



TRAIL OF DISCOVERY

QUIMPER

3 TOUR ROUTES



VILLES
& PAYS
D'ART &
D'HISTOIRE

KEY

CITY TOUR

THE ESSENTIAL DETOUR

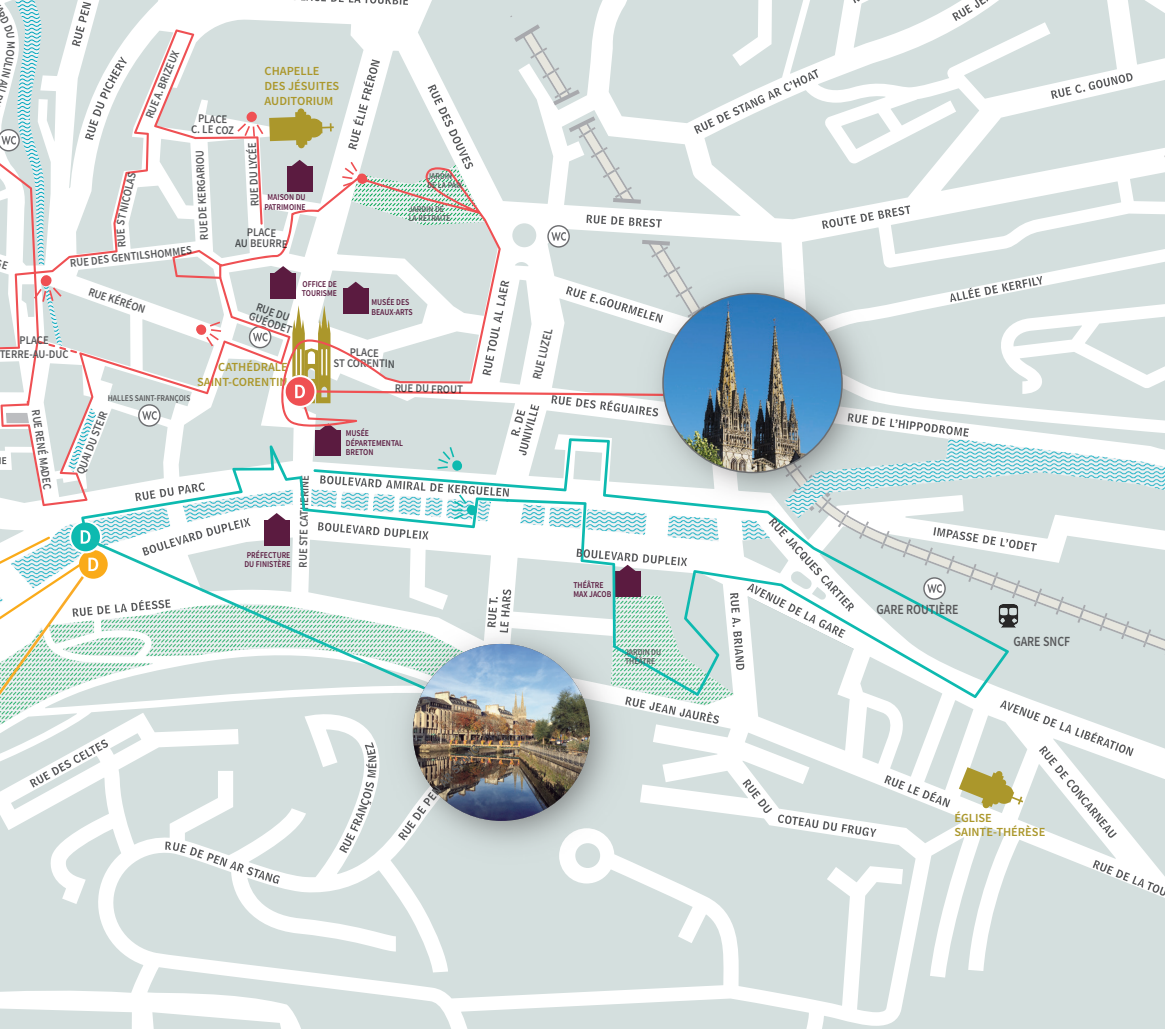
A RETURN TRIP

D Start


**Vantage
point**

--- Shortcut





3 TOWN ROUTES

CITY TOUR

P. 5

A first tour of discovery around Quimper from the episcopal city to the monastery district, passing through the suburb of Terre-au-Duc.

Tour 2 - 3 km

THE ESSENTIAL DETOUR

P. 19

Take time out to enjoy a delightful stroll along the Odet to the Locmaria district.

