

# Journey to Brittany

Our journey to Brittany starts from Nantes airport.

After having collected our luggage and picked up our rental car, we set out to the discovery of this wonderful land that will no doubt result into an unforgettable experience for you.

You'll encounter unique landscapes of rare beauty and enjoy an ideal climate, never too hot, never too cold.

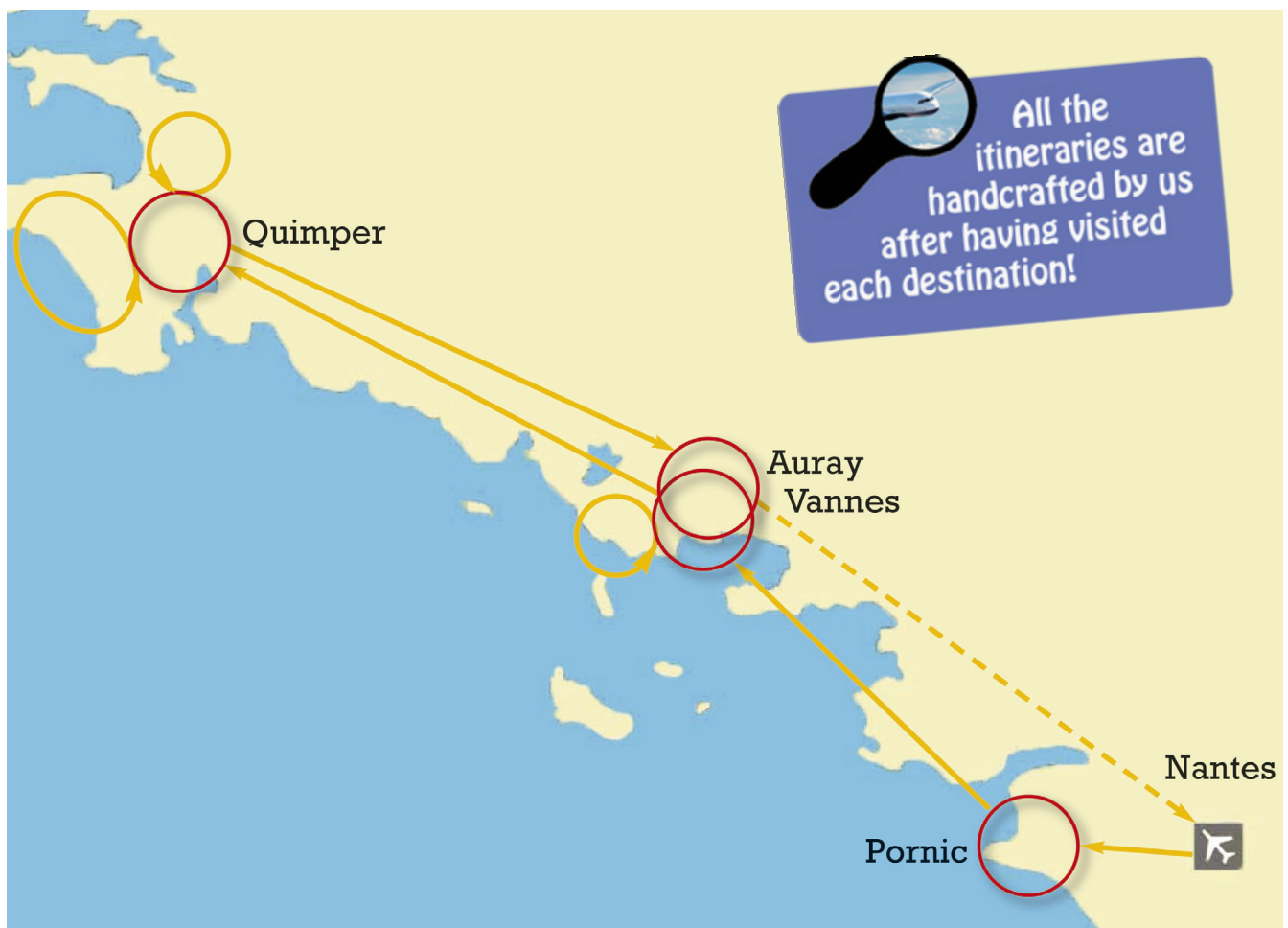
Brittany's medieval towns, rich with history, will take you back in time. For sure, one of the great pleasures of this journey is the "cuisine bretonne", which abounds with fish and meat dishes and fresh vegetables, too; it goes without saying, you'll taste the famous crêpes and buckwheat galettes.

