

# EXCURSIONS BRETAGNE

Transports  
**DROUIN FRÈRES**

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TO OUR GUESTS

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The Transports DROUIN Frères present this booklet to their English speaking clientele.

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Wherever seated, the passenger will not be disturbed by the noise of the engine which often prevents the guide's voice reaching far enough.

The driver will call out the number of the corresponding paragraph while passing the sites described in this booklet and will do his utmost to make "your excursion" a most enjoyable one.

This plainly written "Silent Guide" will always recall details that might be otherwise forgotten. It has been printed for your personal convenience and we sincerely hope it will meet with your approval.

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(1) After gathering the passengers from the various starting points, the motor-coach starts from the Station Gare Routière DROUIN Frères. On the right, we see LA BAULE Town Hall, and we pass in front of LA BAULE Tennis Club where international tournaments take place each summer between world tennis champions.

(2) Further on, we pass a little bridge connecting LA BAULE with LE POULIGUEN. In the harbour of this interesting resort, yachts mingle with fishing smacks.

(3) We proceed now to SAILLE, a very old Breton town where Jeanne of Navarre, daughter of the King of Spain, arrived by boat to be married to Jean the Fourth of Brittany. The royal wedding was celebrated in the XIV century.

(4) Between LE POULIGUEN and SAILLE, there can be seen an unusual landscape over the salt-marshes. During the summer months, the sea-water is gradually admitted into the squares where

the sun and wind cause evaporation, and the salt that remains is expertly scraped out, left to dry and put in special warehouses.

(5) GUERANDE - The motor-coach will pass in front of the St-Michael gate which was built in the XV century. The ramparts, made of hard Breton granite, were erected in 1431, out of the eleven original towers, ten of them have remained in fairly good condition. The four gateways are located at the four cardinal points.

GUERANDE was evangelized by St-Clair, first bishop of NANTES, during the III century. This town resisted many assaults. The Vikings attacked it in 909 A.C., but the inhabitants fought back and repulsed them.

In 1382, Louis of Spain besieged the town, which after resisting to the limit, was finally taken. It is said that all its inhabitants, numbering 8.000, were slain by the invaders.

Later, Bretons and Frenchmen fought before its walls. In 1793, the Royalist forces occupied the town. They were soon chased out however by Republican forces. In 1815, once again, a division of Royalists attacked this fortified town without success.

(6) As we leave GUERANDE, we see, on the right, the Devil's windmill, an interesting sight.

We shall soon pass the villages of POMPAS and HERBIGNAC, soon to arrive at LA ROCHE-BERNARD.

(7) LA ROCHE-BERNARD is located on the highway en route from NANTES to VANNES. We cross the suspension-bridge that overlooks "La Vilaine", which in French means "The Ugly one" since its waters are always muddy and yellowish and since strong currents render navigation difficult.

After passing this bridge, we enter into real Brittany; it will take about 45 minutes to reach VANNES.

(8) The motor-coach will take the visitors around this typical Breton town, permitting them to see its ramparts, its quaint streets and its historic Cathedral.

After passing this important Breton centre, we start our trip to the QUIBERON PENINSULA via AURAY. It is to be noted that AURAY was the scene of many battles during the wars between France and Brittany.

(9) AURAY is a typical Breton town, -its past closely connected with the unsuccessful battles of Brittany for its independence against France. At this point, it is worthy of notice that the Breton language cannot be understood by Frenchmen. On the other hand, it is interesting to know that a Welshman and a French Breton can understand each other quite well, each one speaking his own language.

It is at AURAY that the Royalists, taken prisoners during the battle of QUIBERON in 1795, were tried and sentenced to death.

(IO) We continue to LOCMARIAQUER via CRACH. We see, the dolmen of "MANE LUD" (i.e, hill of ashes). Its table like top is flush with the ground. Inside, curious carvings can be seen. We then follow a path leading to the biggest megalith monument in the world.

