

18 Napoleon fountain

Returning down the Grand'Rue and on the right, the rue de la Fraternité, the old prison square with its "Napoleon" fountain, recognisable by its hop flower.



19 Place de la Sinne and Friedrich Fountain

In the middle of Place de la Sinne : the fountain sculpted by a Ribeauvillé native, André Friedrich in 1862. It represents the Town of Ribeauvillé, its agriculture and industry. The old fountain was used as the town gauge (zinnen in German)

which is why it is called Place de la Sinne. You can see the Auberge du Soleil inn (once the meeting place of the village musicians), the Auberge du Mouton inn (old post house) and the Cour des baillis (Cultural centre).

20 House where J.B. Wendling and Mrs Bartholdi were born

N°6, rue de l'Eglise: birthplace of the mother of Auguste Bartholdi, creator of the Statue of Liberty, and of Jean-Baptiste Wendling, flautist and friend of Mozart. Back to the Grand'Rue.



21 Auberge and Fontaine au Cerf

It shows Ribeaupierre coat of arms. Jean-Jacques, the last lord in the line, lived there: he died in 1673.



22 Porch with coat of arms and earthquake-proof house

N°4, rue de la Fraternité: a beautiful half-timbered house with earthquake-proof system with king-post and tenon (second half of 15th century). Porch with cooper's coat of arms (1740). In the courtyard, glass-makers' coats of arms (1582).



23 Siedel House

House (butchers) with beautiful half-timbering, curule chairs and "gugloch" (small side window where you can see without being seen).



24 Old Town Hall

Bisser House, old communal house or town hall, with Ribeauvillé coats of arms (1544).



25 Butchers' Tower Old abattoir

The Butchers' Tower, which separated the "Old Town" from the "Middle Town", so named because of the abattoir and butchers' stalls located just beside it, at the entrance to the "Middle Town".



26 Town Hall, Ribeaupierre Treasure

The Town Hall (1773) and Market Place (weekly market). It houses a collection of solid silver goblets (15th-17th century) donated to the Town by the Lords of Ribeaupierre. The walls of the "Red Room" (Town Council meeting room) are decorated with red Andrinople fabric produced by Ets Steiner (now Beauvillé) circa 1845.



27 Saint Catherine's Chapel

The chapel of the main hospital was first listed in 1346. It was used as a sepulchre by the Ribeaupierre family, whose arms can be seen in the remarkable crown of the gothic style arch over the choir. Today it is an exhibition hall.

28 Courtyard of the Nobles of Rathsamhausen

The courtyard of the Ratsamhausen (Ribeaupierre vassals) at n° 3 rue des Juifs: original paving with cobbles; old brewery.



29 Faller House General Beysser

At n°36, Grand'Rue, birthplace of General Beysser, General of the Republic, guillotined in Paris in 1794.

30 Old Corn Market Fountain

The old corn market mentioned since 1431 was used to store the cereals paid as feudal fee. The frontage conserved two gothic porches. In front of the market, a fountain is dated 1559.



31 Tanners' House

Rue des Tanneurs (along the Stadtbach or factory canal): Tanners' House (16th century) with openings for drying skins.

32 Little passage above the old factory canal

At n°18A, a little passage above the old bed of the factory canal.

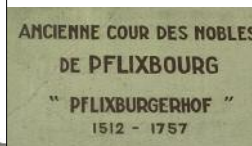


33 Old metairie of the Pairis Abbey

Place Gouraud: old metairie of the Pairis Abbey.

34 Renaissance Door "Ville de Nancy"

Old Town House "A la Ville de Nancy": oval block (1694) giving the price of wines and cereals.



35 Old Pflixbourg house

Old courtyard of the Nobles of Pflixbourg (Ribeaupierre vassals). (1512 to 1757).

36 Jardin de Ville (Town garden)

The Jardin de Ville, or Garden of the Lords of Ribeaupierre. Old feudal park with a view on the Three Castles: Haut-Ribeaupierre, Giersberg and St Ulrich.



Ribeauvillé

DISCOVER OUR GIFTS FROM THE PAST

Notre-Dame de Dusenbach Pilgrimage

Since the Middle Ages, Notre-Dame de Dusenbach is one of the most renowned and common Pilgrimages of the Virgin in Alsace. It originated under Eguenolphe de Ribeaupierre, who, on his return from the Crusades (early 13th century), brought a statue of the Virgin which he placed in a chapel built for the purpose in Dusenbach vale. Over the centuries, the site was destroyed and rebuilt three times with the help of the generosity of the faithful. The last reconstruction dates from 1894 followed in 1903 with the addition of a large church, finally consecrated in 1912. The Capucin monks, there since 1904, give a warm welcome to the hundreds of pilgrims, strollers, or visiting tourists who come to this haven of peace and contemplation. Visitors are recommended to leave their cars in the carpark at the Ribeauvillé exit (Ste Marie aux Mines route) and take the Chemin de Croix (Way of the Cross) (renovated in 2004), which is one of the most beautiful in Alsace.



