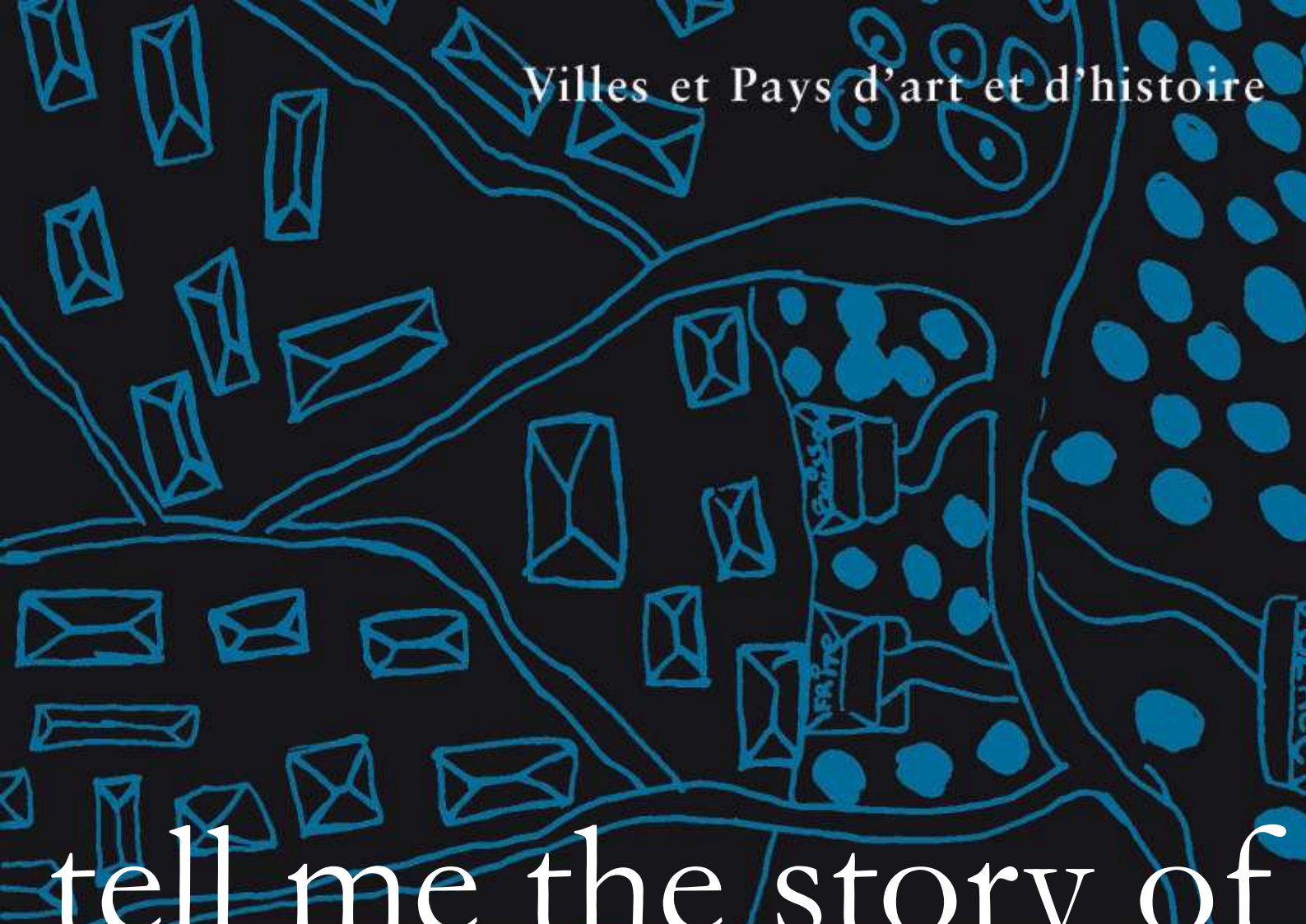


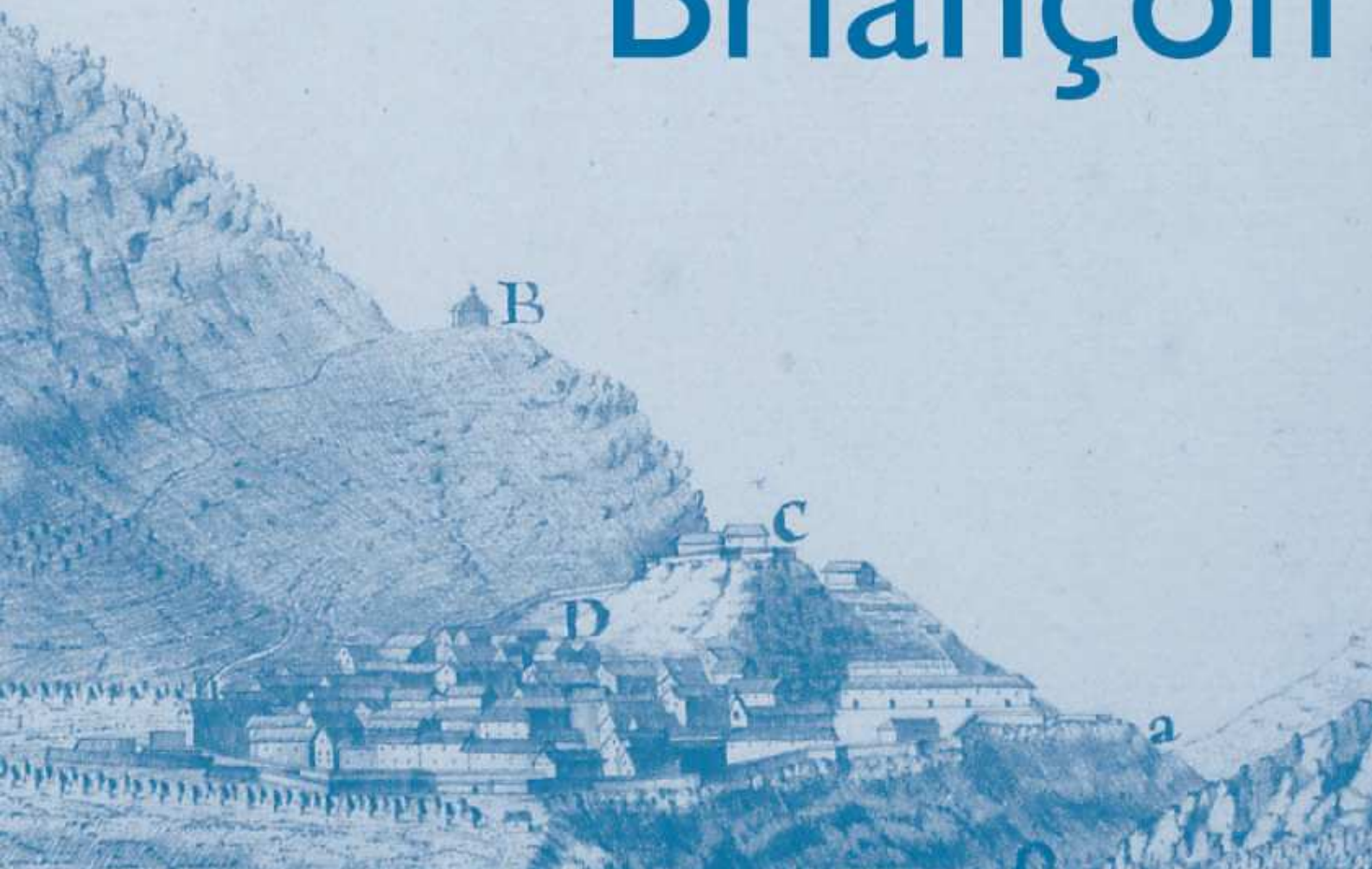
Villes et Pays d'art et d'histoire

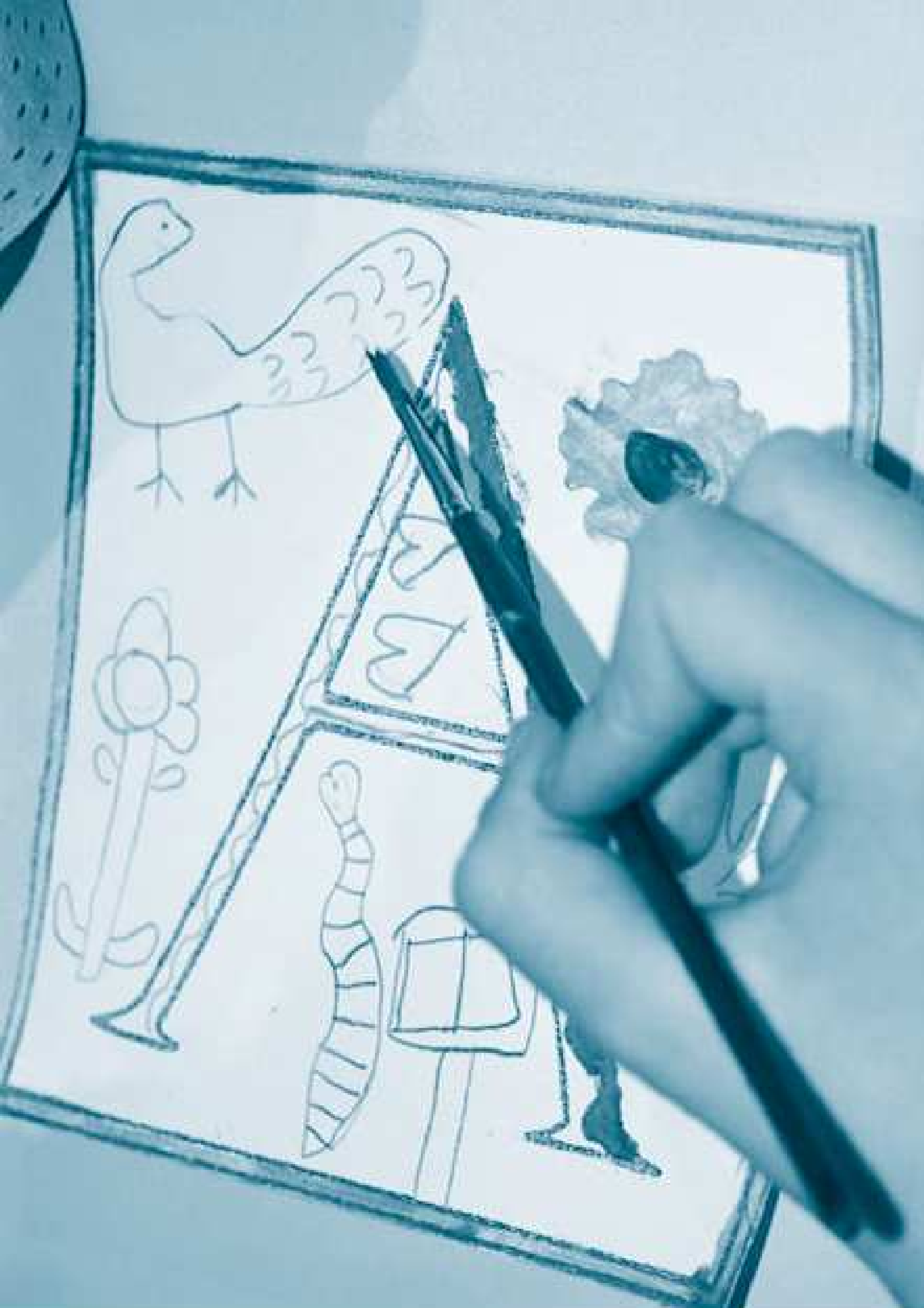


# tell me the story of

# Briançon

educational actions





Briançon has made educating young people about heritage and urbanism a priority for twenty years, since the town became part of the « Ville et Pays d'art et d'histoire » convention. We provide a team of qualified conference-guides duly registered with the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

The education service welcomes around 6,000 youngsters every year for a range of activities which widens continually. School children from around the world are attracted to Briançon, initially for skiing in winter and mountaineering in summer. We invite them to enjoy discovering the historical value of the town.

Our English speaking tours are developing constantly and our guides improve their English skills in accordance, enabling them to offer more and more activities.

Our educational actions, suited to all school ages, put the accent on a new and active approach to history, architecture and urbanism, allowing children, the citizens of tomorrow, to grasp the importance of their cultural heritage in situ.

With the fortifications of Vauban now registered in the Unesco World Heritage List, these educational activities will certainly develop increasingly, to guarantee for our heritage a direction and future for generations to come.

Gérard Fromm



Mayor

Yvon Aiguier



Local councillor  
in charge of heritage



### 3 Educational actions / **Briançon through the centuries**

Brigantio, situated at the meeting place of five valleys (Durance, Clarée, Guisane, Cerveyrette, Orceyrette), was an ancient Ligurian site, and an essential passage in Roman times on the road from Milan to Arles (via Domitia). After the barbarian invasions of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Roman town moved to a fortified position overlooking the Durance valley. It was part of the Dauphiné region from the early 11<sup>th</sup> century, and became a major commercial crossroads in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and capital of the Grand Escarton, which was a confederation of communities on either side of Montgenèvre pass. Its prosperity was considerably reduced by troops passing through on route for wars in Italy and by the troubles of the religious wars in the 16<sup>th</sup> century .

