

THE HERON La Chapelle-des-Marais



 13.5 km  3 hours 30

 November to May

 Esplanade Bernard Legrand (media library)

Access

head towards the church of La Chapelle des Marais.

Brière Tourist Information Office

Maison du Parc - Village of Kerhinet - Saint-Lyphard
+33 (0)2 40 24 34 44

Saint-Nazaire Tourist Information Office

Submarine base
Boulevard de la Légion d'Honneur
+33 (0)2 40 22 40 65


BREAD OVENS

Restored by the volunteers of the association 'le Coupis' with the support of the local council, the 5 communal bread ovens are at the disposal of the Marais-Chapelains (locals of La Chapelle-des-Marais). The locals are free to use them to bake bread, meat, sausages and desserts. 7 to 10 bundles of sticks are needed to heat the ovens, which are made of brick or stone and covered with slate or clay. Bread ovens were often built away from the houses to avoid the spread of fires.

THE GREY HERON (ARDEA CINEREA)

A fisherman and hunter, the Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) feeds on micro-mammals and terrestrial insects. With infinite patience, it can lie in wait for hours on end, watching for frogs, fish and insects that it harpoons with its beak. It nests in colonies and you will find it near trees, close to water. You will recognise it by its large size, its grey-white-black plumage, its folded neck and its slow, flapping flight. The Grande Brière marsh is home to many other species of heron, some of which are much rarer than the Grey Heron. You will be able to observe the purple heron, the little bittern, the cattle egret, the black-crowned night-heron and the very discreet Eurasian Bittern.

After a few paths with imposing oak trees, this trail leads to the Brière marshes. Lapping waters, undulating sedges, wading birds flying by... The atmosphere is aquatic. The barges bob on the canal, under the hazy shade of the willows, a well stands overlooking the pond. The atmosphere is an invitation to relax, and the restored bread ovens tell us about the festive baking of the old days.

 Go down the Bernard Legrand esplanade which is next to the Rue de Penlys, cross this street just before the Penlys roundabout and then cross the car park and the grassy square, keeping to the left.

1 At the end of the alleyway, go up Rue des Trélonnées and then turn right onto the wooded farm track. Continue towards the Gué Neuf marsh and return to Rue de Penlys. Cross the RD 33 and continue on Rue du Bossis.

2 When you reach Québitre, at the hamlet of Le Bossis, go past the granite cross and turn right onto the oak-lined farm tracks. Continue to the Québitre bridge. Located in the heart of the marsh, this structure allows the Boulaie canal to be crossed in order to link the islands of Camer and Camérún to Québitre. In addition to the characteristic flora and fauna of this habitat, look out for the church towers that can be seen in the vicinity. Depending on the weather conditions, you may be able to see the Saint-Nazaire bridge. Then head to the island of Camérún.

3 At La Martinais, cross the RD50 and turn left onto Rue de la Martinais, then after 200 m turn right onto the farm track and cross the Gagnerie de Camérún in the centre. Turn right and then left onto Rue de la Chèrère and Rue de la Vieille Saulze, where you will see two restored bread ovens.

4 At the Camer pit, known as Bosse Martenne and formerly used as a drinking place for animals and for fighting fires, take the Chaussée Mouton on your left and head towards the Brière. Turn right and follow the Brière side canal.

5 Leave the GR3 / GRP Tour de Brière and go up the Chemin de Cadiais. At the Quatre Chemins crossroads, continue straight on to the RD 51. Walk along this road for a few metres, then turn right and walk around the Gagnerie de Rotz where the ruins of a windmill still stand.

6 Turn right and cross the Rotz marshes, then go alongside the football pitch to the left hand until you reach a small gate, on the left of the large gate. Continue along the RD 50 to reach the La Perrière roundabout. Cross the roundabout to the left using the pedestrian crossings and continue for a few metres until you reach the Rue de la Perrière.

7 Turn right and cross the RD 50 (Rue de la Brière) then go straight on along Rue des Écluses. At the crossroads, turn left and go up Rue du Bé for about ten metres to get back to the Legrand esplanade, your starting point.

TO SEE ON THE WAY...

- the landscape, fauna and flora of the marshes
- Québitre bridge
- the vernacular heritage: rogation crosses, wells and bread ovens (see sheet 25)
- the port of Fossés Blancs
- the Bosse Martenne pit





LA BAULE
PRESQU'ÎLE DE
GUÉRENDE
TOURISME

THE HERON

La Chapelle-des-Marais



13.5 km



3 hours 30

10



Circuit
 Alternative routes
 GPP® Tour de Brière
 15 21
 Main road crossings / sections
 Flood