

## Patrimony

⌘ Ruins of a castle of the 13th Century.

⌘ Remainings from the enclosure of the XIVth Century, ramparts and porches of Saint-Jean, Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Esprit and Saint-Louis.

⌘ Church of Assumption consecrated in 1531 (former Notre-Dame d'Aquilon). Historical monuments - interesting oil-paintings.

⌘ Elegant porche or Real, containing several sculptures and pillars rested on lydown leopards. Square steeple with Sundial. The frontispiece of the church bears the mention "Hoc ...." what should read about the year 1000. (Masterwork with regard to the holy Mary of Aquilon).

⌘ Houses with dates sculptured in porches (Place Albert).



Lock of Guillestre's church

⌘ Shields, lintels, fountains and other stone remnants to be discovered throughout the village.

⌘ Chapel of the Penitents (XVIth C), recently restored. Other Chapels : St-Sebastien, St-Roch, Ste-Marie de Bramousse.

⌘ Numerous campings - Tourist Office - Youth Center - Post Office - Movies - Library - Market on Mondays - Shops - Sports Clubs - Associations, and last but not least the Annual International Music Festival in July and August.

## Tourisme

On discovery, or family outings, in and around the village, "Le Pain de Sucre", footpath of Simoust, "La Rue des Masques" from Guillestre to Montdauphin, "le Torrent du Chagne", "Le Riou Bel" (please consult : Randonnées pédestres en Guillestrois).

Runnings in the mountains : Pic d'Escreins, Pic de Guillestre, La Combe Chauve. (consult the Tourist Office)

### Literary works.

**CAB** - Histoire du diocèse d'Embrun - Curé Albert  
**DTA** - Dictionnaire topographique des Htes-Alpes - Joseph Roman

**RAA** - Répertoire archéologique des Hautes-Alpes - Joseph Roman

**THA** - Tableau historique des Hautes-Alpes - Joseph Roman

**GJH** - Embrun et l'Embrunais ... - Général Jacques Humbert.

**AIS** - Archives de l'Isère.

**AHA** - Archives des Hautes-Alpes.

**VAL** - Histoire du Dauphiné - Valbonnais.

**BDL** - Histoire ... des Hautes-Alpes - Ladoucette.

**GMP** - Guillestre, mon pays - Général A. Guillaume

**AGL** - Invent. sommaire des arch. de Guillestre - Paul Guillaume

## Brief Insight on the city of

# GUILLESTRE

in the  
land of Guillestre



GUILLESTRE

Goldshield, with bicephalous eagle  
sable armoured, limbed, beaked  
with fiery air,  
the heart loaded  
by azurean escutcheon  
crossed in silver.

## Description

The community is situated at 1050 meters and covers 5129 ha. At the East, Guillestre is dominated by "Le Pic d'Escre-ins" (2734 m), the Summit known as "Cugulet" or Mount Guillestre (2520 m) and "Le Pic d'Assan" or "Peak of Guillestre" (2609 m).

Guillestre also is the gateway to the Natural Regional Park of "Le Queyras", the road opens North-East into the gorges. The town is situated on the crossway of several torrents, the Guil, the Chagne, the Riou Bel.

In this natural hollow the climate remains temperate in winter, cool in summer and allows residents to hike in the forests, along riverbeds and go running in the mountains.

## Citations

In 1119 the community is named Guillestra. Guillestre also appears on several maps since the XVI<sup>e</sup> Century, such as those of Oronce Finé and of Jean de Beins, Bourcet, thus drawing the map for alpine frontiers and, later, since 1693, the king's geographers stayed on long visits.

## Archéology

Discoveries of the bronze age at Panacelle, Moreisse and Peyre-Haute : tombs, bones, jewelry, bracelets, brooches and buttons (exposed in the Gap Museum).

## Historical Dates

**Middle-Age.** The Archbishop of Embrun was single Sire over Guillestre. In 1369, a gang of rovers, freed from the War of Hundred Years, named "Les Provençaux" or the Provençals, coming from the South and trespassing into Italy, pillaged Guillestre. In 1373, the bailiff of Embrun plundered the castle.

The 9th of September 1501, the Parliament of Grenoble took the citizens under its protection at the cost of one golden "Ecu" per year. The 3rd of April 1503, King Louis XII requests the governor of "Le Dauphiné" to protect the citizens of Guillestre persecuted by the Archbishop of Embrun. In July 1515, Bayard, Trivulce and the Constable of Bourbon going to Italy passed by Guillestre, François I stayed during the August of the same year. In 1535, the 4th of december, the Constable of Montmorency passed through Guillestre. The 30th of October 1537, François I spends the night, 11th November of the same year, Blaise de Montluc and his "Gascons" reside in Guillestre before leaving for Barcelonnette over the Vars-trespas. In 1547, the 8th of September, Henri II overnights. In July 1586, Lesdiguières attacks the town ; he is pushed back, but the 4th September 1587, he gains victory over it.

Around 1600, Guillestre becomes the Center for local bookkeeping or "l'Escarton de Guillestre". The 8th of February 1629, Louis XIII and Richelieu do sleep at Guillestre ; the King visits "Le Pont de la Pierre", since then entitled "La Maison du Roy" or the King's Residence. Pestilence ravages Guillestre in 1630 ; the consuls send 5 mules to Lyons in order to

collect perfums for the city. In between the 27th and 31st of July 1692, four thousand men of the Duke of Savoy crossing the Vars-pass, lay siege before Guillestre defended by eight hundred Frenchmen, the town surrenders after three days. It must pay a tribute of 6000 £. Under the Revolution, Guillestre is no longer maintown of the district. Montdauphin takes over this function until the Empire.

Several reknowned people of Guillestre : The General Albert Joseph-Jean-Baptiste distinguishes in the Napoleon Army. In the XVIIIth Century, Louis Court, painter of the French school - paintings in the churches of Briançon, Embrun, Gap. Curnier de la Valette (1815-1888), Military Intendant, Commander of the Honourable Legion. The General Guillaume Augustin.

## Population

In 1763, the vicar Albert counts about 216 families, 1000 persons, not included the parishes of Veyer and hamlet of Bramousse, say ... 20 families. Under the Revolution the number attains 900 people. In 1855, Guillestre counts 1750 heads, 1500 in 1880, than the population decreases to 1000 inhabitants. Today, thanks to new activities installed to serve tourism, secondary residences or people on retirement, who choose to live here, the count is near to 2000 subjects. ■