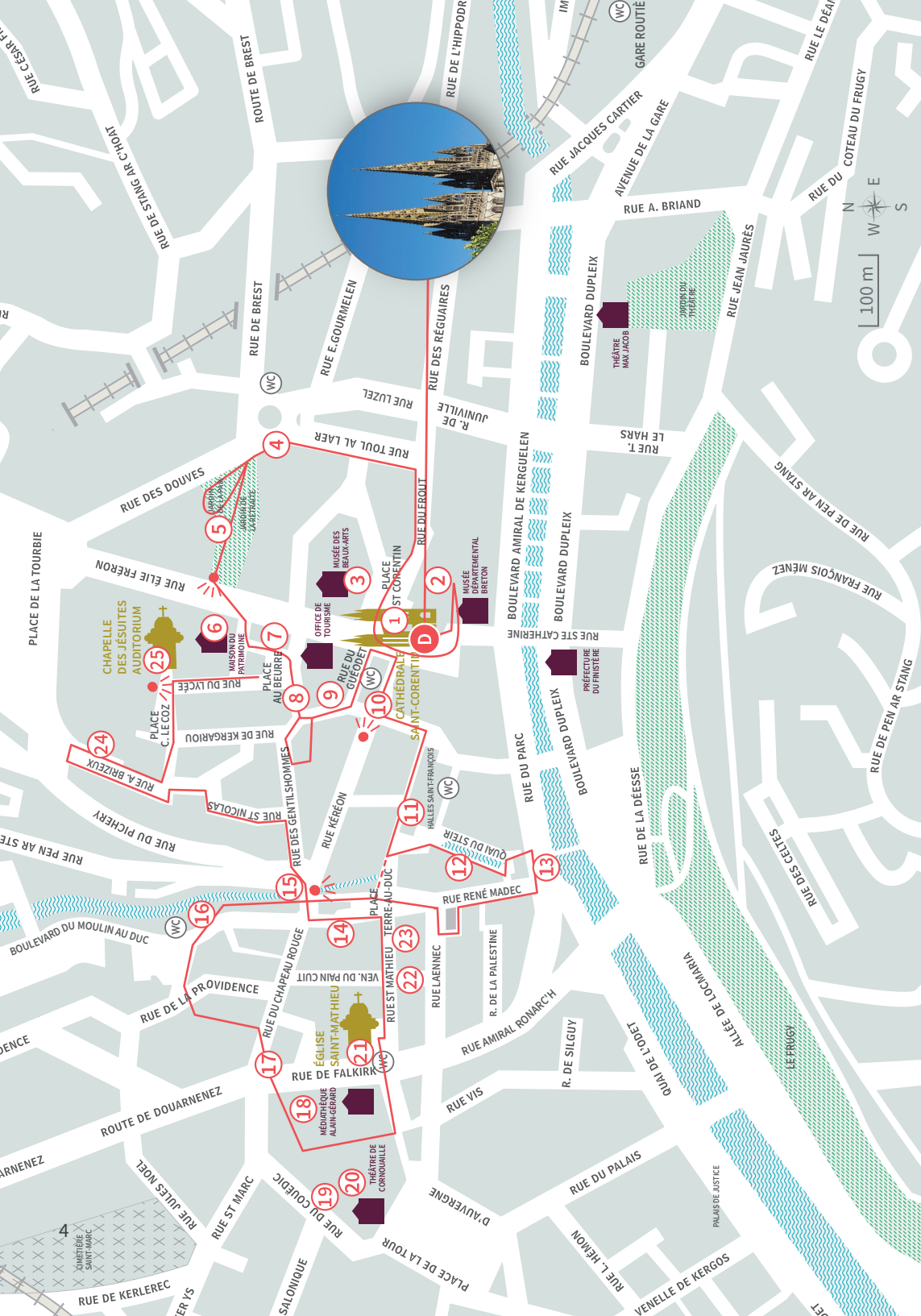
Tour 2,5 - 4 km

A RETURN TRIP

P. 27

Starting from the confluence of the rivers, take a return trip to visit the Quimper of the 19th and 20th centuries !

Tour 2,5 km



CITY TOUR

3 KM (1½ - 2 HOURS)
WITH OPTIONAL SHORTCUT TO 2 KM
(APPROX. 1 HOUR)

**⚠ NOT SUITABLE
FOR PEOPLE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY**

1. Statue of King Gradlon

© Office de Tourisme
de Quimper Cornouaille



1

A FIRST TOUR OF DISCOVERY AROUND QUIMPER, FROM THE EPISCOPAL CITY TO THE SUBURB OF TERRE-AU-DUC.

In the Middle Ages, the fortified town on the right bank of the Odet provided shelter around the cathedral for houses, single-storey dwellings, workshops and noble residences, as well as fields and orchards. The bishop of Cornouaille was the lord. The episcopal city was surrounded by a ring of fortifications.

START AT PLACE SAINT-CORENTIN

1 - Saint Corentin cathedral

According to legend, King Gradlon, whose statue stands among the spires of the cathedral, appointed Saint Corentin as the first bishop of Quimper and gave him the castle to build the first cathedral there. Construction of the present-day cathedral started after 1239 and took several centuries to complete. The coat of arms carved above the main entrance is that of the family of the Duke of Brittany who

financed the building in the early 15th century. The 76-metre granite spires were added to the towers in the 19th century, in the same Gothic style as the original construction. Inside, the red-ochre colour of the vaulted ceiling draws the eye. The 15th century colours were reconstructed from surveys as part of an extensive restoration project that took place between 1988 and 2008. One unusual feature of the cathedral is the misalignment of the choir and the nave; construction of the choir started in the 13th century and the nave was completed two centuries later.

👉 When you exit the cathedral, turn left into Rue du Roi-Gradlon. Go into the courtyard of the Breton regional museum, which was formerly the bishop's palace.

2 - The bishop's palace

The bishop's palace attached to the cathedral was the residence of the bishop of Cornouaille until 1906. It gave the prelate access to the cathedral without having to go outdoors. The south wing adjacent to the rampart was washed by the waters of the Odet at high tide until the quay was built in the 19th century. The living quarters were redesigned and



1



2

1. Cathedral interior

2. Oak ceiling above the Rohan staircase, a masterpiece of carpentry

3. Jardin de la Retraite

4. Detail of machicolations on the fortifications

5. Laennec's stethoscope

© Musée des beaux-arts de Quimper

enlarged by successive occupants. The oldest surviving part of the building is the Tower of Rohan, which houses a spiral staircase with a vaulted ceiling in the form of a palm tree. Erected in 1507, it is decorated with false machicolations, animals, foliage and ogees resting on angels bearing coats of arms.



Breton departmental museum

The bishop's palace is now the property of the Finistère departmental authority and has housed the Breton departmental museum since 1911. The museum focuses on the social history, ethnology and arts of the local region of Finistère and has extensive collections of archaeological objects, historic costumes, furniture and ceramics. The museum courtyard offers an excellent view of the spires and flying buttresses of the cathedral.



Walk past the main entrance to the cathedral again and skirt round the building until you come to the large square on the north side.

3 - Place Saint Corentin

The original Romanesque cathedral was surrounded by a cemetery in the Middle Ages, which was abandoned around 1300. When the Gothic cathedral was built, this entire space, ideally situated at the junction of the main roads through the city, was given over to markets and fairs. A circle of shale flagstones marks the spot where the Mediaeval pillory stood, where convicts were exposed for everyone to see. The north side of the square was redeveloped in the 19th century. The town hall, completed in 1834, faces the statue of Dr. Laennec who invented the stethoscope and came from Quimper.



Musée des beaux-arts

Constructed in 1872 and redeveloped a century later, the Musée des beaux-arts (Museum of Fine Arts) houses an important collection of paintings from the 16th century to present day. It is renowned for its collection of Breton art, the School of Pont-Aven being particularly well represented.



Walk alongside the cathedral and the sacristy and follow Rue du Frouit. Turn left into Rue Toul al Laër. At the roundabout, go towards Rue des Douves and stop in Jean Le Roy square.



3



4

4 - The fortifications

In the 13th century the episcopal city was enclosed by 1500 metres of walls, washed by the Odet to the south, the Steir to the west and the Frouit to the east, which now runs underground near here. High walls with machicolations were fronted by broad, dry moats to the north and west of the city. The walls were surmounted with a parapet walk and reinforced with defensive towers, of which only the Nevet Tower now remains.

☞ At the end of the square, take the steps on the left-hand side that lead up to the parapet walk. To the right, another flight of steps leads to the Jardin de la Paix. Go into the Jardin de la Retraite on the left.



5

5 - Jardin de la Retraite and Jardin de la Paix

Enclosed with walls and consisting of several tiered areas, these gardens once belonged to the homes of the canons of the cathedral. From the 19th century, the Ursuline nuns and subsequently the Dames de la Retraite lived in the building that borders the garden to the south. The nuns tended the gardens, which were also used as a cemetery. The city bought the land belonging to the convent in 1977. The south-facing aspect and protection by the walls allowed tropical plants to be grown here. The Jardin de la Paix, which overhangs the Jardin de la Retraite, offers a different aspect, looking out over the Mediterranean.

☞ When you exit the garden towards Rue Élie Fréron, you will notice the imposing radiating chapel of the Chapelle des Jésuites (Jesuit chapel).

☞ When you leave the Jardin de la Retraite, turn left and go down Rue Élie Fréron. Note the latrines that survive to this day in the gable wall of the half-timbered house to your right. Take the first street on your right, Rue Ar Barzh Kadiou.

