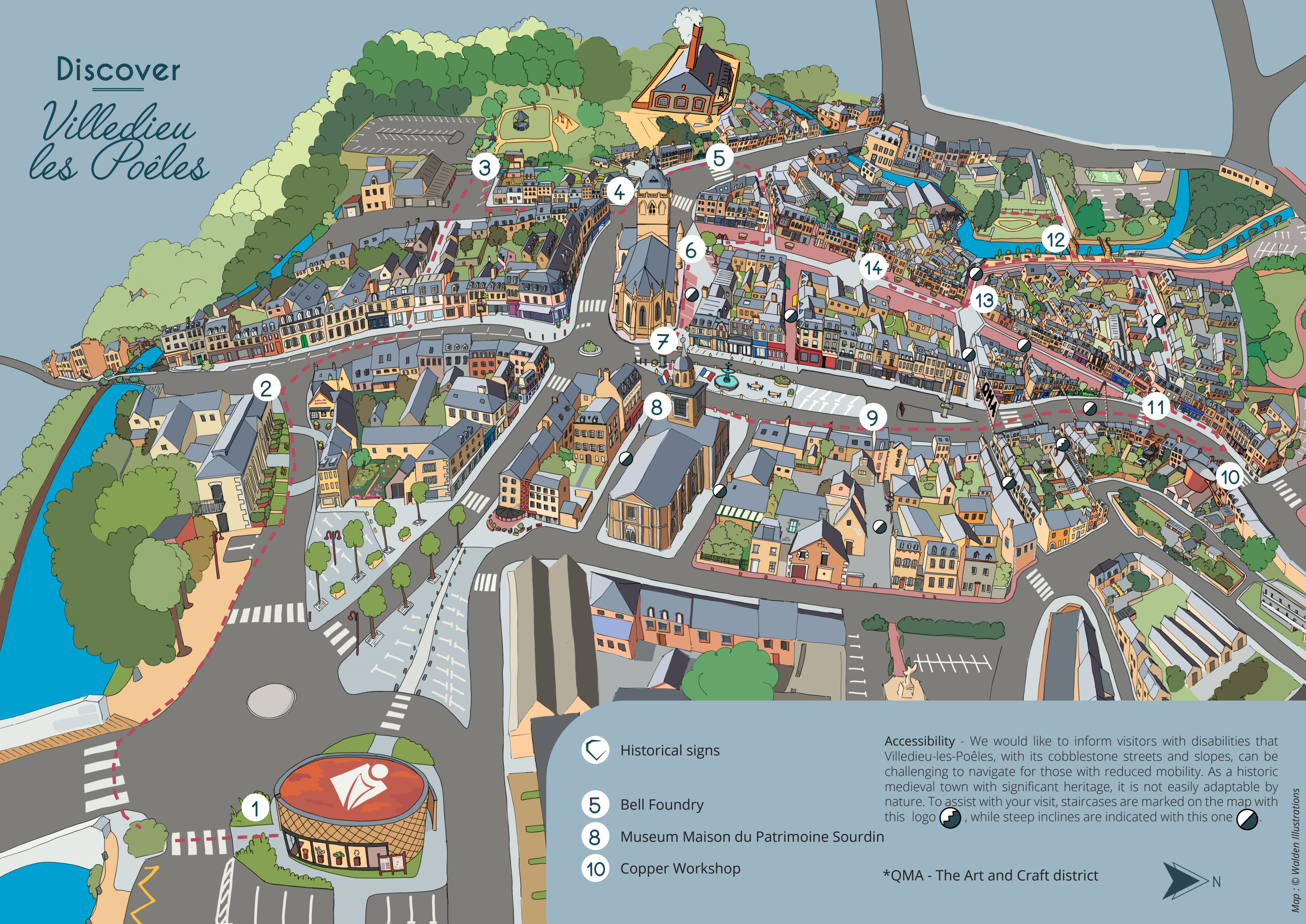


Discover Villedieu les Poêles



Historical signs





Bell Foundry



Museum Maison du Patrimoine Sourdin



Copper Workshop

Accessibility - We would like to inform visitors with disabilities that Villedieu-les-Poêles, with its cobblestone streets and slopes, can be challenging to navigate for those with reduced mobility. As a historic medieval town with significant heritage, it is not easily adaptable by nature. To assist with your visit, staircases are marked on the map with this logo , while steep inclines are indicated with this one .