On this tour of Brittany, you'll visit both seaside resorts and historical towns and villages, together with archeological sites; you'll set foot on the Isle of Gavrinis, explore extensive fortifications on the sea and admire the small

town of Pont-Aven, which was of inspiration to Paul Gauguin; you'll be inspired by Guilvinec, the most picturesque port in Brittany and reach Pointe du Raz, on the edge of the world.

**Have we tickled your curiosity and made your mouth water?**

**Off we go, then!**



## Programme

**Here's the programme of the itinerary we suggest you in our free online guide.**

During this tour of South Brittany, we recommend you spend the night in the places we have chosen, for practicality's sake.

### 1st day

Arrival at Nantes airport  
Pornic is a seaside resort  
The historic village of Kerhinet can be visited either on the outward or the inward journey according to the time of your landing.  
Overnight stay at Pornic.

### 2nd day

Terre De Sel  
Isle of Gavrinis  
Vannes medieval town  
Overnight stay around Vannes.

### 3rd day

Megalithic site of Locmariaquer  
Chapel of Saint-Philibert  
Carnac megaliths  
Overnight stay around Vannes.

### 4th day

Pont-Aven  
Ville Close of Concarneau  
Quimper  
Overnight stay around Quimper.

### 5th day

Locronan  
Chapel of Sainte-Marie-du-Ménez-Hom Ménez-Hom  
Pentrez beach  
Douarnenez  
Overnight stay around Quimper.

### 6th day

Pointe de Raz  
The Aquashow  
Cidrerie Kerne  
Musée la Maison Hénaff  
Pointe de la Torche  
Guilvinec  
Overnight stay around Quimper.

### 7th day

Le Faouët (Morbihan)  
Auray  
Overnight stay around Vannes.

### 8th day

Back to Nantes airport.



## Mouth of the Loire

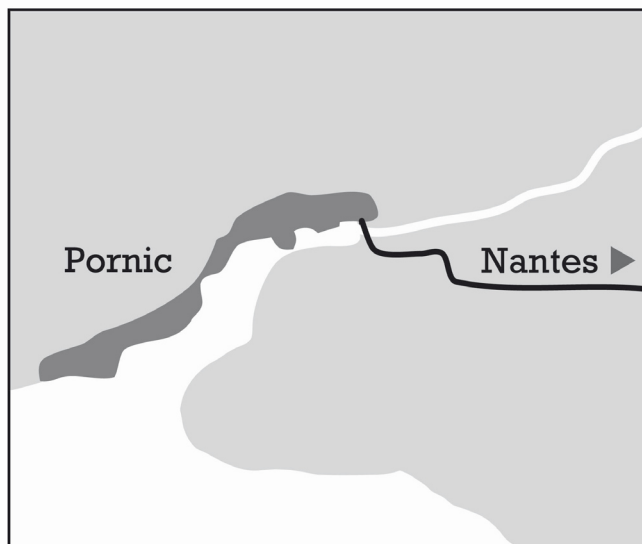


We head to Pornic straight from the airport.

This small town on the mouth of the Loire is the southern entrance to Brittany. It's a seaside resort, whose centre clusters around the old harbour, where a great number of sailing boats and trawlers are moored.

If you walk along the promenade, you'll reach the well-kept 13th century castle; from there, a panoramic path takes you to the new marina of La Noëveillard.