1. Detail of carpenter's marks at no.1 Rue du Lycée

2. Hôtel de Minuélou, no.10 Rue du Sallé
© Christophe Rouillat

3. Sculptures, Maison des Cariatides

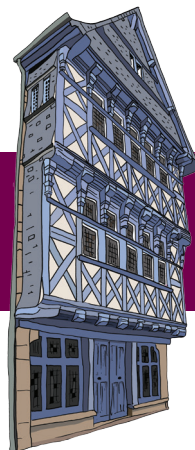
4. Statue-sign of Le Petit Breton

5. The cathedral from Rue Kéréon
© Christophe Rouillat

1



2



6 - Maison du Pavillon

The Maison du Pavillon (Pavillion House) at no.5 takes its name from its high, four-sided slate roof. It has been part of the Jesuit College, located a little higher up the street, for over a century. It acquired its current simple, symmetrical appearance in the 17th century. The building has been used by the Animation du Patrimoine (Promotion of Heritage) since 2005, who put on tours, workshops and exhibitions as part of the City of Art and History classification. The Maison du Patrimoine (Heritage House) also produces tourist literature such as this map.

With your back to the Maison du Pavillon, walk towards Place au Beurre then turn right.

7 - Place au Beurre

This square was where the butter market once stood, where peasant farmers came to sell salted butter in stoneware pots. Brittany was exempt from 'gabelle' - the salt tax - and produced salted butter that would keep longer. The 16th century granite houses at the top of Rue du Lycée have ornate openings surmounted with basket-handle or ogee arches. On the half-timbered house at no.1,

opposite these houses, you can see some old marks made by the carpenter, roman numerals carved for assembling the wooden framework.

Turn into Rue du Sallé.

8 - Rue du Sallé

One of the half-timbered houses still standing, no.10, has a tiered gable supported by corbels that juts out over the street. The wooden frame is reinforced with cross-of-St. Andrew braces and clad with a mixture of earth, straw and water. This wattle-and-daub construction provides excellent thermal insulation and soundproofing after it dries. The street names reflect the way the city was organised around certain trades in the Middle Ages. The charcutiers (pork butchers) were grouped together on the Rue du Sallé, originally called the "Rue de la chair salée" ("street of salted meat"); the butchers were in the Rue des Boucheries where they killed the animals directly in front of their stalls.

At the end of the Rue du Sallé turn left into Rue des Boucheries.

3



4



! *Optional detour via rue Treuz.*

Turn left again into Rue du Guéodet.

9 - Maison des Cariatides

One of the half-timbered houses on Rue du Guéodet features some granite pillars carved with grimacing masks and busts with typical 16th century clothing and hairstyles. Have you noticed the man sticking his tongue out ?

To the right of the entrance, the female figure holding a pitcher is a reminder that the place was once a famous tavern in the city.

☛☛ *Turn right into Place Saint Corentin and go to Rue Kéréon.*

10 - Rue Kéréon

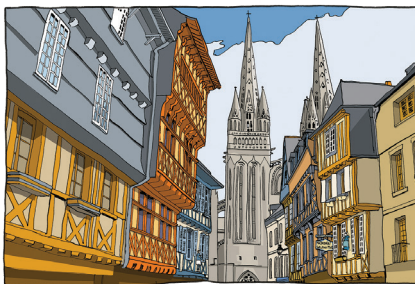
It was along this road, the city's main shopping street, that the Corporation des Cordonniers (shoemakers' corporation) made and sold leather goods. Some of the half-timbered houses were reconstructed in granite after a fire in June 1762 lasting 12 days. A new town planning scheme required the road layout to be changed and the facades of the houses, which would be built in stone from then on, to be brought into alignment. The statue-sign at no.10 dates from the 1850s. It depicts

a peasant dressed in the traditional costume of the Glazik region around Quimper: a blue waistcoat with embroidered collar, cinched with a broad belt, short jacket, wide-legged trousers, gaiters and clogs. On the other side of the street, the statue of a woman in Pont-Aven costume originally marked the entrance to a haberdasher's shop.

☛☛ *The slate-clad house on the corner with Rue des Boucheries has a small statue with the date 1552 underneath. This is the most symbolic image of Quimper, with the granite spires of the cathedral in the background.*

☛☛ *Take Rue Saint-François leading to the covered market.*

5



9



1

1. Saint François covered market in 1968, photo colourised in 2020

© Archives municipales de Quimper
3 Fi 25-09, Patrick Le Grand collection

2. Steïr waterside

3. Fernand Le Gout-Gérard, Place Terre-au-Duc, Quimper, 1910

© Musée des beaux-arts de Quimper

11 - Covered market

The covered market was built in 1979 on the site of the old 19th century “halles”, which was destroyed by a fire. The broad slate roof supported by a structure resembling the hull of a boat is resonant of the old covered markets in this region. In the Middle Ages the monastery of the Cordeliers, a mendicant order founded by St. Francis of Assisi, stood on this site. One of the Franciscan brothers from Quimper, Santig Du, is remembered for taking care of the victims of the Black Death in the mid-14th century, and providing burials for them. A statue of him still stands in the cathedral, where the “little black saint” is

still venerated. Bread is placed at the feet of Santig Du every day for the benefit of the poor.

👉 *Walk through the covered market or alongside it.*

! *If you want the shorter tour, take the Astor bridge over the river Steïr. You'll arrive in front of the watchtower in Place Terre-au-Duc, nos. 14 and 15.*

Otherwise, follow the waterside along Quai Port-au-Vin.



2



3

Terre-au-Duc is a district located outside the fortifications; it was separated from the episcopal city by the river Steïr and under the authority of the Duke of Brittany. This parish, served by the church of St. Matthew, is known for its trading activity in connection with the port. The district is also called the “land of convents” due to the number of plots of land available in the 17th and 18th centuries on which a number of religious orders were established.

12 - Quai du Port-au-Vin and Quai du Steïr

The Quai du Port au Vin is also a reminder of Quimper’s vocation as a port. It was here that wine from Bordeaux and Spain was unloaded from Mediaeval times. The construction of the Halles between 1845 and 1847 was part of a vast urban development programme: three roads were opened around the building and the Astor bridge was built over the Steïr. A quay was built on the left bank of the river - the Quai du Steïr, lined with 19th century buildings with uniform facades.

Follow the river along the Quai du Steïr.

13 - The confluence

The port of Quimper was established in the Middle Ages at the spot where the Steïr joins the Odet. The city takes its name from the confluence - “kemper” in Breton. The Odet was used for transporting goods since it flows into the Atlantic after meandering another 20 kilometres. A small ducal castle stood where the two water courses meet, and this served as a natural moat at the foot of the fortifications.

Take Rue René Madec and turn into Venelle du Poivre. Turn right to come onto Rue Laennec, which leads to a private mansion built for the 18th century explorer René Madec. Turn left and go back to Place terre-au-Duc.

14 - Place Terre-au-Duc

The Halles stood on this square until the late 16th century. As the centre of ducal power, it was connected with the Odet via the Steïr and Rue René Madec and was the main entrance for goods into the city. Foodstuffs, wine, salt, pepper and other spices were taxed by the ducal administration before they were



1



2

3

transported into the episcopal city. The square was lined with half-timbered houses which have been changed over the course of time. Some have retained their “firewalls” - dividing walls build of stone to prevent the spread of fire.

