

Self-Guided Walking on Brittany's South Coast

Trip Code: SGBR

Version: Self-Guided Walking on Brittany's South Coast



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk on the famous GR34 and explore the charming islands of the Morbihan Gulf
- Discover the dolmens, stone circles and carved burial chambers of the megalithic Cairn de Gavrinis
- Indulge in deliciously fresh seafood and exceptional oysters straight out of the Gulf

- Delight in the benefits of slow travel as you relax and soak up the unique Breton way of life

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 5 days walking and sightseeing
- Daily departures available in July and August
- Daily departures excluding Thursdays available in April/May/June/September
- Join at Vannes

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 6 Breakfasts
- 6 Dinners
- 4 nights Hotel
- 2 nights Hotel with swimming pool

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Discover the proud tradition and culinary delights of the Breton culture on this fantastic one week break on Brittany's Morbihan Gulf. No doubt you will be enchanted by the unusual landscapes of this small sea and its little islands, formed by a geological collapse where ancient hills fell into the ocean.

On this self-guided walking holiday, you will explore the most scenic islands and picturesque bays and discover prehistoric stone megaliths. Over the week you will immerse yourself into a wondrous environment boasting a variety of scented flora; with maritime pine, coastal heath and gorse, hydrangeas and camellias in bloom, and even exotic trees of palm, fig and mimosa.

You can look forward to getting away from it all on Brittany's southern coast, staying at our fantastic 3* hotels in Vannes and in the small village of Larmor Baden, just a short hop from the jetties that enable you to explore these idyllic islands. Completing your immersive experience for all the senses, you can do as the locals and feast on the day's catch of tasty seafood, washed down with a local cider or a tasty Muscadet from the neighbouring Loire.

Is this holiday for you?

If you love to be by the coast, surrounded by beautiful scenery, dine on freshly caught seafood and travel at a relaxed pace; then this is the ideal slow-travel break for you. Your walks are generally around 4 to 5 hours long to allow an easy pace to explore the islands and coastal trails, with plenty of opportunities for swimming in the inviting waters. You will stay in fantastic 3* hotels on a half board basis, where you can be sure of a warm welcome and delicious local specialties. This is the epitome of *la belle vie*.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Arrive in Vannes and soak in the atmosphere of this historic harbour town.

Arrive in Vannes and check in to your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival, you could take a walk along the harbour and soak in the atmosphere of the port with boats lined up reminiscent of the French Riviera; or wander the narrow cobbled alleys of the old centre, discovering fortified ramparts and half-timbered houses. History and modern living sit comfortably side by side in this medieval city full of lively character. Vannes is wonderful place in which to begin your holiday in the Morbihan Gulf - there is something to discover at every turn. This evening, you can enjoy a delicious meal at the hotel restaurant and delight in your first taste of Breton cuisine.

Meals: **D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Walk on the GR34 from Vannes to the tip of the Sene Peninsula.

Setting off from your hotel on foot, you have a lovely walk in store today. Following the course of the GR34 long distance trail along the coastline, you will pass the small commune of Sene on your way to Moustierian beach, where you can drink in the sumptuous views across the Morbihan Gulf and its pretty islets. Continuing your leisurely stroll on the seaside path toward the tip of the peninsula, you pass sleepy fishing villages and sandy beaches to reach Port-Anna. From here it is a short boat journey to return to Vannes, on the 'petit passeur' ferry.

During the months of July and August, it is possible to take a day trip to Houat Island, located out to sea around 10km from the Morbihan Gulf and the mainland. On this car-free island you can immerse yourself in unspoilt nature; perhaps you might like to circumnavigate the island following the coast path where you will discover idyllic sandy beaches and rocky coves. The boat crossing from Vannes is available seasonally and you should check the schedules in advance if you wish to undertake this optional visit as an alternative to the walk around the Sene Peninsula.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel



Ascent
40M



Descent
35M



Time
4 hours walking



Distance
14KM

DAY 3

Discover the island of Arz and unveil its maritime tales from days gone by.

Today you will take a boat to the island of Arz, also known as the Captain's Island, owing to its many inhabitants that served at sea with the Navy. This charming island is one of the two largest in the Gulf of Morbihan, alongside Ile-aux-Moines (Monk's Island) which you will visit later in the week.

Ile d'Arz is home to some beautiful houses once belonging to sea captains, now serving as a reminder of the maritime history of the island. You can learn more of the life of the island community at the Sailors and Captains Museum (Musee Marins et Capitaines). Exotic plants, brought back from the seafarers' travels, thrive in the sunny climate of the Morbihan Gulf and today palm trees, fig trees and mimosas lend an alluring twist to the patchwork gardens of hydrangeas and camellias. A gentle coastal path all the way around the island offers wonderful views of the Gulf, and many opportunities to enjoy relax on the beautiful sandy bays and paddle in the clear waters while drinking in the panorama. In the afternoon, take the return boat back to Vannes.

