

VACATION RENTAL INSIDER GUIDE

COTE D'ARMOUR - BRITTANY



Côte d'Armor



Famous for its beautiful landscapes, stunning historical towns and picturesque villages, Côte d'Armor is a paradisiacal region located in the northwest of France. Formerly known as Cotes du Nord, this region offers tourists a great variety of stunning places to visit, idyllic beaches to relax on and remarkable experiences to be a part of. From the famous historical Le Mont Saint-Michel to the astonishing city of Dinan, this region of Brittany has an exciting and welcoming atmosphere, leaving most visitors with a longing desire to return someday, soon!

Dinan

With an exceptional geographical setting, Dinan is a charming walled Breton Town that grew up in the margins of the River Rance. Filled with cobblestone paved streets alongside some traditional timbered Medieval houses, this French city can easily be reached from Saint Malo, Dinard, Rennes or Saint-Brieuc. Well-known for its marvelous port, Dinan offers its visitors a romantic atmosphere, which deserves to be appreciated not only by couples, but also by families and groups of friends. There are lots of *cafes*, *creperies*, *patisseries*, *brasseries* and everything else you may wish to find in French territory, particularly in Brittany.

• Top 5 Things to See & Do in Dinan

The Castle of Dinan

Formerly called *Donjon de la duchesse Anne*, Dinan's Castle consists of a keep, more precisely the Keep of the Duchess Anne, like the original name implies. Standing 34 meters high, this keep is part of the 2,600 meters of medieval ramparts that surrounds the old town of the city of Dinan. The *Château de Dinan* dates back to the 14th century, being constructed between 1382 and 1383, with the main purpose of providing a sheltered entrance gate for the fortress that encircles the city.



Dinan Ramparts

Attached to the Castle of Dinan, are its ramparts – these are a major tourist attraction as they encompass the city's historic past and notable landscape. Displayed through 2,600 meters, Dinan's ramparts were built in the same period as the castle, containing 10 out of the original 14 guard towers that once secured the city.



Basilica of Saint Sauveur

Dating back from the early 12th century, the *Basilica of Saint Sauveur* was constructed in 1120 by Sir Rivallon le Roux, Lord of Dinan, when he returned from the crusade where he first battled, in order to thank the *Sauveur* (in English, the Saviour) for his safety. In the 15th and 16th centuries the Basilica suffered some modifications, but its lower part of the face remained almost intact. With a perfect blend of architectural styles, most specifically between romanesque and gothic, the Basilica's façade is a perfect example of the possibility to combine multiple architectural approaches and techniques.



Saint-Malo Church

This beautiful and stunning church is another fine example to demonstrate why Dinan has been listed as *Ville d'Art et d'Histoire* since 1986. Despite being previously founded in the distant year of 1066 by Olivier I, Lord of Dinan, the present building that now houses the Saint-Malo Church only dates back from the late 15th century. However, it's a striking illustration of gothic flamboyant architecture, only completed in 1885 due to a chronic lack of funds. One of its highlights must be the stained glass windows, a common and consistent characteristic found in various churches and cathedrals across France.



The Little Train of Dinan

If you're only passing by the city and don't have enough time to visit all the monuments listed above, this would be a great one to try and a great favorite for the little ones. Its also a nice option if you just fancy spending a more relaxed time travelling between Dinan's enchanted streets, *Le Petit Train de Dinan* will prove to be a fun experience. This picturesque train tours through Dinan's main spots, giving you the chance to sightsee and photograph the city's key places and areas of interest.



Jugon-Les-Lacs



Characterised by its peaceful environment and serene atmosphere, Jugon-Les-Lacs once held a strategic and tactical position in Brittany's geographical location. However, its location still describes this Côte d'Armor commune as a gorgeous-looking oasis in the heart of nature-like scenery, due to its delightful and enjoyable lakes, the Jugon Lake and the Arguenon Lake.

Commonly known as the "Little Town of Character", Jugon-Les-Lacs offers its visitors the possibility to practice some traditional regional sports, like cycling and fishing, among many other water related sports. For hiking lovers, there are some pedestrian circuits to be explored, alongside the natural richness of the whole region, with tracks from 9km to 40km long.

• Best Beaches in Côte d'Armor

Pléneuf-Val-André

The beach of Pléneuf-Val-André is definitely one of the finest you'll find in Brittany, and especially in the Côte d'Armor region. With various luxury hotels and resorts nearby, this is the perfect place if you like the combination of family fun with a large variety of fun packed water sports.

Erquy

The outstanding and well-known Cap d'Erquy marks the eastern end of the glorious Bay of Saint Brieuc with very family friendly and relaxing beaches along its way. There are a total of 10 beaches in this one commune, as such Erquy stands out as one of the premium spots to settle down on the fine white sandy beaches gifted with some of the warmest waters in the North of France.

Saint-Cast-Le-Guildo

The blue-green waters of Saint-Cast-Le-Guildo have given this Breton town a place in this list. Surrounded by the impressive cliffs of Cap Frehel, this beach is also very family friendly and the town offers a lovely outdoor playarea courtyard surrounded by fantastic restaurants for that true outdoor relaxed dining experience with little ones in tow.

