



La Méridienne
Mobilier & Linge & Objets

La Méridienne est un petit « comptoir » niché au cœur du Luberon dans le Vieux Village d'Oppède. Il réunit dans un cocon convivial, sous une voûte de pierres, une sélection de ce que je préfère sur le thème ma Provence depuis 25 ans d'activité.

Le Vieux Village d'Oppède
www.lameridienne-enprovence.fr
06 07 09 10 33



Oppède has always been a land of olives. Today, the commune has two olive mills and is a member of the Federation of French Olive-oil Producing Towns.

1 La 'Royère' Olive Oil Museum

From harvesting the olives to manufacturing the oil and from ancient presses to modern-day techniques: the Olive Oil Museum will take you on a veritable journey to learn about the flagship product of Mediterranean cuisine. Highlights of the tour include an original set, audio guides (French/English) and multimedia presentations.

2 The 'Saint Augustin' mill

The 'Saint Augustin' mill produces olive oil in a building that dates back to the Middle Ages. In those days, the inhabitants, who were referred to as 'hermitants', made flour, wine, honey and olive oil there for the building workers and monks from the Abbey of Sénanque. Nowadays, 12 hectares of olive trees are cultivated on the estate.



Want some suggestions for walks? from Oppède

1 The fountains and wash-houses trail
9.1 KM - MODERATE
Set off from 'Oppède-Village' (free parking).



Over walks on
www.cheminsdesparcs.fr
and on the Oppède village website.

Worth exploring!

A new path is being designed that will soon let you roam the dry-stone-wall-enclosed terraces covered with olive trees in the commune of Oppède.

From 1 July 1 to 15 September, access to the forests of Vaucluse is regulated by prefectural decree. If you want to go walking in the forest please call +33 (0)4 28 31 77 11 or your tourist information office beforehand.

Your tourist information office

Cavaillon Branch
Place François Tourle - 84300 Cavaillon
contact@luberoncoeurdeprovence.com
+33(0)4.90.71.32.01

Gordes Branch
Le Château - 84220 Gordes
gordes@luberoncoeurdeprovence.com
+33(0)4.90.72.02.75

Check our office opening hours on our website here: www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com

bistrot de pays Bistrot de Pays Les Poulivets

PRODUITS DE SAISON
CUISINE MAISON À BASE DE PRODUITS RÉGIONAUX COMME LE PORC DU VENTOUX

400, RUE DES POULIVETS
OPPÈDE - LES POULIVETS - +33(0)4 90 05 88 31

INTRIGUES à Oppède!

TARIF
Plain : 8€
10-17ans : 5€
-10ans : gratuit

Venez découvrir l'histoire de ce village perché du Luberon à travers une intrigue pleine de mystères. Seuls, entre amis, ou en famille, résolvez énigmes, codes et casse-tête, pour mener l'enquête !

Juillet/août : jeudi matin 9h00-10h30
RDV : Place de la Croix à Oppède
Stationnement au parking Sainte-Cécile obligatoire (parking payant)

RÉSERVATION EN LIGNE : www.luberoncoeurdeprovence.com
RENSEIGNEMENTS : 04.90.71.32.01



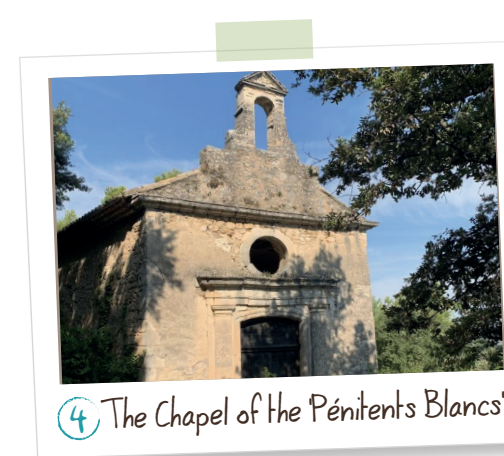
① The 'Sainte Cécile' terraces



② The cobblestoned



③ The place de la croix



④ The Chapel of the Pénitents Blancs



⑤ The collegial Notre-Dame Dalidon

Perched on a limestone promontory in the Luberon, the site of 'Oppède-le-Vieux' has been occupied since ancient times. Owned first by the counts of Toulouse, then by the papacy and enfeoffed by the popes to the 'Maynier' family in 1501, the mediaeval village developed from the 12th to the 16th century, with a castle, ramparts and towers creating an important fortification between the towns of Cavaillon and Apt. Gradually abandoned from the 17th century onwards, the mediaeval village then fell into ruin until artists began to settle there during World War II, bringing it a new lease of life. Today, a visit to old Oppède is an opportunity to wander along ancient cobblestone paths, discover hidden heritage and travel back in time.

