

Secrets de village... Flassans s/ Issole

Distance: 1,7 km • Start: Jean Jaurès car park

It was around 1200 that dwellings began to assemble around the feudal fortress, creating Vieux-Flassans. The burg came down to the plain between the 16th and 17th centuries, becoming established in the St Michel quarter. By about 1750 the village consisted of three hamlets, the medieval castrum having been gradually abandoned. Flassans' final appearance was determined when the new church was built in the mid-19th century. The Flassans down on the plain is the town we know today.



1 Le pont neuf: the new bridge built to allow Bonaparte's troops to cross during the Italian campaign. The 'vieux pont', or old bridge, (2) was too narrow.

2 The hump-back bridge (pont à dos d'âne): marks the route of the ancient path leading to the original town. It is believed to date from the mid-17th century. This road was named Chemin de Croix in 1907, and led to the 1559 chapel of Notre Dame de la Consolation. The ruins of the houses and of the medieval castle can be seen to the north-east from the bridge. As in other perched villages of this period, the castle is built on top of the spur, and the village covers part of the slopes. The original burg known as the 'haute ville' (upper town) quarter was abandoned around 1800.

3 Le moulin St Michel: this mill is believed to be from the same period as the St Michel area on the neighbouring hill. It was extensively rebuilt around 1820, and converted into a multi-purpose hall in 1987. Built of exposed stone, the mill contains a particularly impressive example of a curved strengthening wall. This wall provided extra weight above the presses, preventing the building from being lifted when the press lever was operated. A canal diverted from the Issole turned a great water wheel in the centre of the building (no longer present).

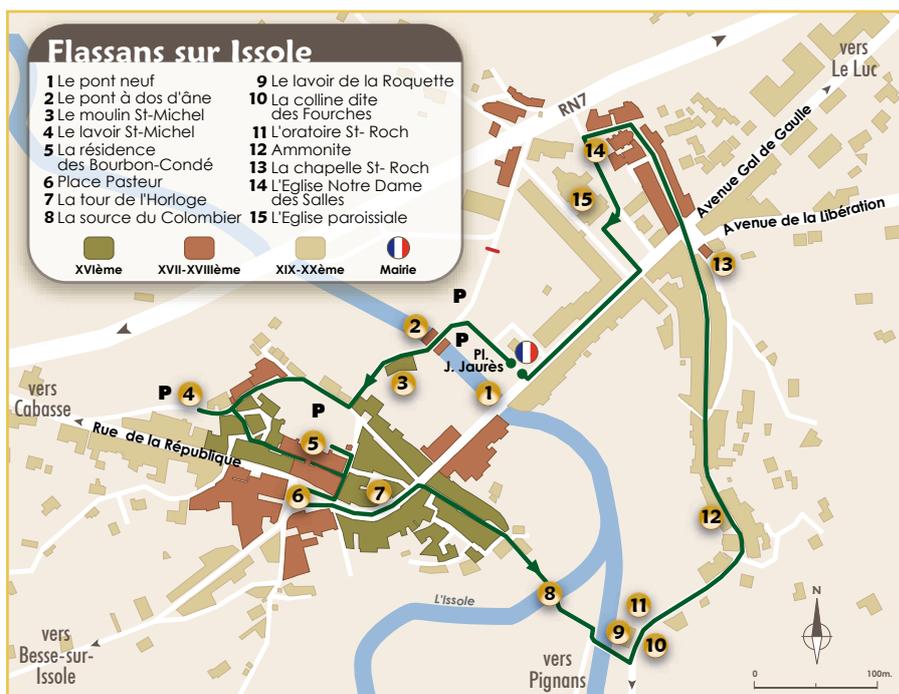
4 Le lavoir St Michel: a public washing place, with a spring that supplied the village up to 1979.

5 Traverse de la source: the north-facing building on the left, dating from the 18th century, is believed to have been the summer residence of the Bourbon-Condé family (the façade is visible from the car park). The covered gallery straddling the alleyway would have connected the house to its outbuildings on the site of the current Place Pasteur. These buildings stand on the site of the second unfortified castle, built between the 16th and 17th centuries.



6 Place Pasteur: a limestone fountain dating from 1853 stands in the centre. A fine door at no. 7 was commissioned by the Segond family to welcome Frédéric Mistral as he travelled through Flassans.

7 La tour de l'Horloge: this clock tower was rebuilt in 1782, and served as the tower for the chapel of St Michel, which was destroyed when the main road was built (the current Avenue De Gaulle, formerly the RN7).



8 La source du Colombier: this spring was tapped around 1400, and the massive structure was built to channel the waters of the Issole during floods.

9 Le lavoir de la Roquette: an old washing place, renovated in 1999.

10 La colline dite des Fourches: known as the 'hill of forks', where bandits were hanged on oak trees cut in the shape of forks, to deter wrongdoers.

11 L'oratoire St Roch: processions and blessings of the terroir or agricultural land took place at this oratory up until the late 1960s.

12 At 71 rue des Boyers: a large ammonite fossil, discovered when the rendering was removed.

13 La chapelle St Roch: a chapel erected in 1725 to give thanks for the protection of the village during the plague of 1720-1722.

14 The former parish church of Notre Dame des Salles: built in 1673 on the site of the medieval church. As at Le Luc, the neighbouring burg also built on a spur, the medieval church was located on the plain, outside the town walls.

15 The parish church: came into service on 1871 to replace the church of Notre Dame des Salles. There is an altar dedicated to St Bernard, the patron saint of the village. In 1604, Henri IV granted the right to hold the annual fair on 20 August, St Bernard's day. The war memorial in front of the church shows the dates 1914-1919 since some soldiers died after the end of the war.

04 98 10 43 59 | tourisme@coeurduvar.com

www.coeurduvartourisme.com

Rejoignez-nous

