



The fortifications

Almost 40% of the 13th and 15th century walls which surrounded the episcopal city remain intact. These can be discovered on the quay of the river Odet, along the Rue des Douves, along the Place de la Tourbie and also by the river Steir which formed a natural moat guarded by a watchtower.



La Place au Beurre (Butter Square)

Formerly known as the «Place aux Ruches» (Hive Square) and then «Place au Beurre-de-Pot» (Butter Pot Square), this is where winter butter was sold, a butter made with extra salt in order to keep it fresh for longer. The square's distinctive features are its half-timbered houses but also the two 16th century prebendal granite houses at 4 and 6 Rue du Lycée. Today, some residents suggest renaming it Creperie Square in view of the numerous pancake restaurants that surround it.



Les halles (Food hall)

Opened in 1847 on the site of the former Saint-François Cordeliers convent, it is located in the heart of the city in a building rebuilt in 1979. The only covered and permanent market, its multiple stalls offer high-quality diversified products (seafood and land) and is a major attraction for visitors to Quimper.



La Place Terre-au-Duc

Like Rue Kérôn and Place au Beurre, the Place Terre au Duc has a magnificent concentration of half-timbered houses. The neighbourhood that was formerly under the control of ducal power faces the episcopal city across the bridge over the river Steir. In the centre of the square, a fountain reminds us that Quimper has been the Breton faience pottery capital since the end of the 17th century.

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Erwan BOURULLEC, the painter Rémi BLANCHARD and the stylist Val PIRIOU..



Faïence manufacture (whose workshops can be visited from April to September), and craftspeople including the fashion designer Rachel LE GALL, the exhibition space of the embroiderer-stylist Pascal JAOUEN as well as one of his embroidery schools which welcomes more than 2000 students.



flowered footbridges that straddle the river Odet today make the charm of the city that is regularly rewarded with national flower awards. The tree-covered hill of Mont Frugy reinforces the 'green touch' which gives Quimper its charm.



and counting among its ranks painters, sculptors, engravers, ceramists (visible at the Faïence Museum), embroiderers, cabinet makers (furniture visible at the Breton Departmental Museum) and architects. On the quay, the building housing the editorial office of the newspaper Ouest-France and the Ty Kodak house were both designed by the architect Olier Mordrel in the 1930s and are part of the spirit of the Bauhaus movement founded in Germany in 1919. They have been listed as Historical Monuments since 2006.



The building has been listed in the Inventory of Historical Monuments since 1997.

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The François Mitterrand esplanade and the media library

Opposite the Saint-Mathieu church, the former Ursuline convent (17th century) now houses the Alain Gérard media library. At the back of this building, the François Mitterrand esplanade opens onto the Cornouaille Theatre, architecture of the end of the 20th century, designed by Nicolas MICHELIN and Finn GEIPEL. There is also the School of Fine Arts whose past students include designers Ronan and

The Locmaria district

This district, the cradle of the city during Gallo-Roman times, was also the site of the first faïence pottery factories in Quimper. It includes a Romanesque church from the 11th and 12th centuries (rare in Finistère), with a 17th century cloister and priory. The Priory garden is classified «Remarkable Garden». This district also includes the Faïence Museum (open from April to September), the Henriot-Quimper

The coastal river Odet and its footbridges

The territory of Quimper is punctuated by many green areas. To the south, Creac'h Gwen hosts recreational and sports areas along the river Odet which continues its course until its mouth at Bénodet and Ste-Marine. From the Cape Horn district, a towpath runs along the river for 2 km and invites you for a stroll with a privileged view of the Lanniron domain and castle. The once private,

Art Nouveau and Art Deco

The architectural innovations of the early 20th century also marked Quimper. In front of the cathedral, the current Bouchara store with its large bays and marquee, illustrates the Art Nouveau style of the early twentieth century. The banks of the Odet also bear witness to the daring of Art Deco and in particular the artistic movement «Ar Seiz Breur» (the Seven Brothers), born in 1923, precursor of modern Celto-Breton art

The Max Jacob theatre

Built in the early 20th century, the old theatre is now named after Max Jacob. This Quimper poet and writer who died in deportation, was a friend of Picasso, Cocteau and Modigliani, all members of the Bateau Lavoir (the famous residence of Parisian artists perched upon the hill of Montmartre). In his play Le Terrain Boucha-balle, Max Jacob was inspired by the tumultuous conditions of the creation of this theatre in 1903.

