

In the South of France, in the county of Aude, stands **Queribus**, the last bastion of Cathar resistance, and Cucugnan, the village made famous by the tale of “The Sermon of the Curé of Cucugnan”, which was immortalized by Alphonse Daudet in his “ Letters from my windmill”



The sight of Queribus Castle perched upon its crag, dominating the valleys below vividly evokes the world of the Middle Age, and the eleventh to fourteenth centuries when it held sway. Its high tower, like an eagle’s nest, offers a panoramic view over the plains of the Roussillon.

At the time of the Albigensian Crusade against the Cathars, some leading cathars found refuge at Queribus. It was the last bastion to fall into the hands of crusaders in 1255, eleven years after the fall of Montsegur. The castle then became part of the Kingdom of France, in the reign of Saint Louis.



It became a one of the strongpoints of the French defensive system based on Carcassonne, with the Treaty of Corbeil in 1258. However it lost much of its strategic importance in 1659, in the reign of Louis XIV when the treaty of the Pyrenees redefined the frontier between France and Spain.

Queribus has been remarkably well preserved. Elements of the domestic life of the fortress are still visible : the cistern, the keep, the chimney flue... There are also interesting features of military architecture : gun emplacements, loop holes for firearms, arrow slits, machicolations...

Its polygonal tower is famous for its gothic hall, whose quadruple vault is supported by a strong central pillar which opens up like a palm tree at the top.

The roof of the tower, (728 metres 2390 feet, above sea level) offers a stunning view from the Corbieres hills to the Mediterranean and south to the Pyrenees.

Ten minutes’ walk up an easy path brings the visitors to the castle gate. Informative signs and orientation tables enhance the visit. Audio-guides in English, Spanish and French are available at the reception desk.





At the foot of Queribus Castle crag lies the picturesque village of Cucugnan, on a hillock set among the vines. Medieval alleys, and streets with steps wind between the houses of stone passing under the arch of the old town gate, leading up to the windmill and past the church. The visit promises to be of interest, for the windmill has been restored to working order, and the church of St Julien and St Basillise there is a rare statue of the virgin shown pregnant, awaiting the birth of Jesus. In May and June, there is a rose garden to discover.

Thirty miles from the Mediterranean, an hour's drive from Narbonne; 1h30 from Carcassonne and 50 minutes from Perpignan, the site of Queribus and Cucugnan is a must on any tour of Cathar country. With its three good restaurants, famous traditional bakery and excellent wines, it offers a perfect opportunity to experience, not only the heritage of history, but also the flavours of the region and of the south of France.

Opening times and prices of the Cucugnan- Queribus site :

Opening times	Castle	Theatre
January	10h30-16h	13h30-16h
November/December/February	10h-17h	13h-17h30
March	10h-17h	14h-18h
April	10h-18h	14h-19h
May/June/September	9h30-19h	10h30-12h30 et 14h-19h30
October	10h-18h30	14h-18h
July/August	9h-20h	10h30-12h30 et 14h-19h30

Prices 2016

Entry to Queribus castle

Free parking at the foot of the castle
Visit lasting 1 hour

ADULTS	6,50 €
CHILDREN	3,50 € (aged 6 to 15)
GROUPS	5 €(20 persons and over) Free for guides and driver
AUDIOPASS	4 € each rental, get a second one free

Entry to the shows :

- « the history of the Curé of Cucugnan »
- « the keys of Queribus »

The shows at the theatre are only in French
duration 30 minutes each

ADULTS	2 € for one show
CHILDREN	free

- **Hôtels restaurants**

Auberge de Cucugnan	04 68 45 40 84	www.aubergedecucugnan.com
Auberge La Table du Curé	04 68 45 01 46	www.auberge-la-table-du-cure.com
Auberge du Vigneron	04 68 45 03 00	www.auberge-vigneron.com

- **Snack-bar**

Les Maîtres de Mon Moulin	04 68 33 55 03	www.farinesdemeule.com
Au Cascrouit d'Armelle	06 30 71 88 34	
Bar du Vigneron Guillaume et Aneta	06 84 55 93 44	aneta.guillaume@hotmail.fr

- **Bed and Breakfast**

L'Ecurie de Cucugnan	06 76 86 38 52	ecurie.cucugnan@orange.fr
Les santolines	04 68 45 00 04	www.les-santolines.fr
L'Amandière	06 07 80 06 60	villa-amandiere.monsite-orange.fr
Chez Claire	06 78 15 19 29	www.cours-a-cucugnan.com
La Tourette	06 09 64 60 47	www.latourette.eu

- **Wines**

Les terroirs du Vertige	04 68 44 02 17	www.terroirsduvertige11.com
	04 68 45 41 61	
Domaine du Verdoble	04 68 58 49 04	verdoble.com
Château Trillol	04 68 45 01 13	www.trillol.com
Le Domaine du Grand Arc	04 68 45 01 03	www.grand-arc.fr
Les Vingt Citadelles	04 68 58 49 24	www.vingt-citadelles.fr

- **Art craftwork – Local products – Shop**

Le Chevalier de Queribus	04 68 45 04 51	lespierresdecucugnan.com
Les Pierres de Cucugnan		
L'Atelier poterie Castellano	06 22 21 74 65	
Lumières d'étoiles (bijoux artisanaux)	06 64 09 35 70	
Les Etains de Cucugnan	06 07 29 20 35	www.etain-cathare.fr
La Miellerie des 2 châteaux	04 68 45 02 88	tresorsdescorbieres.com
Boulangerie Les Maîtres de Mon Moulin	04 68 33 55 03	www.farinesdemeule.com
Librairie – Carterie Les Santolines	04 68 45 00 04	www.les-santolines.com
Les Saveurs du Clot	06 62 44 51 25	www.saveursduclot.com
Epicerie communale	04 68 42 08 89	

- **Activities**

Cheval Cathare	06 84 33 74 37	chevalcathare.free.fr
Quad-jet 11(rando-location)	06 72 71 46 96	www.quad-jet11.com
Cours français anglais	06 78 15 19 29	www.cours-a-cucugnan.com

- **Tourist Office des Hautes Corbières** 04 68 45 69 40 www.corbieres-sauvages.com