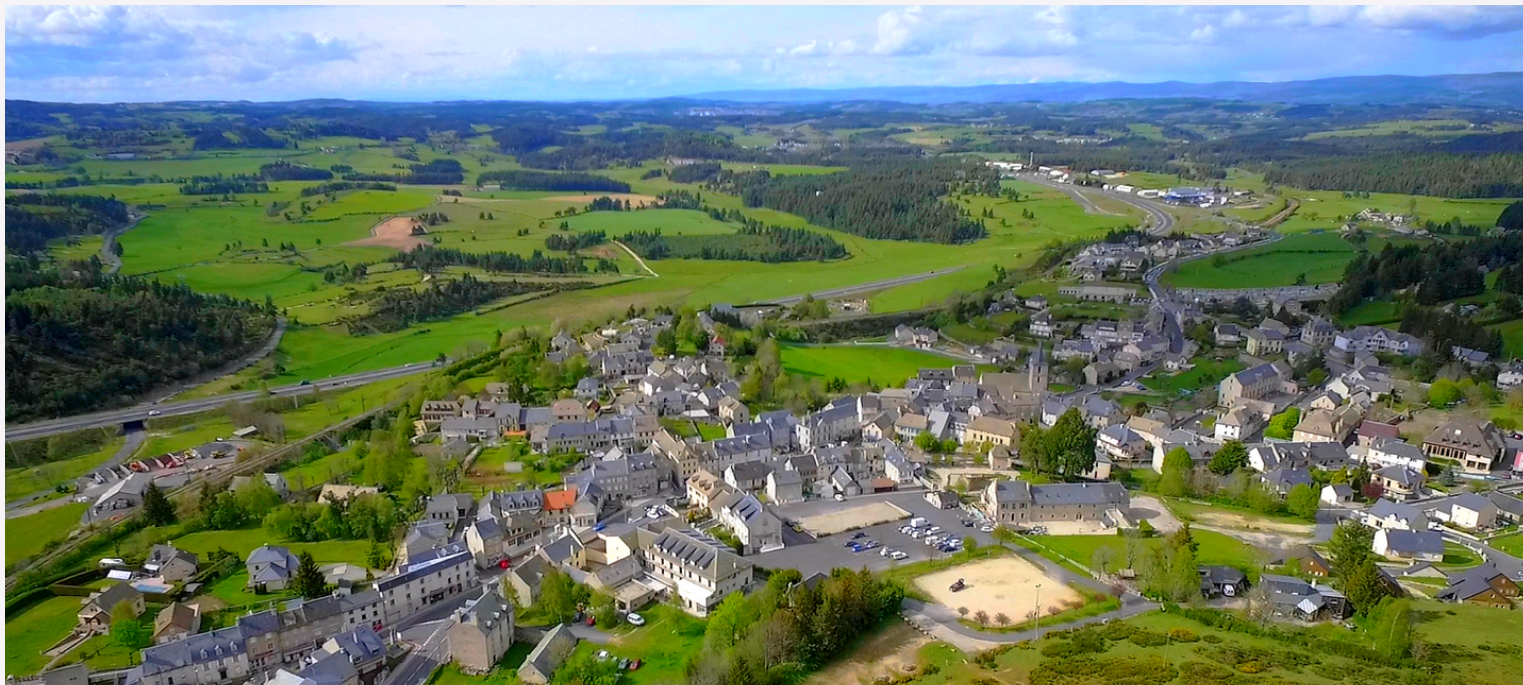




AUMONT-AUBRAC

Peyre en Aubrac



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Aumont-Aubrac territory is located in the North West of the department of Lozère between the granitic mountains of the Margeride, and the immense basaltic Aubrac plateau, at 1050 meters above sea level. Aumont-Aubrac is located on many human communication ways: the Via Agrippa (Gallo-Roman era) which connected Lyon and Toulouse, the Via Podiensis (Middle Ages) who led the pilgrims from the Puy-en-Velay towards Saint-Jacques de Compostelle (Spain), the railroad line (Paris/Béziers), the national road 9, the Highway A75 also called "The Meridian line" (Clermont-Ferrand/Béziers).

