

14 : WOOD AND EARTH ARCHITECTURE

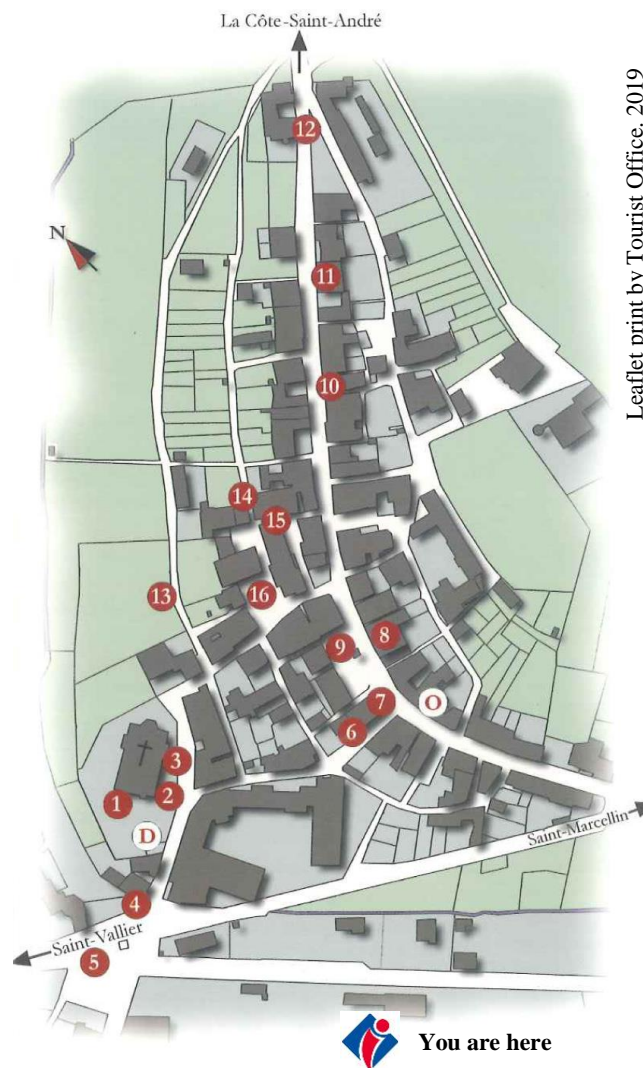
This construction is a very ancient technique that was practiced in the **Gallo-Roman age**. During the Revolution, the raised cost and rarity of wood led to the abandon of this building technique in *Roybon*. The *pisé* (traditional method of building in the lower *Dauphiné*) is relatively little presented in *Roybon*. In using *pisé*, the walls were raised by successive layers of earth that were compacted by a rammer between wooden boards.

15 : CALADE

Just like in the house walls or in the fields of the *Chambaran* where shingles (stones) are used to create drains, they were also abundant in the streets of the town. This little road (or *calade*) was made of shingles carefully laid in mortar. It is one of the last in *Roybon* to have not been covered by a more modern tar road.

16 : THE TEMPLE SQUARE

Before 1602, the reformed community of *Roybon* possessed its own church and pastor. After this date the **protestant church** of *Roybon* became attached to one in *Beaurepaire* and the ceremonies were alternated between the two churches with a common pastor. After 1664, cult practices were condemned. It is probable that following the dismissal of the Edict of *Nantes* (1685) many of the reformed Protestants migrated. With them gone, the economic activity of the village slowed down.



Leaflet print by Tourist Office. 2019

Discovery Tour of Roybon



ROYBON, IN THE HEART OF THE CHAMBARAN FOREST

- The oldest mention of Roybon dates back to the 12th century. In 1294, Prince Humbert the first granted to the *Roybonnais* a freedom charter and allowed the creation of a new town. The market town was developed inside the ramparts. The families of **glass blowers**, for several centuries, assured an abundant production.
- During the Religious Wars, the village is an important **Protestant community**. They specialized in the **industry of rateen**, the fabrication of large sheets (wool), used particularly to dress the troops. More than fifty weaving looms are recorded.
- At the time of the Revolution, the name of Roybon is changed for a time to *Chambaran*, a name less suspect to the *révolutionary*. The livestock, fodder and the **exploitation of the forest** constituted the principal riches of the *Roybonnais*.
- During the 19th century, new industries followed the rateen: **tool making, pottery** and coal, the utilisation of oak bark for the tanneries. In 1881 the **military camp of the Chambaran**, situated at a few kilometres of the village, also contributed to the development of the community. At the beginning of the 20th century the tramway lines between *St. Marcellin* and *Lyon* helped to expose *Roybon*.

