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Brittany



Navigation Guide

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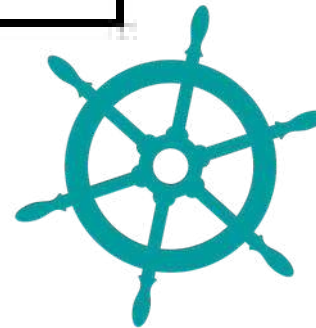


Ahoy, Captains!
Create your own route...



Canal de Nantes to Brest

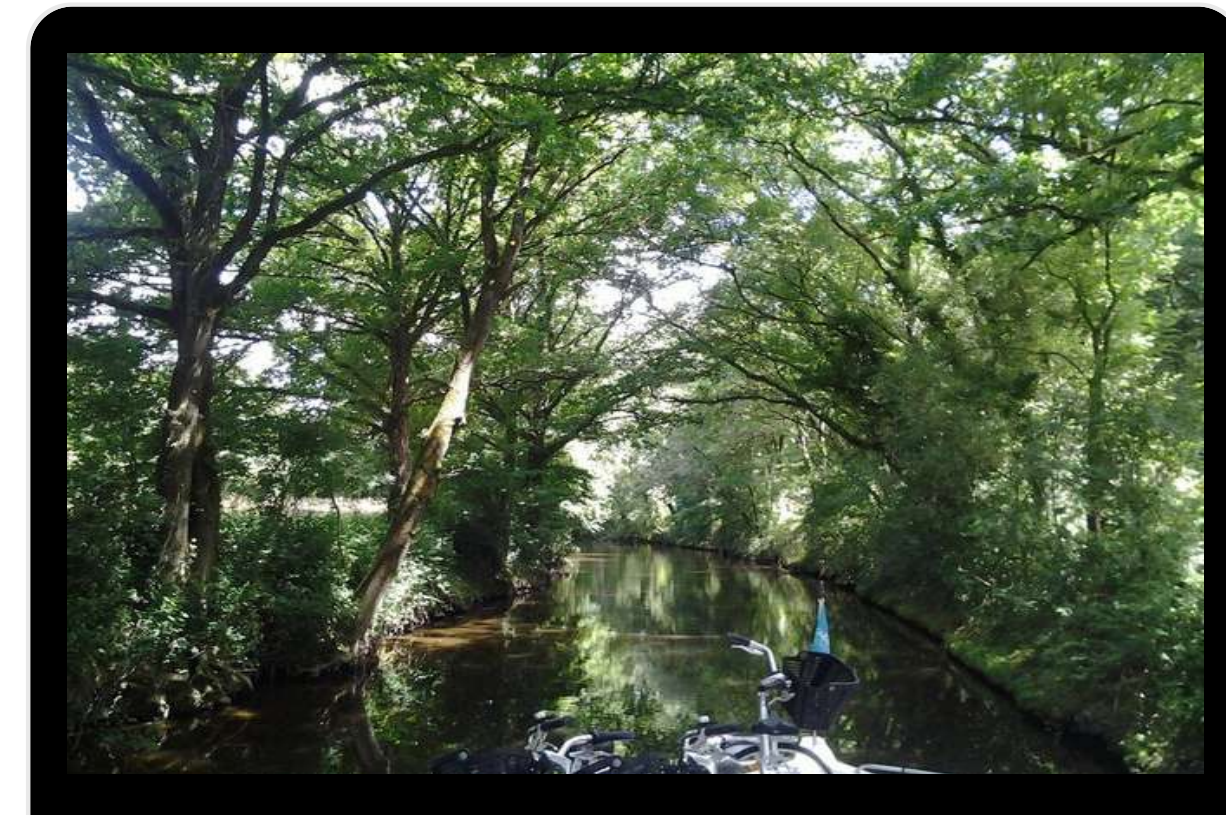
Town	Navigation time	Number of locks
Canal de Nantes à Brest (West)		
Saint Martin sur Oust		
Malestroit	2h35	3
Le Roc St André	1h40	3
Montertelot	0h35	1
Josselin	3h20	6
Rohan	6h25	15
Pontivy	14h10	55