Nowadays, it is famous for its great hiking paths. Indeed, this city is a step along the Way of Saint James, but it is also on the "Tour des Monts d'Aubrac", and it is the departure of the trail "Saint-Guilhem le Désert".

A BIT OF HISTORY...

The origins of Aumont-Aubrac are not very clear. According to the first known documents, the village existed since year 1000. The city was built around the fortified Priory founded by the Barons of Peyre. Indeed, the region was the fief of this barony - the most important barony of the eight existing in the Gevaudan. In the Middle Ages, Aumont-Aubrac extended from the church until the City Hall. Then, the Modern City evolved along the National Road 9 and the Highway A75.

The first name of Aumont-Aubrac was "Altus Mons" which means "High Mountain". Indeed, Altus Mons is high in comparison with the ancient Gallo-Roman capital Gabalum, the current city of Javols, located 6 kilometers far from Aumont-Aubrac. Then, the village was called "Almont" until the end of the 17th century, which became Aumont, and finally Aumont-Aubrac by the municipal decree of the 21st of November 1937, name also given to the train station, because the station is the last stop serving the Aubrac plateau.

**AUMONT-AUBRAC
IS CERTIFIED BY
THE "VILLAGE
ETAPE" LABEL
SINCE 2002.**



DISTANCE : 3KM


FOLLOW THE RED MARKS

- Turn right or left
- Circuit continuity
- Wrong direction
- Turn Around
- Twist





THE PRIORY HOUSE

It would have been established during the 11th century. The prior was appointed by the Barons of Peyre. This place used to shelter a small community of priests, asked to clear the ground and to evangelize the people while saying offices and masses for their benefactors. The building that we can see today dates back to 1684. After the disappearance of the priors, this house served as a barn. In the middle of the 20th century, the vaulted cellar (where there is a well) was a place where the cheese was refined. After that, it was acquired by the City Hall in 1989 and it was completely renovated in 1990-1991. Since 1993, the priory house hosts the tourist office. **When leaving the Tourist Office, turn left then immediately left** 

SAINT ETIENNE CHURCH

The St Etienne church would be a former Benedictine monastery erected around 1601, where monks used to live. They pronounced the offices inside the current chapel, with her roman choir, which represents the oldest part of the church. Between 1560 and 1588, Protestants destroyed the church, and the renovation was then long and laborious. Indeed, the country was ravaged by the war and the plague. It was finished in 1937 with the construction of the bell tower. In 1962, the renovation of the inside of the church started. Mr Hénard Marc sculptured a granite audit in 1964, as well as the twelve stained-glass windows in 1967. The construction knew several changes over the centuries and remains today an inescapable step for the pilgrims of the way of Saint James, where the symbol of the shell was above the front door

(BIS) THE "OUSTALET" CROSS

On the right side of the church St Etienne sits the "Oustalet" cross.

RUE DE L'ESCURÉ DU BOIS (STREET)

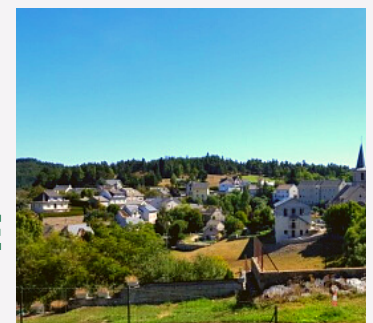
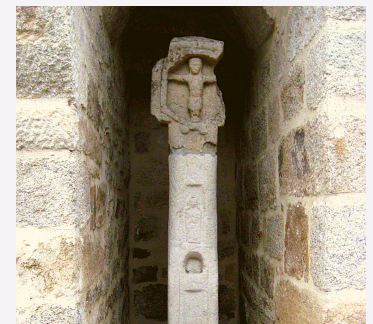
Viewing point on Aumont-Aubrac, the "Truc du Pécher" (a "truc" is a small mountain) and the Margeride (one of the natural regions of the department "Lozère").

