

Birth of the town

<http://www.libourne-tourisme.com/en/decouvrir/histoire-de-libourne/fondation-de-la-ville.html>



In 1268, Edward I, great-grandson of Eleanor of Aquitaine and Henry Plantagenet II, son of Henry III, king of England, recognized the site's outstanding situation at the confluence of the Isle and Dordogne rivers. **He decided to found a bastide (a new medieval town) and port** which would play a major economic role : to enable produce from the hinterland of the Isle and Dordogne valleys to be taken on board sea-going ships.

One year later, on becoming King of England, he ordered his lieutenant Roger de Leyburn to begin construction.

In 1270, the bastide-cum-port was born and as custom required at the time, the town was named after its founder : Leyburnia, which over the course of the centuries changed to **Liburnia** and then Libourne. Edward I's idea ensured the town's prosperity.

In the 13th and 14th centuries, a number of incidents led to the town being fortified. Libourne's inhabitants built substantial walls, surrounded by a double moat.

