



# DISCOVERING VILLERÉAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Villeréal is a village with a rich and exciting history. Come and discover it...



Villeréal is one of almost 300 bastides in the South-West of France. Its history is directly linked to King Saint-Louis' brother, Alphonse of Poitiers. He was a powerful prince married to Jeanne of Toulouse, and as such, heir to the Agenais territories belonging to Raymond VII. This is how many bastides, new towns, were built, in the frontier zone between the Agenais and Perigord: Monflanquin, Monclar, then Villeréal in 1267.

The bastide was built in only four years, whereas its creator died in a crusade having returned from North Africa. The regulations granted to the inhabitants of the 'Royal Town' survived him. They could, for example, express their opinions and make decisions about taxes. Like all the new towns in the region, Villeréal has a chess-board structure. The Halle (market place) is positioned in the centre of a large central square. This Halle is exceptionally well preserved and has an upper storey made of wattle and daub. Today it houses the premises of Radio 4, the local radio. Its fortified church is set back from the town centre which is dedicated to commerce.

Everywhere you can see traces of medieval structures : half-timbered houses, cantilevered houses, old-style enclosed gardens. All this hereditary richness explains why Villeréal has been classified amongst the Most Beautiful French Villages since 2018. In addition to its architectural heritage you will notice that the village is as lively as in its early days, hosting many events, the traditional Saturday and other markets, exhibitions, second-hand markets, concerts, horse-racing, a bodega, etc.

Welcome to our bastide !

[Rediscover Villeréal's history.](#)

If you prefer paper, the book entitled "Mémoire de Villeréal" is made for you ! Written by Jean-Paul Epinette and a small group of enthusiasts in 2019 on the occasion of the celebration of the 750 years of the bastide, it contains almost 100 pages of text and illustrations retracing the history of our village, from the Middle Ages up to the time of Bissière (painter) and Doisneau (photographer), including on the way, the mills on the river Dropt, the Abouriou (a wine variety) and the Bureau circus. As a bonus it includes a DVD rich in videos, of these last fifty years.

This book is offered free of charge to every Villeréal household (owners or renters) at the Town Hall (Mairie) on presentation of proof of residence. Non-Villeréal persons can buy it for 10.30 € at the Tourist office or the Mairie.



**tèrra aventura**  
GeoCaching Nouvelle-Aquitaine

If you want to discover Villereal in an original way, you can try the « Terra aventura » route ! This fun walk in the form of a treasure-hunt, ideal for a family, allows them to walk around Villereal looking for the clues leading to the treasure : the Poi'z. These are characterful little people who live in the universe called « Terra Aventura », and guide you around the village. They have badges to collect. All you need is the mobile App or the leaflet on the route, to set off on your adventure. With the clues to be collected and the puzzles to solve, you will be able to discover the region, local heritage and folklore stories while you play.

The route is one kilometre in length; in one hour you have nine puzzles to challenge you.

[Discover the route](#)