

The Haute-Vienne Department & CHÂLUCET

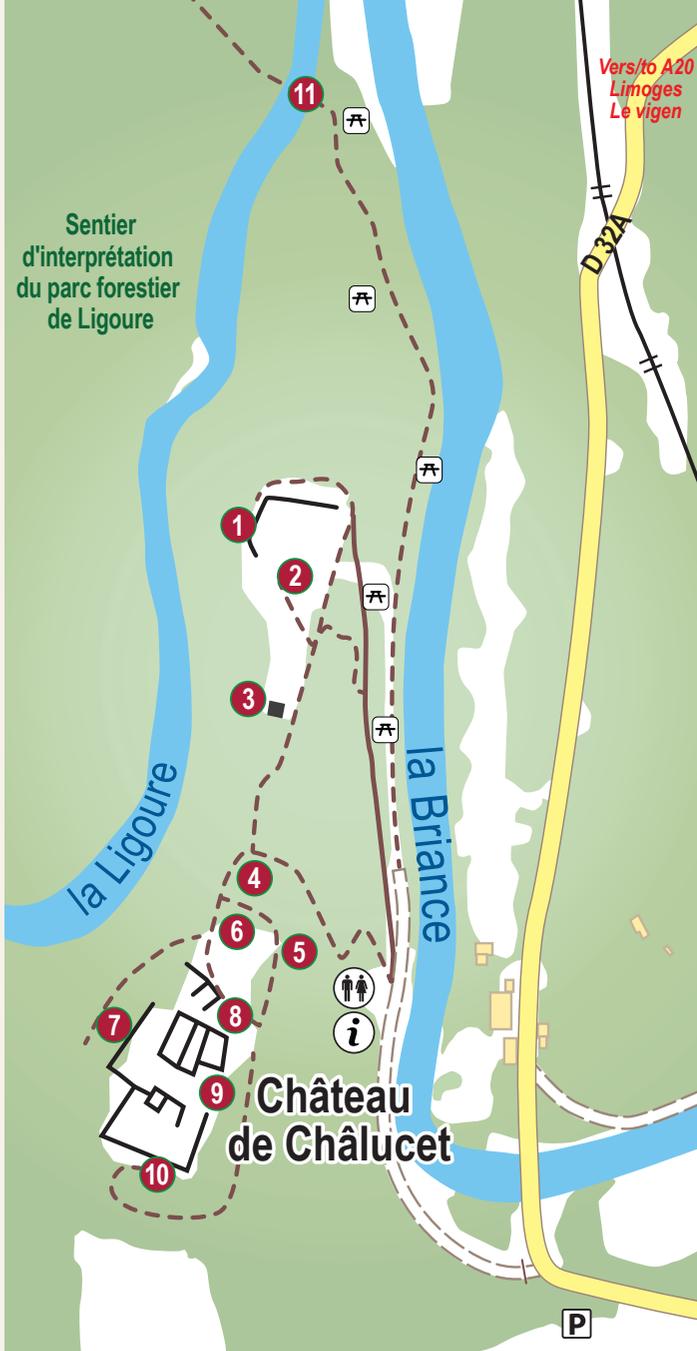
The Haute-Vienne Department owns the ruins of Châluçet, the medieval fortress and listed historical monument, and the Forest of Ligoure.

More than 20 years ago, the regional authorities launched an enormous campaign to preserve and promote these properties and turn them into a high-quality centre for tourism and culture.

These renovation and redevelopment works consisted of:

- consolidating the ruins,
- installing a **platform at the top of the Jeanette Tower**, giving visitors a 360° view of the site,
- restoring a **medieval village** below the Châluçet fortress,
- **opening up the upper castle for visits**: you can now enter the first courtyard and admire the remains of the chapel, the keep and the majestic chimney in the stateroom,
- creating a **free app to help visitors reconstruct the castle and learn about its history**, helping them understand this exceptional site and its conflicted past.

The Châluçet restoration project is also intended to support the local area and its economy: local companies were hired to consolidate the ruins, and a professional reintegration programme provides regular maintenance.



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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. West wall of the village | 5. Porte du Capitaine (Gate) | 9. Castle |
| 2. Castle village | 6. Chapel | 10. Viewing point |
| 3. Jeannette Tower | 7. Western bailey | 11. Footbridge to the Ligoure forest park |
| 4. Quarry | 8. Barbican | |

Practical CHÂLUCET

A ideal place for a family walk, Châluçet is a major medieval site in an outstanding setting. You may visit it unguided, with no time constraints, or on a guided tour.

Services available

- Car and coach park
- Outdoor picnic tables
- Toilets and water supply
- Sale of cold drinks and souvenirs
- Loan of a "Châluçet Fortress" tablet
- Terra Aventura cache (www.terra-aventura.fr)

Practical advice and safety

Due to significant changes in height, some parts of the site are not accessible to people with reduced mobility. Make sure to wear good shoes and bring water in hot weather. For your safety's sake, in the event of a heavy rain or storm warning, certain parts of the castle will not be open to the public.

The Jeannette tower, upper castle and WCs are accessible only during reception centre opening times.

The village cellars are accessible only during guided tours.

It is prohibited to fly drones over the site.

Extend your visit to the Ligoure forest park

The 7 km nature trail (takes 4 hours) takes you to the heart of the Ligoure forest. Along the way you'll find information points that provide explanations about how the forest has developed since the 19th Century, small-scale local heritage and plant and animal life. Unguided walk.

Practical CHÂLUCET

Reception centre

Guided tours start from the reception centre* (last departure at 4.30 pm). Free information is available.