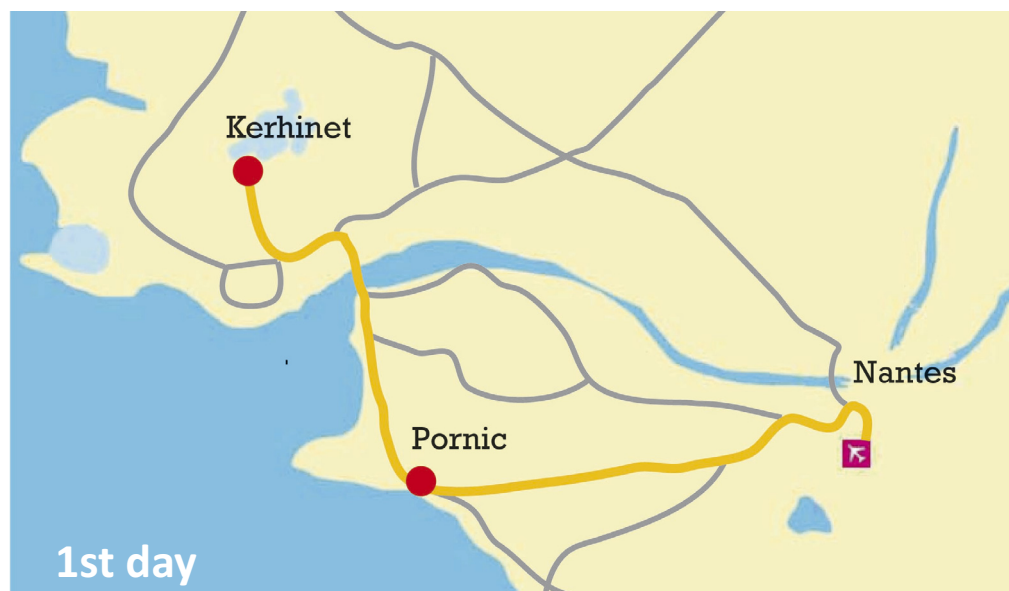
Pornic doesn't lack either cafés or restaurants - **which is ideal if we want to spend our first night at Pornic**; but let's visit the village of Kerhinet first, a 45- minute drive away.



## The village of Kerhinet

It's a nice, picturesque historic village, extensively refurbished in recent years, with thatched-roofed houses.

The village has been acquired by the Parc Naturel Régional de la Brière, of which it hosts "La Maison du Parc" a rather convenient starting point for a visit entirely on foot (both of the village itself and the park). Some shops on the spot.





## Terre De Sel

Guérande is renowned for its extensive salt pans. A guided tour explains you how salt processing takes place. On every corner, shops sell all kinds of salt: aromatic salt, fleur de sel sea salt and coarse salt of different sorts.



## Isle of Gavrinis

Our tour continues with a visit to the Isle of Gavrinis, in the Gulf of Morbihan, which can be reached from Larmor Baden by means of a pleasant ten- minute boat trip.

It's advisable to book in advance (tickets can be bought at any local tourist office) since the island is very busy with tourists.

Gavrinis hosts Brittany's largest cairn (a huge burial mound made of dry stone), which stands out as one of the most important megalithic sites in France. It was originally covered with earth and stones, thus hidden for millenia. When it was discovered, archeologists partially removed the dirt it lay below, allowing the interior to be visited. Unique, very well preserved engravings will leave you astonished.

The passage is very narrow and visitors enter in small groups. Mind your head!

*We recommend that you stay two nights in the surroundings of Vannes.*



## Vannes, medieval town

We park our car along the canal leading to the old town. The late XVIth century Saint-Vincent Gate (dedicated to the city's patron saint) is the main entrance to the old town. The medieval town centre extends around the imposing gothic cathedral of Saint Pierre. It measures 110 metres of length and is thus the longest in Brittany. The peculiar half-timbered houses in Saint-Patern neighborhood, near the Cathedral, are a must-see. A market enlivens the town centre on Wednesdays and Saturdays; the Halles de Lices covered market is open daily, except on Mondays. Beyond the city walls, the lawns and flowerbeds of the Jardins des Remparts are really well-kept.