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, two fires destroyed almost all the buildings. As the town was built on a steep slope, the inhabitants were forced to rebuild on the original foundations and thus the medieval layout was preserved for good. Under Louis XIV the town was reborn and the houses rebuilt with architectural unity in the classical style. Doors and windows were aligned and symmetrical, and decorated by pediments, pilasters and rustication and the rough masonry façades were rendered in colourful tones.

A rich religious heritage survives from the medieval period however, with the Cordeliers church. This building, tucked away discreetly against the Town Hall, mixes Romanesque and gothic style architecture and encloses prestigious wall paintings dating from the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1690, new walls were built to protect the town from attacks by the Waldensians. In the same year, the region was threatened by the League of Augsburg or « Grand Alliance », supported by the Duke of Savoy. Two years later, Victor-Amédée II, Duke of Savoy led a campaign in the Dauphiné region, showing that mountains were no obstacle.

This was why Vauban, Louis XIV's famous military engineer visited the region and the Alpine border. Briançon was a stage on his voyage. On his plans the urban walls were again improved and reinforced. Forts were designed to be built on high points dominating the town, but they were only built after his death, by military engineers following him, leaving their mark on the site with their successive constructions.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the arrival of the railway and the settlement of the Schappe silk factory, the town spread outside its walls towards the valley. The modern town developed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with two new activities: tourism and climatotherapy...

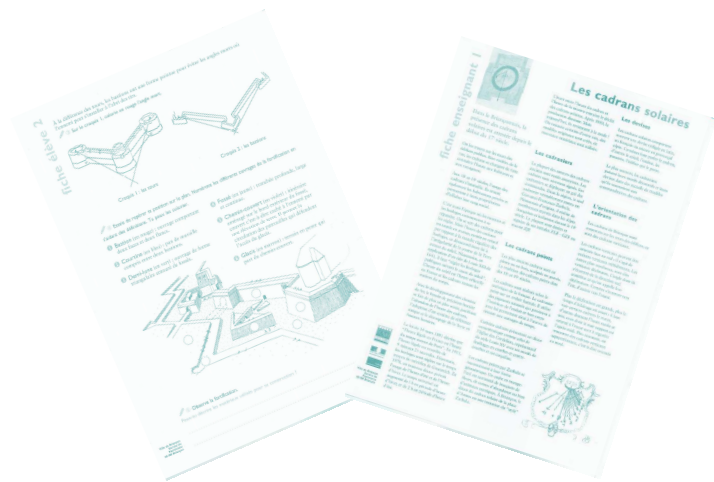
Briançon's strategic position at 1,326 metres in altitude, built on a rocky peak, made it a unique site for a mountain fortification. This imposing and majestic site helps us to understand the great engineer's genius for adapting the lie of the land. In recognition of this, the fortifications of Vauban in Briançon are today part of the prestigious Unesco World Heritage List, along with eleven other sites. Seven works, located on the territory of the town, were granted this title because of their authenticity, their state of conservation, their representative nature, and the policy development and valorisation accorded to them.

The urban walls and town planning, the Salettes fort, the Asfeld bridge, the Trois Têtes fort, the Dauphin fort, the Randouillet fort, the Y communication corridor.

## 5 Educational actions / **Our educational toolkit**

### **Worksheets**

Worksheets for pupils have been designed for most of our actions. They contain extracts from texts, questions, drawings to do, games and exercises.



### **Visual documents**

Slideshows, photos, plans are used by the guide and are shown in the Heritage service conference-rooms.

### **Materials used**

Salt dough, wood, plaster, paper, natural pigments, samples of old and contemporary materials.

### **Materials at your disposal**

Glue, scissors, pencils and crayons, paint, rubbers, rulers, clipboards.

### **Scale models**

Paper models allow us to reconstruct an ideal Vauban stronghold, the old barracks of Briançon, a medieval house or traditional rural farm-houses.

Wooden models come in the form of a construction game and help to understand the system of gothic and Romanesque vaults. In groups of four, children can build rounded arches, a pointed arch, a gothic vault, and understand the supporting physics of arches and vaults.

