

## THE LAND OF BRIÈRE Saint-André-des-Eaux



 13.5 km  3 hours 30

 November to May

 Alternative route to be used in case of heavy rainfall

 Possible encounter with livestock

 The Port of Chaussée Neuve

### Access

from the town of Saint-André-des-Eaux, take the RD 127 to Chaussée Neuve


### Saint-Nazaire Tourist Information Office

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

### Brière Tourist Information Office

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

A maze of paths, often shaded, offers us, from the outset, a glimpse of the surrounding wooded countryside, enhanced by the cheerful concert of birdsong, from those who are familiar to the area. Along the way, you'll enjoy exploring rural life. The landscape changes as you approach the marsh. Vertical structures become rare, then we are surrounded by infinite open spaces. We are plunged into this profuse, half-buried life, which we can catch a glimpse of thanks to the hushed noises all around us. Once again, we are bewitched by the Brière, it entrances us and, reveals its legends as we explore the area.

 The port of La Chaussée Neuve offers visitors access to the 7,000 hectares of Brière marshland. Here, just like the other ports of the Brière, you will discover small flat-bottomed boats, the barges, moored up against the shore. From this port, facing the marshes, turn right and go alongside the canal bordering the Brière. Take the footbridge on your left, go up the steps and enjoy the view from the orientation table.

- 1 Go back on yourself, cross back over the footbridge and continue along the Route de Lindrins towards Haut Marland. At the RD127 crossroads, turn left. You will see, in turn, the Haut Marland inn, the well, the bread oven and the lodge. Then turn left onto a small path that runs alongside the pond.
- 2 Turn right, carry on for 50 m and cross over at the crossroads, leaving the double cross on your left. Then take the first left, Route du Bas Marland. Continue to Rue Jean. At the crossroads with the road, turn left and then immediately right to join the farm track.
- 3 At the end of the path, turn right then left onto Rue de Kerpoisson and then right again to join the farm track.
- 4 At the Tréhé crossroads, continue straight on. In wet weather, take the alternative route on your right and then the first left. Head to the port of Tréhé on the edge of the marsh. Stop for a while and take the time to explore this charming and authentic port! You will also discover a barge lodge. This unusual building shelters the boats, traditionally made of pine and oak, from the rain and the sun.
- 5 After the picnic area, take the path on the left. In June, you will be greeted by the scent of myrica gale, a small shrub better known as sweet willow or Dutch myrtle. Continue on your way and go over the footbridge. You are entering the Brière marsh, a pastoral area, and you should respect the work of the farmers and the peace and quiet of the local wildlife. Carry on alongside the outer canal.
- 6 On the right, cross over the footbridge and continue straight ahead for about 1 km, and go through the gate (close it behind you). Then turn right to reach the moors where you will come across the bread oven with the same name. Just like the one in Marland, this one dates from the 19th century and is occasionally used for celebrations organised by the villagers.
- 7 Take the road to the left and then, on the right, follow the path to the port of Chaussée Neuve.

### EURASIAN BITTERN (BOTAURUS STELLARIS)

More often heard than seen, the very discreet Eurasian bittern inhabits large reedbeds. It is a marsh heron with large, rather short green legs. Active at dusk, it moves around huddling and sometimes camouflaging itself by freezing still, neck stretched, beak and head pointed skywards. It flies low over the reeds. Its monotonous call, often heard in the evening during the nesting season, sounds like a foghorn and can be heard up to 3 kilometres away.

### MORTA (BOG-WOOD)

This bog-wood, buried in the peat bogs for more than 4,000 years, was used for a long time by the people of Brière. It is naturally protected from parasites and was used for building the structure of thatched roofs. It was the source of many legends, as these gigantic tree trunks, mainly oaks, intrigued the local population. Today, it is mainly used for cutlery and art sculpture.

### TO SEE ON THE WAY...

- the port of Chaussée Neuve
- the vernacular heritage: traditional housing, rogation crosses, wells and bread ovens (see sheet 25)
- the landscape, fauna and flora of the marshes





# LAND OF BRIÈRE Saint-André-des-Eaux

# 20



13.5 km



3 hours 30

LA BAULE  
PRESQU'ÎLE DE  
GUÉRENDE

TOURISME



Circuit  
 Short route  
 GRP  
 Tour de Brière  
 Flood risk zone  
 Possible encounter with livestock