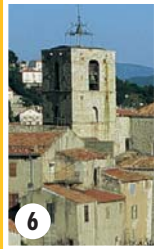


1 hr 30 mins exploring Medieval Hyères



The town of Hyères was founded between the IXth and XIIIth centuries, led by the local nobility. Trade led to an increase in the number of its inhabitants. Hyères experienced a significant expansion. It came under the direct control of the brother of St Louis, Charles 1st of Anjou. At the end of the XIVth century, the town built a second wall to enclose the suburbs that had grown up outside the first wall. The town remained like this until the XIXth century, the heyday of climatic tourism.

1- Rotonde Jean Salusse: The starting point for your visit of the historic town centre is in front of the Rotonde Jean Salusse, Avenue de Belgique.

2- Porte Massillon: The open Massillon Gate (end of the XIIIth century) invites you to wander through the old town.

3- Porte Fenouillet: Follow Rue des Porches (XVIIIth century) to arrive at the Place du Portalet and the Porte Fenouillet (XIVth century).

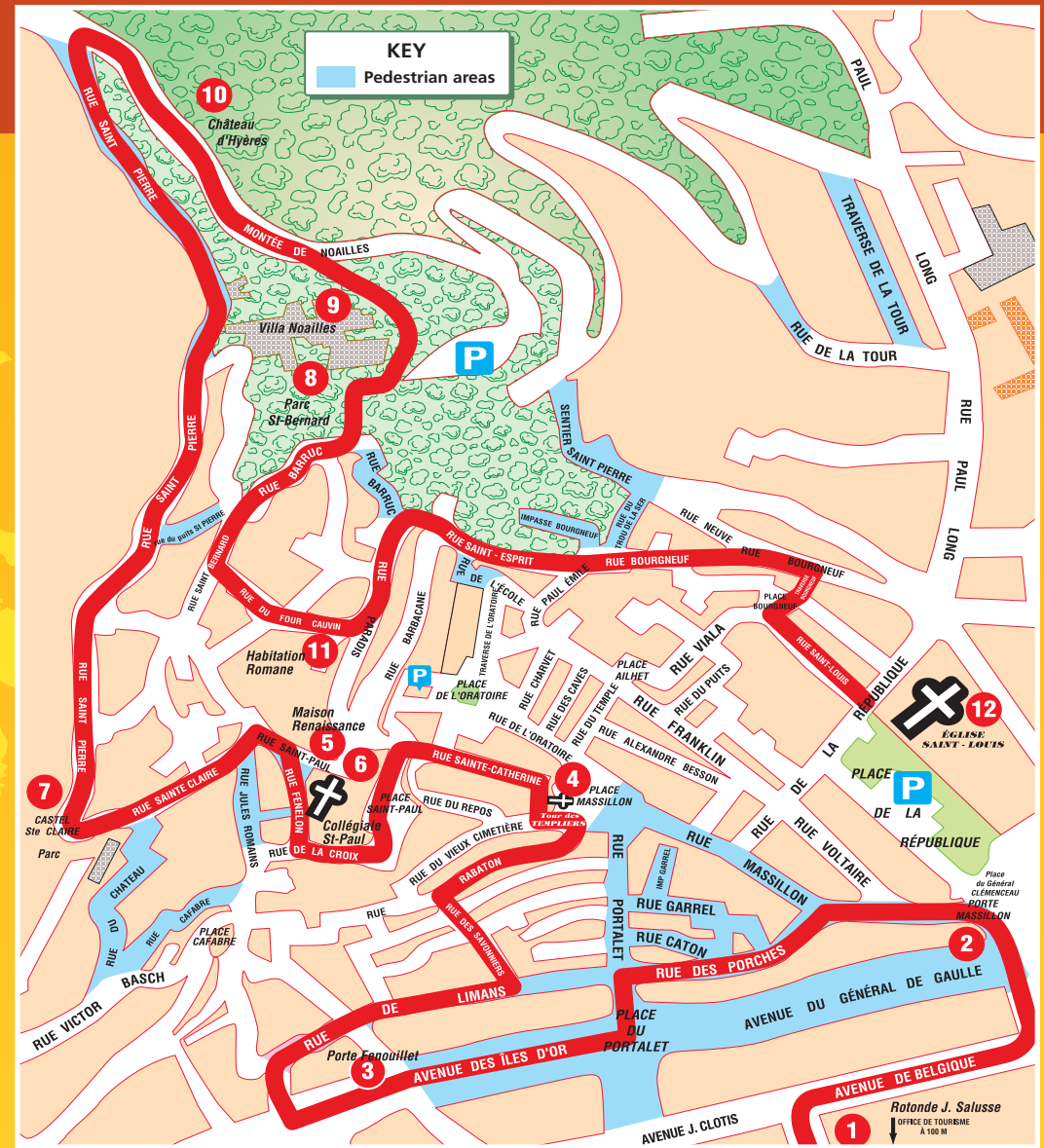
4- Tour des Templiers: To climb to the upper town, take Rue de Limans, Rue des Savonniers and Rue Rabaton, which contains the house of the illustrious Jean-Baptiste Massillon, Bishop of Clermont, who was born in Hyères in 1663. This small street opens on to Place Massillon near the imposing Tour des Templiers (XIIth century), the site of many exhibitions. *On your mobile phone, key in: 3223 and say "Allovisit".*

5- The Renaissance House: Follow Rue Ste Catherine until you arrive at Place Saint-Paul, opposite the Renaissance house built over the Porte Saint-Paul.

6- Collegiate Church of St-Paul: A large staircase leads to the interior of the Collegiate Church of Saint-Paul (XIth and XIIIth centuries), which possesses the largest collection of votive offerings in Provence. Throughout the upper town you can still see many fragments of Middle Ages houses (semi-circular doorways, XIIIth- and XIVth - century carved facades and doors). *On your mobile phone, key in: 3223 and say "Allovisit".*

7- Castel Sainte-Claire: After crossing through Porte des Princes, take Rue Saint-Paul and Rue Sainte-Claire until you reach Sainte-Claire Park and Castel Sainte-Claire, built in 1849 on the site of an ancient convent by Olivier Voutier, a sailor and archaeologist and discoverer of the Venus de Milo.

8- Parc St-Bernard: Pause at Parc Saint-Bernard (the Gardens of the Villa Noailles) and enjoy the many rare Mediterranean and exotic species planted here. It is unusual as Guevrekian's triangular garden, with its cubist design, is an integral part of the Villa Noailles design.



9- Villa Noailles: The impressive Villa Noailles (XXth century) is the work of the architect Mallet-Stevens (1923 to 1933). Here its owners Charles and Marie-Laure de Noailles lived at the centre of an extremely fashionable and artistic circle.

10- Château d'Hyères: From the ruins of the Old Castle (XIth and XIIIth centuries) you can enjoy a marvellous panoramic view over the whole town, the bay and the three islands.

11- Roman houses: Descending by Rue Saint-Bernard, Rue du Four

Cauvin and Traverse Paradis, you can see some remarkable Roman remains. Then you pass through the final gate: Porte Barrux (XIth and XIIIth centuries).

12- St-Louis Church: The tour ends with a visit to Saint-Louis Church (Romanesque and Primitive Gothic styles, XIIIth century), which houses, among other treasures, organs dating from 1878, a very beautiful stone altarpiece, an 1846 marble Virgin from a Florentine workshop, as well as a XVIIIth-century Crucified Christ.