

le boat BRITTANY

Region Guide

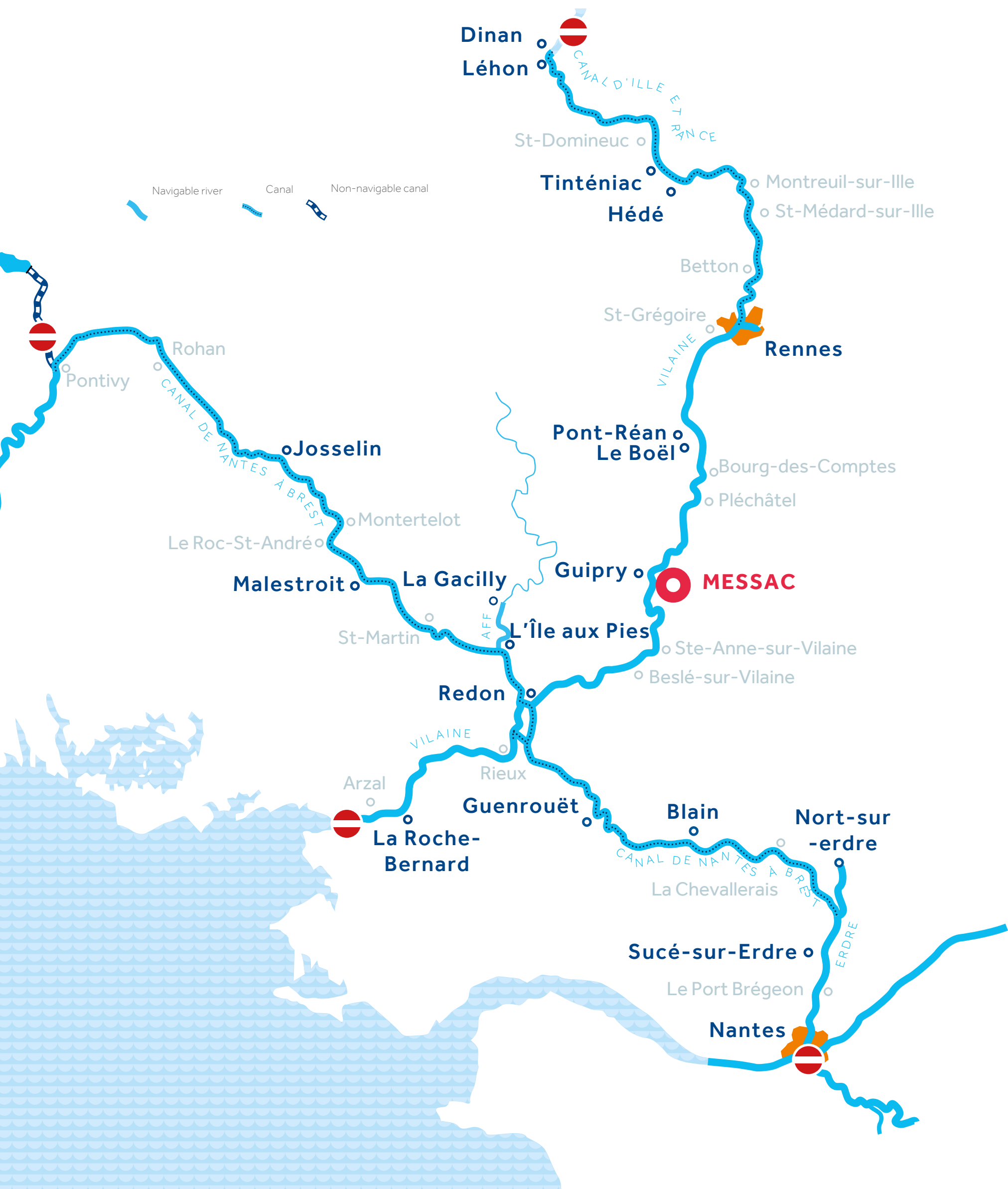


- 8

Maximum speed allowed on
canals in km/h: 8 km/h
- 10

Maximum speed allowed on
Erdre and Vilaine Rivers: 10 km/h
- 3

Maximum speed allowed
in ports/marinas: 3 km/h



Canal d'Ille et Rance & Vilaine River		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Dinan	30 min	19 hr 20 min	1	46
	Lehon	4 hr		8	
	St-Domineuc	2 hr 20 min		5	
	Tinténiac	5 hr 45 min		18	
	Montreuil-sur-Ille	50 min		2	
	St-Médard-sur-Ille	3 hr 10 min		7	
	Betton	1 hr 40 min		3	
	St-Grégoire	1 hr 5 min		2	
	Rennes	3 hr 10 min	8 hr 45 min	6	11
	Pont-Réan	2hr		2	
	Bourg-des-Comptes	1 hr 5 min		2	
	Pléchâtel	1 hr 50 min		1	
	Messac (Le Boat)	15 min 2 hr	6 hr	1	2
	Guipry	30 min		1	
	Ste-Anne-sur-Vilaine	45 min		0	
	Beslé-sur-Vilaine	2 hr 30 min		0	
	Redon	1 hr	4 hr 25 min	0	0
	Rieux	3 hr 25 min		0	
	La Roche-Bernard	50 min	50 min	0	
	Arzal				

Canal de Nantes à Brest		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Pontivy	14 hr 10 min	20 hr 35 min	55	71
	Rohan	6 hr 25 min		16	
	Josselin	3 hr 20 min	9 hr 50 min	6	15
	Montertelot	35 min		1	
	Le Roc-St-André	1 hr 40 min		3	
	Malestroit	2 hr 35 min		3	
	St-Martin	2 hr		2	
	Île aux Pies	1 hr 35 min	1 hr 35 min	1	1
	Redon	3 hr 10 min	12 hr 55 min	1	16
	Guenrouët	4hr		5	
	Blain	1 hr 35 min		3	
	La Chevallerais	4 hr 10 min		7	
	End of Canal de Nantes à Brest				

River Aff		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Ile-aux-Pies	1 hr 10min	1 hr 10min	0	0
	La Gacilly				

River Erdre		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Marina: Nort-sur-Erdre	45 min	45 min	0	0
	End of Canal de Nantes à Brest	55 min	2 hr 45 min	16	
	Sucé-sur-Erdre	45 min		5	
	Le Port Brégeon	1 hr 10 min		18	
	Nantes				

Times are an approximation only and are calculated on the basis of an average speed of 7.5km/h and an average time of 12 minutes to pass through a lock. Your speed, the flow of the water and the time it takes to go through locks will all affect your progress.

