

First Floor

Private room of the Seigniorial couple. Well illuminated by the gemeled windows (restored recently) and situated at a certain height for security reasons, with nice window seats.

The western wall gives access to the latrines beside a wall wardrobe containing a hiding place. The wooden bed is a copy after an original illumination of the 14th century.



Second Floor

With a similar architecture to the first floor but simpler in design, as it was the soldier's room.

As its original vault was starting to crumble, it was replaced in the 1930's with a concrete structure.

The Roof

Arriving on the top of the tower, the terrace offers breathtaking views of the village of Valon - You can admire the beautiful stone houses with slate roofs, the little church, the gardens and also the traditional dry-stone walls making the village a unique place.

Follow the course of the Truyère, carving its way through forests. Catch a glimpse of the waterfall «Cascade saut du Chien» and of the hydroplant of Montézic



Photo credit : A. Mérauvilles, B. Colomb - Lozère Sauvage pour Tourisme en Aubrac, Pierre Soissons



The castle is overlooking the village of Valon, situated at the edge of the Carladez and the Viadène in the Aveyron.

The castle of Avalon was first mentioned in 1150.

Some lower parts of the building, and in particular the lower parts of the ramparts, date back to that period. During the Hundred years war, between 1378 and 1387, the castle was then occupied by the «Routiers» who were bandits and pillagers paid by the King of England. They were a real curse to the neighbouring population and remained deeply rooted in people's memories.

The Castle wasn't damaged during the French Revolution but no one has lived in it since then. The ruins deteriorated significantly throughout the 19th century, eventually becoming a quarry for freestone used by both squires and villagers.

The castle only started to be protected and restored at the beginning of the 20th century.

The local council of the Carladez bought Valon in 1999 and has since opened it to the public.

Enjoy your visit!



The Chapel

Built around the middle of the 15th century by the Lords of Valon, who were members of the Rolland Family. For the late Middle Ages, the chapel is an outstanding example of Built around the middle of the 15th century by the Lords of Valon, who were members of the Rolland Family. For the late Middle Ages, the chapel is an outstanding example of:

- its vault with double intercepting ribs and - its two carved keystones depicting the coat of arms of the Rolland's;
- its gabled window (two identical openings, symmetrical in relation to a central axis) typical of the flamboyant style;
- its consoles (small rims inserted into the wall) onto which saints figures use to rest.

Outside the chapel, the remains of a wide spiral staircase are visible. It provided access to the different floors of the tower and to the gallery.

The Gallery

Today the Gallery is a recreational area for all ages. Enjoy the wonderful view of the Truyère Gorges. Pick up a game to play in the garden and take the time to enjoy and relax. Dress up in a Medieval costume to visit the castle. Feel like a Princess, Lord or Knight for the day!

The Courtyard

Here we notice the great effects of the destructions of the 19th Century. The central space was occupied by a narrow courtyard. To the left were some common rooms used for storing food, cereals, dried meat, firewood, etc., while to the right were the main rooms. On the right, under the main rooms, we see the water tank carved into the rock and covered with a coating. It can contain 50,000 Liters so in the event of



siege the castle could hold out several weeks.

The Donjon (the main tower)

Built in the first half of the 14th Century, the entrance of the ground floor was originally at the western side. Only the corbels (stones onto which rested the machicolations) of the 25 meters high external walls remain today. The «Donjon» was originally covered by a roof sheltered the 3rd and upper floors and had a Bartizan at each corner (watch-keeping turret). The sculpted stone bases can still be seen at the north-east and south-east corners.

The «Donjon» was also surrounded by buildings on three sides as shown by:

- the corbels and pigeonholes on several walls;
- the remnants of a room belonging to the south rampart
- the western side still shows two former latrines (on first and second floors).

The Interior

Unlike other castles in the region, **the ground floor** of this tower was a habitable and was not a cellar as usual. The well-preserved room, outstanding on account of its typical Gothic arches (vault with intercepting ribs, carved keystone, bases also carved supporting the ribs at each angle) and by its height. A wooden structure dividing the room into two levels (series of pigeonholes on the northern wall). Finally, to the right of the fireplace, the former entrance door to the dungeon (the present one giving way to an adjacent building).

It's rather exceptional to find 3 doors.

Accessed through a narrow passage is **the little kitchen**, a service room for the daily life of servants and housemaids of the Lord. The servants slept just above the kitchen and could reach the first floor of the Donjon, through a little door leading to the stairs.

On the right, we see a **defensive passage** where we can see a **small watch turret** that once used to monitor the castle.

The stairs: A splendid defense which are exceptionally well preserved, leading to the first floor with a straight staircase and to the upper floor with a spiral staircase. In total 111 steps.

