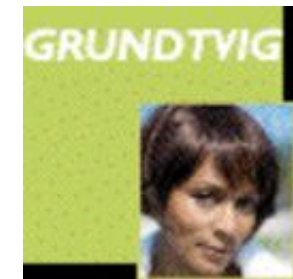




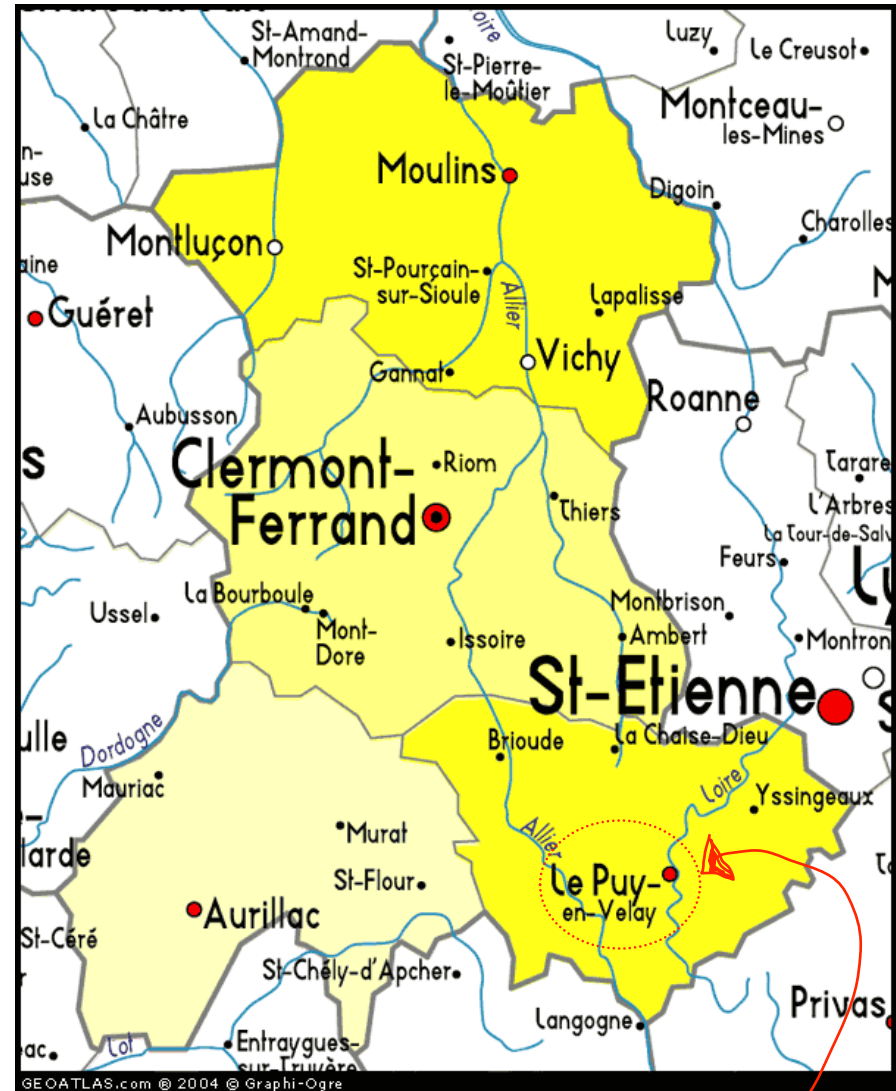
Le Puy-en-Velay February 5th, 2009



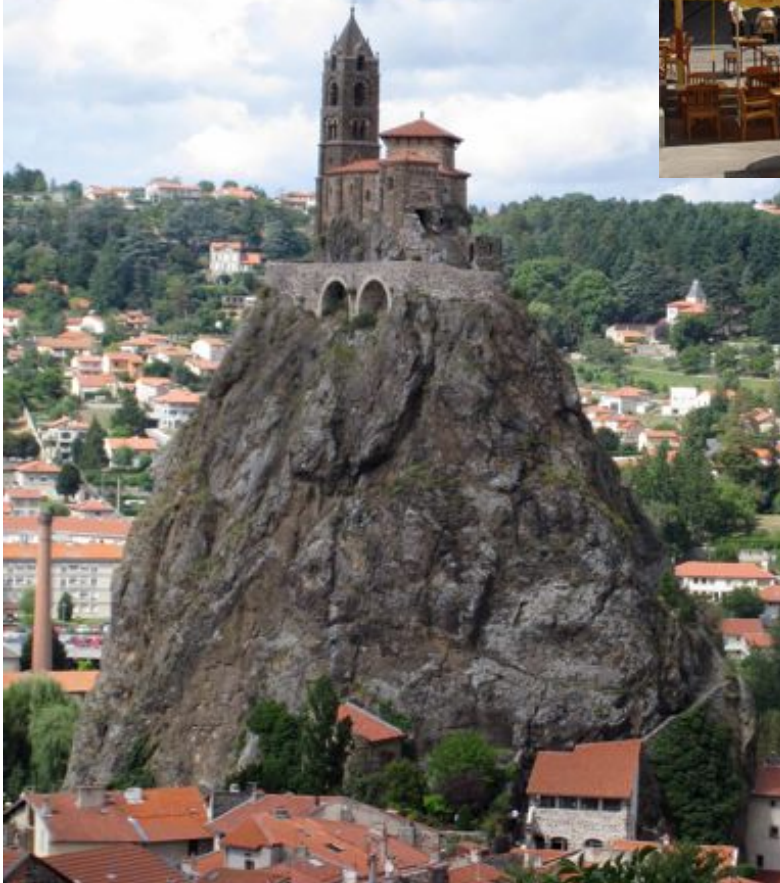
Meeting in France



Our destination, the City



Le Puy-en-Velay



[The city in 3D](#)



What can you read about the city



from Encyclopædia Britannica <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/333426/Le-Puy-en-Velay>
Le Puy-en-Velay France formerly (until 1988) Le Puy,

Town, capital of Haute-Loire département, Auvergne région, south-central France. Le Puy-en-Velay is situated in the Massif Central, at 2,067 feet (630 m) above sea level, 2 miles (3 km) from the left bank of the Loire River. It lies in the middle of a basin that is surrounded by basalt plateaus bristling with strange volcanic peaks. The town was already a Christian centre in the 4th century. After Muslim invasions forced the neighbouring bishop to seek refuge there in the 6th century, Le Puy became one of the main pilgrimage centres in France. During the Wars of Religion, in the latter part of the 16th century, it sided with the Catholic League.

On the highest hill in the town, called Corneille Peak, a red cast-iron statue (53 feet high) of [Our Lady of France](#) was erected in 1860. At the foot of the hill, on a platform surrounded by the steep narrow streets of the Old Town, stands the 11th–12th-century Romanesque [Cathedral of Notre-Dame](#), which shows Byzantine influence in its octagonal cupolas and decoration. The adjacent cloister is mainly Romanesque but has Carolingian capitals. On the outskirts of the town a volcanic needle some 260 feet (80 m) high is crowned by a 10th–11th-century church, [Saint-Michel-d'Aiguilhe](#), that was ingeniously designed to cover the irregular surface of the rock. About 3 miles (5 km) away, the ruined 14th-century castle of Polignac stands on a basalt plateau rising sheer from the plain.

Le Puy-en-Velay is an administrative and service centre. The lure of the historic core of the town has encouraged the development of tourism. Lace making has been carried out since the 17th century; a fine collection of lace is kept in the Crozatier Museum. Le Puy-en-Velay's diverse industrial activities include food processing and the manufacture of machinery, plastics, rubber, paper and packaging, and textiles. Pop. (1999) 20,490; (2005 est.) 19,300.

