

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM TO EXPLORE

Generally speaking, a crypt is an area built under a church to house the bodies of martyrs in order to hide them from the eyes of the unholy. In this case, the word 'crypt' which comes from the Greek 'Kruptos' means 'to hide' and does not have a religious meaning.

SOME CHRONOLOGICAL REFERENCES

1987-1988

Initial archaeological excavation inside the cathedral led by Gabrielle Démiens d'Archimbaud of the laboratory [LA3M], Aix-en-Provence;

1991

Second excavation, outside on the north side of the cathedral;

1993

Third excavation comprising the entire forecourt of the cathedral;

2003

Prefiguration of the crypt by Francesco Flavigny, Chief architect of historical monuments;

24th June 2010

Inauguration of the archaeological crypt.



EVENTS

GUIDED TOURS

Book a guided tour from April to end of October and learn all about the history of the site through the centuries.

Duration of tour: 1h30,
 booking only: information at +33 (0)4 92 61 09 73.

FRIDAYS AT THE CRYPT

Guided visit of the crypt. Two Fridays per month during opening times starting at 02:30 pm and by reservation only.

WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

For school children and after-school clubs only (with age appropriate activities). In addition to the guided visit of the crypt and/or cathedral, outdoor archaeological workshops can be arranged on the themes of mosaics, campanology, fresco painting, stained-glass and Romanesque art, etc.

Teachers/leaders of children's groups: please contact us.

ONE OF THE LARGEST CRYPTS IN EUROPE

20 centuries of history
 A 30-year old excavation
 An exceptional site spanning 870 m².

The Archaeological Crypt of Notre-Dame du Bourg offers a unique overview of the urban and architectural evolution of Digne-les-Bains throughout the centuries with its display of archaeological remains discovered during excavations carried out between 1987 and 1993. Twenty centuries of history have been revealed thanks to the remarkable conservation of the site.

1980 saw the start of large-scale renovation work to save and strengthen Notre-Dame du Bourg Cathedral. A preliminary archaeological excavation inside the building interior was rapidly deemed necessary to further ensure its restoration (1987-1988). A large place of worship was discovered among the first finds, showing evidence of liturgical use perpetuated from the 5th to the 11th century. These highly promising results led to extended researches on two other sectors outside the cathedral. An ancient settlement in the Bourg area corresponding to the origins of the town of Digna with ancient walls (1st to 3rd century) was the first to be discovered, followed by a first Christian church (late 4th century/early 5th century) and lastly a 5th century basilica which was enlarged in the 7th century and then again in the 11th century before being replaced in the late 12th century/early 13th century by Notre-Dame du Bourg Cathedral.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Every year, the archaeological crypt is involved in national or European events. Here are some regular fixed dates that allow you free entries:

- Night at the Museum** third Saturday in May,
- National Archaeology Days** (May/June),
- European Heritage Days** third weekend in September.

For additional events exhibitions, concerts, films, conferences and a 'Mediaeval Day' on the first Sunday in July,...

To know more, please visit our website: www.dignelesbains.fr



OPENING TIMES

Open from April to October
 Wednesday and Saturday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
 From Tuesday to Saturday 02:30 pm to 06:30 pm

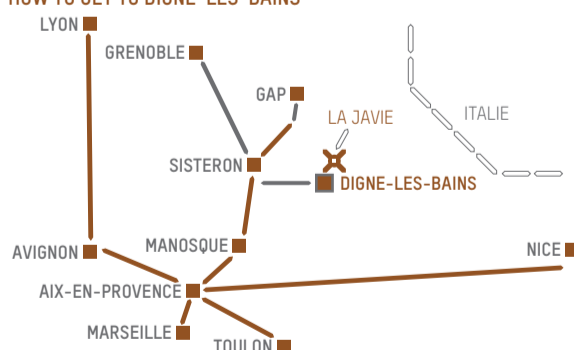
CLOSED

November to March and bank holidays from 1st April to 15 May

ADMISSION FEES including audio guide.

Full tariff: € 6 / Reduced tariff: € 4 / Fee with Museums passport: € 4
 Free for children under 12 years and free the first Saturday of each month
 Single tariff for guided visit: € 8/person (as from 10 people - 30 people max.). Reservation only.
 Payment accepted: cash or cheque.
 Audio guide (in French and English), Shop
 Please note that the site is not accessible to people with reduced mobility.

HOW TO GET TO DIGNE-LES-BAINS



HOW TO GET TO THE CRYPT

By Car
 GPS coordinates: N: 44° 05' 829" E: 006° 14' 543"
 From Digne-les-Bains town centre take Boulevard Gassendi for La Javie/Barcelonnette. After the big fountain go straight on for 300m and you will come to Notre-Dame du Bourg Cathedral at the end of Avenue Sainte-Douceline. The car park is behind the cathedral. When you are on the forecourt, the ticket office for the crypt is on the left-hand side of the cathedral.

On foot

15 minutes from Digne-les-Bains town centre

On Public Transport

TUD (Transport Urbain Dignois) Bus service
 Line 1 - Notre-Dame-du-Bourg / Crypte stop
 Line 6 - Notre-Dame-du-Bourg stop

Archaeological Crypt of Notre-Dame du Bourg

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