## Locmariaquer megalithic sites

Locmariaquer is one of the most famous of such places in Brittany. Some didactic panels, together with a series of engravings welcome you at the entrance. The main capstone of "La Table des Marchands", a large dolmen within a cairn, includes a large carving featuring an axe and part of a depiction of a plough, apparently pulled by oxen. Not far, you'll admire the 120-metre-long great tumulus of Er- Grah.

Within the site, an impressive large menhir lies on the ground: it is broken into four sections but it originally measured twenty-three metres when it stood erect.



## Carnac Megaliths

This place, surrounded by an aura of mystery, can't do without rousing your curiosity: long row of menhirs, dolmens and stone mounds line up as far as the eye can see.

This fascinating site, one of the largest megalithic complexes in the world, inspires many a reflection and makes you wonder about a mythical past, not yet fully unveiled.

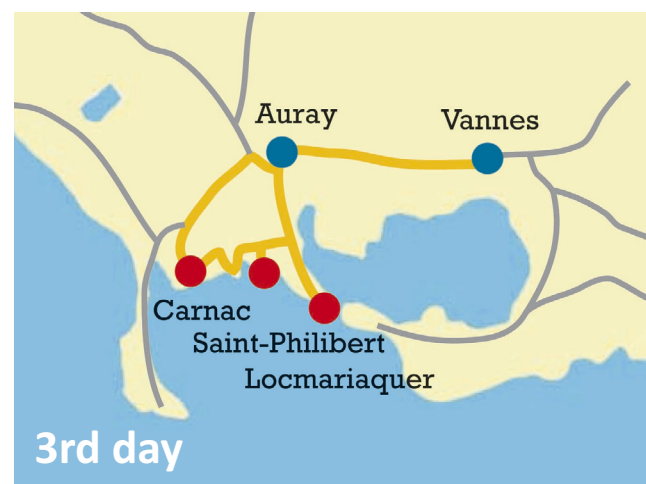


## Chapel of Saint-Philibert

It was built in the XVIIth century at the water's edge: you can admire its simple beauty on the outside and its somewhat naïve charm inside. In the centre, there's a large, richly decorated baroque altarpiece flanked by two statues; looking up, you'll see some rather peculiar ex-votos hanging from a starred vault.



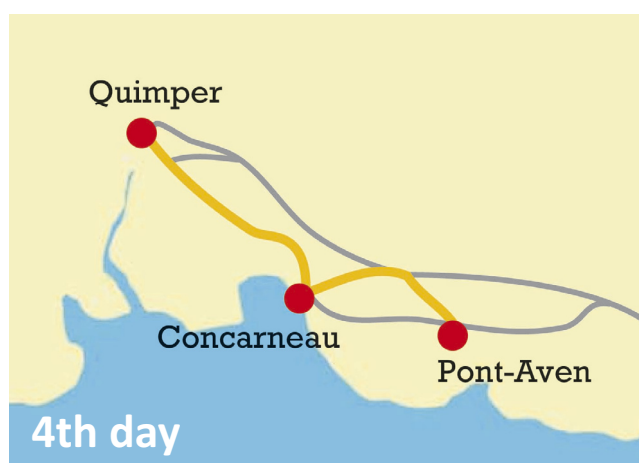
*Let's go back to Vannes for the night.*





## Ville Close at Concarneau

"La Ville Close" of Concarneau, a wonderful fortification on the sea (a whole town surrounded by stone walls), hence its name, is worth a visit. It's connected to the town centre by a bridge. Within the walls, there're lots of shops and restaurants, where you can spend your time admiring Brittany's typical half-timbered houses. Its imposing walls invite you to climb on top to enjoy the view as far as the eye can see. A nice fountain can be admired in the middle of Place Saint-Guérolé.



