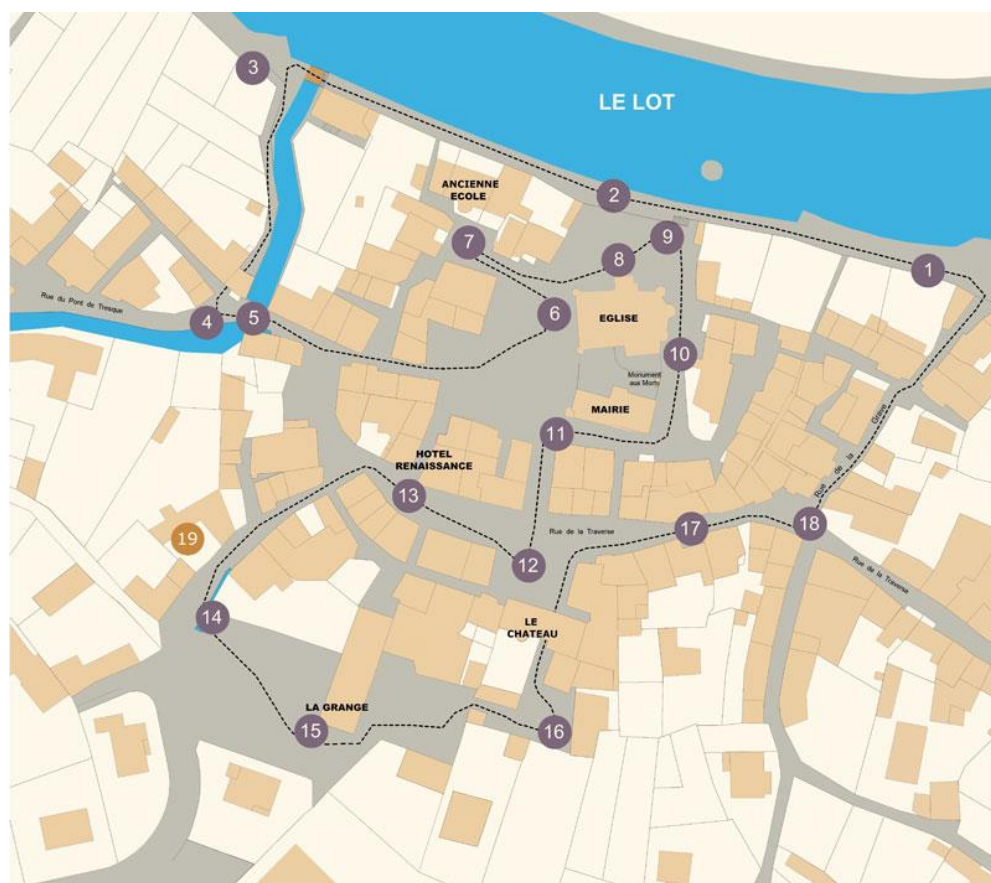


TOURIST MAP

In the Tourist Information Point, in the village, you will find a tourist map and a for visiting Sainte Eulalie d'Olt with 18 informative points in French, English and Spanish.



- 1 - SAINTE EULALIE D'OLT, a former fortified village
- 2 - The Otter
- 3 - The dam
- 4 - Towards the "Sainte Epine" Chapel
- 5 - The mill
- 6 - The Church
- 7 - The Former School
- 8 - The Distiller
- 9 - The Roman Remains
- 10 - The Roman Church and its fortifications
- 11 - « La Poule Un »
- 12 - Place de l'Hom ou du Poteau
- 13 - The Hôtel Particulier
- 14 - The Mill Stream
- 15 - « Eulalie d'Art »
- 16 - Château de Curières de Castelnaud
- 17 - Rue de la Traverse
- 18 - Civil Architecture

Some of those signs are presented there, giving you a preview of our story...



SAINTE EULALIE D'OLT, a former fortified village

On the left bank of the Lot River, in a fertile plain, 3 km downstream of St Geniez, stands the medieval village of Ste Eulalie d'Olt, classified as one of the Most Beautiful Villages of France since 1986. Called "Castrum" in old acts, Sainte Eulalie would have been fortified and surrounded by walls and gaps and flanked with towers. The village would have grown around a first castle, built by the Bishop of Rodez where the valley opens out on a transhumance path, between a limestone plateau and the Aubrac mountains.

THE MILL

Today the old wheel remains the only visible part of the mill and gives a rhythm to village life. Formerly, as well as milling, this 17th century mill produced walnut oil and powder for tanning (made from shredding the bark of oak and chestnut trees), which was needed for the local tannery. The mill was restored in 1980 and is privately owned.



THE CHURCH

This Romanesque and Gothic church contains two thorns from Christ's crown; hence they gave their name to a procession, which is celebrated during the month of July. This building, in which the Romanesque part was constructed in the 11th century, has the Languedoc style. In the 12th century, it was transformed into a fortified building. In 1530, the church was enlarged by order of the Bishop of Rodez. We can also see, in the central chapel of the nave, the statue of Sainte Eulalie and the 10th century altar stone, consecrated by the Bishop Deusdet.



