Saint-Andoche Basilica



OPENING HOURS :

From 1st April to Toussaint :
tuesday to sunday : 9am-12pm,
2pm-6pm

From Toussaint to 31st March :
tuesday to sunday :
10am - 12:30pm & 1pm - 4:30pm

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A LITTLE HISTORY...

This Romanesque basilica was built in the 12th century on the ruins of an abbey built in honor of the priest Andoche, his disciple the deacon Thyrse, and Felix, a Sedelocian merchant who had welcomed them. Andoche and Thyrse had come from the Near East in the 2nd century with a mission : to evangelize Burgundy.

Andoche, Thyrse and Félix were martyred by order of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, who was visiting Saulieu at the time. Their remains were placed in a sarcophagus by friends they met in Autun. The Abbey of Saint-Andoche was born.

Centuries later, in the 8th century, the abbey suffered a series of plunders. It was Charlemagne who saved the edifice, granting it the status of a royal church and the famous Evangeliary of Charlemagne, now on display in the François Pompon Museum.

In the 12th century, Count Etienne de Bâgé, then abbot of Saulieu, had a church built on the model of Cluny : the Abbey of Saint-Andoche became the Abbey Church of Saint-Andoche.

The church suffered considerable damage over the centuries, and it was Viollet-le-Duc who undertook the restoration work in the 19th and 20th centuries.

In 1919, Pope Benedict XV elevated Saint-Andoche to the rank of basilica minor.

THE CARVED CAPITALS

The carved capitals of the Saint-Andoche Basilica were sculpted in the refined style so characteristic of Romanesque art. They have withstood the test of time and the various degradations the building has suffered over the course of its history.

Three main series of subjects are illustrated : the Old Testament (Balaam on his donkey), the New Testament (the Resurrection of Christ, the Hanging of Judas) and universal and local flora (vines, ferns, birds and familiar and fantastical animals such as the eagle, owl, dove and wyvern).

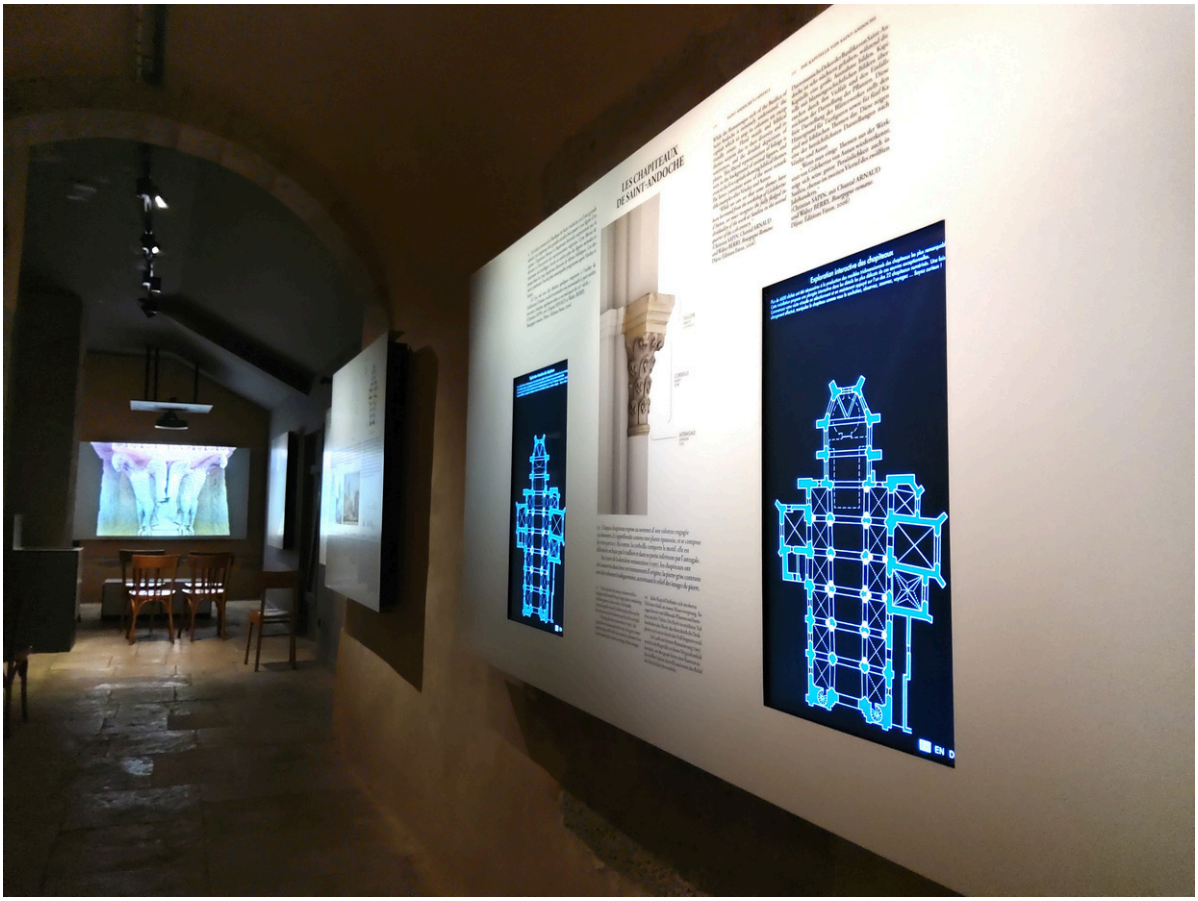




THE DIGITAL GALLERY

The digital gallery was created to mark the 900th anniversary of the Saint-Andoche basilica and its classification as a Cluniac site. It allows visitors to discover all the facets of this exceptional heritage. The capitals are analysed in minute detail using interactive screens and a continuous showing of the film Le Monde de Saint-Andoche. Large panels retrace the building's construction, always providing contextual information.

The space is multilingual. All texts are translated into English and German.



THE CHURCH ORGAN

The great organ of the Basilica of Saint-Andoche was built in 2003 as part of a competition launched in 1980. The aim was to restore or replace the existing organ. In the end, it was the visual artist Pierre Sibieude who created this exceptional visual. The organ builder Millot-Jaccard was responsible for the realization, but master organ builder Daniel Birouste was in charge of the instrumental part.

The automaton was created years after the organ was built. As the basilica has no organist, the automaton can be heard on Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. for 35 minutes, and on request at reception.



VISIT THE BASILICA



Guided tour Saturday at 3 pm (free) : the guide walks around the basilica wearing an orange collar.

Group tours by appointment (€3 per person) : contact basiliquesaulieu@gmail.com or 07 57 76 41 74

Basilique Saint-Andoche

Office opened from Monday to Saturday from 9:30 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm

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