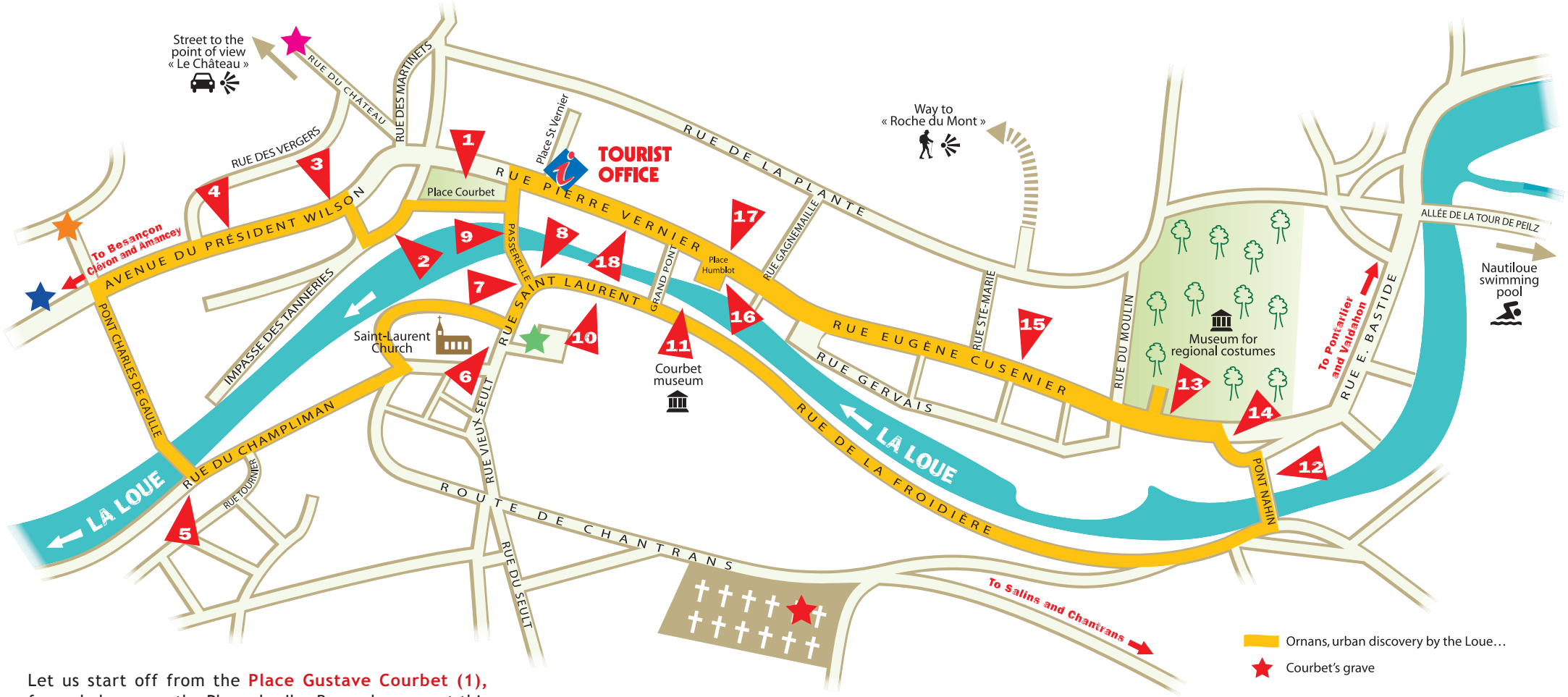

Let us start off from the **Place Gustave Courbet (1),** formerly known as the Place des Iles Basses because at this point the Loue wounds its way between the islands. The lime trees, that line it, probably date from the time of Louis XVI. The Place Courbet bears the name of the illustrious 19th century painter who had his studio in house 24 where he painted his famous *"L'Enterrement à Ornans"* (now in the Musée d'Orsay). The fountain bordering the place is decorated with a statue "Le Pêcheur de Chavots" created by Courbet and given to the town in 1862. It represents a man fishing a sculpin, little catfish living under stones, fished with a fork. This statue seems to have sparked off sharply protests because the fisherman was nude.

On the western side of the Place Courbet, **l'impasse des Tanneries (2)** refers to the tanneries set up there in the 16th century, thanks to the Mambouc stream. At the far end of the alley, be sure to enjoy the magnificent view out over the church and the Loue, as well as the flood level marked by an inhabitant on the wall of his house at number 14.

