

MONFLANQUIN

Lot-et-Garonne



Visit of the Museum

(Heritage Interpretation Center)

*Extending your visit with an
**Audio Guided Visit of the Bastide
of Monflanquin !***

GROUND FLOOR

⌘ What is a bastide?

FIRST FLOOR

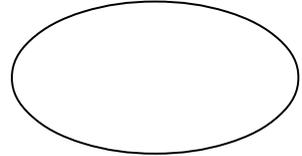
ENTRY

2 The medieval society 

3
The society : Songs
and Tales



5 The town planning



6 Model of
Monflanquin

4
The Kings

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The Contracts

10 Living in the bastide

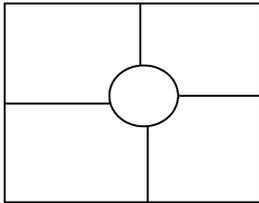
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The Dates

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Agenais



SECOND FLOOR



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Buildings models

12 Medieval garden

13 Streets models



GROUND FLOOR

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Le rôle des abbayes (the role of the abbeys)

L'importance des ordres religieux (the importance of the religious orders)

Le temps des progrès (a time of progress)

Le monde en marche (a world in movement)

From the year 1000, (medieval) Europe's population considerably increased in Europe. Even though life expectancy remained short (around thirty years old), this growth boosted land clearing and generated new villages. At the beginning of the 13th century, progress accelerated and a revolution emerged : techniques improved, towns developed and trade increased.

4 Les Rois (the Kings)

Les bastides de Raymond VII, comte de Toulouse (the bastides of Raymond 7th, earl of Toulouse)

Défaite et reconstruction (defeat and reconstruction)

The rivalry between the Capetian kingdom and the earldom of Toulouse reached its peak during the Cathar crusade. Raymond VI was defeated and his earldom broke down to pieces.

French troops settled down to Languedoc and the Albigensian territory was split into two parts.

Young Raymond VII could house his subjects in new towns providing that they were not fortified. He founded about forty bastides and thus became the real pioneer of this phenomenon.

Les bastides d'Alphonse de Poitiers (the bastides of Alphonse de Poitiers)

L'implantation programmée (a planned network)

For twenty years, Alphonse de Poitiers was both earl of Toulouse and the representative of Capetian authority. He created about fifty bastides and set definitive rules for their foundation.

He pursued several objectives such as :

- controlling his territory peacefully and to asserting Capetian presence through his administration,
- extending his area of influence to the borders of his estates.
- weakening the local lords who, very often, got on with his enemies: the Plantagenet kings.

Les bastides des rois capétiens et Plantagenets (the royal Capetian and Plantagenet bastides)

La lutte d'influence (the struggle for power)

From 1271 on two important figures dominated political life in the South West : the Plantagenet king Edward the 1st and the Capetian seneschal Eustache de Beaumarchais. The increasing rivalry was such that each one placed their bastides like many pawns on the Aquitaine chessboard. Both kingdoms drawn : around fifty bastides were created by the English kings Edward 1st and Edward 2nd, and as many by the French monarchs Philippe 3rd le Hardi and Philippe 4th le Bel. The Hundred Years' War, which was just beginning, was to decide between both lineages.

Le mouvement des bastides (the bastide phenomenon)

Three main periods have left a mark in the 150 years of the creation of bastides :

- From 1222 to 1249, the bastides founded by the Earl of Toulouse, Raymond 7th;
- From 1249 to 1271, the Alphonine bastides, founded by Alphonse de Poitiers who was St Louis' brother and Earl of Toulouse;
- From 1271 to 1373, the royal bastides were all founded either by the seneschals of the Capetian kings for France or by Plantagenet kings for England.

L'urbanisme (the town planning)

La bastide en devenir (the making of a bastide)

What was the aim of building bastides? In order that founders and inhabitants could benefit from it. The authority founding the bastide saw therein an administrative, fiscal and judicial establishment which enabled him to control a part of his territory. The owners of forests or moorlands welcomed this concentration of agriculture which guaranteed a more profitable use of their land. The new inhabitants were concerned about their safety, the liberty granted to them and about the possibility to sell products on markets.

Le processus de fondation (the foundation process)

Création, spoliation, cession ou paréage?(creation, despoilment, transfer or partnership deed ?)