NANTES



Les Machines de l'Île, Nantes

Nantes is the historic capital city of the Dukes of Brittany; a city of art and history. Mooring at L'Ile de Versailles is the ideal starting point to wander around the small Japanese garden. You'll also discover the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany, dating from the 15th century, and its fascinating Museum of History. The well-tended lawns of the encircling moat are a popular spot for picnics. For something a little different, make sure you visit Les Machines de l'Île, a mechanical zoo which is home to the Grand Éléphant – a 12metre high elephant which passengers can take a ride on. Known for its eclectic shops and fine restaurants, the Bouffay quarter of Nantes makes for an inviting stroll. Stop at one of the many pancake houses for a delicious Crêpe.

Enjoy a crêpe in Nantes



Recommended restaurant: Le Bistro des Enfants Nantais, Rue Desaix. A 20 minute walk from the L'Ile de Versailles moorings.



Amenities: Everything you need can be found in Nantes –minimarkets, bakeries, butchers, numerous cafés and restaurants.

Covered market: Tue to Sun (am) – next to Ile de Versailles.

Waterside facilities: Marina: water, electricity, toilets, showers.

SUCÉ-SUR-ERDRE

Make a stop in the small port of Sucé-sur-Erdre, a town where cafés and restaurants invite you to have a drink on the terrace in the shade of the chestnut trees. There are numerous nautical activities to try at Base d'activités et Loisirs (+33 (0) 7 82 67 06 89), such as canoeing, sailing and paddle boarding. While cruising along the River Erdre you'll discover the splendour of the private follies of the rich local ship-owners, built on the river banks



Recommended restaurant: Le Clos Saint Thomas, rue de la Mairie.



