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Place de l'église

© Galerie Entre Vues - Paulette Andraani

► Locronan, Small Town of Character

A stroll through the streets and squares of Locronan is a must. The entire site is a book of legends and animated history. Take in the beautiful facades of the houses of the sailcloth merchants, the Compagnie des Indes hotel, the Canvas Office, the lace stonework of the church, chapels and fountains. It is not surprising that Locronan has served as a backdrop for more than thirty films. Amongst them there was Polanski making «*Tess*» weep and Jeunet finally reuniting his lovers at the end of «*A very long engagement*».

Near old grey granite walls, the hollyhocks and hydrangeas make the walk even more photogenic and the many craftsmen and creators behind these old facades, displaying their expertise, expose a new and lively experience.

It has been classified as a historical monument since 1924, labelled «*Small Town of Character*» and one of the «*Most beautiful villages in France*», Locronan is the perfect image of the Breton town. It is undoubtedly one of the most attractive and most popular sites in Brittany.



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► Discover Locronan, with the Tourist Office



The Tourist Office, here to welcome, inform and advise you throughout your stay.

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The discovery guide (more than 100 pages)

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The May Tree



On Kroas Keber road

© Galerie Entre Vies

► Highlights by season

The May Tree

On the Saturday before the first Sunday in May, the May Tree is planted in the square near the well by the young Locronan men who come of age within the year. It will then be burnt on St Jean's day, the summer solstice, reminiscent of the Beltane festival. On the 1st of May, the beginning of the warm and masculine season in the Celtic calendar is the great fire festival, the feast of the God Belenus. A beech tree is planted, a symbol of the awakening of nature for the Celts due to the early appearance of its leaves.

The Troménie

A descendent of the druid ceremonies related to the Nemeton, Locronan's Great Troménie is one of the most famous and original pardons in Brittany. It takes place every six years (the next is in 2025), and follows the thousand-year-old route of 12 km.

The Little Troménie is a 6 km route followed every year between each Great Troménie, on the 2nd Sunday in July. (9th July)

The enthusiasm of the pilgrims is testified by the diversity and beauty of the traditional Breton costumes, the embroidered banners, the gold and silver crosses and the relics of Saint Ronan.

The bread of the dead

The first day of November marks the start of the Celtic year, the great feast of Samonios, a night of communication between the Other World (of spirits and Gods) and the world of the living. In Locronan, the parish sidesmen continue to distribute the bread of the dead on the first Sunday in November.



Christmas lights

Christmas lights

During the Christmas festive season, throughout the month of December, Locronan puts on its coat of light and adorns itself with sumptuous landscaped decorations, to offer visitors a truly magical moment.

More than six kilometres of garlands, tinsel and curtains of lights illuminate the Little Town of Character with the magic of Christmas. Spicy and delicious scents guide the visitor throughout their journey through the heart of the town, for a stroll that promises to be enchanting.

There are many highlights on the program: concerts, shows, the extraordinary nativity scene at the museum, carousels... and the long-awaited meeting with Santa Claus.

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View from the mountain of Locronan

AN INSPIRED MOUNTAIN

The **hill of Plas ar Horn** which is called the «**mountain**» of Locronan, together with the Ménez Hom forms the last rampart that the earth seems to raise in front of the immensity of the ocean. This head of the world, or «**Penn ar Bed**» as is said in Breton, is considered an ultimate sacred place and a succession of different religions ever since the Neolithic Age have left visible testimonies of their beliefs. On one side of the hill, a huge block of granite the «**Gazeg Vaen**» (*the stone mare in Breton*), has always been the object of a cult of fertility. A cult adopted by Christendom, **Anne of Brittany came to Locronan to pray to Saint Ronan to get pregnant with the King of France!** It is Anne of Brittany who gave Locronan the status of a town!

Some **keys** to **understanding** the **site** and its **natural surroundings**

With its privileged location **close to the sea**, Locronan is **built on a rocky promontory, surrounded by natural areas** such as the forests *Bois de Névet* (*in the West*) and the *Bois du Duc* (*in the East*). The town is surrounded by **two notable peaks**: the *Menez Hom* (330m) and the *Menez Lokorn* (289m), the last high points of the Armorican Massif. From the top of the Locronan mountain, an exceptional viewpoint offers a **panoramic view of the Iroise Sea coast**. A vast landscape can be discovered, from the entrance of **Cap Sizun to Douarnenez** and its bay, passing by the **plain of Porzay** and the **heights of Menez Hom**, and the Crozon peninsula.

Did you know?

Granite is the first natural stone to have its name and geographical indication protected, «Granit de Bretagne» since 2017.

Granite in Brittany only represents 1/3 of building materials! The hardness of the granite varies according to its location. In some sites the granite is used for dressed stone blocks, but also for carving stone. In Locronan the granite in the ground is very hard and mostly used as construction stone.

