

GASCONY	CHURCHES (with Western Pyrenees)
<p>Amou St Pierre South-west of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>This church was built in the XIIc, but only the apse retains any evidence of this; it has a number of blind arches of different dimensions and there are elements of the frieze that ran above them. The remainder of the church, which is uninspiring, is Gothic in style and is of little interest.</p>
<p>Arjuzanx North-west of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>Of this XIIc church only the narthex remains. Even this has been rebuilt and restored. The remainder of the church is Gothic and is of little interest.</p>
<p>Audignon South-west of St Séver</p>	<p>This church has a XIIc apse. It is long and has a line of modillions including images of human heads, a thorn-puller and a king (David?) with a lute. There are two engaged columns with capitals that depict lions. The choir has two reused capitals each side; one of Christ in Glory and the other of Christ the Judge. Behind the altar are foliage capitals; all except one on the South side are damaged. There are many tacherons on the apse: two styles of modified H, a cross-bow, an arrow head, a curled 'crook', an inverted Z. There is a group of 7 'King Solomon's Knots' – see Echebrune (17).</p>
<p>Baigts South-east of Dax</p>	<p>The apse of this church is rounded and has large blind arches and a broad frieze of 'studs' running round it. There are two worn modillions above. The single nave dates from the XVIIIc and the choir has a Baroque appearance.</p>

<p>Belhade</p> <p>St Vincent</p> <p>In the North of Les Landes South-east of Belin-Beliet</p>	<p>This is an attractive little church that is of XIc origin. It is built mostly of local stones, small and brown ironstone, except for the West door where limestone has been used. The door is interesting; it has three stepped arches and pairs of columns that have fine capitals. These depict Adam & Eve, David playing a lute with two other musicians, birds standing on lions and two men in a boat with a siren (or mermaid) looking on (Ulysses?). The arches have geometric decoration. There is a tympanum with a simple Christ. The apse is rounded.</p> <p>See 'Gascogne Romane' page 27</p>
<p>Brassempouy</p> <p>St Saturninus</p> <p>South-west of St Séver</p>	<p>This church is almost entirely XVIc. Elements of the rounded apse and a reused stone on the South wall of the nave are XIIc. There are two small 'openings' (the North one is blocked) on the west façade that are XIIc and there is a large decorated arch, that was formerly part of an entrance at the South-west end of the nave.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>Brignon</p> <p>In the North of Les Landes South-east of Belin-Beliet</p>	<p>This is a small XIc church. It has a rounded apse between two rounded side chapels. The nave appears to have been rebuilt and larger windows inserted. The West façade has an ugly modern porch. The door is plain with three stepped arches of limestone and some brick. A bell wall is above the porch and door; access is gained by way of a narrow stairway in a round tower on the North-west corner of the church.</p> <p>See 'Gascogne Romane' page 28</p>

<p>Brocas St Pierre West of St Séver</p>	<p>There are two churches side by side. The northern one, in poor repair, dates from the XIIc. It has a XVc door; the original XIIc door on the North wall has been blocked and is partially obscured by a buttress. The apse is rounded with nine blind arches that have plain modern capitals. The style of arch is similar to those at nearby St Aubin.</p>
<p>Cagnotte Notre Dame Les Landes South of Dax</p>	<p>This is a former priory; the relics of some buildings remain to the South-west. The church was very severely damaged during the Wars of Religion. When the nave was rebuilt it was without side aisles. The apse is flat ended and has three slim windows. Inside, at the crossing, are a few XIIIc capitals. The remainder was looted after the Revolution. There are two early tombs; one is in a black stone and dates from the VI c; the other is of marble, has a small pilaster at two corners and dates from the VIIIc.</p>
<p>Campet West of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>Only the rounded apse of this church is XIIc. It is without decoration but there is a small XIIc window on the side. The West façade is neo-Romanesque.</p>
<p>Carres Sainte Croix Between Dax and Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>This church has a polygonal apse and a single nave with a bell wall and a porch over the West door. There is a fortified roof space. Large windows were fitted after the XIVc.</p>
<p>Castel Sarrazin Les Landes South-east of Dax</p>	<p>This XIIc chapel is in the Vieux Bourg and it is in a neglected state. It has an original nave with a later North aisle. The apse is rounded. It has little character.</p>

