

Balbigny City



During the first week-end of August, there is the patronal feast. It's so amazing. There are rides, a parade, a show, a big meal and fireworks on the Loire. You should come to this event !

Take the small path in front of the middle school. Cross the road then continue straight to the small bridge. Turn left at the end then straight on for 300 meters.

Chimney

It is the chimney of the old tile factory (factory manufacturing tiles). It is in bricks and it was built in the 18th century. It measures 35 meters. It is the tallest monument of Balbigny. The goal is to grind the clay extracted from the quarry and mix it with water then cook everything upto 1000 degrees for several hours. Today it serves as a telephone relay and the old factory is the fire station.



Go straight on to the departmental road. Then turn left and go straight on for 500 meters to the Loire.

Loire bridge

It was used to cross the river more easily and to increase trade.

The first bridge was built in 1837 but it was destroyed to slow down German progress during World War II.

The new bridge was built in 1950 with 193 meters long and a metallic architecture. It's the first bridge with this structure. Today it is still used by many people

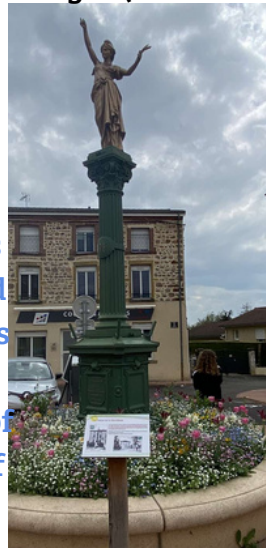


Go backwards then turn left (go in front of the cinema). Then take the 2nd on the right ("rue du Port").

Statue of Marianne

It is on the Verdun square . You can see the Town Hall of Balbigny behind the statue. It was installed in 1889 (100 years after the French Revolution)and It weighs 673 kg. The inhabitants also call it the statue of the Republic because it is a symbol of it. There are only 6 or 7 copies of it in France.

Cross the road.



Let's visit Balbigny ! It is a rural town located in the Loire department, in the Forez plain. It has an a latitude of 300 to 400 meters but it's surrounded by small mountains (Forez mounts, Lyonnais mounts). The average temperature is 25 degrees.

It's landscape is agricultural and rural. It is crossed by the Loire river.

The name of Balbigny dates back to Roman times. A general named Balbinus gave his name to it. There are approximately 3000 inhabitants and a density of 170 inhabitants per km2.

It has a surface area of 17 km2.

It lived from agriculture and livestock until the 19th century. Then it becomes a port city with rambertes (flat-bottomed boat to transport coal).

After, with the construction of the railway line and finally, the roads which connect it to France (a road 82 , highway A72 and A89.

You should live in Balbigny because

- 1) It is located in the beautiful region and near big cities like Lyon and Saint Etienne.
- 2) It is 2 minutes walk from hiking trails to discover the Loire river and Nature.
- 3) The city center is so beautiful with lots of flowers and shops are grouped together in a large square.

Church

It is called "Saint Taurin church" and it was built in the 19th century (in 1844). It was restored in 1998. Its style is Romanesque and it is a Christian church.

It is shaped like a Christian cross and has so beautiful stained glass windows. Its bell tower is square and pillars separate the vaults. You should look carefully at this church.



Walk along the church on the right.

Altar table

The altar table is in granite. It weighs 900 kg. It was used to contain consecrated wine or the blood of sacrificed animals. It dates from the 10th century. In 1899 there was a stone cross on the table. It was located on Balbinus Square..



Milestone

It is a granite cylindrical stone and it dates from Roman times (-50). It determined distance and was placed along the road linking Feurs to Roanne.



Well cap

In Balbigny, there are a lot of water sources. The wells are part of the historical heritage. They are stones and it's forbidden to destroy them.

In the old days, it was used by the inhabitants of the village to draw water.



You can see the Liberation square which is the city center of Balbigny. There are flowers all year long. It's the most beautiful flowery place in Balbigny.

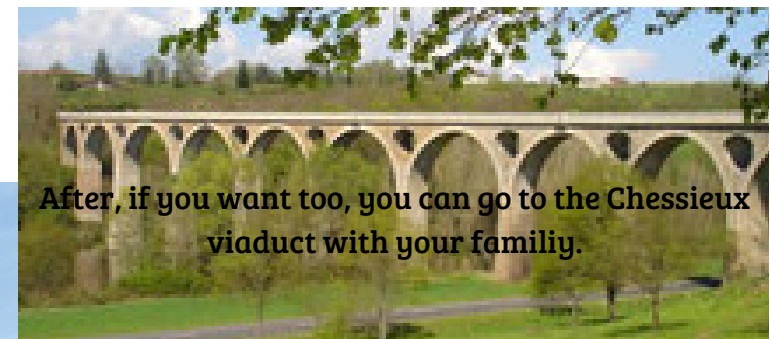
Go across the square.



There is a Memorial. We can see names of people who died during the war. There are 2 symbols : the military cross and the rooster.

Turn left towards the railway line.

Continue on the right and cross the departmental road again, then go back to the starting path.



After, if you want too, you can go to the Chessieux viaduct with your family.

Map of the city

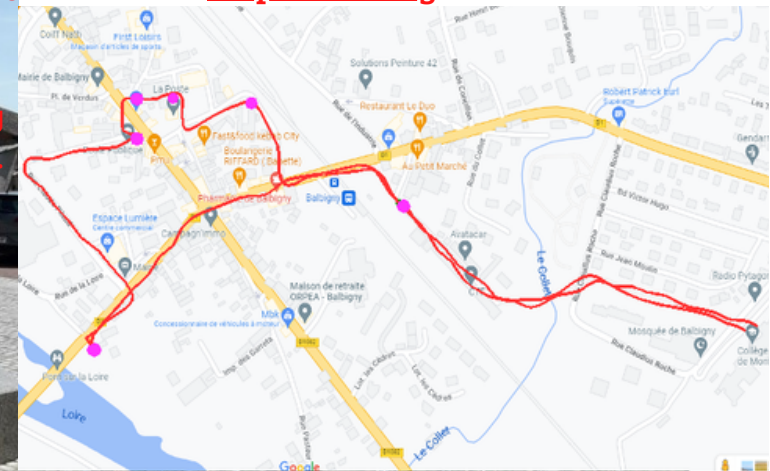


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