(II) It is : "MIN-ER-HROEC'H" (i.e, the "Stone of the Fairy") which was formerly 75 feet high. Unfortunately, it was split into four pieces by lightning during the XVI century; -its longest piece measures 36 feet, its whole weight is estimated at 80,000 pounds.

(I2) Close by, we see the funeral monument called the "Table of the three Merchants". Below is an imitation of prehistoric carving.

(I3) From LOCMARIAQUER, we continue to CARNAC by way of LA TRINITE-sur-MER. Its picturesque bay usually harbours numerous yachts.

(I4) CARNAC, where the most important groups of Megalith Monuments in Europe will be a sight to be remembered.

Although no one can ascertain the date, it is said that these upright stones were been set up much before Christ.

Archeologists think that it is a large cemetery where soldiers were buried after a battle. An old legend naively explains that St-Cornelius, pursued by an army of pagans, invoked the sky and changed the soldiers into stones. Consequently, this group of Menhirs, numbering more than one thousand, is known by the natives as "The soldiers of St-Cornelius".



According to a noted Breton archeologist, it appears that these alignments have astronomical meanings as they indicate sunrise at the solstices and equinoxes, thus pointing out holidays of a very old religion worshipping the Sun. The alignments of Kermario count 983 menhirs, while the Kerlescan number 579. Quite a few menhirs can be seen elsewhere in Brittany, but not in such large groups.

(15) After this interesting stop, we go to QUIBERON via PLOUHARNEL. We soon enter the Peninsula. On the left, we see the usually calm waters of Quiberon Bay with its small islands. On the right, we have the open sea...

(16) While passing at PENTHIEVRE, you will notice that the Peninsula is no more than 300 feet wide; there is just room enough for the road and railroad track; -as we reach QUIBERON, the width of the Peninsula increases to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It is about 7 miles long.

The rugged coast is typically Breton, English and French fleets battled more than once in view of it.

In June 1795, the Republican Army with General Hoche as commander, defeated the Royalist émigrés who until then had lived in England and Germany. They made an unsuccessful attempt to get back to France to re-establish the Bourbon Kingdom. They were badly beaten, and the few hundred taken prisoners and sentenced to death.

The motor-coach usually leaves QUIBERON at 3 p.m. The visitors, consequently, will have about three hours in which to lunch and leisurely survey the points of interest.

(17) We proceed next to AURAY, then to :

(18) La Chartreuse d'Auray, a monastery rebuilt and renovated several times since the XIII century.

A beautiful mausoleum of white and black marble has been erected there in memory of the Royalist émigrés taken prisoners at QUIBERON in 1795. The remains of 952 of these victims repose there, their names carved on the marble...

(19) The "Chapelle de la Chartreuse", built in 1720, contains an imposing altar with marble columns; antiquated woodwork and paintings of the life of Christ.

(20) We shall also visit the cloister. The seventeen paintings around its galleries represent the life of St-Bruno. They are the work of the Breton artist, Lhermittais.

(21) After this visit, the passengers will be driven to the "Champ des Martyrs" where the Royalist émigrés were shot. A small expiatory chapel of Greek style has been erected at the end of the field.

(22) Not far away, on the ancient road to AURAY, a granite cross commemorates the victory of Jean de Montfort over Charles de Blois on September 29th 1364.

(23) We leave this historic site to go to St-ANNE d'AURAY, an important center of pilgrimages since the XVII century.

In 1623, St. Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary, appeared in a vision to a Breton peasant asking him to rebuild a chapel which had existed 924 years before. In 1625, this peasant, named Nicolazic, until then looked upon as a visionary lunatic, found buried in the ground an old wooden statue of St. Anne. The faithful thus believed in his vision, and the Chapel was soon erected.

Later, in 1866, the actual basilica of Renaissance style was built and finished in 1873.

The most impressive ceremonies take place on July 26th, the patron day of St. Anne. Bretons come from all over Brittany to take part in this important pilgrimage.

