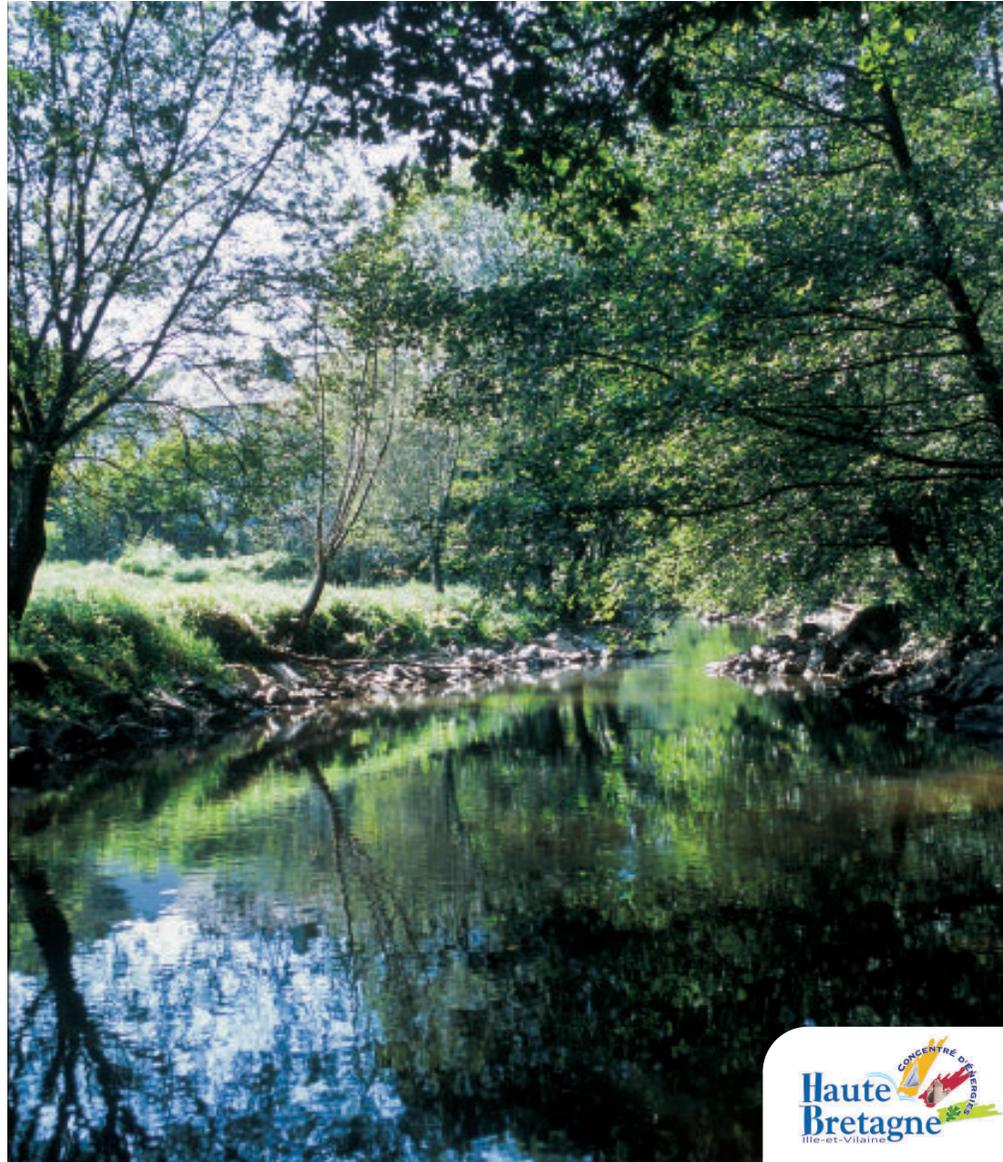




The Couesnon Valley tour





Farmlands criss-crossed by hedges and trees, forests, a deep valley, and vast plains: the Couesnon Valley promises its visitors a beautiful excursion among greatly diversified landscapes. In your car, riding along on a safe tour marked out by road signs, discover the intimate power of Nature, as well as the authentic heritage of buildings and public and state properties. The Couesnon River, always nearby, is this 80 km long tour's vital lead, flowing through the heart of Pays de Fougères.

