

Discovery Tour Alençon



Impression Bémo Graphic Création Marie Lemétayer

15 Town Hall: the foundation stone of the Town Hall was laid on 29th September 1783. Built in pure Louis XVI style, with the rounded façade a credit to its designer, the architect Jean Delarue.

16 Law Court: Neoclassical style law courts, built (1818-1824) following a visit to Alençon by Emperor Napoleon in 1811.

17 Duke's Castle: notice the imposing architecture of the Dukes' castle whose two machicolated towers (late 14th century) and the Renaissance pavilion (15th century) currently house the prison. The crowned tower is made up of two 17 and 9 metre towers one on top of the other. During the Occupation, many Resistance fighters were imprisoned and tortured here.

On a level with n° 49 Rue du Château, turn right into Rue de l'Air Haut; turn right into Rue Bonnette, one of the town's oldest streets, then right again to n° 10 in Rue Porte de la Barre.

18 Maison à l'Étal: unusual 15th century house/shop, probably a bakery.

19 St Leonard's church: built between 1490 and 1505 by Duke René of Alençon and his wife Margaret of Lorraine.

20 Café des Sept Colonnes: building on two corbelled floors surmounted by a tall gable. Timber-framed walls. This 15th century house is probably one of the oldest in town and was lived in by the chief executioner in 1572. In the cellar, a slab is said to bear the inscription: 'If anyone lifts me up, the town will perish'.

21 Cour Jacques René Hébert: named after a well-known revolutionary. Exemplary rehabilitation of a whole set of old buildings. Cross the Cour du Dauphin.

22 Maison aux Piliers: 15th century building remarkable for its two ogival arcades on the front, supported by three huge cylindrical pillars.

Worth seeing at n° 123, a 15th century timber-framed house with carved wood decorations one of which can be seen to be a shield.

Cross the Cour Cochon de Vaubaugon. On your left, a fine view of the old tiled roofs.

Hôtel Guyon de Vauloger : at n° 15 Rue des Granges. It was the residence of the administrators of the treasury subdivision of Alençon. Rue de Latre de Tassigny, discover on your right remains of the ramparts and the Henry II pavilion.

23 Leclerc Monument: opened on 15 March 1970 in honour of General Leclerc, who liberated Alençon on 12th August 1944.

24 Notre-Dame Church: 15th and 16th century building. Gothic flamboyant porch completed in c. 1510. Inside, the stained-glass windows in the upper section mostly date from the 16th century, the pulpit from 1536 and the magnificent organ case from 1540.

25 Commercial Court: at n° 6. 15th and 16th century building with porches and an octagonal stair tower. Balzac describes the courtroom in 'The Collection of Antiquities'.

1 Maison d'Ozé: one of Alençon's finest buildings, built by Jean du Mesnil in 1449. With its pointed turrets decorated with finials and its flower garden, this is a proud-looking house. A vestige of the fortifications. The Maison d'Ozé is today the home of the Pays d'Alençon Tourist Office.

2 The Little Negro: at n° 37 Grande Rue. The façade is covered with chestnut shingle. Walk up Grande Rue and admire the 18th century wrought iron balconies.

3 Birthplace of St Teresa of the Child Jesus: Thérèse Martin was born here on 2nd January 1873.

4 Hôtel Fromont de la Besnardière, aka Hôtel de Guise: a 17th century building in granite and brick (houses the Préfecture de l'Orne).

5 Halle aux Toiles: the foundation stone of this cloth market was laid by the Dauphine, Louis XVI's daughter in 1827.

6 Chamber of Commerce and Industry: private mansion of the July Monarchy (1830-1848).

7 Hôtel des Postes: the post office building was built in 1909 by Albert Mezen, father of Marcel, both local architects.

8 Hôtel Le Rouillé: at n° 44, 18th century building, bearing the date 1762, with the arms of the Le Rouillé family (Orne Chamber of Trade).

At n° 40, 18th century private mansion.

9 Venetian house: at n° 62, the former house of engraver Pierre Godard (1797-1864) well known to Balzac. Its decorative work is ascribed to Achille Oudinot, who hailed from Damigny.

10 Place à l'Avoine: at n° 10 an unusual 15th century house, with a corbelled pavilion topped by a pointed roof with four pitches. At n° 13, at the back of the courtyard, the former Hôtel du Mesnil de Montchauveau (16th century). Round stair tower.

11 On the corner of Rue du Collège, old 18th century house with Louis XV wrought iron balconies and a statue of the Virgin with Child in a large niche. This statue is thought to have decorated the Porte de Lancrel.

12 Fine Arts and Lacework Museum, library: fine art and lace museum, formerly a Jesuit college restored in 2005. Major collection of late-17th early-18th century furniture. The library is in the former Jesuit church, a symbolic building in Alençon with its roof shaped like a ship's hull turned upside down. Conservatory garden with rhododendrons and camelias.