Close from here, the "Rue du Château" ★ leads to the remains of the former fortress of Ornans and to the "Rue de Charmont" taking to a group of fountains - wash houses in the "Combe Pellerin" that Courbet called "Vipers Fountain" because of the castle's washerwomen chattering (Parcours des roches - yellow / blue marks; duration: 45mn).

Let us take the alley leading back up to the avenue Wilson and halt in front of the **Hôpital Saint-Louis (3)** built in 1722, and improved and renovated, thanks to many gifts and bequests. With its main building flanked by two wings and its wrought-iron gate, it was listed as a historical monument in 1973.

The nearby **villa Bel Abri (4)** (1895) is an example of a "Belle Époque" (Edwardian) style villa. By the corner of the villa's garden, the **old station** ★ (1885) reminds us there was once a railway line along the valley.

*Close from here, let us find **the last Courbet's studio** ★ from 1860 to 1873.*

Let us now go down to the Charles De Gaulle bridge. Here we have a view over the **Miroir de la Loue (5)**, a stretch of water created by a dam downstream, in which you can see a reflection of the remarkable landscape. Courbet drew on this site for inspiration, and in 1872 he painted "Le miroir d'Ornans".

Now let us turn left into the rue du Champliman, one of the oldest quarters of Ornans dating from the 16th to the 18th century, where there is a picturesque row of houses some for storing wine and others for storing farm produce.

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Next, we take the alley round the **Saint-Laurent Church (6)**. Listed as a historical monument in 1931, this gothic parish church was built between 1546 and 1553, replacing a romanesque church destroyed around 1300 (of which nothing remains except the base of the bell-tower). Leaving the church through a fine 18th century-gateway, we reach the rue Saint-Laurent, one of the most ancient in the town. Below the church, the house 36 hosts the **Maison Nationale de l'Eau et de la Pêche** (National house for fishing and water).

Close from here, let us find ***Courbet's bust***.

House 30, **l'Hôtel Grospain (7)**, built in the 16th century, still keeps a screw staircase, crosspiece windows and an overhanging turret decorated with a grotesque called *"la pisseuse"* (pissing woman) by the Ornans inhabitants because they saw a squatting woman in it.

House 26, **l'Hôtel Sanderet de Valonne (8)**, now the city library, built in the 17th century. It is remarkable for its rounded wrought iron bars and the little man with his pointed hat at the corner.

Now, let us pause at the **footbridge (9)** (1863), the best spot to admire the corbelled houses along the Loue and to watch the trouts in the water beneath. Ornans is quite different when the Loue is in flood: on the right-hand side, the water level gauge shows just how high the water must have been in 1953 (see photographs in the Town Hall lobby).

Let us take the rue Saint-Laurent again as far as the **Hôtel Beauquier-Doney (10)** (15th century) with its magnificent octagonal tower behind an 18th century-gateway.

At the end of the street we see **the Pont-Dessous or Grand Pont.** In 1571, the spate of the Loue swept away both of Ornans's wooden bridges, the Grand Pont and the Pont de Nahin. They were rebuilt in stone in the early 17th century.

Let us carry on towards the rue de la Froidière. The **Hôtel Hébert (Courbet's birthplace) (11),** transformed into a **Museum by the Department** in 1971, exhibits more than 75 of his paintings. It now expands to 2 other town houses: la Maison Borel and l'Hôtel Champereux (16th and 17th century).

Carrying on along this street, let us admire the former mills ruins on the far bank.
Let us now go up to the **pont de Nahin (12)**, rebuilt in stone in 1607 and restored in 1775. As you go on the bridge, **the fontaine de Nahin**, an anchor-shaped fountain (early 17th century) is one of the oldest in Ornans.

On the other side you come to the **couvent de la Visitation (13)**, a former convent, now an administrative centre, where we can discover a magnificent cloister. Its chapel hosts the **Musée du Costume et des Traditions Comtoises** (Franche-Comté costumes and traditions museum).
In front of the former convent is the **statue of Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle (14)**, a famous Cardinal from a family of benefactors to the town. Four little bronze genies depicting Beaux-Arts, Literature, Sciences and Industry trim this statue.

