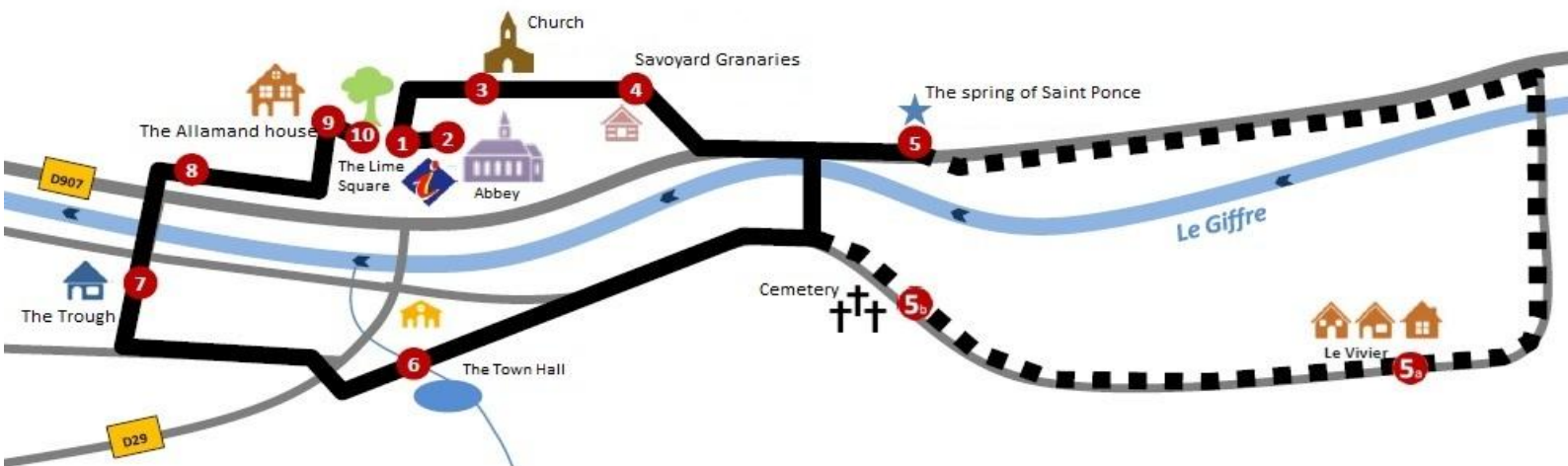


1. La Maison de la Montagne is in what was previously the barn of the Sixt Abbey. The part of the building adjacent to the road is older than the rest. In the 19th century it was necessary to enlarge the building in order to house a school, and it is in this part that the Tourist Office is located.
2. The Abbey of Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval was founded by Ponce de Faucigny in the middle of the 12th century. The monks provided the spiritual life of the local population. After the French Revolution, the monastic buildings, sold as treasures belonging to the state, were in part acquired by Albanis Beaumont. He was a Savoyard engineer and geographer, involved in the revival of the mining activity in the area.
3. The church of St Marie Madeleine has foundations dating from the 13th century. The choir, transept and the first three sections make up the original church of the Abbey. You can see, in the south transept, the statue of Ponce de Faucigny, founder of the Abbey, and sanctified by the title of "Blessed" or "Holy". The sculpture is made from Tines marble.
4. Savoyard Granaries can be seen near the entrance to the Churchyard. These small structures are made of wood, and were built to protect foodstuffs and valuables from fire and vermin.
5. The spring of Saint Ponce provides water which is known for its many benefits, notably for soothing both eye problems and stomach ailments.
6. The pond behind the Town Hall was formed naturally by spring water from the Buet massif (3099m). This small lake never freezes because the spring water flows constantly.

7. The trough was still being used for clothes-washing into the middle of the 20th century. It consists of a trough which provided drinking water for people and herds of animals, plus other troughs for washing and rinsing clothes. The washing trough, made of concrete, was made in the 1920s.
8. The reinforced river banks were constructed around 1920 in order to control large volumes of flood water, to help stabilise the banks and to stop the river silting up with mud and stones brought by flooding.
9. The Allamand building dates from the 16th century and is one of the oldest houses in the village. On the outside, the mullioned window with latticework and the twinned windows are witness to the antiquity of this building. Under the Ancien Regime, before the French Revolution, the building served as lodgings for pilgrims and travellers hoping to stop in Sixt.
10. The Lime Square, as the name suggests she has in middle a big tree (five hundred year old). The war memorial was built in 1921 and the fountain in 1904.

Longer Walk ■ ■ ■ ■

- 5.a The Hamlet "Le Vivier" takes its name from an ancient fishpond which the monks stocked with live trout to eat on Fridays.
- 5.b From the 19th century, The Cemetery -which was until this point located outside the church- fell gradually into disuse. For public health reasons, to prevent epidemics, it was decided to relocate the cemetery outside the town. You will find here, in one corner at the top of the cemetery, the grave of Edith Norton, one of Alfred Will's daughters and mother of Richard and Edward (Teddy) Norton of Everest fame.



A brief history of the town

Ponce de Faucigny, brother of the Bishop of Faucigny, entered the monastic order of the Abbey of Abondance when he was twenty years old. In 1144 he founded a new Abbey in Sixt, becoming its first Abbott. The establishment of the Abbey coincided with the exploitation of the agricultural potential of the mountain and saw the development of the alpine pastures. The inhabitants of Sixt (les Sizerets) mostly farmed or raised animals, and depending on the period and the economic conditions they could also be miners, stone masons and smugglers on the side. In the middle of the 19th century, the valley welcomed the first visitors who came to view the splendid sights of the Sixt valley. In 1854, Sir Alfred Wills, high court judge and British alpinist, discovered the valley and fell in love with it. He had a house built at the Cirque des Fonts called Le Nid d'Aigle (the Eagle's Nest). Each year he would host a group of British visitors, thus he could be considered the precursor of Sixt's tourist industry. Gradually, the inhabitants of the valley began to take part in this passion for high mountain activity. They founded Sixt's Company of Mountain Guides in 1865, having initially worked independently. Ski-ing made its appearance from the beginning of the 20th century, and the first ski lift was built in 1951. In 2000, the Abbey (converted into a hotel at the end of the 19th century) was bought back by the Conseil General de Haute Savoie. Since then it has been the object of a restoration project as part of the EEC funded "Phoenix" programme, founded to revive national heritage.