

space in the 16th century.
On leaving the church, go to the first junction and take the rue Saint-Nicolas. You will arrive at the **Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture Manu Dibango**, ancient Hôtel de Ponton d'Amécourt 5 dating from the late 15th or 16th



century. This former stately home was built with limestone and plaster and covered with small tiles. In the 19th century two slate-covered wings were added.
Retrace your steps slightly on rue Saint-Nicolas and turn left onto rue de la Herse. Just below where you are standing you will find the **house of Cardinal Dubois** 6. Just next to the church, its picturesque silhouette rises above the rooftops. This house, covered with wood shingles, is said to be one of the oldest in the town. It belonged to the Dubois family, and was the birthplace of their son Louis Ernest, born in 1856. He became Archbishop of Paris in 1920, better known under the name of Cardinal Dubois.
Walk down to the church and turn right, proceed through the alleyway and you will be faced with the current **presbytery**, the former



Maison de la Fuye 7. Built by Thomas Gheerbrandt, king's advocate in Saint-Calais, this house was named Maison de la Fuye in the 18th century. It possessed a typical jardin à la française, although only the foundations of the pond remain.
Head back towards your starting point, the town hall square. Walk down the length of the church, turn left and continue along the waterfront to the end and turn right.

Located in to the south-east of the Maine, the town owes its origins to a monastery founded under Childebert in the early 6th century by a hermit from Auvergne: Saint-Karileph. The monastic foundation became one of the largest in Maine. In the 9th century the Count of Maine Herbert Eveille Chien, jealous of the wealth of the Abbey, allowed a relative to build a motte on the heights of the town. The abbey was completely dismantled in 1789 following the French Revolution. Buildings disappeared little by little from 1792, giving way to straight streets and majestic buildings. From 1802 to 1926, the town became a sous-prefecture (the site of a local government centre) and numerous examples of urban development took place: the Anille docks, the court, the granary, the museum-theatre-library...



Information / visits

Town Hall (mairie)
1 rue Amédée Savidan ~ 72120 Saint-Calais
Tel. 02 43 63 15 15
mairie.saintcalais@orange.fr

Service culturel
Centre de Ressources ~ 72120 Saint-Calais
Tel. 02 43 35 63 03
culturel.saintcalais@orange.fr

Office de Tourisme du Pays Calaisien
Place de l'Hôtel de ville ~ 72120 Saint-Calais
Tel. 02 43 35 82 95
www.officedetourisme-payscalaisien.com

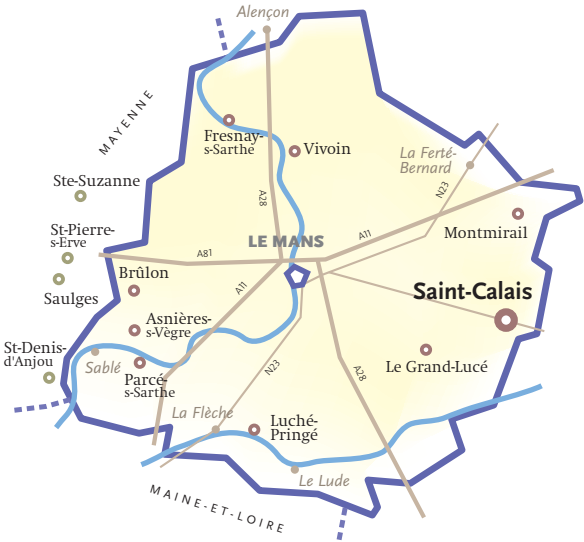
Pays d'Art et d'Histoire du Perche Sarthois
24 avenue de Verdun ~ 72404 La Ferté Bernard
Tel. 02 43 60 72 77
www.perche-sarthois.fr



The “Petites Cités de Caractère” distinction is awarded to the little towns and villages in our region that have a remarkable architectural and natural Heritage, and meet the essential criteria when it comes to welcoming their visitors. As a guarantee for quality, this label urges the communes belonging to the network to keep on improving the emphasis placed on their attractions through restoration, promotion and activities. The Petites Cités de Caractère of the Pays de la Loire present a wide range of historical authenticity and are a reflection of the geographical territory to which they belong.

Petites Cités de Caractère
des Pays de la Loire

Les Petites Cités de Caractère en Sarthe



Association des Petites Cités de Caractère de la Sarthe
1, rue de la Mariette
72000 Le Mans
Tél. 02 43 75 99 25
E-mail : pcc.sarthe@free.fr



testime 02 43 63 67 19 - février 2013. Photos : Jean-Philippe Berloze, Service Culturel de Saint-Calais



Saint-Calais

Petite Cité de Caractère en Sarthe



SITUATED ON THE BORDER OF THE UPPER MAINE AND THE VENDOMOIS, SAINT CALAIS, WITH ITS RICH RELIGIOUS AND NATURAL HERITAGE, IS THE GATEWAY TO THE PERCHE SARTHOIS AND THE LOIR VALLEY. THE UPPER PART OF THE TOWN IS MEDIEVAL, WHILST THE LOWER PART IS MODERN, SEPARATED BY THE RIVER ANILLE AND ITS BANKS.

Starting point : place de l'hôtel de ville, **Centre de Ressources** ①.