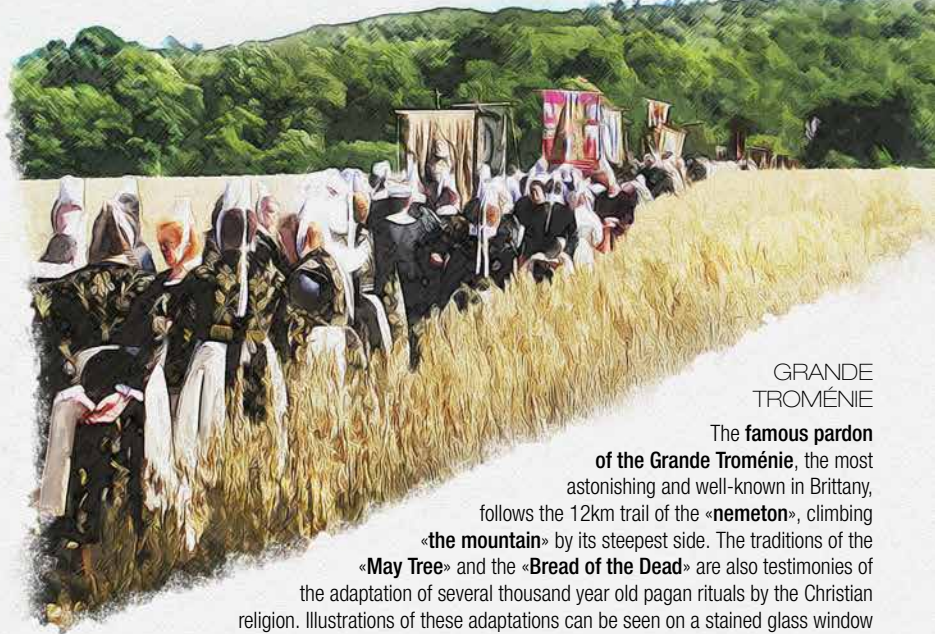


AR GAZEG VAEN

Ar Gazeg Vaen, the stone mare, is a huge block of granite with a circumference of 13 metres, found on the route of the Grande Troménie and only accessible during this period. It also bears different names according to the associated legend.

Ar Gazeg Vaen, the stone mare, was also the stone boat that St Ronan used in his journey coming from Ireland. It's also called **St Ronan's chair**, the rock holds the imprint of his posterior. The most famous legend is that related to the **cult of fertility**. During the Troménie, it was not unusual to see women sitting, even lying on the stone, as a treatment for infertility.

This imposing block of granite is today the last trace of ancient Celtic worship in this sacred place, the **Nemeton**.



GRANDE TROMÉNIE

The famous pardon

of the **Grande Troménie**, the most astonishing and well-known in Brittany,

follows the 12km trail of the «**nemeton**», climbing

«**the mountain**» by its steepest side. The traditions of the

«**May Tree**» and the «**Bread of the Dead**» are also testimonies of

the adaptation of several thousand year old pagan rituals by the Christian

religion. Illustrations of these adaptations can be seen on a stained glass window

of Quimper cathedral telling the story of Saint Corentin and his meeting with King Gradlon.

It was at the foot of the «**mountain**» that Ronan built his oratory, succeeding Lug, the great god of Celtic mythology, and it is at this site that Locronan was built, whose inhabitants walk the sacred path of the «**nemeton**» every six years..

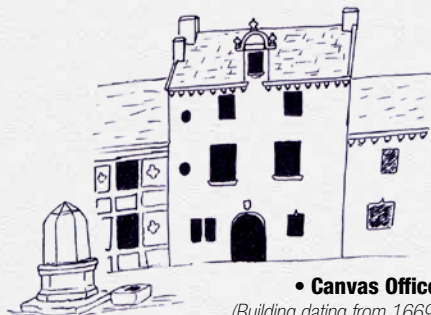
The next Grande Troménie is in 2025. An unmissable experience!

THE GRANITE

The **uniqueness and homogeneity of Locronan's historical centre** is based on the unity of all the **granite buildings**, local stone taken from nearby quarries that is very present in much of Brittany.

Today, all the granite quarries of Locronan have closed meaning that often historical monuments have great difficulty in finding the right stone, with the appropriate grain and colour, for restoration work.

► Some keys to understanding the site and its natural surroundings (continued)



• Canvas Office

(Building dating from 1669)

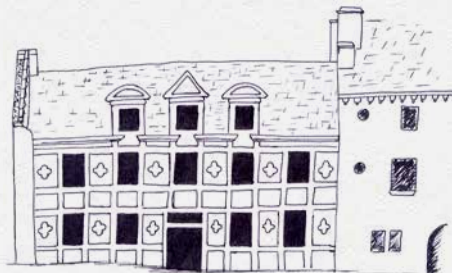
This is where the Royal Officer was, who was responsible for checking the quality of the sail cloth before it was sold in the market.



*Spiral staircase
in the turret*

*Mullioned
window*

• **The oldest dwelling in the square.** The facade of 1624, a plate displayed on the oldest house dating from the 16th century. The façade, on its lateral wall, has a turret with a spiral staircase and a cross window (mullion + cross).



• Building dating from 1729.

The facade consists of 5 bays with stylized flowers between each opening (an original motif that can also be found on the facade at 9 rue des Gentilshommes in Quimper). A moulded cornice underlines the roof, where there are 3 roof dormers alternating rounded and triangular pediments.

The traces of a building that rose up opposite the church until 1873, are still visible on the gable. According to the legend, it was in the house that is no longer here that Anne of Brittany stayed when she came in 1505, when she granted the title of town to Locronan.

