

On the market square, which has retained the name of « Place d'Armes », as a reminder of the military parades, note the recently done up building (the former Gendarmerie barracks) actual « *Maison du Pays de Seyne* » with « *Office du tourisme* », « *Musée du Mulet* », and a library **(1)**.

Take the « *Grand rue* » whose first half is still referred to as the « bourgade ». This district, built beyond the Middle Ages enclosure was incorporated into the town only at the end of the XVII<sup>th</sup> century, when the rampart was erected. Note a few fine XVII<sup>th</sup> century style doors, particularly at number 11, that of the former « *Hotel des Trois Rois* » with the neat Louis XV style curves. On the left, slightly farther on, the fine freestone face of the former Town hall, built in 1730. At number 17 stood the medieval « *Porte saint Pierre* ». **(2)**.

Walk up to « *Rue Haute* », on your right, then turn twice right and note one of the oldest gates dating back to 1666, in the « *Rochas* » district ( rock in Provencal) **(3)**.

As you move towards the Fort, stop on your right, in front of the ashlar house whose outer staircase provides a fine recess. Note under the hayloft, at ground level, the block round which ran a rope drawn by a mule to hoist weights to the attic. On your left take a street that ends up into a flight of steps. Inside the house with blue shutters, there lived the goatherd who used to lead to the « *Petit Puy* » the many goats accommodated in the village houses **(4)**

When you get at the « *Rue Haute* » walk down past the washhouse on left and stop at the « *Bugade* » which is next to it ( for laundry twice a year) **(5)**

Slightly farther left, the medieval jailhouse, adorned with protruding stones.

The king's court used to sit on the first floor. Farther on, to the left, then to the right of you, note some overhanging half-timbered houses as well as a few doors with gothic arches which remind of the Middle Ages.**(6)**

Then, cross over the « *Grand Rue* » and walk down to the « *Rue Basse* » which was for a long time the busiest shopping street in the village with many shops .«*The Tailleur*» and «*The school*» on the left have been reconstructed just as it looked in the twenties. Note on the right, three Renaissance doors with various woodwork patterns. The first, made up of horizontal boards lavishly provided with nails and within frames; the second door has diamond-shaped panels; the third one, with nailed mouldings (as a draught-proof device as well as an ornament). Don't fail to push open the latter and have a look at the beautiful XVII century stuccoed wooden staircase.**(7)**

Just on your right, the three-cornered bell tower of the « *Chapelle des Pénitents* »**(8)**. On the house facing the chapel: an inscription: « *Poste aux lettres* ». From there a horsed courier used to start bound for the station at *Prunières*. At the bottom of the street, stop at the Louis XIV style swinging door, inside a wrought-iron XVIII<sup>th</sup> century staircase. Slightly up the street, take a vaulted passageway supporting a bridge that enabled the Dominican monks to go from the convent to the chapel. You then reach the convent Square. **(9)**

To the south east stands a door on which the oldest recorded date is carved (1661). The wooden door is crown by a half circle with diamond-shaped ends. In the middle lies a carved medallion with a dog, the symbol of Dominicans (the latin « *Domini*

*canis* » means the Lord's Dog). In the middle of the eastern side, note the last sheepfold with the big hayloft and the block for lifting the hay. **(9)**

Pay a visit to the « *Chapelle des Pénitents* » ( for winter use), built in 1445, destroyed during the religious wars and rebuilt in 1624, at the time of the counter reformation, in keeping with the Baroque style and finally restored in 1998. **(8)**

Skirt the vestry and the garden attached to it. Get as far as the « *Rue du Mazel* » and appraise to the right of the washhouse a big swinging door. Then stop at the house , whose door bears the date 1734. We have here the former « *Hôpital Saint-Jacques* » which was rebuilt following the heavy fire that took place in 1685. The foundations are made of ashlar and opening follows a gothic arch pattern. The last house before the « *Hôtel de ville* » with a big gate and a high wall concealing a fine front was used by the town governor in the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century.

The New Town Hall was built in 1969. The authorities endeavour to bring back trading activities closer to the western part of the village. In 1685, an infuriated son-in-law set fire to the whole « *Serre* » district (the new cemetery), ever since the town has kept extending east.**(10)**

Opposite the « *Hôtel de ville* », the church « *Notre Dame de Nazareth* » (XIII<sup>th</sup> century: roman style). The bell tower of is highly characteristic of the alpine architecture. This church is worth a detailed visit. Walk around it to get a view of the northern gate and the foundations of the former vestry. **(11)**