Let us now take the rue Eugène Cusenier, in which there are several **town houses (15)** such as the **Hôtel Cusenier**, built in 1880 by the family of the same name. Eugène Cusenier founded the distillery which was later to become world famous thanks to its absinthe and continued until 1938. Next, on the left, you will see the **Hôtel Richardin** (1726), formerly a school, the **Hôtel de Chassagne** (17th century), with its little wrought-iron balconies and attic windows, and on the other side, the **Hôtel de Sagey** (18th century).

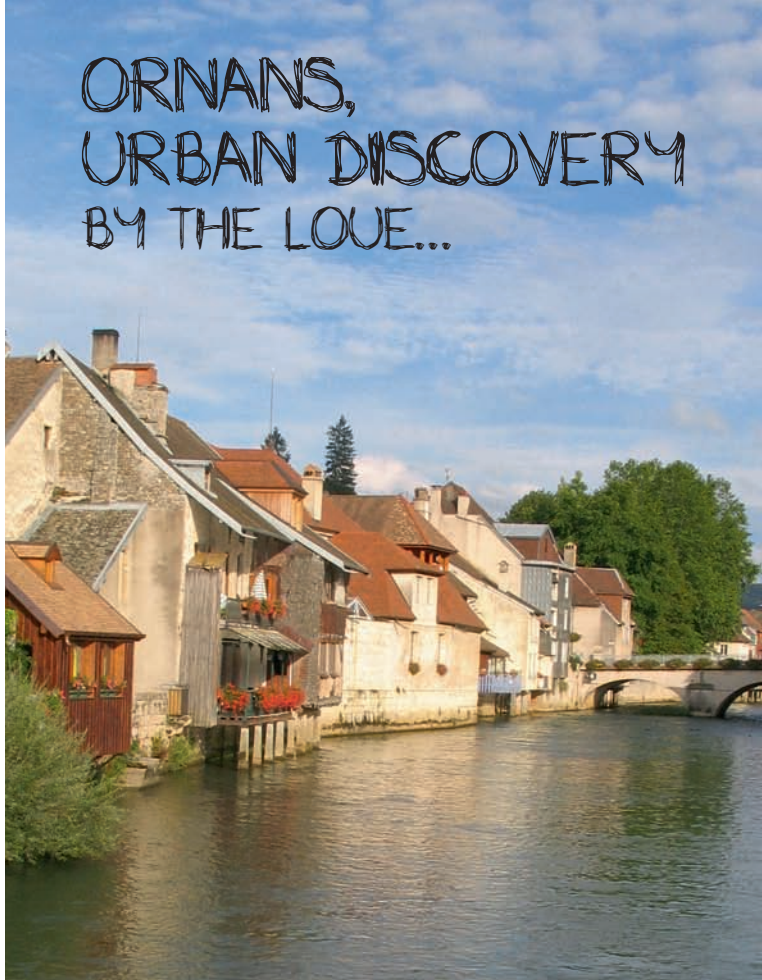
Now we come to the rue **Pierre Vernier**, named after the inventor of the Vernier scale, new quadrant instrument that has changed the angles and the scale subdivisions measurements.

The **place Robert Humblot (16)** which we now reach occupies the site of the former gardens of the Perrenot de Granvelle house. Though its present name commemorates an Ornans citizen deported in the Second World War, its old name was the Place du Monument aux Morts (War Memorial Square). The monument can still be seen under the trees.
At the corner of the square is **"La Pierre d'Asile"** (asylum stone), an important monument in our local history, symbolising a privilege that Ornans enjoyed for over 150 years: the right of asylum.

The imposing dwelling on the other side of the street house 77 belonged to the **Granvelle** family **(17)** who came here in 1391, and played an important role in Ornans history. **Nicolas Perrenot** served as Ambassador on behalf of Charles V. One of his fifteen children, **Antoine Perrenot** achieved universal renown looking after the affairs of state of Philip II, King of Spain.

Let us end our visit at the **town hall (18)**. This former bailiwick dating from 1740 originally had a covered market, a prison and courthouse, and since 1825 serving as town hall.

ORNANS, URBAN DISCOVERY BY THE LOUE...



In the valley, the Loue is part of the heritage of Ornans and the everyday life of its inhabitants. Follow this path to discover this marvellous river and the hidden sights of the little town it goes through, Courbet's (1819 - 1877) home town.

Tour lasts one and a half to two hours, museum visits not included

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Ornans
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Pays de Courbet