

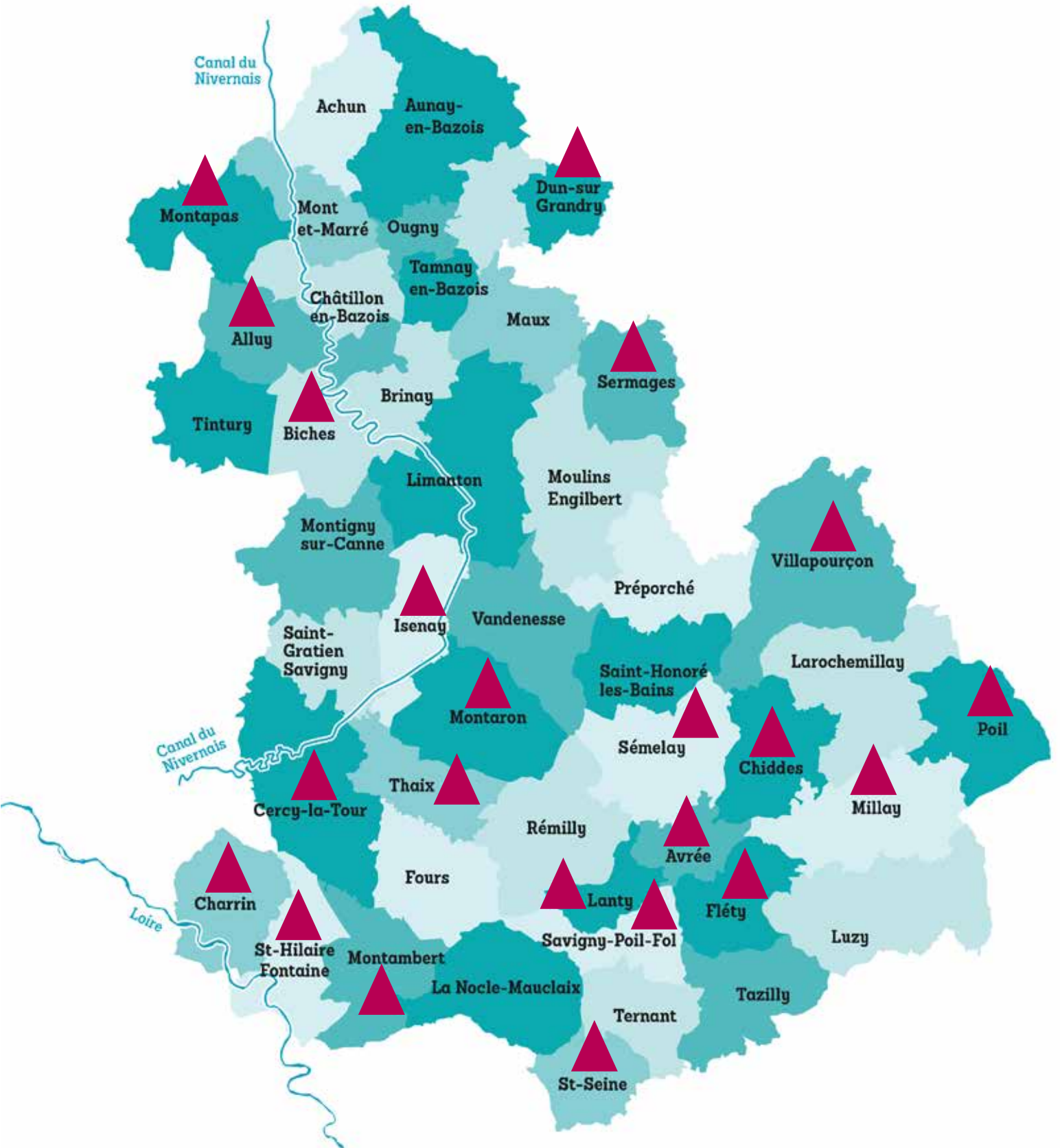


RI V ES
DU MOR V AN
OFFICE DE TOURISME

ROMAN CHURCHES TOUR



Map of Roman churches on the *Rives du Morvan*



▲ Roman church

Alluy - Saint Pierre and Saint Paul

Only the crypt from the end of the 12th century and the bulk of the gate remain of the roman church. Extended by a north aisle and a lateral chapel in the 15th century, the church was rebuilt in the 19th century. The crypt contains one of the most beautiful mural painting programs of the Nièvre-Department, dated from early 15th century.

Guided visits organized by Tourist Office some afternoon.



Avrée – Sainte Madeleine

The partly roman church is located at the northeast end of the village. It is approximately oriented. It seems that the bell tower (listed as an ancient monument) and the apse date back to 12th century. The bell tower's geminated windows are large sized and open in semi-circular arched. The nave's lateral door, the washbasin, and the holy water font are rustic elements dated from 16th century.

