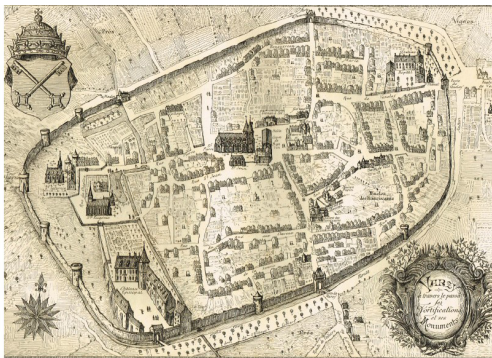




## RED TOUR

### “VARZY, UPPER TOWN” (1h00)

① In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, **Saint Germain, 6<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Auxerre**, inherits the fiefdom of Varzy and donates it to Auxerre Cathedral. The town will remain under the influence and the protection of the bishops of Auxerre until the French revolution. Located at the border of the bishopric, **Varzy** suffers from the conflicts between neighbouring lords and is damaged a number of times. Consequently, circa 1000, the bishops of Auxerre build **fortifications** with four town gates, one of which, Marcy gate, is here.



② Named after Jean-Pierre Mariaux who ran the mill until 1900, **the old Mariaux oil mill** has kept its workshop with its pair of grinding stones, its cauldron and the wooden tubs of its old press. Jean-Pierre Mariaux's descendants donated the mill to the town council who are working on enhancing this heritage, which is the only one of its kind in the Nivernais area.

③ **Claude Alphonse Delangle** was born on 6 April 1797 in this house, **the Auberge de la Sèverie** (the Séverie Inn). He was protected by André Marie Dupin, known as Dupin the Eldest. His career led him to become Deputy, then Chairman of the Senate, Home Affairs Minister and finally Justice Minister. After Dupin's death in 1865, he became his successor as the Public Prosecutor at the Court of Cassation until his own death in 1869.

► This house also hosted **Barrat's “café-dancing” and photo studio**, where the very first post cards of Varzy were produced by Edmond Barrat, Rex Barrat's grand-father.

► **Rex Barrat** was born in Varzy on 9 April 1914. He started his career at the early age of ten in the workshop of another painter from Varzy, his neighbour Alfred Garcement.

The hallmark of Rex Barrat's painting is his stroke: systematic and vertical, it brings the canvas to life. A number of his works are on display in Varzy museum. In 1975, a plaque was affixed to the facade of the house by the "group of artistic emulation".

④ **The hôtel de l'Écu** (registered as National Heritage – Monument Historique - from 1927 to 2017) is the oldest building on "rue Delangle" (Delangle Street). Used commercially since its original construction in 1527, likely after the fire of Varzy, the building features a courtyard with an octagonal stairway turret giving access to two private storeys. An annex originating from a later era (1634) suggests many legends...



⑤ In 1826 the town acquired this large 17<sup>th</sup> century complex from the heirs of Charles Gestat, a rich wood merchant. The main building was home to the Justice of Peace (a local court) until its cessation in 1959, **the town hall** and the public library. In the outbuildings were the lodge of the town hall caretaker and the storage room for the fire pumps. The prison was located where the entrance hall of the museum now stands, and the police station next to it.

► Founded in 1856, **Auguste Grasset Museum** (curator from 1862 to 1879) is a cabinet of curiosities. It moved to its present premises in 1993.



⑥ **The Varzy coat of arms** can be seen on the front wall of the town hall: a golden key and a silver one, the one which ties and the one which unties, crossed over a shield rimmed with 2 "fanons", and above, the papal tiara, a globe and a cross.

⑦ A few meters along, on your left, in the "rue des Forges" (Forges street) you'll find **the birth house of the Dupins**, André Marie, Charles and Philippe, born in 1783, 1784 and 1795, respectively.



⑧ The “**rue de l’Hôtel-de-Ville**” (Town hall street) was once called “rue Traîne-Boyaux” (dragging guts street) because this was where butchers slaughtered before the municipal abattoirs were built in 1860.

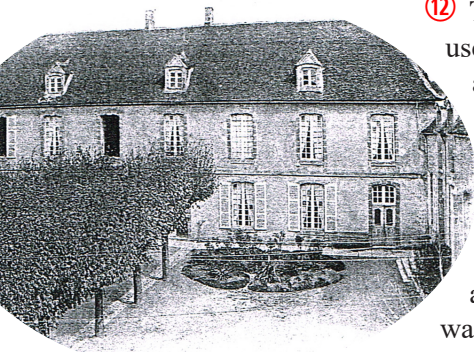
⑨ The “**Hôtel des Gouverneurs**” (Governors’ hotel) (16<sup>th</sup> century), located in rue des Lods (Lods street), included the seigniorial administration (captain, treasurer, intendant, bailiff...). It was destroyed by the fire of Varzy in 1525. Only rib vaulted cellars supported by 13<sup>th</sup> century capitals, and a tower, now called the belfry, with its mullion windows, (registered as National Heritage - Monument Historique 1925) remain.



