



Soak up our remarkable History

- **To truly understand Tarbes, there's nothing better than delving into the past to get to grips with important eras in the Bigorre capital...**

Tarbes was probably founded by an Aquitaine settlement driven by the salt trade to use the Pre-Pyrenees road and the city developed under Roman Gaul. Despite the hardships of disease and war, it grew as new urban centres spread out over the land.

- The bishop built the cathedral in the market town of Sède in the **9th century**. A second secular market town grew to the east as the Bigorre county base in the **11th century**. **At the end of the Middle Ages**, six urban towns sprang up next to each from west to east. The **16th century** Wars of Religion were particular bitter in Tarbes but from the **17th century** Tarbes was given a new lease of life with the reconstruction of the diocese, the establishment of a canal system and the building of a hospital. The economic boom came in the **18th century**. The consuls tore down the former ramparts, religious property was greatly enhanced and Tarbe became Tarbes. It became the administrative centre of the greater Bigorre department thanks to Bertrand Barère.

- Tarbes felt the long-term benefits of the major administrative reform and expanded again in the **19th century**. It grew south from 1806 under Napoleon I with the foundation of the stud farm where the Anglo-Arabian was bred from a Tarbes horse. The army provided an opening for traditional horse breeding. The city gained a military position in 1825 with the establishment of the cavalry barracks followed in 1871 by the arsenal's arrival in the north of the city, a new area for growth introduced by the Jardin Massey in the middle of the century plus the railway's arrival all due to Napoleon III's minister, Achille Fould and the special attention he paid to Tarbes. After World War II, Tarbes received the Croix de Guerre for its feats in the Resistance.

- **Tarbes is now** the second biggest city in the Midi-Pyrenees and has a large student population. It is in a prime location under an hour from the Pyrenees, 2 hours from the Atlantic Ocean and 3 hours from the Mediterranean. **The gateway to the Pyrenees** that is Tarbes exudes easy living and an exciting cultural, social and sporty life.

Visit... and unearth our secret gardens...

- **Smartphone Application**
Scan, listen and experience...

> Experience *Tarbes Tourism*, an app with an **audio tour**.

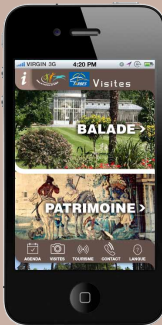
Two tours are available:

- **A monument tour** visiting the city centre's top 14 landmarks
- **A heritage tour:** *old town*

> **View the list of restaurants and accommodation** recommended by Tourist Information. Call and book in a click!

> **View the festival and events schedule.**

> Use the GPS to find what you're looking for.



Tarbes Tourism Application



Scan or download the free smartphone audio tour app, available in French, English and Spanish.

- **Heritage Tour**

The *Old town* tour introduces you to Tarbes' history through its heritage treasures. You'll visit 10 sites: Cours Reffye, Hôpital de l'Ayguerote, Place de Verdun, Lycée Théophile Gautier etc. Mid-19th century panels illustrated by the Baron of Agos and vintage postcards give you an idea of what Tarbes was like over a century ago. QR codes provide you with additional information about the sites you'll see on the tour. Just scan and you're on your way! Also available on the Tarbes Tourism app.

- **Guided Tours**

Two themed guided tours are available during the school holidays:

- **all ages:** Architecture and anecdotes
- **for children:** Mystery tour

Information (dates, times, rates etc.) and booking at Tourist Information.

Jardin Massey: listed as an "exceptional garden", Tarbes, 4th "floral city"



- **Musée Massey Tour**

The Musée Massey is the International Museum of Hussar and open to **visitors**:
- April 15th – October 15th:
10am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 7pm
- October 16th – April 14th:
10am – 12.30pm and 2pm – 5pm

Guided tours available to book.
Tél. : + 33 5 62 44 36 95.

Themed **workshops** (adults and children), talks, temporary exhibitions and more throughout the year.



- **Stud farm Guided tour**

Visit the national stud farm: a natural park in the heart of the city, birthplace of the Anglo-Arabian horse and living museum! **Monday - Friday:** 2pm, 3pm and 4pm (plus 11am in summer).

Stud farm Wednesdays (April – October): 2pm and 3pm. See another side to the national stud farm with a horse show. Performers and resident horses put on an exciting show: vaulting, trick riding, parade etc. Information and booking: +33 5 62 56 30 80

Get around Our city...

