

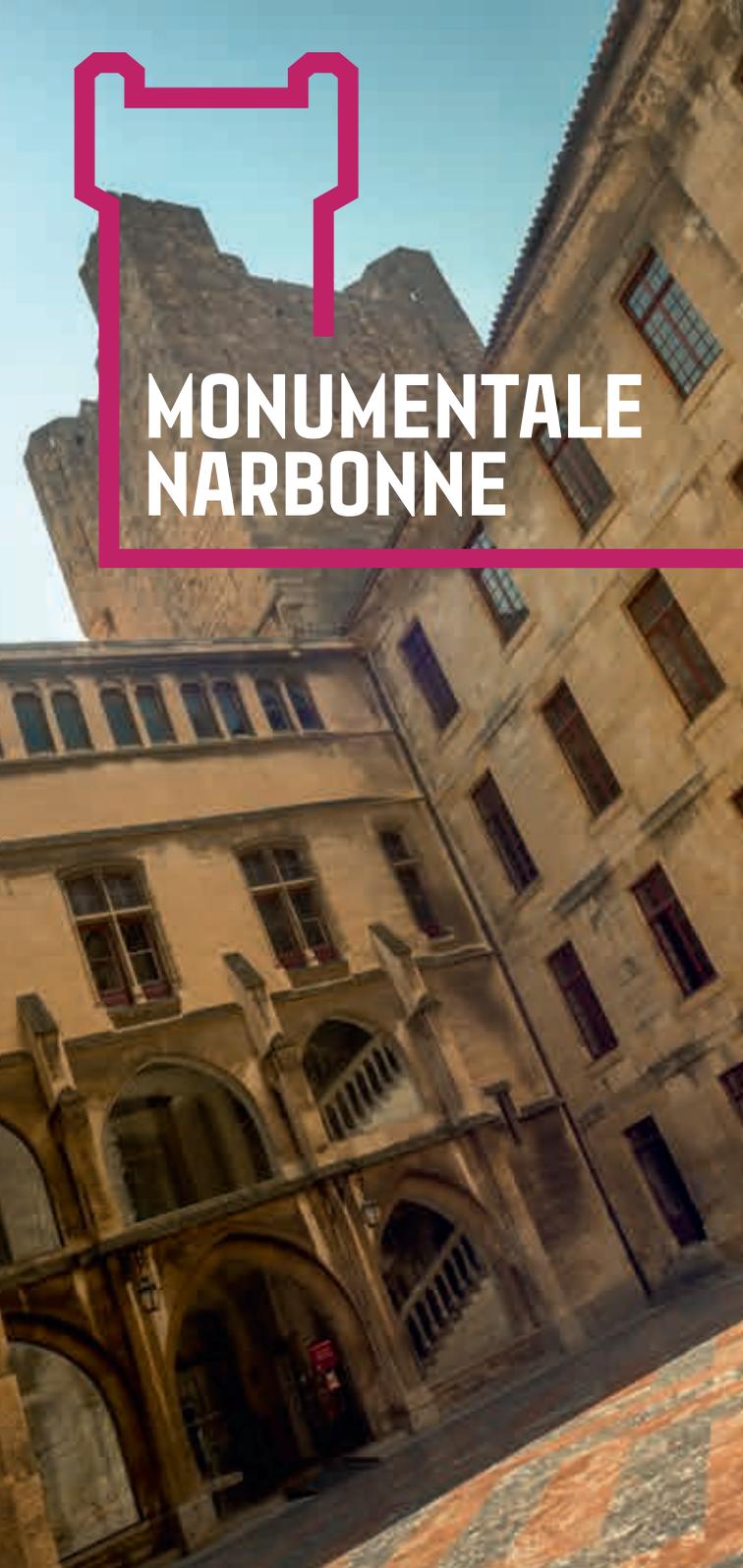


# PALAIS DES ARCHEVÊQUES AND CATHEDRAL

TOURIST  
ITINERARY



Narbonne  
AU CŒUR DES POSSIBLES



# MONUMENTALE NARBONNE

## Welcome to the Palais des Archevêques !

The Palais des Archevêques de Narbonne (Archbishops' Palace) and the Cathédrale Saint-Just et Saint-Pasteur (Saint Justus and Saint Pastor Cathedral) are a remarkable ensemble of historic buildings, located at the south-west corner of the medieval city walls. Both a residence and a fortress, the Palace is the work of several archbishops and the famous architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc. Stroll under its arches, along the paved entrance way and marvel at the magnificent architecture of this impressive edifice, with its series of internal courtyards, towers, lodgings and ceremonial rooms. The Palace also houses a rich collection of artworks.