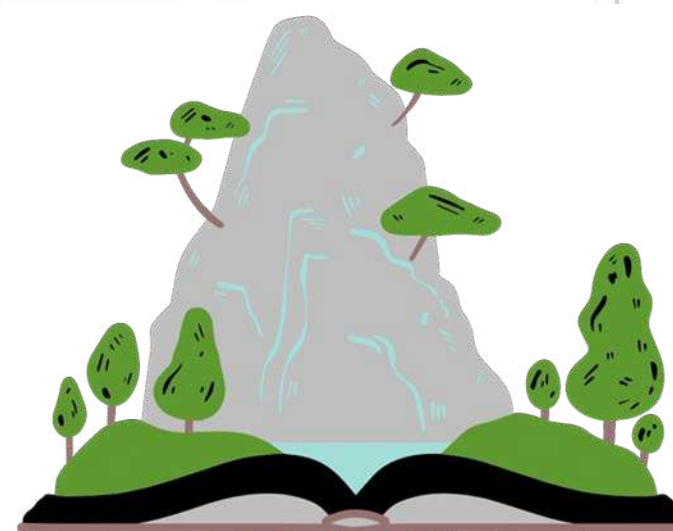
Town	Navigation time	Number of locks
Canal de Nantes à Brest (East)		
Saint Martin sur Oust		
Ile aux Pies	2h	2
Redon	1h35	1
Guenrouët	3h10	1
Blain	4h	5
La Chevallerais	1h35	3
Quiheix (jonction)	3h20	6



Detour on the Affriver



Town	Navigation time	Number of locks
Aff (river)		
Saint Martin sur Oust		
Ile aux Pies	2h	2
La Gacilly	1h10	/



Canal de Nantes to Brest & Erdre River



Town	Navigation time	Number of locks
Canal de Nantes à Brest (East)		
Saint Martin sur Oust		
Ile aux Pies	2h	2
Redon	1h35	1
Guenrouët	3h10	1
Blain	4h	5
La Chevallerais	1h35	3
Quiheix (jonction)	3h20	6
L'Erdre (river)		
Sucé sur Erdre	1h	/
Nantes	1h55	/

Canal de Nantes to Brest & Vilaine River

Town	Navigation time	Number of locks
Canal de Nantes à Brest (East)		
Saint Martin sur Oust		
Ile aux Pies	2h	2
Redon	1h35	1
Vilaine		
Beslé-sur-Vilaine	2h30	/
Ste-Anne-sur-Vilaine	45min	/
Guipry	2h30	1
Messac	15min	1
Pléchâtel	2h	1
Bourg-des-Comptes	1h10	2
Pont-Réan	2h	2
Rennes	3h10	3



Canal de Nantes to Brest & Canal du Blavet

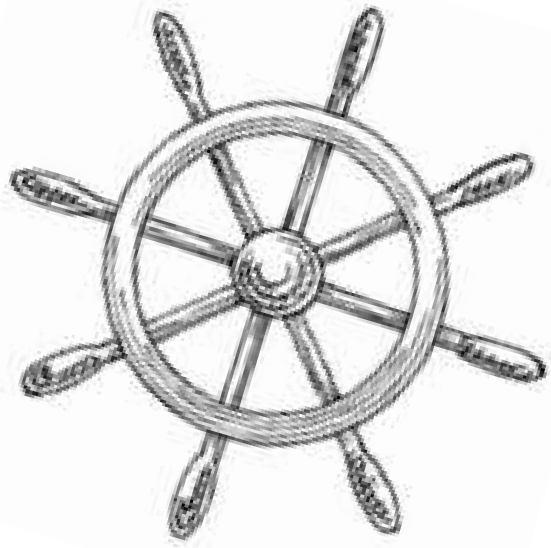


Town	Navigation time	Number of locks
Canal de Nantes à Brest (West)		
Saint Martin sur Oust		
Malestroit	2h35	3
Le Roc St André	1h40	3
Montertelot	0h35	1
Josselin	3h20	6
Rohan	6h25	15
Pontivy	14h10	55
Canal du Blavet		
Saint Nicolas des Eaux	5h	8

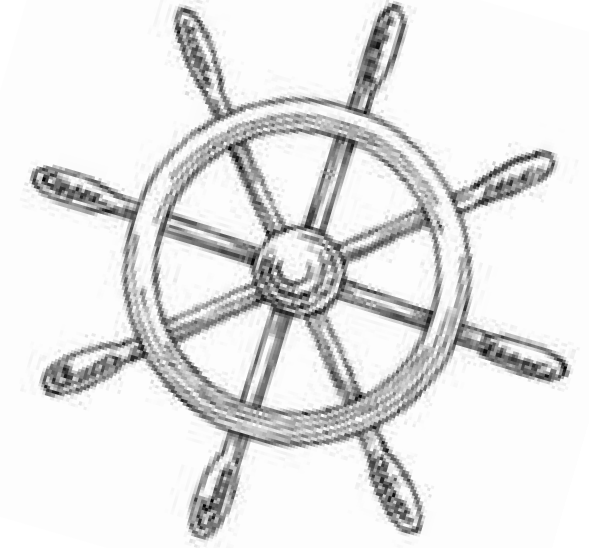
Canal de Nantes to Brest, Canal du Blavet & Canal d'Ille et Rance

