

LAURAGAIS TOURISME

TOURIST OFFICE

NaillouxOutletVillage

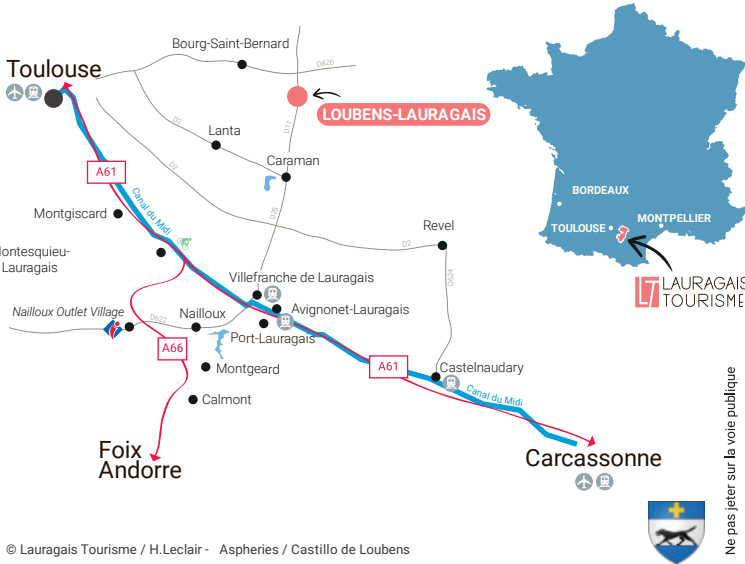
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LOUBENS-LAURAGAIS

The Pastel blue land



LAURAGAIS
TOURISME
Au cœur du midi toulousain



Follow your guide and discover this beautiful village and its monuments !
Meander through streets, in the church and around the castle (under condition)
windmill. It might be possible to visit the park of the

Contact us:

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Enjoy a guided tour!

Special Groups



Farming and Pastel business
Loubens is a village in the middle of "Blue Gold's Triangle" (between Alb, Toulouse, and Carcassonne); it actively contri-
bute to the business of Pastel. This plant, called Isatis
Tinctoria, was used to dye tissues in blue. Producers of
Pastel let the leaves ferment, then created balls of it.
called "Cocagne". Finally they chopped cocagne and
used powders for dying.



■ A fascinating history

The name "Loubens" appears for the first time during the 13th century when the knight Guillaume de Loubens, who was born in La Réole in Gironde, accompanied Raymond IV, Earl of Toulouse, during the First Crusade. When he came back, he set up himself in this region and built a first "Castle" but nowadays there is almost no visible trace. During the Albigensian Crusade, lords of the manor were suspected of being heretic, like a large part of the gentry. They lost their castles and titles in 1297.
During the 17th century, Philip and his son Jacques transformed the castle with Renaissance architecture. They changed insides and outsides thanks to the fortune they made with pastel business. The following century is also important: the family pecked with lots of wedding alliances and political omnipresence.



1 Notre-Dame de Loubens Church

Built during the XVth century in the middle of the village and along the castle's moat, the church has an impressive tower at the bottom of the bell tower with three rooms : They were used for archiving, and for a spotter to supervise and protect in case of any potential attack. The tombs of the Lords of Loubens used to be in the church. Inside, the paintings that were restored in 1950 by Vialaret (opening under condition), are really surprising..



2 The Castle

It is built on the remains of the old castle raised by the family Loubens from La Réole in Gironde during the XIth century. The House was adapted with renaissance Architecture during the XVIth century thanks to the business of pastel. Today, this private property has a listed garden, with olds barns, furnished flats...

Opening in June during "Rendez-vous Aux Jardins" and in September during the European Heritage Days - Groups need to book.



3 The Black Madonna

This statue is a black virgin Mary seated on a wolf. It was created in 1950 by Regis Vialaret, a vicar's friend. According to the legend, the Virgin Mary saved a child that was attacked by a wolf.



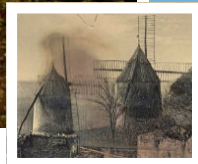
5 Alleyway

This narrow street was covered to be a passage between the down street with windmills and the high street with the covered market. Walking through it, you will see a yellow sign: it is a part of a 12 kms' hike from here to Le Faget!



4 The Old Windmill

Perched on a butress of the wall, this old restored windmill had a twin at the origin. They were Loubens' estate but they were sold in 1850. In 1935, the last miller died and windmills lost their wings, because the owners had to pay taxes for the winds.



After a fire, the second windmill was abandonned and destroyed.



6 The Covered Market

Built in the middle of the village, the covered market was the main place for meetings and tradings. There were measures

of grains for everybody. During the XIXth century, there was a dungeon after the door (ground floor). The first floor was a room for auction sales. People sold their cereals with candles.

At the beginning of the XXth century, it was a rehearsal room for the music's school of Loubens.

7 Charming streets

By walking through the streets, you will discover charming houses with timber frame and bricks. The blue shutters remind us of the old lucrative business. Some have the ground floor in stones: it's really prestigious, rocks are unusuals and expensive in Lauragais.

