

Peypin, in the heart of the pine wood hills

Tourism and Patrimony

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How to reach Peypin?

From Marseille : by the A50 highway (30 min.) and from Aix-en-Provence ; by the A52 highway (25 min.).

From Aubagne (by the A52 highway, 15 min.) you could take a free « Agglo » bus in order to reach one of the twelve « Pays d'Aubagne et de l'Etoile » communities: Aubagne, Auriol, Belcodène, Cadolive, Cuges-les-Pins, La Bouilladisse, La Destrousse, La Penne-sur-Huveaune, Peypin, Roquevaire, Saint-Savournin and Saint-Zacharie.

Line 5 from Aubagne ; the free « Agglo » bus

Line 108 from La Bouilladisse, also a free « Agglo » bus

Information: "Pôle d'Echange" tel. 04.42.03.24.25

Or: www.bus-agglo.fr and www.lepilote.com

Peypin benefits from an advantageous geographical location.

At only 22 km from Aix-en-Provence and only 21 km from Marseille, Culture and « Calanques » are within easy reach. You could enjoy the nearby seaside at one of the Cassis and La Ciotat beaches.

Around Aubagne (15 km) you could visit the hills of "Pagnol", the crafts work of clay, and the home of the "Santon"; Provençal figurine.

Peypin is located at the Northern foothills of the Garlaban Massif and at the Eastern foothills of the Etoile Massif. To the South, Peypin touches the western extremity of the "Régagnas" Mountains (the Sainte-Baume Massif).

The village will seduce all hiking and art lovers as it is situated close to Cézanne's beloved Sainte-Victoire Massif.

So, in and around Peypin, where can we go to, what can we visit, where can we eat, where can we stay?

Peypin, with an area of 1135 hectares, whose name gives the answer to the first question, is located in the middle of many "**Alep**" pine tree and Oak covered hills, ideal for hiking. At the South of the village one finds stretches of "Garrigues"; arid and rocky land scattered with brush vegetation.

In the past, the people would use the pine trees by transforming their resin, for example in the "Pégoulières" neighbourhood.

A Gallo Roman Oppidum (Iron age, 1100 before JC) rises above the hill of "La Cride", close to Peypin's clay quarry. One can observe the oppidum which has been object of archaeological studies from "le Castellas". Moreover, the village is situated on a secondary route of the famous "Aurelia" way (that connected Rome to Arles during the antiquity). This last route made it possible to reach Marseille from Pourcieux.

The Castellas (which means "castel in ruins" in Provençal dialect) was built in 1150 by Pierre Brémond, Lord of Auriol, most likely at the location of the ancient roman villa of Solobie (Solobium in Latin). It's destruction in 1593 took place during the reign of Henry IV, when Provençal castles were demolished under command of the Duke of Epernon.

The Castellas is currently the subject of a project of valorization and accessibility improvement in partnership with the "Pays of Aubagne".

The parish church Saint-Martin was built in 1829, and has on its walls the coats of arms of the lords who contributed to the village's history. One can also see indices related to the past of the "Peypinois"; the People of Peypin.

In the eighteenth century, Pierre Roux, who was a merchant from Marseille, was interested in the territory of Peypin. He built a beautiful "bastide" (Provençal countryside villa) there. In 1740, Jean-Baptiste Roux began an embellishment and expansion campaign. He added a second building that is commonly called "le Château"; the Castle. The Roux family invested a lot in the community and created the coal mining activity in the Provence area.

The Chateau de Valdonne was classified Historical Monument for its architectural richness in 1986. The Chateau is actually private property and is not open for visits.

The mines of Valdonne were specialized in extracting coal (called "lignite" here). These mines played a major role in the local economy for centuries. The miners created the first mining relief fund in 1864 and also several cooperatives. The area's first trade union chamber was created even earlier, in 1861.

The miner's monument was established in 2005 to pay tribute to the men who had worked so hard in these mines. The monument is situated at a place called "Puits Castellane" (on the road to Gréasque).

VTT Club

This mountain bike association offers a cycling trip once every year called the "Pente et Côte" (slopes and hills) race on Pentecost Sunday. You'll find the registration form on their website.

Le "GR13" passe par Peypin: the "GR13" long distance trail passes through Peypin!

Marked hiking trails start from the village's center (bus station roundabout, in direction to "le Régage") and from the "Avenue de la Libération" ("Chemin de la Planète") intersection. You'll enjoy walking through « le Mont du Marseillais », « le Font de Mule » or « Le Régage » for example.

We propose the "Circuit des villages" or villages tour for biking fans. You'll find a descriptive panel with map at the bus station ("halte routière"). It shows the different villages, composing the "Pays d'Aubagne", crossed by this tour.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE FORESTS

From the first of June to the 30th of September, a prefectural decree regulates hiking and biking access to the hills. The accessibility conditions are established the day before the next, from 6 pm. The map of access to the massifs can be found on: www.paca.pref.gouv.fr/files/massif/ or on the vocal server (in French or English) dedicated to "Bouches du Rhône" tourism: 08 11 20 13 13

For your comfort and your security; don't forget:

- good hiking shoes
- enough drinking water
- a cap or hat
- sun screen
- and don't forget to check the accessibility and weather forecasts!

Enjoy your stay at Peypin!

Traduit par/ translated by Diana Lebrette.