

DISTRICTS STORY

Discover the history of the city of Sierre.

SIERRE, A HISTORY OF DISTRICTS...

Most towns develop through organic growth, starting from an initial nucleus. **Sierre** has a totally original character, because of the history of its districts, which still retain a degree of independence.

The history of **Sierre**, like that of most towns and large villages in **Valais**, still bears the imprint of different civilisations: Ligurian, Celtic, and then Roman.

In the Middle Ages, the history of **Sierre** largely consisted of events determined or endured by kings, princes and lords. It was, above all, the place of hills, a bastion of the feudal system, a true fortified town with its manor houses and fortified houses keeping watch over the plain. The "**Etat du Valais**" was born in 999, when the last king of Burgundy, Rudolph III, conferred comital rights on the bishop of **Sion**, who thus became a temporal prince. Patriots from the **Haut-Valais** later struggled against the bishop in order to obtain more political rights. It was during these troubled times, in the 13th and 14th centuries, that several of the hilltop châteaux of **Sierre** were destroyed; only the Tour de **Goubing** has survived.

Initially the creation of aristocrats and winegrowers, **Sierre** was increasingly based on industry and services from 1900 onwards. However, the diversity that produced the town and enabled it to grow is still a fundamental part of its fabric and its spirit.

Discover more about this diversity by **downloading** the full document and/or exploring the town via a **guided walk** (available on request from the tourist office).