Town	Navigation time	Number of locks
Canal de Nantes à Brest (East)		
Saint Martin sur Oust		
Ile aux Pies	2h	2
Redon	1h35	1
Vilaine		
Beslé-sur-Vilaine	2h30	/
Ste-Anne-sur-Vilaine	45min	/
Guipry	2h30	1
Messac	15min	1
Pléchâtel	2h	1
Bourg-des-Comptes	1h10	2
Pont-Réan	2h	2
Rennes	3h10	3
Canal d'Ille et Rance		
Betton	1H45	5
Melesse	1h	6
Montreuil-sur-Ille	1h20	3
Tinténiac	5h45	18
St-Domineuc	2h20	5
Lehon	4h	8
Dinan	30	1

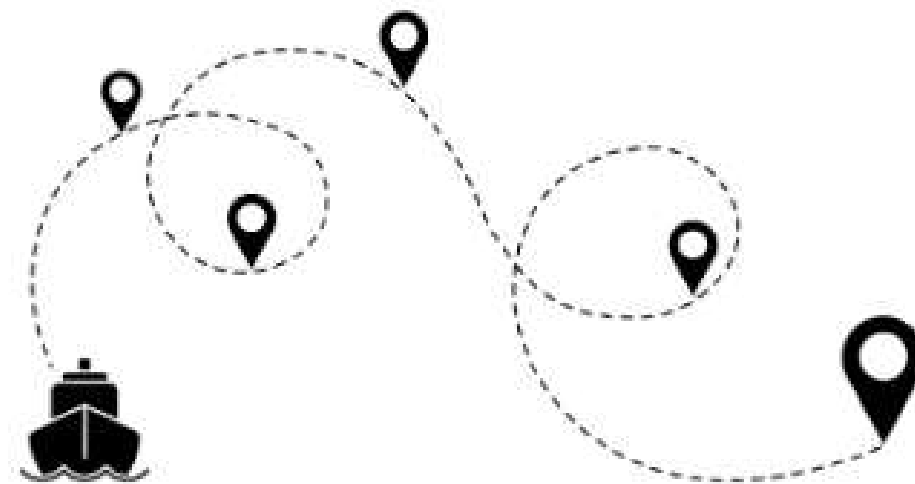




Suggested day-by-day routes from St Martin sur Oust



Departure base	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Arrival base
St Martin sur Oust	La Gacilly	St Martin	Montertelot	Josselin	Le Roc St Andre	St Martin sur Oust
St Martin sur Oust	Redon	Port de Roche	Bourg des Comptes	Pont Réan	Messac	St Martin sur Oust



Information about the Locks

The Vilainelocks, the Illeet Rance Canal (between Dinan and La Roche-Bernard) and the Nantes-Brest Canal Lock (between Redon and Pontivy) are manual and are operated by a permanent or touring lock keeper.

The locks of the Nantes-Brest Canal between Redon and the Erdre river are manual and are operated either by a lock keeper or by boaters.

There is no lock on the Erdre River.

If the lock keeper is not present, put a crew member ashore before the lock to operate the lock gates and sluices.

For more information, please see the navigation guide

Do not hesitate to consult our tutorial at the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=86u8vRiGjkE



	CANAL D'ILLE ET RANCE, VILAINE, BLAVET	CANAL DE NANTES À BREST: REDON -> PONTIVY	CANAL DE NANTES À BREST: NORT-SUR-ERDRE -> REDON*
April to mid-June	9h - 12h30 & 13h30 - 18h45		
Mid-June to mid-September	9h - 12h30 & 13h30 - 19h15		9h30 - 12h30 & 14h - 18h45
Mid-September to mid-October	9h - 12h30 & 13h30 - 18h45		
Mid-October to end of October	9h - 12h30 & 13h30 - 18h		

*Do not take the La Diguelock at Redon but cross the Bellionlock, further south. At the Quiheixlock and the Bellionlock, explanations on how the locks operate will be given to you by the lock keepers (as well as a video and an explanatory brochure).

Quick History Points:

The 9-arched bridge at Pont-Réan:

The current stone bridge dates from 1767, replacing a once medieval stone and wood bridge that had become too small. It was built by the province of Brittany. It has been listed as a historical monument since October 28, 1942.

To find out about this bridge, flash the code



La Vilaine, meaning “the villain”-what a funny name!

A popular belief attributes magical virtues to the waters of the Vilaine. It goes back to the first centuries of the Christian era. Because women of the town of Rennes were so renowned for their beauty that less appealing young women would come to take

"Vilainebaths" to draw from its beneficial effects.