① The 'Sainte Cécile' terraces

In the past, the 'Sainte Cécile' terraces were used for farming but today they have been reinvented as a botanic garden where you can discover the 'garrigue', a type of dry vegetation that has adapted to the Mediterranean climate. Stone pine, holm oak, juniper, thyme and rosemary are just a few of the characteristic species found in this natural setting. The terraces' lofty position means they overlook the entire surrounding region, particularly the Calavon Plain and the foothills of the Vaucluse Mountains to the north.

② The cobblestoned

The cobblestoned threshing floor dates back to the 16th century. Its exposure to the wind made it ideal for threshing and drying the wheat. The splendid view from the threshing floor lets you admire the whole of Oppède-le-Vieux. To the north-west of the plateau, you will find the remains of a small chapel – the Chapel of Sainte-Cécile – that is of Roman origin.

③ The place de la croix

The Place de la Croix ('Cross Square') is now the very centre of Oppède-le-Vieux. Its layout dates back to the 17th century. It was around this time that the process to 'unperch' the village of Oppède began; in other words, the village was moved from its rocky spur down to the plain where living conditions were not as harsh. This process would be ongoing until the early 20th century, when the village council moved to the hamlet of 'Poulivets' in 1909. The old town belfry, also referred to as 'campanile', stands in the Place de la Croix and was built in the 17th century. You can see the old marketplace here too, which dates from the same period.

④ The Chapel of the 'Pénitents Blancs'

The Chapel of the 'Pénitents Blancs' ('White Penitents'), with its very simple architectural design, was built in the 17th century. Originally looked after by a brotherhood of penitents, it is now privately owned. The building is not open to visitors.

⑤ The collegial 'Notre-Dame Dalidon'

The collegial 'Notre-Dame Dalidon', of Roman origin, the Notre-Dame Dalidon Church (from the Latin 'dolidus', meaning 'pain') underwent major modifications between the 16th and 17th centuries. A college of canons was set up here in 1546, on the orders of the Bishop of Cavaillon, conferring the title of 'collegial' on the church. The building comprises a central nave, a choir and six chapels. The lavishly decorated interior contrasts with the austere architecture. Renaissance- and Baroque-style elements can be seen side-by-side with 19th-century additions. Restoration has been ongoing on the Notre-Dame Dalidon collegial building since the 1990s, with support from the Oppède Patrimoine Association.

⑥ The castle

Oppède Castle was built between the 11th and 13th centuries. It was progressively enlarged between the 14th and 16th centuries, first by the popes and then by the Barons of Oppède. One of the latter was Baron Jean Maynier, the first president of the Aix Parliament, who was responsible for the 1545 massacre of the Waldensians of Luberon. In 1731, an earthquake seriously damaged the building, which gradually began to be used as a source of stone. The Oppède Castle site is closed to visitors. Restoration work is currently being carried out by the 'Association de sauvegarde de la forteresse d'Oppède-le-Vieux', which is working to save the site.

7a 7b The ramparts

The castle was not the village's only defensive structure. Like most towns in the region, Oppède-le-Vieux once had ramparts, towers and gates. Around the edges of the Place de la Croix, you can still see vestiges of these old 16th-century fortifications, highlights of which include a wall and a tower.

The Oppède Group

At the time World War II began, Oppède-le-Vieux had less than 10 inhabitants. However, its remoteness from the big cities and the beauty of its ruins attracted artists and architecture students who lived there as a community for a number of years. In 1942, the group had around 50 members, including architect Bernard Zehruss (1911-1996) and Consuelo de Saint-Exupéry (1901-1979), a painter and sculptor who was also the wife of the famous aviator. Consuelo recounted the Oppède Group's experience in a 1947 work entitled quite simply 'Oppède'.

Worth knowing

Oppède-le-Vieux is a splendid site in close proximity to two UNESCO reserves. Some people are year-round residents and respect for the site is a priority. Mandatory parking for the old village is at the Sainte-Cécile paid car park. The money you pay to park your car goes toward the upkeep of the site's heritage. Alternatively, you can park at one of the free car parks in Oppède-Village and enjoy the 30-minute walk to Oppède-le-Vieux (see the brown path on the map).



⑥ The castle



7a 7b The ramparts



The market