• The «visité à Locronan» trademark

After checking the quality of the canvas, a Royal Official marked the trademark «visité à Locronan» (visited in Locronan) on the cloth, to highlight the quality of the product.



Did you know?

*Shale (which gives slate)
like granite or sandstone, comes
in several shades. For example,
granites have a white, greyish,
yellowish, bluish, reddish,
pink or black colour.
In Locronan, the granite
is grey.*

📌 To know more:

«Let's talk about Locronan»,

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Auberge Notre Dame and stables - 18th century

The great symmetry and regularity of the houses show that the architects of the 18th century chose to **follow the existing style of the town, and not that of the era, giving a great homogeneity to this site in spite of the different moments of construction,** all whilst maintaining the older settings

Did you know?

Thatched roofs gave way to slate. This local material also known as shale forms, with granite and sandstone, the main rocks found in Brittany. Moreover, some other towns of the same period in Brittany are entirely built of black shale, such as Malestroit.



Rounded, triangular and semi-circular dormers

The fourteen houses that form the church square have **both 17th century features**, such as dormers with ledged, semi-circular pediments and worked openings: bevelled, mouldings, or height developments, a sign of the wealth of its occupants ... **and also features of the 18th century** such as the openings with straight edges and the great symmetry of the facades ... **while at the same time conserving the shapes of the 15th century** (ogee arches, contoured windows).

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► Iconic sites and old mansions of Locronan

• Municipal Charles-Daniélou Museum

Created in 1934 and renamed in 2020 after its founder, the Municipal Museum provides a strong testimony of local history.

The museum houses a collection of Breton paintings: Emile Simon, Désiré Lucas, Kamesuke Hiraga, Yvonne Jean Haffen ... and sculptures: Jean Fréour (*Anne of Brittany*), F. Bazin, A. Beaufils, M. Le Louet ...

A place of inspiration for many artists, this step of the Painters' Trail in Cornouaille shows the artistic wealth in Brittany at the beginning of the 20th century.



Désiré Lucas – Locronan



Notre-Dame de Bonne Nouvelle Chapel

© P. Andrieux - Galerie Entre-Vues Locronan



The Notre Dame de Bonne Nouvelle chapel

© Clarisse Chipon

• Rue Moal

The rue Moal was the old weavers' district, with small shops and the liveliest area of Locronan. It was a popular neighbourhood, consisting of houses much smaller than those of the church square, some dating back to the 17th and 18th century.

• The Notre Dame de Bonne Nouvelle chapel, the fountain and the calvary

The calvary signals the presence of the chapel. A virgin with child is carved on the reverse side. On the other side, angels are represented collecting the blood of Christ. The Calvary is one of the few monuments of this type built in limestone.

Notre-Dame de Bonne Nouvelle is benevolent to future mothers. The chapel dates from the 15th century (1439), and underwent successive restorations, ending with its steeple in the 18th century. The door is Gothic. The contemporary stained glass windows date from 1985 and are by Alfred Manessier (*painter 1911-1993*).

The St Eutrope monumental fountain was funded, at least in part, by a cloth merchant, hence the inscription, "*I. Conan, cloth merchant, 1698*". There were two statues of St Eutrope, one in stone in the alcove and the other in wood, just above the water. It was the water point of the neighbourhood, hence the wear of the stones surrounding it.

• Rue Lann

At the entrance of the street is the former home of the Prior, the head of the small community of Benedictines that lived near the Church. The coat of arms above the ogee arched door attests to this.

It was also the family home of Yves Tanguy (*a Breton surrealist painter, 1900-1955*), a great friend of Salvador Dali and Jacques Prévert. He also invited Max Jacob, André Breton, Pierre Prévert. Yves Tanguy spent many holidays in this family home that would mark him throughout his career, drawing his inspiration from it, whether in landscapes or through Breton legends.



Rue Lann



Film set

© Hervé Le Bihan

• place de l'Eglise

The Church Square is surrounded by 14 character houses, the homes of the notables and the rich sailcloth merchants in the 17th and 18th century. It was closed off until 1873. The square has also been used as the set for dozens of films.

• Rue Saint Maurice

This street is an old Roman road that led to Quimper. Many of the old houses still bear the dates of 1681, 1730, 1794, 1741...



Door Lintel – Rue St Maurice

• Kerguérolé Manor House (1907)

The manor is the former home of Charles Daniélou (*politician, poet and novelist 1878-1953*), elected mayor of Locronan in 1912, and remaining so for more than thirty years.

MP of Finistère and several times minister under the 3rd Republic, he devoted all his energy to the conservation and listing of historical monuments, as did the Vieilles Pierres (*Old Stones*) association of Jacques Pré of the St Ronan Hotel. In the 1920-30's, all the houses in the church square were listed.

It was also the home of Job, the artist and sculptor of Locronan, who also played a role in the town's fame. Many visitors are reminded of the sculptor on the church square and his profiles cut out of paper.



Kerguérolé manor house

© Galerie Entre Vues

► Panoramic viewpoints

① Rue Moal

From the top of this steep and picturesque street, a beautiful view can be enjoyed of the Bay of Douarnenez. The smaller houses are reminders of its past as the weavers' district. There is still today a thatched roof house.



