

7 The Stately Mansion

In front of you are the ruins of the ancient stately mansion which gave birth to the village. No one can put an exact date to the construction of this mansion.

There is evidence leading to believe that it was built when the Peace Treaty of 1229 was signed when the Earl of Toulouse, Raymond the 7th surrendered the mansion to King Louis 9th.

After the French Revolution, the mansion was divided up and sold in parts to the habitants of the village in an auction. Unfortunately the mansion fell into disrepair. All that is left of the building today is an old oven, the remains of a tower, a few vaulted rooms and an old door with a coat of arms above it.



wines AOC Côtes de Ventoux. Cherry trees, olive trees, asparagus and truffles all play an important part in this agricultural village.

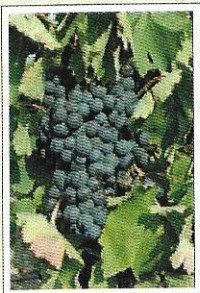
9 Covered Lanes

In the middle ages, the habitants of Mormoiron came up with an ingenious idea to overcome the lack of space due to the fortified walls protecting the village. They constructed small covered lanes which ran under some of the houses in the village. These were called "soustets". In the summer they provided welcome shade and when the weather was wet, these lanes became sheltered walkways. On the 1830 village plan there are 35 covered lanes in total. Some have resisted the passage of time but lots have simply disappeared. Those that survived add charm to our old medieval village.



8 The agricultural heritage

Mormoiron is a commune that has strong ties with agriculture. Since the village was established the rich soil has provided nourishment for the village and the small farmers. At the beginning of the 19th century, the madder (a natural plant dye), was a product cultivated in abundance in the village.



However in 1870, alizarin was discovered, (a chemical dye) and it destroyed the madder culture in this village. The vines have been omnipresent for centuries with the grape production of table wine AOC (Appellation d'origine Contrôlée) of Muscat du Ventoux and the production of

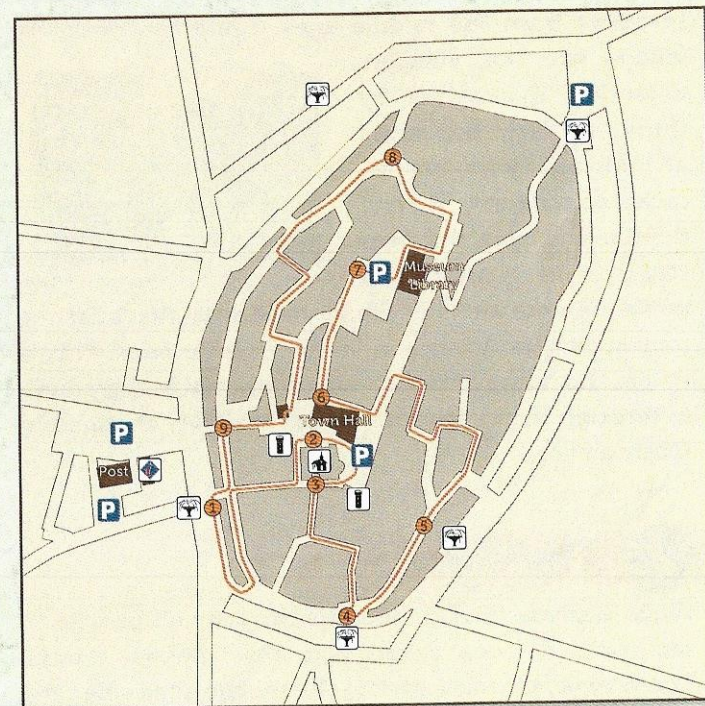
MORMOIRON

Height : 221 m

Surface : 2503 hectares

1966 inhabitants

Travel through Mormoiron's culture with our self-guided walking tour



Parking



Tourist office



Fountain



Church



Tower



MORMOIRON
Ventoux

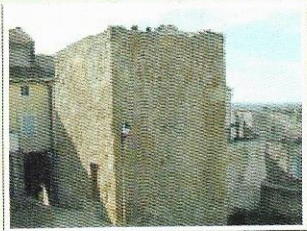
Come and discover the patrimonial heritage of Mormoiron. By following the pretty back streets and alleys of this Provençal village you will discover its architecture, its industrial past and strong agricultural influences.

