

Walking with Saracens

The name of Ramatuelle is unrelated to any known place name. The two theories previously put forward as to its origin are now contested by historians:

Rahmatu'llah: Meaning "Divine Providence" in Arabic, resulting from the Saracen occupation in the 10th century.

Camatulluci: A Celto-Ligurian tribe lived on the banks of the Gapeau River at the time of the Roman conquest.

After being driven away, the tribe initially took refuge in the forests and mountains overlooking the Bay of Saint-Tropez, then founded the so-called "Region of Camatulluci" on the site of the current village of Ramatuelle.

The "R" of region was thought to have replaced the "C" to give "Ramatullucci", then Ramatuelle!

But the mystery remains...



Starting point: Office de Tourisme et de la Culture

(Tourist Office) (1), facing Place de l'Ormeau square (2).

The tree on the square - originally planted by order of the Duke of Sully to mark the province's pacification and conversion of Henry IV to Catholicism - is also depicted on the town's coat of arms, although the elm was replaced with an olive tree in 1983. Take time to visit

Notre-Dame church (3), then head through the porch to your right (4)

into the old quarter via Rue du Centre. This street features door and window frames dating back to the early 17th century (the village was entirely rebuilt after the Wars of Religion during the reign of Henry IV), plus a number of picturesque old buildings (5).

On place Gabriel Péri square (previously named Place du Château) (6) you will pass a stately home restyled in the 18th century by the Audiberts (Lords of Ramatuelle) and the Cercle du Littoral (local society founded in 1885) (7), before heading down a steep, terraced street (8) harbouring the village's narrowest lane (9).

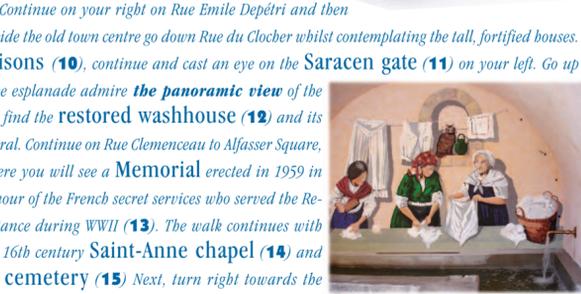
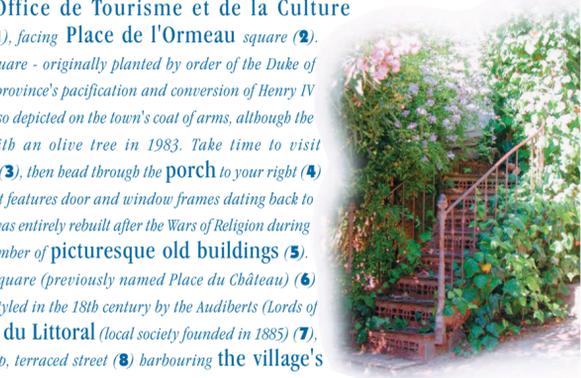
Continue on your right on Rue Emile Depétri and then follow Rue Saint Esprit. Outside the old town centre go down Rue du Clocher whilst contemplating the tall, fortified houses.

Walk past the former prisons (10), continue and cast an eye on the Saracen gate (11) on your left. Go up Rue Victor Léon (from the esplanade admire the panoramic view of the vineyards and Pampelonne Bay) where you will find the restored washhouse (12) and its mural. Continue on Rue Clemenceau to Alfasser Square, where you will see a Memorial erected in 1959 in honour of the French secret services who served the Resistance during WWII (13). The walk continues with the 16th century Saint-Anne chapel (14) and the cemetery (15). Next, turn right towards the Avenue du 8 Mai; the car park offers panoramic views (16) over open vineyards, the Camarat lighthouse and the southern end of the beautiful Bay of Pampelonne. To end your walk, you can enjoy gazing over the village rooftops from the Place de la Mairie (town hall square) (17), before strolling back down to Place de l'Ormeau square and its pretty fountain (18).

