

### Stopping point 7 - The Town Hall

The Town Hall, designed in neo-Louis XIII style, was inaugurated on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1904, after four years of construction work. The building principally houses the offices of the Weights and Measures Adjudicator and the Police Station, two police cells and an exercise area.

One hundred years later in 2004, an Annex was built at the back of this building, which now reflects its older companion in its modern windowed façade.

The town of Segré has been twinned with Lauingen (Bavaria, Germany) since 1988 and with Ferndown (Dorset, England) since 1994.

Next stopping point at 200 m.

Keeping to the right of the Town hall go back to the Madeleine Church.

### Stopping point 8 - St Madeleine Church

In addition to its prominent location, St. Madeleine Church is noted for its neo-byzantine architecture, its listed windows, crafted by the 19<sup>th</sup> century master glass-maker Clamens, and its Cavaille-Coll organ which dates from 1881. To the left of the church one can see the confluence of the rivers Oudon and Verzée.

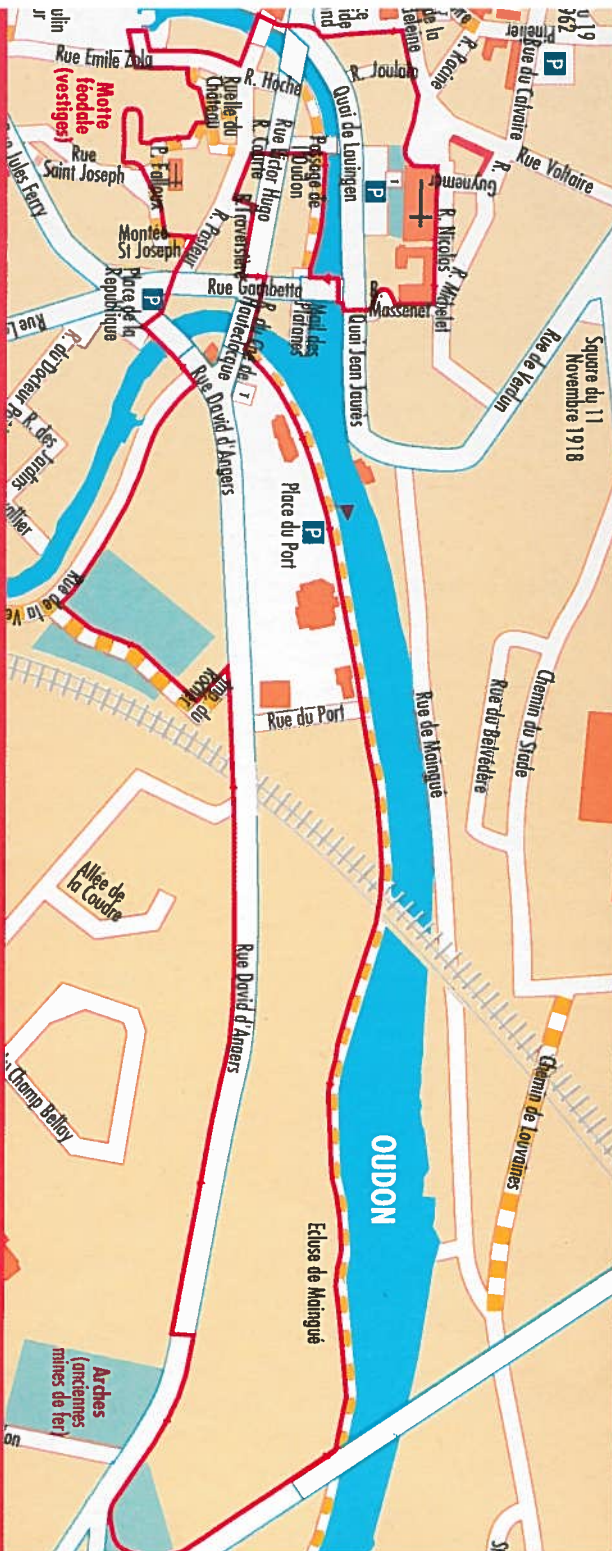
Next stopping point at 840 m.

Go around the Church along Nicholas Road. Follow the arrows to the starting point of the walk.

