

Ault

AND THE SUNKEN CITY

The first inhabitants of Ault, fishermen, built their cottages on pebbles along the shore. With Notre-Dame church and the cemetery, they formed the lower village and the seamen's district. Having their homes here meant they were close to their boats, which were gathered in a hundred-metre-long cove: the Port du Perroir (about 80 fishing boats), which was a flourishing port in the Middle Ages. In 1583, disaster struck: a memorable storm devastated Ault, demolishing the church, the cemetery and half the village.



TRAIL OF THE AULT-ONIVAL VILLAS

1 PLACE H. DUNANT : VILLA LA GUÉRITÉ

Jane Atché's father had this brick villa constructed in 1887. It is a miniature reproduction of a military lodge. Jane kept this house all her life.

2 RUE DE LA TERRASSE : VILLA LES LOUPS

This has a monumental fresco depicting a pack of wolves, most certainly in reference to the 'louveterie' (wolf-hunting guild).

3 RUE GROS : VILLA JEANNE D'ARC

A villa built in the late 19th/early 20th century. It includes a piece of ceramic representing Joan of Arc by Chapu (1833-1891).

4 142 RUE DE SAINT VALÉRY : VILLA GERMAINE

This was built at the start of the 20th century. Designed in the Art Nouveau style, with ceramic rosettes and friezes illustrating a marine theme.

5 5 RUE DE CALAIS : VILLA CÉLESTIN AUGUSTE

Built in 1906 by the architects Delafont and Brison, the numerous floral ceramic decorations are indicative of the Art Nouveau period.

6 14 RUE DE LA BRISE : 5 IDENTICAL VILLAS

They have the designation of 'pierre précieuses' (significant buildings) and differ only in their pediments.

7 BD M. COUILLET : VILLA FRIQUET

There is a polychromatic interplay of red and gold bricks across the façade and lacework decoration on the garret, as well as the key feature of the Belle Epoque style - the bow window.

8 RUE DE LA PLAINE

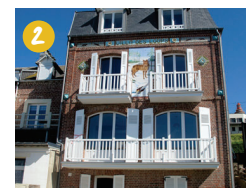
Half-timbered façades, stepped dormer windows and shell decorations reflect the Anglo-Norman and Anglo-Flemish styles. These are combined with an Art Deco style and its more cubic forms.

9 AVENUE DU CASINO

This features a large number of villas, some of which were designed by renowned architects.

10 2 RUE HÉNIN : LA SALAMANDRE

Built between 1894 and 1897, this villa is in the Baroque style (curved gable). A stoneware panel depicting a crowned salamander, a symbol of François I as well as of the ceramic arts, is a major achievement of the famous Beauvais ceramist, Greber.





A

Saint-Pierre's CHURCH AND ITS ECCLESIASTICAL BELFRY

The ecclesiastical belfry Characterized by its checkerboard architecture of limestone and flint, similar to the Church of St Jacques du Tréport, it is classified Historic Monument. The 14th-century bell tower is an imposing quadrangular tower that culminates in a platform, with gargoyles at the 4 corners, and three bells. A slender watch tower stands on top. Built at the same time as the church, it became an ecclesiastical belfry during the Hundred Years' War, by a communal charter dated 1382.

LE MOULINET

This medieval-style gate opens onto a brick-vaulted staircase leading up the hill that used to be home to the 5 windmills of Ault. Well worth the climb for stunning views over the upper town.



B

Onival.

A FAMILY BEACH BY TRADITION

The seaside resort of Onival occupies the slopes of the 'dead cliff' and is located behind the pebble dike (or Perroir d'Ault) which protects the downland areas. This second resort was developed on the initiative of a developer, who found the location picturesque, while the inhabitants found it inhospitable. Onival enjoyed a short, but intense, success from 1883 to 1900. Subsequently, a succession of World Wars and severe storms would mark the history of the town.



C

THE STONE Windmill

A working windmill in 1623, now only the original brick and limestone tower remains. A house was added at the end of the 19th century for holiday use.

Notre-Dame D'ONIVAL CHAPEL

Chapel Built in 1897 when the seaside resort of Onival was being developed, the chapel offers unobstructed views over the beach and low fields. Accessible by a long flight of steps.



D

Also available IN AULT-ONIVAL



E

PETIT CASINO

A former dancing establishment and coffee house belonging to the Petit Casino (early 20th century). The exterior rocaille decoration is reminiscent of Art Deco.

The Petit Casino was built on the site of the Kursaal, which was destroyed in around 1914. It has a beautiful, stepped pediment, as well as medallions depicting a faun and two muses - symbols of the arts.



F

THE PETIT MUSÉE

Housed in the former school, this space recounts the history of Ault, Onival and Le Bois de Cise. Furniture from the old casino, postcards, texts and various objects can be seen. It is a real journey back into the history of the village.



G

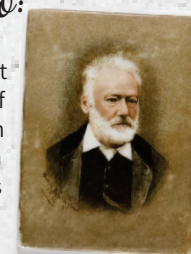


JANE Atché

Jane Atché spent every summer of her childhood in her parents' villa 'La Guérite' in Onival before becoming a renowned artist during the Belle Epoque. Her talent was expressed on Art Nouveau posters and postcards, in collaboration with the painter Mucha, whose muse she became. Her work became well known in 1896 thanks to the cigarette paper poster 'Job', representations of which are still found today.

Following in the footsteps of Victor Hugo:

An illustrious figure of French literature, Victor Hugo travelled throughout his life through France and Europe, which was a precious source of inspiration for his writing. Follow the stages of his journey to Ault on 8 September 1837 using the annotated and illustrated panels which represent his letter to his wife, Adèle, in which the history of Ault is depicted.



THE TRAIL IS UNDERGOING RENOVATION:

follow the coloured dots in the order of Victor Hugo's first name:

V I C T O R H U G O