© P. Andrieux - Galerie Entre-Vues Locronan
View over the Porzay plain

③ The Kerguérolé Manor House

Built in 1907, the manor was acquired by the municipality in 1984 and was the Poster Museum for 15 years, from 1990 to 2005. Today, it is a temporary exhibition venue and can be hired for special occasions. From the porch of the manor house, in the same way as a painting of vegetation on a marine canvas, the magnificent view stretching from the Bay of Douarnenez to Menez-Hom cannot be ignored.

② Rue St Maurice

From the top of the street, a magnificent view can be seen of the church and the town roofs, a view that inspired many artists notably painters (*including Maxime Maufra 1861-1918, Mathurin Meheut 1882-1958, Yvonne Jean-Haffen 1895-1993*).



View of the town roofs

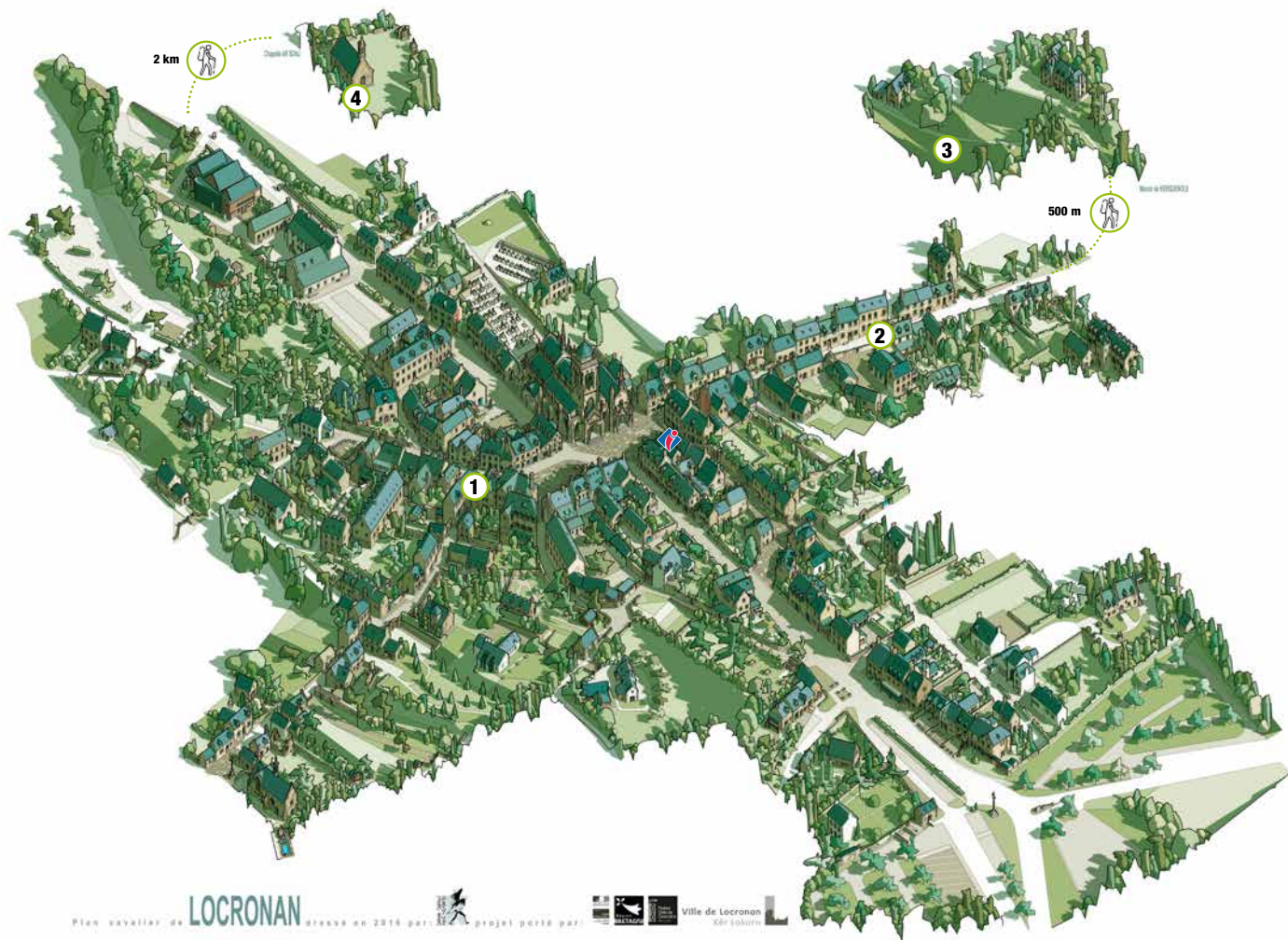


View of the mountain of Locronan

④ The mountain of Locronan

In an exceptional setting five kilometres from the sea, the mountain of Locronan "*The Menez Lokorn*" offers a panoramic and magnificent view of the Iroise Sea all the way from the bay of Douarnenez via the Porzay plain to Menez Hom. The Iroise Sea which became the first Marine Park in France has the reputation of harbouring an extraordinary biodiversity.