THE FORMER SCHOOL

Since 1995, the former village school with its slender tower, houses the Marcel Boudou Gallery Museum on the ground floor. Born in Ste Eulalie d'Olt, this painter, gifted to the gallery 45 of his paintings and 12, painted by his wife, Jeanne St Gaudens. Exhibitions regularly enhance the gallery.



RUIN OF THE BRIDGE'S PILE

Popular folklore decrees that in Roman times, a bridge existed over the Lot River. The central pier is the only remaining feature, left by the floods, which formerly destroyed the bridge.



THE ELM PLACE

It was probably in this square, called in the 16th century “Hom Place” or “Post Place” that justice was dispensed under an elm. The tree has disappeared and a fountain replaced it. The Curières Lords had the right to dispense justice for small and medium claims. In 1700, they acquired the right to dispense high justice.



The Curières raising silk worms, the façade of the castle was formerly surrounded by mulberry trees, which were cut down in 1790. During the same year, the titles of noble families from the village were burned on this square.

The coat of arms of the Curières is still present on the lintel of the main entrance of the present castle.

THE MANSION

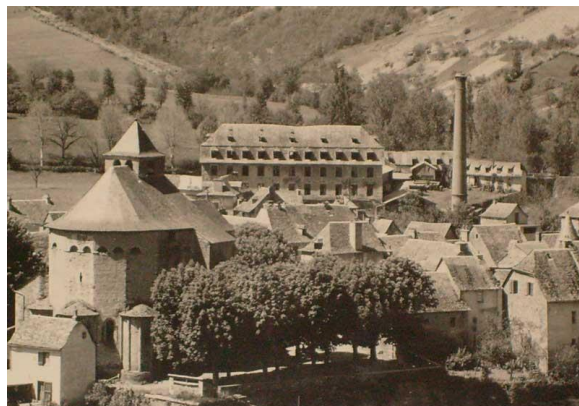
This magnificent mansion of Renaissance (1564) stands on the main street. Its elegant corner tower contains a spiral staircase, which serves the three floors. A handsome ensemble of monolith corbels supports the façade, punctuated by mullioned and chamfered windows.

(Private residence)



THE CHANNEL OF THE MILL

The Coutelle stream, called “de Lundanne”, is a side stream of the Serre. This one partially disappears underground on the plateau, in Pierrefiche and reappears upstream of Ste Eulalie. Between those two villages, there were up to eight working mills along the banks of the stream. They produced flour, oil or tannin. Several tanneries were installed along the stream, giving it the name of the “stream of leathers”. These activities lasted until the middle of the 19th century. At the beginning of the 19th century, a woolen mill was built in the place of the Cayrouses mill. It closed at the end of the century and became, from 1904 to 1949, a tannery. In 1950, the tannery, also called “Mechanics” was sold to a particular citizen who converted it into a warehouse for wood. He also decided to demolish the high brick chimney.



EULALIE ART CENTER

This former barn was renovated and is open all year. It houses the Arts Centre with its 6 creative workshops and the Tourist Reception Point. This inescapable place is also the ideal point of departure for discovering other workshops and visiting the medieval village.



THE CURIERES' CASTLE

In the centre of the village this impressive castle attracts attention. In about 1205, one of the most former families of the Rouergue, the Curières, settled in Ste Eulalie. In this family, they were Crusaders, knights, riders, and musketeers.

The present castle, in the centre of the village, was built in the 15th century, on the site of the former stable depending on the first castle fell into ruins in the 14th century.

Their coat of arms (a dog greyhound which is running and a marquess' crown) is depicted on the lintel of the main entrance. The arched porch gives access to this entrance.

(Private residence)



THE “TRAVERSE” STREET

This street took its name from the fact that it went across the former medieval city. In this main street, the economic activity was significant: numerous shops on the ground floor, workshops, porches, which open into farmyards (stables, barns). Some lintels, towards the small chapel, still show former jobs.



CIVIL ARCHITECTURE

To build their houses, most of inhabitants used local material at low cost. Thus, houses were built with pebbles from the Lot River, with or without half-timbering, sometimes corbelled, with roofs in 'lauzes', which are heavy stone tiles. In the 1970s, the renovation of façades started and stonework became visible, whereas, formerly, a lot of the houses were coated with lime (end of the 17th century). This coating insulated and protected houses. It was also a sign of wealth.



FORMER CONVENT (17° c)

This building was erected in 1640, and in 1847, Sister Julie CHAUCHARD created the « Marie du Bon Pasteur » congregation. In this place, from 1908 to 1960, there was a free school for girls, a day nursery and a boarding school.

Then, the convent was closed for a few years, before being sold to a private individual. Each year, the owner uses to restore a part of the convent, with the respect of the site and the traditions.



LA CAPELETTE

La Capelette is the name given to the street which leads to the chapel. Situated next to the cemetery, it is at the crossroads of small roads to go to Cabanac or to the way around the lake of Castelnau-Lassouts-Lous.

Each year, on the second Sunday of July, the Sainte Epine Procession leads to the chapel, before going back to the centre of the village.

This rural chapel dedicated to Notre Dame de Pitié, was built on the bases of a first chapel. In 1959 and 1983, it was restored (floor, roughcast, stained-glass window, roof).