Amenities: There is a supermarket, bakeries, butcher, delicatessen, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Tue (am) – Place Aristide Briand | Fri (4pm-7:30pm) – Quai Bliesransbach

Waterside facilities: Marina: water, electricity, toilets, showers, wifi.

NORT-SUR-ERDRE

Nort-sur-Erdre is a charming stop. Once an important industrial port, it is now classified as a “Green Holiday Destination” for the richness of its river and surroundings. If you’re feeling energetic, there are over 100km of hiking trail trails to be explored, plus a variety of water activities to keep the whole family happy, from canoeing and kayaking to electric boats (+ 33 (0) 6 86 38 60 99). Don’t miss the St. Christophe church, built in neo-Gothic style, with its rich stained glass windows and organ.



Recommended restaurant: Le Bretagne, Rue Aristide Briand near the town hall.



Amenities: There are two supermarkets, bakeries, butcher, delicatessen, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Fri (am) – Place du Champ de Foire.

Waterside facilities (Le Boat base): water, electricity, toilets, showers, wifi.

GUENROUËT

Guenrouët is the ideal place for a stop with the family. St. Clair Leisure Center offers a multitude of activities with a breath-taking view over the canal. It has an open-air swimming pool, open in July and August, slides and grassy beach. Kids will also love the mini-golf, while pedalos, canoeing, fishing, tennis courts are also available. Check in with the Tourist Office, they organise hikes in the summer on which you can enjoy crêpes and a glass of local cider, both a speciality of this region.



Recommended restaurant: Le Relais Saint Clair, Rue de l'Isac, right next to the port.



Amenities: Minimarket, bakeries, butcher, cafés and restaurants.

Waterside facilities (marina): Water, electricity, toilets, showers.

BLAIN

Groulais Castle, Blain



The Canal from Nantes to Brest offers picture-perfect landscapes, crisscrossing through authentic nature and beautiful medieval towns. Blain's Groulais Castle dates from the 12th century is one of the most important fortresses of Brittany. Its Museum of Arts and Popular Traditions hosts the largest collection of beans in the world. The 4,500 hectares of Gâvre Forest is a paradise for walkers and cyclists with tree lined alleys, and nature enthusiasts will enjoy foraging for mushrooms and chestnuts.



Recommended restaurant: Le Charli, Rue des Nantes. A 15 minute walk from the canal.



Amenities: There are supermarkets, bakeries, butcher, and cafés and restaurants.

Market: Tue & Sat (am) – Place de l'Eglise

Waterside facilities: Marina: water, electricity, toilets, showers.

LA ROCHE-BERNARD



La Roche-Bernard

Classified as a “Small Town of character”, the fortified town of La Roche-Bernard was founded by Vikings in the 10th century. It came to prosperity in the 17th century thanks to its role as a centre for building warships. Step back in time with a visit to the Vilaine Maritime Museum for a fascinating journey into its nautical history. Discover the art of glass blowing at Atelier Verre Tout Horizon, or learn about bee keeping – and stock up on delicious honey – at the Maison de l’Abeille. End your visit at the lookout point in the upper town, the perfect place to watch the sun set over the Vilaine River. Don’t forget to sample the fresh seafood while you’re here – especially the incredible Breton Oysters.



Try the Oysters in La Roche-Bernard



Recommended restaurant: Crêperie La Sarrasine, 1 place du Marchix.



Amenities: Supermarkets, bakery, butcher, cafés and restaurants (along the port and in the city centre).

Market: Thu (am).

Waterside facilities (marina): water, electricity, toilets, showers.