<p>Coupenne St Laurent Southwest of St Séver</p>	<p>This chapel stands on a hill to the South of the village. It has a plain rounded apse, a single nave with a North door below a porch. The vaults of the nave are of timber. The chapel is in a poor state of repair (2006).</p>
<p>Coupenne St Martin South-west of St Séver</p>	<p>This church has a rounded apse with one central window that has two capitals depicting birds. There are some modillions: geometric, eagles and Atlantes. There are XV and XVIc chapels off the nave.</p>
<p>Doazit (Aules) St Jean Baptiste South-west of St Séver</p>	<p>This is a large church in what is now a hamlet. The apse is rounded and has six blind arches in pairs. These have capitals, some in poor quality stone. They depict humans in scenes of vice, lions, birds and a Greenman. There is a window above with two simple foliage capitals. There is a square fortified tower over the West door. There are modillions round the apse including a thorn-puller.</p> <p>See 'Gascogne Romane' page 32</p>
<p>Douzevielle Les Landes East of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>This church has two naves and two apses. The larger, North one is Gothic. The South one is small and XIIc. It has a rounded apse with worn modillions that depict contorted figures. Inside there is a very short nave and a low arch that leads into the choir each side of the choir is a fine capital depicting men and beasts. These are works of the same school as some of those at St Séver. The West façade is obscured by a XIXc house.</p>

<p>Flaran</p> <p>Gers South of Condom and North of Valence sur Baise</p>	<p>This was a Cistercian abbey from 1157. It was damaged during the Hundred Years War and the Revolution and again, by fire, in 1970. There is a rounded apse with transepts. The apse has windows with simple capitals. Above, constructed with bricks and timber, is a raised defensive area. Off the transept are four rounded chapels. The nave is short and wide. The West door is stepped and between simple capitals. Above the door and on the South transept are rose windows. Around the nave, transept and apse are modillions. Most are simple ‘+’s, ‘X’s and other symbols. But there is a human head and one of a bull and a sheep. There are many tacherons: P, Z, inverted Z, arrow, two triangles point to point, star of David, E, V on its side, B on its side, π, reversed R and a cross-bow.</p>
<p>Géou</p> <p>Notre Dame des Cyclistes!</p> <p>Les Landes East of Labastide D’Armagnac</p>	<p>This chapel appears, from the small even stonework, to be XIc. It has a rounded apse and a long single nave. The apse has an oven-like East end and roof. There is a very small central window. The original West door has been replaced by a modern window. The entrance is through a plain South door.</p>
<p>Gibret</p> <p>St Jean Baptiste</p> <p>Les Landes South-east of Dax</p>	<p>This chapel has a XIIc nave and a later North aisle. The apse is rounded. There are no sculptures outside or in.</p>
<p>Grazimis</p> <p>St Pierre</p> <p>Gers North of Condom</p>	<p>This church is in a tiny hamlet. It dates from the XIIc and has a rounded apse and a fortified area above it. There is a single nave with a North door. There are XVIc side chapels. On the apse is a tacheron W</p>

<p>Géloux Les Landes North of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>See 'Gascogne Romane' page 30</p> <p>Only the short rounded apse of this church is XIIc. It has three small windows; each side of the central window is a capital and over the top of it is an arch. The capital to the left has lions and birds. There is a fortified area above that was probably built at the same time as the fortified tower at the West end of the church; that is XIVc.</p>
<p>Hagetmau St Girons Les Landes South of St Séver</p>	<p>Only the crypt remains from this XIc church; the rest was destroyed after the Revolution. The crypt has been rebuilt. The interest lies in the sculptures on the capitals. These are from the same workshop as those at St Séver. Those depicting biblical scenes include: the release of St Peter from prison, the Richman at table with the resurrection of Lazarus (between two angels), and Daniel throwing an object at a dragon. There are also images of lions, foliage and a mask in foliage.</p> <p>See 'Gascogne Romane' pages 122 to 127 and 'The Pilgrim Guide' page 200</p>
<p>Hastingues (Abbaye D'Arthous) Ste Marie Les Landes East of Bayonne</p>	<p>This is a XIIc abbey with a long single nave that was severely damaged in the Wars of Religion and again following the Revolution, when it was used as stables and farm buildings. The West door has three capitals depicting foliage and snakes; the fourth is very worn. The apse and side chapels are rounded. The apse has windows with small capitals each side, including two with a small head set in foliage. Around the upper part of the walls are fine modillions and capitals: Five have interlacings, five images of lust, Femmes aux Serpentes,</p>