© Galerie Entre Vues





Plas ar Horn

© Galerie Entre Vues

► Natural areas

A sacred place for the Celts, Locronan was built in the heart of the Névet forest whose name originates from the word “**Nemetón**”, «, which means «natural temple under the celestial vault». The forest is in the form of a large quadrilateral with a circumference of 12 kilometres, with twelve remarkable points.

At the top of this mountain, in the site called “Plas ar Horn” is the Ar Soñj chapel (Remembrance chapel). It was built in 1977 on the site of an old building from 1911 that was considered to be too high in the 1970s. This chapel is only opened once a year during the Troménie. It is the most important step in the Pardon,

that of Saint Ronan. The chapel houses sumptuous stained glass windows by the painter and stained glass artist Jean Bazaine (1904-2001). There is also an outdoor granite pulpit, there since 1887.

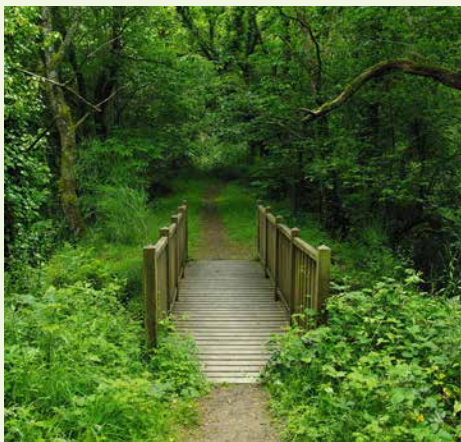
At the intersection of the Plas ar Horn and Kroas Keben roads, on one side there is the panorama and on the

other side, a path that crosses the Bois du Duc to reach the Saint-Théleau chapel in Plogonnec. This wood extends over the most humid northern slopes of the mountain, where the conditions favour the appearance of moss on the trees conferring a particular atmosphere to the place...

The forest *Bois du Névet*

This forest covers an area of 225 hectares and extends over 4 communes: Locronan, Plogonnec, Le Juch, and Kerlaz. It offers pleasant walks of up to 2 hours, without ever going past the same place twice. A loop accessible to people with motor disabilities is located at the entrance of the forest on the Kerlaz side. Many mountain bike trails are marked, as well as a horse trail.

Ponds can be discovered located on the wetter and hillier part of the forest (*southern part*), streams and the Saint-Pierre chapel dating from the 16th century (*at the Plogonnec entrance*). This natural environment is perfect for discovering many tree species. Birds can be seen, and especially heard! (*various sparrows, wood pigeons, some birds of prey, woodpeckers*) and for the lucky few, although quite rare, deer, foxes, badgers, hares...



Small bridge of Forest Bois du Névet



Douarnenez bay view

© P. Andrieu - Galerie Entre Vues

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**Vue panoramique sur la baie
de Douarnenez et le Menez Hom**

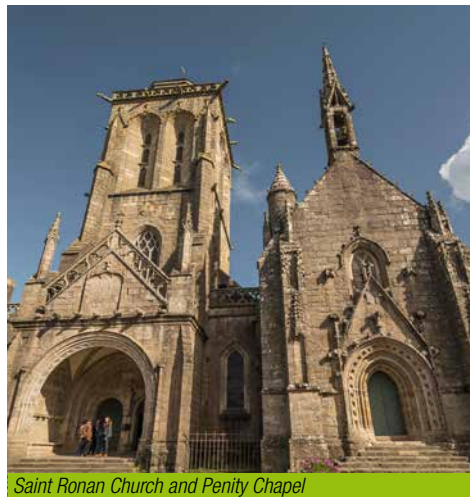
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© T. Fontaine - Galerie Entre Vues

▶ The Saint Ronan Church

Built in the shape of a cathedral thanks to the donations of the Dukes of Brittany, the flamboyant Gothic church was built from **1424 to 1480** and was listed in **1845**.

On the tower of 30 metres (*current height of the bell tower*) is built a 38-metre high spire, hit by lightning three times: 1640, 1722 and 1808.

The construction of the Penity Chapel, adjoined to the church, began under the reign of Francois II and finished under that of Anne of Brittany (**1485 - 1514**).



Rosary Altarpiece

In the Church

The Church has many remarkable architectural gems listed as Historical Monuments. The statuary is also very rich.

• The pulpit (*restoration in 2004*)

Made in **1707** by Louis Bariou, a carpenter from Quimper. Ten medallions depict various episodes of the life of St. Ronan, including trouble with Keben, the death and return of Ronan's body.

• Treasure of St Ronan Church

Reliquaries XVIIIth Saint Ronan and Saint Eutrope. Hand bell of Saint Ronan, Chalice and Paten XVth, gifted by Marguerite de Foix. Monstrance XVIIth. Orceau (Holy Oils), Baptismal shell.

• Rosary Altarpiece (XVIIth) (*restoration in 2018*)

Left: St Joseph - Right: St Joachim. Located on the north side of the church, it was made in 1668 by a sculptor from Landerneau. The **15 medallions** represent the joyous, painful and glorious mysteries of the life of the Virgin Mary. Significant restoration work has allowed the altarpiece to recover its original polychromy. Just above it on the vaults, ermines dating from Anne of Brittany have been revealed. These are unique in Brittany.