REDON



Redon

An official 'City of character', Redon sits at the crossroads of the Vilaine River and the Canal de Nantes à Brest. This maritime port was an important stop on the way to Rennes, and each year hundreds of ships were loaded with salt, wine and other goods to be transported to the north. Quai Duguay-Trouin pays testament to this flourishing era with many beautiful 18th mansions built by ship merchants which line the promenade. Don't miss the 'Musée de la Batellerie de l'Ouest' which retraces the epic history of the Brittany canals and the life of the sailors. The main attraction of Redon is its Benedictine abbey, St. Sauveur, founded in 9th century. Its combination of Roman and Gothic architecture is a sight to behold, while the pretty gardens are a pleasant spot to take a stroll.



St. Sauveur Abbey, Redon



Recommended restaurant: La Bogue on Rue des États, in the centre of town.



Amenities: Everything you need can be found in Redon – supermarkets, bakeries, butchers, numerous cafés and restaurants.

Market: Mon (am) – market hall

Waterside facilities (marina): water, electricity, toilets, showers.

ILE-AUX-PIES



Ile-aux-Pies Climbing

In the direction of La Gacilly, the Oust River crosses between granite cliffs, creating natural paradises like the Ile-aux-Pies. This island is an adventurers' paradise, with climbing peaks, hiking trails, and a zipline. Kids, big and small, can while away the hours, trying their hand at archery, tree climbing and fishing.

Cycling around Ile-aux-Pies



Waterside facilities: Quay: water, electricity.

LA GACILLY



Crossed by the Aff River, this pretty town bursts with flowers, inviting you to discover its many craftsmen. Painters, sculptors, glass workers and more, work and display their wares here, with colourful exhibitions spilling onto the streets. La Gacilly is also the headquarters of the famous perfume maker, Yves Rocher.

Visit the museum to learn more about the founder, and then wander the beautiful botanical garden where you'll find 1100 species of plant, including a unique collection of sagebrushes. Don't miss France's biggest photography festival, which takes place from June to September. 2.7km north of La Gacilly, you can hire donkeys for a fun way to discover the beautiful surroundings with the kids. Children ride on their backs and the adult holds the reigns, while following the marked trails (d.ledouaron@wanadoo.fr - +33 (0) 2 99 08 04 25).



Recommended restaurant: Les Enfants Gât'thés, Rue la Fayette. A 2 minute walk from the riverbanks.



Amenities: La Gacilly has a supermarket, bakeries, butcher, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Sat (am).

Waterside facilities (marina): water, electricity.

MALESTROIT



Nicknamed 'The Pearl of the Oust River', Malestroit is classified as a Small City of Character. Its half-timbered houses with sculptured gargoyles and vibrant roof tiles bear witness to its rich past. Stop by the Tourist Office to join a walking tour and, if you happen to visit on a Friday, stroll along the Quay Clisson to see the wares of various craftsmen on display. Let yourself be tempted by the sweet and salty crêpes, accompanied by cider on the pretty Bouffay Square. Close by is the St. Gilles church with its amazing Romanesque sculptures.



Recommended restaurant: L'Auberge Du Corps De Garde, Rue du Général de Gaulle. A 2 minute walk from the Pont Neuf bridge.



Amenities: You'll find a minimarket, bakery, cafés and restaurants in the city centre.

Market: Thu (am).

Waterside facilities: water, toilets.

JOSSELIN



Josselin

Your first impression of Josselin is of the imposing château, which looks over the River Oust and still belongs to the Rohan family. Take a tour through its state rooms, taking in its 19th century drawing room and incredible library, which houses over 3,000 volumes. You can also discover the Doll Museum in the outbuildings, with around 600 dolls and other items from all around the world. The French-style gardens with its vast lawns, and elegant rose garden with 40 different species will complete your visit. In the heart of the city, the 15th century Notre Dame du Roncier basilica is a must-see, while the 138 climb to the top of its bell tower will reward you with breath-taking views over the surrounding countryside. Stroll in the streets below to admire the well-preserved timber-framed houses, or stretch your legs in the nearby Bois d 'Amour gardens, a popular spot for families.



Josselin Castle, Josselin



Recommended restaurant: La Table d'O, Chemin Glatinier, a short walk from the riverbank.



Amenities: You'll find a minimarket, bakery, cafés and restaurants in the city centre.

Market: Sat (am).

Waterside facilities (marina): water, electricity.

