

The Haute-Vienne  
Department  
&

# CHÂLUCET

The Haute-Vienne Department owns the ruins of Châlucaet, the medieval fortress and listed historical monument, and the forest on the Ligoure estate. 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.

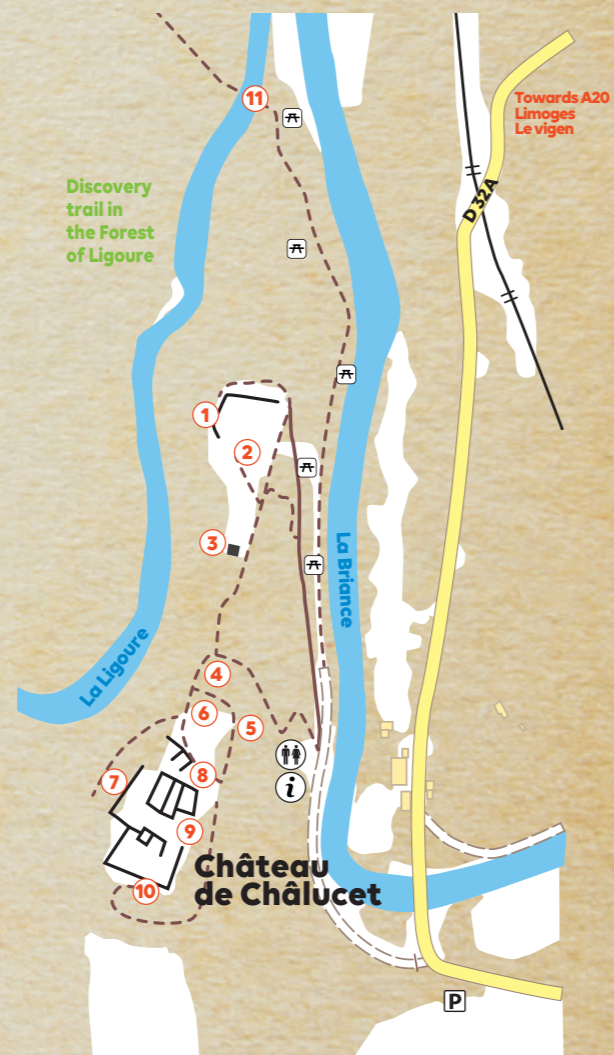
These renovation and redevelopment works consisted in:

- > 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 Châlucaet fortress,
- > opening up the upper castle for visitors: you can now enter the courtyard and admire the remains of the chapel, the keep and the majestic chimney in the stateroom,
- > creating a fun and free fortress discovery application, giving you the chance to learn more about this exceptional site and its complex history and have fun at the same time.



The Châlucaet 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.

A wonderful place to walk with the whole family, Châlucaet is a major medieval site nestled in a beautiful estate. The site is always open to visit, or call to arrange a guided tour.



#### Legend

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. West wall of the village | 7. Western bailey                           |
| 2. Castle village           | 8. Barbican                                 |
| 3. Jeannette Tower          | 9. Château                                  |
| 4. Quarry                   | 10. Belvedere                               |
| 5. Capitaine gate           | 11. Footbridge to the Ligoure Forest estate |
| 6. Chapel                   |   |

# CHÂLUCET

## Services available

- > Car and coach parking
- > Outdoor picnic tables
- > Toilets and water facilities
- > Sale of cold drinks and souvenirs
- > Terra aventura ([www.terra-aventura.fr](http://www.terra-aventura.fr))

## Useful information and safety

Certain parts of the site feature steep slopes and are not accessible to people with disabilities.

- > Bring good walking shoes and water for warm weather. For your safety, in the event that heavy rain or storms are forecast, certain parts of the château will be closed to the public.
- > The Jeannette Tower, the upper castle and the toilets are only accessible during welcome centre opening hours.
- > The village cellars are only accessible with a guided tour.
- > It is not permitted to fly drones over the site.

## Guided tour prices

Accepted payment: cash and cheque.

- > Full price: 6 euros
- > Group price (for groups of 10 people and more) and members of employee works' councils (upon presentation of a membership card): 4 euros
- > students: 3 euros
- > children under 12, recipients of job-seekers' allowance: free (except group visits).

## Spend some time in the Forest of Ligoure

The 7km historical trail (around 4 hours) will take you deep into the Forest of Ligoure. Along the route, information panels will tell you all about how the site has been developed since the 19th century, show you local landmarks and help you identify local flora and fauna. Entry to the grounds is free.

- 📍 **The welcome centre** is the starting point for guided tours (last tour leaves at 16:30). You'll find free information about the estate here. It's open:
  - > from April to June and from September to October from 10:30 to 12:30 and from 13:30 to 18:30;
  - > in July and August, from 10:30 to 18:30, non-stop.

## Individual guided tours

(these last around 2 hours): 10:30, 12:30 (in July and August), 14:30, 16:30 (last tour). Group visits are available upon reservation only.

