

Map of Semur - en - Brionnais

A	Parking for visitors	M	Ramparts
B	Place Bouthier de Rochefort	N	Old Laundry
C	Tourist Information Point and entry to Château	O	Porte au Vau
D	Château St Hugues (the castle)	P	Basse Ville
E	Mairie (Town Hall) and post office	Q	Lavoir de la Madeleine (washhouse)
F	Grenier à Sel (Salt Store)	R	War Memorial
G	Place Saint Hugues, the main square	S	Chapel de la Perrière
H	Priory of Saint Hugues, the convent	T	B&B Maison Kopf-Guillon
I	Collégiale St Hilaire (the church)	U	Gîte Belle Vue
J	Noblemen's houses	V	Gîte - La Petite Maison
K	Maison du Chapitre (Chapter House)	X	Bar/Restaurant « L'entrecôte Brionnaise »
L	Fortified gateway	Y	Village Shop « Aux Brionnais Gourmands »

What to do in SEMUR-EN-BRIONNAIS



Welcome to Semur-en-Brionnais which has been designated as "one of the most beautiful villages in France"

This guide aims to help you make the most of your visit to our village by telling you about what there is to do and see.

The **main attractions** are

- the historic main square
- the Château Saint Hugues, the oldest castle in Burgundy, dating from the 10th century
- the 12th century church and several chapels
- the Town Hall
- the Chapter House
- the Priory of St Hugues
- the Salt Store
- the ramparts which surround this ancient hill fort village