(24) The SCALA SANCTA is where mass is celebrated during ceremonies. The faithful go up and down the granite stairs on their knees praying ardently to St. Anne.

Here also has been erected the Memorial to the 250,000 Bretons who died for France during the World War.

The monument is a cenotaph and an altar at once. Each diocese of Brittany is represented by a small altar.

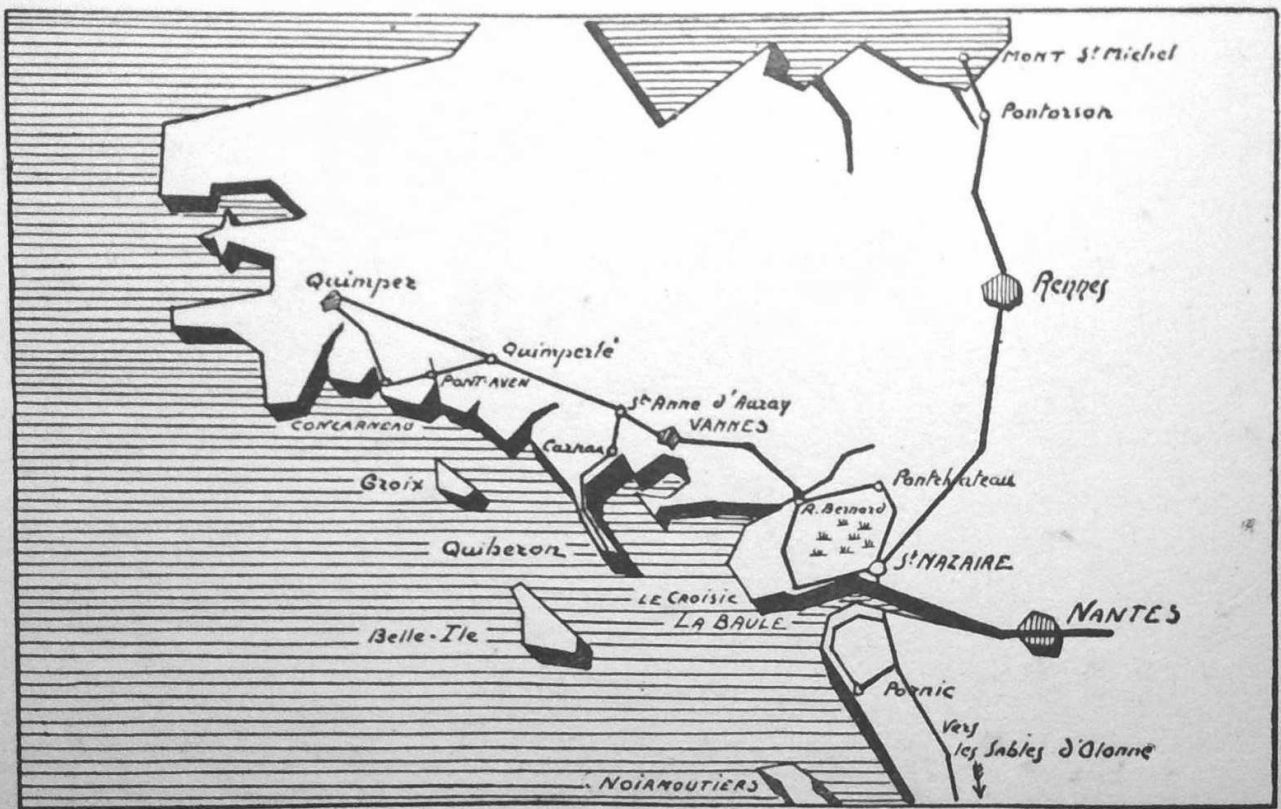
The name of each soldier and sailor is carved on the 1300 feet long wall which surrounds the Memorial.

After the visit, we return to VANNES.

We shall pass through LA ROCHE-BERNARD on our way back to LA BAULE.

We hope that this excursion has been pleasant for and informative to you.

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Transports DROUIN Frères - NANTES