Meals: **B D**






	Accommodation Hotel		Ascent 40M		Descent 40M		Time 4-5 hours walking		Distance 15KM
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DAY 4

Walk the coastal path from Pointe d'Arradon to your hotel in Larmor Baden.

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the start point of your walk at Kerat, from where you will make your way on foot to the town of Larmor Baden and your home for the next two nights. From Kerat you pick up the GR34 trail at Pointe d'Arradon, where Ile-aux-Moines seems just a stone's throw away. Following the coastline along the coves of Moustran and Kerdelan, accompanied throughout by splendid views over the Gulf, you will make your way leisurely past oyster farms and through Port Blanc before reaching the little village of Larmor Baden. Here, your hosts at your charming hotel are waiting with a warm welcome, ready to fill you up with a delicious dinner of local specialties, fresh from the coast.

Meals: **B D**

	Accommodation Hotel with swimming pool		Ascent 130M		Descent 130M		Time 5-6 hours walking
	Distance 20KM						

DAY 5

Enjoy a boat trip and guided tour to Ile de Gavrinis and Er Lannic. In the afternoon, take a leisurely walk to discover Berder Island and the marshes of Pen en Toul.

This morning, you will take a boat ride across the gulf to the island of Gavrinis where you will discover one of the most unique prehistoric sites in France: the Cairn de Gavrinis. Erected over 6000 years ago (before Stonehenge or the Egyptian pyramids), this intriguing structure is a prehistoric cathedral and oft described as a 'neolithic Sistine Chapel'. You will have time to explore the axe engraved chamber and learn more about the site on a guided tour before taking the boat back to Larmor Baden. Along the way, your captain will take you for a small detour to Er Lannic, a small inaccessible island with an intriguing tale your captain will share with you.

Returning to Larmor Baden for a spot of lunch, this might be a good time to sample the famous oysters of the area. Feeling sated, this afternoon you can take a leisurely walk to the marshes of Pen en Toul. Keen and budding ornithologists alike can enjoy a quiet moment of birdwatching over the marsh, a popular stopover for migratory birds species. Look out for grey heron, avocet, lapwing, terns and waders, and keep a keen ear open for songs such as that of the melodious warbler.

With Berder Island just a stone's throw from your hotel, if tide times allow you might like to cross the causeway and explore this little island. There is an easy path circumnavigating the island, taking you to discover the pretty chapel of Sainte-Anne tucked among the trees, and the boat graveyard where the remnants of old fishing boats lie.

Depending on the times of the guided tours to Gavrinis and Er Lannic, you might transpose the order activities today, taking the walk in the morning then visiting Gavrinis and Er Lannic in the afternoon.

Meals: **B D**

	Accommodation Hotel with swimming pool		Ascent 50M		Descent 50M		Time 4 hours		Distance 12KM
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DAY 6

Day trip to enchanting Ile-aux-Moines before returning to Vannes.

After a delicious breakfast perhaps of some gooey Brie de Meaux, you will take a boat this morning to Ile-aux-Moines, located close to the mainland and protected by the bay. The island owes its name to the monks of Redon Abbey, who received the island as a gift from the King of Brittany in the 9th century. Hopping off the boat, you will soon be walking between pretty fishermen's houses, through scented woodland trails and along small flower-filled alleys to discover the northernmost Pointe du Trec'h, the easternmost Pointe du Brouel, and the little hamlet of Kerscot at the centre of the cross-shaped island.

In the afternoon, when you have finished soaking in the atmosphere and beauty of Ile-aux-Moines, take the return ferry across the shimmering turquoise waters back to Larmor Baden, where you will collect your luggage and be transferred back to Vannes where you can enjoy a final evening of feasting on seafood.

In October and on Saturdays, the boat to Ile-aux-Moines departs from Port Blanc, around 5km away from

your hotel. You can make use of the public bus from Larmor Baden to the jetty, fare payable locally. When you return from Ile-aux-Moines, the transfer will be waiting at the jetty to take you to Vannes.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel



Ascent
140M



Descent
140M



Time
4 hours



Distance
14KM

DAY 7

Departure day.

Waking reposed after a week of basking in the slow pace of life, you can indulge in a relaxed breakfast and perhaps enjoy a final stroll through the streets of Vannes before your onward journey.