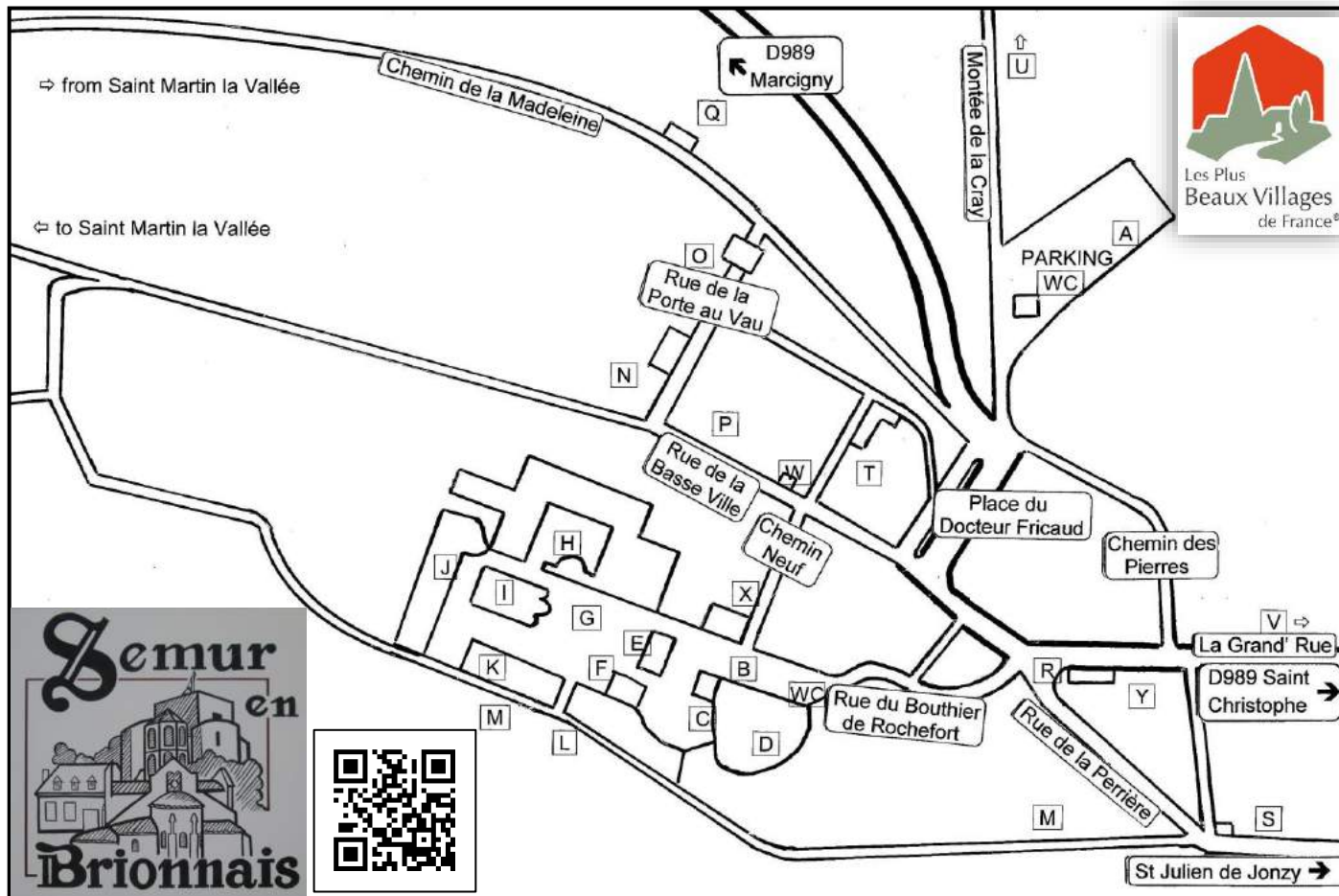
HISTORY

Semur was the historic capital of the Brionnais region. It was probably established by the Gauls and later settled by the Romans. The name comes from the Latin "Senemurum" – old walls.

The castle was built in the 10th century as part of a hilltop fort overlooking the Loire valley. It was built as a lookout and defensive post against invasion by the Normans and Hungarians. It was the birthplace, in 1024, of Hugues of Semur, later St Hugues, abbot of Cluny 1049 to 1109.

Nowadays the village has a population of 665. It is best known for its history, picturesque old buildings and beautiful surrounding countryside.

Visit our website www.semur-en-brionnais.fr



Published by the Semur Tourism and Culture Committee

Contact us: mairie.semur.en.brionnais@wanadoo.fr

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The Village Visit

You should park in the visitors' car park (A) It is best to start your visit in the Place Bouthier de Rochefort (B) at the foot of the castle, where you will find the Tourist Information Point (C), at the entry to the castle. See the map on the back of this leaflet. The letters in brackets refer to this map.

The Château St Hugues (D)

This historic castle is looked after by the association "Les Vieilles Pierres" and is open for unguided visits from early March to 15th November as follows:

Monday to Saturday 10 -12 and 2 – 6
Sundays and Bank Holidays 2 – 6

In March, October and November it closes at 5pm
In June, July and August it is open until 7pm

The Vieilles Pierres also offer 4 guided visits

- The village (1½ hours)
- The castle (1 hour)
- The church of St Hilaire (1 hour)
- The chapel of St Martin la Vallée (1 hour)

These visits are available all year round but need to be booked in advance and are for a minimum of 10 people

A Walk Round the Village

This is a walking tour. Start with your back to the castle entrance and follow the small black and white signs.



In front of you is the old Court House, now the **Mairie** (Town Hall) (E) and administration centre for the village. It was built at the time of Louis XVI in the 18th century.

To the left of the Mairie is the 17th century **Grenier à Sel** (Salt Store) (F) the building where, up until the Revolution (1789 – 99), salt tax was paid by the population. This building is now used as an exhibition space.

Now go into the main square, the **Place Saint Hugues** (G). On your right is the **Priory of St Hugues** – the Convent (H). Built in 1830 to house a minor seminary, the building became an annex to the county asylum in 1905, when the church and the state separated. It then returned to being a seminary from 1944 to 1968 and in the 1980s was an agricultural college. Nowadays it is the convent of the Sisters of the Apostolic Order of St. John. You can visit the chapel (provided there are no services being held), the cloisters where there is a display about the restoration of the building, and the welcome point (Accueil) which houses a cultural exhibition and monastic craftwork.

The church – the **Collégiale Saint Hilaire** (I) – was built in the 12th century and is now an historic monument. It was the last Romanesque church built in the Brionnais and is a combination of Romanesque–Clunisian styles, a forerunner of the Gothic style. You will find more information about the architecture of this building inside the church.

In front of the main doors of the church are some late 16th century noblemen's houses (J), built on and against the old fortified walls.

On the right hand side of the church as you face the main doors, is the **Maison du Chapitre** (Chapter House) (K). Built as a small monastery, it later housed the village school and now contains, among other things, the village library, a meeting room and two flats. On the first floor, visit the free exhibition of Romanesque Architecture in the Brionnais. The remarkable ceiling and fireplace date from the 17th century. For a long time this magnificent room was a classroom!