More legends to find by flashing the code!



Discovering the Canal de Nantes to Brest (heading West).

Saint Martin sur Oust

Nestled in the heart of "La Vallée de l'Oust", a large natural site a few steps from the ocean, Saint-Martin-sur-Oust shares with you the harmony and tranquility of this beautiful valley, conducive to both entertainment and relaxation.

Discover the richness and beauty of the land with its religious or traditional heritage, deserving of a detour, and the warmth of the inhabitants to better appreciate them. While strolling on the many hiking trails, you discover the wonders of nature.



Malestroit

Nicknamed 'The Pearl of the Oust', Malestroit is classified as a 'Petite Cité de Caractère' (a small city of character). Its half-timbered houses with polychrome sculptures and its majestic bourgeois granite residences attest to the town's rich past. Inquire at the Tourist Office about joining a guided tour of the town. And if you stop at Malestroiton Friday, take a stroll along the "Quai Clisson" to see the creations exhibited by various artisans. Let yourself be tempted by a tasting of delicious cakes and "crêpe" pancakes, accompanied by cider on the charming Place du Bouffay. Nearby, admire the remarkable St-Gilles church and its astonishing Romanesque sculptures.

HELLO





Le Roc St André:

Initially, the town took the name of "la Chapelle du Rotz" (Rotz Chapel), then it was called "Saint André du Roc" then "Pont du Roc", and today it is known as "Roc Saint André". The place is certainly not trivial nor the setting that embellishes it ... Halfway between Rennes and Vannes, next to Josselin, Ploermel, the town extends over 993 hectares of greenery where the pleasure of living is punctuated by the gentle passage of the canal from Nantes to Brest. The Roxédois (876 inhabitants according to the last census) will always be delighted to welcome you during your stopover... where they present the rich heritage of the town such as the Saint André Church with its high Cornish bell tower, or they offer you a break on the bridge where the troops of the Duke of Aiguillon were proudly advancing on this 18th century Breton province.



Montertelot :

A peaceful and charming village, Montertelot is located near the Nantes-Brest canal, offering a real postcard landscape and a place which must be visited. Tourism enthusiasts will find their interests peaked! Montertelot was established as a town in 1790. It boasts a rich heritage: the woods of Saint-Méen, the landmark cemetery cross (1886), Cross of roads (schist), The cross of Marie Bono (19th century), The Monumental cross (17th century), ...



Josselin :

The history of this town is closely linked to that of its castle, which overlooks the river Oust. The Château des Ducs de Rohan castle is a remarkable testimony to feudal and Renaissance architecture. Visit and admire a monumental fireplace in the large living room, as well as a library that boasts a collection of over 3,000 books. You can also discover the Doll Museum in the adjoining buildings, with around 600 dolls and other toys on display from all over the world. The formal garden with its elegant rose garden will delight your visit. In the heart of the town, the Notre-Dame du Roncier basilica is a fine example of late flamboyant Gothic-style architecture. Climb 138 steps to the top of its bell tower for a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside. Stroll through the streets below to admire picturesque half-timbered houses which remain very well preserved, or stroll in the neighboring gardens of “Bois d'Amour”



Rohan :

Roc'han, "small rock in Breton", has always been very coveted. At the beginning of the 11th century, Alain de Rohan settled on the course of the Oust to install a fortress under the Viscount of Porhoët at the Rohan border post, from whom he took the name.

From this rich historical past linked to the Rohan family, the remains of the castle have survived, as well as the Chapel of Notre Dame de Bonne Encontre. Looking towards the future, Rohan, the capital of the canton, now has many facilities and services for its 1,570 inhabitants (schools, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, shops, health services, housing, banks, etc.) and facilities for procedures (post office, public treasury, gendarmerie, etc.).



Pontivy :

A former castle town, Pontivy once extended over a few hectares on either side of the Blavet. Curiously enough, its territory then extended for about five kilometers towards the south, on the left bank of the Blavet. On the edge of the Blavet, the Hôpital Gate, located in the extension of a bridge which has now disappeared, still indicates the entrance to the old district of Tréleau, formerly a district of mills and tanneries. In 1805, Pontivy grew at the expense of the municipalities of Stival, Neulliac and Noyal-Pontivy, before losing in turn part of its territory to the communes of Sournand and Saint-Thuriau, in 1869 and 1872.

Discovering the Canal de Nantes to Brest heading East

Ile aux Pies

In the direction of La Gacilly, the Oust river winds majestically between the granite cliffs, creating somreal natural paradises, such as Ile-aux-Pies. This place is a delight for adventurers, with its climbing peaks, hiking trails, suspended bridges and its zip line. Children young and old can try their hand at archery, tree climbing, fishing, and more.