Meals: **B**

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as per the Meal Plan
- Tourist tax
- Luggage transfers between accommodations
- Boat ticket from Barrarac'h (Sene) to Vannes
- Return boat ticket to Arz Island
- Transfer from Vannes to Pointe d'Arradon on Day 4
- Boat trip with guided tour of Gavrinis Cairn and Er Lannic
- Return boat ticket to Ile-aux-Moines
- Transfer from Larmor Baden to Vannes on Day 6
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to/from Vannes
- Bus transfer from Larmor Baden to Port Blanc on Day 6 in October and on Saturdays
- Visas (if applicable)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit, about the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook and all your relevant documents no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start date. We will send your documents using signed for courier so that you can track your package and know that they are safely on their way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our sales team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker so please remind them to pack it before you set off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start date, please do inform our sales team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts and ends at your hotel in Vannes. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Nantes Airport with many departures from regional UK airports.

If you are flying into Nantes Airport you can travel via public transport to Vannes. From Nantes Airport, take the bus to Nantes (approx. 20 minutes) from where you can take the regional train to Vannes (approx. 1 hour 10 minutes). Alternatively, BlaBlaCar offers a bus connection from Nantes Airport to Vannes, the journey takes around 1 hour 30 minutes.

It is also possible to travel flight-free from the UK to France.

By train, take the Eurostar to Paris. From Paris Montparnasse the journey takes 2.5 to 3 hours to reach Vannes. For more information please visit www.sncf.com/en

You can also reach Vannes by taking the ferry across the Channel. Driving is very straightforward; Vannes is between 2.5 to 4 hours drive from most of the ferry ports to the northern coast of France including Caen, Cherbourg, St Malo and Le Havre.

Meal Plan

This holiday is offered on a half board basis, with dinners and breakfasts included in the hotel restaurant, or in a nearby restaurant on days when the hotel restaurant is closed.

Food & Water

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Brittany, like most regions of France, has its own delicacies to add to the French cuisine. Best known for its crepes, cider and delicious seafood; you can look forward to freshly-caught delights and sweet treats too. Creperies are around almost every corner, serving savoury buckwheat pancakes, known as galettes; with fillings such as ham, cheese and mushrooms; as well as sweet chocolate-filled crepes.

Seafood features heavily on menus, and with over 1000km of coastline, it's hardly surprising. Brittany reaps the harvest of the sea with fresh seafood platters and moules-frites (mussels served with French fries) staples in local restaurants. Many of the harbour towns have a specialty such as scallop fishing; for Larmor Baden the speciality is oysters and they pride themselves on the fresh taste of the sea. Another delicious dish to look out for is La Lotte à l'Armoricaïne, a tasty stew-like dish of monkfish in a rich sauce.

Although Brittany itself is not a wine producing region, it has adopted Muscadet wine from the nearby Loire to enjoy with seafood. Cider is the traditional drink of Brittany but, unlike the UK, it is usually served in a bollee or cup rather than a pint glass.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

For this holiday we have selected two lovely 3* hotels to act as your bases in Vannes and in Larmor Baden as you explore the beautiful Morbihan Gulf. Carefully chosen for their warm hospitality, both hotels offer welcoming outdoor and garden spaces, perfect for relaxing after a day exploring. Wifi is also available but maybe you would prefer to disconnect and enjoy a slow pace of life!

Both hotels serve continental breakfasts in the typical French style, and boast well-reputed restaurants that are frequented by locals.

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to enjoy this magnificent region a little longer. Please speak to one of our sales team for further details.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. You should be comfortable with walking 4 to 5 hours for consecutive days.

Climate

Similarly to the UK, Brittany's climate is effected by the Gulf Stream; which helps keep winters mild, if a little damp, and summers cool. In the south of Brittany; where this trip takes place, the climate is a little drier and sunnier, with less than half the yearly rainfall than other parts of the region with summer temperatures around 24-28 degrees Centigrade.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- The Rough Guide to Brittany & Normandy
- DK Eyewitness Brittany Travel Guide
- I'll Never Be French - Mark Greenside

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Please note that a paper copy of your travel insurance is required if you are travelling to Huaraz and the Huayhuash region.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

- Hiking boots/shoes with good grip soles
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Long/short hiking trousers
- Hiking socks
- Waterproof Jacket
- Waterproof Trousers
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)

- Small first aid kit for your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Swimsuit and towel
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics
- Walking poles *Please note that walking poles with metal tips are forbidden on certain islands, unless they have rubber tips.
- Your self-guided route notes

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers.
[>> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on a double/twin sharing basis, however we can quote for any number of travellers, including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

This trip is available for daily departures in July and August. In April, May, June and September, daily departures excluding Thursdays are available.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

We have specially designed this holiday in Brittany with slow travel in mind; with easy-paced walks and an abundance of tasty cuisine. Island hopping around the tranquil gulf, you can truly embrace the laid-back Breton lifestyle. Journalist Ben Lerwill travelled with KE Adventure to the Morbihan Gulf, read his article in The Guardian [here](#).

Please Note This document was downloaded on 20/05/2024 and the trip is subject to change