Mormoiron's name originates from an old legend relating to, the murmuring of bees – (the buzzing). Invaders from the middle ages, came to attack the village and the, villagers defended themselves by throwing their bee hives at their attackers. The attackers couldn't defend themselves from the bees and their nasty stings and while fleeing all they could hear was the buzzing, murmuring (murmure in French) of the bees. This is where the name of the village originated and gradually through the centuries, the name slowly changed to Mormoiron.



2 The Towers

While walking through Mormoiron you will be able to see some defence towers and observational towers. These towers all date back to the middle ages when the village was surrounded by ramparts. Certain sections of the ramparts are still visible today on the Northern side of the village and some stones and bricks from the ramparts are also built into a few of the village houses.



In front of you is an old guard tower. This site has an excellent view overlooking the plains of Carpentras, Mount Ventoux and the surrounding villages. The tower played a key role throughout the centuries and was superbly placed as it proved to be both difficult to attack and a great lookout post.

3 St Laurent's church

St Laurent is the commune's patron Saint. The Parish church, St Laurent, was originally built in the cemetery. In 1472, the church collapsed which necessitated its transfer to the chapel in the centre of the village. At the beginning of the 20th century, the church suffered after some earthquakes which loosened the church's foundations.



In 1932, the church's foundations were strengthened with pillars of concrete. The church has a Roman domed recess at the end of the church (apse) and in 1974, while the church was being restored, they discovered an amazing window in this section.

4 The Fountains

The 6 ancient communal fountains are an integral part to the village. The fountains are all supplied with water from the Salettes Lake or from the Vacquières spring. In the past, the fountains were the village's source of water for the people and their livestock. They saw many women coming to collect water and also wash their household linen.



The fountains have often been moved from place to place. In 1847 the "Portail Neuf" fountain (this is where the start of the tour was), dating back to 1640, was moved and rebuilt. In 1857, the "Plan du Saule" fountain was disrupting the circulation of the village so it too was moved and placed in front of the hospital.

5 The old hospital

We are now at the back of the old hospice of Mormoiron, back to back against the ramparts. This building was financed by the Patrons of the arts in 1736 and

was entrusted to the monks and nuns. A part of the building was reserved for the ill and infirm, another part was dedicated to the running of the hospice (administration etc) and the rest of the building was for the pharmacy and chapel.

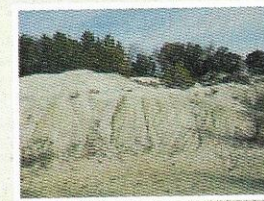
It was shut in 1937 and then occupied by tax collector's offices until 1980. The overheads of running the building became too much for the town hall and so certain parts of the building were sold off in 2007 – 2011.



6 Industrial Heritage

Mormoiron's industrial heritage is intimately related to the exploitation of its mineral resources.

Gypsum : In front of you, you can see the old gypsum quarries. This industry existed from the beginning of the 18th century and lasted until 1964. Gypsum is used for plastering. **Ochre:** This industry was at its height in 1880 – 1900. Traces from this era are very clear; with mills, galleries and basins of decantation (allowing liquids to settle). **Ochre** was used to dye materials. **Silica sand:** Beds of white sand are still exploited today. In the past it was used for lime mortar. Today it is a foundry for glassmaking and most recently it has helped with the leisure industry. **Green clay:** Green clay



was used to remove grease marks from the wool until the end of the 19th century. Today it is exploited for its virtuous medicinal remedies such as stomach aches.