«TRUC DEL FABRE»: CHRIST THE KING STATUE

This is a small mountain which is located above the "Place du Foirail". It offers a panoramic view of the village, the Aubrac plateau, and the mountains of the Margeride. There is also the Christ the King statue which dominates the city. It was erected in 1946. His base is 2-50 meters high and the statue 4 meters high. This is an artwork of a Parisian sculptor called Courbier. This statue was set up after a promise made by Father Gal, an ancient priest, who promised that if none of parishioners were killed during the Second World War, he would erect a statue of Christ the King at the top of the "Truc del Fabre". In contrast with the First World War, where 80 inhabitants from Aumont perished, the Second World War did not make any victim so the Christ the King was edified. Each year, on the 3rd Sunday of July, a Mass is celebrated around this Christ-Roi statue.

PLACE DU FOIRAIL – FOIRAIL SQUARE

During the 19th century, fairs became more and more popular and took place in public spaces and private paths. The need to improve this situation was growing. Thus in 1874, a municipal deliberation considered the purchase of a special ground. After more than 20 years, fairs took place on the current place : Place du Foirail. The biggest fair organized in Aumont-Aubrac took place on May 25th (Saint Urbain fair). Moreover, this place welcomes the





the village market every Friday morning. As an anecdote, the nickname given to the people who live in Aumont-Aubrac called the "Aumonais" is "Berduros". This name comes probably from the horse-traders of the village. Indeed, they knew very well how to make up the horses to go to the fair, polishing them or decorating their tails with a straw plait... If the animal tilted the head, they blew him the smoke of their pipe in nostrils to recover proudly.

5 THE PARK (PUBLIC GARDEN)

Created in 2011 by the City Hall, it includes a playing area for children, a picnic area and a theater, welcoming some shows and outdoor performances. Before, this place was a farm belonging to the Reversat family. Both dovecotes are real but renovated. In one of them, there is the public library which is opened every Wednesday and Friday from 10a.m to 12a.m. The park contains also a giant redwood, an impressive and massive hundred-year-old tree.

6 RUE DE LA PAILLADE (STREET)

Viewing point on the village and the Mounts of Aubrac (another natural region of Lozère).

7 THE CITY HALL

Pierre Boulet, an ancient mayor of Aumont who died in 1873, bequeathed his property to the municipality in order to found a hospital. In reality, the municipal council created a little pharmacy held by the Nuns. They also held the seat of the City Hall where there was a courtroom for the peace justice. This building was destroyed by a fire during the Christmas night in 1899. It was rebuilt and bought in 1904. It is nowadays the seat of the City Hall of Aumont-Aubrac.

7 (BIS) THE GEVAUDAN BEAST STATUE

In Lozère, most of the villages have a fountain made of granite located in the center of their main place. Since 1992, a statue of the "Bête du Gévaudan" created by Noël and Roch Pélissier (metalworkers in St Alban) was established on the fountain, on the Portail Place. This representation refers to the mysterious beast who attacked several women and children during the 18th century, between 1764 and 1767 causing hundred of deaths. For some people, the beast was a two-legged animal: Wolf? Human? From there was born and remains the legend...

8 CHURCH STREET

It is the former main street of the city. In this street, there were many portals with Gothic arches and mullioned windows. Unfortunately, there are poorly maintained today. In the basements, we can find big cellars. Halfway doors, the street widened in a crossroads called "the place" that watched in its niche, the flowery statue of the Virgin which no doubt preceded current Mater Dolorosa. She had a particularity because she looks at the sky instead of looking her son. (it's rare).

8 (BIS) THE MYSTERIOUS STONE

It is located under the "Mater Dolorosa", just on the right side of the shop "Brin de détente" and it has the rightful name! Indeed, no one knows from where it comes, what time it dates, how old it is, what it should represents and why it is here. We can say that only the part from below is real, the rest was remade. For some people, the drawing would represent a swastika cross, an Indian religious symbol. Other theories were put forward: the cardinal points, 4 seasons, 4 ages or cycle of the life. According to the last researches it would have a link with the former priory and would represent a trigram: Jesus-Humanum-Salvator.