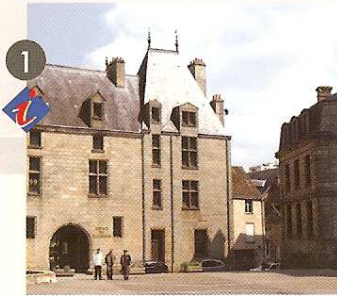
13 Hôtel de Boulemer, aka Hôtel Libert: at the entrance to the Rue du Cugne. 18th century building, superb granite façade.

14 Halle au Blé: late 18th early 19th century. Former corn market opened for trading in 1812, the building has a glass dome roof erected in 1865. Today the Halle au Blé is devoted to new technology.

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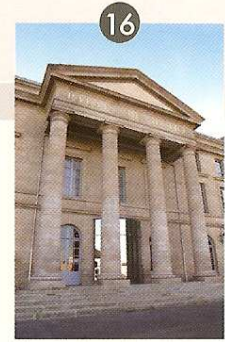




Maison d'Ozé



Town Hall



Law Court



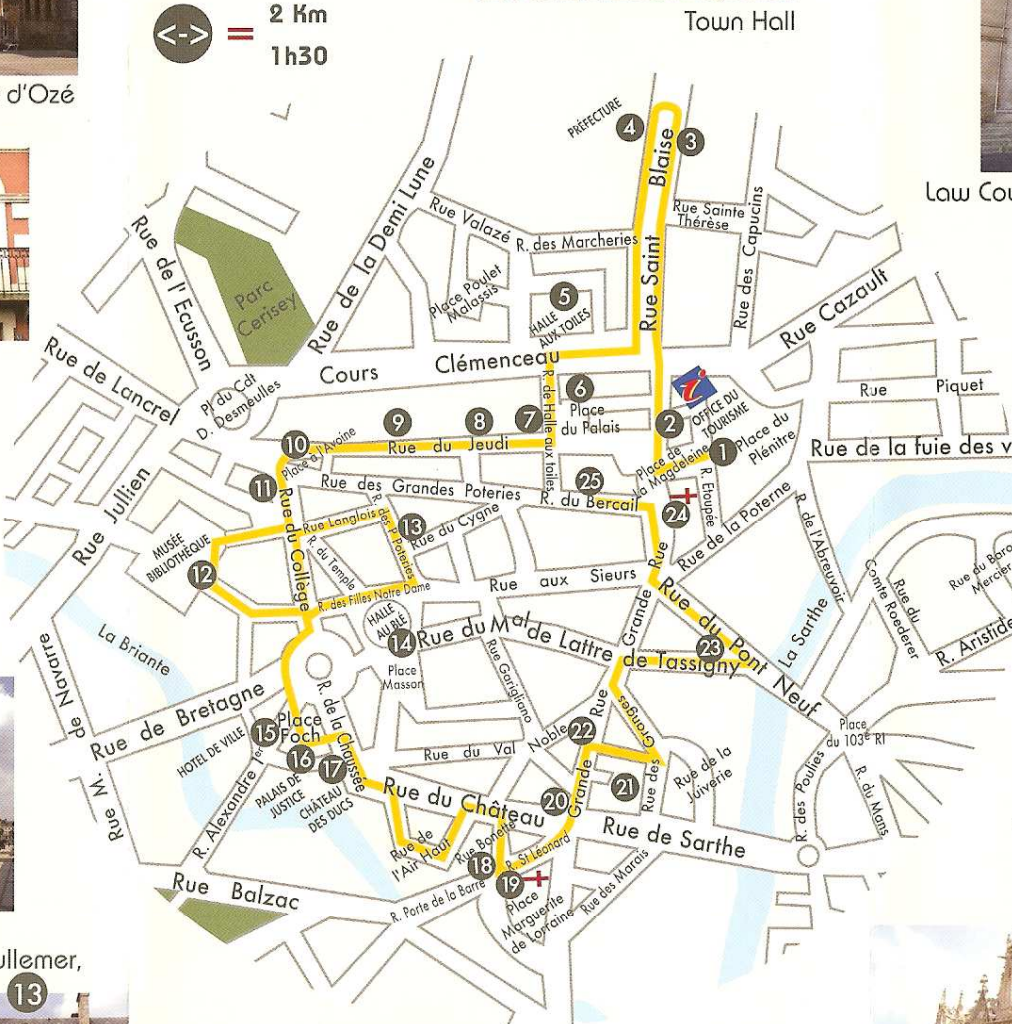
Duke's Castle



The Little Negro



Birthplace of St Teresa of the Child Jesus



2 Km
1h30



Hôtel Fromont de la Besnardière, aka Hôtel de Guise



Halle aux Toiles

Café des Sept Colonnes



20

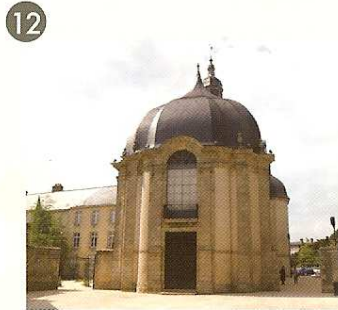


Maison à l'Étal

Cour Jacques René Hébert



21



Fine Arts and Lacework Museum, library

Hôtel de Boullemer, aka Hôtel Libert



13



Halle au Blé

14



Notre-Dame Church

24

Commercial Court



25