

**BAIE DE MORLAIX**#PLOUGASNOU #LOCQUIREC #MONTSDARREE
#CARANTEC #MORLAIX

BRETAGNE

WALKS IN MORLAIX



Let yourself be seduced by the charm of Morlaix while exploring the many secrets stepped passageways, by two tours : the short one in bleu and the longer one in orange.

● THE HEART OF THE TOWN

about 1h30 on foot

● THE 3 HILLS

about 2h30 on foot



THE HOUSE CALLED PÉNANAULT

(From the last part of the 16th century, and early 17th century)
At number 10 Place Charles de Gaulle, there is a town house built from stone, Morlaix shale and granite from Île Callot and Île Grande. This house shows the trading wealth of the town in the late 1500s and early 1600s, which helped to develop and beautify the quay sides of Morlaix. Perhaps because this particular house was built onto a preexisting construction, it includes a tower that appears to survey the activity on the harbour, a look-out that has been incorporated into the newer building to include a staircase. The building has undergone several transformations, of which the most significant were between 1782 and 1834.

The roof structure is in the form of an upturned boat and although an urban manor it has a construction very similar to that of an aristocratic residence. The gardens extend over some 4 000m² and are terraced to accommodate the steep slope behind the house that rises above the courtyard carved into the rock. These gardens, with their favourable aspect, would once have yielded plenty of produce for the household. Morlaix council bought this house in 2010 to house the Tourist Office. •



THE VIADUCT

This majestic structure is made of granite from Ile Grande. It was built between 1861 and 1864 during construction of the railway line linking Paris and Brest. Victor Fenoux was the engineer who drew up the plans. The result is impressive: 292 m long, 58 m high, 14 upper and 9 lower arches, 11 000 cubic metres of stone.... The Rennes-Brest line was opened in 1865. •



THE ESPLANADE DU CALVAIRE

A viewpoint over the town. To get there, take the venelles aux prêtres, du Créou and Auguste Ropars, then the street Hent Coz. •



THE CHURCH OF ST-MELAINE

The priory of St-Melaine was founded between 1149 and 1157, after a donation by Guyomarc'h III, lord of Morlaix. The church was constructed at the end of the 15th century by the workshop of the Beaumanoir family. In 1879 the lantern was replaced by a spire in wood covered by zinc. The church contains some fine carved beams and statues from the 15-19th centuries, as well as an organ by the Englishman Thomas Dallam, restored in 1971. •

5 ● ● ●

HÔTEL DIT FRANÇOIS DU PARC

A magnificent residence built from granite schist in the 16th and 17th centuries and subject of a remarkable restoration from 2010 to 2011. The 17th century dwelling is described as a grand square pavilion flanked by a round turret. The main part of the house has a fully arched door framed by two fluted columns with capitals and architraves, topped by a triangular pediment. The square pavilion is in turn flanked by a turret with a granite dome. •

6 ● ● ●

RUE ANGE DE GUERNISAC

Count Ange de Guernisac gave a considerable sum of money to the town in 1878 for the building of a theatre and the creation of the Musée des Jacobins. The facades of the half-timbered houses of the 15th century have been re-covered in slate from the Monts d'Arrée. The rue Ange de Guernisac is a pedestrianised street with many artists' and artisans' outlets. •

7 ● ●

THE CARMELITE FOUNTAIN

A 15th century fountain at the foot of what was once the old church of Notre-Dame des Fontaines. The Carmelites arrived in Morlaix in the 17th century at the request of the local population, following a serious outbreak of plague. •

8 ● ● ●

THE MUSEUM OF MORLAIX

Place des Jacobins. The museum is located in part of the Convent of the Jacobins, whose church, founded in 1230, is the oldest in the town. The convent was started in the 13th century, with a rose window dating from the 15th. Confiscated at the time of the Revolution, the convent was used as a barracks, and then became the headquarters of the archaeological society of Finistère. Since 1887 it has housed the Museum of Morlaix: the first curator was Edmond Puyo, mayor of the town. •

9 ● ●

THE QUARTER OF ST-MATHIEU CHURCH OF ST-MATHIEU

In the 12th century there was already a church on this spot, dependent on the Abbey of St-Mathieu-en-Finistère. In the 15th century, the locality of St-

