

CRAMOISY

VISITS OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES ADVISED BY THE TOURIST OFFICE OF PIERRE SUD OISE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

Cramoisy:

The sector of stone constructions of this village is the best way to define with accuracy the “picturesque” word.

The village first was named: Cramisiaacum in 859, then Cramoisi. The Maysel municipality was connected to Cramoisy from 1826 to 1832. Cramoisy was included in the Mello barony; it was a walled up site. We saw two gates at the East, still in 1750, called Porte Barbe and Porte Robinet, and at the West, two other gates: Porte Martelet and Porte du Moulin. There also was a fortified castle where Pierre, named Hutin, Lord of Aumont, held a captain in his name towards the 1397 year during the war against the English. The buildings of a fiefdom called le château de Sarrazin were destroyed and replaced by an imposing town house. The exploitation of the stones to build had lots of importance for a long time thanks to the number of quarries and also to the great quality of materials it provided.

Open-pit quarries in Cramoisy will show you entrances of caves where an old underground exploitation took place. We still don't know the name of the owner neither the date when began the exploitation of the Saint Supplice quarry, but we know it was very active and it is now abandoned.

The St-Martin Church

A 12th century nave, a 15th century skylight bell tower and an arched choir raise themselves inside.

It houses a full-size wax statue representing Saint Antoine de Padou. Two copies are existing: the other one is in Italy.

The bell tower placed near the choir, with two gemeled semi-circular arch crowned associating diamond point, saw tooth and beveled mirror make us think this church was officially built between the 11th and 12th century.

The window of the choir conserved a wonderful 16th century stained-glass window and the choir's woodworks shows paintings representing innocently the Evangelists, the Nativity, and the Presentation of the Three Kings.

The only Saint Antoine full size wax-statue in France is settled there since 1901.

The Barn of tithe or the Farm of the Top

The Barn of tithe is an **old fortified farm** attached to the church. It was supposed to stock the principal tax the Church rose by farmers: the tithe (= 10% of the farmer's harvest). It presented fortifications with foothills.

The quarries

The quarries exploitation had lots of importance during a long time thanks to the quarries number and also to the exceptional quality of the material we could extract: the stone. In Cramoisy, the open-pit quarries let us admire an original landscape. The forest quarry exists since the 60s whereas the Carrière aux Choux is older: 1817. There also is an impressive dimensions underground one called la Carrière aux V1, factory to manufacture flying bombs for the Second World War, this quarry runs from Saint-Leu d'Esserent to Cramoisy.

The Parvillée Factory

Maitre Moyne, lawyer in Paris, used to dissect the status of the Parisian Parvillée society specialised in electricity in May 1899. The Parvillée leadership abandons the principle of great oven of lateral hearth called “alandiers” and edifies a battery with 16 small dimension ovens fuelled by a gas producer. The fire “turns” inside of the pots and pans. Once constitute this way, the Cramoisy

factory, being a porcelain factory and a forge on the same time becomes an important provider of all the organisms making electric lines.

The World War I makes the factory stop its activity only for a few weeks. It provides hundreds of thousands of insulators and ornament hinges of Telegrams and Telephones Posts and of rail networks during the hostilities. After the war, the Cramoisy manufacturing evolves in 1923, the suspended insulator that revolutionizes the power lines technique.

The old station and its loading dock

Even if the station is sold to a private individual by the SNCF (French National Society of Railways), the line keeps being used by travellers and goods trains.

Walking paths

Distance: 13.8km

Duration: 3h30

Average difficulty (small difference in height)

Yellow marking (right direction – turn on the left – turn on the right – wrong direction – post)

Departure of the “Across fields and valley” walking; token n°3 on demand.

The walkers will visit Thiverny and Cramoisy both situated in the Thérain’s valley, Saint-Leu d’Esserent in the Oise’s. These municipalities walk across the plateau of Mouy slopes. We extract stones for millennia there. The route is full of heritage sites. The stoned sites are numerous: old wash houses and mills, the council town’s bell tower and of course the Barn of tithe in Cramoisy.

Useful addresses:

For more information:

Opened from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and from 1:30 to 5:00 pm