	<p>Flight into Egypt, the Magi, a huge bird whispering in a man's ear, drunkenness etc. There are some tacherons: a trident x 8, Star of David x 8, B x 3, P x 1.</p> <p>See 'Gascogne Romane' pages 292 to 319</p>
<p>Lagranges Les Landes East of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>This church is now disaffected. There is a flat ended apse with a large window that has a band of XIIc decoration round it. Each side of the apse are modillions that include monsters, a tongue-puller, a monster eating a man and an image of lust (on the north side). The nave appears to have been rebuilt. It has a XVIIIc West door and, at the West end, a square tower.</p>
<p>Laluque Les Landes North of Dax</p>	<p>Only the apse remains from this XIIc church. The nave is XVIIc or later. The apse is rounded and has a number of good modillions: two images of lust, a musician (similar to one at Tosse), a symbol of a drunk, and animals. Inside there is little of interest</p>
<p>Larby Les Landes South-west of St Séver</p>	<p>This church has a rounded apse that was built in the XIIc. But it has large buttresses that largely obscure two decorated windows and hem in the central one. This latter has a decorated arch and two capitals, one of foliage and the other of pine cones. The nave has a south door and a XVIc north aisle. There is a XIVc tower over the West end.</p>
<p>Laressingle Gers South-west of Condom</p>	<p>This church is part of a moated and fortified hamlet. The church has a flat ended apse that appears to be late XIIc or later still. The nave is early to mid XIIc. It is short and broad. There are two large capitals; the North one depicts</p>

<p>Lesgor</p> <p>Les Landes between Dax and Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>lions and birds; the south one, foliage. Here is part of a cul de four vault as one goes into the choir, which is plain apart from a slim window at the east end. There are two more large foliage capitals by the West door which is below a bell wall. There are tacherons in the nave: a small arc and an arrow; to the left of the West door is a 't' with a scroll at the base. (see Mouchan).</p> <p>The XIIc church is a large fortified one. It has a narthex and a long single nave with a rounded choir into which have been inserted XVc windows. The nave has tall thin windows both sides. A fortified area was added above the nave and choir in 1442 along with a low square tower. Round the top of the original apse wall are large modillions; these depict heads and huge buttresses.</p> <p>See 'Gascogne Romane' page 25</p>
<p>Lialores</p> <p>Gers North of Condom</p>	<p>This is a former Benedictine priory church. It was damaged during the Wars of Religion and it was stored in the XVII, XVIII and XIXcs. There is a rounded apse with three decorated windows and side chapels. On the South of the apse are modillions. The nave has side aisles divided by groups of pillars with capitals. One on the North aisle has birds and animals with a person (Adam?) and one in the south aisle depicts lions. The remainder depicts foliage. There is a long choir with blind arches round the East end. There are no sculptures. The West door is XIVc.</p> <p>See 'Gascogne Romane' pages 29 and 30</p>