Go into Rue de la Herse.

15 - The watchtower

The Steïr marks the border between Terre-au-Duc and the episcopal city surrounded by its fortified walls. A watchtower is built into the wall. A little lower and to the left there are some ancient latrines overhanging the river. Walking along the river, Rue de la Herse (“Portcullis” Street) marks the place where a fortified gate stood on the left bank in Mediaeval times, with a drawbridge and two portcullises. The city's six gates were demolished in the latter half of the 18th century. They no longer served as defences and the city needed to be opened up to allow traffic in and out.

The view over the Steïr from the bridge that replaced the drawbridge is a picture-postcard image of Quimper.

Keeping Médard bridge on your right, continue along the river.

16 - River Steïr

The Duke of Brittany's communal mill stood on this section of the river from the 15th century. The establishment of abattoirs opposite the mill in 1806 assisted with the rise of the city. New industrial activities rose up on the meadows on the right bank of the Steïr from the 1880s. The river provided a discharge for the effluent from canneries, tanneries, dyers etc. An ice house backed onto the duke's mill and supplied the agro-food industries in the area. A walkway leading to the cinema has now been constructed along the river in the Moulin-Vert district.

Leave the riverside walk by taking the second alleyway on your left. Cross Rue de la Providence and take the street opposite - Passage du Chapeau Rouge.



3



4

1. View of the old ice house, 1858

© Archives municipales de Quimper, 4 Fi 1659

2. The watchtower

© Christophe Rouillat

3. Chapeau Rouge conference center

4. Ursuline convent Alain Gérard - media library

5. Old military barracks

© Archives municipales de Quimper, 29 Fi 272, Collection Villard

17 - Le Chapeau Rouge

Rue du Chapeau Rouge took its name from one of the many inns in the neighbourhood in the 18th century. This main road through Terre-au-Duc was used as a route into the city from Locronan and Douarnenez. Opposite the multimedia library, the Chapeau Rouge conference centre now occupies the former covered market that was built in 1937. Reinforced concrete, a symbol of modernity at the time, was used to create large picture windows.

Go around the building to the right to come onto Esplanade François Mitterrand. Walk through the Simone Veil garden.

18 - Ursuline convent Alain Gérard - media library

The multimedia library was opened in 2007 in this restored building. It features a decidedly contemporary façade in calligraphy glass. To the rear, two square wings around the garden date from the 18th century, with a cloister below. These are remnants of an Ursuline convent where young ladies of noble and bourgeois families were educated. Following the Catholic reform, many religious orders settled in Quimper from the early 17th

century, forming a ring of monasteries on the available land to the west of the city.

Go around the building to the right to come onto Esplanade François Mitterrand. Walk through the Simone Veil garden.

19 - The old barracks

Alongside the theatre, the École Européenne Supérieure d'Art de Bretagne now occupies buildings that were erected in the 19th century to house the 118th Infantry Regiment. This regiment paid a heavy price in the First World War. At the bottom of the garden, a statue of a fusilier pays homage to those who died for their country.



5

1. Window depicting the Passion, church of Saint Mathieu

2. Auditorium of the Théâtre de Cornouaille

3. Hôtel de Saint-Allouarn

4. Rue Saint Nicolas

5. Place Mesgloaguen



2



3

20 - Théâtre de Cornouaille

The Théâtre de Cornouaille was constructed on the site of an old barracks in 1998 for the Scène Nationale de Quimper (Quimper National Theatre). Architects Nicolas Michelin and Finn Geipel designed a concrete and steel parallelepiped clad in wood, housing a 700-seat auditorium. The vast pedestrian square that serves as its forecourt was designed to communicate with the shopping streets of the Saint Mathieu district.

••• Leave Esplanade François Mitterrand via the pedestrian street to the left, in the corner of the cloister. Walk down Place du 118^e Régiment d'Infanterie. Turn left into Rue Saint Mathieu. Cross Rue de Falkirk into Place Saint Mathieu.

21 - Église Saint-Mathieu

This church served Terre-au-Duc. The original edifice dated from the 15th and 16th centuries. The bell tower erected in 1840 has a Gothic spire inspired by that of Point-Croix. The architect, Joseph Bigot, also built the spires on Saint Corentin cathedral to the same design. His son was in charge of the

reconstruction of the church of Saint Mathieu in the late 19th century. He kept the choir window representing the Passion of Christ from the old building as testimony to 16th century stained-glass art.

••• Continue along Rue Saint Mathieu.

22 - Les venelles (alleyways)

Rue Saint Mathieu is a major traffic route through the Terre-au-Duc district. It connects with Rue Laennec and Rue du Chapeau Rouge via a number of alleyways. Venelle de la Gaze (gauze material) on the right probably alludes to the precious goods brought from the Orient by seafarers. Venelle du Pain Cuit (baked bread) on the left marks the site of the communal bakery where local people were required to bring their bread to be baked against payment of a tax to the local nobleman, the Duke of Brittany.

••• Continue along Rue Saint Mathieu.



4



5

23 - Hôtel Saint-Allouarn

At the end of the street on the right, the Saint Allouarn private mansion at no.7 is distinguished by its quarried stone facade adorned with typical Renaissance motifs: small columns and curved arches. The dormers on the top of the building with alternating triangular and arched pediments are typical of the early 18th century. One of the dormers bears the date 1714. The house belonged to a family of seafarers, amongst them Louis François Marie de Saint Allouarn who accompanied Yves de Kerguelén on an expedition to the islands of the same name (Kerguelen Islands) in the 18th century. It was on this voyage that Saint Allouarn discovered Australia.

Walk across Place Terre-au-Duc. Cross the river Steir by the Médard bridge. From Place Médard, go into Rue des Gentilshommes on the left, then take the first street on the left, Rue Saint Nicolas. Note the small statue of St. Nicholas in a niche at the top of the street. You are now in Place Mesloaguen. Walk up as far as Rue Brizeux.

24 - Place Mesgloaguen

Rue Saint Nicolas follows the traces of the old fortifications and comes out at Place Mesgloaguen. The street is lined with a row of identical houses that were built on the rampart by a contractor after the Revolution. Opposite them are the buildings of the former Saint Antoine hospital which took care of the sick and the poor from the 13th century. During the Revolution, the hospital was turned into a detention centre and continued as such until 1990.

Retrace your steps and take Rue Henri Jacquelin leading to the former Chapelle des Jésuites in Place Claude Le Coz.



