



# Brocéliande

T O U R I S T R O U T E





*A region caressed by the soft wind of legends, Brocéliande is a great place to visit. An enchanting 90-kilometre circuit along the roads takes in a host of beautiful sites: from Iffendic to Tréhorenteuc, Concoret and Treffendel, welcome to a world of innumerable shades of green revealing a splendid natural and architectural wealth. Get out of your vehicle to be overwhelmed by the magical atmosphere of the sites.*

### **Enchanting landscapes**

All along the circuit, Paimpont forest is a place of timeless magic where nature rules. Mainly private, it is a reminder of the ancient forest that covered the Armorican peninsula 5,000 years ago. The lower forest is the kingdom of oak and beech trees, in contrast to the upper forest that is the favoured spot of maritime and Scotch pines, gorse, and heather (walks authorised in the private forest on the "Grand Randonnée" footpaths from April to October). Natural Departmental Sites preserve the most attractive landscapes of the

circuit. The 50 hectares of Paimpont lake reflect the peaceful harmony of its eponymous Abbey. Reed beds, water lilies, molinias, cotton-grass, and carnivorous sundew flourish here. Migrating birds from northern Europe come to seek shelter on the banks of this large reservoir. They also set up their winter quarters in the



**Walkers in the forest**



Vallon de la Chambre au Loup



Brocéliande Forest

Domaine de Careil at Iffendic, on the edge of the road circuit. In Brocéliande stone creates magnificent variations. Le Vallon de la Chambre au Loup, at Iffendic, cuts its watery path between cliffs of red shale culminating at 35 metres high.

A breathtaking panorama, all along the GR 37... For a great historical geology lesson look at the layers of sediments (sandstone, shale, and pudding stone) at the Marette quarry at Saint-Malon-sur-Mel; a book of stones written more than 500 million years ago.

### **Stones tell a story**

The Brocéliande circuit shows off a beautiful architectural heritage. To the southwest of the route stop at Maxent and open the doors of the Saint-Maxent's church. In a Romano-Byzantine style, it was built in the 19th century on the remains of a monastery and then a church. Religious heritage ties the shale and sandstone to Saint-Péran at the church of Saint-Pierre (16th –18th