<p>Magescq Les Landes North-west of Dax</p>	<p>The apse is rounded and is late XIIc. It has a line of worn modillions and small flowers that are to be seen round the windows of nearby Tosse. Above the apse is a XIVc fortified roof space. The nave is XVc. In the choir are five large foliage capitals and one, on the South side, of two eagles with snakes.</p>
<p>Mimizan Les Landes on the coast</p>	<p>This was part of a former Benedictine priory. All that remains is a tower with a doorway from the XIIIc. It is built of bricks but the tympanum and capitals are of limestone. The capitals depict seasonal agricultural scenes. The church was overwhelmed by encroaching sand dunes in the XVIIIc.</p>
<p>Montfort en Chalosse Les Landes East of Dax</p>	<p>This church pre-dates the bastide. It has, over the years, been rebuilt almost entirely. The choir was rebuilt in the XVIIc. The nave has XV/XVIc side aisles and windows. The XIIIc tower at the West end has also been rebuilt.</p>
<p>Mouchan St Pierre Gers South-west of Condom</p>	<p>This is a former Benedictine priory church. There is a rounded apse and a rounded North chapel. On the South side is a tower, the base of which is XIc. The remainder is XIIc. There are transepts and a short nave. The old North door is now blocked. It has a little decoration and a blessing cross each side. The new door is on the south side. There are three decorated windows on the apse. The central window has pilasters with a vine pattern running up them. There are modillions including a pine cone, a man with arms crossed across his chest (both on the north of the apse) and an image of lust (on the west side of the north transept). There are tacherons: P, q, t with a scroll at the base (to be seen at Laressingle), N and a diagonal with a loop at each end.</p>

	See 'Gascogne Romane' page 38
Moustey Les Landes South of Belin-Beliet	Of the two small chapels, the eastern one is Gothic and was intended for the villagers. The other is older, though much rebuilt. This was for the pilgrims and is now a museum. It has a very curious bell wall over the West door.
Nerbis Les Landes South-west of Mont de Marsan	This church has a rounded apse and two rounded side chapels that are pre-1050. The North wall of the nave and the West wall are from 1100. The South wall was rebuilt in the XVI/XVIIc. By the entrance to the choir is a fine capital depicting two horses.
	See 'Gascogne Romane' pages 142 to 145
Nogaro St Nicolas Gers South-west of Condom	This large church was founded in the XIc. It has a rounded apse and two rounded side chapels. Apart from a few modillions these are plain. The nave has wide side aisles and a Romanesque North door. This door has a tympanum and it is set between six columns and capitals. The tympanum depicts Christ in Glory with the symbols of the Evangelists. The capitals by the door are of two birds at a cup, lions, monsters and foliage. Each side of the door arch is a fine siren and a crouched figure. The West bay of the nave along with the west door, porch and tower are XIXc. Inside the outer walls of the side aisles have large blind arches with capitals; most depict foliage, but there is one in the North aisle with a pair of lions. The choir also has blind arches divided by columns and capitals. Here there are images of Jesus at Cana with Zacheus up a tree, David playing an instrument, St Peter in a boat, Daniel with lions, a greenman, harpies and foliage. There are other larger capitals in the nave and at the entrance to the choir. Most depict foliage but three have figures and one has harpies. In

	<p>the south chapel is a fresco of Christ on the roof vault. There are traces of fresco in the North chapel. On a pillar of the north aisle there are tacherons including a modified '&'. On a pillar by the North door is a reused sculpture of a statue known as Signym Leonis. On the South side of the church is one wall (reconstructed) of the cloisters. It has four bays and a narrower door arch. The arches of the bays are decorated and have capitals depicting birds, monsters, greenmen and foliage.</p> <p>See 'Gasconne Romane' pages 236 to 243</p>
<p>Oloron Ste Marie Ste Croix Pyrenees-Atlantiques south west of Pau</p>	<p>This church is situated on the hill above the river. It dates from the XIIIc and has Moorish influences. There is a cupola at the crossing.</p>
<p>Oloron Ste Marie Cathedral of Ste Marie Pyrenees-Atlantiques</p>	<p>The apse and the radiating chapels are XIVc, rebuilt after its destruction by lightning and fire. The west door and porch are XIIIc and are Romanesque. The door is stepped with highly decorated arches. These depict the Wise Men of the Apocalypse carrying jars and playing instruments. The second arch has scenes of hunting, fishing and food preparation. Below the arches is an image of the Descent from the Cross and, on two small tympana, lions. There is a central pillar or trumeau between the two entrance doors. On these are two chained Saracens. To the sides are capitals.</p> <p>See leaflet, 'Pyrenees Romanes' page 249 onwards and 'The Pilgrim Guide' pages 257 and 258</p>