• The principal stained glass window (*restoration in 2004*)

The church was completed by its installation around 1480. The blazons of Francois II and his wife Marguerite de Foix are present at the top (Church Ducale). The passion of Christ is represented in 18 panels. One panel is a little apart. This is the illustration, on horseback and in armour, of the lord of Névet, the benefactor. Imagined with the mention of the motto «Perag» Why.



Pulpit

© T. Fontaine - Galerie Entre Vues

In the Pénity Chapel

• The recumbent of St Ronan (XVth)

Made from a flagstone of Kersanton stone in which is carved an effigy of the saint in bishop's attire, it is supported by six statuettes of angels. One hand is held up giving a blessing; with the other he holds a cross, the base of which is being pushed into the jaws of a monster, signifying by this act that he has conquered evil. Many dukes / duchesses of Brittany came here to pray to St Ronan to grant them «heir and descendant».

• The descent from the cross or the deposition (XVIth)

Work in polychromed kersanton stone. This group illustrates the dramatic moment when the body of Christ is descended from the cross: Mary Magdalene, Saint John,



Recumbent of Saint Ronan

© Bernard Gaderon

Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea surround the Mother of Jesus.

• St Michel weighing souls (XVth)

He tramples on a dragon, the symbol of evil. In his left hand he carries the scales that weigh the souls of the dead.

• Status of St Louis

Ambassador of the royal family, this is an acknowledgement by God and the Church of royal lineage. It's also a reminder that the town is on the territory of the crown of France.

• The principal stained glass window (XVIth)

At the top, the coat of arms of France: the Fleur de Lys of the King of France Charles VIII and his wife Anne of Brittany.

The other contemporary windows represent:

- in one, the resurrection by Ronan of the daughter of the keben in front of King Gradlon
- in the other, the arrival of the Breton reinforcement army with Joan of Arc, which helped in the victory of the battle of Patay, won over the British on 18th June, 1429.

A key is engraved in the stone-paved floor, at the foot of the recumbent and towards the east side.

This key, a spiritual symbol, opened the door of the Christian message for a hitherto pagan land by the hermit Ronan.



The Saint Ronan stained glass window

► Locronan, the town of weavers



Initially, the climate of Brittany and its numerous streams, favoured the cultivation of hemp and flax. From the 15th century, Locronan hemp canvases were sold at sailcloth markets. This industry equipped the largest ships in Europe, those of the Royal French Navy, the English Navy, the Invincible Armada, those of Christopher Columbus. The fame was such that, whoever said canvas at that time said Locronan and they were naturally quoted in Shakespeare's tragedy «Coriolanus». In the main square, built in the seventeenth and eighteenth century, the wealthy homes of the cloth merchants, the Canvas Office, the Compagnie des Indes hotel, the controllers for the King, testify this era. And Locronan still weaves, inventing other beautiful ways to display their expertise upon their prestigious weaving machines. In workshops, in streets that have not significantly changed, the weavers are still very much present.



Weaving workshop Ti Bihan



Weavers' house - rue Moal



Canvas Office and Hotel of the East India Company

• **Rue du Four.** Weaving space (*in progress*).

• **Merchant's house** dating from 1693 (further down from the tourist office, towards the rue des Charrettes). A beautiful house that has a dormer window on its roof with a curved pediment decorated with a raised head. On the other side of the alley, you can see an elaborately moulded window bearing the date 1589.

• **Weavers' houses.** La rue Moal was the liveliest district of Locronan, where weavers lived and worked. Their homes were much more modest than those of the merchants. The houses were of one storey only with thatched roofs.

• **I. Conan, canvas merchant.** Near the Notre-Dame de Bonne-Nouvelle chapel, the fountain and the St Eutrope wash-house is a pedimented construction which was made thanks to its benefactor Conan, a linen merchant in 1698. On each side of the alcove where the statue of the saint was, the inscription «DON DE I. CONAN MARCHAND DE TOILE L'AN 1698» (Gift of I. Conan Canvas Merchant, 1698) can be read. The wash-house would have served as a retting basin for the hemp to separate the fibres.

• **Place de l'église. Canvas Office.** 1669. It was here that the Royal Officer was in charge of checking the quality of the canvases before their sale at the market and to affix the mark: «visité à Locronan» (visited in Locronan).

• **Hotel of the East India Company.** 1689. A majestic building that fills the lower part of the square. In the XVIIth century it housed the trading post of the East India Company.



Weavers' shuttles

- **Maison de Maître René Trobert** (place de l'église, at the corner of the rue Lann). 1712. The rue Lann, the woven fabrics in Locronan were transported through this street towards Pouldahud / Pouldavid (Douarnenez), the port used for the export of the Locronan canvases, hence the name given to the canvas sails «Olonne de Poldavis».

- Church of Saint Ronan. XVth century. **The force of the weaver** (scissors). The coat of arms of the weavers' guild, high up on one of the pillars to the right of the entrance to the church, is a testament to the first developments of the sailcloth trade in Locronan.

- Church of Saint Ronan. XVth century. Engraved **weaver's shuttle** behind the pillar to the right of the entrance to the Rosary altar. The name of CALVE can be just made out, the symbol that surmounts it is a stylized weaver's shuttle.