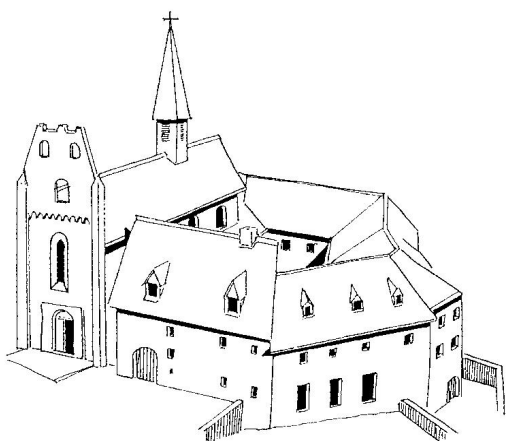
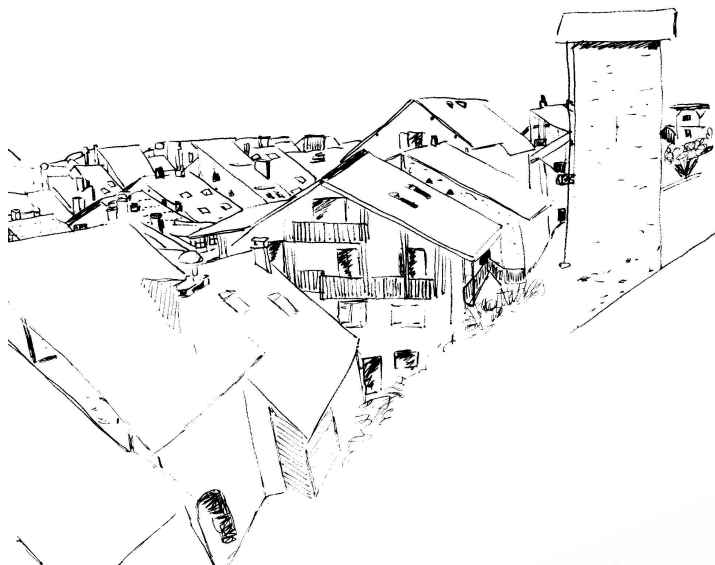


**1 - Discovery tour of Briançon**

By touring the old town with a guide, children can discover Briançon through its monuments, the main events of its history and the reasons for its present aspect, from the first human settlement until now. Each stage is punctuated by questions or observation games.

**2 - The treasure hunts**

This fun circuit comes after the introductory tour. In small groups accompanied by an adult, the children can work on their sense of observation and use it with a set of photos or other riddles. This workshop can be centred on different themes: the decoration of the houses, the fortifications, water...

**Medieval times****3 - An example of religious architecture of the Middle Ages: the church of the Cordeliers and its wall paintings**

Visiting the oldest building in Briançon leads students to discover its history.

The guide describes the monastic life, religious objections and the two major architectural styles of medieval times. He explains the different parts of religious buildings.

Through the study of arches and vaults, he introduces the characteristics of the Romanesque and gothic art and approaches the concept of balance of forces.

Children are also introduced to a very old painting technique and to a style of religious decoration widespread in the border regions with Italy.

**Handicrafts:** 3 possibilities to choose from

- collective manipulation of a wooden model of a Romanesque arch and of a gothic vault
- Romanesque portal in salt dough (individual)
- decoration painted with pigments on plaster board (individual).

## Classical period

### 4 - The town in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

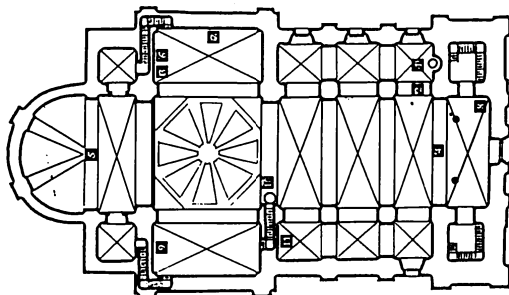
A circuit in the old town to discover Briançon at the classical period: domestic, civilian, religious and military architecture. The guide evokes the two big fires which devastated the town and points out how the front doors were decorated.

### 5 - The Collegiate church

Visiting the church leads the children to apprehend Louis XIV, the Sun king, and the political and religious context of his reign. After the description of the façade and its sundial, the tour of the interior allows them to discover the evolution of the religious decoration after the Counter-Reformation. Finally the decoration of the religious furnishing permits the guide to introduce the work of the craftsmen, the vocabulary and the symbols they used.