Mathieu grew in size and a larger church was built. This in turn was rebuilt in the 19th century. It has, however, conserved the original tower which was one of the first in Renaissance style in the region. The church contains an opening gilded wooden statue dating from the end of the 14th century. Inside is a representation of the Trinity and painted scenes from the New Testament. This statue, which comes from the region of Cologne, was ordered by the Brotherhood of the Trinity, a syndicate of weavers in Morlaix. The church also has a fine Dallam organ. •

10 ● ●

THE CHÂTEAU SQUARE

An exceptional viewpoint over the town. The medieval château was dismantled at the end of the 16th century following the Wars of the League, between the ultra-Catholic Leaguers and the royalists who supported the king, Henri IV. Continue along the rue des Vieilles Murailles and rue Edouard Corbière* to rejoin the rue du Mur. ** Édouard Corbière: Director of a company of steamboats between Le Havre and Morlaix, and novelist. He was the father of the poet, Tristan Corbière.* •

11 ● ● ●

LA PLACE ALLENDE HOUSE OF THE DUCHESS ANNE

A half-timbered house from the end of the 15th century with its gable end onto the street. The interior arrangement is characteristic of these period houses of Morlaix with a manorial main room, monumental fireplace and a staircase "à Pondalez". To continue your visit, take the Grand Rue. •

12 ● ● ●

LA GRAND'RUE

Half-timbered and corbelled houses from the 15th century. The facades are adorned with statues of saints. The houses of Grand'Rue were inhabited by very rich merchants in the linen industry. •

13 ● ● ●

THE GRAND'RUE, 14

Number 14 Grand'rue, also known as the House Pouligen, is a building constructed as part of a subdivision consisting of No. 12 and 16 from the drilling of the Main street in 1492. Listed as an additional in 1994, it

is quoted in many books discussing the history of Brittany and the renaissance period. The set of monumental Gothic art consisting of its balustrades, its office and its carved pole now belong to the Art Museum of St. Louis in the United States. •

14 ● ● ●

LA MAISON À PONDALÉZ

9, Grand'Rue.

A half-timbered house of the 16th century. Monumental granite fireplace and a turning stair with wooden walkways edging the vast central space. •

15 ● ●

LA RUE DE L'HOSPICE, THE RAMPARTS

Remains of the ramparts of the 'ville close' from the 16th century. Morlaix was then a town enclosed by walls which reinforced the natural defences created by the two rivers. The walls were dismantled in the 17th and 18th centuries. All that remains is this section in the rue de l'Hospice. Continue along the rue de Brest to reach the Theatre of the Pays de Morlaix. •

16 ● ●

THEATRE OF THE PAYS DE MORLAIX

The Count Ange de Guernisac left part of his fortune to the town of Morlaix. This made possible an order for this beautiful Italianate theatre from a company in Lyon (Diosse and Son). The construction of the theatre was completed in a year, and it was inaugurated in 1888. After several years of closure for refurbishment, this magnificent theatre reopened its doors on December 12th, 2002. Classified as an historic monument since 1998. •

17 ● ●

RUE LONGUE

In years gone by, the Rue Longue de Bourret provided the only access to Brest via Rue du Poulfanc and the Barrière de Brest. From the 16th century, merchants began to set up shops and homes along this street. Attractive Renaissance-style houses were constructed, with brightly-coloured doors and Doric columns, either smooth or fluted, and these buildings indicate the wealth of the residents of that time. The dates of the buildings were often noted on the exterior, as with the 'Maison du Temps Perdu'

at number 24, which dates from 1682. This is a beautiful building of dressed stone that was once used as the Town Hall. •

18 ● ●

LAVOIR COLLOBERT

This cool little corner dates from the 18th century and its lavoir wash-house is fed by a natural spring. Morlaix used to have a great many wash-houses where local washerwomen and housewives, in aprons and head-dresses of local style, would come from daybreak onwards with their baskets of dirty laundry, ashes, and a block of Marseille soap. As well as being a place for serious work, the washhouse was literally the fountain of all gossip, which the women enjoyed whole-heartedly! •