*QMA - The Art and Craft district



WELCOME TO VILLEDIEU-LES-POÊLES

Founded in the 12th century as a Hospitaller Commandery, Villedieu-les-Poêles is a town rich in history and craftsmanship. Nicknamed the City of Copper, it exudes a timeless medieval charm, where heritage and artisanal traditions come to life at every turn. As you explore, you will uncover a well-preserved legacy that showcases the town's ancestral know-how, along with the iconic sites that have shaped its reputation. Full of tradition and character, Villedieu-les-Poêles combines history and authenticity.

- 1 Villa Dei
Foundation of the Hospitaller Commandery

THE STONE BRIDGE DISTRICT

The wheat market

This local granite building has served multiple purposes over the years. When the old central covered market on *Place de la République* fell into disrepair, a new wheat market was inaugurated in 1846. In the 20th century, it was repurposed as a fish market before being converted into a media library in 2001.

- 2 The stone bridge
A fortified town

Rue Gambetta

One of the most authentic streets in Villedieu-les-Poêles, *Rue Gambetta* is lined with elegant granite bourgeois houses from the 18th and 19th centuries. Take a moment to admire No. 22, a fine example of local architecture with its light-colored shutters, massive granite chimney, and distinctive dormer windows.

THE COMMANDERY DISTRICT

The Commandery Park

Formerly known as the Commandery Isle, this artificial island was created through a diversion canal dug at the order of the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. Its strong current played a crucial role in the local economy. By powering the Commandery's mills, it fostered the growth of the leather industry.

- 3 The tanneries along the Sienne
The art of transforming the hides
- 4 The Commandery
Spiritual and political headquarters

- 5 The bell foundry
Bell makers since 1865
- 6 Inside the church
The protective statues

- 7 The town hall

Symbol of power and prosperity. Behind the town hall, you can find the museum *Maison du Patrimoine Sourdin*.

- 8 Notre-Dame church
Witness to the centuries

THE COMMERCIAL HEART

- 9 Long live the Republic!
A committed town

The statue of Marianne

Before the Revolution, a cross stood in the square, later replaced by a wooden pyramid dedicated to the worship of the Supreme Being, a laic revolutionary divinity. Under Napoleon I, an imperial eagle was placed atop a granite column, which in 1889 was replaced by the current statue of Marianne, symbol of the ideals of the Republic. Gilded in fine gold, the statue dominates the *Place de la République*.

The Art and Craft district

Since 2018, *Rue Carnot* has been dedicated to arts and crafts. Supported by the local authorities, the district is home to around ten workshops and boutiques open year-round. A wealth of expertise awaits—so don't hesitate to step inside and explore!

Le Caquet

At the junction of *Rue du Docteur Havard* and *Rue du Général Huard* lies *Le Caquet*. On fine days, lacemakers would gather in this small square, chatting happily as they worked. Gossipers claimed they 'cackled', hence the name of the place.

THE ARTISANAL VILLEDIEU

- 10 Copper work
An ancient know-how
- 11 Cour du Foyer
The art of recycling
- 12 The wash houses along the Sienne
From purgatory to heaven
- 13 The history of lace making
The art of delicacy
- 14 Cour de la Luzerne
A place to live and work

Place du Pussoir Fidèle

A *pussoir* is a regional word meaning wash house. It is said that the public wash house that stood at the end of this square was *fidèle* (safe): no sheet was ever stolen here!

VILLEDIEU NOWADAYS...

Previously known as Villedieu, the town officially became 'Villedieu-les-Poêles' in 1962 to highlight its deep-rooted craftsmanship, especially the production of copper pans (*poêles*). Today, recognised as a city of craft, it is home

to renowned traditional workshops, seamlessly blending heritage and modernity. With its well-preserved architecture, strong commitment to artisanal development, and exceptional expertise, Villedieu-les-Poêles attracts numerous visitors each year.



Follow the
Mallée oisive
on the ground!

PRATICAL INFORMATION

Start : Tourist Office

Route : 1,5 km
Duration : 1h
Audio-guide with izi :



OFFICE DE TOURISME
& VITRINE DES MÉTIERS D'ART
DE VILLEDIEU INTERCOM

8 place des Costils
50800 Villedieu-les-Poêles
+33 (0)2 33 61 05 69

contact@villedieutourisme.fr
www.villedieutourisme.com

