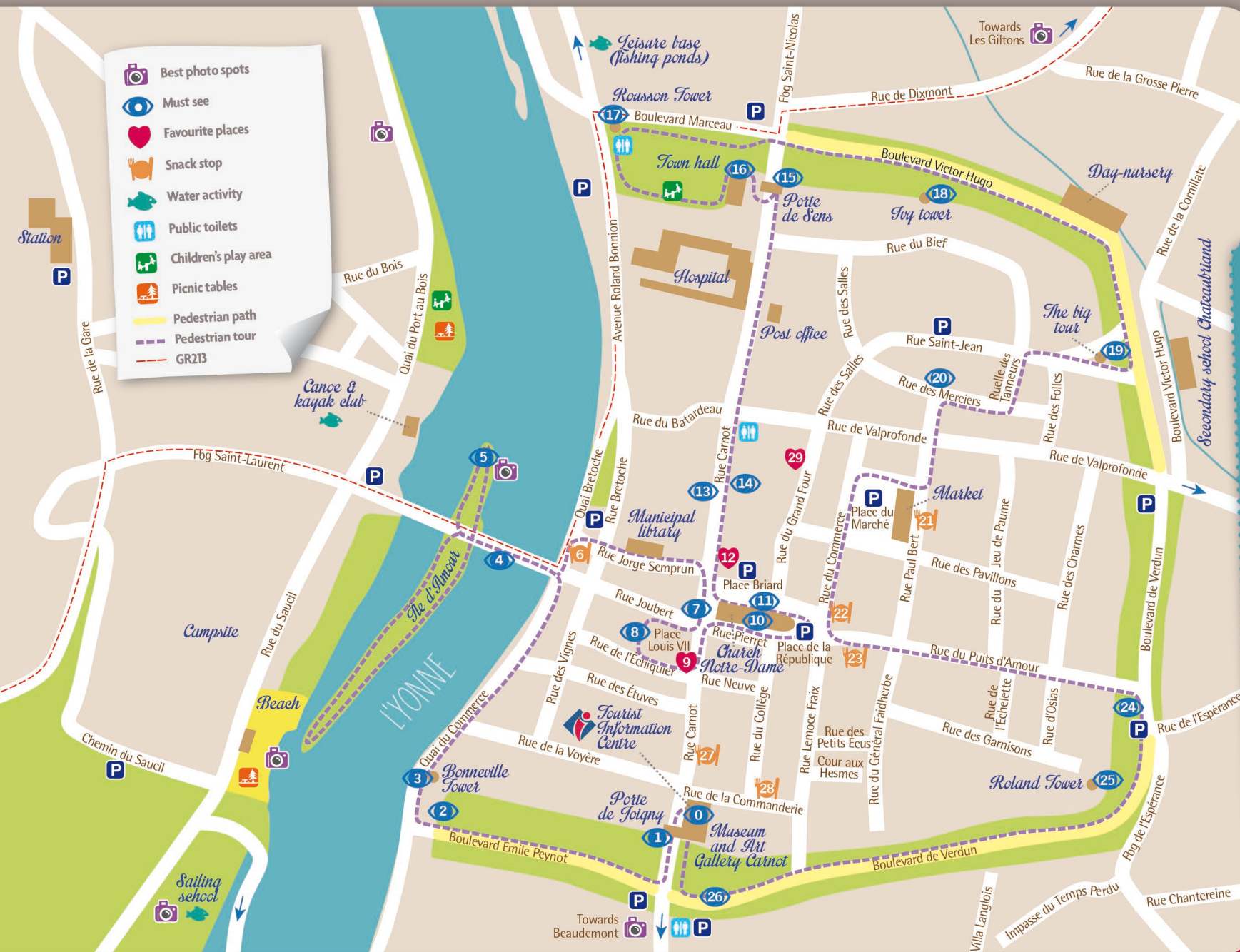


OUR PEDESTRIAN TOUR TO EXPLORING VILLENEUVE-SUR-YONNE

by **MARYLIN**, creator of charming bed and breakfast accommodation, **EVEYNE**, a watercolour artist, **ANDRÉA, MARIE, ELODIE, ISABELLE** and **ANNE**, destination experts, **PIERRE**, a photojournalist and experienced touring cyclist, and everyone else with the assistance of **JEAN-LUC** and **BERNARD**.