1

**1. The old prison,
now occupied by the
Agence des Bâtiments
de France**



2

**2. Interior of the
Chapelle des Jésuites**

3. IHS monogram

**4. Radiating chapel
of the Chapelle des
Jésuites**



3

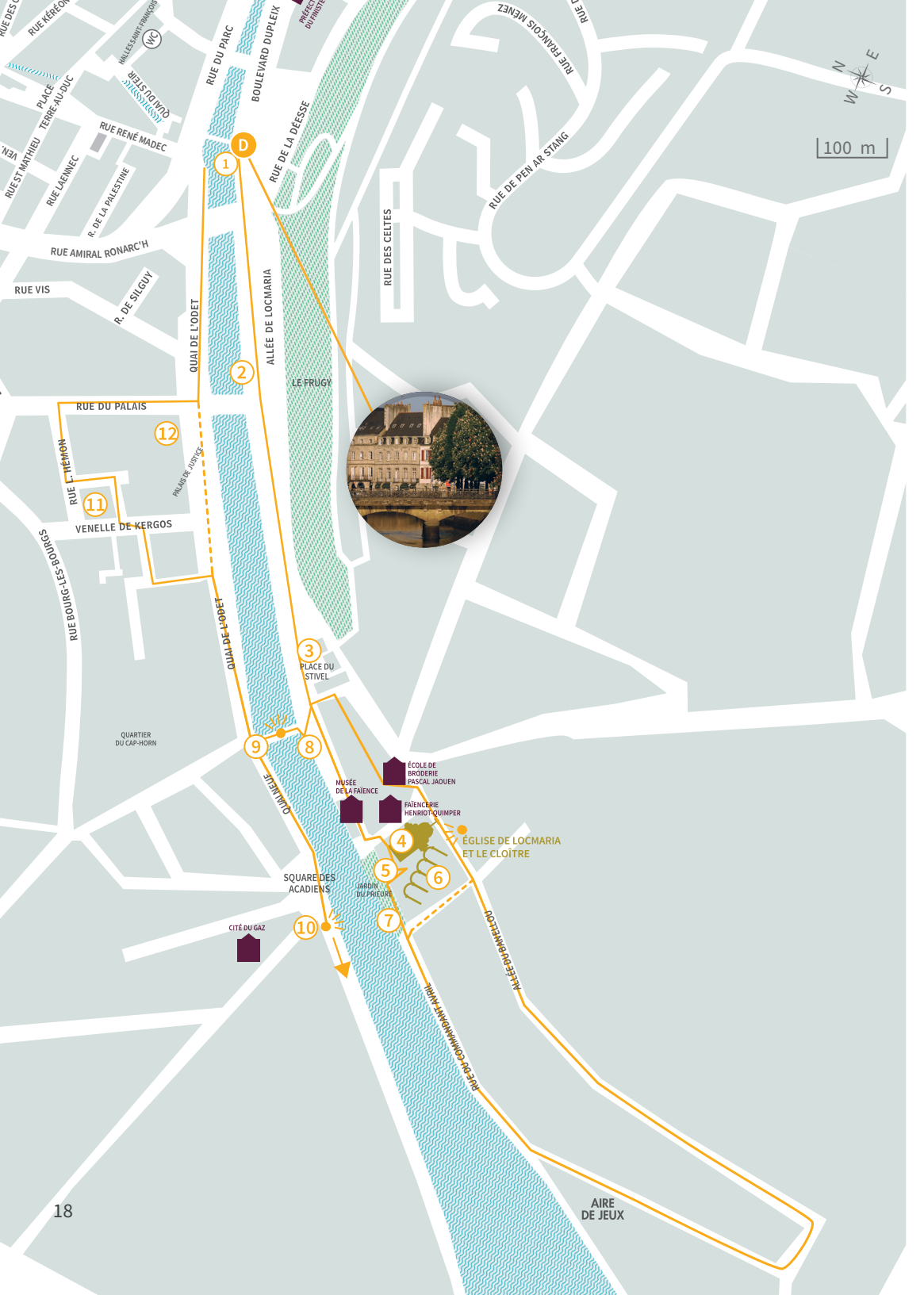
25 - Chapelle des Jésuites

The Jesuits settled in Quimper in 1620 and undertook construction of a college. The building was reconstructed in the late 19th century when it became a public school, now La Tour d'Auvergne college. Adjacent to this establishment, the chapel built between 1667 and 1747 was intended for students but could also accommodate the faithful in the vicinity. Its imposing, perfectly symmetrical façade includes architectural features that can be found on most Jesuit buildings: pilasters, a triangular pediment, volutes connecting a lower level wider than the one above.

☀️ Take Rue du lycée on the right and return to Place au Beurre.

☀️ As you go down Rue du Lycée, which is lined with half-timbered houses, you'll have a charming view of the stone lacework of the cathedral spires.





100 m



THE ESSENTIAL DETOUR

4 KM (APPROX. 1½ HOURS)
WITH OPTIONAL SHORTCUT TO 2.5 KM
(APPROX. 1 HOUR)


TAKE TIME OUT TO ENJOY A DELIGHTFUL STROLL ALONG THE ODET TO THE LOCMARIA DISTRICT.

The Locmaria district was the first urban nucleus of Quimper. In ancient times, a small port settlement grew up near a ford across the Odet river. This Gallo-Roman settlement gave way to the Abbey of Locmaria in the Middle Ages, which had a Romanesque church. Pottery manufacturing started up in Quimper in the 18th century and still continues today in the crafts district.

START AT PONT PISSETTE


1 - The confluence

The city takes its name from the confluence - “kemper” in Breton. The point where the Odet met the Steïr offered an advantageous defensive position in the Middle Ages and also allowed the development of port activities. The sea is just 20 kilometres down the Odet, which is a tidal river.

 From the Pont Pissette bridge, go towards the Mont Frugy side and turn right along Boulevard Duplex. Keep the Max-Jacob bridge on your right and go straight on towards the Allées de Locmaria. The promenade constructed at the foot of Mont Frugy in the 18th century provides a walkway along the river.

2 - The port

The port experienced a revival in the 18th century. Quays were established all along the right bank of the Odet from the confluence to the Cap Horn district. A variety of commodities passed through the holds and the inclined planes designed for loading and unloading boats in the 19th century: wines from Bordeaux, salt for preserving food and for the trading of fish, iron imported for canneries, and coal, wood and clay for the potteries.

 Keeping the Pont de la Cale de Saint-Jean bridge on your right, go straight on towards the Allées de Locmaria. The promenade takes you into Place du Stivel. You are now in the Locmaria district.



1



2

3 - Place du Stivel

In 1699, a potter called Jean-Baptiste Bousquet arrived from the Marseille area to make clay pipes near the Prieuré de Locmaria (Locmaria priory). His son Pierre, a master potter, bought a house in Place du Stivel and turned it into Quimper's first earthenware factory. You can still see the "Manufacture de la Grande Maison" at no.3, surmounted by a turret from which the arrival of boats could be discerned. The place is still used as a landing area for materials required in the factory - wood, clay, sand etc. A small water course descending from Mont Frugy, the Stivel (meaning "gushing spring" in Breton), supplied the fresh water required for the decantation process in granite troughs.

Take Rue Jean Baptiste-Bousquet as far as Place Denis Bérardier.

Musée de la Faïence

By means of alliances and acquisitions, the numerous potteries in the area combined in the 20th century in a single factory. The company inherited the collections from several pottery lines: moulds and current and special production items. Open since 1991 in a former pottery factory, the Musée

de la Faïence (ceramics museum) presents the production process and demonstrates how the Quimper style has evolved, through its Breton figures surrounded by plant decorations in blue, green yellow, red and violet.



Henriot-Quimper pottery

Henriot-Quimper pottery continues the art of hand-painted pottery and the "décor à la touche" tradition of freehand brush strokes. In the pottery workshops, visitors can discover the various stages of production from raw clay to final firing.