This veritable capital of the Chambaran nested in the heart of an immense forest opens its doors and invites you to discover its past.

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Tourist Office +33 476 362 586
www.terres-de-berlioz.com

1 : THE NEO-ROMAN CHURCH OF ST.-JEAN-BAPTISTE



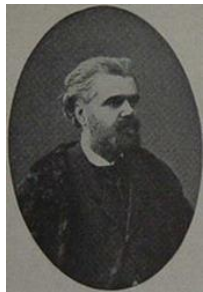
The large period of reconstruction of the XIXth century churches, particularly the churches of *Isère*, gave birth to numberless edifices. They all reflect the **eclecticism** of the time: Roman art, gothic art and a small measure of Byzance, or classic French art. The church of *Roybon* well illustrates this spirit. Note on the exterior several impressions of **roman art**, like the **polychromatic arches**.

2 : THE MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION



In the XIXth century, the transport of materials was expensive. For the church of *Roybon*, materials are **local origin** or fabricated on site: The walls are constructed of **rounded rocks** recuperated from the **fields or river beds**. Installed regularly around the top, brick assure a strong rigidity and add to the polychromatic decorative effect.

3 : ALFRED BERRUYER (1819-1901)



More than thirty *Isère* churches and private edifices carry the mark of **Alfred Berruyer**: Cathedral of *Grenoble*, the realization of buildings in *Voiron*, or *St.-Etienne-de-St-Geoirs*, and *Roybon*. Church.

4 : THE OLD TRAMWAYS COFFEE

Linked to the passage of the tramway, this coffee offered board and lodging to the tramway passengers who stay in the village. (XIXth C.)

5 : TRAIN STATION DISTRICT

Between 1901 and 1936, the tram connected **Lyon and Saint Marcellin**. The train station (tourist Office now) and merchandise platform are still visible, and the other structures served as coach houses and workshops to repair the locomotives.

6 : THE HOUSE OF THE FARRIER

The farriers were among the first artisans installed in the villages in the Middle Age. Their role consisted not only to shoe work animals, (horses and cattle), but to also treat them for various medical conditions and perform elementary surgical operations. At that time, three farriers officiated in *Roybon*.

7 : TOWNHOUSE (XIXth C.)

In *Roybon* the quasi-totality of houses was constructed by rocks (or *shingles*). For fragile or more exposed parts of the construction (windows, doors), a diversity of these materials were systematically employed.

8 : TOWN HALL

The town hall of *Roybon* does not stick to the same construction rules of town halls constructed under the Third Republic, devoted to the republican ideal and civic valour. At the centre of the classically inspired façade the balcony is like an orator's gallery. At the summit of the edifice the village's coat-of-arms adorns the *TYMPAN* of the front wall.

9 : Lady LIBERTY



Lady Liberty, a **gift** to the United States from France for the commemoration of the American independence, was inaugurated in New York the 28th of October 1886. The monument of *Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi*, and of which *Gustave Eiffel* brought about precious assistance, is without contest the artistic work the most reproduced in the world. The statue in *Roybon* created in 1903.

10 : TOWNHOUSE (end of the XIXth C.)

This townhouse is very typical in architectural style of the villages of the *Chambaran*. The decorative elements prefabricated in few cement molds were originally used for the high parts of the frontage, and are identical to those that we find habitually in cut stone. Bricks and rocks came to be masked by plaster. At the end of the 19th century, the rock style became more and more apparent in contradiction of the tradition.

11 : HOUSE OF THE CLOTHIER (XIXth C.)

The rateen industry employed more than a hundred *Roybonnais* at its peak. Many worked in this industry finding a complement to their revenues. Shearers, wool combers, string makers, pressers and drapers were thus at the origin of the abundant production of wool clothing. The debut of the XIXth century marks the decline of this industry.

12 : OLD POLICE STATION

The **old police station** presents a rational organisation of its buildings. The building is flanked by a **spiral stair** which is encased by a much older edifice. This "tower" gives the building a **military aspect**, well in agreement with its destination.

13 : RUINES OF MEDIEVAL RAMPARTS

In the context of the *Dauphiné-Savoie* wars, *Roybon* is one of the numerous **fortified sites** along the frontier zone. Centred in the princely *Chambaran* forest, *Roybon* marked one of the confines of *Dauphiné* until 1355. *Roybon's* ramparts opened up by three gates: the gate for *Romans*, the gate for *St.-Vallier* and the gate for *La Côte-St.-André*