



Jean Brook - Malestroit guide and greeter 2

Rob: Jean's brought us to the centre of the town here. Where are we now Jean?

Jean: We're in La Place de Bouffey which is the heart of the town, really.

Rob: I mis-pronounced the name of the town earlier on. I've called it 'Malestrois'. It's called 'Maletoit'. What's the origin of the name?

Jean: If you go back to its origins, the town is actually a thousand years old and if you go back to its origins, it was called 'Maitrech' which means 'the passage of the Prince.' So it was the passage of the Lord on the, on the river Oust.

Rob: We're in the main square here. What do you see around us?

Jean: The main Square is, is the heart of the city, if you like and behind me we have the church of St Gilles which dates back to the 11th century - a very, very beautiful church. We're very proud of that. About four or five years ago, during renovation of the interior of the church we discovered some frescos that we had no idea were there. So we unearthed the frescos and there was great excitement in Malestroit when those were discovered and ahead of me you've got several buildings dating to the 17th century - 16th and 17th century. You've got the Marie which was built in between the two world wars. Opposite me there is a street called 'La Rue aux Anglais' which was named because of the British mercenaries who came here during the 17th century. We also have the oldest building in Malestroit which is called 'La Maison de la Truie qui File' and it has gargoyles and you might recognise the mirror the.... sorry a miller there; you might recognise the sow? who is spinning; you might find a man who is beating his wife. So very interesting! We also have another building called 'La Maison du Pelican' and apparently in medieval times then the pelican had a religious significance because I'm told the story goes that if a mother pelican can't feed her young, then she will tear open her breast and feed her babies from her own blood. So, obviously, this has the same sort of significance as Christ giving his blood for mankind.

Rob: So we're in the central square here - a very picturesque place. What other places must one visit when one comes to Malestroit?

Jean: I think you need to go down to see the canal which is very picturesque and there are various things along the canal that are of historical importance. There were very, very many tanneries - so there are still remains of steps where the, the tanners used to come down to the canal and, and wash the animal skins. You'll see, for example, the marks under, under the bridges where the horses pulled the canal boats earlier and, of course, if you come to Malestroit then you're not very far away from Saint Marcel where there is the Resistance Museum.



Rob: The ideal would be to come to the Tourist Office here in Malestroit and ask for Jean Brook and you will show people around.

Jean: Certainly. Yes, I'd b delighted to do that.

Rob: It's been a pleasure meeting you today and thank you very much for showing us around a little bit.

Jean: It's been a pleasure. Thank you.

Rob: Thank you Jean.