Old workshop



Provençal market
Thursday and Sunday mornings

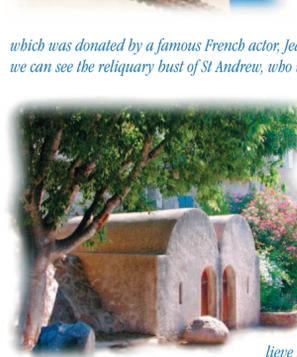


Digital tour
Flash QR Codes to the numbers
3 - 5 - 27 - 11 - 15 - 18

- POST OFFICE (19)
- EXHIBITION ROOM "LE GARAGE" AND LIBRARY (20)
- G. PHILIPPE SCHOOL (21)
- POLICE (22)
- PRESBYTERY (23)
- FOYER RURAL (24)
- PICNIC AREA (26)
- OIL MILL private (27)
- BUS PARK
- HOUSEHOLD WASTE
- RECYCLING BINS
- PANORAMIC VIEWING POINT
- DEFIBRILLATORS



Notre-Dame church (3)
The main door is richly decorated with porphyre green 'serpentine' (commonly known as 'serpentine'), extracted from blocks quarried at the Carrade quarry in Cavalaire. The bell tower is the vestige of one of the four watchtowers (attested to in the 14th century) which formed part of the original fortifications. The guardroom has been preserved, as has a part of the covered way which runs over the church roof. The left-hand side of the church corresponds to the wall of the ancient rampart, and contains four arches. Behind strengthened glass, the second arch shelters three traditional Nativity figurines: St Joseph and The Virgin Mary (classified Historic Monuments from the 16th Century) and a Baby Jesus which was donated by a famous French actor, Jean-Claude Brialy (1933 - 2007) who lived in Ramatuelle. In the third arch, we can see the reliquary bust of St Andrew, who was a patron of the parish. The reliquary busts of St Tropez and St Maxime flank that of St Andrew. The choirstand contains a magnificent classified altarpiece from the 17th century, representing St Andrew. The 19th century mural painted on the vault has been recently restored. Restoration work has revealed the existence of 17th century murals on the supporting walls of the choir vault, which are represented on the right-hand wall. To the right of the entrance, a plaque commemorates the memory of the crews of four submarines: the 'SM 2326', the 'Sybille', the 'Platen machine', the 'Eurydice', which disappeared off Cape Camarat between 1946 and 1970. **Open hours: 9h-18h**



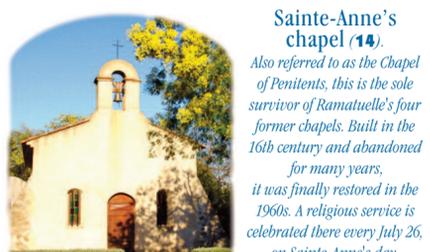
The Ancient Prison (10)
is situated in the street leading from the steeple and along the ramparts. Built under Napoleon III, the prison's distinctly arabian style gradually led people to believe it was actually a Turkish bath built by the Saracens! **Free visit.**



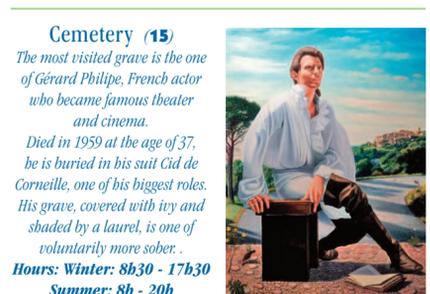
The Saracen Gate (11)
The gate has kept its original aspect. From the inside, you can still see the grooves used to slide the portullis and the binges installed in 1792 to close the gate with the aid of a double door. On the outside, you will notice stone arms previously used to support the "bartizan" (a watch-turret common in 13th and 14th-century French military architecture). **Free visit.**



