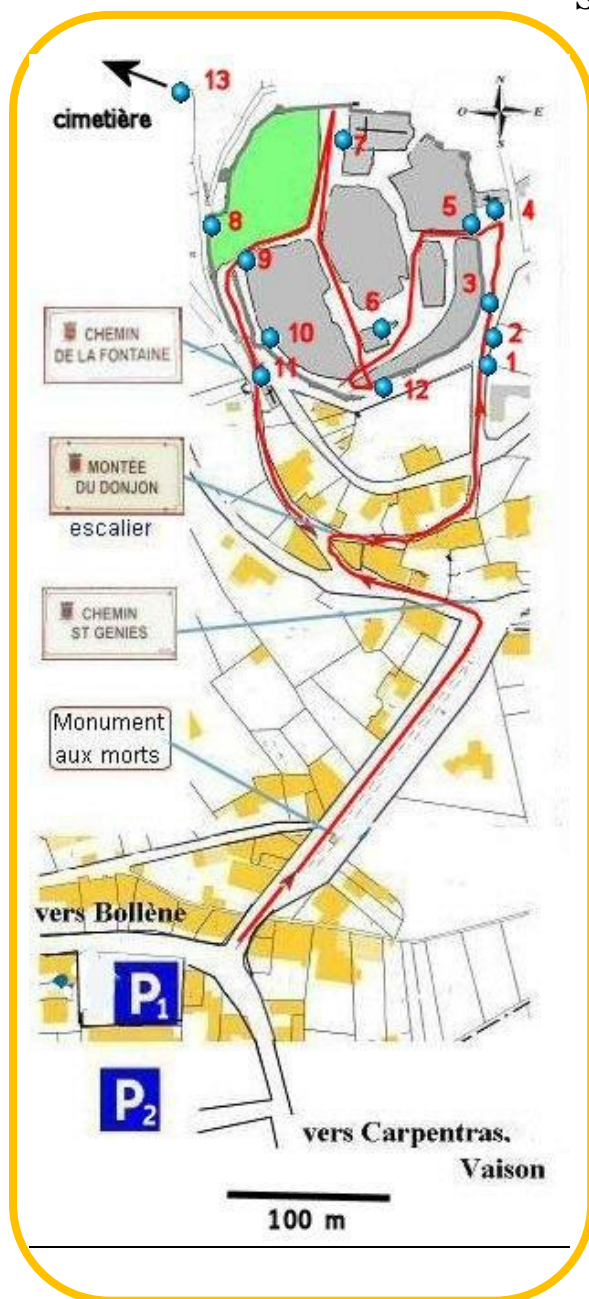


Visit of the old village of Cairanne (Vaucluse)

Summary of the presentation on : www.cairannevieuxvillage.eu



Leave the car at the parking P1 in front of the City Hall or on the parking P2 at the exit of the village towards Carpentras. Walk up the road at the leftfork of the war memorial. Make a left on the St Genies path then a right on the "montée du Donjon" lane. Keep on walking straight ahead.

First stop: The Cairanne's gardens: a remarkable tree: the Osage orange tree.

Second stop: Eastern view on the vineyards, the Ventoux and the pre-Alps.

Third stop: The Southern ramparts. They were most likely were built in the XIVth century. Against them are narrow three or four storeyed houses built inside the village for 500 inhabitants. They have modern openings.

Fourth stop: The Saint Roch Chapel. Built to thank God for having spared the village from the 1720 plague.

Fifth stop: The Autan gate. One of the two walled gates giving access to the village. It has been reshaped over the years. On the right, the old hospital (Cairanne's hospice) until 1920.

Sixth stop: The Dungeon. Oral tradition calls it the "Templars Tower". It was more of a watch tower than a real castle dungeon. Nowadays it's a clock tower with a campanile (bell tower). Inside there is a Video display :

Histoire et Patrimoine de Cairanne.

Seventh stop: The church is from the XIXth century. Paintings of the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries..

The Northwards view : the terraces of the hills covered with vineyards and the hilltops covered with scrubland (garrigue) and cork oaks. On the North East, the river Aygues draws the former boundaries between the Comtat Venaissin and the Dauphiné, Province of the French kingdom.

Eighth stop: Westwards view. The river Aygues runs at the foot of the promontory. Further up the Sainte Cécile's church, Rochegude castle and beyond that the Cevennes.

Ninth stop : The Sergeant's gate. The site has been modified a lot. The gate was supposed to fit into the ramparts or into the constructions. The addition of a second gate **Tenth stop** in front of it, turned it into a barbican, that the assailants had to go through under the defenders attack, remaining stuck in front of the Sergeant gate placed in baffle. Typical military construction of the Middle Ages.

Eleventh stop : The "Chapelle des Excés" built in 1632 after a plague epidemy that killed a lot of people (150 out of 800 inhabitants). The name Excess comes from the latin word "excessus"= death.

Twelfth stop : The old fountain. Southwards view: it extends beyond the Dentelles de Montmirail, to the Luberon, the Durance valley, the Alps and the Nimes' hills. It was a former sea gulf filled with the Rhône's alluviums and its tributaries.

One follows the Fountain path and finds again the upwards path.

Thirteenth stop : in the cemetery, "Chapelle Saint Geniès", XIth et XVIIth century.