

Go up the steps from the car-park, cross two roads to other side of the roundabout and take steps up to the Cours Dajot.

Cours Dajot This 600m promenade was constructed by prisoners from the nearby *bagne* (naval prison) in 1769. It provides panoramic views over the port and the Rade de Brest, a roadstead linked to the Atlantic by the narrow channel of the Goulet.

Turn right towards the American monument.



Cours Dajot

American monument The striking granite tower protruding from the ramparts is a 50m monument to American naval forces of WWI. First built in the early 1930s, it was destroyed by the Germans during WWII (because used with the lighthouse at Portzic as a sightline by RAF bombers) and then reconstructed exactly in 1958. A plaque in the little park beside it honours the Comte de Rochambeau and the Comte de Grasse, two French heroes of the American War of Independence, who sailed from Brest in 1780/1.

Cross the Cours Dajot and rue de Denver to go up steps to rue Traverse and continue ahead.

No.20 rue de Denver Beside the steps leading to rue Traverse is an *art nouveau* building (1900) by architect Sylvain Crosnier, using brick motif on the upper floor and an array of balconied windows.



Art nouveau

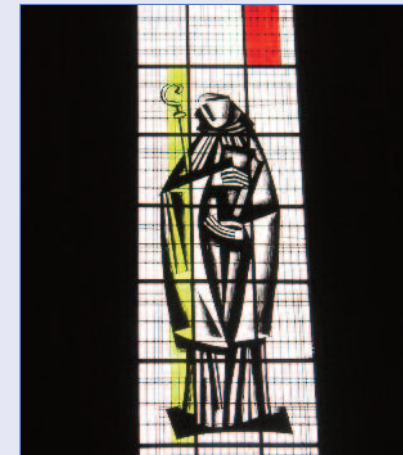
Continue past art gallery on left, turn right up rue Émile Zola, then left on rue d'Aiguillon.

Musée des Beaux Arts The city's art gallery contains changing exhibitions and a fine permanent collection including many Breton subjects and examples of the Pont Aven school. It also has a pioneering art-lending facility.

No.27 Rue d'Aiguillon This house (1926) by architect Aimé Freyssinet has an exceptional display of bay windows arranged with Art deco chic.



Rue de Siam



Église St-Louis

Turn right along rue de Siam, then left at rue Jean Mace and first right to reach the church, Église St-Louis.

Rue de Siam This is the main shopping street of Brest, linking the Place de la Liberté and the Town Hall (1961) with the Pont de Recouvrance over the Penfeld. It gets its name from a visit of ambassadors from the King of Siam in 1686 on their way to see Louis XIV at Versailles. Here it is apparent that the architecture of post-war Brest is both emblematic of 1950s style and yet retains an echo of past neo-classicism.

Place des lacs A controversial street sculpture (1986) by artist Marta Pan, originally intended as part of a much larger sequence of installations leading down to the Penfeld river, was to highlight the city's connection with sea. Called The Fountains by locals, it is made of black granite from South Africa and pink granite from Brittany.

Église St-Louis This luminous building of remarkable volume, consecrated in 1958, was a new version of the church here almost completely destroyed during the war. The exterior shows a contrasting use of concrete and the warm ochre tones of Logonna stone. Inside, the same artistic motif can be seen in the vast, almost blank, Wall of Lamentation contrasting with a flood of light through modern stained glass windows (presenting stylised figures of Breton saints) opposite.

Go round to back of church (Halles on right) and down steps into rue Michelet, turn left downhill.

No.17 DOURDUFF-EN-MER Circular Grade 2 7.5km

A very varied and beautiful circuit in any season, following the coast of the Bay of Morlaix, verdant rural paths, the centre of a pretty *bourg* and the wooded estuary of the Dourduff, which means 'black water' in Breton.

Starting point: from Morlaix take the D76 northwards, continuing alongside the river for 5 km to cross the bridge over the Dourduff and turn left immediately to reach the parking area (see map).



View across the Bay of Morlaix towards Carantec, Île Louët and the Château du Taureau

Dourduff-en-Mer The coastal starting point was once an important boat-building area: the famous Cordelière, a 700 ton, 200 canon ship built in 1505 for Anne, Duchess of Brittany, began its illustrious career here. In a well-known episode from rivalry between England and France at sea, it was sunk - together with The Regent - with all hands in 1512 off the Pointe St-Mathieu near Brest. The Breton name An Treiz (by bridge) means a crossing place: a ferry was in operation until the road bridge superseded one built for the railway in the 1930s.