Along shaded trails, Ribeauvillé valley leads to two remarkable sites.

The Three Castles

In Alsatian imagery, Ribeauvillé is famous for its Three Castles situated on the same mountain, overlooking the town and plain with their majestic silhouettes. Saint Ulrich castle, an ordinary residence of the powerful Lords of Ribeaupierre until the early 16th century, is one of the most prestigious fortresses in Alsace. With Haut-Ribeaupierre (12th century) and Giersberg (13th century) nearby, they form a leading feudal group among the most important historical sites in Alsace.

The splendours of Ribeauvillé's treasure

The town's first name appeared in the 8th century during the reign of Pippin III (Pippin the Short): Radbaldovillare. In a document dated 21 March 1084, Emperor Henry IV of Franconia (1065-1079) gave the land known as "Rapoldstein" to the bishop of Basle. Towards 1185 the bishop passed it on to one of his vassals, Eguenolf of Urslingen, who was established in Würtemberg. Eguenolf of Urslingen kept the same coat of arms, three escutcheons gules on a silver background. The academic hall at the Town Hall, known as the "Red Room" is entirely decorated with red Andrinople fabric, the dyeing of which has made the name of the Alsace textile industry since 1870. The Ribeaupierre family had dinnerware in "vermeil" (gold-plated silver) a real treasure* which can be seen at Ribeauvillé Town Hall, given to the town's Council Chamber during the 30 Years war.



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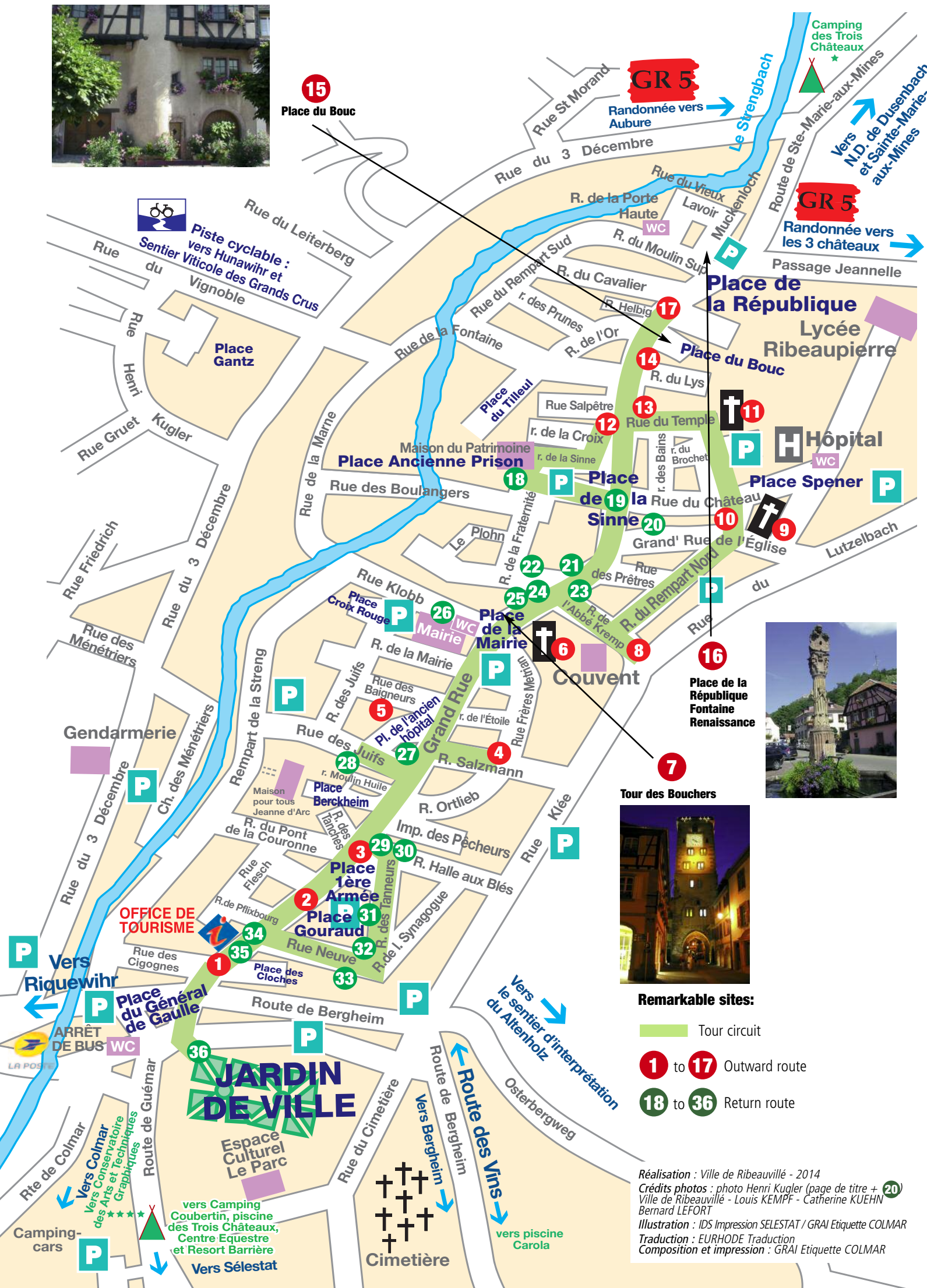
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Station
Climatique