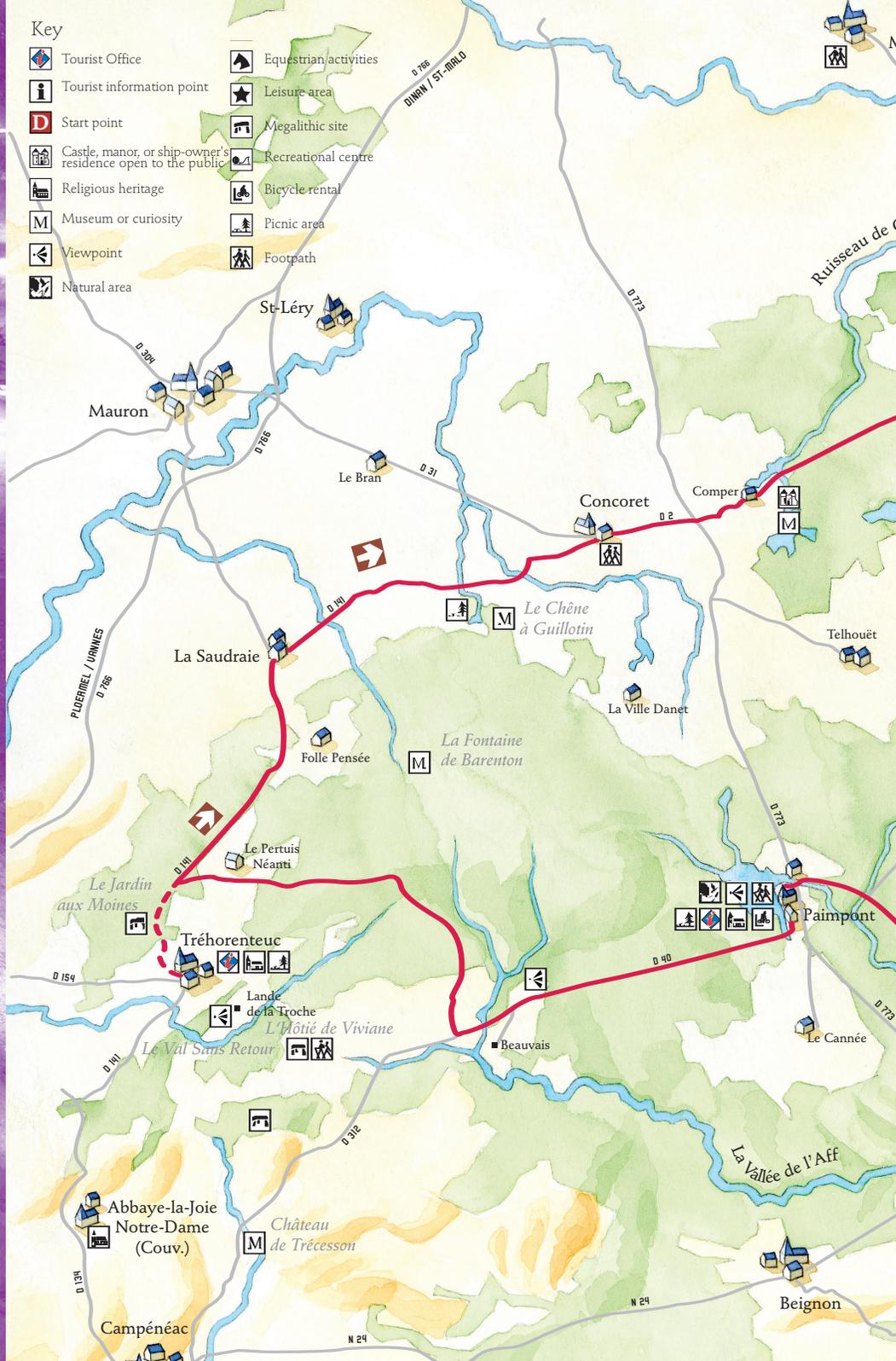


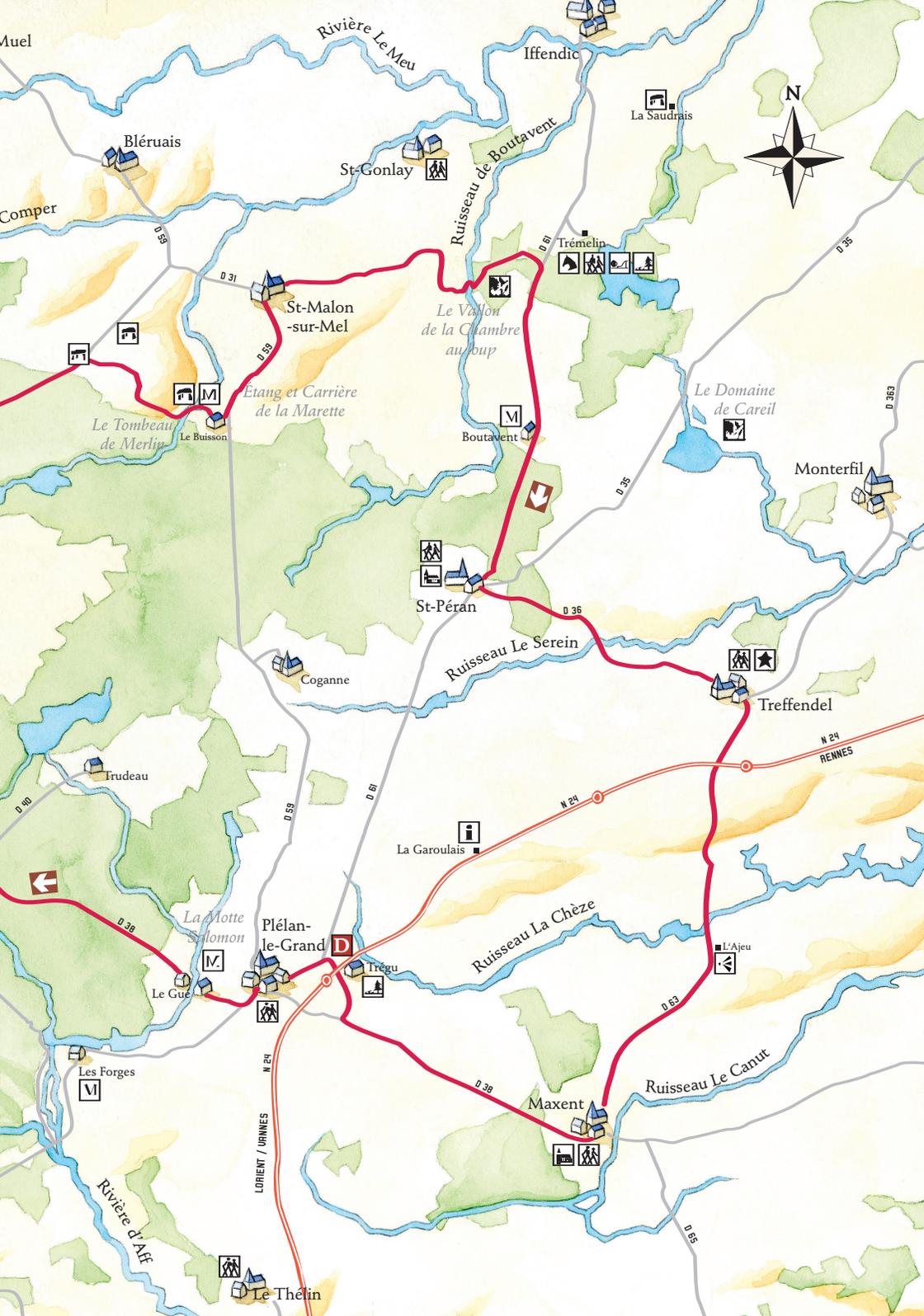
Paimpont Abbey



# Key

-  Tourist Office
-  Tourist information point
-  Start point
-  Castle, manor, or ship-owner's residence open to the public
-  Religious heritage
-  Museum or curiosity
-  Viewpoint
-  Natural area
-  Equestrian activities
-  Leisure area
-  Megalithic site
-  Recreational centre
-  Bicycle rental
-  Picnic area
-  Footpath





Rivière Le Meu

Iffendic

La Saudrais

Bléruais

St-Gonlay

Ruisseau de Boutavent

Trémelin

Comper

St-Malon-sur-Mel

Le Vallon de la Chambre au bup

Le Domaine de Careil

Le Tombeau de Merlin

Le Buisson

Boutavent

Monterfil

St-Péran

Ruisseau Le Serein

Coganne

Treffendel

Trudeau

La Garoulais

Ruisseau La Chèze

Plélan-le-Grand

Le Gué

Iregu

L'Ajeu

Les Forges

Maxent

Ruisseau Le Canut

Rivière d'Alf

Le Thélin

N 24

LORIENT / RENNES

N 24

N 24

RENNES

D 31

D 55

D 61

D 35

D 36

D 80

D 59

D 61

D 38

D 38

D 63

D 55

D 35

D 363



Statue of Father Gillard



St-Péran church



Maxent church



*Although based around a legendary past, the Brocéliande circuit also proposes more current activities. In Iffendic, the Domaine de Trémelin also has a large choice of sports and nautical activities. In total safety, a rope slide and a tree-climbing course will delight adrenalin fans. Nature discovery activities on the lake and its surrounding area round off the possibilities for relaxations close to the road circuit.*

century), whilst at the church of Sainte-Onenne in Tréhorenteuc, it is the quest for the Grail, honoured by Father Gillard, that will delight fans of unusual art with its stained glass windows and richly decorated mosaics. The imposing Paimpont Abbey gazes at itself in the waters of its lake. Gothic in style, it shelters a distinctly Baroque interior; don't forget to visit this superb treasure! Industry has left some surprising marks on Brocéliande: a visit to the Paimpont smithy at Plélan-le-Grand will show you