Narrative text by Hervé Le Bihan and Fañch Le Hénaff, from Le Chemin de la Toile.



Woven creations - Workshop Ti Bihan

© Hervé Le Bihan



Coat of arms of the weavers' guild

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► Craftsmanship

The tradition of a wealthy town of weavers has encouraged and attracted many artists and craftsmen to Locronan. The squares, the streets surrounding the Saint Ronan church, lead to their discovery.

In Rue du Four, you can marvel at the steel crafts while tasting sweets from the past. In Rue Lann, you can buy a full grain leather belt, and in Rue du Prieuré, opposite the church, you can buy knives, lace and even cuddly toys.

And finally, we find ourselves in the Church square, transported to the middle of the 17th century, to eat kouignettes, Breton cake or the famous kouign amann.

Enjoy your discoveries and bon appétit.

*The list of craftsmen opposite is not exhaustive.
A complete list is available at the Tourist Office.*

Moncalin

Karine, a Master Teddy-maker since 2013 in Locronan, makes stuffed toys, comforters and blankets, faithful to high-quality know-how and a handmade concept. The range is aimed at children and adults alike for the pleasure of cuddling and as decor.



Alain Coadou Gallery and Workshop

Alain Coadou, a self-taught artist, firstly with watercolour, now describes Locronan and also Brittany, using acrylic on wood. Between the curvature of his landscapes and his quirky universe, this artist never ceases to amaze us.

L'Art et la Manière

Patrick Hénard, specialist of Art Crafts in the field of leather and leather goods, has been working since 1974 using traditional methods. Having added foundry work to his areas of expertise, he has created an authentically hand-crafted collection of belt buckles made of pewter and porcelain.



La Cour du Juch

Céline & Jérémie, creative craftsmen, passionate about the infinite possibilities of laser cutting.

Specialized in creative laser cutting and engraving, with a predominance for natural materials!

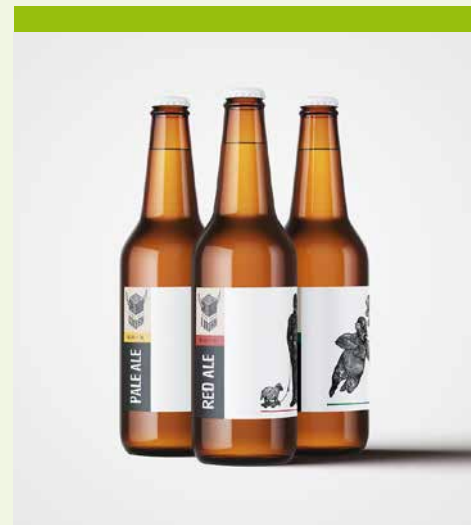
The workshop is located in Le Juch, and they opened a store in Locronan in December 2021.

Their range of products is built around interior design, such as tableware, lighting and the customization of major pieces of a room such as worktops, doors, etc.

La Brasserie Lokorn

Recently implanted in the heart of the village, the Lokorn Brewery was established in December 2022 by Tanguy and Alexandre, two malt and hop professionals wishing to give Locronan local know-how and a local product of taste and character.

The brewers offer a full range of 5 traditional and a few seasonal beers that vary along with the seasons and their inspiration. They are happy to share their passion through guided tours of the brewery followed by a tasting.





Filming of *L'Épervier* - French TV film

© Julien Cauvin - Rendez-vous Production

Finally, before the shooting starts, the sets are set up. Some of this preparation can impress the locals: for *Tess*, the streets of Locronan were covered with earth.

Since 2005, the association *Accueil de Tournages en Bretagne* (Hosting a shoot in Brittany) has been helping production departments with their scouting as well as offering the services of technicians and actors.

Impacts on town life

A film shoot has an incidence on the everyday life of everyone in a town.

It causes disruption in traffic, requires the closure of some businesses. Each shoot gives rise to serious negotiations between the film crew and the traders of the site, in order to agree on compensation. This is one of the reasons why filming takes place in the late season at major tourist sites such as Locronan.

► Locronan and the Cinema

Visitors discovering this site, fall under the spell of its constructed heritage, its rich history as well as the arts and crafts. But there is another type of heritage that the general public knows well: the seventh art. Locronan is in fact one of the most filmed towns in Brittany, **some thirty films have been shot here since 1920**. The best known are *Tess* by Roman Polanski (1979), *Chouans!* by Philippe de Broca (1987) and *A Very Long Engagement* by Jean-Pierre Jeunet (2004).

The authentic period décor of Locronan is very appreciated by directors. The picturesque aspect of the town, as if «frozen» in time, lends itself well to a historical film shoot, without, or at the most very little, editing necessary. We partly owe the work to bury the power lines that started in the Rue Saint Maurice to Roman Polanski for the purposes of the film *Tess*.

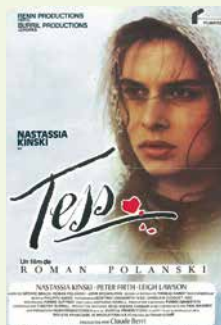
Hosting a shoot in Locronan

Before hosting a film crew, the town of Locronan is visited by the film director, his production coordinator, or an assistant. Following this visit, a decision is made concerning artistic, economic and technical criteria. Next, a new field visit is prepared, this time with the presence of the production manager.



