

Brittany and the west

Searching for a novel and original way to experience Brittany? Seeking to merge sustainability, comfort, and insights to the depths of culture? Finding France has melded history, ecotourism and authentic encounters together in an exceptional guided tour. As a small group, you'll find nourishment that will tantalize your taste buds as you dine with the best of chefs and learn the intricacies of French Cuisine. Wonder at the foot of massive medieval fortresses, set forth to the open sea on a magnificent schooner, and gap with awe at many more wonders still! Authentic and one-of-a-kind – THAT'S the Brittany Finding France has to offer for a 2 to 15-day journey. We will work with and for you to plot a truly unforgettable journey.

Here is what 12 days starting from Paris could feel like:

- DAY 1: Saint-Malo, Cancale and Dinard
- DAY 2: Saint-Suliac and Dinan
- DAY 3: Rennes Fougères Vitré
- DAY 4: Quimper
- DAY 5: Île de Sein
- DAY 6: Raz Point Locronan
- DAY 7: Auray Nantes
- DAY 8: Nantes and its surroundings
- DAY 9: Experience key events of France's history at the Puy du Fou
- DAY 10: VIP Behind-the-scenes visit of the Puy du Fou
- DAY 11: Visit the La Fayette military frigate in Rochefort
- DAY 12: An unexpected stay in Anjou





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Suggested itinerary for 12 days in Brittany. Departures depend on the availability of producers and artisans

DAY 1: SAINT-MALO, CANCALE AND DINARD

MORNING

- Pry open the secrets of oyster farms with Inga. She'll lead you through the oyster breeding pens in Cancale and let you taste a few specimens after that.
- Savor the most renowned crêpes in the Cancale area in a crêperie noted for tradition and modern taste.

AFTERNOON

- Stroll along the sidestreets of Saint-Malo, an ancient pirate city, and admire its XVIIth century city walls.
- From the top of the ramparts, the view extends to the statue of Jacques Cartier, the explorer who discovered Canada in 1534.

- Cross over from Saint-Malo to Dinard using the Sea Bus.
- Boast and brag with the best as you walk along the beachside quay in Dinard. The seafront has long been a shining bastion of "Belle Époque" architecture (XIXth century), and every year it hosts the British Film Festival.
- "Eat local" thanks to the treats a local chef concocts from produce sourced nearby, and spend the night in a cozy guesthouse.



- Visit the house of a true corsair, a pirate-hunter.
- Visit the life-size reconstruction of a corsair frigate.
- Walk the halls of Limoëlou Manor, where Jacques Cartier lived for over 15 years.
- Luxurious lunch on board a frigate on the open sea.
- Learn French Cuisine with a starrated Chef in his own manor.
- Simple joys needn't be set aside: learn to prepare traditional Saint-Malo crêpes and become a true Breton!



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DAY 2: SAINT-SULIAC AND DINAN

MORNING

- Open your heart to the village of Saint-Suliac, awardee of the "Most beautiful Village of France" title.
- Take a stroll among boats in the Old Port in Dinan and have lunch in a fisherman's den.

AFTERNOON

- Take part in a hands-on workshop with a local smith: jeweler, sculpture, glass blower, traditional instrument musician...
- Time for tea, in the afternoon, with all the local pastries (crêpes, breton biscuits, salted caramel...)
- Scour the streets of Dinan, a city of medieval art and history. It's know for the intricate colored wood-beam houses. A stroll atop the city walls is a pleasure.
- Tickle you taste buds with a meal prepared by Chef Yann, specializing in cooking with produce grown nearby.
- A cute and comfy guest house will welcome you for the night.



- Contemplate and meditate deep in the wild, harsh nature surrounding Fréhel Cap, and climb up for a nice view in the lighthouse (open in the afternoon).
- Join in on a cooking workshop.
- Visit the Dinan castle and palace of the Dukes of Brittany, an exceptional testimony to the luxurious princely residences during medieval times.
- On the Emerald coast, discover a farm with rare angora goats and follow the steps to produce soft mohair.
- Rest and relax with a soothing fullbody massage.



