



Bruniquel, follow the guide ...

- 1 "New walls"- XIVth century:** destroyed during the wars of religion, the layout corresponds to the "promenade du ravelin". The only part of the walls left today is an arch called "Porte" in French: "la porte neuve" (13).
- 2 Old walls:** They constitute the inner wall of the village starting at the arch called "porte du Rocas". The walls from the "porte du Rocas" have three arches : "La porte Méjane (9)", "La porte du Rocas" (4) and "La porte Ricouse".
- 3 "Place du Rocas":** Market square where flax, hemp and saffron were sold.
- 4 "Porte du Rocas"**
- 5 "Barbacane":** (Bastion): defensive entrance to the Castles. You can see many arrowslits. View point.
- 6 "Place des Oules":** "Oules" means cauldron, this was the square of the cauldron markers.
- 7 "Rue trotte garces":** A very commercial street , known for its "loose women" and in French, is the feminine of "garçon"(boy).
- 8 "Rue du Mazel":** Street of the old slaughter house.
- 9 "Porte Méjane":** (middle arch): Arch half way up the village.
- 10 Consular house:** Also known as tribunal House.
- 11 XIV th to XVth Century houses.**
- 12 The squirrel's house:** Bears an emblem with two squirrels sitting on a branch, can be seen from the first floor window.
- 13 "Porte Neuve":** Meaning "new arch".
- 14 Site of Protestant church :** in 1684, the stones of the church were used to rebuild the catholic church (22).
- 15 Royal Treasurer's house :** The painter Ramey, who founded "le salon populiste" lived in this house. You can see lancet arches, and mullion and lancet windows.
- 16 Marcel Lenoir's house:** Used to be the caretaker's house, modified in the XVIth century. Above a door you can see a relief carving of the old village people, that stone relief is the work of the very famous Italian sculptor "Calatrini".
- 17 The Castles' gardens/park :** view point.
- 18 The house of rings :** notice the rings which were used to hang the flags on public holidays.
- 19 Corbelled and half-timbered house:** 18th century accolade door, and 19th century windows on the ground floor.
- 20 Wooden passageway:** which linked two houses.
- 21 Fountain and wash house:** Go down to the fountain by double stones steps , which also lead to the wash house. It used to be the weekly meeting place for women while doing the washing. The overflow of the stone "water tank" goes under ground to feed u-shaped open air pool.
- 22 Church:** Don't miss the 19th century steeple wall.

A The Castles

The old castle – XIIIth Century to XIXth century:As you go in, you can see the remains of a keep called "Queen Brunehaut's tower (according to legend, she instigated the first fortress in the 6th century), the knights' room decorated with twin windows, the kitchen with its stone oven and stone sink, the dining room with French ceiling, the renaissance style gallery over looking a 90 metres high cliff, giving a wonderful view.

Young castle – XV th century – XVII th century:You can see the front door and the chimney with baroque finish, the old chapel turned into a kitchen, the vault cellar displaying prehistoric objects such as : the lady of Bruniquel, and the Jumping Horse found in the caves around the castles.

B Payrol's house

Ancient XIII th to XVII th monument. Before becoming the Payrol home, it was an old Bruniquel Hotel for the governors , until it became the residence of the very wealthy Payrol family, who settled here after the crusade against the Albigeniens in the vis-county of Bruniquel. There are a vaulted cellar, monumental chimneys, a coffered ceiling and a decor of murals testifying to its archaeological importance. Five rooms are open to the public on three levels, inviting people to journey through the rich local history, with thousands of objects from private collections : wrought iron work, lapidary, earthenware, furniture, pictures, engravings, unusual and curious artefacts of our countryside.