Saint Martin sur Oust

Nestled in the heart of "La Valléede l'Oust", a large natural site a few steps from the ocean, Saint-Martin-sur-Oust shares with you the harmony and tranquility of this beautiful valley, conducive to both entertainment and relaxation.

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Redon:

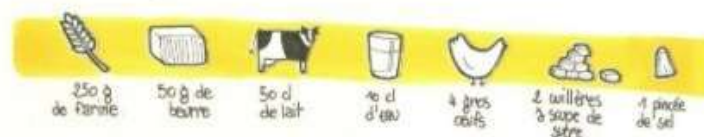
A town full of history, Redon is located at the crossroads of the Vilaine River and the Nantes-Brest Canal. This seaport has known times of glory, as evidenced by the charming shipowners' homes on the Duguay-Trouin Wharf. It is now an eyeful delight for boaters and rowers. Visit the Musée de la Batellerie de l'Ouest museum, which traces the epics of the Canals of Brittany and the life of the sailors.

The main attraction of Redon is its St-Sauveur Abbey, built in the 9th century. Do not miss a visit to this prestigious monument which combines Romanesque and Gothic architecture and invites you for a stroll in its pretty gardens.

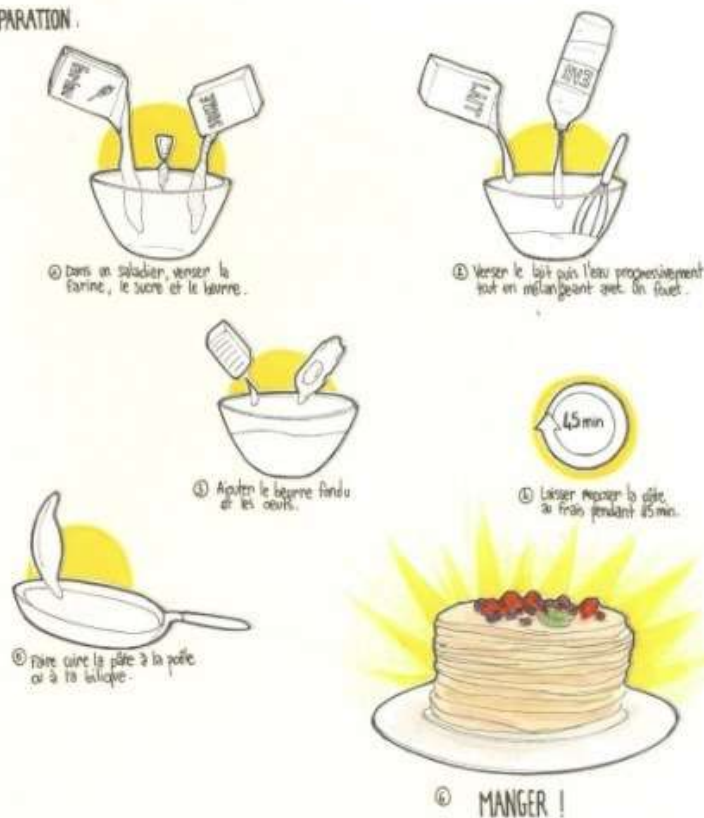


CRÊPES BRETONNES

INGREDIENTS :



PREPARATION :



Guenrouët :

The Guenrouët stop is the ideal place for a bucolic break and a moment of relaxation with the family. The St-Clair leisure center offers a multitude of activities along with a breathtaking view of the canal: mini-golf, fishing, pedal boat rental, canoeing and tennis courts. Take advantage of its outdoor swimming pool open in July-August equipped with a hot tub, slide and a green beach. Check with the Tourist Office which organizes gourmet "crêpe hikes" in fine weather.



Blain :

The Nantes-Brest Canal offers postcard worthy landscapes, crisscrossing through authentic nature and charming medieval towns. The castle of Blain, dating from the 12th century, is certainly one of the most important fortresses in Brittany. Its Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions houses the largest collection of beans in the world. The Gâvreforest is a paradise for walkers, cyclists and horseback riders, and lovers of mushrooms and chestnuts.



La Chevallerais:

Formerly, the territory was a forest which joined those of Groulais and Saffré. The construction of a chapel, known as du Voeu, the first element appearing in the archives of Saffré, dates from 1620; it would have been the result of a hunting accident whose unwitting author would have promised to dedicate to Notre Dame de Bonnes Nouvelles (Our lady of good news), if ever his victim had recovered from his injuries. These hunters came from noble backgrounds and considered themselves as knights, hence the name given to the place of their meeting: LA CHEVALLERAIIS.



