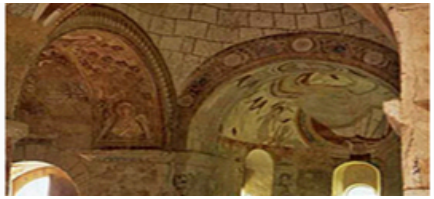


1. The Augustin Monastery

Founded in 1427 by Louis de Bourbon, count of Vendôme. The cloister archways are surmounted by two stories of timber-frame construction. On the ground floor, a huge building surrounded the refectory. The monks cells were situated on the first floor. After very impressive restoration work completed in 2004, you can see 15th century frescoes representing St Augustin teaching monks about fruit trees and birds. The church was situated where the road is today and the convent: the costume museum.

2. The Marescot quarter

The former Augustin monastery was sold as “National Property” in 1791. In 1804, it became a barracks for a garrison which took the name of General de Marescot, a local man and Inspector General of Military Engineering. In 1921 a military company with pigeons took over. In 1961, the area was finally abandoned by the military after 130 years.

3. Cemetery and Saint Laurent des Varennes Church

The foundation of the parochial St Laurent church, surrounded by the old cemetery, probably dates from the 14th century. Abandoned in 1750, the church was used during the Revolution for meetings of the “popular society”. The ruins are a listed building. The remains of the church can be found at the far end of the cemetery on the left.

4. The defensive moat

The trenches were dug during the second half of the 14th century by Jean VI of Montoire. This half circle protected the new town. Reduced in size by 1803, they were planted with trees and finally filled in 1962.

5. Antoine Moreau Hospital

The building houses a former 16th-century residence that belonged to Abbé Moreau (1625–1702), founder of the sisters of charity community. The town hall was housed here until 1969.
The beautiful buildings surrounding the hospital courtyard dating from the 17th century, and the octagonal16th century tower, are both worth studying in detail, as well as the two sundials on the facades. The windows retain some of their original stained glass and delicate iron balcony rails.

6. Town hall

Since 1669, it was a private house in the 18th century. The arms of Montoire appear for the first time in 1215 on the seal of Jean 1st of Montoire. The arms show a minor branch of the main family.

7. St Laurent church

Several times destroyed and rebuilt, the facade dates from the 15th century. It is the third parochial church after those of St Oustrille and St Laurent des Varennes. The gothic central nave, flanked by two lateral naves as well as the chancel, dates from 1859. The stained glass windows were created between 1898 and 1908. The organ, bought second-hand, dates from 1859. The church, burned down several times, has been rebuilt on each occasion.

8. Bandstand

Place Clemenceau : 150 meters long by 100 meters wide. The bandstand of today was built in 1913 over the original waterfountain dating from 1869 which brought water from a source under the medieval castle.

9. Renaissance house

This house also known as « the bailiff’s house » is a magnificent manor house dating from the 16th century. It is the oldest house on the main square. The main windows and attic windows are raised on sculpted pediments. For several years, the house belonged to the landscape painter Charles Busson, born in Montoire in 1822.
It is possible to visit the house during the tourist season.

10. Rue du Boël

Note several fine timber-framed houses ; the old hook of the manorial butchery until 1663 ; the protestant church (the house in carved stone) – then cross the bridge.

11. The house of Gervais Launay

He was born in this house on 22nd November 1804. He was an art teacher in Vendome and joint founder of the Vendome society of archaeology, literature and science.

12. Le Grenier à sel - literally "the salt loft" (storage for tax purposes)

Originally installed in the Rue Saint-Denis, it was transferred in 1663 to a Protestant building in the Rue du Boel. It was returned to the Rue Saint-Denis in 1758. It was a storage place so that salt could be taxed - a tax created in 1342 which lasted until 1790.

