

My visit in Le Monastier on April 4th

Firstly, we started the morning with M. Rey, who guided us through the 'Popular beliefs' museum, which is located inside an old abbey. We learnt a lot about different legends and beliefs, which are really present in the memories of the inhabitants of our region. I think that this museum is in close relation with our studies about Scotland because the guide said that a lot of legends were born in regions like ours or Scotland, that is to say in areas surrounded by mountains and in which the relationship between people was difficult. Indeed, before the 60's/70's, the Auvergne region was very isolated and a lot of inhabitants only believed in religion and in those different legends about wolves, witches, monsters... just as in Scotland ! Moreover, according to me, one of the main reasons why these two regions were very based on these legends is because they both used another language : in Auvergne they spoke "patois" and in Scotland, they spoke "gaelic".



In the second part of the morning, another guide took us across the town and explained to us different parts of the history of Le Monastier. She started with the museum and explained to us that the building was an abbey as M. Rey told us and she described how people lived in there.

Actually, the monks didn't live in the building but in another, this one was only reserved for servants. After, we went to a very beautiful church, it was built during the 10th century.

But after a big earthquake, it was destroyed and today, only 4 original walls are still standing, that's why we can see a difference between certain kinds of stones. But the architecture was

respected during the reconstruction. The native speaker told us about the martyrs who built the first church, saint Théofrède, saint Andrés, Sainte Thérèse

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To my mind, the best part of the visit was the museum because I really enjoyed the sculptures and figures which illustrated all the explanations and legends. They were all designed by M. Rey and I think there were about 200 of them in there !! And I think it's also the most surprising things I've seen on Thursday.



Unfortunately, the weather was really bad and we were not in good conditions to appreciate the visit the woman gave us, and that's why I think this was the worst part. Her explanations were clear and she spoke in an intelligible way, but I just wanted to go back to the bus, I was really cold ! I also think she didn't speak enough about Robert Louis Stevenson because it was one of the goals of the visit and we haven't learnt anything about him.