Life Size Scenery

Here, the road sometimes seems like a mere path. Starting at Mézières-sur-Couesnon, it glides under a green archway lined with wild



mulberry trees in the heart of the department's Natural Area, or it snakes through the ferns at Saint-Marc-sur-Couesnon. At Tiercent, it passes alongside granite boulders emerging from thickets next to a forest of fir trees; the landscape seems to be the abode of fairies. It passes through the mosaic of fields and hedges on the hillsides, or accompanies the tamer scenery to be found with the cultivated fields to the north.



The Antrain Bridge, with its three dissimilar arches.

At Vieux-Vy-sur-Couesnon, the road climbs to embrace a breathtaking view: far below the river flows on. Sometimes hidden and sometimes revealed, sometimes lively and sometimes docile, the Couesnon is without a doubt the Star of the tour. To understand its temperament, it's sometimes enough to just cross a bridge: on the other side it will have completely changed its mood, splashing with spume. At Saint-Ouen-des-Alleux, the river makes its way through a deep valley; trees bend over the water, as if bowing politely to the sight-seeker.

Treasures of Stone

A country of granite that sometimes crops up in the middle of a field the Couesnon Valley presents a great variety of architectures as shown by its numerous churches, each with its unique personality.



The Saint-Martin Church at Tiercent, and its enclosure.





The Couesnon at Antrain.

Perched on a hill, the Saint-Martin Church (XVth-XVIIth Centuries), at Tiercent, still has its small cemetery, snuggled in its enclosure. The Saint-Martin de Tremblay Church (Xth-XIXth Centuries) was enlarged in the XVIIIth Century: the size and the colour of the stones on the gable clearly show the nature of the work that was done. From the massive church tower at Saint-André (Antrain, XIIth-XVIIIth Centuries) to the slender slate arrow of Notre-Dame (Chauvigné, XIth-XIXth Centuries) the road travels through a whole world, bringing pleasure to lovers of old stone. Water mills, such as those of Quincampoix at Rimou and of Guémain at Vieux-Vy-sur-Couesnon, used to capture the driving force of the river for the paper mill or the feed mill. Charming houses line the road going through the villages of Montéchart, Brimemel or the town of Saint Christophe-de-Valains. Here and there, one notices the



Detail of the church gate at Tremblay.

The Oak of Freedom. Planted by the side of the road at Saint-Christophe-de-Valains, this several hundred year old tree commemorated a victory of 1848. Today, a celebration is held at its foot every year on the 15th of August.

characteristic outside stairways that lead to the perron, doors with two arches or basket-handle arches. These details attest to the skills of the country's granite workers.





Hiking.



Canoeing on the Couesnon.



Though no longer in use, the Guémain mill still has its impressive mechanisms.

Door with two arches or basket-handle arches.



Stones give shelter to men, but also link them together: the Antrain Bridge, with its three dissimilar arches, makes a pleasant stop on the banks of the Couesnon; it can be found as a symbol on the tour's road signs!

Everyone Get Out of the Car!

It is not forbidden to get out of your car and benefit from the numerous activities to be found along the way. On the contrary! Why not stop and enjoy the use of a picnic ground?

At the Outdoor Centre in Mézières-sur-Couesnon, one can borrow a canoe and go down the navigable river to Mont-Saint-Michel. As for thrill-seekers, they can hang on to the cliffs lining the Couesnon: a climbing site awaits both experts and beginners. Numerous hiking trails may be taken, easily accessed from the highway. Starting from Antrain, the Loysance trail follows the banks of the eponymous tributary of the Couesnon. It leads hikers, both young and old, towards the magic labyrinth of the Bonnefontaine Castle, with its *Parc Romantique* (Romantic Park) and its *musée des Enchanteurs* (the Enchanters' Museum). And for more information during your hike, you may consult the different signs (church and washing-place at Tremblay, church and bridge at Antrain, church and cross at Saint Georges à Chauvigné, churches at La Fontenelle, Rimou, Vieux-Vy-sur-Couesnon, and Romazy...).



Bonnefontaine Castle.





Practical informations

Looking for accommodations,
a restaurant, documentation...