The town's first cultural and administrative centre was opened on November 10, 1889 on the site of the abbey, founded by Saint Karileph in the 6th century. Since the end of a ten-year restoration of the building in 2007, the Resource Centre includes a library, a cinema, a museum, financial archives, the CIAP, a cultural services centre, the council chambers and the multi-purpose "Charles Garnier" hall. Once you arrive at the town hall square, head towards rue des Halles until you reach the **Halle aux grains** ②. This listed historical monument was inaugurated on 4 September 1864. It was built with freestone and brick and designed by the architect Eugène Landron. The building's style reflects the trends of 19th century historicism. Its four turrets are a nod towards the architecture of the Châteaux de la Loire. In 1952 the



Halle was updated in order to accommodate a covered market on the ground floor and a multi-purpose function room on the first floor. It is here that one can see a beautiful inverted boat hull frame dating back to the 15th century and originally part of the church abbey.

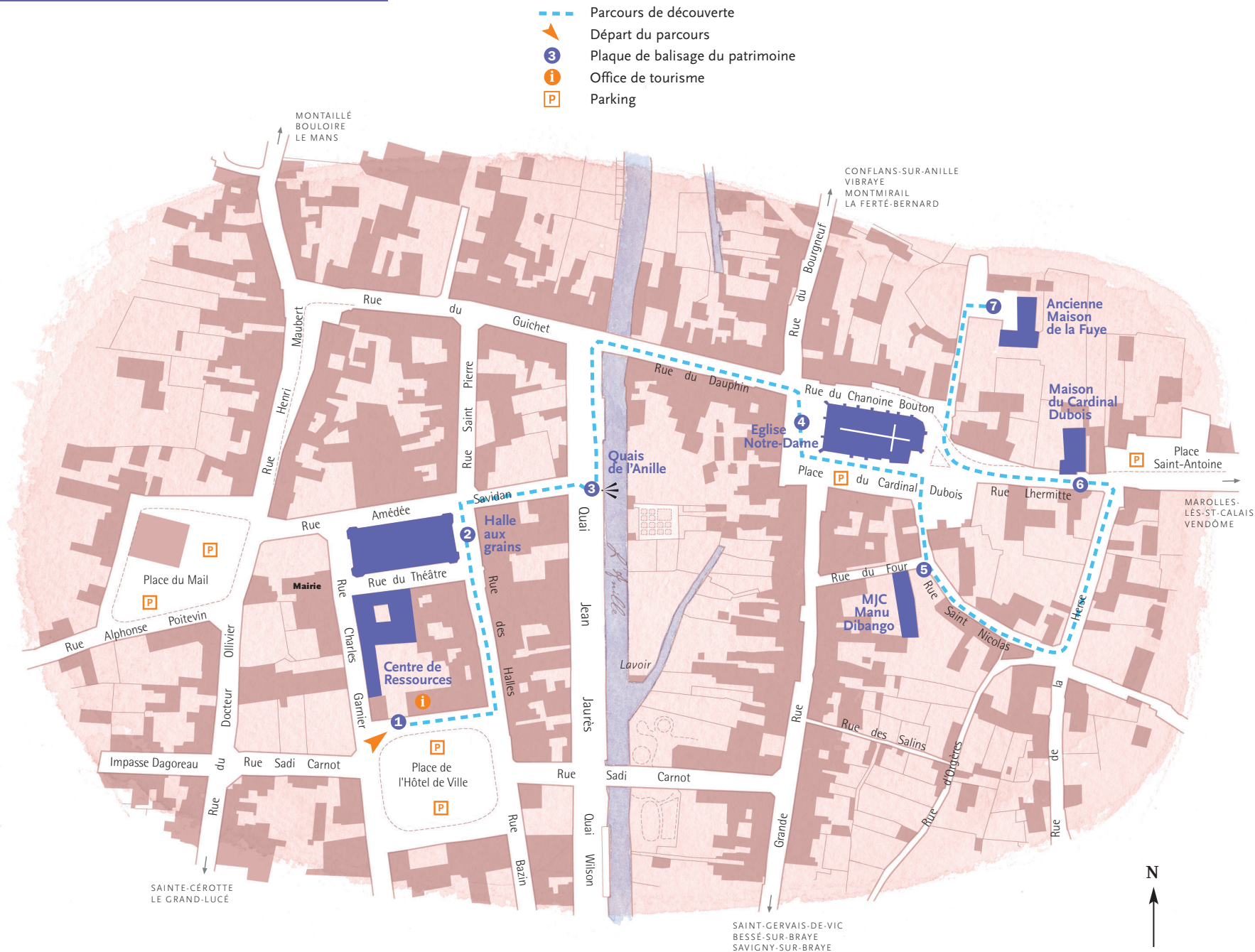
Take the rue Amédée Savidan and discover les **Quais de l'Anille** ③. The Anille river has played an



important economic role in the area. It supplied tanneries, mills and wash-houses, of which fifty are still visible today. In 1797 the river was partially domesticated by the creation of a canal to avoid flooding. The banks, dating back to the Revolutionary era, became a public promenade in 1802 and a public wash-house was built in 1805. Here you can admire three gloriettes (small, medieval garden pavilions). Charles Garnier, the architect of the Paris Opera House, used to come fishing here in his teens, sheltering in a limestone gloriette belonging to his grandmother.



Head to the junction at rue du Guichet and head right towards **Notre-Dame church** ④. The facade of the church, dating back to the Renaissance, has a beautiful carved door depicting four scenes of the life of the Virgin Mary, attributed to the sculptor Guillaume Le Houx. You can enter the building on the right-hand side. The church consists of a central nave at the foot of the right wall, and at the end of one of the windows rises at 58 metre-high bell tower. The church was in fact considered too small, and was thus extended by 14 metres of floor



- Parcours de découverte
- ▲ Départ du parcours
- ③ Plaque de balisage du patrimoine
- i Office de tourisme
- P Parking