4 - Notre-Dame church

There is evidence of a monastery dedicated to Saint Mary as far back as the 11th century. The district of Locmaria (Loc Maria - place consecrated to the Virgin) takes its name from the abbey. The nave from this period still remains, a testimony to the beginnings of Romanesque art in Brittany. The Romanesque radiating chapel was constructed in the following century and crowned with an imposing bell tower. The main entrance with its Gothic porch dates from the 15th century. The whole building was restored in the 1860s, after it became a parish church. Inside,



3



4



5

1. River Odet from the port

© Archives municipales
de Quimper, 29 Fi 98,
Fonds Moque

3. Locmaria cloister

4. Quimper pottery

5. Prieuré de Locmaria

2. Interior of the Église de Notre-Dame de Locmaria

the Romanesque nave houses a collection of tombstones from the 14th to the 18th centuries and a Way of the Cross from 1860, comprising earthenware plaques framed by terracotta bas-reliefs. The door in the south aisle gives access to the cloister (no.6).

☺☺ *When you exit the church, turn left and go into the private courtyard.*

5 - The priory

In the 12th century the abbey became a priory - a monastery attached to a larger abbey - and remained so until the Revolution. The oldest part of the priory is the part attached to the church and dates from 1646, as indicated on the inscription above the coat of arms in the centre of the façade. From 1664 the priory had the right to accept young women from the local aristocracy as novices. New buildings were constructed to house the refectory, dormitory, chambers and apartments, and the prioress' quarters which date from the 1740s.

☺☺ *Cross the courtyard and pass under the porch in front of you. On your left you will see the cloister situated on the south side of the church.*

6 - The cloister

In the 11th and 12th centuries the monastery buildings were arranged around a Romanesque cloister, of which the openings to the chapter house still survive on the right-hand side. A limestone gallery was constructed in 1669 alongside the church and the priory. Research has been unable to establish whether this was a full cloister or simply a covered passage for the monks to get to the church from the priory.

☺☺ *Retrace your steps slightly back to Rue Jean Baptiste-Bousquet. Go into priory garden.*

7 - Jardin du Prieuré

This garden was laid out in 1997 to reflect the monastery gardens of the Anne of Brittany era, around 1500. It is organised around a central fountain. The paths are arranged around raised square beds for cultivation at knee height. In the Middle Ages, plants were grown for food and medicine, and also to make clothing.

☺☺ *Exit onto Rue Commandant-Avril and stay on this road.*



1



2



3



4

! If you want the shorter tour, take Rue du Chanoine Moreau.

Rue Commandant-Avril branches off to the left. To the right of the cross, a path runs alongside the Odet to the meadow where pie noir cows graze - a breed of Breton cattle. Continue your walk under the old oak trees on Rue Commandant-Avril, then go down Allée du Banellou on the left. You're now at Rue du Chanoine Moreau on your right, take this road then turn left immediately.

☀️ Facing the biscuit factory, a radiating chapel typical of Romanesque architecture is revealed in stages: the central apse in the axis, the apse chapels on each side, the arms of the transept and the square bell tower.

👁️ École de broderie d'art

The Pascal Jaouen School of Art Embroidery is situated in an old building that was once a pottery factory. It offers courses in "Glazik" embroidery in particular and puts on exhibitions of textile art and haute broderie in the Baradoz-Paradis space.

☀️ Cross the road then turn right immediately into Venelle de la Faïence. Cross the Esplanade Jules Verlingue. Turn left into Rue du Stivel. You are now in Place du Stivel.

8 - The Odet lugger

When it's not sailing to the Glénan archipelago, the sailing ship Corentin spends the winter in Quimper near the Cale de l'Odet. This three-mast ship was built in the Allées de Locmaria in 1990 and is a faithful reconstruction of a lugger - the coasters that traversed the Odet and the Atlantic coast in the 19th century transporting merchandise.

☀️ Go onto the Passerelle du Cap Horn footbridge.

9 - Passerelle du Cap Horn

There was a wooden swing bridge in this position in the Middle Ages. It was demolished in 1740 after it was damaged by a boat. A ferryman then provided a crossing between the two banks of the river. With the advent of the potteries a footbridge was essential, but it was not until 1954 that it came into service.

5



1. Jardin du Prieuré
2. The Odet lugger
3. Glazik embroidery
4. A pie noir cow in an eco-pasture

5. Eugène Boudin,
Le port de Quimper, 1857
© Musée des beaux-arts,
Quimper
6. Château de Lanniron
7. The town of Gaz



6

The moving section is opened manually with a winch to allow coasters to pass through.

☀️ The view of the cathedral spires from Cap Horn has provided inspiration for many painters and photographers.

👉 After the footbridge, go left on Quai Neuf and continue until you come to Square des Acadiens.

10 - The towpath

The towpath was constructed in the 1840s. This raised bank allowed ships to be towed by horses walking along the bank and was a privileged place for walking at the time. The first few metres have been turned into a quayside. Quai Neuf has been accommodating cruise ships on the Odet since the early 20th century. Further on, the granite houses of Cité du Gaz, built in 1930, are testimony to industrial activity: this company-owned village was adjacent to the gasworks, which have now been demolished.

☀️ At the start of the towpath the view opens onto the garden, church and priory of Locmaria, located on the opposite bank of the Odet. 2 kilometres further on, the walkway offers a splendid view of the Château de Lanniron, the former summer residence of the bishops of Cornouaille.

👉 Retrace your steps back to the Quai de l'Odét. When you come to the footbridge, cross the road in front of the shop located in a former early-20th century garage.



7



1

1. View of the former Garage de l'Odét

© Archives municipales
de Quimper, 29 Fi 131
Collection Villard

2. Palais de Justice

3. Former tavern
that became Fouillen
pottery factory in the
mid-20th century

●● Take the first street on the left, Rue Joseph Halleguen, then continue on the right until you come to Venelle Kergos and go a few metres into the alleyway. Take Rue Anatole Le Braz on the right.

11 - The Paugam District

There was an abbey on the Odét on this site here in the 17th century. The abbey gardens were on the slope behind the buildings. In the 19th century, Paugram established a nursery in the grounds that formerly belonged to the nuns. This prosperous district was named after him in 1920.

●● Continue along Rue Anatole Le Braz, go right into Rue Louis Hémon, then right again into Rue du Palais where you will see a wooded area, Mont Frugy, at the bottom.

