

Some background...

Although the area is named after its famous “Lapalissades” (truisms) born in the 18th Century, in ancient times Lapalisse was described as a “noteworthy passage through the Bourbonnais” because the town was situated on the antic Roman way that connected Paris to Lyon.

The discovery of sharpened flints by archeologists backs up the fact that there were already human beings in the Besbre Valley in **Prehistorical times**.

Traces of life from the **Gallo-Roman era** were also found in the area and especially on Lubié site where proofs of the presence of a ceramic production site were found.

Archeological discoveries and a written testimony of Grégoire de Tours relating the life of St Lupicin – a hermite who withdrew near “Bourg de Besbre” – are legacies from **Merovingian times** (from the 6th Century to the 8th Century).

In the Middle Ages, the name of Lapalisse appeared for the first time on an ancient 12th Century map referring to a chapel (Capella di Palicia). In 1429, Charles, Duke of Bourbon purchased the lord’s domain in La Palice from Jeanne de Châtillon and sold it to Jacques 1st De Chabannes in 1431.

In Modern times, Lords of La Palice were rising so well that in the middle of the 16th Century, the number of inhabitants was estimated to 650 before reaching about 2200 in 1790.

Significant changes took place **in the 18th Century**: in 1759, the *Grand Chemin de Lyon* was plotted leading to the destruction of part of the walls.

The city grew out from the original core at the foot of the castle following the main transport routes (RN7, RD243, RD61, RD990, RD 7, RD48) giving thereby rise to a star-like urbanization.



Discover Lapalisse

Walking tour

Office de Tourisme du Pays de Lapalisse

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1 - *La place Charles Bécaud* was the site of the covered market until the middle of the 19th Century.

2 - *La place du Puits de l'Image* and its hostel located on the old route between Paris and Lyon hosted visitors until the end of the 19th Century.

3 - *La rue de La Liberté* was Lapalisse's main road until 1855. This road was the ancestor of the national road N7.

4 - *Le Château de La Palice* was the mansion of the famous Marshal of France. It has been the property of the De Chabannes family since 1430. The castle is entirely furnished and decorated (gilded ceiling...). Guided tours are organized every day (except on Tuesdays) from 9am to 12pm and from 2pm to 6pm (from the 1st of April to the 1st of November).

5 - *Saint Jean Baptiste's Church* is a Neo-Roman church built between 1876 and 1897.

6 - The impressive Grenette building located on *place du champ de foire* was former used for storing grain.

7 - *The Town Hall* was an ancient castle outhouse. In 1800, Lapalisse became the administrative center of the area and the subprefecture settled in this building until 1941.

8 - There is an historical and architectural jewel in *rue du Commerce*: a sloped-roof timbered house from the 15th Century.

9 - In the past, farmers used to take *rue de la Prairie* to get to the fields situated out of town.

10 - *The footbridge* allows you to cross the Besbre, an 80 km long river that runs through the area from South to North.

11 - *La rue du Souvenir Français* was former called *la rue du Gaz* (Gas Street) because of a gas plant that operated from 1889 to 1955.



12 - Maximilien de la Guiche – a Governor of the Bourbonnais – founded in 1656 a hospital on the family's lands. The hospital is located on *place du Maréchal Leclerc* and houses the post office.

13 - *The Besbre quays* were built in 1872 after that the 1707 floods had swept away the brook.

14 - *The Floral Park* was designed in 1936 by the landscape architect Lauren Faure. It has been inspired by French and English-style gardens and has now more than 95 different vegetal species.

Estimated time : +/- 1h