13. St Gilles chapel

This 11th century chapel is dedicated to Saint Gilles, a 7th century Benedictine monk. He lived as a hermit in the forest, feeding on the milk of a tame doe. He is said to cure children’s nervous illnesses. During the 16th century, the famous poet Ronsard was head of a priory which owned this chapel. The figures which decorate the chevet are typical of Romanesque architecture. The frescoes to be found in the edifice are masterpieces of French Romanesque painting. They represent three impressive figures of Christ inMajesty.
You can obtain the keys and pay to visit at museum Musikenfete (Quartier Marescot).

14. A view of the Medieval castle

The castle, including the primitive tower which was built on a natural spur during the 11th century, covers an area of 4,500 square metres. Henri IV ordered the dismantling of the castle in 1594 so as to render it indefensible.

15. Castle spring

This spring was the only source of water for the area and the inhabitants of the castle. In 1860, the water was piped across the river and fed into the fountain on the main square.

16. St Oustrille church

The first parish church, it was constructed in the 11th century and extended in the 14th century. Sold as “National Property” during the Revolution, it was saved from destruction in 1950. It is the former parish church of St Oustrille.

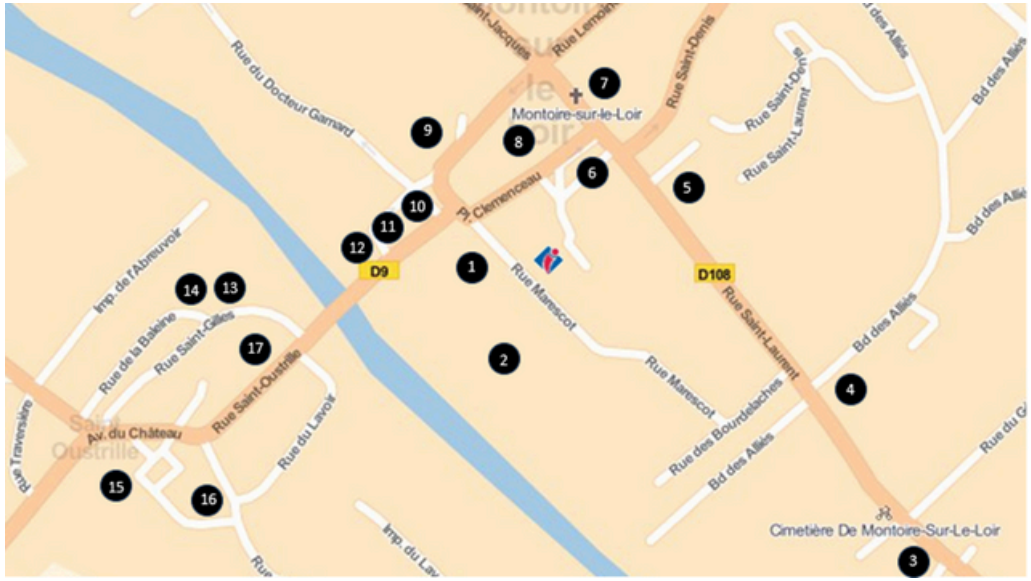
17. « Skittle house »

This house, decorated with wood, is known as the “skittle” house and dates from the Renaissance. It has a remarkable chimney with sculptures representing a game of skittles, hence the name. The huge ball that crowned the sculptures fell in 1915.

This tour invites you to discover the historic heart of Montoire-sur-le-Loir, starting at the Augustinian Convent.
Each site and monument has an information panel on site.
You can also explore the town by downloading the Wivisites app.

For more information, guided tours are available from the Vendôme Tourist Office – Territoires Vendômois.

1. The Augustin Monastery
2. The Marescot quarter
3. Cemetery and Saint Laurent des Varennes Church
4. The defensive moat
5. Antoine Moreau Hospital
6. Town hall
7. St Laurent church
8. Bandstand
9. Renaissance house
10. Rue du Boël
11. The house of Gervais Launay
12. The salt storehouse
13. St Gilles chapel
14. View of the Medieval castle
15. Castle spring
16. St Oustrille church.
17. « Skittle house »



Montoire Tourist Office
Quartier Marescot
02.54.77.05.07 - www.vendome-tourisme.fr

Discovering the town
Montoire-sur-le Loir

Photos crédits : Vendôme Tourisme