



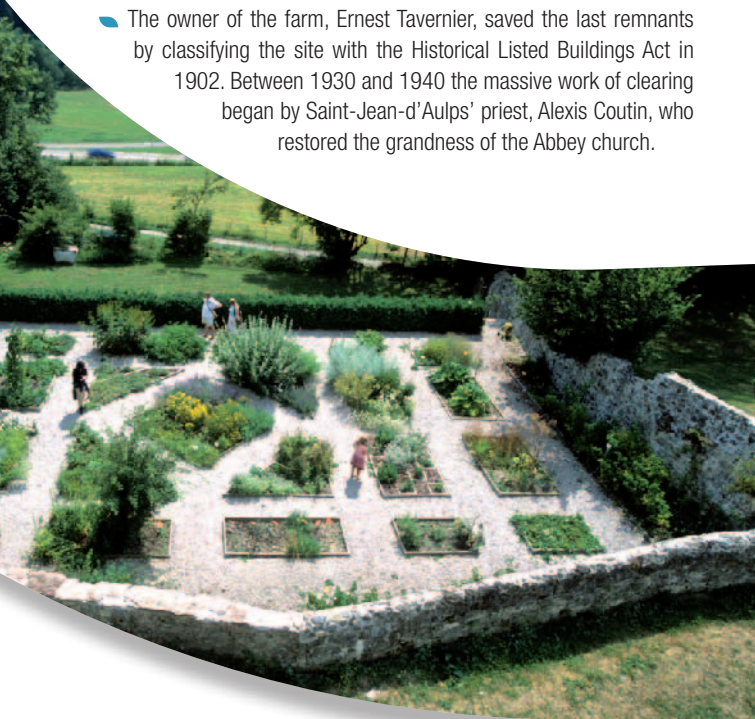
abbaye d'Aulps

HISTORY

The Aulps Abbey was founded at the end of the 11th century by monks who came from the Molesme Abbey in Bourgogne. It holds its name from the Latin word *alpius* which means *mountain pastures*. Aulps was affiliated to the Cistercian order in 1136, who quickly spread their influence in the Chablais, Faucigny and Jura regions. The abbots were the right-hand men of the Counts of Savoie and the Sirs of Faucigny and some of these became bishops. Aulps was also a frequent place of pilgrimage. The monks watched over the relics of their former abbot Saint Guerin, defender of the cattle.

In 1792, the French invaded the Savoie and drove out the last faithful. The last buildings remained intact through this time and it was not until 1823 that the inhabitants of Saint-Jean-d'Aulps decided to destroy the monastery to reconstruct the burned-out parish church nearby.

The owner of the farm, Ernest Tavernier, saved the last remnants by classifying the site with the Historical Listed Buildings Act in 1902. Between 1930 and 1940 the massive work of clearing began by Saint-Jean-d'Aulps' priest, Alexis Coutin, who restored the grandness of the Abbey church.



HERBAL TEA ROOM & SHOP

- Our Herbal Tea Room offers herbal teas, syrups, Trappist beers and many other products for you to sample in a calm environment.
- Our shop is situated at the entrance of the estate and has a variety of products on sale to buy as souvenirs of your visit.



DISCOVER THE ABBEY AS IT WAS BEFORE ITS DESTRUCTION WITH THE **3D AULPS ABBEY APP** AND VIRTUAL REALITY HELMETS! (for rent at the reception)

Please respect this monastic place: do not run, do not shout. It is forbidden to climb the walls and to lean over the terraces. **Parents must be vigilant:** your children are under your responsibility. Do not leave them without surveillance.

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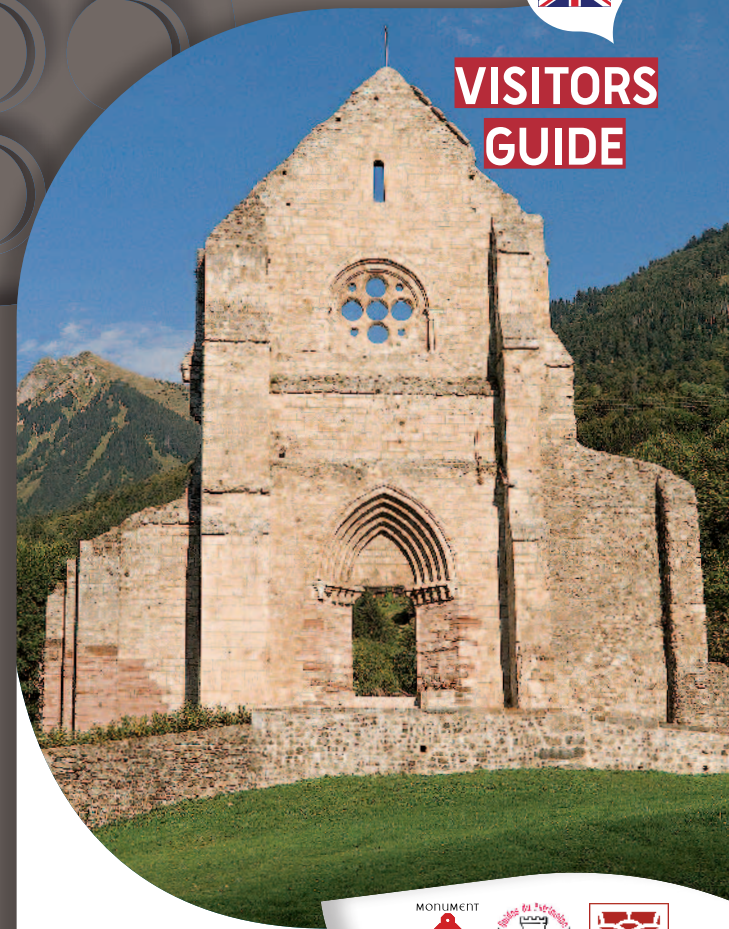
The abbey is a member of the association "Empreintes 74" and the European convention of the Cisterciens Abbeys and Sites. It is on the European Route of Cistercian Abbeys, which is one of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.