French Secret Services Memorial (13)
Opened May 3, 1959, this unique national monument in France, is the work of Courbrier. It's dedicated to the members of the special services died for France during the Second World War. It carries engraved in the stone the names of the members of the networks of the information service and of against espionage which worked since autumn 1940 in the underground in France occupied to prepare the operations which brought the liberation of the Country. These heroes taken by the services of the occupant died shot, beheaded, tortured or in concentration camps. **Free visit.**



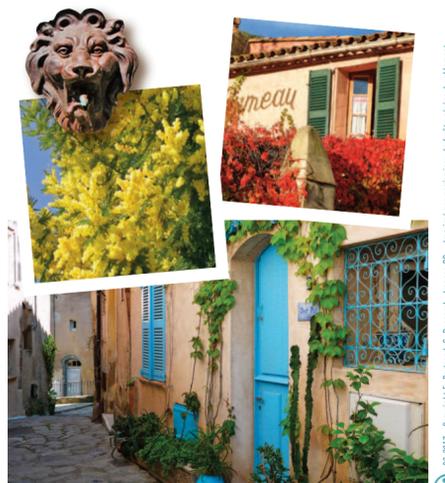
Sainte-Anne's chapel (14)
Also referred to as the Chapel of Penitents, this is the sole survivor of Ramatuelle's four former chapels. Built in the 16th century and abandoned for many years, it was finally restored in the 1960s. A religious service is celebrated there every July 26, on Sainte-Anne's day. **No visits.**



Cemetery (15)
The most visited grave is the one of Gérard Philippe, French actor who became famous theater and cinema. Died in 1959 at the age of 37, he is buried in his suit Cid de Cornelle, one of his biggest roles. His grave, covered with ivy and shaded by a laurel, is one of voluntarily more sober. **Hours: Winter: 8h30 - 17h30 Summer: 8h - 20h**



Theater (25)
Built in 1985 for the Festival of theater and varieties, in a frame peaceful and opened towards the plain and the coast, he can welcome 1 200 spectators. Every summer, within the framework of three festivals, at nightfall, artists of international fame come to occur on its scene. **We overhang it since the path of La Font d'Avau.**



OFFICE DE TOURISME ET DE LA CULTURE - Place de l'Ormeau - 83350 Ramatuelle
 Tél. : 33 (0) 4 98 12 64 00 - Fax : 33 (0) 4 94 79 12 66
 office@ramatuelle-tourisme.com www.ramatuelle-tourisme.com
 GPS Longitude 6° 61' 22" E - Latitude 43° 21' 53" N

Opening hours			
Low season			
Monday to Friday	09h00 - 12h30	14h00 - 17h30	
Opening on Tuesdays at 10.30 am.			
Middle season			
Monday to Friday	09h00 - 12h30	14h00 - 18h30	
Saturday & Public holidays	09h30 - 13h30	15h30 - 18h30	
Opening on Tuesdays at 10.30 am.			
High season			
Monday to Friday	09h00 - 13h00	14h30 - 19h00	
Saturday, Sunday* & Public holidays	09h30 - 13h30	15h30 - 18h30	
* except June			



The coastal walkway

Accessible to all
 Some difficulties due to steep paths
 Tricky and technical sections, or very steep
 Approximate times, one-way
 Not accessible to pushchairs - Dogs allowed on a leash

Signposted from the port of St Tropez along to La Croix Valmer (Gigaro beach). From Saint-Tropez to Cap Pinet ▶ 14km - Ⓞ 4h30 - ⚠️

Circuit A :
 The Bay of Pampelonne ▶ 5km - Ⓞ 1h30 - ⚠️

Circuit B :
 The Inlet of Bonne Terrasse ▶ 0,5km - Ⓞ 15mn - ⚠️
 Municipal car-park on the Route de Bonne Terrasse, after the holiday village of Léo Lagrange. At the far south of Pampelonne, take the footpath along the base of the rocky coastline. After about 100m, don't miss the well of 'Lou Pous' with its resurgence of fresh water, before arriving at the beach of Bonne Terrasse and its fishermen's cottages. Possibility of returning via the footpath after the restaurant 'Chez Camille', or of going further along on 'Circuit C' to Cap Camarat.