The Palace is included in an ambitious renovation campaign, the aim of which is to upgrade the museum and to reorganize its layout and collections of prehistoric and medieval archaeology and art in order to meet the expectations of today's visitors. The city's Roman collections are set to join the new Musée Régional de la Narbonne Antique (MuRÉNA).



## DONJON GILLES-AYCELIN

### ACCESS:

Via the entrance hall of the Palace



#### 1 — LE DONJON

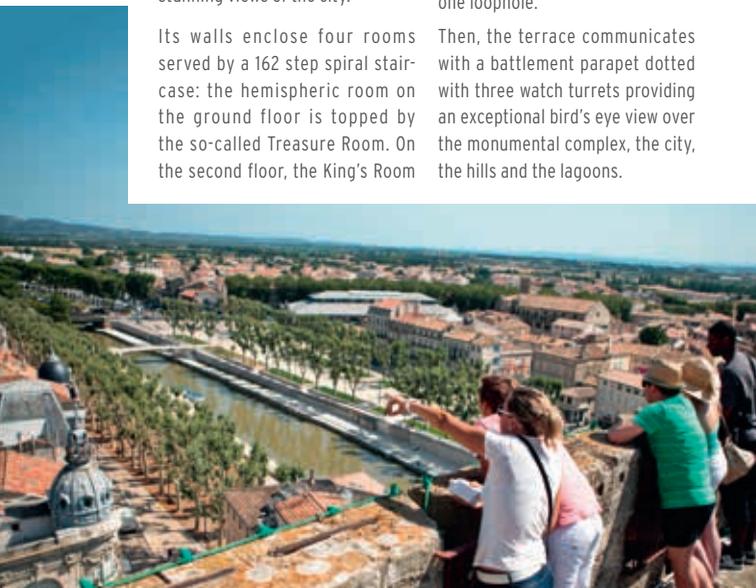
This impressive square tower, built between 1295 and 1306 by the Archbishop Gilles Aycelin at the south-east corner of the Palais Neuf (New Palace) measures 42 metres in height and is crowned with a bartizan (turret). Climb up the spiral staircase (162 steps) to the viewing platform and enjoy stunning views of the city.

Its walls enclose four rooms served by a 162 step spiral staircase: the hemispheric room on the ground floor is topped by the so-called Treasure Room. On the second floor, the King's Room

was decorated in the 17th century. It is accessible from the archbishops' apartments.

Above, the defense room perfectly exemplifies the defensive purpose of this keep. Its cross vault is 8,50 m high and, on three sides, three embrasures built in the thickness of the wall serve five firing cells with one loophole.

Then, the terrace communicates with a battlement parapet dotted with three watch turrets providing an exceptional bird's eye view over the monumental complex, the city, the hills and the lagoons.



## THE OLD PALACE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

### ACCESS:

Via the main Palace courtyard

Visit the Palais Vieux (Old Palace) and discover the medieval rooms with their authentic decor (former Madeleine Chapel and the room with the painted ceiling), as well as the beautiful Madeleine Courtyard with its panoramic view of the Théodard Bell Tower and the apse of the cathedral. The rooms of the Old Palace also house a magnificent collection of archaeological artefacts (the interior of the museum is currently undergoing renovation).



#### 2 — FORMER MADELEINE CHAPEL (1273)

Flanked by a small oratory with painted decoration representing the Crucifixion, Annunciation, the Church and the Synagogue (1273-1279).

the Narbonne region and features the famous Jugnes Sword dating from the Bronze Age.



#### 5 — MADELEINE COURTYARD

The courtyard is surrounded on two sides by the Palais Vieux (Old Palace). From the courtyard, visitors can admire a wonderful Roman portal in white marble on the first floor of the Palace, while the



#### 3 — ROOM WITH PAINTED CEILING

Early 13th century, the oldest of its kind in the south of France, decorated with floral and animal motifs, imaginary creatures, and war scenes depicting soldiers in action.



