

DISCOVERY TRAIL

- Wax museum: the life of the Holy Priest of Ars (Tourist Office)
- Saint-Sixte Basilica
- The Priest's house
- The Chapel of the Heart
- Notre-Dame-de-la-Miséricorde semi-underground church
- Monument to the meetinge: 100 m / 10 min walk from the Basilica
- Château de Fléchères: 8,5 km
- Château-fort d'Ambérieux-en-Dombes : 6,5 km
- Cibeins Park: 5 min walk from the Basilica

We've earned a little break!

- Restaurant Sage
- В Glace Rimo - Ice cream shop
- Crêperie des Dombes
- Boulangerie du Formans Bakery
- Hôtel-restaurant Le Régina: 200 m
- Chemin du Curé d'Ars
- Car park
- Campsite



Chemin des Mûriers







Wax museum: the life of the Holy Priest of Ars

Enter the wax museum and learn about an outstanding man: Jean-Marie Vianney. Begin your visit with the information area. It will help you situate the Holy Priest's life within the historical context of his time, with the help of explanatory information boards and sound recordings.

Then make you way through settings from another age and relive the highlights of the Holy Priest's life, presented in 17 scenes and 35 wax figures in period costumes, created by Grévin.

At the end of the tour, video kiosks and illustrations remind visitors of the importance of the Holy Priest's legacy. This is not just a visit, it's a meeting!

The Saint-Sixte Basilica

Because the original church was too small to accommodate all of the pilgrims who flocked to the site, the Priest from Ars had it enlarged. The little Romanesque church become the Saint-Sixte Basilica, designed by Pierre Marie Bossan, the architect behind the Fourvière basilica in Lyon.

Different times, different styles! Right from the entrance to the village, it towers over its surroundings. You can't miss it. Its sheer size is arresting; its novel structure catches our gaze. The red-brick bell tower is in striking contrast to the domes, forming an attractive juxtaposition. The colourful contrasts between the green domes, the brick-red bell tower, the white and ochre stone are a foretaste of the richly polychromed interior. What harmonious lines, what magnificence and elegance!





The Holy Priest's house

Jean-Marie Vianney, the priest of Ars, lived here for 41 years. It was the prettiest house in the village, made of rammed earth, typical of Dombes, and with a pretty garden.

After the priest's death in 1859, the house remained as it was at the time, with all its furnishings. No-one has lived in it since. On the ground floor, a modest kitchen was equipped with a few utensils, bowls and pots; a confessional served as a cupboard. On the upper floor, the bedroom with the bed in which he died on 4 August 1859. Another room housed a collection of personal belongings and liturgical objects and clothing.

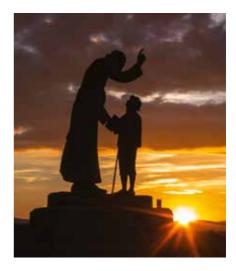
The Chapel of the Heart

As you follow a narrow street, you'll be intrigued by a pretty chapel known as the Chapelle du Coeur. It was built in 1930 to remind the whole world that the priest of Ars had been proclaimed the Patron Saint of all the priests in the universe. It houses the relic of his heart, in a magnificent bronze reliquary inlaid with ivory. The reliquary has travelled around the world, including the United States recently.

This chapel, which is rather plain on the outside, has finely painted walls on the inside.

The relic is carried through the village in a procession every 4 August during the Pilgrimage.





Notre-Dame-de-la-Miséricorde church

The entrance to the Notre-Dame-de-la-Miséricorde church is through its superb double-spiral staircase, the discreet entrance to which is situated on the esplanade at the rear of the Saint Sixte basilica. The staircase passes underneath the street and leads to the nave, a large concrete vessel that can accommodate 1.500 people. Built in 1959 by the architect Pierre Pinsard to celebrate the centenary of the Holy Priest's death, this semi-underground church is strikingly plain. Its only decorative feature is the pattern left in its concrete beams by the veins of the wooden housing. The church, which is a listed 20th century monument, is reserved for large-scale events.