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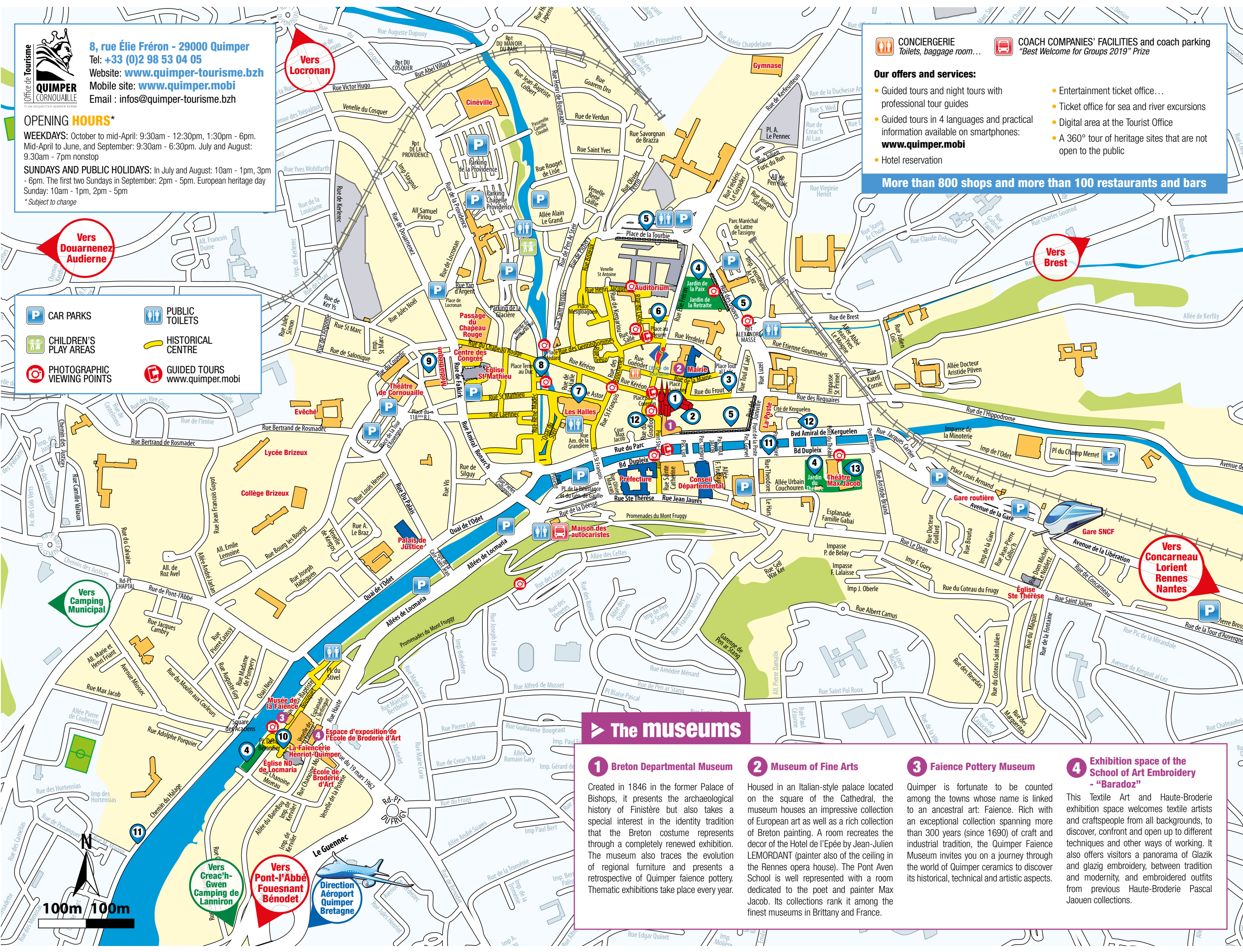
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LITTLE CITY MAP
QUIMPER



► The 13 unmissable sites



The Saint Corentin cathedral
The construction of this jewel of Breton Gothic art began in the 13th century (choir) and was completed in the 19th century (spires). Restoration work carried out for more than 20 years between the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century gave the cathedral its superb and astonishing polychromatic interior. A prestigious building whose visit is essential in the discovery of Quimper.



The Episcopal Palace and courtyard
Behind the wall along the Boulevard de Kerguelen and the coastal river Odet, the courtyard of the Episcopal Palace offers a breath-taking view of the cathedral and its countless flying buttresses and pinnacles. The former bishops' residence, with the «Rohan» tower and cloister, opens onto the so-called Évêché Space, a centre of Quimper's cultural life, which hosts many events in season.



Rue du Frou and Faubourg Saint Corentin
In the 19th century, it was known as rue du Chapitre. The road owes its name to the Frou, a small river formerly known as Frou Questel (the castle's stream) that ran along the edge of the eastern fortification of the walled city. This river has been deviated multiple times due to urbanism and is today largely covered over. Rue du Frou is now an attractive shopping thoroughfare with independent boutiques and art galleries.



The gardens
Due to its particular geographical location, Quimper offers the pleasure of numerous walled gardens in the heart of the city. The Jardin de Locmaria (Locmaria Garden) near the Priory revives the spirit of monastery gardens from the end of the Middle Ages and is classified as a «Remarkable Garden». Tucked away in the ramparts of the episcopal city, the exotic and Mediterranean Jardin de la Retraite and Jardin de la Paix (Garden of Retreat and the Peace Garden) invite you to relax. Behind the Max Jacob Theatre, on the left bank of the Odet, is a park with an English rose garden.

► The museums

1 Breton Departmental Museum

Created in 1846 in the former Palace of Bishops, it presents the archaeological history of Finistère but also takes a special interest in the identity tradition that the Breton costume represents through a completely renewed exhibition. The museum also traces the evolution of regional furniture and presents a retrospective of Quimper faience pottery. Thematic exhibitions take place every year.

2 Museum of Fine Arts

Housed in an Italian-style palace located on the square of the Cathedral, the museum houses an impressive collection of European art as well as a rich collection of Breton painting. A room recreates the decor of the Hotel de l'Epée by Jean-Julien LEMORDANT (painter also of the ceiling in the Rennes opera house). The Pont Aven School is well represented with a room dedicated to the poet and painter Max Jacob. Its collections rank it among the finest museums in Brittany and France.

3 Faience Pottery Museum

Quimper is fortunate to be counted among the towns whose name is linked to an ancestral art: Faience. Rich with an exceptional collection spanning more than 300 years (since 1690) of craft and industrial tradition, the Quimper Faience Museum invites you on a journey through the world of Quimper ceramics to discover its historical, technical and artistic aspects.

4 Exhibition space of the School of Art Embroidery - "Baradoz"

This Textile Art and Haute-Broderie exhibition space welcomes textile artists and craftspeople from all backgrounds, to discover, confront and open up to different techniques and other ways of working. It also offers visitors a panorama of Glazik and glazik embroidery, between tradition and modernity, and embroidered outfits from previous Haute-Broderie Pascal Jaouen collections.