#### 6 — THÉODARD BELL TOWER

can be seen to the west. This tower is the only visible part of the Carolingian Cathedral from this location. To the north-west, the apse of the Cathedral and the Tinal may be seen.



#### 4 — TINAL (FORMER CELLAR/STOREROOM)

This space is dedicated to the prehistoric and protohistoric archaeological collections from



## THE NEW PALACE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

### 9 ACCESS:

**7**— Via the main courtyard and the main Palace staircase (see arrow on map)

A visit to the Palais Neuf (New Palace), built between the 14th and 17th centuries, allows the public to discover the former apartments of the archbishops and the magnificent art collections of the City of Narbonne. Admire the beautiful collection of 17th and 18th century earthenware; paintings by European schools from the 16th to the 19th century; furniture and a large collection of oriental paintings presented in an exotic and original setting. The sumptuous exhibition spaces and their decor are worth a visit alone: the Hearing Room dating from 1634—don't forget to look up at the painted ceiling!—the King's Room (1633), the Grand Gallery (1851), and the Archbishops' Dining Room (18th century), decorated with plaster mouldings inspired by nature and hunting.

### 8— SYNOD BUILDING

Adjoining the ramparts of the Old Town, and built during the second half of the 14th century, under the Archbishop Pierre de la Jugie, the Synod Building houses the Consul Room on the ground floor (accessible during exhibitions) and the famous Synod Room on the first floor. The latter may be visited as part of the Old Palace itinerary, depending on the schedule of exhibitions.

### 9— MAIN STAIRCASE

The main staircase, with its four flights of stairs decorated with balustrades, leading to the 17th-century archbishops' apartments, was built in 1628 in a medieval tower within the city walls.

### 10— FORMER ARCHBISHOPS' APARTMENTS AND ART COLLECTIONS

Several remarkable rooms serve as the setting for the museum's collections: the Guards' Room (1634); the King's Room (coffered ceiling painted on the theme of the nine muses dating from 1632); the Grand Gallery built by Viollet-le-Duc where Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *Wedding Dance* is exhibited (1620); the Oratory (14th century), and the Dining Room, decorated with plaster mouldings depicting hunting scenes (late 18th century).

## THE CLOISTER, AND ARCHBISHOPS' GARDEN

### 9 ACCESS:

Passage de l'Ancre, Palais des Archevêques

 Access Gustave Fabre street

### 11— SAINT JUSTUS CLOISTER

This Gothic cloister connects the Archbishops' Palace to the fortified apse of the cathedral. It was built where the nave of the former preRomanesque cathedral was first located. Its tower, the so-called Theodard tower is still visible. Work began in 1349 (north, east and west galleries), then, after it was interrupted, resumed in 1417 (south gallery and doorway on the Palace side). Its four galleries with cross vaults which are now being restored are lit by five arcades with pointed arches. On its eastern side, the cloister communicates with the Annociade chapel (XVth century), accessible from the cathedral. The galleries were also used as a cemetery as shown by the funeral recesses carved in the thickness of the south and west walls.

### 12— ARCHBISHOPS' GARDEN AND TERRACE AND ARTWORK BY LILIAN BOURGEAT

This is the first large ornamental garden in Narbonne and dates from the beginning of the 17th century. Planning for the garden was approved by the Archbishop Louis de Vervins. The garden was located above the moat of the old city ramparts. The ruins of the old walls can be seen when viewed from a height. Walk to the terrace and climb onto the famous huge bench, Banc Public, created by contemporary artist Lilian Bourgeat.





## CATHEDRAL

### ACCESS:

Saint Justus Cloister



Access Armand-Gautier street



### 13 — CHOIR OF THE SAINT JUSTUS AND SAINT PASTOR CATHEDRAL

It was built against the ramparts of the medieval city, following the example of the great buildings of northern France. The cathedral offers an ambitious apse, the only part which was actually completed. Built between 1272 and 1330 in a rayonnant Gothic style, the apse was topped with its more than 40 m high vault in 1332, when the canons took possession of the place. Its style incarnates the desire of Narbonne's archbishops to build in the way of the great stone vessels which already existed in Ile de France region, cradle of the kingdom. Powerful, overwhelming, refined, it houses numerous masterpieces.