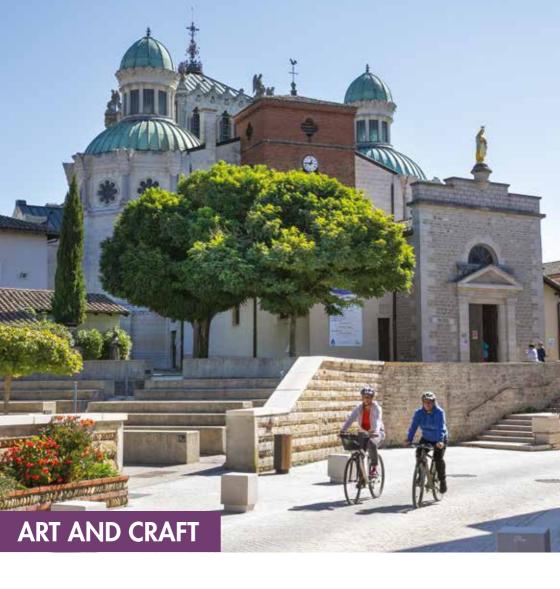
Monument to the meeting

"You showed me the way to Ars; I'll show you the way to Heaven"

This famous phrase that Jean-Marie Vianney said to the young shepherd, Antoine Givre, on his arrival in Ars, is inscribed on a monument situated 800 metres from the village.

After he had become the vicar in Ecully, Vianney was assigned the village of Ars, where he was appointed parish priest. He arrived on a foggy day in February 1818 and met a young shepherd, who gave him directions to Ars.

From this monument, you'll have a unique view of the mountains in the Beaujolais and Lyon districts, the Dombes plateau, and a lovely view of the village of Ars and the basilica.



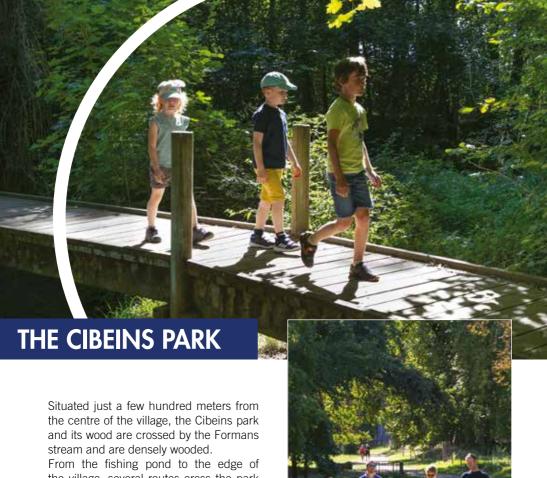
LES SANTONS DE MADY

18 chemin des Gillards 01480 ARS-SUR-FORMANS **04 74 08 43 66 06 61 94 36 58** gudetfrederic@yahoo.fr



Crafting Christmas crib figures since 2013. Share this special interest with Frédéric. Come and visit his workshop: he'll tell you about the origin of these little clay figures and how they're made.

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 12 noon and from 2pm to 6pm. Also by appointment.



From the fishing pond to the edge of the village, several routes cross the park and lead to the high school, situated in a château that was rebuilt in the 19th century. Its landscaped park contains many old and remarkable trees. It is possible, therefore, to take a 2 km loop there and back, or to join other paths that will extend the ride in the direction of Misérieux or Sainte-Euphémie.

Did you know?

The agricultural college in Cibeins was founded on 11 November 1918 by Edouard Herriot, then Mayor of Lyon. The architecture of the model farm, on the D88C route, bears the signature of the famous architect from Lyon, Tony Garnier.



There are several hiking and cycling trails that can be taken from Ars-sur-Formans. They follow the farm tracks over the Dombes plateau and provide lovely views of the Beaujolais mountains and the Monts d'Or. Sometimes you can even see the Mont-Blanc and the Alps, weather permitting.

On foot, the Chemin du Curé d'Ars will take you by farm tracks and little country roads to Montmerle, while a stroll in the Cibeins park and its wood will provide shade and cooler temperatures in summer.