GUIPRY-MESSAC



Guipry-Messac

Messac has now merged with the neighbouring town and is now called Guipry-Messac. The harbour, once famous for its salt trade offers a beautiful panorama of the Vilaine River with its old mill, now transformed into a restaurant and its quays lined with houses from the 17th century. Moor there for the night and soak up the atmosphere in one of the many cafés and restaurants on the waterfront. Classified as a “Green Tourist City”, it’s also an ideal starting point for exploring the natural beauty of the region by foot or on bike, along the “voie verte” routes.



Recommended restaurant: La Crêperie du Port, in nearby Guipry, A 15 minute walk south of the Le Boat base, along the quay.



Amenities: There's a supermarket, delicatessen, bakeries, butcher, wine store, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Thu (am).

Waterside facilities (marina): water, electricity, Wi-Fi, toilets, showers.

LE BOËL & PONT RÉAN



Water Mill in Le Boël

The Boël site is one of the most picturesque natural sites in the Vilaine valley. Stroll there to admire the old paddle-wheel watermill, dating from 1652, encircled by steep cliffs.

There's a circuit of around 10 kilometres that follows winding tracks and towpaths along the bottom of the cliffs, while nearby Pont Réan and its historic stone bridge, first built by the Romans, served as a toll. . Bird-lovers should travel 4km north to Bruz to spend the afternoon at the Brittany's Ornithological Park to admire 250 species of birds that live in relative freedom in the botanical gardens



Recommended restaurant: Le Marin'Boël, on the riverside in front of the mill.



Amenities: There are a few cafés and restaurants in Pont Réan.

Market: Sun (am) – Rue de Redon in Pont Réan.

Waterside facilities: Pontoon: water, electricity. Toilet facilities at the canoeing base.

RENNES



Town Hall, Rennes

The capital of Brittany, this City of Art and History will charm you with its streets and squares bordered by pretty half-timbered houses. Its two royal squares and Town Hall date from the 17th century, while The Parliament of Brittany with its exceptional interior decor is worth a visit. Take a guided tour in July or August to see the extensive restoration work. This building is beautifully floodlighted in coloured lights during summer evenings. The Champs Libres brings together the Museum of Brittany, library and planetarium. In the heart of the city, stroll in the Thabor Gardens, built on the site of a Benedictine abbey, and renowned for its pretty English and French gardens.



Recommended restaurants: Pof, Boulevard Georges Clémenceau – a Michelin star restaurant to write home about. For something more relaxed try Crêperie La Rozell, Rue de Penhoet.