the industrial adventure of a region that, from the middle of the 17th to the end of the 19th century, was fully focussed on the production of steel. Even if there are less stones at Boutavent, the site is worth the detour: it was a high place of the Breton Middle Ages with the construction of the castle of the Breton kings Judicaël and Salomon. Recent digs have rehabilitated this site. You cannot finish your architectural heritage-seeking trip without strolling alongside Comper castle in Concoret. In its red shale enclosure you will find the Centre de l'Imaginaire Arthurien: exhibitions, guided walks



Hotié de Viviane



Oak in Guillotin



Merlin's Tomb

in the forest, workshops for children are part of the Centre's programme dedicated to the Knights of the Round Table.

### A forest full of legends

Brocéliande is definitely the place of legends. Arthurian legend continuously invites the visitor to stop and discover sites steeped in mystery. Amongst the most enchanting is the Val sans Retour; Morgane the fairy locked up unfaithful lovers here although there are no doubt worse prisons than this wondrous landscape of red shale, water, and heather. Megalithic sites are often associated with Arthurian legend. The remains of a covered alley that is Merlin's tomb; a 4,500 year old sepulchre that was the home of Viviane; the Monks' Garden, a megalith of unknown usage; the Englishmen's Tomb, a Neolithic covered alley... In Brocéliande the stones talk a very strange tongue, mixing eras and legends, to the delight of dreamers of all ages...

The Fairies' Mirror  
Val-Sans-Retour



# Practical Information

Practical Information  
Looking for accommodation,  
a restaurant,  
documentation...