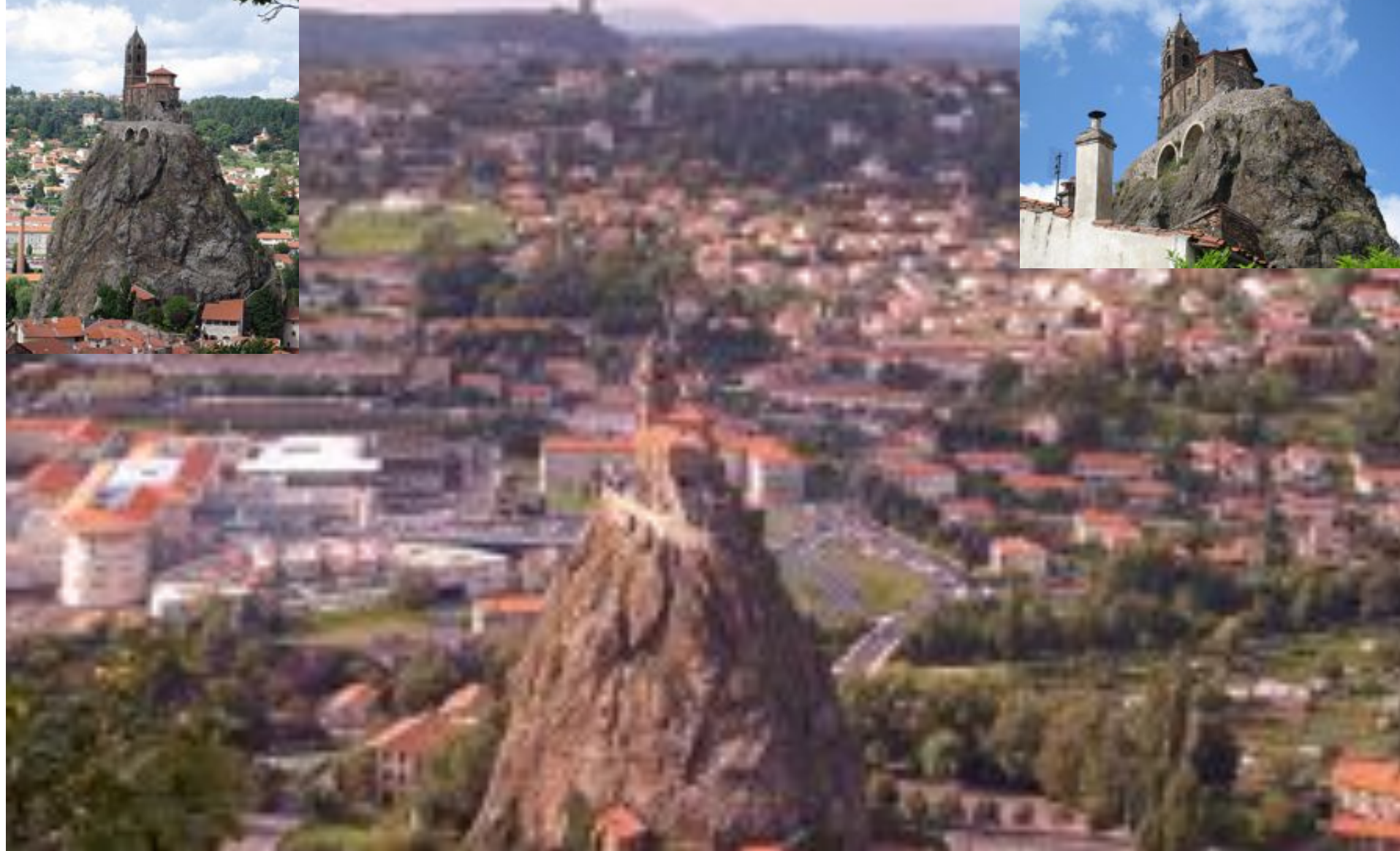
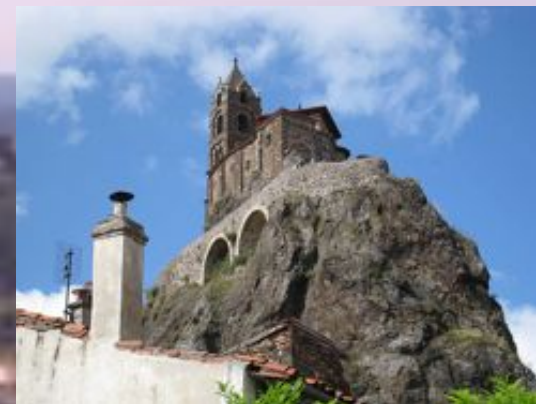
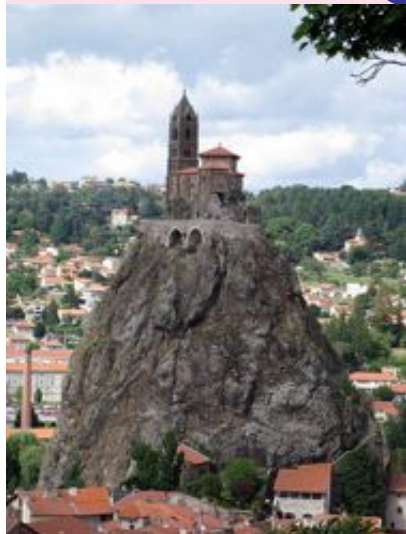