**Handicrafts:** 3 possibilities to choose from

- collective paper model of the Grande rue (one side of the main street)
- doors in salt dough (individual)
- copy of a flaming vase or of a part of a reredos in salt dough (individual).



### 6 - The fortifications

This workshop will explore the fortifications of Briançon and explains the evolution of artillery. The guide will point out the principles of architecture with bastions, known as bastionated, and introduce youngsters to a discovery of the classical period and of the reigns of Louis XIV and Louis XV.

A circuit within the town in the steps of Vauban, the famous military engineer, lets them discover the inheritance he bequeathed to us : his fortifications now registered with Unesco World Heritage.

**Handicrafts:** 4 possibilities to choose from

- collective paper model of an ideal stronghold
- gate of Pignerol in salt dough (individual)
- paper model of the portcullis (individual)
- paper model of the old barracks of Briançon (individual).



**7 - The Salettes fort**

After a 20 minute uphill walk, this visit allows the group to discover a fortification built during the reign of Louis XIV, the Sun king, and re-worked in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The guide will explain the rudiments of architecture and the evolution of artillery. The circuit permits them to see the whole fort (tower, gunpowder magazine, gallery....) and make a comparison with the forts on the other bank of the Durance.

**8 - The Trois Têtes fort**

This is the major work of the fortified ring dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Visiting it is a good way to understand the main principles of fortifications in mountains during the classical period. The group will discover a stronghold under the absolute Monarchy, its major buildings, and the soldiers' everyday life during this period.

**Daily heritage****9 - The sundials**

This popular art, very widespread in the region, will be discovered in this workshop. Youngsters will understand the different ways to measure time. After a tour in the old town or after a slide-show, children will create the decoration of their own sundial.

**Handicraft:** creation of the decoration of a sundial on a plaster board.



### Reservation and booking

As soon as the date is set, we systematically ask for confirmation by email or fax at least 15 days in advance. This letter must specify date, time, meeting place, theme, duration of the tour, number of students and their age. We will not undertake to find you a guide until we have received this letter of reservation. In order to provide quality tours, we propose one guide per class. Any change in programme must be made in agreement with the Heritage service.



### Rates 2011

The Discovery tour of Briançon, without any educational material: 105 € /class  
Thematic tours and workshops: 124 € /class  
Full day : 202 € / class

### Lateness

Please inform us, as soon as possible, if you are going to be late. If you did not manage to tell the guide, for any reason, the full price will be charged.

However if you inform the Heritage service that you will not be on time, the tour may be shortened (there will be no reduction in price) or extended if the guide is available. The rate will be increased accordingly (see extra hourly rate).

### Additional hours

For any time extension over 1/4 hour (if the fault is not the guide's), 46 € for each additional hour will be required.

### Cancellation

The guide will wait for twenty minutes. If you are later than this and you have not given a forewarning, the tour will be counted as cancelled, invoiced and non-refundable.

Cancellation is required at least 48 hours in advance. After that time, the full price will be charged.

Reserving a guide with the Heritage service means acceptance of the above terms and conditions.

**Information  
and booking:**

Town of Briançon -  
Direction du Patrimoine &  
des Archives -  
Heritage service  
Porte de Pignerol BP 18  
05105 Briançon Cedex  
tel. 0033 (0)4 92 20 29 49  
fax 0033 (0)4 92 20 39 84  
[patrimoine@mairie-briancon.fr](mailto:patrimoine@mairie-briancon.fr)  
Contact:  
Julie Crutz or Véronique Faucher  
(English-speaking guides)

Name of the group: \_\_\_\_\_

Full address of the group (your invoice will be sent to this address):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number and e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Group leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's tel. number: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of students: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the motivation (or main interest) of the group ?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_What themes/workshops would you like to study with us ?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Dates and times (or period): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_What topics would you like the students to integrate during the tour ?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I declare that I have read and understood the terms and conditions on the previous page, and undertake to pay the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ on reception of the invoice.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

2	<b>The Mayor's introduction</b>
3	<b>Briançon through the centuries</b>
4	<b>Fortifications of Vauban - World Heritage</b>
5	<b>Our educational toolkit</b>
6	<b>The different themes of tours and workshops</b>
9	<b>Instruction for use</b>
10	<b>Booking form</b>

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