### 14 — RETABLE AND REMARKABLE ELEMENTS

The sculpted and painted altarpiece of the side chapel (1370s); the tomb of Pierre de la Jugie (same period); the stained-glass chapel windows (early 14th century); the high altar (late 17th century), and the grand organ of Christophe Mouchere! (1739-1741).



## TREASURY

### ACCESS:

Saint Michel Chapel,  
Saint Justus and Saint Pastor cathedral



### 15 — ANNONCIADE CHAPEL AND TREASURY

This two-storey building dating from the early 15th century can be accessed via the choir of the Cathedral. On the ground floor, visitors can admire the delightful Annonciade Chapel, and on the first floor, the Treasury, also called Chapter's Room. It is a square room topped with a brick cupola, which from one corner to the other causes a curious acoustic phenomenon. Indeed you will be able to experience the sound propagation.

The Treasure offers outstanding works from Carolingian period to Modern era: an ivory panel of a Gospel book carved in the IXth century, a Hispano-Moorish pyxide of the XIth century, Archbishop Pierre de la Jugie's illuminated manuscript book, the fascinating tapestry of the Creation of the World (Brussels workshops, around 1500) and other liturgical objects which show the magnificence of Narbonne's archbishops.



### 16 — SAINT-EUTROPE COURTYARD (early 18th - 19th century)

Despite its magnificent choir, Narbonne Cathedral is incomplete. Construction work on the transept known as the Cour Saint-Eutrope was interrupted by the Hundred Years' War. The transept extends westward from the closing wall of the choir and is surrounded by high walls, but has no roof, evoking a romantic ruin.

### ACCESS:



Access Gustave-Fabre street



# LE PLAN

- 1** — Dorgeon
- 2** — Former Madeleine Chapel and Tower (1273)
- 3** — Room with painted ceiling, early XIII<sup>th</sup> century
- 4** — Tinal (Former wine cellar)
- 5** — Madeleine courtyard
- 6** — Theodard Bell Tower
- 7** — Honour courtyard
- 8** — Synod building - XIV<sup>th</sup> century
- 9** — Grand staircase
- 10** — Former archbishops' apartments and art collections
- 11** — Saint-Just cloister
- 12** — Archbishops' garden and terrace and work 'Banc public' by Lilian Bourgeat
- 13** — Choir de la cathédrale Saint-Just et Saint-Pasteur
- 14** — Retable XIV century
- 15** — Annonciade Chapel and Treasury room
- 16** — Saint-Eutrope courtyard, early XVIII<sup>th</sup> - XIX<sup>th</sup> centuries
- 17** — Public washroom
- 18** — Palace shop, ticket counter, access to the Dorgeon.





## OPENING HOURS

### PALAIS DES ARCHEVÊQUES

FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 31 MAY:  
10am-12pm and 2pm-5pm.  
Closed Tuesdays.

FROM 1 JUNE TO 30 SEPTEMBER:  
Daily, 10am-6pm.

Closed 1 January, 1 May, 1 & 11 November  
and 25 December.

### CATHEDRAL TREASURY

FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 30 JUNE:  
visits on request to the caretaker from  
10am-11.45am and 2pm-5.45pm, closed  
Tuesdays (except in June) and Sunday  
mornings.

FROM 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER:  
Daily, 10am-11.45am and 2pm-5.45pm.  
Closed Sunday mornings.

## VILLE DE NARBONNE PALAIS DES ARCHEVÊQUES CULTURE AND HERITAGE DEPARTMENT

Palais des Archevêques - Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville - B.P. 823  
11108 Narbonne Cedex

### MUSEUM CONSERVATION

Tel. + 33 (0)4 68 90 30 54 / Email: [musees@mairie-narbonne.fr](mailto:musees@mairie-narbonne.fr)

### ARCHITECTURE AND HERITAGE COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

Tel. + 33 (0)4 68 90 26 38 / Email: [franc@mairie-narbonne.fr](mailto:franc@mairie-narbonne.fr)

### GUIDED TOURS SERVICE

Narbonne Tourist Office / Tel. + 33 (0)4 68 90 30 66 or + 33 (0)4 68 65 15 60  
Email: [cabrier@mairie-narbonne.fr](mailto:cabrier@mairie-narbonne.fr)

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Group tours by reservation only.*

[www.musees-narbonne.fr](http://www.musees-narbonne.fr)