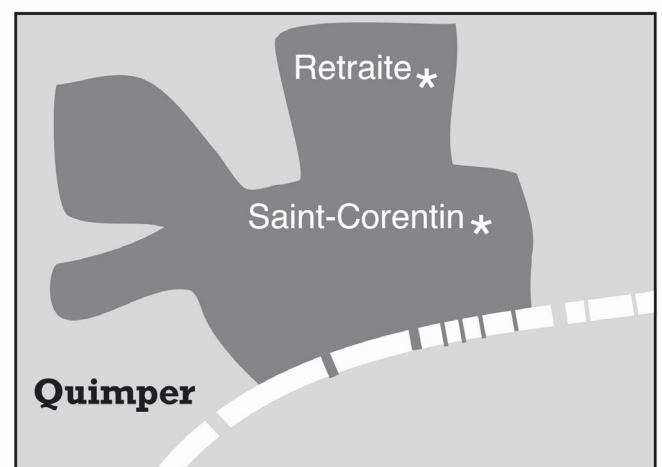
## Pont-Aven

No doubt, Pont-Aven is a paradise, which pervades every corner of the village. The river that gently laps it with its placid waters, the colourful pots of flowers on the low walls and the boats moored along the bank fill you with serenity. The famous "Les Galettes de Pont Aven", delicate butter cookies in their boxes of all shapes and colours will delight you. There are nice little shops selling souvenirs, as well as bars and restaurants if you want to grab something to eat. These places have inspired many other painters besides Gauguin and used to be a favourite place for writers such as Victor Hugo, René de Chateaubriand, Flaubert.

## Quimper

This citadel still retains its ancient fascination thanks to its half-timbered houses, its cobbled streets and Saint-Corentin Cathedral. A walk along the river, with its picturesque little bridges embellished with multicoloured flowers, will make you enjoy moments of true relaxation. Within the citadel's walls, "Le Jardin de la Retraite", almost at the top end of Rue Elie Feron, was formerly part of a monastery. Entry is free and the visit totally rewarding since you will be walking among plants coming from all over. It's a well-kept green oasis of peace not to be missed.

*We'll be spending three nights in the vicinity of Quimper.*



## Locronan

Locronan ranks among the most beautiful villages in Brittany and France.

The area is pedestrianized and busy with tourists throughout the year.

There's all kind of shops, cafés and bakeries where to taste bread in its most different shapes. You can make a visit to the Church of Saint-Ronan, the hermit saint who converted Brittany to Christianity. Enchanting and one-of-a-kind, this village stands out for its peculiarity: around the large square, houses and churches are made of granite and lamp posts do not exist.

## La Chapelle Sainte Marie du Ménez-Hom

This chapel in the municipality of Plomodiern is a true gemstone; built in 1570 in the countryside at the foot of Mount Menez-Hom and a historic monument since 1916, it used to be a pilgrimage destination and it is still visited by a great number of tourists. The interior, entirely gilded, fascinates the visitor with its beauty and the variety of its architectural styles. A rare and unique opportunity. Open daily from April 1st to October 31st, from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm.



## Ménez-Hom

Mount Ménez-Hom, 330 m. a.s.l., is one of the highest points in Brittany, towering over the bay of Douarnenez and the entire region. Many hiking trails reach the top, a take-off point for paragliders, where the view spans 360 degrees.