Quiheix :

Quiheix lock (No. 2) connects two reaches of different levels (upstream and downstream). The lock is located in the town of Nort-sur-Erdre and is the first lock you will cross during your boat trip. Instructions from the lock keeper, as well as the provision of a video in several languages will allow you to pass the lock in complete safety. With a remarkable viewpoint over the Erdre valley, the towpath is accessible to all hikers. Find the interpretation panel "On one side the Erdre and Nantes, on the other the canal from Nantes to Redon"

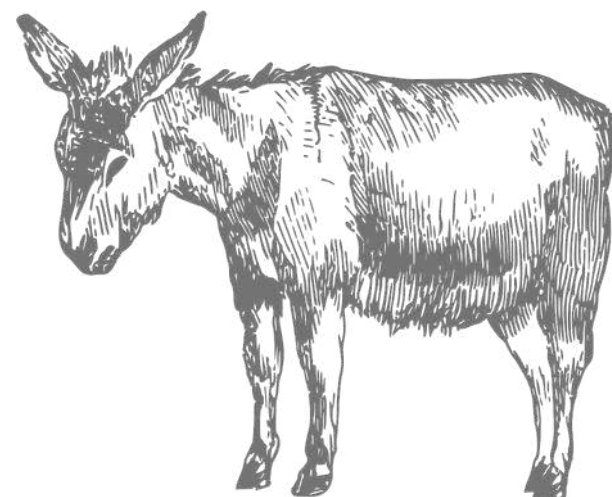


Discovering the Aff River..

La Gacilly:

With the Aff river flowing through, this charming, little, floral town invites you to discover its many craftsmen. Painters, sculptors, glassmakers, etc., work here and exhibit their creations. La Gacilly is also the headquarters of the famous perfumer, Yves Rocher. Browse the magnificent botanical garden, the bamboo grove, the arboretum, not to mention a unique collection of sagebrush. Also, don't miss the largest open-air "Peoples and Nature" photo festival in France, which takes place there from June to September.

2.7km north of La Gacilly, you can hire donkeys to explore the surroundings in an atypical way. Follow the marked trails at free will.



Discovering the ErdreRiver..

Sucé sur Edre :

Stop off in the small port of Sucé-sur-Erdre, a nice, bucolic stopover, where cafes and restaurants invite you for a drink on the terrace under the shade of chestnut trees. While sailing on the banks of the Erdre, you will discover the splendor of the old residences of wealthy Nantes shipowners.



Nantes :

Nantes is the historic capital of the Dukes of Brittany boasting the national label of “city of Art and History”. The mooring at the Ile de Versailles is the ideal starting point for strolling through the small Japanese garden. Then set off to explore the Ducs de Bretagne castle, dating from the 15th century, and its fascinating Nantes History Museum. You can picnic on the lawns of the castle moat. A short walk away is the flamboyant Gothic-style St Peter's & St Paul's Cathedral. During your stopover in Nantes, be sure to visit the Galerie des Machines on the site of the old shipyards, a delight for the whole family. You can ride and control the automatons in the shape of animals. The Bouffay district, very lively with its bars and restaurants, is the ideal meeting point for a buckwheat galette or a sweet “crêpe” pancake in the evening.





Discovering the Vilaine River

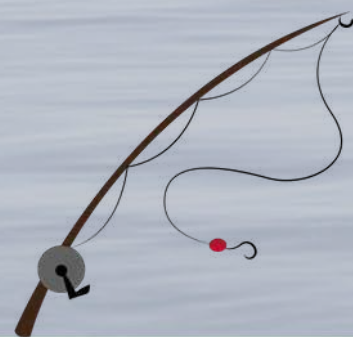


Guipry et Messac:

The associated municipalities of Guipry and Messac on the Vilaine invite you for a stop. A port is set up there, and you can do your shopping, or go to visit the Chapel of Notre Dame de Bon Port, or the mills of Guipry. If you are passionate about cars and old trades, take your bicycles (or the taxi for the less courageous!) to reach the Manoir de l'Automobile et des Vieux Métiers (Museum of cars and old trades) in Lohéac (7 km from the port).

Beslé sur Vilaine :

Located 8 km from the center of Guémené-Penfao, the commune section of Beslé-sur-Vilaine is bordered by the Vilaine. Nestled around its church, it offers several shops (mini-market, café). Beslé-sur-Vilaine is a popular place for fishermen and hikers.





Pléchâtel :

Plebs Castel in 875, Ploucastellumin 1050, Ploicastelin 1086 and finally Pléchâtel. The parish of Pléchâtel, whose prefix plé(plou) indicates Breton origins, takes its name from a castellum(castle) which was probably in the current village of Châtellier, located on the heights overlooking the stream of the Semnon, former border of Redons(land of Rennes) and Nannètes(land of Nantes). This parish was part of the royal domain of Brittany in the 9th century.