Our Lady of France





Saint-Michel-d'Aiguilhe





Cathedral of Notre-Dame



Special events - interest

- Hot Air Balloon Festival ([pic](#), [site](#))
- Bird King Renaissance Festival ([pic](#), [site](#), [video1](#), [2](#), [3](#))
- Le Tour de France ([pic](#), [site](#))
- François, Guy ([pic](#), [site](#))
- Celebration of the Virgin Mary ([pic](#), [site](#))
- Via Podiensis ([pic](#), [site](#))
- Main events in 2008 ([pic](#), [site](#))



Hot Air Balloon Festival



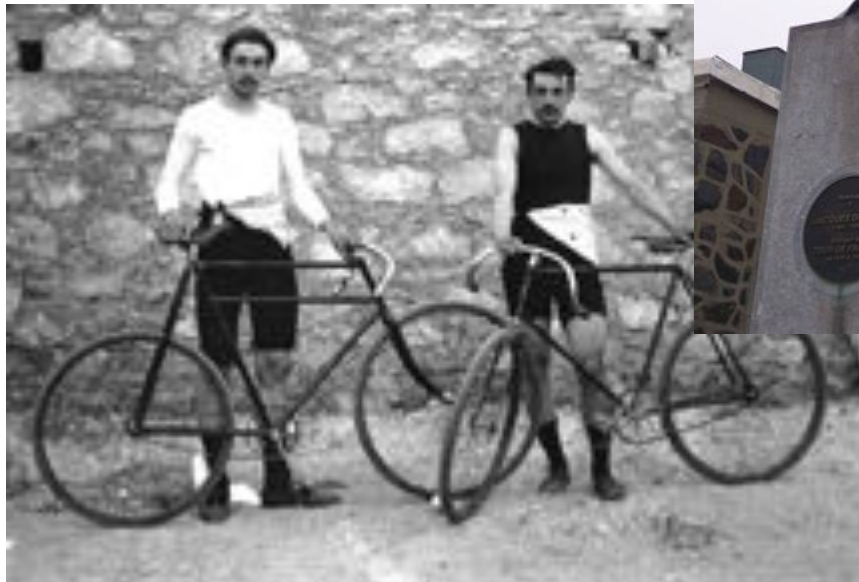


Bird King Renaissance Festival





Le Tour de France





François, Guy

- François, Guy (b Le Puy [Le Puy-en-Velay], Haute-Loire, c.1578; d Le Puy, Oct./Dec. 1650). French painter. In 1608 he is documented in Rome and by 1613 he was back in Le Puy, where he was based for the rest of his career, painting numerous pictures for local churches, many of them still in situ. He has been described as ‘the first painter to introduce post-Mannerist Italian fashions into France’ (Benedict Nicolson, Caravaggism in Europe, 1989), and his Caravaggesque style is sometimes particularly close to Saraceni, with whom he presumably had contact in Rome (a few paintings have even been disputed between them). **François was virtually unknown until an exhibition was devoted to him in Le Puy in 1974.**
- From: The Oxford Dictionary of Art | Date: 2004 | Author: IAN CHILVERS | © The Oxford Dictionary of Art 2004, originally published by Oxford University Press 2004. (Hide copyright information) Copyright information



MARIAGE DE SAINTE
CATHERINE

**Holy Family with St Bruno
and St Elisabeth**



Sainte Marie-
Madeleine pénitente



LA VIERGE, L'ENFANT
JESUS ET SAINT JEAN



Via Podiensis