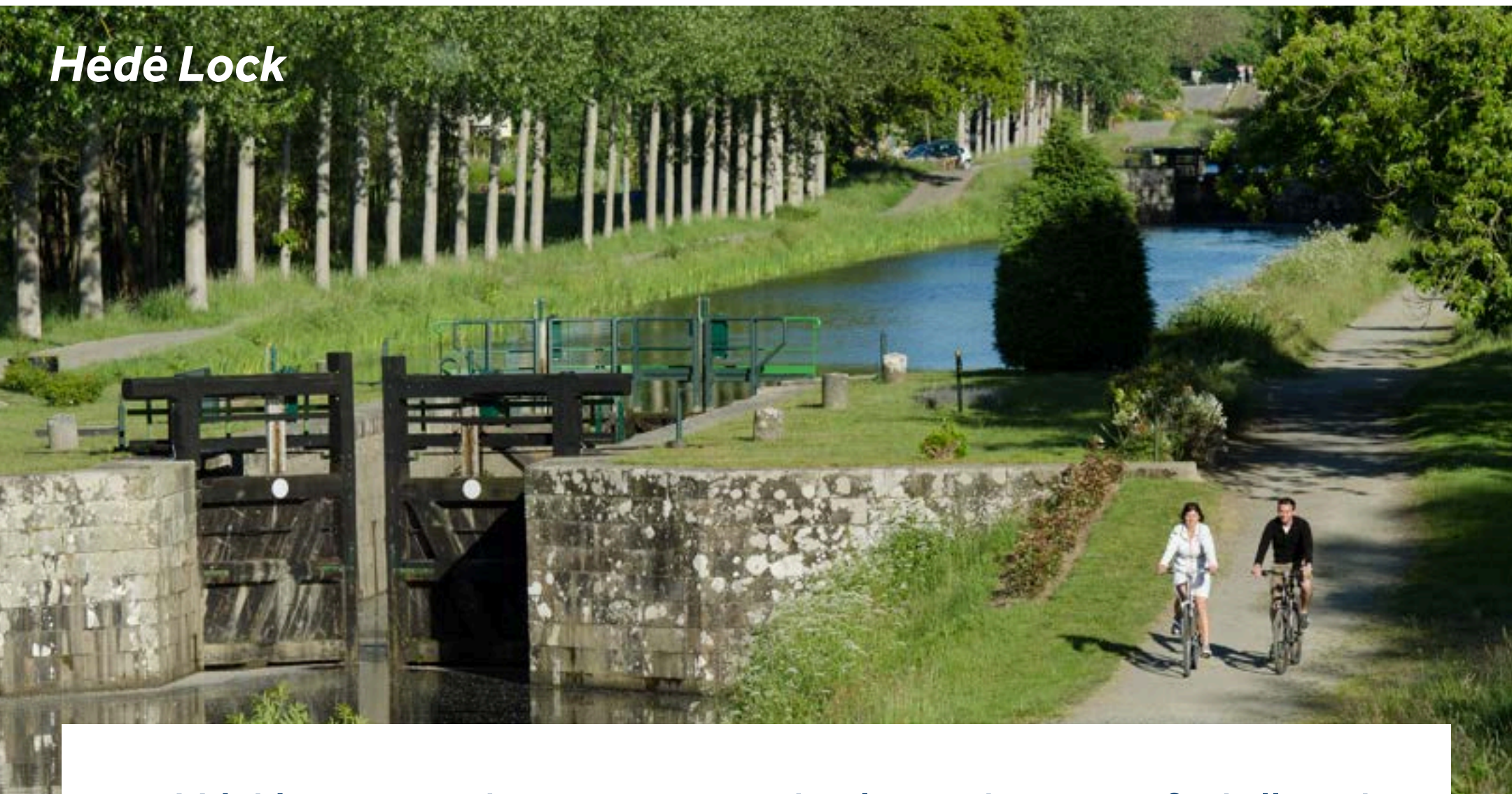
Amenities: You'll find everything you need here – supermarkets, bakery, butcher, cafés and restaurants.

Covered market: Mon to Sat (am) & Sat (am) – Place des Lices.

Waterside facilities: Water at Comte Lock and at Quay St. Martin pontoon.

HÉDÉ

Hédé Lock



Hédé is an enchanting town, built on the top of a hill and overlooked by a medieval castle. It owes its reputation to its staircase of 11 locks, stretched over 2km, which moves boats 27 metres uphill. Find out more about the heritage of the river at the Maison du Canal, set up in a the Madeleine lock house where you can discover a beautiful collection of photos, models and tools.



Recommended restaurant: La Petite Porte, Place de la Mairie, in the centre of the town.

