

From left to right :  
- Navacelles Cirque  
- Salagou Lake

## ADMIRE THE LARGE NATURAL SITES

### A CONCENTRATION OF «LARGE SITES » UNIQUE IN FRANCE

No less than two of the sites known as « LARGE SITES » intersperse the Lodévois & Larzac territory: The Navacelles Cirque and the large site in Salagou –the Mourèze Cirque. These fragile areas are distinguished by the originality of their landscapes and their barrenness. They are home to rare and exceptional Mediterranean fauna and flora.

### SEE ALSO...

The region in the heart of the Hérault, which unites Lodévois & Larzac, the Clermontais and the Hérault Valley is the third « LARGE SITE » not to be missed, the famous village Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert.



### NAVACELLES CIRQUE A MAJOR GEOLOGICAL CURIOSITY

A canyon worn away by the River Vis millions of years ago, the Navacelle Cirque is one of the world's geologic curiosities. It is the fruit of alchemy between nature and man who have tried to tame it. In January 2017 it became the 15th Largest Site in France.

In the heart of a contact zone between many geological units, the Lodévois and the Larzac bring together a large diversity of landscapes. The southern Larzac cause (plateau) offers exceptional scenery, and rare evidence of the history of man and the Earth. You can discover this through the many eco friendly activities on offer, alone or with a guide, on foot, on a donkey, or by bike....come and visit the Grand Site House at Belvédère de la Baume Auriol to fill up on ideas for outings and walks.



### LODÈVE, DOORWAY TO THE CAUSSES AND CÉVENNES

Lodève is one of the five gateway towns to the CAUSSES and CÉVENNES territory, listed in 2011 by UNESCO as a Worldwide Heritage site titled: Mediterranean cultural landscape of agropastoralism

### SALAGOU LAKE RED EARTH VALLEY

Salagou Lake is one of the largest extraordinary landscapes in France. Characterised by a volcano and its "ruffe" red earth containing iron oxides, the Salagou Valley is a supernatural spectacle. Its unique wild landscape is of international paleontological interest. You can find fossils of reptiles that existed long before the Therapsid dinosaurs, considered to be the ancestors of mammals.

### SEE ALSO...

**The Labeil Caves.** A Mineral door in the heart of the superb cirque, the Labeil Caves home to an underground river, magnificent crystals and an ancient roquefort cave.

**The Lerab Ling Buddhist Temple.** Lerab Ling Buddhist Temple is one of the largest and most authentic traditional Tibetan temples in Europe.

**The Saint Michel Grandmont Priory.** A Roman architectural gem, the Saint Michel Priory is the only monastery of the Grandmont order that has been completely conserved. (12th-13th Century).

**The Couvertoirade and the temple cities on the Larzac plateau. Large site Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert – Gorges de l'Hérault**



The Saint Michel  
Grandmont Priory  
Photography F. Bec

## VISITS INSTRUCTIONS

### THE LODÉVOIS AND LARZAC TOURIST OFFICE

#### OPENING HOURS

- January, February, March, November, December  
From Tuesday to Friday : 10:00 am to 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Saturday : 10:00 am to 01:00 pm  
- April, May, October  
From Monday to Saturday : 10:00 am to 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
- June, July, August, September  
Everyday : 10:00 am to 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
7, place de la République  
34700 Lodève  
04 67 88 86 44  
tourisme@lodevoisetlarzac.fr  
www.tourisme-lodevois-larzac.fr

#### Individual visits

Office de Tourisme Lodévois et Larzac  
04 67 88 86 44  
tourisme@lodevoisetlarzac.fr  
www.lodevoisetlarzac.fr

#### Group visits

04 11 95 02 22  
reservation@lodevoisetlarzac.fr  
https://www.tourisme-lodevois-larzac.fr/groupes/

#### Educational visits

Museum heritage service  
04 11 95 02 16  
museelodeve@lodevoisetlarzac.fr

## TRAILS DISCOVER LODÈVE AND THE LODÉVOIS AND LARZAC REGIONS

### AN INDUSTRIAL AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE



VILLES  
& PAYS  
D'ART &  
D'HISTOIRE





From left to right :  
- Savonnerie Manufacturing  
- The new Lodève Museum  
- The War Memorial Paul Dardé  
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# LODÈVE OVER THE YEARS

« CAPITAL » OF THE HÉRAULT HIGH GROUND, SITUATED BETWEEN LARZAC AND SALAGOU, LODÈVE ONCE AN ANCIENT AND INFLUENTIAL EPISCOPAL CITY AND AN IMPORTANT TEXTILE CENTRE.

Luteva experienced its first boom in the Gallo-roman period and its textiles were sold over Provence since the Middle Ages.