Leaflet edited by Segre Town Council in June 2008. -

Tél. : 02 41 92 17 83

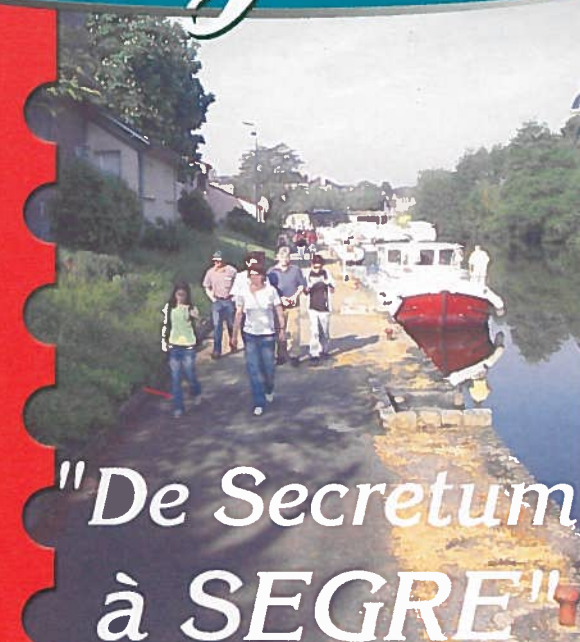
Thanks for translations to Douglas from Ferndown, our english twintown.



# Segré

July  
2008

TOWN WALK



"De Secretum  
à SEGRE"



## Welcome !

The Segre Town Council has created this circuit of 4.5 kms with information boards and arrows. On this 2.5 km walk, you will get a general view of the strategic sites of the town. We wish you a pleasant journey of discovery.

### Stopping point 1 - The Quayside

(point of departure and return)

Since ancient times, the banks of the Oudon river have always been an important location.

In later times, barges loaded with animals, wine or raw materials made their way towards Angers. They were pulled along the towpath by horses. In 1868, 851 ships came up from Angers to Segré. The Marine Café with its dance floor and famous mechanical piano livened up a quayside bustling with activity.

Today, boating and trips on the river from Segré attract tourists from all over Europe.

Next stopping point at 980 m.

Follow the towpath.

### Stopping point 2 - The Arches

Segré used to be the capital of the iron-working area. From the year 1850, the first prospectors began work there. The Oudon Concession was then exploited from 1907 until 1934. The mineral extracted was loaded onto wagons. An overhead cable network, initially supported by these arches, enabled the wagons to deliver the iron ore directly into the wagons of freight trains at Segré railway station.

Next stopping point at 1 420 m.

Cross at the first pedestrian crossing on returning to Segré.

### Stopping point 3 - 60 Hostages

In August 1944, the German troops were in retreat and the Segreens were celebrating their liberation. However, the German troops returned and took 60 men, women and children of the town hostage. It was only the negotiating skills and sang-froid of the sous-prefet Fouet, the mayor Richard and the priest Delhumeau which saved the hostages from death.

Next stopping point at 180 m.

### Stopping point 4 - The Feudal Motte

On a bluff overlooking the strategic river Oudon, one can see the keep of Segré castle, built a thousand years ago by the Count of Anjou.

In 1191 Richard the Lionheart gave this castle to his wife Bérandère de Navarre. Besieged several times during the 100 Years War, it was finally captured by the English in 1433 and razed to the ground.

According to hearsay, there are underground tunnels several kilometres long radiating from the castle.

Next stopping point at 320 m.

Make your way to towards St. Josephs Chapel on the left.

### Stopping point 5 - The Mill-under-the-Tower

The Mill-under-the-Tower was already in existence in 1543, since it is mentioned in the "aveu" of Guy d'Espinay, the Lord of Segré.

The name originates from the fact that it was situated below a tower of the castle, of which one can still see the foundations.

The Mill-under-the-Tower was recently pulled down, but the framework for the mill wheel has been preserved intact.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Square was still a huge expanse of water, and it was only over a period of time that it was filled in to make the Square that we see today.

Next stopping point at 250 m.

Retrace your steps towards the Old Bridge or take the optional loop for the Oudon Valley.

### Stopping point 6 - The Old Bridge

The Old Bridge has been witness to 1,000 years of the history of the town.

It was probably built of wood in the Middle Ages, but then through the impetus of the dreaded Count of Anjou, Foulques Nerra, it was reconstructed in stone in the XI century.

Towards the end of the 100 Years War, it was partially destroyed by the English forces (1422), and then in the XV century and XVI century by exceptionally high floods.

Finally, the retreating German troops dynamited it on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1944.

In 2001 floods again destroyed one of the arches. It has now been strengthened, reconstructed and a fourth arch added on the site of an adjacent old inn that was demolished.

Next Stopping Point at 110 m.

Return to the Town hall.