## Pentrez beach

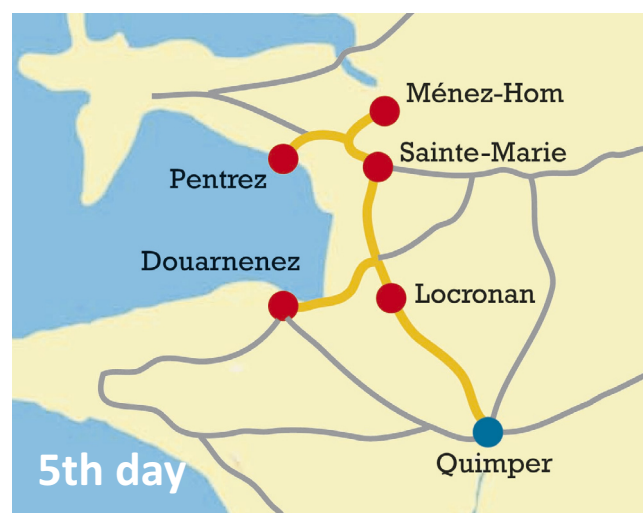
Sand yachting is practised here. You board a three-wheeled cart equipped with a sail which, propelled by a robust wind, can speed up to 70 km/h. A well-organized structure on the spot provides all the explanations and the gear to practise this fun sport. You can also try other sports activities, such as kayaking.



## Douarnenez

Facing the sea, this little town fascinates the visitor with its narrow streets, its small shops and its splendid, multicoloured fishermen houses on the quayside, with their tall facades. Besides tourism, Douarnenez owes much to sardine fishing.

A nice walk takes you to the natural area of "Les Plomar'ch", on the cliffs above the sea; the bay and the nearby beaches are wonderful.



## Pointe de Raz

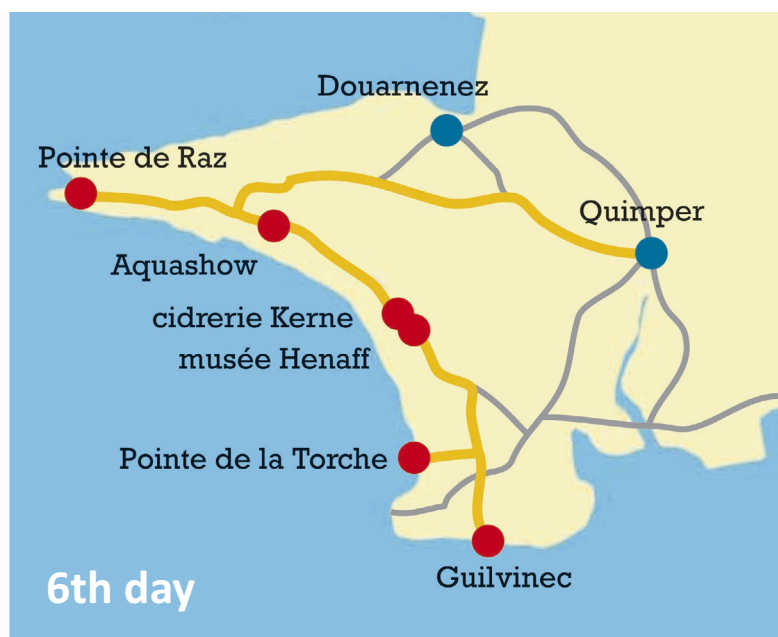
Suspended between steep, white cliffs and an emerald-green sea. Is an impressive scenic spot, whose breathtaking view over the "Île-de-Sein" can offer unforgettable moments. Beaten by the winds, its sheer, wild beauty makes you feel on the edge of the world. Just opposite, stands out the square-shaped lighthouse "De la Vieille", automatized in 1995. Classified as "Grand Site Nationale" and thus a strictly protected area, the access is regulated by a toll parking lot. The path is marked and secured all along the edge bordering the cliffs. A unique place of its kind.

## The Aquashow

Is an attraction not to be missed. Described in detail in the leaflet you are handed at the entrance, it hosts large basins with all kinds of fish. On the outside, different bird species can be admired in a number of aviaries. Young and old can enjoy a 45-min. bird show which takes places three times a day (11:45, 15:15, 17:15 till Sept. 30th). The restaurant provides good food for lunch breaks.

## Pointe de la Torche

The "Pointe de la Torche", a promontory projecting into the ocean, is a hot spot for surfers, since it's often quite very windy. The long sandy beach, which seems to be stretching as far as the eye can see, is very popular with tourists. A true paradise, a wild spot with its charm.