By bike, you can easily reach the Voie Bleue Moselle-Saône cycle path. This wonderful 700km cycle track from Luxembourg to Lyon passes only 10 km from the village.

Simply follow the "L'Ain à Vélo" route markers heading for Trévoux to stay on the route. For families, we recommend going through the Cibeins park then taking the little-used farm tracks and small roads to Saint-Bernard.

You can find the cycle routes on the Ars Trévoux Tourist Office's website.





Feeling peckish?

There are two restaurants in Ars. The Restaurant Sage, set further down from the basilica, offers traditional cuisine. The Restaurant Régina features specialties from Bresse and Dombes, and is situated a few hundred meters from the centre of the village.

For a snack of crêpes or a more substantial meal, the Crêperie des Dombes is very close to the basilica, as is the Boulangerie du Formans, a bakery renowned for the quality of its products. For a meal on the go, it offers a wide choice of good sandwiches and pastries, such as the praline tart or the sacristains (puff pastries).

For dessert or afternoon tea, don't miss the Glaces Rimo ice-cream shop, also located in the village centre. This renowned ice-cream shop makes delicious artisanal ice-creams, made with the milk of the cows on the family farm in Dombes, not far from there.

And if you'd like to take home a little souvenir of your visit, the Tourist Office's shop offers a selection of fine local products. Browse our 100% local must-haves: vegetable spreads from the Bocalerie des gourmets in Fareins for an impromptu aperitif, the excellent coffee by Alex, roasted in Ars, local craft beers and much, much more.



BOULANGERIE DU FORMANS

Treat yourself to the pleasure of home-made bread. In the heart of the village, we'll greet you with a smile and invite you to discover our excellent bread and pastries...

6am - 1.30pm and 3.30pm - 7.30pm Weekly closure: Wednesday

500 rue Jean-Marie Vianney 01480 ARS-SUR-FORMANS **04 74 08 48 07**



RESTAURANT RÉGINA

Taste the specialities of the Bresse and Dombes areas prepared with care by our Chef. Planning a meal, a celebration or an event? We will work with you to compose menu suggestions to suit your requirements and budget.

- Devery day, all year round.
- Ocapacity: 180 indoors 40 on the terrace.
- € Set menus from €25 to €30, or choose from the menu Daily special at €14.50 Group menus.

657, RD 904 01480 ARS-SUR-FORMANS **04 74 00 73 67**

contact@regina-ars.com www.regina-ars.com



GLACES RIMO

Discover, taste and buy Rimo ice-creams, made with whole milk from the cows on the family farm in nearby Dombes. Enjoy a dozen or so flavours on the shop's terrace, situated opposite the basilica. We have been making artisanal, farm-style ice-cream since 2015.

We are open in July and August, on afternoons from Wednesday to Sunday. From September to mid-November, we are open on weekends. We will then reopen in March 2024.

500 rue Jean-Marie Vianney 01480 ARS-SUR-FORMANS **04 74 08 48 07**



RESTAURANT SAGE

This friendly, family restaurant is ideally situated at the foot of the Basilica in Ars. In a country setting, the chef offers traditional cuisine such as country-style terrine and salads...

- Open for lunch on Wednesday in the low season. Closed in the evening, except for group bookings.
- Capacity: 150 indoors 50 on the terrace.
- € Set menus: €15 to €33. Children's menu (under 14 v.o.): €8

420 rue Jean-Marie Vianney 01480 ARS-SUR-FORMANS **04 74 00 73 87**

sage.frederic@free.fr

THE TOURIST OFFICE IS OPEN IN ARS-SUR-FORMANS:

- Tuesday to Saturday, morning and afternoon;
- Monday, Sunday and public holidays in the afternoon (closed on 1 January and 25 December).

INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS:

Tourist Office Ars Trévoux 625 rue Jean-Marie Vianney. 01480 ARS-SUR-FORMANS +33 (0)4 74 08 10 76 contact@ars-trevoux.com www.ars-trevoux.com



@arstrevouxtourisme



Crédits photo : Daniel Gillet, Pascal Brunon, Clara Darget-Lacoste (Dombes Tourisme), les partenaires de l'Office de tourisme.



