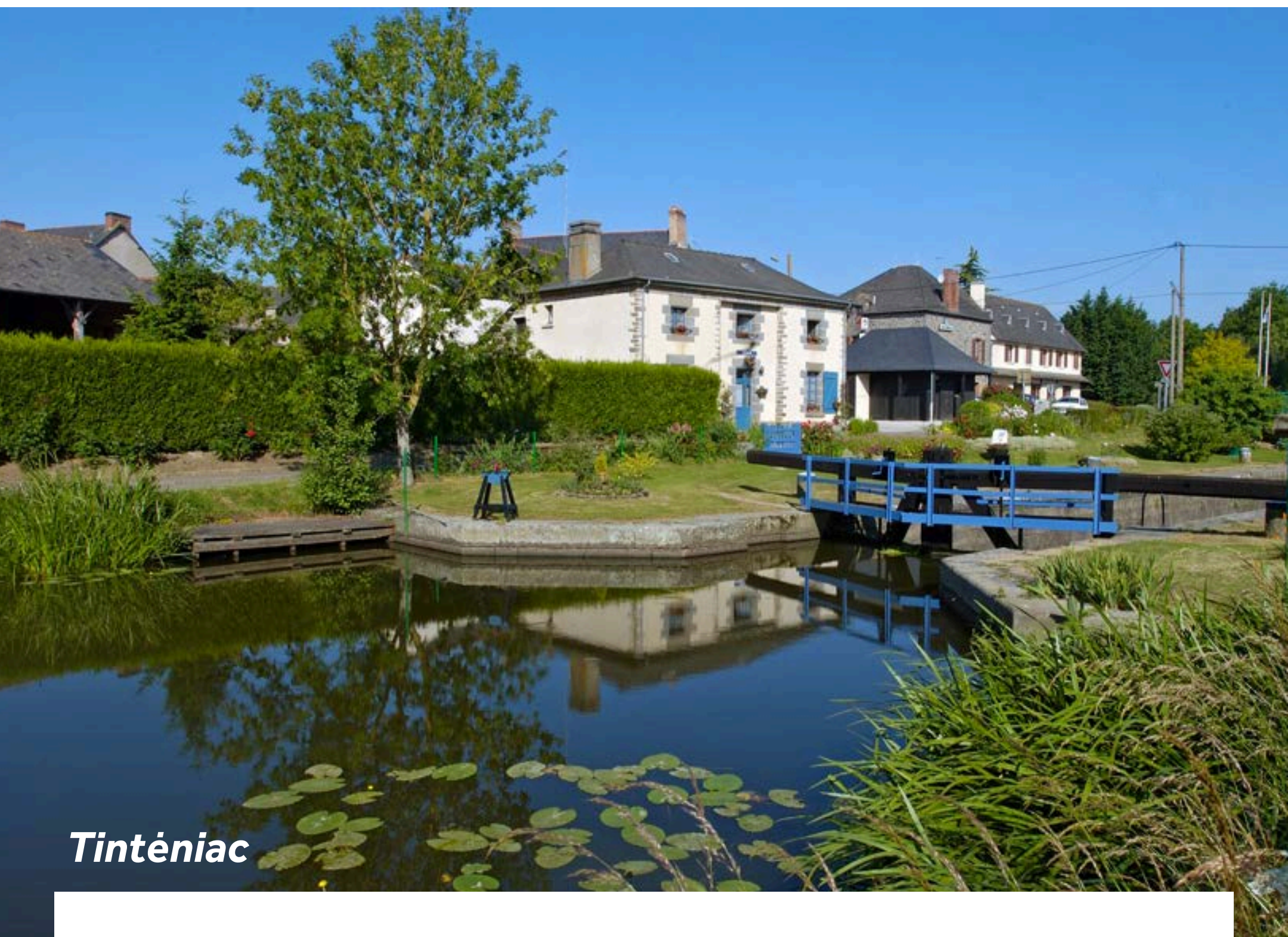


Amenities: You'll find a minimarket, bakeries, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Tue (am).

Waterside facilities: Quay de la Madeleine: water, electricity.

TINTÉNIAC



Tinténiaç

Not far from Hédé, Tinténiaç offers visitors the chance to discover the Museum of Tools and Ancient Crafts, open from July to September. In front of the museum, the picnic tables are a great spot for some lunch whilst the kids play on the play area. Visit the wonderful Ste. Trinité Church, and admire the many charming 15th and 16th century houses in the town.



Recommended restaurant: L'Escale Gourmande, on the port.



Amenities: You'll find everything you need here – supermarkets, bakery, butcher, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Wed (am).

Waterside facilities: Quay: water, electricity.

*Saint-Trinité Church,
Tinténiac*



LÉHON

Léhon



It's no wonder Léhon is known as one of Brittany's most beautiful towns. Set in the picturesque valley of the Rance River, this "Small City of Character" has retained its rich historical and religious heritage.