In 1726, Cardinal Fleury, Prime Minister to Louis XV, assured that his birth town monopolised the supply of the wool material that was needed to make the Royal Infantry uniforms. Lodève therefore became the fabric capital for the troops during 500 years and its textile industry reached its peak near the middle of the 19th century. The architecture of the towns' hotels and the draper shops is proof of this prosperous period. Lodève lost its monopoly of the wool market in 1865, this was the start of a long period of decline and the last wool mill closed its doors in 1960.



## SAVONNERIE MANUFACTURING A PLACE OF EXCELLENCE

Lodèves rugs and carpets were designed for embassies, national monuments, the Élysée and were also part of a national collection of furniture. Over nearly four centuries the Savonneries had an excellent savoir faire.

The Lodève workshop was created in 1964, when sixty Harki families were repatriated from Algeria. The men worked for the National Forestry Office and the women worked in the carpet fabric workshop which was run by the Army minister. Two years later the minister of cultural affairs was put in charge of the workshop and it also became home to a branch of the prestigious Parisian Savonnerie manufacturing.

**THE ORIGINS OF THE NAME SAVONNERIE**  
Savonnerie Manufactory owes its name to the traditional soap factories in Paris. In 1627 they housed the first "Persian and Levant style" carpet makers. The name Savonnerie nowadays is given to a technique used to make knot pile carpets that first appeared in France during the 17th century.



## THE LODÈVE MUSEUM

The Lodève Museum is home to a large exposition of Fine Art with three permanent collections which plunge the visitor into the vastness of time using immersive and interactive museography: - « Tracing life » experience 540 million years of the history of the Earth.

- « Human tracks » from the end of the prehistoric era, inventively narrated by poetry.  
- « Memories of the stones » a new regard of the sculptor Paul Dardé (1888-1963).

Each object, each multimedia tells a story, a moment, which highlights an era, illustrates a savoir faire and reveals a moment of the earth's history. By the use of narration, the landscape of the Causse and the heart of the Hérault take on a new meaning. You will never look at the Salagou Lake or the Navacelles Cirque in the same way.

## FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SCULPTOR PAUL DARDÉ (1888-1963)

Born in 1888 in Olmet, a commune close to Lodève, Paul Dardé rose quickly to fame in Paris and across the Atlantic in the start of the 1920's before returning to the region where he was born. He never ceased to fight to create sculptures that were both free and personal to him and he lived in poverty. Representing a passionate



period in the history of Art, Dardé was pivotal in the evolution of sculpture. Most of his work was produced between the two world wars using a classic figurative style.

## DARDÉ HALL

Built in 1819, in place of the ancient St Pierre Church, and listed as a historic monument since 1994. Dardé Hall is home to the monumental works of the artist who was awarded an international exhibition in 1925. The "Cheminée monumental" represents different characters including a grandmother surrounded by her grandchildren and characters from the Perrault tales. This piece is composed using various techniques and materials and illustrates the versatility of the artist and his interest in decorative art.

## THE WAR MEMORIAL

The war memorial in Lodève, sculpted by Paul Dardé was inaugurated in 1930 and is one of the most original of its kind. Breaking from the usual tradition of canons and victorious soldiers, it features a group of women and children dressed in clothes from the twenties, kneeling down, with grave expressions, the pain of a women.

- The Saint-Fulcran cathedral
- The apothecary

# VISIT THESE REMARKABLE RELIGIOUS EDIFICES



## THE SAINT-FULCRAN CATHEDRAL

Classified as a historic monument, the cathedral which we admire today is the third known edifice at this site since the 5th century. Constructed between the 13th and 15th century, the cathedral is a beautiful example of the gothic Languedoc style.

Originally named after Saint Geniez, and known as Saint Fulcrun since the 15th century in homage to the Bishop of Lodève. During the religious wars, the cathedral was pillaged and badly damaged; its reconstruction was eventually started in 1627.

Inside we can linger at the remarkable polygonal apse lit up by the Mauvernay glazing, an artist from the X1X century, admire the sculpted wooden pulpit and wander in the cloisters.

## VIRTUAL VISIT

A virtual visit would allow you to see in detail the sculptures and the paintings found in Saint Fulcran Cathedral. Flash the code QR at the entrance and discover all its secrets.