## Contact

### • Brocéliande Tourist Office

5 esplanade de Brocéliande  
35380 Paimpont  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.07.84.23

E-mail:  
syndicat-dinitiativepaimpont@wanadoo.fr

### • Tréhourentuc Tourist Office

Place Abbé Gillard  
56430 Tréhourentuc  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.97.93.05.12

valsansretour@club-internet.fr

### • Pays touristique de Brocéliande

1, rue des Korrigans  
35380 Plélan le Grand  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.06.86.07  
www.broceliande-tourisme.info

### • Comité départemental du Tourisme Haute Bretagne Ille-et-Vilaine

4, rue Jean Jaurès - BP 60149  
35101 Rennes Cédex 3  
Tel. + 33 (0)2.99.78.47.40  
www.bretagne35.com  
E-mail: contact@bretagne35.com

## Walking in Brocéliande

IGN map "Plein-air" series number 4:  
for sale at 7.95€

Topographical guides:

- "Randonnée en Brocéliande" for sale at 10,50€. Walking, horse-riding, and mountain bike circuits, on 24 sheets.
- "VTT en Brocéliande" for sale at 5,50€. Nine mountain bike circuits covering a total of 300 kilometres.

## Le Pays de Brocéliande, A concentration of discovery

### CONCORET

• **Comper Castle**  
(Centre de l'Imaginaire Arthurien):  
Open from April to October.  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.97.22.79.96  
www.centre-arthurien-  
broceliande@wanadoo.fr

### IFFENDIC

• **Domaine de Careil and Vallon  
de la Chambre au Loup**

• **Domaine de Trémelin  
Recreational Centre  
and Pony Club**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.09.73.79  
www.domaine-de-tremelin.fr  
Water sports, tree climbing.

• **Trémelin Equestrian Centre  
and Pony Club**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.09.77.92  
www.tremelin-equitation.com  
Half-day, day, or week-long courses.  
Horse-riding in the woods and around  
Trémelin lake. Walks.

• **Sailing and Nature at Trémelin**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.09.93.09 or  
+33 (0)2.99.09.88.10  
All year for "Nature and Discovery" activities,  
and from March to November for sailing.

• **Mountain bike activity centre**  
Tel. Comité Cyclotourisme:  
+ 33 (0)2.99.54.67.54  
Label F.F.C.T.

• **Walks on Thursday evening  
from 4pm to 8pm**

### ST-MALON-SUR-MEL

• **Maretté quarry**  
(500 million years old) Of much geological  
interest. Free entry, information board on site.

### MAXENT

• **Exhibition panel inside the church**  
Open every day.

• **"Maxent Fêtes" Tuesdays**  
From 6pm to 10pm in July and August  
(Organic, regional, craft)

### PAIMPONT

• **Guided tour of the Abbey**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.07.81.37 or  
+33 (0)2.99.07.83.20  
www.abbayedepaimpont.org  
Open from Easter to mid-September (week-  
ends and public holidays) and in July and  
August.

• **Celtic Art Shop - "Au Pays de Merlin"**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.07.80.23

• **Exposition Art Bro**  
(Painters, ceramic artists, sculptors...)  
Behind Paimpont Abbey.  
Every day in July and August

• **Guided tours of the legendary sites  
of Brocéliande with the Tourist Office**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.07.84.23  
syndicat-dinitiativepaimpont@wanadoo.fr  
From 07/07 to 31/08, every day.

### PLÉLAN-LE-GRAND

• **The Old Smithy of Paimpont**  
Guided tours for individuals and groups  
(requires booking)  
lesforges.de-paimpont@wanadoo.fr.

• **Ceramic workshop, Margaret Roussel,  
Le Bodo,**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.06.92.60  
Open every day.

### TREFFENDEL

• **Parc de Treffendel - Cirque Métropole**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.99.61.04.21  
Animal Park, Leisure Park, and circus in a  
wooded site covering 10 hectares. Courses  
and shows. From April to October.

### TRÉHORENTEUC

• **Guided tour of the church  
with the Tourist Office**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.97.93.05.12  
From 15th July to 15th August at 3pm  
(except weekends)

• **Guided talks and walks in  
the high places of the forest**  
Tel.: +33 (0)2.97.93.05.12  
Every day from 15/06 to 15/09.

*Pays Touristique de Brocéliande with the participation of the Conseil Général d'Ille-et-Vilaine and the Comité Départemental du Tourisme de Haute-Bretagne Ille-et-Vilaine.*

*Photos: Pascal Glais et M.T Le Duff.*

*Text: Erik Wietzel - Map illustration: Christophe Esnault - 2006 edition.*

