VISIT BELLAC



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HISTORICAL HERITAGE

1. Giraudoux Fountain
2. Génébrias Tower
3. Former Trilloux Gate
5. The Penitents' Chapel
7. Notre Dame Church
8. The Stone Bridge

NATURAL HERITAGE & PARKS

12. The «Jardin des côtes»

SPORTS, LEISURE & CULTURE

2. La Digitale - Jean Giraudoux's birthplace
6. Bellachon zoo
15. Théâtre du Cloître

- Town Hall
- Camper van parking area
- Public toilets
- Parking
- Cycle parking
- Bus stop
- Panoramic view
- Picnic area
- Comptoir Limousin (information point)

Awarded the '***Village étape*** ®' label, Bellac is situated on the edge of the Monts de Blond in the north of the Haute-Vienne. A town of character and the birthplace of Jean Giraudoux, Bellac's history unfolds through its picturesque narrow streets, parks and gardens on the banks of the Vincou.



1 THE TOWN HALL

This 16th-century townhouse was the residence of the Barthon de Montbas family. Louis Barthon was the town's first elected mayor (17th century). In the grounds, a fountain has paid tribute to Jean Giraudoux since 1951, and on the other side of the building, a large circular pool surrounds a bronze nymph dating from 1901.

2 LA DIGITALE, JEAN GIRAUDOUX BIRTHPLACE

Jean Giraudoux, writer, playwright and diplomat, refers to his hometown on several occasions in his work. His house, renamed La Digitale, invites you to discover his life and work in an entertaining way (including an escape game). In *Provinciales*, he writes: "In Bellac, please do come into the house where I was born, and from the second floor, you will have to admit (...) that it really is the most beautiful town in the world!"

3 CHARLES SYLVESTRE PARK

Perched high above Bellac's vast Champ-de-Foire, it offers a beautiful view of the bell tower and the Monts de Blond. The promenade, with its bandstand, is named Parc Charles Silvestre in memory of the writer who lived in Bellac. The war memorial (by sculptor Henri Coutheillas) serves as a reminder of the painful consequences of war. It is classified as a pacifist monument.

4 THE SUB-PRÉFECTURE

A townhouse built in the 18th century on the outskirts of the old town by the Limousin architect Vignaud de Saint-Florent, it was sold to the Department in 1860 to house the first sub-prefect, and still serves this purpose today.

5 THE PENITENTS' CHAPEL

Built in the 18th century along the route of the old ramparts, the Chapel of Saint John the Baptist was the headquarters of a brotherhood of penitents dedicated to trade union, religious and social causes. Between the chapel and the church stand the typical half-timbered houses built on the site of Bellac's first castle.



6 BELLACHON ZOO

Bellachon Zoo is one of those little gems that's very popular with families. It's open on summer weekends without the need for a booking. Meet the team and discover protected animals in a landscaped, shaded setting.

7 NOTRE DAME CHURCH

Originally the chapel of the Counts of La Marche, the Church of Notre Dame, built in the 12th century, combines Romanesque and Gothic styles. It was extended in the 14th century with a nave featuring a flat chevet and a large square bell tower, and then with two side chapels in the 15th century. The interior of the church houses a 17th-century altarpiece with twisted columns, and the oldest known sarcophagus-shaped reliquary, reputed to be the first object attributed to the workshops of Limoges (c. 1130).





8 THE STONE BRIDGE

Built in the 13th century to replace the ford used by merchants from Saintonge to supply the Mortemart seigneury with wine, salt and sea fish, it links the historic centre to the Chapterie suburb, where craftsmen settled in the Middle Ages, followed by workers during the industrial era.

9 THE HYDE-DRYING SHED

At the foot of the fortified rock stands the hide-drying shed of a former tannery. Its chestnut floor was also used to dry peat and tannin cakes.

10 THE TANNERY

For nearly 10 centuries, the old quarter lived to the rhythm of the tannery, and one could see carts heavily loaded with hides crossing the Pont de la Pierre. The tannery still in operation today carries on the age-old art of tanning with oak bark for Parisian haute couture.