MY CHECKLIST

for becoming a real Villeneuvian

- ☐ Shop at the covered market on Friday morning **21**
- ☐ Buy some gingerbread or meringues from "Dosnon" **28**
- ☐ Admire a Picabia at the museum and visit the current exhibitions **0**
- ☐ Take a seat on Chateaubriand's bench, opposite the keep **19**
- ☐ Kiss my sweetheart at the north end of the Ile d'Amour **5**
- ☐ Have a drink on the terrace of the "Lucarne aux Chouettes" on the banks of the Yonne **6**
- ☐ Spread my toes on the beach (patrolled in July/August)

Map provided by the Tourist Information Centre of Villeneuve-sur-Yonne
4, rue Carnot - 89500 Villeneuve-sur-Yonne
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OUR BEST PHOTO SPOTS

📷 the beach 📷 Ile d'Amour 📷 in front of Tour de Rousson 📷 the sailing school
and also from above the town 📷 on the GR213, towards Les Giltons 📷 from the road to Beaudemont.

Don't forget to post your photos with #destinationvilleneuve

① Tourist Information Centre - Museum and Art Gallery Carnot

Above the Tourist Information Centre, discover the treasures of the Musée Villeneuvien (including works by Picabia, Peynot, Balké, Berthold Mahn and de Gallard) and its new gallery of temporary exhibitions.

② Porte de Joigny (13th – 16th centuries)

The south gate of the former medieval fortress. Inside you will find themed collections, the first dedicated to the history of the town (on the 1st floor) and the second to uniforms of the military police - the gendarmerie - over two centuries (on the 2nd floor). At the foot of the gate in the former moat, notice the old apple press dating from 1784 and two washhouses, one of which is vaulted under the bridge.

③ "Promenades" and Emile Peynot monument

Stroll along the former moat until you reach the monument to the sculptor Emile Peynot (1850-1932), a native of Villeneuve and 1st prize winner of the Prix de Rome for sculpture.

④ Tour Bonneville (private property)

The stone base of the southwestern tower of the city walls bears the marks left by boat pulley ropes. The upper part was rebuilt in brick at the beginning of the 19th century.

⑤ Pont Saint-Nicolas

Mentioned as early as 1186, the bridge served as a link between Gâtinais and Champagne via the royal domain, with the city of Villeneuve-le-Roi forming the southern approach. The central arch bears the cross of Saint Nicholas, or the bargemen's cross, and was blessed in 1739.

⑥ North end of the Ile d'Amour (Island of Love)

A charming place frequented by romantic couples and where swans come to nest. From here there are stunning views of the town. Enjoy counting the arches of the bridge, both the old and the more recent.

⑦ Restaurant "La Luearne aux Chouettes".

Housed in an old boathouse, this restaurant was created in the 1990s by the French-American film actress Leslie Caron and is steeped in her memory. Maybe Villeneuve-sur-Yonne should be renamed Hollywood-sur-Yonne?

⑧ The former Town Hall

At No.25 rue Carnot, the former Town Hall was built in 1837 and was turned into a small Napoleon III-style theatre in 1880. Its painted ceiling is a work *in situ* gifted to the town by the artist Jean-Pierre Pincemin (1944-2005), who lived in Villeneuve and Sens.

⑧ Maison Joubert (18th century)

Owned by the in-laws of the moralist Joseph Joubert (1754-1824), these buildings have retained their half-timbering as well as their layout from the time of the First Empire, notably the "green room". The great French writer François René de Chateaubriand, a close friend of Joubert, stayed in this room several times between 1804 and 1806.

⑨ The shop window of the florist "Au Fleuron d'Or".

⑩ Church of Notre Dame de l'Assomption (13th – 16th centuries)

Behind the Renaissance façade is one of the most beautiful Gothic buildings of the Yonne region. With its decorative features (anchor, oars and bargemen's boathooks), the second chapel of the south aisle, which is dedicated to Saint Nicholas, reminds us that Villeneuve was for a long time a prosperous port which supplied the capital. On the left in the chancel you will find the church's four oldest windows dating from the first half of the 13th century. On the interior of the façade is the great organ (18th century), used during excellent concerts each summer.