It is open:

- > from April to June and September to October, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 6.30 pm;
- > in July and August, from 10.30 am to 6.30 pm non-stop.

* Individual guided tours (lasting approximately 2 hours) depart at: 10.30 am; 12.30 pm (in July and August); 2.30 pm; 4.30 pm (last departure). Group tours by appointment only.

Guided tour prices*

- > full rate : 6 €
- > group rate (10 or more people), works committee members (on presentation of the membership card) and Haute-Vienne Pass holders (up to 5 people): 4 €
- > students: 3 €
- > under-12s, RSA beneficiaries: free (except group tours).

*Means of payment accepted: cash and cheques.

For further information:

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www.chalucet.com

CHÂLUCET



**A MAJOR
MEDIEVAL SITE**



The Domaine de Châluçet-Ligoure
A property of the Haute-Vienne Department



Download the “Forteresse de Châlucaet” app

3D reconstructions, videos, augmented reality and more: come and unearth all of Châlucaet's secrets with this app!

This offers a fun and enjoyable way to learn all about the history of Châlucaet, from the construction of the first château and the foundation of the lower castle around 1130 AD, right up to its transformation into the palace of Géraud de Maulmont at the end of the 13th century.

Open the “exploded view”, for example, and you'll get a better view of how the rooms in the palace come together. Enter each room and see just how luxurious and refined they were.

Download the free “Forteresse de Châlucaet” app before your visit.



Don't have a smartphone or tablet? Don't worry, you can borrow a tablet from the reception hall.



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The origins of the Castrum* (12th c.)

Châlucaet was founded in around 1130 by two knights from the Jaunhac family, suzerains* of the Viscount of Limoges. At the time, the castrum was run by several knights (between 20 and 30 families), who were the joint lords. In exchange for their military protection, they were given a house, a garden and an income paid by the surrounding villages. Around the Jeannette tower, which was the keep of the lower castrum, there was a proper village. We also know that there were suburbs*, gardens, orchards and perhaps vineyards. Of the upper castle, built by the Jauhac family, there are no visible remains today. It is thought that there was a keep and a seigniorial dwelling.

An uninhabited fortress (13th - 14th c.)

On the death of Géraud de Maulmont in 1299, the castle passed on to one of his heirs. In 1305, the King of France, Philippe IV (known as Philip the Fair), took over the Limousin fortress. He never set foot in it and appointed lords responsible for maintaining it and dealing with day-to-day affairs. In 1317, his successor, King Philippe V, handed Châlucaet over to his loyal advisor Henri de Sully. He never lived there either. The Sully family made few changes to the castle.



C. 1130

1260-1277

late 13th c

early 14th c

late 14th c

1594

Châlucaet Castle (upper and lower) was founded by the Jaunhac family.

War in the viscounty between the inhabitants of Limoges and Viscount Gui VI.

Géraud de Maulmont recovered the seigniorial rights over Châlucaet and had a proper fortified palace built.

Châlucaet became a royal fortress.

This formidable fortress became a den of thieves and highwaymen who fleeced travellers and farmers in the area.

The inhabitants of Limoges had the fortress demolished.

The “viscounty war”

The Viscount* of Limoges, Gui VI, managed to take over part of the suzerainty of Châlucaet. The site's position was ideal for controlling Limoges and the roads leading to it. The castle became the base for operations against the inhabitants of Limoges during the viscounty war (1260 – 1277). Gui VI was supported by the King of France, the inhabitants of Limoges by the Plantagenets who occupied the whole of Aquitaine.

The fortress of Géraud de Maulmont (13th c.)

One of Gui VI's ministers, Géraud de Maulmont, recovered the seigniorial rights over Châlucaet during the viscounty war. He had a proper fortified palace built to replace the initial upper castle: a barbican*, parapet walk, machicolation*, portcullis* and door panels* all formed part of its defence. Round towers were built on each corner of the castle. It was a unique monument at the end of the 13th century that reflected its lord's power.



A den of thieves (late 14th c.)

In 1369, Perrot le Béarnais and his troop took over Châlucaet. For 13 years, these soldiers, who were known as highwaymen*, attacked the inhabitants of the surrounding areas. Perrot was one of the most powerful bandits in the kingdom, but the King of France's army managed to remove him from the fortress in 1394 in exchange for an enormous ransom. Once the Béarnais had left, the Sully family handed the castle over to Charles d'Albret. He, too, appointed lords to take care of Châlucaet. The lords abused their power and behaved like highwaymen. They did little to maintain Châlucaet and the castle fell into ruin.

Châlucaet demolished (16th c.)

This was the period of the wars of religion*. In 1594, Catholic extremists wanted to move into the castle. To prevent this, the Limoges council sent 100 workers to demolish the fortress. It took four days to turn Châlucaet into a ruin.

* GLOSSARY

CASTRUM:

a Latin word meaning a fortified seigniorial complex. The word does not always mean the same as our current “castle”.

SUBURB:

district of a town outside the surrounding walls.

WARS OF RELIGION:

civil wars caused by the opposition between the Catholic and Protestant religions between 1562 and 1598.

PORTCULLIS:

a gate that moved vertically in runners, fitted with spikes at the bottom, which was lowered to prevent access to a fortified building.

MACHICOLATION:

an opening built into the top of a wall using corbels and a parapet, through which objects could be thrown (arrows, stones).

HIGHWAYMEN:

in the Middle Ages, bandits who robbed travellers on the roads.

SUZERAIN:

a lord to whom a vassal is subject and to whom he pays homage.

LEAF:

wooden part of a door.

VISCOUNT:

a noble title (duke, count, viscount, baron). Deputy to the count (“vice-count”).