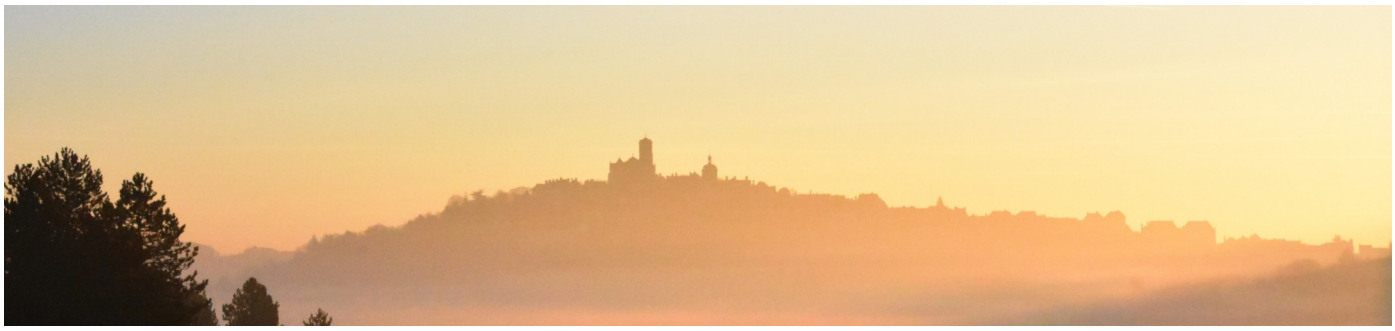


The transformative power of symbols
Two day seminar in Vezelay, Burgundy

The symbols inscribed in stone by the sculptors of the Basilica of Vézelay in the 12th century are strikingly topical, reflecting life's unchanging landmarks in the shifting sands of contemporary society.

Contextualised within the Judeo-Christian experience, myths, biblical stories and those borrowed from the Golden Legend are the very material of some 120 finely carved capitals.

The age-old wisdom of our civilisations is carved into the stone. The many pitfalls of human nature are depicted with astonishing clarity just as the innate grandeur of the human being that is subtly revealed.



These Romanesque capitals show us the ability of each of us to cultivate the divine within ourselves, to grow in wisdom and, in so doing, to help develop the full potential of humanity as a whole.

For the attentive observer, they can become precious indicators for growing in conscience, freedom and personal responsibility in the face of life's challenges.

A symbol is a universal key that opens the door to our inner world. It marks out our path through life as a succession of markers along a path. Symbols awaken us to contemplation, inviting us to rediscover the source of life within us and to trust our intuitions. They leave us free to embrace their transformative power.

From time immemorial, artists have created symbols to express their vision and their relationship with others and the world. The symbols in the Basilica of Vézelay, sculpted by unknown artists 900 years ago, still speak to us today, whispering timeless messages to the ears of our hearts in search of meaning.

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This two-day seminar is designed for those wishing to discover or deepen their understanding of the symbolic significance of the capitals in the Basilica of Vézelay. Half a dozen capitals will be observed and deciphered. Space will be given for individual interpretation. Led by Hélène Ramin and Christopher Kelly, heritage guides from the Maison du Visiteur, the seminar will take place in 1 h 30 to 2 h.sessions.



Seminar program

1st day

9 h 30	Rendez-vous at the Maison du Visiteur
9 h 30 – 10 h	Welcome for participants and presentation of the seminar programme
10 h – 12 h	« The art of seeing » Sharpen your eye by drawing in the basilica. See here for more details.
Lunch break	*On one's own*
13 h 45 – 14 h 15	A brief introduction to Romanesque symbolism
14 h 15 – 15 h 45	Study of four capitals in the basilica
15 h 45 – 16 h	Short break
16 h – 17 h 30	Back at the Maison du Visiteur, study of the reference texts for the capitals, projection of details on a large screen and interpretation.
17 h 30	Closure of Day 1

Day 2

9 h – 10 h	Study of two capitals in the basilica
10 h – 11 h	Back at the Maison du Visiteur, study of the reference texts for the capitals, projection of details on a large screen and interpretation.
11 h – 12 h 30	Time for silence, personal reflection, meditation, religious service for those who wish to attend
12 h 30 – 14 h	*Lunch together at the Maison du Visiteur*
14 h – 14 h 30	Personal writing time
14 h 30 –15 h 30	Each participant's resonances and conclusions
15 h 30	Closure of the seminar

Practical information

Venue

The Maison du Visiteur – Place Guillon, Vézelay (F)

Dates in 2025

24 – 25 May (in French)

18 – 19 jJuly (in English)

27 – 28 September (in English)

Tariff

Seminar

Normal :120 €

Members of the association Présence à Vézelay : 110 €

Reduced : 100 €

Support : 150 € / 200 €

Sunday lunch

20 €

Reservations via internet

https://vezelay-visiteur.com/en/symboles-sculpture-vezelay/

Or Payment via bank transfer to the Maison du Visiteur

IBAN FR13 2004 1010 0407 8714 8J02 583 Bic PSSTFRPPDIJ

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