- **Horse and carriage ride**

City tour or ride through the parks embellished with stories and information to the sound of Quadrille and Gal-lion's hooves.

Departures from the bar in Jardin Massey.

Mid-June – mid-September and during Easter and October school holidays: available daily.

April - November: available Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Free city centre shuttle bus

Departures from Place Jean Jaurès

Mid-June – mid-September :

Thursday: 10.30am – 12.30pm and 2.30pm – 5.30pm
Saturday: 2pm – 5.30pm

Tél. : +33 6 83 09 11 03



- **Little tourist train**

This pretty little timeless train takes you around Tarbes' top tourist sites in summer.

Departures from Place Jean Jaurès. Free.



- **Vél en ville Cycling**

12km of cycle paths in Tarbes.

Bike pick-up and information:

Mob 65 - 31, rue Georges Lassalle
Monday – Friday: 9am – 12pm and 1.30pm – 5.30pm
Tel: + 33 5 62 51 10 68

- **Shuttle**

Every 15 mins (exc. Sunday) from the train station to the bus station via the high streets.

Every Thursday morning: Marcadieu market shuttle bus, departure from the Parc des Expositions car park > arrival at Place du Foirail.

Sample...

- **Marcadieu Market**

Thursday morning under the arcade and on the square: **producer's market**

- **Brauhauban Market**

All day everyday

Street traders and shops:

Every morning: **producers and traders**

- **Flea Market**

The first Saturday of every month in the Marcadieu arcade.

- **Flower Market and Flea Market**

Thursday morning on Place du Foirail



our South-Western flavour sensations



Two of the city's specialties: Tarbes beans and Bigorre black pork

- **Night Market**

July and August on place Marcadieu

- **Christmas Market**

December on place Jean Jaurès

- **Flea Markets**

February and July



Get moving like our champions!

- **The Caminadour**

This path runs through the city of Tarbes in the shade of the tall trees lining the Adour's right bank. The path leads to the natural area around Soues Lake to the south and Bours Lake to the north (5km).

- **The Green path**

The path links Tarbes to Lourdes along the Echez, one of the Adour's tributaries. Cycle (mountain bike) or walk (4 hours and 40 minutes long) the 18.5km path.

- **Banks of the Adour**

Footpath, fitness area and sports for children.



- **Les Petits As**

International tennis event for 12-14 year olds - January



- **Nicolas Lopez and the Touya family**



World fencing champions

- **Wilfried Forgues and Franck Adisson**



Olympic canoeing champions



National and WNBA basketball

- **Lionel Beauxis**



Rugby international



World snowboarding champion

Be part of our Festivals with friends!

- **Equestria**

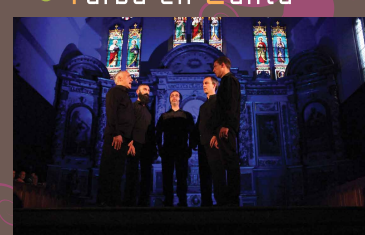


Horse Performance Festival
July

- **Tarbes Festivals**

June

- **Tarba en Canta**



International Polyphony Festival
June

- **Pic d'Or**

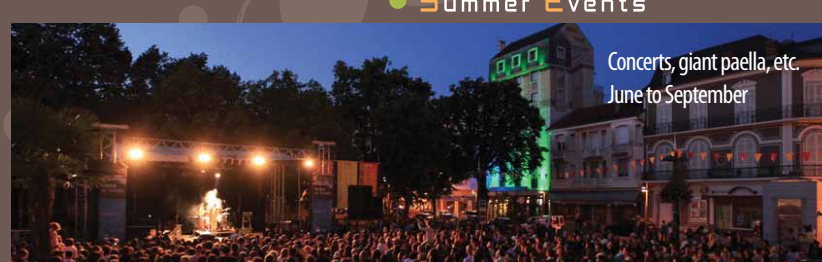


Lyrics & Songs Festival
May

- **Terro'Art**

September

- **Summer Events**



Concerts, giant paella, etc.
June to September

Tarbes Tourist Information

3, cours Gambetta - 65000 Tarbes
Open Monday - Saturday: 9am - 12pm and 2pm - 6pm
Tél. +33 5 62 51 30 31 - Fax +33 5 62 44 17 63
accueil@tarbes-tourisme.fr
www.tarbes-tourisme.fr

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Join us on



Design and production: Tarbes Council Communication Service

1 Cours Reffye



The bust of General Verchère de Reffye stands on the street of the same name. Reffye established an arsenal in Tarbes which contributed to the city's economic boom. It stands on a pedestal on the fountain which itself celebrates Tarbes' water.