⑪ Fontaine Briard

The figure of a young girl, with a rudder on one side and a basket of grapes on the other, depicts the town's traditions well, don't you think? It is the work of Emile Peynot, a native of the town.

⑫ The milliner's shop window.

⑬ Maison des Sept Têtes

(House of the Seven Heads)

At No.41 rue Carnot, the former post house (18th century) is particularly noticeable. Have fun trying to identify the heads of the ancient divinities: Jupiter, Neptune, Flora, Mercury, Ceres, Bacchus and Pluto. Who's who?

⑭ House at No.56

More or less opposite the previous house, this small 18th-century townhouse was the home of Doctor Marcel Petiot from 1926 to 1933. He was then mayor of the town, later becoming the notorious serial killer who died on the scaffold in 1946. Brrr... Move on quickly!

⑮ Porte de Sens

This gate is identical to the Porte de Joigny, but its medieval defence features are better preserved. Imagine being on guard in the Middle Ages and notice the four bowmen's niches, the arrow slits and the position of the portcullis... From the courtyard of the Town Hall you can appreciate the scale of the wall!

⑯ The Town Hall

Since 1978 the Town Hall has occupied a residence also known as "the house with 99 windows" (you haven't finished counting yet!), which was built at the end of the 18th century by a wealthy supplier to the Army. The surrounding grounds allow you to discover the base of the old walls and the former moat which is crossed by a stream.

⑰ Tour de Rousson

Only the base of the tower remains and from here you can take in splendid views of the Yonne with its quays and boats. To the right you have the old water house with its brick-cladding - now the restaurant "Au Vieux Tilleul".

⑱ Tour au Lierre and Promenades

The promenades, which circle the old town for nearly 2km, are bordered by four rows of trees. On the way is the Tour au Lierre (Ivy Tower), now a dwelling. Over the years the tower was also known as the "Sorcerer's Tower" or the "Fairies' Tower", its state of decay leading people to imagine it had a supernatural presence. Would you like to live here?

⑲ The Grosse Tour (Big Tower)

The keep was commissioned by Philippe Auguste in 1205. Completed in 1212, this virtually impregnable tower is separate from the ramparts and is a symbol of the royal protective power of the free city founded 50 years earlier. Deserted since the 17th century, this tower also fuelled the popular imagination, which filled it with frightening creatures. It must have inspired Chateaubriand who, it is said, liked to come and sit on the stone bench opposite, on the promenades.

⑳ Quartier des Salles

Also known as the palace quarter. In the Middle Ages, this quarter, situated behind the keep but *intra muros*, housed royal attendants and domestic staff. It included a man-made pond which served as a fishpond and supplied a mill and tanneries.

㉑ Covered market

This metal structure was built at the end of the 19th century by Paul Sédille, architect of the Parisian department store "Le Printemps". On Tuesdays and especially on Friday mornings, it is home to a lively and colourful market.

㉒ Have a sweet treat break at the "Théotime" tea rooms.

㉓ At the boulangerie-pâtisserie found on this road at No.4 you can try their excellent almond tarts amongst other treats, although you won't find any "puits d'amour"...

㉔ Puits d'Amour Washhouse

Situated on the lower level, in the former moat, this washhouse still welcomes some washwomen today.

㉕ Tour Roland

Back on the promenades, only the base of this tower remains, on which an attractive Belle Époque villa was built. Now landscaped or occupied by kitchen gardens, you can see the former moat and imagine what the town's defences were like.

㉖ Monument to the Dead

Once again it's Emile Peynot, a native of the town, who built this monument on the promenades to commemorate those who died in the Great War. Next to the cemetery there is also a memorial to the dead of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

㉗ The boulangerie-pâtisserie at No.16 rue Carnot: its "flans" and speciality breads are famous.

㉘ Stop at "Dosnon-Doumiel" for another traditional treat!

㉙ Grange Lueassite

Space dedicated to temporary exhibitions (in summer).