## Cidrerie Kerné

Drive south on the D784 for another 15 minutes. At Pouldreuzic, you can find the true French cider in this nice, welcoming shop. You'll be able to taste an excellent selection of ciders: from the sweet to the semi-sweet or brut and, naturally, apple juice. Other local products are on sale here.

## Museum Hénaff

At Pouldreuzic, you'll also find the canning plant and the museum of Hénaff pork pâté (11 a.m.-6 p.m Mon-Sat from July to mid-Sept.). This Breton business can count on 100 years of history, spanning three generations. The museum explains the homemade processing of this local delicacy; on the premises, a shop where other Hénaff products can be purchased.

## Guilvinec

Le Guilvinec, the largest French harbour for traditional fishing, faces the ocean and can boast Brittany's most picturesque port.

At around 4:00 in the afternoon, you can witness the return of a large fleet of small and large trawlers full of their daily catch. It's a show not to be missed: these multicoloured fishing boats, followed by flocks of greedy seagulls shrieking loudly will fascinate you. The fish is unloaded, cleaned from its entrails and auctioned – All this Monday to Friday. In the local museum (entrance fee € 7) you will be told the life and the story of Breton fishermen and will be given access to the large terrace, a vantage point to admire the boats entering the port. Along the main road, shops, crêperies and caféterias. Journey to Brittany.



## Le Faouët (Morbihan)



Let's reach Le Faouët (beech forest), a village of enchanting spots.

In the main square, the large 1,000-sqm market, is a majestic oak and fir wood structure, entirely covered by a slate roof.

The market comes to life twice a month (first and third Wednesdays) but it hosts lots of events throughout the year.

Nearby, there is the 17th century Ursuline convent, housing a gallery of painters who have visited Brittany in the years.

Outside the village, Saint Barbara Chapel, a gothic structure with very rich stained-glass windows, clings to the side of a ravine; it can be reached by means of two monumental stairways. A path goes down to the fountain where young girls used to throw pins in the hope of finding a husband.

A kilometre to the south, the Chapel of Saint-Fiacre hosts a richly carved, polychrome rood-screen, among the oldest in Brittany. You can indulge in relaxing walks in the surrounding woods.

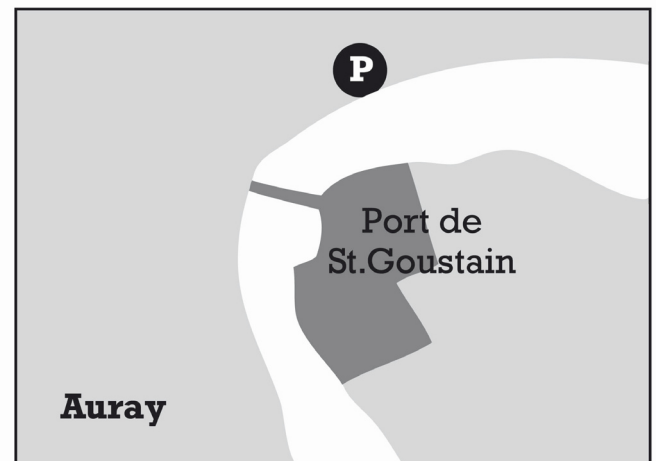
*Let's go back to sleep (as in the first leg) in the surroundings of Vannes or Auray.*

*Our experience to South Brittany ends here: we hope you enjoyed it. We wish you a safe journey back home.*