2 Théophile Gautier College



This traditional city centre college is a quadrilateral with walls from the 18th and 19th centuries on Rue Ramond and a brick façade from the turn of the 20th century on Rue Abbé Torné. Affectionately named "Théo" teaches over a thousand students. Its name pays tribute to the author of The Voyage of Captain Fracassa who was born in Tarbes in 1811.



3 Notre Dame de la Sède Cathedral



Sainte-Marie de la Sède Cathedral is a complex building which has undergone extensions, repairs and alterations since its construction in the 12th century. It is the oldest landmark in Tarbes. The building was originally Roman in style and was revamped in the 17th century on a Gallo-Roman site then Merovingian ceme-



tery. It has kept its name, "La Sède" (from the Latin for bishop's seat), and the two apses in the choir from the Middle Ages. It got a Gothic nave in the 14th century and one of its greatest treasures in the 18th century: the baroque marble canopy above the main altar.

4 Hôtel de Préfecture



Fascinating façade

This classic building built mainly in the 13th and 14th centuries has medieval features. It is now home to prefects following its time as a fortress and bishop's palace.

5 Ayguerote Hospital



Founded at the end of the 17th century, the Hôpital de la Clôture has grown with the city. Its place in Tarbes' urban layout has been recognised since 1991 whilst upholding its initial vocation.

6 Commemorative Deportation and Resistance Museum

This fascinating museum gives visitors an insight into the local Resistance and presents war prisoners, prison camps, resisters, escapees, deportees, patients, the Bigorre Regiment and people passing through the Pyrenees.



63, rue Georges Lassalle
publics.musees@mairie-tarbes.fr
Tél. : +33 5 62 51 11 60

7 Marshal Foch's Childhood Home



Marshal Foch's childhood home is now a museum and a great example of urban Bigorre architecture. The Marshal lived here until the age of 12. The intimate museum gives us an insight into the extraordinary man and his life on a fascinating trip back in time.



2, rue de la Victoire
publics.musees@mairie-tarbes.fr
Tél. : +33 5 62 93 19 02

20 National Stud farm



The renovated stud farm is listed as a "monument historique" and was founded by Napoleon I in 1806 for the cavalry. 8 hectares of grounds teem with museum treasures to show how great an impact horses had on the Bigorre capital: this is a garrison city which experimented, researched and founded its own breed through expert breeding: the Anglo-Arabian. Historical collections, vintage saddles, carriages, sumptuous stables, Empire-style architecture etc.

Chemin Mauhourat
Tél +33 5 62 56 30 80

visites.tarbes@haras-nationaux.fr



18 Villa Fould Pyrénées National Park



Fascinating façade

Villa built by banker Achille Fould (1800-1867), minister to Napoleon III, in the mid-19th century. Its Bigorre location seem related to his love for horses and the popular need to "take the waters" in the Romantic period.

The villa's heyday came with its impressive guests such as Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie as well as Prosper Mérimée, Fould's friend, who often spent his summer here.

The building is now home to the Pyrenees National Park with a museum and media area showcasing the Pyrenees' flora and fauna. It provides information and an understanding about protecting and managing natural and cultural heritage.

2, rue du IV Septembre
pyrenees.parc.national@espaces-naturels.fr
Tél : +33 5 62 54 16 40

19 Statue of Marshal Foch on horseback



Statue built in 1934 in honour of Tarbes-born Marshal Foch (1851-1929) sculpted by Firmin Michelet. Ferdinand Foch, the illustrious Marshal of France straddling Marboré, the Fould family horse who also made her mark on Tarbes' history.

At the south of the Allées Lederc

17 Théâtre des Nouveautés



Fascinating façade

The Italian-style theatre was built in 1885 and the vaulted ceiling in the theatre was decorated by a fresco depicting Bacchus in all his glory. Its entrance hall with frescoes, bronze statues, caryatids and lobby in keeping with the rest of the décor dedicated to accordion player Yvette Horner, (born in Tarbes) have made this theatre a real sight for sore eyes in the heart of the city. This wonderful cultural venue was beautifully renovated in 2011.

