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Towns and Villages

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PARTHENAY, a town of art and history

Come and discover the medieval town of Parthenay, with its 13th century castle, its medieval houses along the winding streets of the Saint-Jacques district.... Town of art and history, its rich heritage will tell you a story through the centuries.

Long comment

Parthenay developed in the Middle Ages on a granite promontory encircled by the river Thouet. Since the twelfth century, pilgrims to Compostela have stopped in Parthenay to see its religious buildings, particularly the Maison Dieu and church of St. Jacques. Other Romanesque churches reveal relics: St. Croix and St. Peter's Church of Parthenay-le-Vieux. The main stronghold of Poitou, Parthenay still has its fortifications: the Porte Saint-Jacques, the gate of the citadel, the walls and the castle (XIII-XV centuries). The Saint-Jacques district boasts a hundred original medieval houses.

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