Church open every day.



Biches – Saint Victor

Two columns of the chevet with bas-relief carved capitals remain of the roman church. The building was modified in the 16th and 19th centuries.

Please contact the town council to visit the church.





Cercy-la-Tour - Saint Pierre

Roman church from the 11th century (1080), with a nave, an apse with two absidioles, and a transept whose the crossing is under the massive tower bell with geminated windows. Many renovation work were made in the 19th century. The church is listed as an ancient monument by an instruction dated July 7th 1987.

Open every day from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm, especially during summer. Closed earlier in winter, before nightfall.



Charrin- Saint Martin

Roman church dated from the 12th century and the chancel from the 11th century. The mural paintings would date from the 12th century. They came out during renovation work in the 19th century. The small flat tiles of the roof are made in terracotta of the area.

Open during the day.



Chiddes – Saint Maurice

No more religiously used after 1902, the old roman church is located on a private field. Only remain the simple apse with a vaulted semi-dome and the unique chancel's span, topped by a square tower bell with three geminated windows. The current church was built between the end of the 19th and the middle of the 20th century.

Private building – no visit.

Commagny (Moulins-Engilbert) - Saint Laurent

The church was founded in the 11th century. Nowadays, only remain the prior's house (rebuilt in the 15th century) and the well-preserved 12th century-architecture of the church. However, the furniture was destroyed during the religion wars in the 16th century.

Many architectural elements to discover inside the church: nave with a beautiful panelled frame, vaulted chancel with pilaster strips (very rare in Nivernais), illustrated capitals from 12th century.

Currently in renovation work. Reopening planned for 2025.



Dun-sur-Grandry - Saint Jean-Baptiste

The apse is the sole original element from the 12th century. It contains three strongly splayed windows.

The nave dates from the 16th century. The sacristy, the confessional, the baptismal font and the chapel were built in the 19th century.

Please contact the town council to visit the church.



Fléty – Saint Léger

The sole original element is the bell tower flanking the building in the middle, dating from the 11th century. The church was deeply modified in the 16th century (chapel) and more recently for the chancel.

The very simple inside of the church is however topped by two remarkable



showing a Virgin with the Child, and an altarpiece from the 17th century with two tabernacles.

Please contact the town council to visit the church (Monday 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm / Thursday 8.30 am – 12.00 pm).



Isenay – Sainte Marie-Madeleine

The former roman church from the 12th century was modified in the 15th century – but nothing remains of this building. The church was mainly rebuilt during the second half of the 19th century.

Church open during the day in summer. Please contact the house in front of the church or the town council to visit the church in winter.



Lanty - Notre Dame de la Nativité

Oriented church, with a simple plan in Latin cross and a bell tower in nave. A semi-circular vaulted apse constitutes the chancel.

The barrel-vaulted transept crossing is topped by a squared bell tower with geminated windows. Except the sacristy (on the left of the chancel), the church dates from the 12th century. Its nave was raised at a more recent but unknown date.

Please contact the town council to visit the church.



Millay - Saint Maurice

This oriented church was built in the 12th century, planned in Latin cross with apses and very small semi-circular absidioles. The bell tower is erected on transept

crossing. Its construction would date from the 11th century. The original plan of the building is preserved, despite many works after collapses.

Church daily open during the day.

Montambert – Saint Pierre

First priory church then parish church, this building is an example of what is sometimes named "Nivernais roman style". The main elements (crossings, chapel and base of the bell tower) date from the 11th and 12th centuries. Montambert is a Clunisian site.

Church daily open, closing at 5.00 or 6.00 pm.



Montapas - Saint Pierre

Originally in roman style and built in the 12th century, the church was rebuilt in several phases in the 15th, 16th and 19th centuries. It replaces a chapel from the 12th century.

Church daily open during the day.



Montaron - Notre Dame de l'Assomption

Parish church in roman style. The name came lately, but the church was already dedicated to the Virgin in mid-12th century. The building was modified in the 15th and 16th centuries. The main interest of this church is its mural paintings (end 14th century). Its bell tower's roof is chestnut-shingled.

Discover the church's history thanks to information panels.

Church open every Thursday from 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm.





Poil - Saint Romain

The apse and the bell tower on the transept square remain of the roman church. The other parts of the building date from the 16th and 19th centuries.

Visit of the church on demand, to Auberge de Poil, Gîtes du Moulin de Poil or town council.



Saint-Hilaire-Fontaine - Saint Hilaire

The chancel is in roman style while the nave and its gable front topped by a centred bell tower were built in the 19th century in neo-roman style.

Daily open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm.



Saint-Seine - Saint Seine

Roman church topped by a massive bell tower with a pink sandstone great door from the 12th century. This gate has an interesting low diamond-decorated archivolt. Some additions of gothic elements on the church date from the 16th century. Have a look at its vaulted apse. Its interior coving is decorated with salient volutes.