44, rue Larrey
tarbesenscenes@mairie-tarbes.fr

16 Halle Brauhauban



This market hall was restored and renovated in 2012 and 2013 and is named after the former mayor who commissioned the work. It is restructured around a central alley and has a market selling local produce plus various traders. Its architecture presents four artistic façades and two resolutely modern clocks. On the east side (rue de Gonnès), a canopy houses the producer's market which flows onto the neighbouring pavement for the weekend market. Its paved forecourt has become one of the liveliest hubs in Tarbes.

15 Place and Halle Marcadiu



Fascinating façade

The Marcadiu was a meeting place for Piedmont mountain and country folk, the people of Aragon and Bigorre. It peaked in the 19th century when it traded horses and mules destined for Spain.

The Marcadiu is the symbolic meeting point in the city of Tarbes.

The Baltard-style metallic hall was built in 1883. It was renovated in 2004 and houses one of the biggest markets in South Western France on Thursdays on the neighbouring square.

Located on Place Marcadiu, the monumental fountain of the Quatre Vallées was built between 1882 and 1897 and overseen by architect Louis Caddau (1853-1931). The fountain showcases the natural wealth of the Pyrenees by embodying its towns and valleys. The artists Desca, Escoula and Mathet created an allegory: a real triumph of a city and its surroundings.



Place Marcadiu

14 Sainte-Thérèse Church

The church is like a watchtower watching over the traditional market place of Place Marcadiu.

In 1280 Mont Carmel nuns returned from the Holy Land and founded a convent here (Mendicant Order): all that remains is the spire. There were 60 nuns in the 14th century but only 4 during the French Revolution in 1790. The convent buildings were used to store fodder at the time. Now the church is all that remains. It became a parish in 1841. You can still see its Languedoc Gothic architecture with a single nave and a beautiful 15th century bell tower, a relic of this ancient abbey.



Place Marcadiu

13 Town Hall

Tarbes' neo-Renaissance town hall has little in common with local architecture. The imposing building embodies the strength of the local council and the power of the French Republic. It was in Bourg-Vieux near Place de la Portète, home to civil and military powers from the Middle Ages and dominated by the Bigorre earl's tower until 1899. The old earl's château, a symbol of feudal power, was demolished and a new one was built. In 1907 the 18th century mansion disappeared (to the indifference of locals), the Hôtel de Castelnau, the previous town hall.



Place Jean-Jaurès

12 Saint-Jean Church



The building's Gothic style dates back to the 15th century and the bell tower is from the 17th century. The neo-Gothic porch on the north side is from the 19th century. The main interior features date back to the 15th, 18th and 20th centuries. See the large Baroque retable presenting modern paintings of the Baptism of Jesus, the three apostles and modern shepherds.



Rue Brauhauban



Monument tour

Heritage tour

Monument tour
+ Heritage tour

8 Place de Verdun



Tarbes' main square, formerly Place du Maubourguet, lies on the site of one of Tarbes' medieval market towns. It is now one of the city's most vibrant areas.



10 Massey Museum International Hussar Museum

The fully renovated Musée Massey has two floors of museum exhibitions showcasing two large collections:

The International Hussar Museum with over 15,000 items for an insight into one of the most unusual and fascinating military phenomena. The presence of the "hussard" (hussar or cavalry) garrison regiments in Tarbes from 1858 inspired this international collection. The history of the hussars covers the time from 1545 to 1945 throughout the world. It has its roots here in the Bigorre capital where it is kept alive to France's delight. Over 150 mannequins and busts, 600 weapons and a hundred paintings by artists likes Horace Vernet, Eric Messonnier and Edouard Detaille tell the moving story of hussars from thirty different countries.

The Fine Art Collection displays major works by Italian artists from the 16th and 17th centuries, Dutch and Flemish paintings from the 16th and 17th centuries and French pieces from the 18th and 19th centuries brought together by the great mind and art enthusiast Achille Jubinal (1810-1875), deputy of the Hautes-Pyrenees.



Jardin Massey, rue Achille Jubinal
publics.musees@mairie-tarbes.fr
Tél. : + 33 5 62 44 36 95 - Site : www.musee-massey.com

11 Le Carmel



like Sarah Moon or Marc Riboud and well-known contemporary artists. Monday – Saturday opening times: 2pm – 6pm.

14, rue Théophile Gautier
publics.musees@mairie-tarbes.fr - Tél. : +33 5 62 44 36 90