19 ● ●

L'ÉGLISE ST-MARTIN

The church of Saint-Martin des Champs, founded in 1128 and struck by lightning in 1771, was rebuilt from 1775 to 1788, in Doric style. Rich stained glass windows were added, as was the current tower with its domed steeple, dating from 1850. Inside, you'll find a vast nave that is largely lit by the stained glass windows that line the sides. •

20 ● ●

CHAPELLE DES ANGES, VIEW POINT

The Notre-Dame des Anges Chapel was built in 1954 as a memorial to the bombing of the Viaduct that took place on 29th January 1943, in which a nun and 32 children were killed. This rectangular building has no steeple, and was designed by M. Heuzé. The chapel was consecrated on 3rd February 1957. In the chancel is a fresco that represents the Virgin Mother surrounded by angels, some of whom are carrying small children. •

21 ● ●

PLACE DES OTAGES

Here you'll find 16th century houses. A tragic event unfolded here on 26 December 1943, just two days after an attack on the German Troop quarters in Rue du Brest. Sixty Morlaix people between 15-40 years old were rounded up and gathered here before being deported to concentration camps such as Buckenwald; otages means 'hostages'. •

22

THE BANDSTAND

The bandstand was offered to the town of Morlaix by Auguste Ropars in 1903. Many choirs, brass-bands and musical groups still appreciate the opportunity provided by this convivial arena – open to all music-lovers – to give pleasure to passers-by. •

23

MAISON TRISTAN CORBIÈRE, THE MORLAIX POET

Place Charles de Gaulle. Tristan Corbière was born in Coat-Congar on the 18th of July 1845. His delicate health meant that his dream to become a sailor would never come to fruition. Abandoning his birth name of Édouard-Joachim, he chose to give himself the far more evocative first name of Tristan, chosen because his new name created the French phrase TRISTE EN CORPS BIÈRE, meaning ‘sad, in a coffin-like body’. In 1873 he published his only poetry collection, *Les Amours jaunes*, which received no critical acclaim at the time. Corbière only rose to the public eye after his death thanks to the French writer Verlaine. He died in Morlaix in 1875 and was placed in a family tomb at Saint Augustin graveyard. Time has finally brought his works to light and allowed his talent to be recognised, including a Corbière postal stamp inaugurated in Morlaix on the 4th of March 2011. •

24

BUSTE DE CHARLES CORNIC JEAN-PAUL FRÉOUR

Charles Cornic was born in Morlaix on 5th September 1731. At a very young age, he became a ship's apprentice on his father's boats and sailed the seas, rapidly gaining a reputation as a privateer. Aged 19, he entered into the Royal Navy and established a brilliant career, capturing English vessels and gaining naval victories. As a commoner, he couldn't enter into the Grand Corps but could only ever become a 'Blue Officer' (a rank to acknowledge commoners

of merit). He personally invested in the creation of a map of the Rade de Morlaix. Here on Square Weygand, the bust of Cornic is turned towards the sea. •

25

FONTAINE DES ANGLAIS

On a July day in 1522, when the Morlaix nobility were gathered in Guingamp and the merchants were at a fair in Noyal Pontivy, the English attacked the town, burning and pillaging houses and churches alike. Warned of a likely massacre, the Morlaix people came back and attacked their attackers in the Styvel Woods. It is said that the spring here “flowed with the blood of the English”. To reach «the Manufacture» on Quay of Léon, you take the floating bridge for crossing the river. Be carefull please. •

26

THE PORT

The port of Morlaix was prosperous from the 15th to the end of the 17th century thanks to commerce and the transport of linen cloth, and the activities of corsairs in the 18th century. Today it is a well-known pleasure port. •

27

THE QUAY OF LÉON THE MANUFACTURE (TOBACCO FACTORY)

The King's architect Jean-François Blondel first conceived the Manufacture between 1736 and 1740. Under the July Monarchy, the Manufacture expanded. There was a further leap in growth under the Second Empire: new constructions – cast-iron uprights and iron roofstructures – came in tandem with mechanical transformation. Steam made its first appearance and new grinding machines were installed. Between the two wars, the workshops grew from 12 000sqm to 27 000sqm. In 1929, a three storey building was erected with a framework and floors in reinforced concrete. The 1930s saw the final developments, with impressive roof-structures in reinforced concrete. •



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