

St Cécile Cathedral, Albi



St Cecilia Cathedral

Albi is the principal town of the Tarn department, in the Midi Pyrenées region of South West France. It is the birthplace of the artist Toulouse Lautrec and there is a museum dedicated to his work in the former Bishop's palace. Albi is a mixture of medieval streets and modern buildings. In medieval times Albi offered refuge to the Cathars, a persecuted religious sect and the Albigensian Crusade which was waged against the Cathars took its name from Albi.

The cathedral is situated near the river Tarn and was built between 1252 and 1393. The cathedral is dedicated to St Cécile or St Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians. It is a remarkable building. The cathedral is fairly austere on the outside, built with millions of red bricks. (In earlier days Albi was renowned for its brick production although much of

its later wealth came from textile.)

At the entrance to the cathedral porch sculpted in the 16th century.

However on entering the cathedral surprise. The austere exterior hides with brightly coloured and gilded Louis II commissioned artists from interior surface of the building.

Climbing to the top of the ancient and steep stone staircase Cathedral Treasure. Here ancient and 16th centuries, shrines from the and relics from the 17th and 18th

There is also a box of St Cecilia's from Rome by Cardinal Jean Bishop of Albi, in 1466. This box contains the radial bone of the saint's left arm, a fragment of jaw and the remains of some clothes. Photography is not allowed inside the cathedral so you just have to imagine the colourful interior and the slightly gruesome relics.



Part of the porch

there is an amazing

the visitor is in for a real a sumptuous interior walls and ceilings. King Italy to paint the entire

Cathedral up an you arrive at the statues from the 13th 13th and 14th centuries centuries can be found.

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CHRISTEEN GEORGE