

The **hydrology** is highly distinctive. Barret de Lioure is a veritable water tower. Numerous springs spout throughout the territory, especially the spring in **Génisseaux** which supplies water (of exceptional quality) to the municipalities of Montbrun les Bains, Reilhanette and Barret de Lioure; Two rivers have their source on the municipality's territory : the **Anary**, a sub-affluent of the Ouvèze by the Toulourenc, and the **Méouge**, a sub-affluent of the Durance by the Buech. A swallow hole and a cave are the only underground cavities of the municipality.

The **forest** of Barret de Lioure covers more than 40% of the municipal territory, which particularly a 478-hectare municipal forest divided into 3 entities ; the Tay, Clots and Ubac. The forest is very well tended, both the exploitation (beech, oak and pine) and for hunting and walking.

The **flora** and **fauna** enjoy conditions for harmonious development. There are 429 floral species, 52 different birds, 122 insects, including 92 butterflies (some of which are rare), 25 mushrooms and a variety of game (wild boar ,stag, doe, fawn, hare and pheasant), to the delight of the sizeable hunting community. It is worth underscoring that, whereas agriculture and gathering provided the subsistence of a sizeable population up to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the number of farmers and stockbreeders has today dwindled to a small dozen. The crops are essentially **lavender** and **hybrid lavender**.

The territory of Barret de Lioure has numerous hiking paths that lead to breathking vistas of the Alps (at the peak of the Buc or Bergiès) as well as the Ventoux and Lure Mountains.

The peak of Bergiès is the point of departure for **hang gliding** (particularly paragliding), **remote control flying** and amateur **astronomy**.

#### From Barret de Lioure to :

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Montbrun les Bains</b>         | <b>7 Km</b> |
| <b>Séderon</b>                    | <b>7</b>    |
| <b>Sault</b>                      | <b>21</b>   |
| <b>Sisteron</b>                   | <b>44</b>   |
| <b>Buis-les-Baronnies</b>         | <b>44</b>   |
| <b>Vaison-la-Romaine</b>          | <b>46</b>   |
| <b>Top of the Mont Ventoux</b>    | <b>46</b>   |
| <b>Nyons</b>                      | <b>53</b>   |
| <b>Apt</b>                        | <b>55</b>   |
| <b>Carpentras</b>                 | <b>64</b>   |
| <b>Avignon</b>                    | <b>90</b>   |
| <b>Orange</b>                     | <b>100</b>  |
| <br>                              |             |
| <b>Autoroute Bollène</b>          | <b>80</b>   |
| <b>Autoroute Montélimar South</b> | <b>87</b>   |



## BARRET DE LIOURE

### A village perched in Drôme provençale

Situated at the southernmost edge of the Drôme, at the borders of Alps of Upper Provence and the Upper Alps, the vast (3464-hectare) municipality of **Barret de Lioure** is adjacent to Montbrun les Bains (a thermal spa) in the West and Séderon (administrative centre of the canton) in the East.

Barret de Lioure owes its name to the fact that the municipality is a (geographic, historical and topographic) ridge ('**barre**' in French), situated between the Lure ('**Lioure**' in Provençal) and Ventoux mountains.

The **relief** is strongly influenced by a highly distinctive **geology**, resulting from the Alpine fold-thrust belt. The **medieval upper village** is perched at an altitude of 978 metres, facing south onto the Ventoux 17 kilometres away as the crow flies.

From 740 m at the Quartier du Moulin (Mill District), the D542 leads up to the **Col de Macuègne** (1068 m) that affords marvellous vistas.

The peaks of **Buc** (1441 m) and **Bergiès** (1367 m) in the North, the **Col du Negron** (1397 m) to the East and the **Col de l'Homme mort** (1213 m) to the South, flank 42 peaks higher than 1000 m.

The **climate** is very dry and sunny (in winter as well as in summer). The village, protected from the mistral, enjoys Mediterranean conditions, with extreme temperatures that at times fall to -10° in winter, and often exceed +30° in July and August. The sun and the light are the main characteristics of the local climate, with 2800 hours of sun per year.

The **history** of Barret de Lioure goes back to 3000 BC (Neolithic), according to the archaeological discoveries by Dr. Bernard (1956) at a location known as **La Cour**.

Vestiges of the Roman occupation have been excavated in Génisseaux (altar to Mothers) and at the site of the municipal gîtes.

**Written history** begins in 950 and continues through the Middle Ages. The municipality was under the tutelage of the barons of Mévouillon, then the lords of Agoult.

Until the **Revolution in 1789**, Barret de Lioure was the last municipality of Provence before Dauphiné (Montbrun).

A **school** run by a Mr. Barruol, a country priest, is attested to since the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Established after the Revolution, the public school remained open until 1956. As of 1878, a Catholic school also operated for a dozen years right opposite the public school !

The **population** of Barret de Lioure, which stood at 493 inhabitants in 1686, reached a record high of 607 inhabitants in 1851, then gradually dropped to just 35 people in 1975 ! The municipality has been revived since, boasting 80 habitants in 2008.

85% of the population used to occupy a reduced space of 46 ares in the **medieval upper village**. Fortified with walls with 3 gates to the outside (only one of which survives), the village comprised 83 dwellings, 7 vaulted passages (known as 'soustets') stretching 84 metres, and 15 streets !

Situated in the centre of the village on an East-West axis, the **church** was built in Romanesque style and (in all likelihood) dated from the year 1000: a stone set in the northern wall of the current church bears the date CMXC (990).

This church remained standing until 1959 when it collapsed because of lack of maintenance. According to witnesses, it was richly decorated.

From 1961 to 1963, it was reconstructed on the old foundations by Belgian and Dutch "Compagnons du devoir" (Companions of Duty). It was consecrated in 1963 by the Bishop of Valence Mgr. Vignancourt.

The patron saint of Barret de Lioure is **St Laurent** (whose feast day is August 10<sup>th</sup>).

The church houses various ornaments, in particular a banner of the Immaculate Conception (1848) and above all **Jansenist** crucifixes, chandeliers and statues (St Joseph, the Virgin Mary, St Anthony, Virgin and child and, of course, St Laurent). The baptismal and the crossroad are remarkable.

On the church façade hangs a Christ on a cross that was once fixed on the presbytery (now gone). This Christ also dates from the Jansenist period (middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century).

Around 1835, **crosses** were installed on a promontory hanging over the village to express the gratitude of the locals for escaping the plague from which Jean Giono drew inspiration for "The Horseman on the Roof". Giono actually came several times to Barret de Lioure, the setting of many passages of his novel "Ennemonde and Other Characters".

The sedentary population of Barret (80 habitants) has doubled with the arrival of secondary residents (from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and ...France) who appreciate the climate, the landscapes and the calm of the region.

Many new structures have been erected in the Grand Pré neighbourhood since 2000.

Municipal and private "gîtes" host many holidaymakers.

**Gîtes de France** (Valence) : tél.: 0033 04 75 83 09 23

The Feast Days Committee organise the St. Laurent Feast on the first week-end of August. Theme exhibitions, works by local artists, boules competition, and a country meal take the village for 3 days.



The village in 1969



Barret de Lioure from « Quartier du Moulin »

**Mairie** : the village centre.

Open the Wednesday since 13 h 30 at 17 h.

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