the poor in times of famine. Note the front of the building : two angels supporting an escutcheon with the initials of Bourbon-Busset and Bourbon-Néchandé.

#### 9. The Chapel of the Hotel Dieu,

This chapel, neo-gothic in style is of the 19th century. On the door note the initials Bourbon-Busset who had the chapel built.

**Resume your path and take the first right in the direction of...**

## 10. Rue Jacques Cœur

Formerly known as the street of Kennels ( because of the dogs who were removed from the chateau by the people who worked there ) it consists of restored workmens houses. Each one has a single room with one window and a dormer tucked between the front and the roof reached by a ladder.

### **Continue down to the rue Jules Ferry**

and on your right just opposite the school take the first narrow passage on your right. ( Between two houses )

### **Discover...**

## 11. Green Venice

This river is the Arnon  
Cross the bridge and go straight on...

## 12. The Private Gardens

These little gardens are characterised by a special entrance : a stone lintel posed directly on to upright piers.

**Continue in the same direction to your right and regain the route de**

**Bourges** while admiring the buttresses.

## 13.The elegant town houses

These are present all around in the town and prove that Lignières was a crossroads for commercial exchanges and a place of habitation for notables. They are characterised by high elevations, grand openings and wide gates.

*Turn to the right, cross the bridge towards the Market Hall...*

## 14.The building on the left with brown shutters

This collection of buildings was built and modified over several centuries. Nice and close the centre of town this property has always had a dual function. A habitation and an agricultural business. There is an escutcheon over the door but it has not been identified. Right next door note the roof with bargeboards directly on the building.

**Continue straight on towards...**

## 15. The Market Hall ( described at the beginning of the circuit )

## 16. The House with exposed beams

Follow the rue Marcel Gourlier (at the end of the Hall ) and about 30 meters further on a house with exposed beams can be found on your left.

### **Return towards the Café de Commerce and go to...**

## 17. The chateau

The chateau, a 17th century residence, was built in the purest classical tradition by Jerome de Nouveau Postmaster General of France. He demolished the medieval castle and built the chateau, visible today, to the plans of François le Vau who was architect to the king. This property belongs to Prince Sixte Henri de Bourbon Parme. It is not currently open for visits.

Do not hesitate to come to the Tourist Office for more specific questions.

# Circuit of the town of Lignières

N'hésitez pas à venir à l'Office  
de Tourisme pour des  
compléments d'informations ou  
des questions plus spécifiques.

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Proposed by the Tourist Office of  
Lignières-en-Berry