12 - Palais de Justice

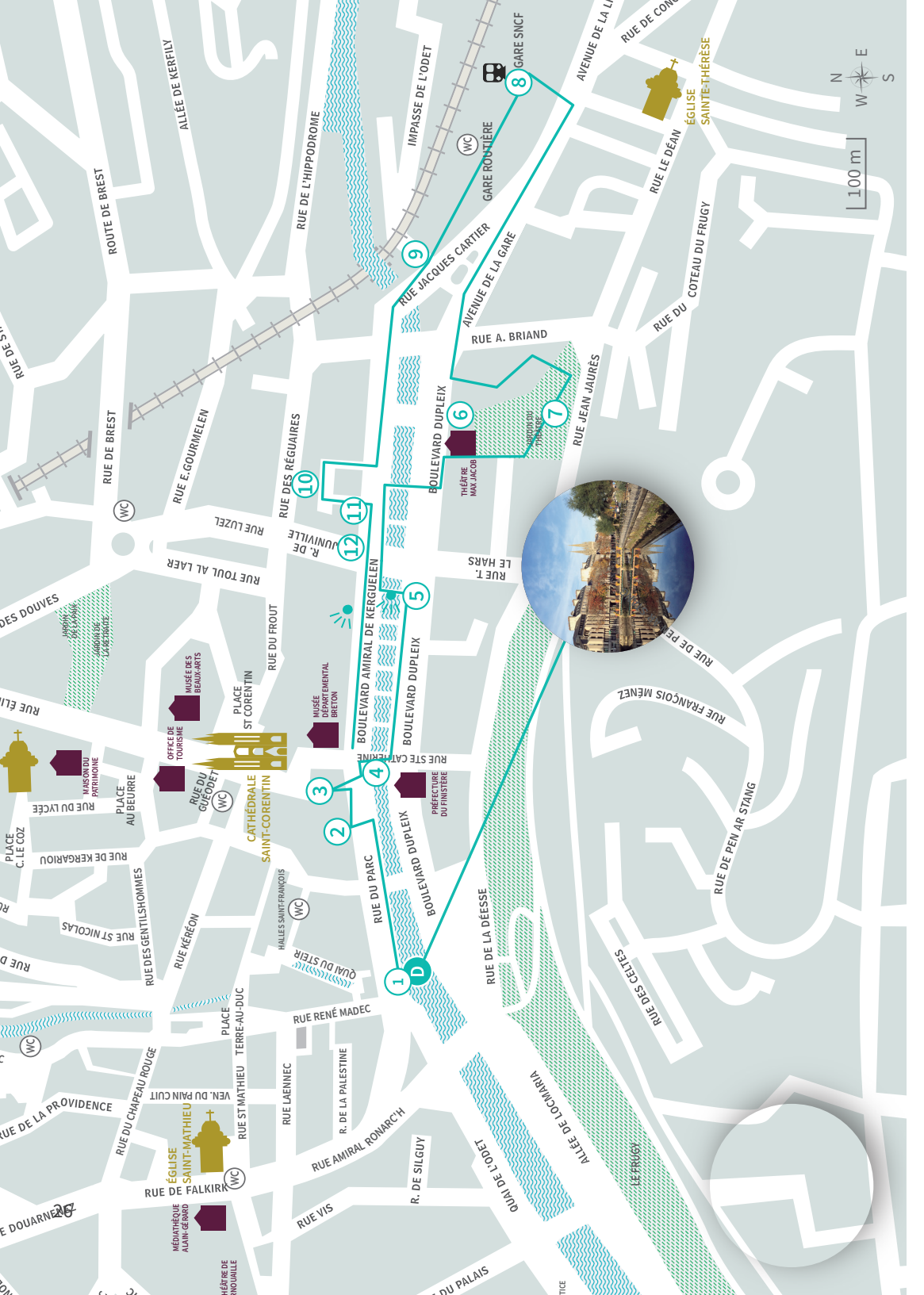
There Built in the 19th century by architect François Lemarié, who also designed Quimper town hall, the palais de justice (courthouse) is built in the style of a Greek temple with columns and a broad pediment. An extension was added in 2017 which extends along Rue du Palais.

●● Cross the road and follow Quai de l'Odét along the river, back to the starting point.



2





A RETURN TRIP

2.5 KM (APPROX. 1 HOUR)

1. Window in the Passage de l'Épée

**2. Jean-Julien Lemordant,
Decoration at the Hôtel de l'Épée in
Quimper,
1905-1909**

© Musée des beaux-arts de Quimper

STARTING FROM THE CONFLUENCE OF THE RIVERS, TAKE A RETURN TRIP TO VISIT THE QUIMPER OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES !

With the arrival of trains in Quimper in the 19th century, the banks of the Odet were developed giving rise to public buildings and private properties in a variety of architectural styles. A walk along the quays and walkways as far as the station is an architectural pleasure and a journey through time, from the Belle Epoque to the roaring twenties.

START AT PONT PISSETTE

1 - Pont Pissette

In 1858 on the occasion of a visit by Napoleon III to Quimper, a footbridge was built at the confluence of the Steir and the Odet. It links Rue du Parc with the Champ de Bataille (the Battlefield), now called Place de la Résistance, where the official ceremonies were held. The people of Quimper named it Pont Pissette in reference to the urinals there. The Emperor's



1



2

visit prompted the development of quays along the right bank to create a route for traffic between the port and the future station.

👉 Walk along Rue du Parc beside the Odet and stop at no.14, in front of the former Hôtel de l'Épée.

2 - Passage de l'Épée

The buildings on Rue du Parc were erected on the site of the fortifications in the 1870s. The banks of the Odet, planted with horse chestnuts, were a popular place for promenades by the bourgeoisie at that time, who would linger on the terrace of the prestigious Café de l'Épée. The dining room at the Hôtel de l'Épée contained an important decorative painting with a Breton theme by Jean-Julien Lemordant; it is now kept in the Musée des Beaux-Arts. Passage de l'Épée is a covered walkway typical of the Belle Epoque era, the entrance is marked by a glass and metal canopy and it has coloured glass windows and a mosaic floor.

👉 Go into Passage de L'Épée, walk through the gallery and come out on Rue du Parc. Continue as far as no.8 and go into the courtyard.



1



2



3

1. Pierre de Belay, *Portrait of Max Jacob*, 1933
© Musée des beaux-arts de Quimper

2. Lucarnes and pinnacles on the prefecture
© Ministère de l'Intérieur-DICOM-cl.
Jérôme Groisard

3. Jean Moulin hall
© Ministère de l'Intérieur-DICOM-cl.
Jérôme Groisard

4. Auditorium at Théâtre Max-Jacob

5. Jardin du théâtre

3 - Max Jacob's house

The Jacob family had a business here dealing in embroidery, clothing and antiques. There was a workshop in the rear courtyard where the Bigouden embroiderers worked. The poet Max Jacob was born in Quimper in 1876 and grew up in this house. When he was 18 he went to Paris to study and was part of the avant-garde artistic movement of that era. He returned to Quimper every summer until 1942. Two years later he was arrested by the Gestapo in Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire because of his Jewish background. He died in the Drancy internment camp in 1944.

Continue along Rue du Parc and cross the road to look at the prefecture on the other side of the Odet.

4 - The prefecture

During the Revolution, Quimper became the capital of the department of Finistère. The departmental authorities were soon joined by the prefect and together they occupied the former St. Catherine's hospital established here since the 13th century. The quarters were too restricted so a new prefecture was opened

in 1909. The building was made of reinforced concrete; the structure was disguised behind facades reminiscent of the châteaux along the Loire, with a corner tower, cross-windows and dormers adorned with gables and pinnacles on a slate roof.

Cross the Sainte Catherine bridge. Facing you on Rue Sainte Catherine there are still several half-timbered houses. Continue along Boulevard Dupleix and take the Max Jacob footbridge which features a wrought iron portico.

