



FROM THE RIVER VILAINE TO THE MUSSEL FARMS

Férel / Camoël / Pénestin



14,3 km



1h05



Starting point: Place de la Mairie - Férel



Circuit ends: Port de Tréhiguier - Pénestin

Type of circuit:

- Route using low-traffic density roads & dedicated cycle paths
- CAP à vélo cycle route



Tourist Office Pénestin (56760)

Allée du Grand Pré - Tel. 02 99 90 37 74
www.labaule-guerande.com
penestin@bretagne-plein-sud.fr

Starting from Férel, via Kersauvage, you'll come to the dam at Arzal where you can enjoy a fantastic view across the river Vilaine and its moorings for sailing boats and fishing boats. Then head towards Pénestin, don't forget to make a slight detour to visit the harbour at La Vieille Roche just before reaching Camoël here you can admire the elegant town houses. Then follow the picturesque windy roads which will lead you to the port of Tréhiguier.



THINGS TO SEE ALONG THE WAY...

• The dam at Arzal

The construction of the dam, which extends from Arzal-Camoël, was part of a major development project of the valley of the river Vilaine. It is located at the the mouth of the river Vilaine and serves to stop the rising tides which formerly rose as far as Redon and prevented the draining away of flood waters, which in turn caused repeated flooding in the valley. The dam forms part of a massive water reservoir of some 50 million cubic metres of water used for various purposes including: the production of drinking water, leisure activities, sailing etc. . .

• Tréhiguier

Tréhiguier is the small fishing port of Pénestin, it is a lively place bursting with charm especially when the tide is coming in and the shellfish farmers are coming back into port aboard their flat bottomed barges named 'plates'. In the XIXth century it was one of the most important sites close to Pénestin. The ferry which used to sail from the port of Tréhiguier was in fact the largest which sailed along the river Vilaine at the time. It would stop off and serve many of the villages and towns located in Morbihan and Loire-Atlantique. For the town of Pénestin, which at the time had no other transport route for outgoing or incoming goods, this river route was vital.

• La Maison de la Mytiliculture (Mussel farming museum)

15 rue du Port - Tréhiguier - Tel. 02 99 90 33 11 (in the high season) or 02 23 10 03 00
www.mairie-penestin.com - animations@mairie-penestin.com

'La Maison de la Mytiliculture' is housed in the former lighthouse at Tréhiguier. In the first room visitors are taken on a voyage 'below-the-waves' to learn about the life-cycle of the mussels. On the first floor two other rooms contain a wealth of information and interesting facts, tools and many photographs to tell us about the history of the trade of the mussel farmers. A spiral staircase then takes you up to the balcony from which you have an amazing panoramic view of the estuary of the Vilaine and the port of Tréhiguier. Open : July - August - Guided tours in French available.



DID YOU KNOW...

• The river Vilaine

This river takes its source in Mayenne and stretches out over almost 220 km. It takes its name 'Vilaine' from the Roman word 'Visnonia': river with rusty coloured waters (from the times when the incoming tides brought with them silt and mud, before the construction Camoël-Arzal dam made of it a source of fresh water). As for Théodore Botrel, he sang about the legend: that in days gone by, at the time of the reign of the duchess of Brittany Anne, a young local girl from Vitré was secretly in love with a young nobleman. He sadly did not so much as look at her because she was poor and ugly. She was also said to be hunchbacked and suffered from a limp. She cried such floods of tears that she died, but from her tears so bitterly shed sprung a source which became. . . a brook...which became a stream. . .which became a majestic river which was thus named 'Vilaine' (ugly) in memory of this young woman's misfortunes.



TO GO JUST A LITTLE FURTHER...

- **Circuit n°2** 'From the port of Tréhiguier to Pont Mahé bay'
- **Circuit n°3** 'Wild Landscapes'



WHERE TO HIRE YOUR BIKE

- **Au Gré du Vent** - Port de plaisance - Camoël
Tel. 06 20 67 49 92 or 02 99 90 56 91
- **Brico Loisirs Pénestin** - 74bis rue du Calvaire - Pénestin
Tel. 02 99 90 35 92
- **Mini-golf de la Mine d'Or** - 34 allée des Coquelicots - Pénestin
Tel. 06 74 57 29 45 or 02 99 91 06 03 - From 1/06 to 30/09





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