

The Mers-les-Bains

TOURIST TRAIL

The opening of the Paris-Le Tréport-Mers train line in 1873 contributed to the development of **Mers les Bains**. Wealthy families in the north of France took advantage of the benefits of sea bathing and had holiday homes built. Life here revolves around the esplanade, bordered on one side by a district classified as a Site of Outstanding Heritage with nearly 400 colourful villas, and on the other by a beach where monochrome huts abound in the summer.



BELLE EPOQUE VILLAS

A lovely walk along the Esplanade du Général Leclerc (800 m), through a conservation area with fine villas featuring bow windows, intricately worked balconies, colourful façades and ceramics typical of the charm of the Belle Epoque.

1 VILLA JEANNOT

This villa, which for many years housed the post office, regained its original curved gable in 2021. It has ceramic cabochons and green glazed bricks.

2 RUE JULES BARNI

It was in this part of the town that the first shops opened in the second half of the 19th century. The roofs of the shops are flat. Local legend has it that they were designed in this way so as not to obstruct the view of the villa known as 'Le Manoir', which overlooks them from Rue de l'Eglise.

3 14 AND 16 RUE RASPAIL : LA MADONE AND L'HERMITAGE

The cast iron balconies with their diverse decorations and door grilles are an integral part of the heritage of Mers les Bains. (Loggia)

4 21 RUE HENRI LEBEUF : VILLA SANTA RITA

The roof edges have decorative barge boards, giving the building a 'colonial chalet' style. It has beautiful ceramic spandrel panels.

5 14 RUE HENRI LEBEUF : VILLA ETOILE DE MER

Marine decoration in flamed sandstone (seaweed, scallops, ropes, etc.)

6 12 ESPL DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : VILLA POMONE

The ceramic decoration on the top of the bow window and the top of the wall depicts flower and fruit motifs as well as a portrait of a woman.

7 13, 14, 15 ESPLANADE DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : PICARDIE, MARGARITA AND NO. 15

Pretty decorations and cabochons in glazed brickwork. A glazed terracotta vase adorns a triangular pediment at No. 15.

8 23 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : LA VIOLETTE

The poet François Coppée stayed at the Villa La Violette. There is a beautiful ceramic lion head under the cornice.

9 31 TO 34 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : OCCIDENT, FANTASIE, ESPAÑA, LE GRAND LARGE

A Flemish style dominates here, with a stepped gable similar to those found on medieval houses in the north. The Villa España has a beautiful door key depicting a bearded man.

10 39 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : LA TRIÈRE

Classical style villa (Louis XIII style). A bullseye window tops the roof dormers and the me-topos on the cornice are made of ceramic tiles.

11 40 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : LA SIRÈNE

There is a Gothic influence here, with a corner turret covered by a conical roof. Look to the right - a few hundred metres separate this villa from a group of buildings by the same architect: Antonio, Habanera, Gay Logiz. 16

12 10 RUE SADI CARNOT : HÔTEL ASTORIA

This former hotel, built in 1928 by the architect Fernand Ratier, is in an Art Deco style. The pavement is decorated with mosaics depicting the name of the establishment.

13 14 AND 16 RUE SADI CARNOT : THE SYMMETRICAL VILLAS ARLETTE AND FLEURETTE

The decoration in flamed stoneware is attributed to the Gréber factory in Beauvais.

14 15 AV FOCH, 26-28 RUE DUQUESNE : CYCLAMEN, LES IRIS AND LES PHLOX

The ceramic decoration is in the Art Nouveau style with ceramic panels depicting flower motifs and female figures.

15 10 AND 12 RUE DUQUESNE : THE IDENTICAL VILLAS YVONNE AND GEORGES

A spectacular slate roof reminiscent of a medieval castle.

16 CORNER OF RUE DUQUESNE/ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : AUTOMNE DORÉE, BEAU PRINTEMPS AND OPALINE

The beautiful wave frieze in flamed sandstone originally adorned the three villas which made up a hotel complex.

17 NO. 52, 53 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC AND 2-4 RUE AMIRAL COURBET : THE ANTONIO, HABANERA AND GAY LOGIZ GROUP

Cousins of the villa La Sirene. Here, the bow window is located on the corner tower. There are green glazed bricks and alternating red and ochre bricks.

