



① Roman arch



② The Town Hall



③ The Agar hotel



④ The cathedral



⑤ The synagogue

Cavaillon is a town of many faces - full of nature, history and modernity - and a key focal point in the Luberon and Provence as a whole thanks to its geographic location. Discover Saint-Jacques hill with its heady scents, paths and outdoor pursuits! Stroll through the streets of the historic centre to get a sense of the town's past: Classical times, the Middle Ages (the diocese, the 'Pope's Jews') and the modern era. And amble along the long avenues that border the old town, with their occasional views of the hill towering above, their bourgeois houses and Belle Epoque buildings.

① Roman arch
The Roman arch, with its rich decoration of laurel wreaths, flowers and birds, dates from the first century AD. This arch, which served as the monumental entrance to a building or a public forum, was moved in the Middle Ages and again in 1880 to the end of the place du Clos.

② The Town Hall
Today's U-shaped Town Hall was built in 1750 by the Avignon architect J. Abel Mottard on the site of a former medieval common house. The glasswork and wrought iron on the façade were added later (1895-97). Take rue Liffan past the Perussis mansion (18th century) to the Agar mansion (both listed as historic monuments).

③ The Agar hotel
A mansion built on the ruins of the Roman city. Rich interior and exterior architecture. Beautiful garden. Temporary exhibitions in winter and summer.
Visit by appointment. Call +33(0)6 24 17 20 13.

④ Notre Dame and Saint-Véran cathedral
Built over an original 11th century building, it was extended in the 12th century to reach its present size. Its octagonal bell tower dates from the 13th century. Don't miss the small cloister.

⑤ Synagogue - Jewish museum of the Comtat area
An architecture found nowhere else in the world and characteristic of the synagogues of the Comtat. Rebuilt between 1772 and 1774 on foundations dating from the 15th century, it is composed of two superimposed structures. The synagogue was a place of prayer and learning, and a gathering point for the community. It bears witness to the collective life of the 'Pope's Jews'.

⑥ The Great Convent chapel (18th century)
This chapel was built in the 17th century on the site of the former great benedictine convent. Beautiful classical scenery on the façade and carved door with relief.

⑦ The archaeological museum of the hotel-Dieu
Located opposite the remains of the old city walls within the walls of the chapel of the hotel-Dieu (1755). Must see: local archaeological collection.

⑧ The Saint-Julien canal
This was the first canal to be linked to the Durance and the oldest in Provence. In 1171, Raymond V, Count of Toulouse and Marquis of Provence granted Benoît, the Bishop of Cavaillon, the right to divert water from the Durance to power the corn mills, including the one on the east side of the Cours Gambetta. In the 13th century, the canal was also used to irrigate the land. In the mid-16th century, the Marquis of Oppède extended the canal to the lands of Les Vignères (west of Cavaillon) by building the 'La Canau' aqueduct (listed as a historic monument in 2011) which straddles the local river, the Coulon.

⑨ Caisse d'Epargne and Crédit Lyonnais banks
On the corner of place Gambetta and avenue Victor Basch, the Caisse d'Epargne now occupies a fine building crowned by a dome. Known as the 'Grand Hôtel Moderne', it was built at the beginning of the 20th century and was the town's most prestigious hotel at the time. Back along cours Bournissac on the way to the place du Clos, the Crédit Lyonnais bank was built in the early 20th century by entrepreneur Charles Vidau using the plans of the architect Valentin, while the sculptures are by Bulla (the names of all three men are engraved above the entrance).

⑩ The place du Clos
This square was once entirely shaded by plane trees and served as a marketplace and trading post for melons and other local fruits and vegetables. A little farther on, the Vidau passage, built in the late 19th century, connected the district to the rest of the town and created a thoroughfare between the centre and the market square. Of the two cafés built at either end of the passage, only Le Fin de Siècle remains, which has been listed as a historic monument.

⑪ Chapel of Saint-Jacques
The Hill of Saint-Jacques, occupied since prehistoric times, remained so throughout the Roman period. Overlooking the town of Cavaillon, this chapel is a typical example of Romanesque art in Provence. From the 14th century, the building was also used by hermits. The most famous of these, César de Bus, contributed to the transformation of the chapel as we know it today - a mere 20-minute walk from the Tourist Office. *Free admission.*

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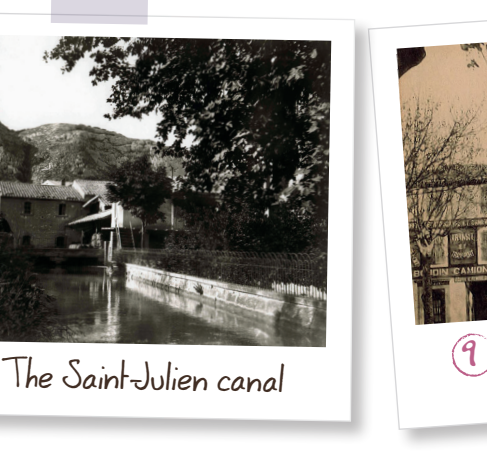
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⑥ The Great Convent chapel



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