Located south of the Moulin de Quénouardmill, the Pierre-Longue menhir is a block of quartz 4m high. Before the arrival of the Gauls, menhirs played a role in the religious life of populations. They symbolized strength, immortality and certainly fertility.

Bourg des Comptes:

The lords of Boschet succeed one another. By alliances or by sales, Bourg-des-Comptes was then handed to the Brossais Saint-Marc family, who is responsible for the construction of the current church.

In the 16th century, the region was troubled by the religious wars. The Réauté manor became the site of heavy fighting. The revolution of 1789 is also present here: sworn priests, head of the legion of the national guards, and Chouan royalists, appeared on numerous occasions. In the 19th and 20th centuries, religious events animated the town, such as the inauguration of the church and the statue of Cardinal Brossais Saint-Marc, mission and blessings from Calvary, the church bells, and the Chapel of the Cross.





Pont-Réan :

Pont-Réan lies on the right bank of the Vilaine river. It owes its name to a bridge whose construction is attributed to the Romans. The current bridge dates from 1767, when the Rennes-Redon axis was built. It is classified as a “historical monument”.

The passage of people, animals and goods was taxed there. The town therefore owed part of its economic development to this taxation right which obliged travelers to stop over. The wines of all vintages were the subject of a great commercial exchange, they were transported either by the Vilaine waterway or by the roads from Rennes to Nantes.

The name "Réan" would come from réance (ransom) about the toll or from the derivative "ran", meaning “frog” in Celtic. If you like birds, feel free to spend the afternoon at the “Parc Ornithologique de Bretagne” to admire its 250 species of birds that live in a semi-free environment in a magnificent botanical park (at 4 km north of Pont-Réan).





Rennes :

Capital of Brittany, this nationally labeled “City of Art and History” will charm you with the intimate character of its streets and squares lined with colorful half-timbered houses.

To visit Rennes is to go back in time and dive into a world of stories, through monuments, people and decisive moments. From the Parliament, the great fire of 1720, the Odoricomosaics, the half-timbered houses or the bloody journey of the serial killer Hélène Jegado, they will unravel all their secrets to you. A different vision of heritage and of Brittany, legends and stories to tell, you’ll have plenty of memories and souvenirs to share during or after your holidays. Renne’s two royal squares and the Town Hall date from the 17th century. The Parliament of Brittany is worth visiting, a building nicely illuminated on summer evenings.

With its many fountains, sculptures and wooded parks, the town seduces you to stroll.

Thabor Park is a perfect example of pastoral charm which is shown through a whole range of plant species. Randomly along the streets, you’ll be intrigued by the intimacy of an interior courtyard under the gaze of a sculpted mask (mascaron) above the doorways.

Rennes invites you for a daydream!



Discovering the Canal d'Illeand Rance



Betton:

Betton is located 7km north of Rennes, near the Rennes-Saint-Malo axis and on the Mont-Saint-Michel tourist route. Betton is in a strategic position: 10 minutes from Rennes, 45 minutes from Saint-Malo, 1 hour from Mont-Saint-Michel and 1h30 from Paris by TGV.



Melesse :

Old and ancient buildings are visible in Melesse, some dating from the 16th and 17th centuries. They are built of stone on the ground floor and timber on the first floor, reminding of the influence of architecture of a village in the countryside. Other buildings, sometimes as ancient, built from earth according to a building technique of successive levels called “bauge” and “parsèmentle bocage”. Beautiful barns bear witness to this traditional technique: that of Breil-a rare model in the department, that of Croix Poulin-a remarkable element of the municipal heritage, and that of the old presbytery.



Montreuil sur Ille:

Its reasonably sloping countryside has preserved a lot of greenery with the Ille-et-Rance Canal, hiking trails and mountain bike trails giving it extra special charm.

Its inhabitants, the Montreuillaises and the Montreuillais, are spread over a territory of approximately 1500 hectares. The town is crossed from north to south by the railway line which connects St-Maloto Rennes. It is also crossed by the canal d 'Ille-et-Rance which connects the Ranceto to the Vilainerivers allowing the river junction of the Channel to the ocean.

Likewise, the many shops and artisans make life pleasant for the inhabitants by offering them many quality services.

Tinteniac :

Not far from Hédé, the small town of Tinténiac invites visitors to discover the Museum of Tools and Ancient Trades (open from July to September). In front of the museum are picnic tables, ideal for lunch while the children play in the playground. Visit the magnificent Ste- Trinité church and admire the many picturesque houses in town.