On leaving the Maison du Chapitre turn right. After a few paces, take the alley on your right. This leads to one of the old **fortified gateways** of the village (L). The houses here have also been built on and against the old fortified walls.

Go through the gateway and turn right onto the **ramparts** (M). From here you can see the 11th century chapel of **Saint Martin la Vallée** which was the parish church until 1274. This chapel is open during the tourist season and you can also enjoy a guided tour (see under Château). This hamlet was the first settlement of Semur-en-Brionnais before the château St Hugues (the castle) was built.

Continue round the ramparts until they join a tarmac lane. Here you have a choice. (1) You can visit the chapel of Saint Martin la Vallée (an extra 2/3 mile) or (2) carry on round the ramparts.

(1) To visit St Martin, turn sharp left and go down the wooded track to an iron cross. Follow the sign to Le Fugaux.

To return to the village come back to the cross and follow the sign to "Centre Bourg". At the top of this road, on your left, you will come to the Lavoir de la Madeleine (see below)

(2) If you do not wish to visit St Martin la Vallée, continue along the lane with the ramparts on your right until you come to the rue de la Porte au Vau. Turn left and go through the gateway, turn left again.

The 15th century **Lavoir de la Madeleine** (washhouse) (Q) was built on the site of the old parish church of St Madeleine.

Go back up through the Porte au Vau. The **Porte au Vau** (O) was the fortified gateway to the **Basse Ville** (lower town) (P). This area housed tradesmen such as weavers, carpenters and joiners... several street names in the village indicate what trades took place here. The **white house** on your right (N), which dates from the 12th century, was at one time a laundry.

Turn left at the top of the hill and along the Rue de la Basse Ville. You can either take the first right (Le Chemin Neuf) and climb back up to the Place Bouthier de Rochefort (B), or carry on until you come to the main road. You then fork right at the War Memorial (R) into Rue de la Perrière.

After about 50 metres, you will come to the tiny **Chapel de la Perrière** (S). On leaving this chapel, cross the road onto the pathway by the old well. This will lead you back round the ramparts (M), to the gateway and the main square.

Where to stay?

Semur has 3 Bed & Breakfast rooms and 2 gites.

Bed & Breakfast Maison Guillon-Kopf (T)
La Basse Ville, Rue de la Menuiserie
Landline: 03 85 81 55 59 Mobile: 06 67 22 27 24
Email: maison-guillon-kopf@hapax69.fr
www.maison-guillon-kopf.fr

Gîte Belle Vue (U)

La Cray
Landline: 03 85 25 05 29 Mobile: 06 42 70 03 89
Email: contact@gite-belle-vue-71semur.fr
www.gite-belle-vue-71semur.fr

Gîte - La Petite Maison (V)

Chemin de la Fay
Landline: 03 85 25 36 63 Mobile: 06 84 45 50 92
Email: martine318@orange.fr
www.la-petite-maison71.wifeo.com

Where to eat?

The bar/restaurant Entrecôte Brionnaise (X) is located in the main square (B) and is open every day.

Tel: 03 85 25 10 21

Email: contact@entrecotebrionnaise.com
www.entrecotebrionnaise.com

Other Facilities for Visitors

The village shop – Aux Brionnais Gourmands (Y), can be found on the main road in the centre of the village.

It is open Tuesdays to Sundays.

Email: le-brionnais-gourmand@orange.fr
Tel: 09 67 48 21 17

Tourist Information Point (C). In the Place de Bouthier de Rochefort, at the entry to the castle, for information, guides, books, postcards, souvenirs and local wines.

www.semur-en-brionnais-vp.fr
Email: chateau.semur@wanadoo.fr
Tel: 03 85 25 13 57

Stamps can be bought from the post office which is situated in the Mairie (E)

Parking. The best place to park is in the visitors' car park (A) which is just off the main road at the lower end of the village (posted), 150 metres from the centre of the village. There are facilities here for **Motorhomes/Camping Cars**

Public Lavatories. Wheel chair accessible public lavatories can be found in the visitors' car park and outside the castle in the Place Bouthier de Rochefort (B).

Free wifi is available outside the restaurant and the castle. Look for the network *trivino.fr wifi*