Mont Saint-Michel



Le Mont Saint-Michel is a tiny rocky settlement located in northern France, more precisely in the mouth of the River Couesnon alongside the regions of Lower Normandy and Brittany. This historic site is World famous by its Abbey, dedicated to archangel Saint Michel. It is extremely well preserved and a brilliant example of gothic-style presented in some of the wonderful Benedictine monuments and historical buildings. Known as the “Wonder of the West”, the Mont Saint-Michel was consecrated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, currently receiving more than 3 million tourists every year.

The Norman Benedictine of Saint Michel that stands on the top of the rock began its construction in 708, housing various functions due to its isolated location since then. From a strong fortress during the Hundred Years’ War between 1337 and 1453, to a tough prison throughout the period of the French Revolution (1789 – 1863), this stunning place played a major and important role not only in French history, but also in shaping European relationships, due to its strategic geographic location.

Nowadays, Le Mont Saint-Michel is undoubtedly one of France’s most recognisable and notable landmarks. Definitely a must-see if you’re staying or thinking about visiting the remarkable and astonishing region of Brittany!

• Top 5 Best Experiences in Côte d'Armor

Visit the Museum of the Castle of Dinan

Located in the Dungeon and in the Tour de Coetquen areas of the castle, the *Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Dinan* (in English, Museum of the History of Dinan) archives a large variety of medieval objects that shaped the history of Brittany. Among them, you'll find the dramatic and eye-catching lead reliquary containing the heart of Lord François Coetquen, its origin dates back from 1557. In this building that once housed a prison, you also get to see some painting and sculpture exhibitions of art works entirely dedicated or related to this region.



Walk through the Ramparts

Although only a small segment can be walked on, it's makes for wonderfully charming stroll starting from the Château de Dinan where you can discover this antique monument by yourself. From here, take your time to photograph not only the Ramparts details, but also the wonderful city's landscape from here.



Photograph Le Mont Saint-Michel

This place has its own beauty, arguable unmatched by any other place on Earth, so don't take just one pic with your iPhone while walking towards it. Take your time and capture that winning shot, you won't regret it!



Walk along one of Brittany's beaches

What beautiful scenery, isn't it? Enjoy a relaxing walk dipping your toes in the waters edge. The view is incredible, and the smells and sounds of the sea rolling onto the shore is a true delight.



Shop in the picturesque streets of Dinan, Saint-Malo, Rennes or Jugon-Les-Lacs

Don't forget to get some souvenirs to show off and perhaps some gifts for your friends and family! From tiny replicas of the monuments you've visited, to traditional snacks and drinks from the Brittany region, there's a lot you can shop for while wandering through the streets of the magnificent walled cities of Dinan, Rennes and Saint-Malo, as well as in the quieter streets of Jugon-Les-Lacs.



• Top 5 Best Restaurants in Côte d'Armor

Le Rohein - 9, Rue Amiral Charner, 22370 Pléneuf-Val-André, France

Given the fact that Brittany's cuisine is centered on fish and seafood, this is the place to choose if you're visiting the beautiful beach area of Pléneuf-Val-André. Also known for its excellent service and a great list of wines, there are some well-refined and tasty dishes waiting for you!

Le Petit Saint-Michel – 68, Route de Lormet, 22430 Erquy, France

With stunning views towards Erquy beach and its bay, Le Petit Saint-Michel offers its customers some delicious and inexpensive dishes. I would recommend the oysters and the crepes and you'll certainly be coming back for more!

Le 19eme - Le Golf Route du Golf | Pen Guen, 22380 Saint-Cast-le Guildo, France

Located in the middle of a golf resort, Le 19eme is definitely the place to go if you want to combine tasty food with spectacular and impressive views. Right across the window you'll see the relaxing bay of Saint-Cast-Le-Guildo! A menu containing entries, main dish and dessert only costs around 20€ per person, a bargain considering the surroundings!

Au The Gourmand – 19, Rue de l'Apport, Dinan, France

In Dinan there's the most appetizing and charming place you can possibly find for a brunch-type meal. Au The Gourmand offers the best products of the region, with a large variety of dishes ranging from various types of breads to tasty scallops, from the best tea's in town to amazing desserts, and even fresh fruit smoothies & homemade chocolate brownies! Try it once, and you'll be back!

La Fleur de Sel - 7, Rue Sainte-Claire, 22100 Dinan, France

High standard French cuisine dominates La Fleur de Sel style of cooking. Beautifully decorated, this small but cheerful restaurant will no doubt turn your routine lunch or dinner to a memorable one. Just try the lamb served with traditional Brittany vegetables, along with a delicious wine from the large and elegant list, and... Enjoy!



Meet the Owners

Riel Piper

Riel has spent a many family holidays in Brittany, having great knowledge of this northern French region. The importance of creating the best vacation possible to others led Riel to become the owner and manager of [Luxury Farmhouse & Gites Brittany](#), a wonderful and refined 16th century luxury farmhouse in the heart of Brittany's relaxed and peaceful scenario.




Nick Piper

The other face of [Luxury Farmhouse & Gites Brittany](#) is Nick, who also completely fell in love with Brittany's landscape and stress-free atmosphere. He welcomes everyone to enjoy a fun & unique stay at the newly restored Luxury Farmhouse, which comes with its very own private garden and Swim-Spa, as well as a children's play-area and a trampoline, perfectly created for fun & relaxation.



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