St-Domineuc :

Saint-Domineuc takes its name from “Lan-Donnec” or “Domnec”, a Breton monk. Since ancient times, the site of Saint-Domineuc has been occupied: the discovery of Gallic medals locked in a black earthen vase, as well as Celtic axes of stone and bronze excavated, bear witness to the fact. A primitive fording was discovered during the layout of the Rennes-Saint-Malo expressway. In the first half of the sixth century, a small monastery was created by a Breton monk, who arrived from Great Britain. This religious building is at the origin of the modern commune.



Léhon :

Léhon is located in the picturesque valley of the Rance river. This nationally labeled "Small City of Character" preserves a rich historical and religious heritage, the remains of which evoke the importance of this village in medieval times. The main street leads from the small bridge, spanning the river to the ruined castle on the hill, and passing by the 9th century Benedictine abbey. It was built by six Welsh monks who were enchanted by the beauty of the area. Stroll through its gardens and admire its magnificent stained glass window. A heated outdoor swimming pool is open all year round, offering a remarkable view of the abbey.



Dinan :

Dinan is a fortified town perched on a rocky promontory, and surrounded by 2684 meters of ramparts. The town is home to the Chateau de la Duchesse Anne and its museum, as well as the Clock Tower, purchased by the inhabitants of Dinan in 1498. Climb the 158 steps to the top for a breathtaking view of the town and the surrounding area. The imposing viaduct and the famous rue Jerzual with its magnificent half-timbered houses lead you to the lower town and the port, where a relaxing break on the terraces of cafes and restaurants awaits you.

Dinan has a rich and exceptional architectural heritage, and has attracted artists and designers from all backgrounds for well over a century. Between historical monuments, galleries and art studios, the historic heart of Dinan is a perfect illustration of the town's cultural richness. Arts and crafts occupy an important place here thanks to not-to-be-missed events such as the European Arts and Crafts Days, the International

Festival of Fashion Designers, or even "l'Artestdansla ville". Today, nearly 60 Artists and creators work their arts in Dinan. Nestled behind the ramparts, their workshops line the streets of the historic center and cluster along the rue du Jerzual and the rue du Petit Fort, as far as the Port



Discovering the Canal du Blavet

The pretty river of Blavet winds its way south to flow into the harbor of Lorient. The navigable part of the Blavet begins in Pontivy. The town of Pontivy is well worth a stop for a day! On the program: the imposing medieval Rohan castle, the corbelled, half-timbered houses of the old town which contrast with the rigor of Napoleonic buildings, and further on, a myriad of small chapels to discover.

Saint Nicolas des Eaux:

Saint-Nicolas des Eaux is part of the municipality of Pluméliau. Pluméliau was once a parish dating back to the 6th century at the time of Saint Méliau including the present commune of Pluméliau with its Trève de Saint-Nicolas-des-Eaux, Remungol, Moustoir-Remungol, it was attached to the deanery of Porhoët. From Erdreto Alder, the canal measures 364 km, but only 20% of its length (or about 73 km) is artificial. Eight rivers are channeled to nourish it, or readapted to make them navigable, becoming the ramifications of a rather surprising navigable network in Breton.



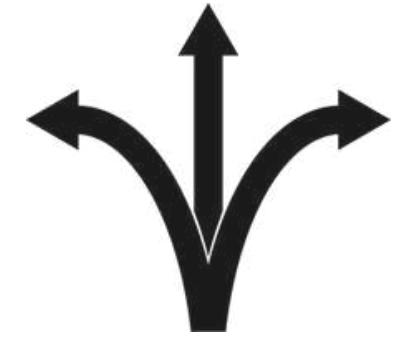
A little further along the canal :

Poul-Fetanis a Breton village like no other. At the edge of the shaded valley of Blavet, this village of thatched cottages lives to the rhythm of the 19th century. With family or friends, you can participate in the activities of their daily life!

InzinzacLochrist-Relive the saga of the Forges d'Hennebont, which for a century supplied Breton canneries with printed tin.

Our base

Saint Martin sur Oust



Locaboat Holidays

28 rue du Golfe

ST MARTIN SUR OUST, FR 56200

✉ saint-martin-sur-oust@locaboat.com

Tel: + 33 (0) 2 99 72 15 80

GPS:N 47°44'44.93 –O 02°15'43.714

Access to base :

- From the North : E50 (A81+N157+N136), in Rennes take D177 in the direction of Saint Nazaire/Redon then D777 in the direction of la Gacilly then D777 towards St Martin sur Oust.
- From the South : From Redon, D764 then D14 then D149 then D777.
- TGV Redon Train Station(20 km)
- Rennes-Saint-Jacques Airport(63 km)
- Nantes-Atlantique Airport(110 km)