11 THE 104 STEPS

Whether you're out for a brisk walk or a leisurely stroll, heading up from the old drying shed or down from the media library, take this staircase – which once allowed the residents of the Faubourg de la Chapterie to reach the town centre – and access the Jardins des Côtes via the passageway at the 64th step.

12 THE «JARDIN DES CÔTES»

Landscaped and maintained by the team of gardeners from the *Remparts* association (a social enterprise based in Bellac), they feature footpaths, hedgerows and a variety of flowering plants, as well as orchards and vegetable plots. A walk that offers splendid views of the town (the church, the tannery and the River Vincou).



13 THE VIADUCT

A testament to industrial history and the development of the railway in the 19th century, the viaduct was built in 1880 by Gustave Eiffel's team. It is 172 metres long and forms part of the Poitiers–Limoges line. Still used by the TER, it has been partially adapted for rock-climbing enthusiasts.

At its foot, where the River Vincou flows, you can have a picnic and enjoy the cool air all year round.

14 THE OPEN-AIR THEATRE

Another creation by the *Remparts* association's team of gardeners, inaugurated in 2025, this open-air theatre is situated beneath the cedar tree near the viaduct.

15 THÉATRE DU CLOITRE (CLOISTER THEATRE)

Run by the cultural association Bellac sur Scène, the *Théâtre du Cloître* is a state-subsidised theatre that hosts residencies and new productions. It organises the Bellac National Festival, established in 1954 in memory of Jean Giraudoux.



LIMOUSIN nouveaux horizons

LE DORAT TOURIST OFFICE
Open in July and August
9,Bis Place de la Collégiale, 87210 Le Dorat

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info@visitlimousin.com

All of Haute-Vienne on **www.visitlimousin.com**

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Graphic design : Marine Doudet - LIMOUSIN nouveaux horizons Print : Atelier Graphique Limoges.

AN INVITATION TO EXPLORE...

Explore the area **within a 20-minute radius of Bellac.**
From museums and castles to exploring local craftsmanship, nature walks and leisure activities – the choice is yours from this extensive list of must-see attractions!

OUR MUSEUMS

LA DIGITALE - JEAN GIRAUDOUX'S BIRTHPLACE
Be more than a spectator and discover the world of Jean Giraudoux, the writer and playwright who led many different lives. Open in July and August, and on 19 and 20 September.
Bellac
06 08 43 51 90 - www.ladigitale-giraudoux.fr

MARTYR VILLAGE AND REMEMBRANCE CENTRE OF ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE
A site of remembrance. Guided tours are available from the Centre de la Mémoire. Open daily from 15 January to 15 December.
L'auze, Oradour-sur-Glane
05 55 43 04 30 - www.oradour.org

RENÉ BAUBÉROT MUSEUM
All the spirit and history of the Limousin region at this archaeological and ethnographic museum.
Châteauponsac
05 87 59 51 18 - www.museechateauponsac.fr

LE FRAISSE CASTLE
Owned by the Monstiers family for over eight centuries, this historic landmark opens its doors from 15 June to 15 September.
Le Fraisse, Nouic
05 55 68 32 68 - www.chateau-du-fraisse.com



STORIES SET IN STONES

The Monts de Blond are a land steeped in legend. Here, ancient stones tell tales of fairies, hidden treasures and age old folk beliefs.

As you explore, try to make the Wobbling Stone of Cieux move; in days gone by, those accused of a crime who managed to do so were granted a pardon.
Discover the true fairy palace, or try to land a stone on the ledge halfway up the Ceinturat menhir if you wish to get married within the year.

Just outside Blond are the Rochers de Puychaud, which mark the symbolic boundary between the Langue d'Oc and the Langue d'Oïl. If you happen to be passing through on Christmas Eve, you might be lucky enough to see one of the rocks open up and reveal a magnificent treasure of gold and precious stones.

OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES

MONTROL-SÉNARD
The 'Rural Nostalgia' walk through the village brings back to life shops, trades and scenes from days gone by. A captivating, nostalgic experience, accessible to all.
Don't miss the 'Notro Botico' pop-up shop: products and creations by local artisans and producers in the heart of the village of Montrol-Sénard.

MORTEMART
Built around the Castle of the Dukes, this medieval town is listed among "The Most Beautiful Villages of France".

LE DORAT
A town renowned for its imposing Romanesque collegiate church and its horse races, the historic centre of this fortified medieval town is well worth a visit for its stately homes and carved gateways.

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OUR ACTIVITIES

BELLACHON ZOO
A community-run micro-zoo and animal sanctuary home to over 150 animals (birds, marmosets, meerkats).
Bellac
06 38 74 01 90

BELLAC CINEMA
A friendly, community-run cinema offering an eclectic programme that combines blockbusters, film discussions and screenings in the original language.
Bellac
05 87 77 91 19

GAUCHOUX ESTATE
Enjoy special moments with horses in a friendly atmosphere. You can also try archery on horseback !
Peyrat-de-Bellac
05 55 68 08 59 - www.gauchoux-cheval.com

THE VILLARD STABLES
Lessons and rides for riders of all levels.
Peyrat-de-Bellac
07 82 39 79 57

LE DORAT - MAGNAC-LAVAL CYCLE PATH
A 9.4 km route through unspoilt natural surroundings. A safe route suitable for cyclists, walkers, families, people with reduced mobility and horse riders on the European d'Artagnan Route.
Le Dorat / Magnac-Laval

LE LÉOTILUS ESCAPE GAME
Léo Vanderlick invites you to explore three mysterious rooms.
Rancon
07 57 50 62 69

TUNG-LAM LINH-SON INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST PAGODA
A unique and exotic visit to the heart of a large park dotted with statues, ponds and lotus flowers. The main temple is open to the public free of charge.
Rancon
06 25 48 00 32

THE VANDERLICK FAMILY'S ART GALLERY AND STUDIO
A true family of artists: Sandra paints, Christian forges medieval weapons and Léo creates steampunk-style sculptures. Having lived in Africa, they have set up a cabinet of curiosities featuring items collected from the African continent. Open by appointment.
Rancon
06 87 52 43 79

MORTEMART GOLF CLUB
18-hole course with breathtaking views of the Monts de Blond.
Les Villards, Mortemart
05 55 60 45 16 - www.golfdemortemart.jimdoweb.com

TÈRRA AVENTURA
Take part in a treasure hunt that takes young and old alike on a journey of discovery through historic and natural sites; an original and fun way to uncover the secrets of the Haute-Vienne.
Join the adventure with the free Terra Aventura app.

OUR FAVOURITE NATURE SPOTS

Did you know? In Haut-Limousin, there are over 1,000 kilometres of signposted trails to explore on foot, by mountain bike or on horseback !

THE «JARDIN DES CÔTES»
Situated on the banks of the River Vincou, this spot on the rockside offers a walk with panoramic views of the old tanneries and the Vincou valley.
Bellac

THE MEGALITHS TRAIL
Along the way, you'll come across the wobbly stone, the Ceinturat menhir, the Fairy Rock and many other stones steeped in legend.
Cieux

LAKE SAINT-PARDOUX
Enjoy water-based activities all year round: 3 beaches, swimming pool, sports, water skiing, wakeboarding, treetop adventure courses, mountain biking and children's activities...
Razès - www.lacsaintpardoux.com

THE «ROCHERS DE L'ISOP»
In the heart of the Isop Valley, this cluster of granite boulders can be explored along a walking route where the stream flows through impressive rocks.
Saint-Martial-sur-Isop

THE «SAUT DE LA BRAME»
A preserved natural site where the river rushes between impressive granite boulders and forms several small waterfalls in the forest.
Val-d'Oire-et-Gartempe

«L'OR DES SIMPLES»
A botanical garden featuring over 300 medicinal and aromatic plants that grow naturally in the area and are often little known.
Rancon - 06 19 94 74 34



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05 55 68 12 79

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