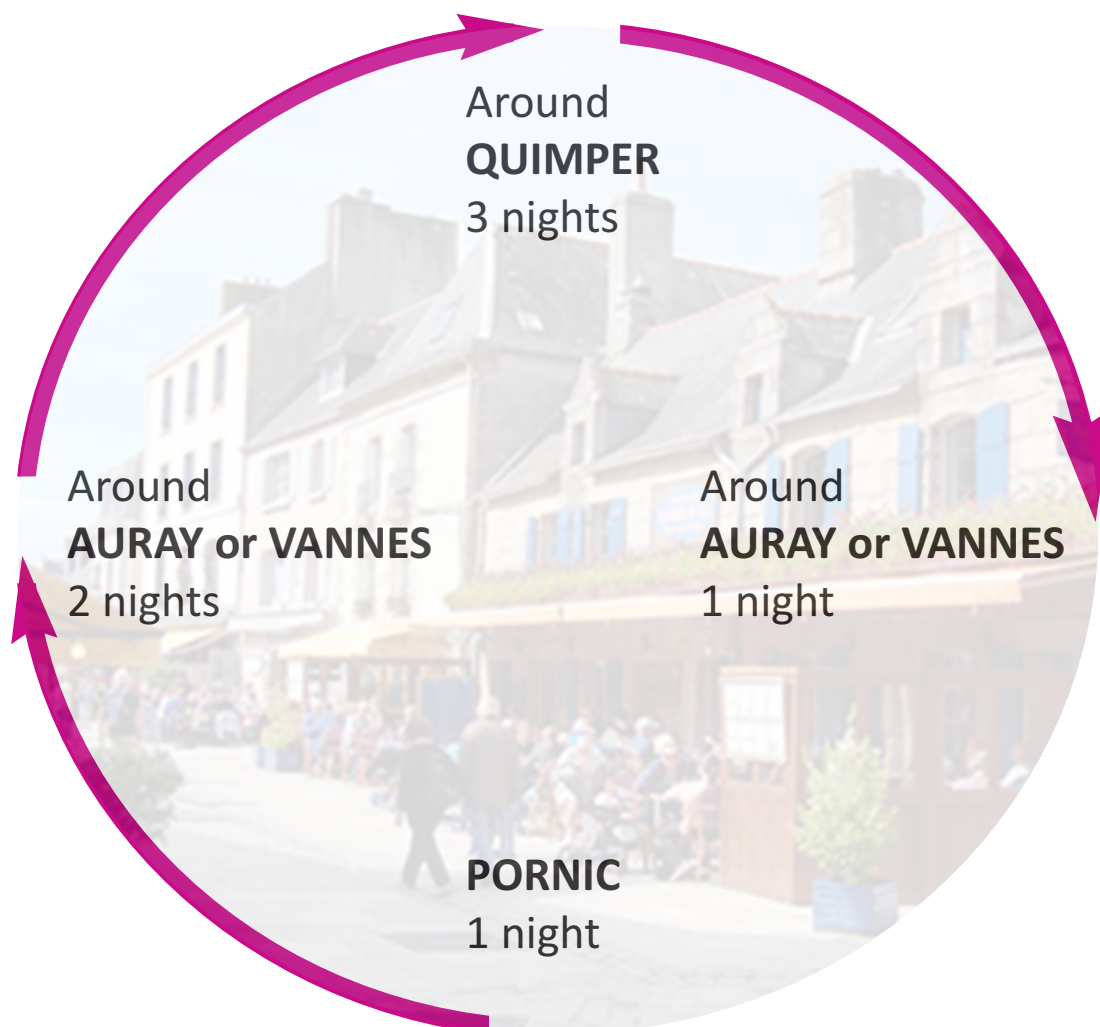
## Auray

Leaving Le Faouët behind, we head to Auray, a picturesque little town. We park our car not far from the river and cross the stone bridge. The small port, a few steps away from the bridge is a quiet, almost magic spot where you can relax in the evening while dining or sipping a coffee. Every Monday, from 8 am to 1 pm, quality products are on sale at the market: since it's usually quite crowded, it is advisable to be there early in the morning.

We go back to Vannes to spend the night as we did on our outward journey.



## Where to stay



All the itineraries are handcrafted by us after having visited each destination

Book with us the best hotels and rent a car throughout Europe for wonderful holidays!

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*Hôtel*