Filming of Katell Quillévéré's movie, *"Le temps d'aimer"* in 2022

© T. Fontaine - Galerie Entre Vues



During the demolition at the end of the shooting, visitors believed that the storm that had raged a few days earlier had destroyed part of this building. Other people, thinking that the house really existed, screamed scandal because they did not understand why such a beautiful house was being destroyed.

The view of film directors

Words from Daniel Vigne, director of *Pêcheurs d'Islande* (a French TV film): «*There is the architectural beauty of the square in Locronan, which adds to its charm of course as so many other films have been shot there, and sends you back to what must have been Brittany in the 17th century.*»

Words from Philippe de Broca: «*I discovered Locronan by coming here and every time I come back it's a new pleasure.*»

Jean-Pierre Jeunet comments: «*The landscape of Brittany is very interesting; it's exactly what I was looking for. Locronan is a very practical film set: there is nothing to do, even the electric wires were buried I believe, during Tess.*»

Some filmmakers, such as Roman Polanski, during the shooting of *Tess*, have had to intervene during the shooting of sequences to calm the sometimes over-enthusiastic public.



Tourism impacts


Like Locronan, many towns in Brittany are eager to host film shoots because of the tourism impact it generates. It is a good way to convey the image, the history of a community, and even a region.


Big promotional campaigns accompany films during their shooting and their film or television release.

During the shooting period of *Chouans!* Antenne 2, the co-producer of this big-budget film, even presented the 1pm news programme live from Locronan.

Chouans film scenery!

The town hall, which dates from the Middle Ages, was a key element in the film *Chouans!* A replica was built in two weeks before the start of the shoot. This building, 14 metres high, 8 metres across and 10 metres wide, was built of wood and painted with polystyrene to give a more realistic image of this building. The walls really give the illusion of a granite wall spotted with lichen.







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© Michel Quinquais



Le Marché aux étoiles (The Star Market)

► Summer events



© Sandy Bonitaz

Medieval Camp

Medieval Festival

Building upon its success in 2019, the Médiévalokorn association is once again offering a return to the Middle Ages, the 6th and 7th May. Horse shows, fire, dance and medieval music are all part of the historical entertainment that will keep you amused. Médiévalokorn also intends to promote the medieval world through festive historical re-enactments (crafts market and medieval camps). For a weekend Locronan is transformed into a site of medieval festivities and an educational interpretation of the Middle Ages.

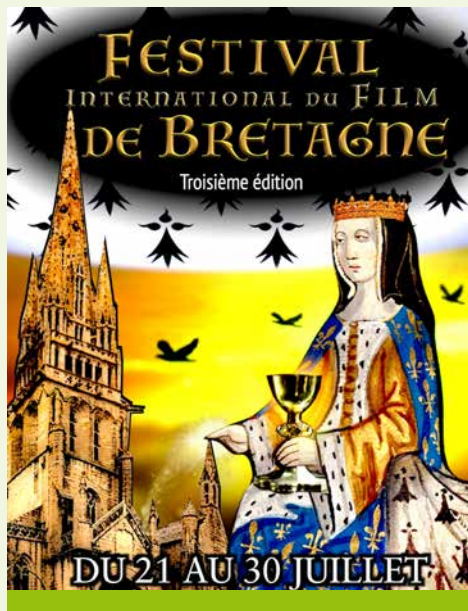
Le Marché aux étoiles (The Star Market)

One of the biggest nocturnal markets in Cornouaille for more than 20 years.

Every year there are at least sixty craftsmen and tradesmen present here every Thursday evening, during July and August, from 6pm until 11pm, lining the streets and squares of the historical town centre. There are also performances from street artists.

Petite Troménie

On Sunday, July 9, 2023, departure of the six km-long procession following in the footsteps of Saint Renan, while awaiting the Grande Troménie (12 km), which will take place in 2025.



Brittany International Film Festival

The 3rd edition of the Festival International du Film de Bretagne will take place from the 21st to the 30th July in Locronan. An official selection of international movies will be presented to the audience in Locronan.

A special event hosting meetings between actors, directors and their audience, taking place in the most cinematographic city of Brittany.

All information available on www.festivaldebretagne.com

La Foire aux Antiquités

Every year, the Small City of Character of Locronan eagerly welcomes the Antiques Fair, an unmissable event for lovers of antiques and collectables. A wide variety of everyday objects steeped in History are offered for sale by 30 to 55 second-hand and professional antique dealers. This summer don't miss the 3 dates of the event: Wednesday July the 19th, August the 9th, as well as Sunday September the 3rd.



Silence, ça touille ! 2023

2nd gourmet cinema meeting, the next edition of "Silence, ça touille festival!" 2023 will take place on September 29th, 30th, and October 1st, 2023 in Locronan.

A selection of French and international films around gastronomy will be presented in competition to the public.

The screenings will be followed by a dinner around the culinary specialties of the country represented.

A perfect harmony between cinema and gastronomy.

All information, screenings and schedules will be available on www.assolaniac.com

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