Circuit C :
 Bonne Terrasse - Cap Camarat ▶ 2,5km - Ⓞ 30mn
 As Circuit B + extra parking (15 places) along the road to the restaurant 'Chez Camille'. Take 'Circuit B' and follow on, or join it from the footpath which leads to the beach of Bonne Terrasse. Go along the sea-front to the barrier, then : The road on the right will lead you gently (⚠️) up to the Lighthouse, which you will reach after about 500m. The steep road on the left over the sea, leads up to the 'Rocher des Portes' or 'Bird Island' (30mn - ⚠️). Possibility of climbing up to the Lighthouse (15mins up a path on the right). The Lighthouse dates from 1831, and was the second most important in France for its height and luminosity : 130m above sea-level. Can not be visited. Signal station of Camarat Open military site closed to the public except Heritage Days



Portes' or 'Bird Island' (30mn - ⚠️). Possibility of climbing up to the Lighthouse (15mins up a path on the right). The Lighthouse dates from 1831, and was the second most important in France for its height and luminosity : 130m above sea-level. Can not be visited. Signal station of Camarat Open military site closed to the public except Heritage Days



Circuit D :
 Cap Camarat - Plage de l'Escalet ▶ 4,5km - Ⓞ 2h20 - ⚠️

at the bottom of the Camarat lighthouse This itinerary starts with a succession of ups and downs along the rockface, before coming to sea-level along to Escalet Beach and its little private harbour. Discover the outcrop of the **Napoleonic Battery**, the **village of Merlier** (35 houses built in the 1960's by the architects known as MONTROUGE, combining traditional and modern features) ; the **Château Volterra** (a private residence from the 1900's) and the **Escudier Rock** (commemorating the submarine missions and escape of the banner of the 2nd regiment of Dragons during the Second World War).

Circuit E :
 Plage de l'Escalet - Isthme du Cap Taillat ▶ 2km - Ⓞ 35mn
 2 indicators : yellow (⚠️) and blue (⚠️)

next to the tennis courts. Go down to the beach and take the path which goes down some steps to the right, (after the villa). Go up the Boulevard Praya, then to the left Direct access to the footpath.

Undoubtedly the most beautiful stretch of the coastal walkway, with its backdrop of the **isthmus of Taillat**, which can be reached after a succession of rocky inlets.

From the summit of Cape Taillat (a remarkable site protected by the Coastal Conservation bureau), you will marvel at the different colours of the sea-bed, which change with every breath of wind. Behind the **Customs' House** on the right, (10mn - ⚠️) the path leads to the **dolmen of the Briande** Bay (a burial ground dating from 2000 BC). Possibility of continuing along to Gigaro Beach (6km - 2h - ⚠️)



The wine route



- Vignobles de Ramatuelle
 Tél. 33 (0)4 94 55 59 05
- Domaine du Château de Pampelonne
 Tél. 33 (0)4 94 56 32 04
- Domaine des Tournels
 Tél. 33 (0)4 94 55 90 91
- Domaine La Tourraque
 Tél. 33 (0)4 94 79 25 95
- Château des Marres
 Tél. 33 (0)4 94 97 22 61
- Château Volterra
 Tél. 33 (0)4 94 49 66 83
- Le Mas de Pampelonne
 Tél. 33 (0)4 94 97 75 86

In the miller's footsteps

"Moulin de Paillas" wheat mill
 The "Moulin de Paillas" is one of the highlights of Ramatuelle's rich heritage. Restored to its original condition in 2002, the mill includes a working mechanism made entirely of wood and a millstone for grinding wheat. The "Moulin de Paillas" is located on the road to Gassin at the top of the village of Ramatuelle, overlooking the whole coast from Cavalaire to Saint-Tropez. Visits : ask at the tourist office

