



12 The Cesar camp

Originally a Gaulish, then Roman oppidum or fortified settlement, the Cesar camp served at the same time for garrison and as a refuge for the population during invasions. Today, the Cesar camp is a peaceful place, at the top of a small hill, where visitors can relax and recharge in complete tranquillity.



13 The “Pavillon du lac”, originally the train station of Nérès-Les-Bains

Built after the Belle Epoque, this building reminds the golden age of the thermal spa era in Nérès-Les-Bains. The railway line was operated periodically between 1931 and 1972, for both goods and travellers. Its impressive dimensions, colourful roofs and its Art deco style make it a must in Nérès-les-Bains.



14 The green way

In the past, this former railway connected Nérès-Les-Bains to Montluçon. Today transformed into a pedestrian and cycle path, it crosses 3 viaducts built between 1921 and 1929 and overlooks the countryside along 6,4km.



15 The Gallo romans pools (first century after J-C)

They were built by the romans as an extension of the main thermal establishment. These 3 outdoor pools were filled with hot water and helped to respond to the growing needs of the population gradually drawn in by the attraction of the « Roman water civilisation » and aware of the benefits of thermal water. Today, they can still be seen within the grounds of the municipal pool.



Guided tours of the city, theater and museum (during thermal season)*

Located in the heart of France and the Allier department, Nérès-Les-Bains owes its existence and development to its hot springs. Since prehistoric times, the vapours rising from the hot spring have fascinated first humans. The town's history begins during the Gallo-roman era under the name « Neriomagos » (the market of the Nerios God). The spring was regarded as divine by the gaulish. The romans, however, believed that it possessed genuine health benefits even though they did not fully understand its properties. The town later becomes known as « Aquae Nerii » (the waters of the Nerius God). After the fall of the roman empire, the town experienced a period of decline. However, the use of thermal water never completely disappeared. From the 19th century onwards, Nérès truly experienced a revival due to the aristocracy. Numerous buildings were built, including hotels, elegant villas, thermal and cultural equipment. Nérès becomes a favourite station for the bourgeoisie, welcoming spa guests and visitors from all over France. Nérès was officially renamed « Nérès-Les-Bains » in 1906. Today, Nérès-Les-Bains is a human-sized thermal station, recognised for the treatment of neurological and psychosomatic disorders. It is also committed to promote antique heritage, its green surrounding and its quality of life.

* guided group tours available all year round by reservation



Tourist Office

Class - category 1

2 avenue Marx Dormoy - 03310 NÉRIS-LES-BAINS



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August

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1 The Gallo-roman amphitheater theater

Also known as « parc des arènes », it is an original compromise between the theater and the classical amphitheater. This semi- circular building had both a stage and an arena, surrounded by tiered seats which made it possible to organise theatrical performances and circus game. The hemicycle of the amphitheater theater as well as some stone walls are still visible today.



2 The Town hall

Originally a municipal school, the Town hall was transformed in 1925. We can still see today the Belfry, similar to a church tower, symbol of richness and prestige of the thermal station.



3 The Merovingian and Carolingian necropolis

At the bottom of the church, the glass pyramids shelter Merovingian and Carolingian sarcophagi. They testify a cemetery between the 6th and the 11th century. At this era, with the spread of Christianity, it was common to place graves as close as possible to the church. Next to the sarcophagi, we can observe a section of a wall of the medieval Castle of Neris.



4 « Saint-Georges » church

Built in the 6th century on Patrocle's initiative on the foundations of a roman civil basilica, it preserves its characteristic north wall. Then rebuilt in the 11th and 12th century, it shows the successive Auvergne, Berry and Burqundy influences.



5 The Gallo - roman museum

Rich with over 2000 years of history, the town has its own museum. The only Gallo-roman museum in the Allier, it reveals a collection of Gallo-roman remains found right here. *The museum is open during the thermal season from Wednesday to Saturday from 2:30PM to 6PM. Self-guided or guided tours.*



6 The thermal Spa: the « Nériades »

Behind the elegant Moorish-style façade of the old 1930's thermal baths, the « Nériades » thermal Spa is revealed. Renovated in 2014, the original structure of the building has been preserved. The Spa invites you to a true moment of well-being and relaxation, over 1000m².



7 The « César » pavilion

The hot spring of Nérís-Les-Bains gushes underneath the “César” pavilion. The water emerges from a depth of 4500m, with a temperature of 53°C, after traveling on a rocky layer, where it becomes enriched with minerals, trace elements and gases. Thanks to the richness of its components (lithium, magnesium), the thermal water is soothing, balancing and relaxing.



8 The thermal baths

The construction started in 1826 and lasted until around 1860. At the beginning the building accommodated the first leisure rooms for card games and casino, as well as reading and discussion lounges. Now renovated, it welcomes up to 5000 spa visitors each year from March to October.



9 The theater « André Messenger » and the Casino

The theater and the Casino were built shortly after the thermal baths from 1896. With their beautifully decorated facades, those emblematic premises of the high society life at « La belle époque » are spaces of leisure and entertainment still appreciated today. The theater has 265 seats. With its 4,4% raked stage, it is said to be in « Italian style ». Its seats made of red velvet, its dancing allegories and its dome lend charm to this little gem of architecture « à la mode Belle Epoque ». Today known as « André Messager » theater, it owes its name to the famous French composer and conductor born in Montluçon.



10 « Le grand hôtel »

It was not until the post-war period and the roaring twenties (1925) that the « Grand Hôtel » was built. The largest and most luxurious hotel of the town was composed of 120 rooms. Requisitioned during World War II, it was later converted into private ownership apartments from the 1950s onwards.



11 The « Belle Époque » villas

At the beginning of the 20th century, architecture became an invitation to travel and a source of extravagance aimed at attracting wealthy spa visitors. Even today we can still admire beautiful villas with remarkable architecture and eclectic styles, built during the « Belle Epoque » by doctors and wealthy families.