



private property. At the end of the Ruelle, turn right and then left at the junction in order to visit the former **wash-house** 13. Returning along the Rue Thibaut de Blaison you will see a number of the often modest houses attributed to the clergy. The part to the rear of **the Epistolerie** 14 was

where the chaplain responsible for reading the epistle lived. The garden shelters a notable large-flowered magnolia. The majority of the houses belonging to the chapter incorporated a partially sunken lower room which remained cool in summer and was easy to heat in winter by means of a stone oven adjacent to the chimney. Including grain store, courtyard well, out houses and - for those who were better off - heated upper room, these earth-floored houses, being humid, were favoured by weavers. Several of the houses possessed cellars, examples being **the Blanchardiere** 15, **Voitu** 16 which, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century housed the first school, **Bel-Aubre** 17 and **Chemam** 18, on the corner with the Impasse de La Favaudiere. Turning down here, you will see a mediaeval canonical house with an Angevine balcony and, at the bottom, **the Favaudiere** 19, a small manor, with its lucarne bearing the date 1649. Returning to the road



Thibaut de Blaison, **the Louvetiere** 20, of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century origin, can be seen and, around the adjacent miniature square, some distinctive local **roof-tiling** 21. Opposite, Bel-Echo was the principal canonical house, named after **Saint-Aubin** 22.



THE LOIRE RIVER IN BLAISON



Continue down the Rue de la Dolerie and turn into the Ruelle de Moncontant where you will find **the Dolerie** 23, a thick-walled chaplain's residence, with still-surviving mediaeval features. Follow the Rue de la Dolerie once more as far as **the Perchardiere** 24, where a giant sequoia towers over the entry. This bourgeois house comprises a number of differently-sized rooms from different periods.



Turning into the twisting Allée aux Prêtres, where it issues onto the Square you will see the **chapellenie de Sainte-Croix** 25 and, opposite, **the Presbytere** 26 from the Ancien Regime with its 18<sup>th</sup> century reworkings. The Revolution abolished the chapter. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century it had already grown less important due to the complacency of its members and the burden of its duties. By 1793 few clergy remained. The priest chose exile while the canons and chaplains were imprisoned in Angers. Briefly liberated by a party of Vendéens, they were recaptured and either executed or abandoned in prison-ships. Arriving at the church once



more you pass by **the Ecurie sans garantie**, a staging post where horses could be stalled; forage however was not provided, responsibility remaining with the horses' owners.

\* Further explanatory leaflets available in the church or at the Information Office.

## Historical background

**The history of the village** begins with the Roman conquest. Lands, that's to say, a 'villa', belonging at one time to a certain Blazius, were given to the abbey at Saint Maur around 540. A church was built on the summit of the slopes and in 874 the lands became the property of the Saint-Jean-Baptiste chapter in Angers. Towards the year 1000 the village began to take shape a little lower, around the chateau. Foulques Nerra, Count of Anjou, a violent, determined yet profoundly religious man, ordered a new church to be built and invested it with a chapter that formed the lifeblood of the village for nearly eight centuries. Chaplaincies, canonical houses, just as much as the church and chateau, all bear witness to this long period. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the chapter's properties came into secular hands and were either transformed or preserved. Other properties, larger and more comfortable, were built to order. In 1974, Blaison and Gohier were joined to make a single commune.



## Information/visits

**Mairie (Town Hall)**  
Place Saint-Aubin ~ 49 250 Blaison-Gohier  
Tel. 02 41 57 17 57  
mairie@blaison-gohier.fr  
www.blaison-gohier.fr

**Information Office**  
Rue de la Grange aux Dimes  
(opposite the chateau)  
Open all year  
Interactive screen 24h/24  
Tel. 02 41 47 44 05

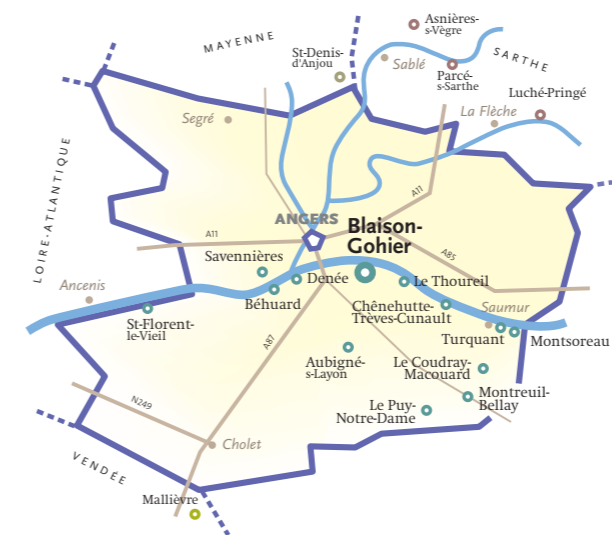
**Guided visits of the church and village**  
Information from the Mairie  
Tel. 02 41 57 17 57



**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 Maine-et-Loire



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# Blaison-Gohier

Petite Cité de Caractère en Maine-et-Loire



WITH ITS CHURCH AND CANONICAL HOUSES, ITS REMARKABLE CHATEAUX, ITS DISTINCTIVE WINDMILLS AND OUTSTANDING VIEWS OVER THE LOIRE VALLEY, BLAISON-GOHIER OFFERS THE VISITOR NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCOVER ITS CHARM.