Contact

- **Office de Tourisme du Pays de Fougères**
2, rue Nationale
35300 Fougères
Tel. (33) 2 99 94 12 20
www.ot-fougères.fr
Email : ot.fougères@wanadoo.fr

- **Office de Tourisme de Bazouges-La-Pérouse**
2, place de l'Hôtel de Ville
35560 Bazouges-la-Pérouse
Tel. (33) 2 99 97 40 94

- **Point info de Saint-Brice-en-Coglès**
7, place du Général de Gaulle
35460 Saint-Brice-en-Coglès
Tel. (33) 2 99 97 85 44

- **Pays d'Accueil Touristique de Fougères**
23, rue Pasteur
BP 70558
35305 Fougères Cedex
Tel. (33) 2 99 94 60 30
www.bretagne-fougères.com
Email : info@bretagne-fougères.com

- **Comité du Tourisme de Haute-Bretagne Ile et Vilaine**
4, rue Jean Jaurès
BP 60149
35101 Rennes cedex
Tel. (33) 2 99 78 47 47
www.bretagne35.com
Email : tourisme35.cdt@wanadoo.fr

Hiking in Pays de Fougères

Carte IGN de Randonnée (IGN Hiking Map):
Marches de Bretagne-Fougères, Série Plein Air - Ile-et-Vilaine, Randonnées en Haute-Bretagne Randoguides (Hiking guides) are also available in the Tourism offices and Information points of Pays de Fougères.

The Couesnon Valley Bountiful Discoveries

Bazouges-la-Pérouse

*Classical Italian-style garden...
A romantic escapade*

- **Château de La Ballue**
La Ballue
Tel. (33) 2 99 97 47 86
www.la-ballue.com
Email : chateau@la-ballue.com

Open from 1st of May to 30 September, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 1 PM to 5:30 PM. And from 10 July to 25 August, daily from 1 PM to 5:30 PM.

*Sculptors, painters, ceramists...
A unique encounter
in a charming little town*

- **Le Village, Site d'expérimentation artistique (The Village, Artistic Experimentation Site)**
2, place de l'Hôtel de Ville
Tel. (33) 2 99 97 43 60
www.levillage-bazouges.com

Galleries open from April to December, every week-end from 2 PM to 6 PM, or by appointment. From July to August, daily from 2:30 PM to 7 PM.

*Young and old...Cast off!...
in the Villecartier forest*

- **Port miniature de Villecartier**
Forêt de Villecartier
Tel. (33) 2 99 98 37 24

During the open season: (33) 2 99 48 55 49. Open from Easter to September, weekends and holidays from 2 PM to 6:30 PM. From July 1st to 31 August, daily from 11 AM to 6:30 PM.

Antrain

*Labyrinthe Magique (Magic Labyrinth),
musée des Enchanteurs (Enchanters' Museum)...,
a magical rendezvous*

- **Château de Bonnefontaine**
Tel. (33) 2 99 98 31 13

Park open, from Easter to All Saints' Day, every day during school holidays, and weekends and holidays from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Labyrinthe Magique (Magic Labyrinth) and Musée des Enchanteurs (Enchanters' Museum) open, from July to August, daily from 10 PM to 6 PM.

Mézières-sur-Couesnon

*Canoe, mountain biking,
climbing...
A sequence of thrills*

- **Base de plein air du Couesnon (Outdoor Centre)**

12, rue du Couesnon
Tel. (33) 2 99 39 30 78
www.valleeducouesnon.net
Email : base.couesnon@wanadoo.fr

Open year round upon registration. Choice of activities: canoe-kayak, archery, orienteering, climbing, mountain biking, discovery of the environment. (Session = 2h). These activities are offered on the basis of a package deal for 8 persons. For individuals, on demand. Possibility canoe-kayak rentals.

*Walk, trot, or gallop...
Always plenty of thrills*

- **Ferme équestre Grain d'Orge**

La Chaîne Rambourg
Tel. (33) 2 99 39 30 24
Open year round on demand, except from 20 December to April 1st. Activities proposed (à la carte): horse-back ride (session = 1h), horseback trekking (expert riders). Beginners welcome.

Vieux-Vy-sur-Couesnon

*A pleasure stop...
time for the whole
family to go fishing*

- **Moulin de Brais**

Brais
Tel. (33) 2 99 39 52 76
Open from February to October, daily from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Trout fishing (no permit, no limit) for the whole family on a one hectare pond with facilities.



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