Please contact the bar-restaurant "Au Saint-Seine" to visit the church.



Savigny-Poil-Fol - Saint Georges

The church is isolated, with a prolonged plan, its chevet turned toward the northeast. Its façade is original: it opens on a hall with two barrel vaulted chapels and topped by a narrow bell tower, perhaps more recent. The apse is the oldest part of the church, dating from the 11th or 12th century. Its structure

has preserved its homogeneity despite some renovation work. The inside was renovated in 2000.

Please contact "le Potager de Séguret" to visit the church.

Sémelay – Saint Pierre

This church is oriented, plan in Latin cross with apse and circular absidioles, the bell tower stands on transept crossing. Built during the second middle of the 12th century, this former prior church was under the control of the Abbey of Cluny. After a period without maintenance, the church was renovated in the 19th century. This building is listed as a Historical Monument. It also belongs to the Clunisian sites network. Have a look at its remarkable set of roman capitals.

Church daily open from 8.30 am to 6.00 pm.



Sermages – Saint Pierre

Church dating from the 12th, 15th, 16th and 19th centuries. Its bell tower is in roman style but the other parts are more recent.

Please contact Mister Montaron (+33 6 82 44 88 48) to visit the church



Thaix – Saint Martin

Mentioned in the 13th century, this church has a roman nave and a gothic chancel its carpentered bell tower is more recent.

No visit possible.



Villapourçon – Saint Symphorien

Roman church mentioned in the 13th century, it would be erected on a Merovingian or a Carolingian graveyard. The dates of the different renovation work are uncertain, except the bell tower's reconstruction in 1844.

The weighing machine (for animals and cereal bags) and the cattle's attach bars are located behind the church, remains of traditional fair trades in the past.

Please contact the town council (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm / 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm) to make a reservation for visiting the church. A municipal councillor will lead the visit.



GLOSSARY

Absidiole: Small apse around the apse.

Altar: Table intended to sacrifices. For the Christians, table intended to celebrate Mass. Located in the chancel of the church.

Altarpiece: A piece of furniture made of wood or stone located behind the altar that seems to be functional (tiers intended to receive liturgical objects). During Middle Ages, the altarpieces became more common, with a decorative function and representing painted or carved scenes of the life of Christ, the Virgin and the Saints. Their importance grew in the 17th and 18th centuries and they became art supports.

Apse: Semi-circular part of a church, behind the altar.

Archivolt: Moulding, superior design on a gate curve or a simple opening.

Baptismal font: Basin located close to the entry of the church, sometimes a small pit referring to the immersion during the baptism.

Bell tower: Tower, wall, with openings, campanile, intended to hold the bells.

Capital: Cut stone, often carved, topping a column, a pilaster or a pillar that opens out to support the springing of the arches. Decorated element with moulding and diverse

details that crowns the drums of a column or a pillar.

Chancel: Part of the church intended to the clergy and the cantors.

Chapel: Space - independent or integrated in a church - with an altar, linked to a place (castle, hospital,...) or to a group (religious community for example). The word first meant the place where the cope (coat) of Saint Martin was preserved.

Confessional: Kind of closed cubbyhole where the confessor receives the penitent.

Crypt: Underground of the church, where is located (most of the time) the grave of a Saint or a martyr, above which the church was built.

Cul-de-four: Semi dome or quarter sphere vault.

Geminated windows: Windows separated in two parts by a column.

Lombardy bands: Vertical band of projection linked above by small arches, mainly located on the chevet of roman churches.

Nave: Central part of the church - leading to the chancel - where the faithful stand. The churches have one or several naves. Next to the central nave, the lateral naves (side or aisle). The transversal nave is called transept.

Sacristy: Annexe of the church where are kept the priestly vestments and the liturgical ornaments.

Semi-circular arche: Interior curve of a vault, an arcade, a semi-circular curve.

Stoup: Vessel intended to holy water that Christians use for sign of the cross when entering the church.

Tabernacle: Small cupboard that contains the consecrated hosts.

Transept: Transversal nave crossing the main nave and giving to the church the symbolic form of the Cross. When the transept is longer than the width of the building (nave and chancel), it is called "salient". The intersection of the nave and the transept is named "transept crossing". The transept's parts located on both sides of the crossing are crosspieces.

Volute: Spiral scroll, especially for decoration of capitals.

Washbasin: Small basin dug into the stone where is poured the water intended to hand wash by the priest (ceremony named "of lavabo").

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Crédits photos : Yves Nivot (église de Lanty) et Office de tourisme Rives du Morvan.



13 Rue Henri Renaud - 58360 Saint-Honoré-les-Bains - France
Tél. +33 3 86 30 43 10

tourisme@rivesdumorvan.fr
www.rivesdumorvan.fr