1 Wine-growers' fountain

The Wine-growers' fountain was installed in 1909 in front of the **Tourist Information Office** (former "Octroi") where the tax on trade coming in and going out of the low town was paid. It indicates the important position of wine-growing in the local economy.



2 Pfifferhüss

"Pfifferhüss" or the Minstrels' inn. The 1663 oriole window carries the inscription: "Ave Maria Gracia Plena" recalling the Dusenbach Pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The Brotherhood of Minstrels, mentioned since 1390, was under the protection of the Lords of Ribeauvillé.



3 Elephant Inn

The "Elephant" inn of 1522 became the Restaurant de La Poste, an allusion to the old staging post at the end of rue de la Halle aux Blés.



4 House with oriole window

Admire the pastry shop minstrel and, on turning into rue Ortlieb a bit further on, at the start of rue des Frères Mertian, the Meyer house with its yellow sandstone oriole window. Just beside it, the stable of the old "l'Etoile" inn dated 1517 and the shell emblem of St Jacques of Compostella.



5 Place de l'Ancien Hôpital

Place de l'Ancien Hospital, the "Hassé" passage, old bed of the factory canal or "Stadtbach". The block reminds you that the old "Poor Hospital" was here (1542).



6 Convent Church

Place de l'Hôtel de Ville, the old church of the Augustines Convent, now church of the Sisters of "Divine Providence" with a canonical sundial at the corner of the sacristy at the start of rue des Frères Mertian.



7 Butchers' Tower

Built in 1290 and raised in 1536, it has often been threatened with destruction. Today it is the town emblem. It rises to 29 m.



8 Porte des Pucelles

The Porte des Pucelles ("The Virgin's Gate") built on the North Rampart of the Middle Town and completely replaced in 1780. (This name is due to an old translation error alluding to the Statue of the Virgin Mary installed in a niche in the original door.)



9 St Grégoire Church

The parish church of St Grégoire dates from the 13th century. The main nave was completed in 1473, date recorded on the keystone above the 17th century organs. The keystone also shows the coat of arms of the Ribeauvillé, Colmar and the Bishops of Strasbourg and Basle.



10 Priests' Cemetery

The priests' cemetery, with its 1856 Sequoia and the tombs of priests in charge of the church, some going back to the 15th century and the latest in 1936. Location of the old "Mont of Olives" at Dusenbach, a set of 4 sandstone statues dating from 1494. These have been transferred to the inside of the church.



11 Protestant Church

Place Spener and the Protestant Church (1783). The name of Spener, father of piety, is very well known in Germany. His portrait is inside the church.



12 Pietà of 1788

The Petite rue du Temple opens into the Grand'Rue. At the corner of this street, the house known as "du Dusenbach" because of the statue of the Virgin of that name, in the wall of the façade, last house in the "Middle Town".



13 Old Forge and Lords' Mill

In the Grand'Rue, "High Town" on the right, n°116, old "Moulin des Seigneurs" (Lords' mill), has a water wheel about 3.50 m in diameter. This mill supplied flour for the 4th Lord's castle until the Revolution. It was transformed to a carpentry shop powered by this same wheel until 1970. This building was succeeded by the old Lords' forge, the façade of which is a listed building.



14 Dissler House

The Dissler House, with its corner post in the form of a blacksmith with his leather apron and leggings (Wet leather was a good means of protection against the heat of the furnace).



15 Place du Bouc

The Stadtbach which runs there was the meeting place of washer-women until 1965. Next door the house with a spiral staircase and sculpted corbels and corner posts, including a "Fleur de lys".



16 Place de la République

At the top of this square was the "High Door" and on the right the start of the Western rampart and its Witches' Tower. The fountain dates from 1576.



17 Carriage entrance

At n°1 Place de la République, a magnificent carriage entrance, with its twisted arches.



Remarkable sites:

- Tour circuit
- 1 to 17 Outward route
- 18 to 36 Return route

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