⑩ On your left, the “**Hôtel du Monarque**” (Monarch Hotel): this former hotel is also known as the admiral house as it belonged to Admiral Paul Galleret (1902 – 2001). Note the now filled semi-arched windows, a typical feature of medieval shops.

► Next are the premises of the former Sainte-Eugénie boarding school, now home to a foundation which aims to support and foster school-aged young people through their schooling in Varzy and the broader Nièvre department.

⑪ The “**Maison Dourneau**” (Dourneau’s house) is typical of middle-class houses built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A Louis the 13<sup>th</sup> style external staircase leads to the main building which is built above three levels of cellars. Whilst other multi-level cellars can be found on the same street, proximity to the groundwater made this type of construction impossible in the lower town.



⑫ The former hospice and ancient almshouse used to host the poor and ill as well as pilgrims and passing soldiers. It dates back to 1217, when it was founded by the Lord-Bishops. The main Pavilion and the Chapel on the right were built in 1770. Until 1899, it was managed by the “*Sœurs de La Charité et de l’Instruction Chrétienne*” (Sisters of Charity and Christian Education). It closed in 1988 and was sold to a private buyer in 2006.

⑬ **The cistern**, with its rim and its lantern-turret, was built between 1850 and 1853 by Desjobert, a local company, under the supervision of the architect François Rignault. Its 150 m<sup>3</sup> underground basin is supplemented by runoff water and was used as drinking water for local animals and to extinguish fires. (registered as National Heritage - Monument Historique 1946)

⑭ **The “Petites promenades de Varzy”** (little promenades of Varzy) (registered as National Heritage – Monument Historique 1946) have kept their natural features and invite you to take a stroll. They were the sole market place since the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. You can also spot the back of the former hospice building.

⑮ **The deportation memorial** was unveiled in 1990 for the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation. Made by students of the ironwork art department of the Mont-Châteleet College, this is a futuristic piece based on the theme of “life stronger than death”.

⑯ This overhanging property on your left originally belonged to a banker. Mrs Marguerite, his wife, erected a **Holy Virgin statue** in memory of her daughter who died at a young age.



► After they went bankrupt, the house and its annexes were acquired in 1888 by the Sisters of Christian Charity of Nevers. The boarding school shut down in 1939. Since 1940, the buildings have been used for the “Entr’aide d’hiver du Maréchal” program (Marechal’s winter help program), now led by the “Secours National” (National Help) for welcoming refugees and hosting parish activities.

\*\*\* An audio-guided french version of this tour is available with the free application **GUIDIGO**.

Also available for **Clamecy** (16 km away), **Entrains-sur-Nohain** (18.5 km away) and for the geological site of the **Basseville Rocks** (20.6 km away).

\*\*\* **“Heritage Thursdays”**: guided tours of Clamecy available every Thursday in summer at 10 am or at 3 pm (3 different themes). Information and registration at Clamecy Tourist Office.

\*\*\* **“Clamecy by night”**: 3 guided walks are organised in July and August at 9 h 45 pm on Fridays

\*\*\* July/August: **guided tours of Varzy and some local villages are organised**.

\*\*\* **Child-friendly: Randoland**: free recreational activity booklets are available at Clamecy Tourist Office.

Continue the experience by visiting Clamecy with your smartphone :



**Guidigo**

**Tourist Office of  
Clamecy Haut Nivernais**  
03 86 27 02 51



**FLOTTEURS FM 91Mhz**

\*\*\* **Spécial enfant** : *Randoland* : livret de visite ludique de Clamecy à retirer gratuitement à l'Office de tourisme.



- 1 La seigneurie de Varzy
- 2 Alfred Garcement et Rex Barrat
- 3 L'ancienne école communale de filles  
(Maison des services)
- 4 La tour Isoard
- 5 Le château des évêques d'Auxerre
- 6 La maison du «service des eaux»  
et celle de l'électricité
- 7 Les vestiges de l'ancienne collégiale Sainte-  
Eugénie
- 8 Les vestiges de la chapelle Saint-Roch
- 9 Le lavoir
- 10 Les petites écoles françaises  
et l'ancien musée de Varzy
- 11 L'école Rex Barrat
- 12 L'école normale d'instituteurs de la Nièvre
- 13 Les anciens abattoirs  
(lycée du Mont-Châtelet)
- 14 L'église Saint-Pierre-Es-Liens
- 15 Dupin Aîné
- 16 La place du Marché

- 1 La porte de Marcy
- 2 L'ancienne huilerie
- 3 L'auberge de la Séverie
- 4 L'hôtel de l'Écu
- 5 La mairie
- 6 Les armoiries de la ville
- 7 La maison natale des frères Dupin
- 8 La rue Traîne-Boyaux
- 9 L'hôtel des Gouverneurs
- 10 L'hôtel du Monarque
- 11 La maison Dourneau
- 12 L'hôtel-Dieu
- 13 La citerne
- 14 Les Petites Promenades
- 15 Le monument de la déportation
- 16 La statue de la Sainte Vierge



[www.clamecyhautnivernais-tourisme.fr](http://www.clamecyhautnivernais-tourisme.fr)