18 13-15 RUE AMIRAL COURBET : THE IDENTICAL VILLAS LES ALPES AND HELVETIA

In the porch of Helvétia, there are walls decorated with mosaics depicting the symbols for the musical arts on the right and the symbols for architecture on the left.

19 CORNER OF RUE BOUCHER DE PERTHES AND CORNER OF RUE FAIDHERBE : THE IDENTICAL VILLAS VILLA FRANÇAISE AND VILLA PARISIENNE 196

Built by Edouard Niermans in the Art Nouveau architectural style.

20 10-12 RUE BOUCHER DE PERTHES : THE IDENTICAL PRIVATE HOUSES HELENA AND JAN

The Art Nouveau style can be seen in the geometric shapes of the loggia railings and bow windows.

21 7 RUE BOUCHER DE PERTHES : VILLA BON ABRI

A very elaborate façade with false symmetry, with the curve characteristic of the Art Nouveau style transformed into a swan's head and a leopard.

22 3 RUE BOUCHER DE PERTHES : THE IDENTICAL PRIVATE HOUSES LA LUNE AND LE SOLEIL

Sandstone panels on the oriel windows show the moon and the sun, and the central bay is decorated with a majestic mascarón depicting the mythological god Aeolus.

23 60-61 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : THE VILLAS FRANCILLON AND L'AIGLON

Perfect symmetry and beautiful cabochons on the façade.

24 62 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : VILLA RIP

Built by Jules Dupont, an architect in Mers-les-Bains, this villa is listed in the supplementary inventory of historic monuments because of its interior, which has remained in its original state.

25 3 RUE FAIDHERBE : VILLA HELENE AND PAULETTE

Italian palazzo-style villa with mosaic decorations including bunches of grapes on the bow windows and over-mantels, and amphorae on the cornice.

26 4 RUE FAIDHERBE : VILLA LA PAIMPOLAISE

A beautiful medallion. The oriel windows adorning the façade are one of the special characteristics of seaside architecture.

27 CORNER OF RUE FAIDHERBE AND AVENUE FOCH : CHALET DES CYCLES

A former guest house built around 1900. This guest house apparently housed a garage and a bicycle repair shop. Its pediment is surmounted by a winged wheel, and two splendid ceramic panels display the restaurant's prices at the time.

28 73 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : LE TOURBILLON, LE CRÉPUSCULE AND CLAIR DE LUNE

House with three adjoining dwellings, built between 1902 and 1905 by Georges Guyon, an architect in Saint-Maurice. The upper levels are adorned with bow windows, and covered and uncovered balconies, all of which are made of woodwork and do not match.

29 77 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC :

VILLA SANTA THERÉSIA is located on the boundary between Mers-les-Bains and Le Tréport. This is marked by the old kilometre post which was reinstalled in 2014. The Villa Santa Theresia's first floor balcony is supported by decorations which are as equally light as they are effective.

30 88 ESP DU GÉNÉRAL LECLERC : LA FÉE DES MERS

This villa is the work of the Parisian architect Alexandre Borgeaud and not of Gustave Eiffel. The roof features one of the last finials on the seafront. The Villa Les Algues (1 rue Amiral Courbet) belonged to the second daughter of Gustave Eiffel and her husband.



Also available IN MERS-LES-BAINS

CHURCH OF SAINT MARTIN

The building (1928) is in the Romano-Byzantine style. Flamboyant stained-glass windows, a listed 17th-century altarpiece and a recumbent statue of St. Martin



THE TOWN HALL

The town hall occupies a former «Henri Villa» owned by the town since 1904. It was extended and renovated in 2009. The building features scenes from life in the holiday resort in the Belle Epoque.

THE NOTRE DAME DE LA FALAISE STATUE

known as Notre Dame des Flots (« Our Lady of the Water »), this 7 m. statue erected in 1878 consists of 3 bas-reliefs representing the patron saints of the 3 Sister Towns: Le Tréport, Eu and Mers. It serves as a landmark for coastal fishermen. Superb, unique panoramic views from the top of 90 m high cliffs.

