



THE BRIDGES TRAIL (CIRCUIT DES PONTS) La Roche-Bernard



6.5 km



1 hour 45



Parking de la Voûte, La Roche-Bernard

Access

in La Roche-Bernard, go to the old port at the foot of the town



Arc Sud Bretagne Tourist Office

La Roche-Bernard branch
14 rue du Docteur Cornudet
+33 (0)2 99 90 67 98



MUSÉE DE LA VILAINE MARITIME

Overlooking the picturesque Ruicard district, the Château des Basses Fosses, a private mansion dating from the 16th and 17th centuries, houses the Musée de la Vilaine Maritime. Built on the rock, it owes its name to the significant difference in height between its two facades (North: 2 stories, South: 5 stories). The size of its cellars and attics indicates that this was the residence of a wealthy upper class citizen whose fortune was made from trade. In the Vilaine estuary, people have been able to make use of the resources of the river and the sea. Fishing, coastal shipping, shipbuilding, and working the land are all activities that have left their mark on the town of La Roche-Bernard. Find out about its history in the eight exhibition rooms and a video room. You should also visit the room dedicated to the 'Battle of the Cardinals', a naval battle between French and British fleets in 1759.

Find out more:

<https://lesamis dumuseevilainemaritime.jimdo.com>



LA ROCHE-BERNARD, 'PETITE CITÉ DE CARACTÈRE' (CHARMING LITTLE TOWN)

Originally a Viking stronghold, this thousand-year-old town overlooks the Vilaine from its rocky ridge. A popular meeting point for maritime and river navigation, it is a perfect combination of heritage, gastronomy and arts and crafts. Private mansions, old warehouses and salt storehouses are all testimonies of the rich past that can be seen in the narrow streets and squares throughout the town. In the heart of the old town, the arts and crafts district is home to a number of workshops: painting, ceramics, stained glass, pottery, glassblowers, flame glassmakers, etc. Venture inside where a fascinating and exciting world awaits you.

As its name suggests, 'the bridges trail' invites you to discover the history of the Vilaine river crossing. On this trail, it will be revealed that in La Roche-Bernard, one bridge can sometimes hide another.



Leave the Voûte car park behind you and head for the marina. Cross the small bridge, go along the Quai Saint-Antoine and pass between the rocks at the far end of the marina.

- The rocks open onto the Vilaine at the Guédas dock, which was where the ferry used to sail from, the only means of crossing the river before the bridges were built. Turn right onto Quai de la Douane and continue straight on, following the new marina to the shipyards. Turn right.
- Cross the Chemin du Pâtis. At this point, there are 2 possibilities:
 - You can now follow the Vieux Quartiers (old districts) loop by following the Promenade de La Garenne. See point 6.
 - If you choose to continue along the bridges trail, cross the Promenade de la Garenne and take the steps that lead to the Rue de la Garenne. Go along this street for a few metres, then cross over at the pedestrian crossing. On the other side of the street, carry on for a few metres to your right and then take the 1st path that goes up on your left. Continue on the RD 34 and pass under the suspension bridge. Built in 1960 based on the model of the Tancarville bridge, the suspension bridge leads to the Nivillac countryside and its shady paths. After crossing the bridge, stay on the RD 34 for about 150 m, then take the path on your left. At the roundabout, turn left, carry on for 350m and follow the path to the right.
- Turn left and go down the steep path, leaving the farm behind you. Then take the path to the right and turn left twice. Go left again on the small road that will bring you to the RD 765. Follow it to reach the Morbihan bridge. On the way, you will come across the Bourigan windmill, a so-called 'big-headed' construction dating from 1742.
- Cross the Morbihan bridge, inaugurated in 1996, by using the lower pedestrian footbridge and enjoy a clear view of the Vilaine, the Ville Aubin nautical stopping point and the boats. When you reach the other side, on the Marzan banks, turn left. Follow the river for about 100 m towards the oldest bridges.
- Continue along the old wooded road that leads to the ruins of the first construction, inaugurated in 1839. This bridge was replaced by a metal arch bridge using the original masonry structures, which was in turn destroyed by lightning in 1944. Until the suspension bridge was inaugurated in 1960, it was necessary to cross the Vilaine by ferry or on a floating bridge. Pass under the suspension bridge and follow the Vilaine. Turn right, cross over and continue along the Route de l'Ancien Pont for a few metres to get back to the path that leads to the bridge. Cross it, go down to your right and take the path you took on the way there, along the RD 34 leading to the Promenade de la Garenne.
- At the end of the Promenade de la Garenne, walk past the wash house then take the 1st right and follow the Ruelle du Lavoir. Then turn left and go up the Ruelle de la Coulée Laurent. Pass in front of the Notre-Dame Chapel (16th century), turn right onto Rue Haute Notre-Dame, then left onto Rue du Docteur Cornudet. Explore the Vieux Quartiers, the prestigious houses and the local craftspeople.
- At the end of the Rue du Docteur Cornudet, you will find the Place du Pilori on the left and the Place du Bouffay on the right. Cross the Place du Bouffay and go along the narrow street that separates the Vieux Quartier restaurant from the half-timbered house, leaving the Rue de la Saulnerie on your right. Turn right, take a moment to discover the Musée de la Vilaine Maritime and take the 1st right to get back to the Rue de la Saulnerie on your left. At the end of the street, after the Alandier pottery shop, turn left into the alleyway and then right to enjoy the view from the Promenade du Ruicard. Go along the promenade, down the steps and cross the Route de Guérande (RD 774). Stop at the cannon to admire the view of the Vilaine, then take the winding path down the hill to return to Quai Saint-Antoine. Walk along the quayside back to the departure point.



TO SEE ON THE WAY...

- the Musée de La Vilaine Maritime
- the craft district: painting, ceramics, stained glass, glassblowers.
- the Maison du Canon (16th century), the Notre-Dame Chapel (16th century), the Hôtel Odet de Chatillon-Coligny (16th century), the classified site of the Rocher, etc.
- the visit covers 4 themes in 23 sections dotted throughout the town: the political and administrative history of the barony, the strategic and economic importance of the site, the buildings and sites linked to religious history and the Revolution



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PRESQU'ÎLE DE
GUÉRENDE
TOURISME



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