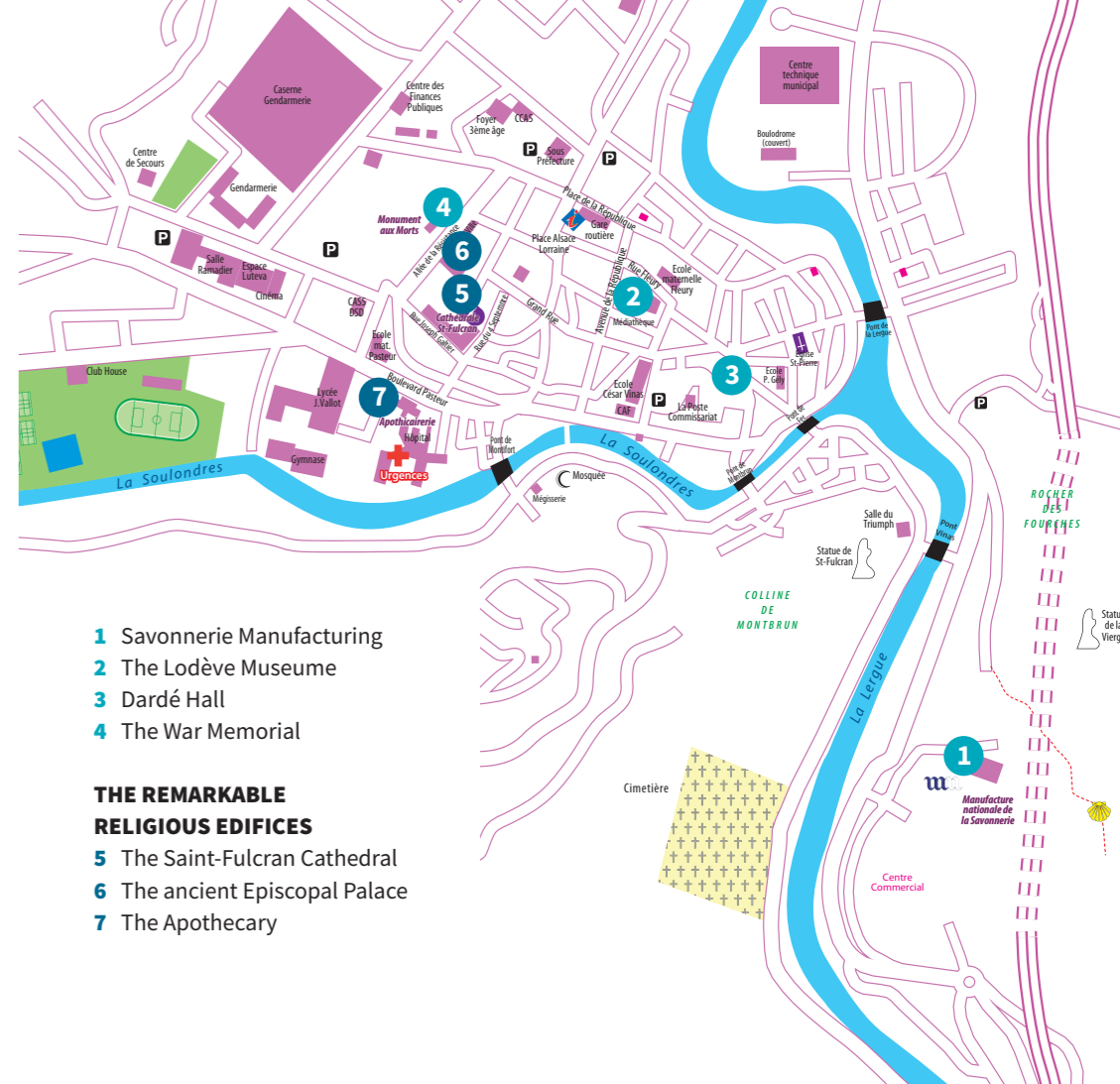
## THE ANCIENT EPISCOPAL PALACE

Adjoining the cathedral, the Episcopal Palace was constructed between 1667 and 1779 by the last Lodève Bishops.

From the court of honour, you can admire the affluent glazed tile roof. Inside the palace a large staircase, in Louis XV style, sweeps up from the reception. In 1809, the edifice was sold to the commune and is now housed in the town hall.

## THE APOTHECARY

Of the four hospital pharmacies listed in the Languedoc-Roussillon region, only two are in their original sites. One of these is in Lodève and has been entirely restored. It is an example of natural history where materials were classified into: animal, vegetable and mineral. It's a place that is both functional and symbolic, where the panelling right to the top of the walls highlight the value of certain jars in the pharmacy. Made from porcelain and coloured glass, these items as well as the furniture and the paintings, are evidence of the wealth of the hospital.



- 1 Savonnerie Manufacturing
- 2 The Lodève Museum
- 3 Dardé Hall
- 4 The War Memorial

## THE REMARKABLE RELIGIOUS EDIFICES

- 5 The Saint-Fulcran Cathedral
- 6 The ancient Episcopal Palace
- 7 The Apothecary