

end of one of them rises a 190ft-high bell tower. The church was in fact considered too small, and was thus extended by 45ft of floor space in the 16th century.

On leaving the church, go to the first junction and take the rue Saint-Nicolas. You will arrive at

the **Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture Manu**

Dibango, ancient Hôtel de Ponton d'Amécourt **5** dating from the late 15th. This former stately home was built with limestone and plaster and covered with small tiles. In the 19th century two slate-covered wings were added.

Retrace your steps slightly on rue Saint-Nicolas and turn left onto rue de la Herse. Just below where you are standing you will find the **house of Cardinal Dubois** **6**. Just next to the church, its picturesque

silhouette rises above the rooftops. This house, covered with wood shingles, is said to be one of the oldest in the town. It belonged to the Dubois family, and was the birthplace of their son Louis Ernest, born in 1856. He became Archbishop of Paris in 1920, better known under the name of Cardinal Dubois.

Walk down to the church and turn right, proceed through the alleyway and you will be faced with the current **presbytery** **7**. Built by Thomas

Gheerbrandt, king's advocate in Saint-Calais, this house was named Maison de la Fuye in the 18th century. It possessed a typical French garden, although only the foundations of the pond remain.

Head back towards your starting point, the town hall square. Walk down the length of the church, turn left and continue along the waterfront to the end and turn right.



Located in to the south-east region of the Maine, the town owes its origins to a monastery founded under Childebert in the early 6th century by a hermit from Auvergne: Saint-Karileph. The monastic foundation became one of the largest in Maine. In the 9th century the Count of Maine Herbert Eveille Chien, jealous of the wealth of the Abbey, allowed a relative to build a motte on the heights of the town. The abbey was completely dismantled in 1789 following the French Revolution. Buildings disappeared little by little starting from 1792, giving way to straight streets and majestic buildings. From 1802 to 1926, the town became a sous-prefecture (the site of a local government centre) and numerous examples of urban development took place: the Anille docks, the court, the granary, the museum-theatre-library...



Information / visits

Town Hall (mairie)

1 rue Amédée Savidan ~ 72120 Saint-Calais
Tel. 02 43 63 15 15
mairie.saintcalais@orange.fr

Service culturel

Centre de Ressources ~ 72120 Saint-Calais
Tel. 02 43 35 63 03
culturel.saintcalais@orange.fr

Office de Tourisme du Pays Calaisien

Place de l'Hôtel de ville ~ 72120 Saint-Calais
Tel. 02 43 35 82 95
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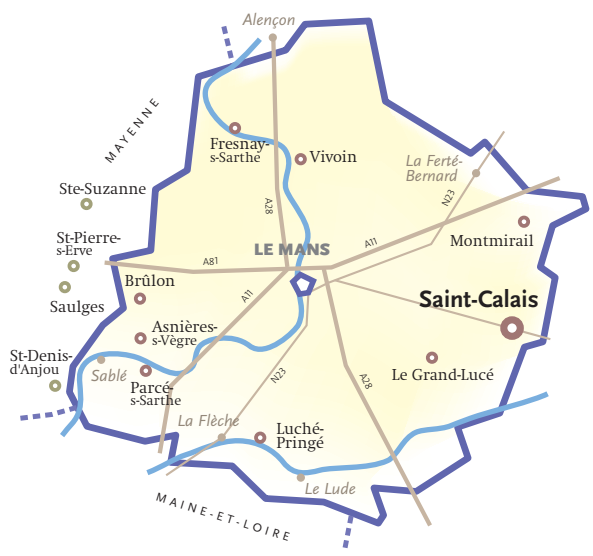
Pays d'Art et d'Histoire du Perche Sarthois

24 avenue de Verdun ~ 72404 La Ferté Bernard
Tel. 02 43 60 72 77
www.perche-sarthois.fr



The "Petites Cités de Caractère" distinction is awarded to the little towns and villages in our region that have a remarkable architectural and natural Heritage, and meet the essential criteria when it comes to welcoming their visitors. As a guarantee for quality, this label urges the communes belonging to the network to keep on improving the emphasis placed on their attractions through restoration, promotion and activities. The Petites Cités de Caractère of the Pays de la Loire present a wide range of historical authenticity and are a reflection of the geographical territory to which they belong.

Petites Cités de Caractère des Pays de la Loire
Les Petites Cités de Caractère en Sarthe



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PAYS DE LA LOIRE
SARthe



Saint-Calais

Petite Cité de Caractère en Sarthe



SITUATED ON THE BORDER OF THE UPPER MAINE AND THE VENDÔMOIS, SAINT-CALAIS, WITH ITS RICH RELIGIOUS AND NATURAL HERITAGE, IS THE GATEWAY TO THE PERCHE SARTHOIS AND THE LOIR VALLEY. THE UPPER PART OF THE TOWN IS MEDIEVAL, WHILST THE LOWER PART IS MODERN, SEPARATED BY THE RIVER ANILLE AND ITS BANKS.

teatime 02 43 67 67 19 - mai 2013. Photos : Jean-Philippe Barboise, Service Culturel de Saint-Calais

Starting point: place de l'hôtel de ville, **Centre de Ressources 1**. The town's first cultural and administrative centre was opened on November 10, 1889 on the site of the abbey, founded by Saint Kariolph in the 6th century. Since the end of a ten-year restoration of the building in 2007, the Resource Centre has included a library, a cinema, a museum, an ancient books collection, the CIAP (Centre d'Interprétation de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine), a cultural services centre, the meeting-room of the town council, and the "Charles Garnier" exhibition room. Once you arrive at the town hall square, head towards rue des Halles until you reach the **Halle aux grains 2** (grain market). This listed historical monument was inaugurated on 4th September 1864. It was built with freestone and brick and designed by the architect Eugène Landron. The building's style reflects one of the trends of 19th century: the



Historicism movement. Its four turrets are a nod to the architecture of the Châteaux de la Loire. In 1952 the Halle was renewed in order to accommodate a covered market on the ground floor and a multi-purpose function room on the first floor. Here one can see a beautiful inverted-hull shaped roof structure dating back to the 15th century and originally part of the abbey church.



Take the rue Amédée Savidan and discover the **Anille banks 3**. The Anille river has played an important economic role in the area. It supplied tanneries, mills and wash-houses, of which fifty are still visible today. In 1797 the river was partially domesticated by the creation of a canal to avoid flooding. The banks, dating back to the Revolutionary era, became a public promenade in 1802 and a public wash-house was built in 1805. Here you can admire three gloriettes (small, medieval garden pavilions). Charles Garnier, the architect of the Paris Opera House, used to come fishing here in his



teens, sheltering in a limestone gloriette belonging to his grandmother. Head to the junction at rue du Guichet and turn right towards **Notre-Dame church 4**. The facade of the church, dating back to the Renaissance, has a beautiful carved door depicting four scenes of the life of the Virgin Mary, attributed to the sculptor Guillaume Le Houx. You can enter the building on the right-hand side. The church consists of a central nave ending with a straight wall with an ogival-shaped window, and also comprises side-aisles; at the