<p>Pouillon</p> <p>Les Landes south of Dax</p>	<p>The apse dates from the XI/XIIcs. The remainder was rebuilt after its destruction during the Wars of Religion.</p> <p>The apse is rounded and has three windows with decorated arches and foliage capitals. Above is a line of interesting modillions that include a siren, two images of lust, an animal with a huge tongue and monsters. There is some floral decoration on the apse and south chapel.</p>
<p>Richet</p> <p>St Jean</p> <p>Les Landes south of Belin-Beliet</p>	<p>This chapel was built in the XIIc; it stands in the tiny hamlet of Vieux Richet. Of the old church only the apse remains; it is rounded with slim windows, one in a flat buttress. There is a line of bas-relief modillions.</p>
<p>Roquefort</p> <p>Notre Dame</p> <p>Les Landes north east of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>This church has a rounded apse and south side chapel. The chapel is XIIc and has some weathered modillions. The apse is early XIIIc. Inside, there is a north chapel, which is below the tower. The nave has side aisles that are divided by columns with capitals of foliage; these may be XIXc copies.</p> <p>See 'Gasconne Romane' page 41</p>
<p>St Aubin</p> <p>Les Landes south west of St Sever</p>	<p>This XIIc church has a single nave and a rounded apse. It was fortified in the XVIc and a northern aisle was added. The choir has ten blind arches similar to those at nearby Brocas. The capitals are large and many are damaged. One illustrates a scene from Hell. At the entrance to the choir are two restored capitals. The nave was rebuilt in the XVIc.</p>
<p>L'Hopital St Blaise</p>	<p>This church was (and is) a pilgrim church. It was built in the XIIc. It has a short flat ended</p>

<p>Pyrenees-Atlantiques between Oloron Ste Marie and Sauveterre de Bearn</p>	<p>nave, transepts and a short nave. Over the crossing is an octagonal tower. There are a number of 'Claustra' stone windows that are inspired by mozarab styles. Below the tower is a very fine ribbed cupola.</p> <p>See 'Pyrenees Romanes' pages 317 to 341</p>
<p>St Cirq-Chalosse Les Landes south west of St Sever</p>	<p>This church was built in the XIIc. The rounded apse is disfigured by buttresses. The north wall is XIIc but it is in a poor state after much alteration. There is a XVc south nave and a modern porch.</p>
<p>St Jean Pied de Port St Eulalie d' Ugange South east of Bayonne</p>	<p>A few elements of the west door arch and a blind arch on the west façade are all that remain from the XIIc church. There are several tacherons each side of the door: X x 3, a B with elongated ends x 1.</p> <p>See 'Pyrenees Romanes' page 226 and 'The Pilgrim Guide' pages 315 and 316</p>
<p>St Jean le Vieux Pyrenees-Atlantiques north of St Jean Pied de Port</p>	<p>Of the original XIIc church only the west door remains. The rest was rebuilt in the XVIIc. The west door was also altered in 1630, when a tympan, date and inscription were inserted. Each side of the door are two columns and capitals of limestone: a lion, two snakes, foliage and interlacings. There is a tacheron 'key' by the north west corner of the nave wall. This is the same as one to be seen at Sorde (40)</p> <p>See 'Pyrenees Romanes' page 226 and 'The Pilgrim Guide' pages 315 and 316</p>

<p>Ste Marie de Gosse Les Landes east of Bayonne</p>	<p>The apse and west door are XIIc. The west door, below a XVc porch, has three capitals each side. These are of foliage, but those to the right also have a small animal head. The apse is rounded with two windows that have a decorated arch and two capitals of foliage and sirens. Inside, the windows of the choir have foliage capitals and one has two sirens. On the north wall of the nave are the remains of a tympan depicting a chrism.</p>
<p>St Orens Les Landes west of Mont De Marsan</p>	<p>This is a small chapel that probably dates from the late XIc. It has a small square apse with very small windows. The nave is wider and has opus spicatum stonework on the north wall. There is a bell wall over the west end and a plain south door under a porch.</p>
<p>St Paul les Dax Les Landes on the north west edge of Dax</p>	<p>Only the apse remains from the XIIc church. The side chapels are XIxc. The exterior has a number of large blind arches separated by columns with very good capitals of foliage, monsters and some acrobats. Some of the columns are of marble from an earlier building. Above the arches is a series of large bas-reliefs friezes; these have smaller panels in between them. They include: the Women at the Tomb, the Last Supper, the betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Crucifixion and Holy Jerusalem. The interior of the choir has eleven deep cut blind arches. There are two graffiti crosses outside (one is interesting). Inside, on the north side of the choir is one tacheron 'T'.</p> <p>See leaflet, 'Gascogne Romane' pages 263 to 269 and 'The Pilgrim Guide' page 180</p>