A single street leads from the ruined castle on the hill, down to a little hump-backed bridge over the river, passing the 9th century Benedictine abbey along the way. Built by six Welsh monks who were enchanted by the area's beauty, take a wander round its gardens and admire the striking stained glass window. The open-air heated swimming pool is open year round and offers a remarkable view of the abbey.

Léhon's Benedictine Abbey



Recommended restaurant: Au Café Ephemere, Rue du Bourg Mairie De Lehon.



Amenities: There is a supermarket, bakery, butcher, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Sat (am) – Tennis Club car park.

DINAN



Dinan is a fortified city perched on its rocky promontory encircled by 2684m of ramparts, the oldest and most impressive in Brittany. The upper town houses Duchess Anne's Castle and its museum, plus the Clock Tower, purchased by the people of Dinan in 1498. Climb the 158 steps to the top for panoramic views over the city and surrounding area. The imposing viaduct and famous Jerzual Street with its magnificent half-timbered houses lead you to the port, arguably the most attractive part of town, where you can relax at one of the many cafés and restaurants. Stop at the House of the Artist which houses over 4,000 sketches and paintings of Brittany in bygone days. Pick up a map at the Tourist Office for a self-guided walking tour.



Recommended restaurant: L'Atelier Gourmand, Rue du Quai, overlooking the river.



Amenities: Everything you need can be found in Dinan – supermarkets, bakeries, butchers, numerous cafés and restaurants.

Market: Thu (am) – Place du Guesclin

Waterside facilities: Water, electricity. Marina Office 800m away from Le Boat pontoon Le Boat: showers and launderette.

LOCKS

Most of the locks are automatic and operated by a lock keeper, either permanent or itinerant. Please refer to the onboard Boat and Navigation Manual for more information about how to operate and pass through locks. There are no locks on the Erdre River.

OPENING TIMES

All locks are open every day, including public holidays.

MONTH	CANAL D'ILLE ET RANCE, VILAINE RIVER, BLAVET RIVER	CANAL DE NANTES À BREST: REDON - PONTIVY	CANAL DE NANTES À BREST: NORT-SUR-ERDRE - REDON*
April - mid-June	9am - 12:30pm & 1:30pm - 6:45pm		9:15am - 12:30pm & 2pm - 6:30pm
Mid-June - mid-Sept	9am - 12:30pm & 1:30pm - 7:15pm		
Mid-Sep - mid-Oct	9am - 12:30pm & 1:30pm - 6:45pm		
Mid-Oct - end of Oct	9am - 12:30pm & 1:30pm - 6pm		

**Do not pass the Digue Lock in Redon but use the Bellion Lock, south of Redon, instead. At Quiheix Lock and Bellion Lock, explanation about how to operate the lock will be provided by lock keepers (+ video and leaflet).*

MOORING

You can moor anywhere you want on canals and although don't moor if there is a sign indicating to the contrary, you are on a bend, or you are less than 50m from a structure such as a bridge. Do not moor at waiting pontoons on either side of a lock (unless you are waiting for the lock). Mooring along the riverbank is not recommended and is forbidden on Vilaine and Erdre Rivers. Most towns and villages have mooring bollards or rings to tie up to, and moorings are usually free. Charges sometimes apply, in particular on the Vilaine River, between Redon and Arzal and on the Erdre River. You also have the option of mooring in a private marina for a charge of between €9 - €35 a night. Usually they'll have water refill points and electric hook-up facilities (not available on all boats).

WATER

You will need to fill up your water tank once or twice during the course of a week. Water points are available at all Le Boat bases en-route, for free. Otherwise, there are several ports/marinas that will allow you to fill your tank for free or for a maximum charge of €10.



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Disclaimer: We have endeavoured to ensure that all the information in this Guide is correct at time of printing. However, opening times and prices are subject to change. Attractions, restaurants, locks and even stretches of the canal can close without notice. Le Boat is happy to recommend all of the attractions and eating establishments featured within this Guide. However, they are not owned or managed by Le Boat and, as such, we cannot guarantee the quality of your experience at any particular time. If anything in this guide is not correct, we'd love to hear from you at guides@leboat.com so that we can revise future editions.

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