5 - The footbridges

The Max Jacob footbridge is named in honour of the poet; extracts from his works are engraved on the railings. This contemporary construction continues the history of the bridges, which goes back to when Quimper was developing in the 19th century. Footbridges made of metal, brick and concrete spanned the Odet River giving access from the quay at the base of the ramparts to the factories and houses that consequently grew up on the other side. The remaining portals and plantations are remnants of when the bridges were for private use. Boulevard





4



5


Dupleix was opened in 1965, depriving the footbridges of their primary purpose.

 The series of eight bridges between the prefecture and the theatre is the traditional image of Quimper.

 Take Boulevard Amiral de Kerguelén and walk alongside the Odet. Go past the Pont de la Poste bridge and take the Canet Mallejacq footbridge on the right. You are now at the Pôle Max Jacob (Max Jacob Centre).


6 - Max Jacob theatre

This site, bequeathed to the council to build a hospice, is finally home to a theatre - something the bourgeois society of Quimper was lacking during the Belle Époque. The theatre opened in 1904. The building has a symmetrical façade with two impressive domed pavilions topped with zinc ornaments. Below it are two flamed sandstone tympana, the one on the right decorated with a mask symbolising comedy and the one on the left with a lyre symbolising music. All eyes were on the ladies in evening attire arriving for the show via the monumental staircase.

 Pass to the right of the theatre and go back to the entrance to the garden.

7 - Theatre garden

The theatre garden is an English-style garden designed like a stage set, with inviting walks along a stream bordered with Japanese-type flowerbeds. As you walk along the winding paths dotted with benches, statues and a Wallace fountain, you come to a rose garden. Many trees native to the USA and China are planted here, some of which have been here since the garden was first laid out in the early 20th century: giant sequoias, magnolias, Virginia tulip trees, ginkgo bilobas, Louisiana bald cypresses, etc. The backdrop to the garden is the former college built in 1905, one of the Max Jacob Centre buildings. This culture and arts centre comprises converted heritage buildings and the Novomax. This modern architectural building is located to the east of the theatre and contains studios and a concert hall for contemporary music.

 Exit the garden in front of the Novomax. Back on Boulevard Dupleix, cross Rue Aristide Briand and continue along Avenue de la Gare.



1

1. The station around 1900

© Archives municipales de Quimper, 29 Fi 1027
Collection Villard

2. 3. Wrought ironwork in Kerguelén area

4. Detail of pediment, Lebon company

5. Old picture of the Renault garage

© Ouest France, archives famille Nargeot, L. Christu

6. François Bazin Les Filles de la mer, 1935

7. Façade of Kodak House - TY

8 - The station

Quimper station came into service in 1863. Located outside the city to preserve the health and tranquillity of the residents, the building is based on a design by the Compagnie Paris-Orléans: a symmetrical construction of brick and tufa inspired by the architecture of the 17th century. The opening of the line between Nantes and Quimper at the behest of the government to make the area more accessible, is symbolic of the arrival of progress and an outlet for local agriculture and pottery. It also symbolises the region's receptiveness to tourism.

Exit the station and walk towards the city centre along Rue Jacques Cartier. Cross the Odet on the Deux Cornouailles bridge.

9 - Les Filles de la mer

This group sculpted in granite is the work of artist François Bazin; it was commissioned by the state in 1935. Two women dressed in the traditional costume of the Breton islands await the return of sailors at the foot of a menhir. The elder one is seated and looks down at the ground; she wears the mourning headdress of the Isle of Sein. The younger one

is from Ouessant; she appears to scan the horizon with hope. The sobre, stylised lines of the sculpture pay homage to the courage and selfless sacrifice of the Breton coastal populations.

Continue along Boulevard Amiral de Kerguelén as far as Cité de Kerguelén.

10 - Cité de Kerguelén

Built in the Art Deco style, this housing development displays the architecture typical of the 1930s with curved corners. Bay windows and balconies with wrought iron railings extend from the façades into the street.



2



3

4



5



6



11 - Kodak House - Ty

Kodak House – TY meaning house in Breton – was built in 1933 for a photographer, as indicated by the name of the house which still appears on the rounded corner of the building. The architect Olier Mordel was from Quimper; he took his inspiration from the latest architectural designs of the time. The building he designed is in reinforced concrete with a flat roof and windows and doors wider than they are high, integrated in blue ceramic band that accentuates the horizontal lines.

☀️ Continue along Boulevard Kerguélen.

7



12. 1930s buildings

On the other side of the Odet, the former Renault garage, built at the same time as Ty Kodak and by the same architect, has a symmetrical façade with geometric lines - an ultra-modern feature. The neighbouring building is the headquarters of the Lebon gas company; this is a more traditional-style granite building and was built in 1936. The interlaced initials C and L, for Compagnie Lebon, appear on the pediment at the corner of the building.

☀️ Continue along Boulevard Amiral de Kerguélen, passing through the Jardin des Remparts, to get back to the starting point or to the cathedral.

☀️ From the Jardin des Remparts look out over the Mediaeval wall with the bishop's palace leaning up against it, and the cathedral with its spires and all the flying buttresses that support this great stone vessel.

« GENTIL QUIMPER, LE NID DE MON ENFANCE...
 EN BAS, L'ODET AUX PONTS DE FER MULTIPLES
 SE GARGARISE INTERMINABLEMENT.
 ... J'ÉCRIS NOS DEUX CLOCHERS
 EN LETTRES MAJUSCULES
 FLEURIES, ENRUBANNÉES,
 PLEINES DE CRIS D'OISEAUX »

Max Jacob, extracts from the poem QUIMPER, Le Laboratoire central, 1921.



Quimper is part of the national network of French Towns and Lands of Art and History

The French Ministry of Culture, Directorate of Architecture and Heritage, assigns the appellation Cities and Lands of Art and History to local communities that develop their heritage. It guarantees the proficiency of tour guides and heritage coordinators and the quality of their activities. There are currently 202 cities and lands offering their expertise all over France.

**Information and reservations
 Maison du patrimoine**

Service de l'animation de l'architecture et du patrimoine
 5 rue Ar-Barzh-Kadiou
 F - 29000 Quimper
 secretariat.patrimoine@quimper.bzh
 www.quimper.bzh
 00 33 2 98 95 52 48

Nearby

Other places with the Cities and Lands of Art and History appellation: Brest, Concarneau, Dinan, Dinard, Fougères, Guérande, Lorient, Morlaix, Nantes, Pontivy, Quimperlé, Rennes, Vannes and Vitré.

Publication

Service de l'animation du patrimoine de la ville Quimper
 Juin 2020

Text :

Claire Montaigne,
 Architecture and heritage coordinator

Translation :

Cetadir

Editing :

Maison du patrimoine
 Visuels : Maison du patrimoine, ville de Quimper,
 unless otherwise stated

**Graphic design Service
 communication de la ville de Quimper**

Service communication de la ville de Quimper
 d'après DES SIGNES studio Muchir
 Descclouds 2015

Printed by

Municipal printing

Follow us!

Search for Maison du patrimoine on social media. Get the latest news on cultural events and visits! If you like our activities, please leave a comment on Tripadvisor.



VILLE
 DE QUIMPER