GPS : 45.732264, 1.311243



📍 For more information:  
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[chalucet@haute-vienne.fr](mailto:chalucet@haute-vienne.fr)

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terre-lune



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[chalucet.com](http://chalucet.com)

# CHÂLUCET

## A major medieval site



# Haute-Vienne

## EXPLOR GAMES®

### Dive into the history of Châlucaet with the "Haute-Vienne Explor Games®" app

Do you want to release your inner explorer?

Are you passionate about history and adventures?

Discover the fortress of Châlucaet through the ages in a fun and intriguing journey, created especially for you. Puzzles line your path from the lower castrum to Jeannette Tower and the fortified palace, and a number of challenges await. Pick up the gauntlet and find out everything Châlucaet has to offer!



Disponible sur App Store

Disponible sur Google play

DISCOVER CHÂLUCET AND MANY OTHER PUZZLE TRAILS IN HAUTE-VIENNE by downloading the free "Haute-Vienne Explor Games®" application

> Download on the App Store and Google Play

#### The origins of the Castrum\*

(12<sup>th</sup> century)

Châlucaet was founded around 1130 by two knights of the Jaunhac family, suzerains\* of the Viscount of Limoges. The castrum was governed by a number of knights (between 20 and 30 families), who were jointly lords of the area. In exchange for their military protection, they were granted a house, a garden, and rent paid by nearby villages. A village lived and breathed around the Jeannette Tower, which was the keep of the lower castrum.

We also know that there were faubourgs\*, gardens, orchards, and perhaps even vineyards. Nothing visible remains of the upper castle, built by the Jaunhacs. We believe that it had a keep and a home for the lord.

#### The fortress of Géraud de Maulmont (13<sup>th</sup> century)

One of Gui VI's ministers, Géraud de Maulmont, took over lordship of Châlucaet during the "Viscount War". He had a truly fortified palace built on the site of the first upper castle, featuring defensive systems such as barbicans\*, ramparts, machicolations\*, portcullises and gates. A round tower stood at each corner of the castle.



# CHÂLUCET

## A major medieval site



Creation of the Château de Châlucaet (top and bottom) by the Jaunhac family.

Géraud de Maulmont becomes lord of Châlucaet and builds a new, fortified palace.

around 1130

1260-1277

end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century

beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century

from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century

1594

The Viscount War, pitting the inhabitants of Limoges against Viscount Gui VI.

Châlucaet becomes a royal fortress.

This formidable fortress is home to bandits and highwaymen who terrorise travellers and peasants in the area.

The inhabitants of Limoges have the fortress torn down.

#### The "Viscount War"

The Viscount\* of Limoges, Gui VI, managed to seize part of the suzerainty of Châlucaet. The site's position is ideal for maintaining control of Limoges and the routes leading there. The château became the base for operations against the inhabitants of Limoges during the Viscount War (1260 - 1277).

Gui VI was supported by the King of France, while the inhabitants were supported by the Plantagenets who had occupied all of Aquitaine.

#### An inhabited fortress

(13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century)

In 1299, upon the death of Géraud de Maulmont, the château passed to one of his descendants. In 1305, French King Philippe IV ("the Fair") took control of the fortress in the Limousin. He never set foot in it, instead nominating chatelains to handle maintenance and day-to-day running. In 1317, his successor, King Philippe V, awarded Châlucaet to his loyal counsellor, Henri de Sully. He never stayed here either. In fact, the Sully family left very little trace on the château.



#### A bandit's hideout (end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century)

In 1369, Perrot le Béarnais and his band took over Châlucaet. For 13 years, these soldiers (known as highwaymen\*) used it as a base to attack nearby inhabitants. Perrot was one of the most powerful bandits in the kingdom, but the King's army managed to pry him out of the fortress in 1394, against an enormous ransom.

Once le Béarnais had left, the Sully family gave the château to Charles d'Albret. He too nominated a number of chatelains to take care of Châlucaet. Alas, they abused their power and became highwaymen themselves. Lacking care and maintenance, Châlucaet fell into ruins.

#### Châlucaet is pulled down (16<sup>th</sup> century)

This was the time of the Wars of Religion\*. In 1594, ultra-Catholics wanted to come and set up in the château. To stop them, the city of Limoges sent 100 labourers to pull down the fortress. Within just four days, Châlucaet was reduced to an utter ruin.



#### GLOSSARY

**Barbican** : a small structure in front of the main gate of a fortress, used to improve defence against attackers.

**Castrum** : the Latin word for a seigniorial fortified compound. This word is not always strictly synonymous with our modern word "castle".

**Faubourg** : district of a town located outside the walls.

**Wars of religion** : a series of civil wars caused by opposing Catholic and Protestant forces between 1562 and 1598.

**Portcullis** : a mesh which slides vertically along runners, with points at the bottom, which could be lowered to restrict access to a fortified structure.

**Machicolations** : a gap in the top of a wall, formed using corbels and a parapet, from which objects could be launched (arrows, stones).

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

**Suzerain** : a lord with a vassal who pays homage.

**Leaf** : the wooden part of a door.

**Viscount** : title (Duke, Count, Viscount, Baron). Assistant to a count ("vice-count").