<p>St Perdon Les Landes south west of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>Though dating from the XIIc, it was tastelessly restored in the XIXc. The rounded apse has one small XIIc window on the north side.</p>
<p>St Pierre du Mont Les Landes on the edge of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>Only the rounded apse and two rounded side chapels have survived from the XIIc. The church was a dependency of St Sever and was severely damaged during the Wars of Religion. The apse and south chapel have large original modillions (and a few modern replacements; all those on the north chapel are modern). They depict animal heads including those of horses.</p>
<p>St Sever Les Landes south of Mont de Marson</p>	<p>On the route to Compostella (there is a brass 'pilgrim shell on the pavement outside the north door) the Benedictine abbey was founded in the late Xc, but the present church dates from the late XIc. The church had a rounded apse that was rebuilt and six echeloned side chapels. The nave has side aisles divided by pillars with capitals. The transepts have tribunes and arcades; the nave has 'false' tribunes. There are a large number of fine sculptured capitals: foliage, beasts, monsters and biblical scenes that include Herod at supper and the death of St John the Baptist, Daniel with lions, Christ in a mandola in Glory. There are two Green men in the south transept and another on a capital to the right on the west door. In the cloister the south wall of the nave has several tacherons: +, b x 6.</p> <p>See leaflet, 'Gascogne Romane' pages 92 to 121 and 'The Pilgrim guide' pages 320 and 321</p> <p>Built next to a gallo-roman site, this church has</p>

<p>Sarbazan St Pierre Les Landes north east of Mont de Marsan</p>	<p>undergone a lot of changes since it was first built in the XIc. Of that church only the south chapel remains; it is now the sacristy. A XIIc rounded apse and a nave were built; then a XIVc fortified tower and finally a XVIIIc porch and elements of a XIXc house. Inside are sculptures of Daniel and Christ. On the exterior of the south side of the apse is a burial niche.</p> <p>See 'Gascogne Romane' page 42</p>
<p>Saubriques Les Landes north east of Bayonne</p>	<p>Only the apse of this church is XIIc. It is rounded with large bas-relief modillions of animal heads, birds, foliage and figures. Inside, at the entrance to the choir, are two large foliage capitals. The one to the north has a lion on foliage; the other has two heads. The single nave has been rebuilt.</p>
<p>Sauveterre de Bearn Pyrenees-Atlantiques west of Pau</p>	<p>Of the XIIc church only part remains. The nave with side aisles is gothic. The west façade has been rebuilt. But the apse with two rounded side chapels is XIIc, as are two small side doors. One of these is at the north side of the crossing and the other on the south side of the nave. Inside, by the crossing are four XIIc capitals.</p> <p>See 'Pyrenees Romanes' page 227 and 'The Pilgrim Guide' page 354</p>
<p>Sorde Abbey St Jean Les Landes south of Dax</p>	<p>Of the original abbey the apse and two side chapels remain. The rest has been rebuilt to the original plan. The abbey was built on the site of a gallo-roman villa from which mosaics remain in the choir and in the monastic buildings to the south east. The apse and side chapels are</p>

<p>Vopillon Notre Dame Gers south west of Condom</p>	<p>This small church was built in the mid XIIc and belonged to the Order of Fontevrault. The church has a rounded apse. The south door and bell wall are of a later date. Most of the nave was destroyed. Inside there are four simple capitals. One, to the north, depicts a 'bogomil' style man. The others are of very simple foliage.</p>