Château du Taureau In the bay off Carantec lies this distinctive rocky fortress. It was built in 1544 to deter further raids up the Morlaix river after a disastrous English attack in 1522. It later became a political prison and a place of incarceration for mentally disturbed aristocrats. It was occupied by the Germans in WWII before private occupation saw lavish society parties and a sailing school followed by a final reversion of identity to classified historic monument status. It has been restored and can be visited by boat from Carantec or Plougasnou. See www.chateaudutaureau.com for details.

DIRECTIONS

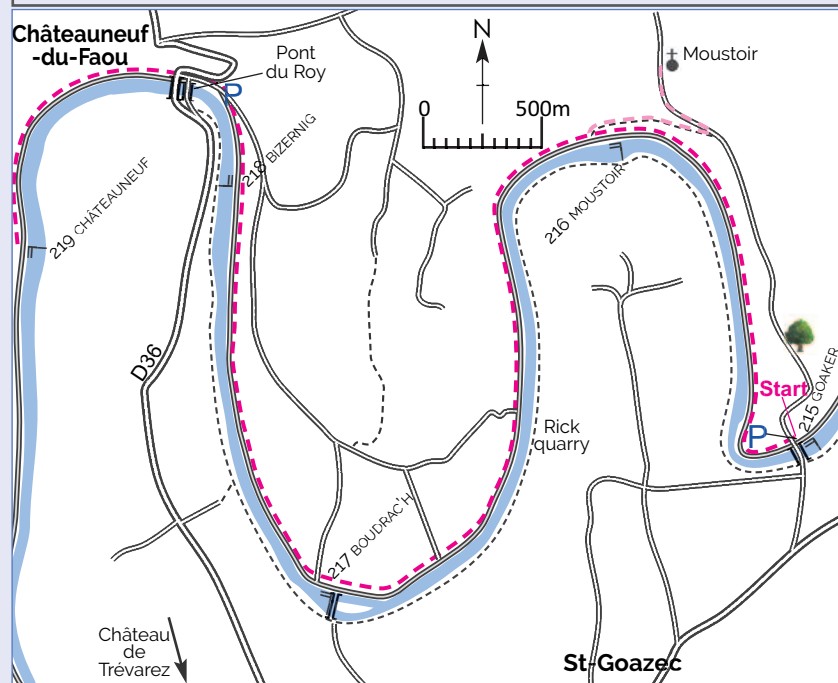
- A** Immediately after some rubbish bins, turn left down a very narrow rocky path.
- B** Follow through houses then take the narrow footpath left just before the first house ahead.
- C** Go through churchyard to right of church and down steps to little road.
- D** Turn right up steps onto another path and follow it down to the water.



WALK 2 Gwaker to Châteauneuf-du-Faou
 Linear Grade 1 7km one way

This walk presents the natural beauty and peace that characterise much of the canal in Finistère, but it also offers a view of the economic history of this remarkable waterway, the option of a diversion to a 16th century chapel, and the resources of the pretty town of Châteauneuf-du-Faou.

Starting point: the *passerelle* at Lock 215 (Gwaker or Goaker) where there is plenty of parking. The lock-house is now a *gîte d'etape* offering overnight accommodation. Beside the access road is a beautiful centuries-old spreading oak-tree.



The Aulne Since Pont Triffen, the canal has harnessed the wide and sinuous Aulne river, which will carry it all the way to the end. The deep valley has dense woodland one or both sides for much of the time. There are picnic tables near each of the four locks on this stretch.



Le Moustoir After Lock 216 (Moustoir) a footpath leaves the towpath for a steep climb to the Chapelle du Moustoir, an attractive late 16th century structure with a *calvaire* and well-kept gardens. Open in summer and school holidays.

Rick Quarry The evocative spectacle of a vertiginous hill of slate is a strong reminder of the industrial past of the canal. Rick quarry was only one of the enterprises that lined the route along this section of the canal, with slates taken by barge to Port Launay and then shipped on to numerous destinations. The harsh working conditions can be imagined from the geography of the mine's location.

Lock 217 Boudrac'h There is a *passerelle* at the lock here to cross the river on foot. The Château of Trévarez is 2.6km away. A circular walk including this crossing and the canal is given in *Walking and other activities in Finistère*.

Lock 218 Bizernig This is the headquarters of SMATAH, the organization which manages the canal in Finistère.



Typical kilometre stone