VALLEE
D'AULPS
DISCOVERY
CENTRE



VISITORS
GUIDE





VISITOR TRAIL

1 THE GATEWAY *Portaria*

The gateway is the historical entry of the Aulps Abbey. It is today the building that shelters the architectural model. It dates from the end of the 15th century, beginning 16th century and always has two large doors and a third pedestrian one. Not only was it a point of passage, it also sheltered the court and activities related on alms (charity) and the administration.

2 THE ABBEY FARM *Grangia juxta abbatiam*

The permanent and temporary exhibitions of the discovery domain are located in the old abbey farm, the heart of the abbey's past economy. The farm was made up of a barn/cowshed joined to the gateway building and a dwelling (vaulted rooms) and dates from the end of the 17th century. It was certainly used in the manufacturing of cheese. Close by, were various workshops (forging mill, saddlery, pottery) for permanent or seasonal use.

3 THE CELLARS *Cellarium*

The Abbey wine was undoubtedly stored in three vaulted cellars that were southward facing. The beverage was essential in celebrating mass but, the monks also drank it with their meals. Levels of consumption were extraordinarily high but being it had a low alcohol content it only had a short keeping time. It came from the abbey properties situated near Cluses, Thonon, Geneva and that of the more remote Salins. The building also has an elaborate drainage and cleansing system.

4 THE GARDEN *Ochia*

Created in the old monk's garden it consists of two terraced levels. The top one grows the simple medicinal plants, the bottom one the kitchen garden growing old varieties of vegetables.

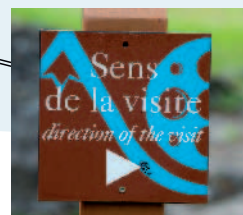
The simple medicinal plants are distributed in beds according to their use in traditional medicine. These two spaces allow us to discover how the monks looked after themselves and what roots and herbs they used to nourish themselves.



- A** The shop
- B** Herbal Tea Room

— Course
 - - - Path accessible to people with reduced mobility

● Abbaye d'Aulps 3D



5 THE MILL *Molendinum*

Saint Benoit's rule insisted upon installing mills on monastery estates. The Aulps Mill was used until 1694 and was then moved to the Abbeys' hamlet. It was undoubtedly a wheat mill coupled with a hemp beater. Water was taken several hundred meters upstream, above the estate and was channelled through a partly visible underground aqueduct in masonry, then gained a wooden gully before finally falling on the wheel.

6 THE CLOISTER *Claustrum*

The cloister was where most of the monks' daily lives took place. It was located according to monastic tradition, south of the church. It was partly destroyed at the beginning of the 19th century, but archaeological excavations have enabled to reveal details as to its layout. As elsewhere, this building is made up of a square courtyard surrounded by four covered galleries. They formed between them various quarters: chapter house, refectory or lavatorium. The communal dormitory was on the upper floor. It had direct access to the chapel. Finally, the west wing was occupied by the lay brothers.

7 THE ABBEY *Ecclesia*

The construction of the Abbey started around 1150. The work lasted about sixty years and was in essence finished when the building was consecrated the 26th of May 1212 by the Bishop of Geneva. The builders used local materials: tuff (a light-weight chalk based rock), red limestone and river stones and followed a restrained floor-plan known as Bernardin. Outside, the facade is particularly streamlined, creating a monumental effect. Inside, the nave and the sides of the church were covered with ribbed vaults. All the sculptures of the Holy Marie d'Aulps have characteristic motifs found in Cistercian Art. Most of these designs were inspired by vegetables and flowers in which we find the Flower of Cistel (water flower) which gave its name to Cîteaux.

Something remarkable about the site: The false triforium built in the thickness of the internal walls, as successive niches created an architectural illusion of non existent circulation corridors above and reinforces the grandeur of the place.

Another originality of the site: The tomb of the second abbot of Aulps, Guerin was located in the nave. His relics were the object of popular cause of pilgrimage. In spite of its partial destruction in 1823, the Aulps Abbey is always regarded as one of the jewels of Cistercian architecture.