

Retrace your steps to arrive on the **Old Bridge 6**. Looking down you can see the ford which shows how ancient the Asnières site is and how the village has progressively developed. The Vieux Pont crosses a bend in the river and was rebuilt in the Romanesque style in 1806. On its roadway you will notice grey marbles stones, veined in white and pink, which come from the Asnières quarry.



During this period the waters of the Vegre turned the wheels of the town mill and those of the Moulin Neuf (New Mill) both of which ground corn. One could hear the steady noise of some fifteen textile trades coming from their cellars.

On the other bank you will see **Basse Cour manor 7** and to the right **Arcis 8**.

By continuing up the hill you will arrive at **Château de Moulinvieux 9** which was extensively rebuilt in the 18th century. The grounds and gardens



are listed in the supplementary inventory of Historical Monuments (the grounds are open to the public as arranged by the owner).

Do not forget to visit the conservancy

orchard located on the outskirts of the village on the road to Sablé. Established in 1996, the orchard guarantees the safe-keeping of old varieties of apples and farming technique. Named "Jardin d'Oiseaux", the orchard is also devoted to biological control.

Extensive remains on the banks of the Vegre show human activity since the Paleolithic Period. Founded in the 5th century, the parish of Asnières is one of the oldest in the Maine. From the 9th century to the Revolution, the lands of Asnières belonged to the Chapter Canons of Le Mans Cathedral. Becoming owners of the church in the 11th, they ensured that their nave and choir were decorated in successive stages up to the 16th century. Possibly they were the 13th century builders of the Manoir de la Cour, also called the Temple.

From the 17th, village growth was stimulated eastward by quarrying, marble work, weaving, and later, mining. In the 19th a second bridge and another road on which the combined school/town-hall were built.



Information/visits

Mairie (Town Hall)

Rue du Lavoir ~ 72430 Asnières-sur-Vègre
Tél. 02 43 95 30 07
mairie.asnieressurvegre@wanadoo.fr

Maison du Patrimoine et du Tourisme Association Patrimoine d'Asnières

5, rue Saint-Hilaire ~ 72430 Asnières-sur-Vègre
Tél. 02 43 92 40 47
asnieres.patrimoine@wanadoo.fr
patrimoinevalleesarthe.org
Guided tours according to the schedule listed on the website. Rental of audio-guides for the visit of Saint-Hilaire church.

Le Jardin Mosaïque, eco-garden

www.lejardinmosaique.com

Verr i Kiti

Design workshop - glass artisan
Glass and flame fusing, jewelry...
www.verrikiti.fr



The "Petites Cités de Caractère" distinction

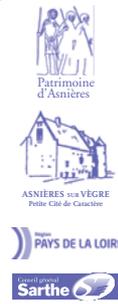
is awarded to the little towns and villages in our region that have a remarkable architectural and natural Heritage, and meet the essential criteria when it comes to welcoming their visitors. As a guarantee for quality, this label urges the communes belonging to the network to keep on improving the emphasis placed on their attractions through restoration, promotion and activities. The Petites Cités de Caractère of the Pays de la Loire present a wide range of historical authenticity and are a reflection of the geographical territory to which they belong to.



Les Petites Cités de Caractère en Sarthe



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Asnières-sur-Vègre

Petite Cité de Caractère en Sarthe



ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES IN SARTHE.
THE SHADED BANKS OF THE VÈGRE ARE SPANNED BY A PICTURESQUE OLD BRIDGE SURROUNDED BY 15TH TO 17TH CENTURY HOUSES. THE "MANOIR DE LA COUR", A CHATEAU AND THE EXCEPTIONAL WALL PAINTINGS OF THE CHURCH ALL ADD TO THE CHARM OF THIS VILLAGE.

testime 02 43 87 67 19 - juillet 2011 - Photos: F. Floquet, Fonds Petites Cités de Caractère de la Sarthe.

Starting point: Place de l'Église **Saint-Hilaire** ① (St Hilary's Church). The nave was built in the middle of the 11th century and is the oldest structure in the village. Look at the doorway and the harmonious mix of grey and red sandstone and white stone. At the beginning of the 19th century, following new public hygiene laws, the Asnières commune transferred its cemetery to the Poillé road, however one can still see a tomb-stone in front of the church. Inside the church one finds a collection of medieval wall paintings which are of high artistic quality. Executed between the 12th and 16th centuries they aim not only to decorate the church but also to teach the faithful Christian doctrine. In the past they were covered with lime plaster which protected them for three centuries. Their exposure which was begun in 1951 is still not completed (see the notices



produced by the Asnières Local History Society for more information which are found in the church). Go up rue Saint-Hilaire then turn left to reach **Manoir de la Cour** ② also called "The Temple." It was successively the home of the 13th

- Historical heritage itinerary
- ▲ Starting point
- 3 Historical heritage marker
- i Information point
- P Parking



century ecclesiastical authorities, a gentleman's manor in the 15th century, a farm in 18th century and eventually divided into apartments in the 19th century. The commune bought the building in 1972. Enter by the porch to the interior court-yard to see its old garden and rose beds. Take the rue du Temple to reach the **Rue du 14 Nivôse** ③ on your left. It was the main road. Admire the view down to the Old Bridge. During your walk allow yourself to enjoy the village atmosphere: its low walls,



flowered lanes, roofs of slate and tile, and ochre-coloured plaster. At the end one finds the turreted **Pavillon** ④. It was built for commercial purposes in the 17th century and is typical of detached houses of that period. Take a right and head towards the Saint-Aldric's Fountain which was converted into a **wash house** ⑤ in the 19th century. The village was enjoying a period of prosperity at that time and expanded to the east where a new bridge was built on the Sablé road. The houses on rue du Lavoir survive as an example of contemporary town architecture of that era.