There were several ways of founding a bastide. First, it depended on whether or not the authority owned the land on which it was to be built. When the founder king or the powerful lord owned the land, he could act alone. He could create the bastide as he liked, without any foundation deed. Otherwise, the founder could obtain lands by despoilment. He could also buy them (i.e. a transfer deed) or come to an agreement with the owners in order to create the bastide and to share profits with them (i.e. partnership

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Les modalités du contrat (the terms of the contract)

Les apports des paréages (the contributions of the partners)

The partnership deeds were contracts agreed for life and tacitly renewed by the death of one of the contracting parties : it was a guarantee for the future inhabitants. In the partnership deed, the sovereign authority (earl of Toulouse, the king of France or the king of England) did not bring financial help but he promised to maintain the implementation of the land and especially the security of the foundation, is to say exploiting the farming lands. For the landowners (lay lords or churchmen) they brought their rights on their lands and were prepared to share profits with the sovereign authority.

9 Haut Agenais (The Haut Agenais territory)

Les bastides du Haut Agenais (the bastides in the Haut Agenais)

L'empreinte d'Alphonse de Poitiers (the mark of Alphonse de Poitiers)

At the beginning, the bastides founded by Alphonse de Poitiers in Agenais land were open towns, without any elaborate defensive systems.

Nevertheless, they were created with strategic objectives in mind such as :

- The control of the crossing to the English Perigord with the line of the bastides of Eymet, Castillonès and Villereal along the Dropt valley.
- The neutralization of the power of the border barons who were rather favourable to the Plantagenet domination, especially with the castles of Gavaudun and of Biron “blocking” the bastides of Monflanquin and Villereal.

Le Haut Agenais, un territoire frontière (the Haut Agenais, a border land)

L'alternance des pouvoirs (the alternation of the power)

Throughout the whole period of the bastides, the Haut Agenais was a border zone, the object of repeated quarrels, incessantly passing from one camp to the other. Haut Agenais was a Plantagenet zone from 1152 given to Raymond 7th of Toulouse in 1195, then to Alphonse de Poitiers in 1249.

According to the Treaty of Paris in 1259, Edward 1st took control of the Agenais province in 1279 but Philippe le Bel pronounced the seizure of the duchy of Guyenne in 1294... which was to be ceded back in 1303.

Events thus carried on until the peak of Plantagenet domination around 1360 followed by the long period of the Hundred Year's War and the final Capetian victory at Castillon La Bataille.

La rivalité Capétiens – Plantagenets (the Capetian –Plantagenet rivalry)

For three centuries, from the marriage of Eleanor of Aquitaine to Henri Plantagenet (1152) to the end of the Hundred Year's War (1453), the fight for domination between the two monarchies deeply left their mark on the South

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Un contrat de vie communautaire (a contract for community life)

Les articles d'une charte (the articles of a charter)

The charters of customs did not have systematic plans.

They were rather an accumulation of articles which essentially covered four areas :

- The legal status of the individual, usually written at the beginning of the charter to make an impression, including the asserted individual freedom and the rights to benefit of one's property without fearing authority.
- The administration of the community, including a precise definition of the power given to the bailiff, who was a representative of the founding authority, and the consuls, chosen amongst the town bourgeois.
- The law, included a description of legal procedures and a detailed list of penal sanctions provided for the most common crimes.
- The economic privileges, including the terms of land attribution, the customary rights of forests and quarries use, the management of ovens and butchery, and above all the authorization to hold markets and fairs on fixed dates, together with a list of taxes concerning the exchange of goods.

La charte des coutumes de Monflanquin (the charter of customs of Monflanquin)

Une charte type pour le Haut Agenais (a prototype charter for the Haut Agenais)

Written at the same period as that of Monclar, the charter of customs of Monflanquin was used as a reference for ten other charters granted by Alphonse de Poitiers in Agenais territory such as Ste Foy la Grande, Castillonnès, Miramont de Guyenne and Laparade.

SECOND FLOOR

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Le défi des bastides (the challenge of the bastides)

Seven centuries have gone by since the appearance of the first bastides, seven centuries of dreams, battles, celebration and memories. Today, a worried 20th century tries to slow down its fall towards future by holding onto the roots of past. Time has come for heritage: houses, churches and castles have become monuments. Preserve and protect ! However, the bastides are the results of a process of evolution, shaped by the alternating of development periods and crisis. Their richness did not depend on their buildings but on the ancient relationship that connects a settlement with a developing society.

Their value lies in the links which unite man with environment. As we pass through the bastides of South West, the landscape changes continually but the market halls and the archways have similarities. To the idea of openness there is added that of unity. Time of solidarity has come and the identity of the land of bastides must be asserted. Each time landscapes the world.

The gothic creators established parcels whose straight lines reached to the horizon. By laying out the streets and courtyards, they have left traced out on the ground a veritable social will in which one can read equality and respect. They stated these concepts in medieval terms and the whole challenge of the bastides lies in our capacity to keep alive these principles.

MONFLANQUIN

ESPACES VIDES



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