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DAY 3: RENNES - FOUGÈRES - VITRÉ

MORNING

- Take a tour of Françoise's organic farm and milk cow herd near Rennes. Transform milk into butter on your own and taste her specialty camembert cheese, the "Breizh'membert".
- In Fougères, make rounds in the most ancient medieval fortress in all of Europe that is still in near-pristine shape.
- Lunch on fresh produce locally-grown in a farm-inn that dates back to the Xvth century.

AFTERNOON

- Let the medieval city of Vitré bring you back in time. The fortified castle, balanced atop a massive rock cliff will inspire you. Thread through the narrow streets of the inner city. Touch and admire the elegant townhouses with wood-beam and adobe walls tainted in hues of colors under heavy slate roofs.
- Dine and rest in a cute and comfy guest house for the night.



- Either in Vitré or in Fougères, thumb through ancient genealogical records to find the trace of your ancestors.
- The many historical sites in Rennes will enthrall you.
- From Cleopatra to François the 1st, a long line of VIPs is awaiting your visit... in a donkey farm!
- On Saturdays only, amble through the colorful and lively Rennes open market.
- Taste home-made Breton whisky in a cellar.
- Cool down and soften up with a relaxing massage.



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DAY 4: QUIMPER

MORNING

- Ride through the beautiful green countryside of Brittany.
- Lunch on typical local produce.

AFTERNOON

- By foot, wander through Quimper's historical city center, a regional capital with a strong personality.
- Roll a few tasty crêpes for dinner in a Quimper crêperie.
- Spend the night in a charming guest house in Quimper proper.



- Meet up with American and -Canadian "settlers" in the village of Gourin, bordering both Finistère and Morbihan.
- Discover the Musée des Beaux--Arts de Quimper, one of the main art museums in western France with its collections of paintings from the 14th century to the present day.
- Visit the Gothic style Saint-Corentin cathedral built in the 13th century.
- -Dine in a charming inn with a passionate chef who will offer you refined cuisine with local products.



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DAY 5: ÎLE DE SEIN

MORNING

- All aboard the "Enez Sun", a shuttle boat connecting Audierne to the legendary lle de Sein, a tiny paradise lost in the vast expanse of the ocean.
- As you cross the iconic "Raz de Sein", under the benevolent watch of the Old Lighthouse, the captain will issue you with the traditional Certificate of Passage signed of his own hand.
- Lunch on the Island directly, with island-grown ingredients.

AFTERNOON

- The narrow streets in the island huddle together for warmth on this wind-battered rock. Meet with the stoic inhabitants who have even refused to allow cars on the island.
- Become, for a moment, the master of Light in the Goulenez lighthouse, the largest of the isle. Breathtaking 360° view.
- A moving testimony to the courage of the 133 island inhabitants who fought under De Gaulle in England during World War II, the historical war museum is worth the time.
- Time has no grasp on the night you will spend on the Isle of Sein.



- Slice through waves on a semirigid speedboat to discover the wild fauna around the mythical Ar-Men lighthouse built atop a bare rock in the open sea West of Sein island.
- Let Pierre, a nature guide, introduce you to dolphins and native seals as you paddle on kayaks around Sein.



12 DAY TOUR

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DAY 6: RAZ POINT - LOCRONAN

MORNING

- Ride the boat back to the mainland.
- Face the seawind at the Raz Point, a sharp, windsheared cliff evoking apocalyptic times.
- Lunch is an ancestral secret "Lobster Stew" simmering in a huge cauldron in the "Etrave" restaurant.

AFTERNOON

- Talk art with Locronan artists, and stroll around this small stout city that has been awarded the "Most beautiful village of France" label.
- Spend the night in a typical and quaint guest house in Locronan proper.



AVAILABLE OPTIONS Extend the stay in the area for one day

 Stopover at Douarnenez, where you can discover Brittany's maritime heritage as you follow the pontoons of the "Port Museum". Time for the most famous butterladen pastry in the world, the delicious "Kouign-amann", native to this town.



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DAY 7: AURAY - NANTES

MORNING

- Visit Auray, a typical medieval town, classified as a City of Art and History by the French Ministry of Culture. Follow the riverbanks to reach the humble but quaint Saint-Goustan port.
- Lunch in Auray.

AFTERNOON

- Set foot in the historical center of Nantes, regional capital, with its majestic cathedral.
- Sleep in a guesthouse in Nantes.



- Meet a young cook that raises his own snails as he tends both farm and kitchen.
- Witness history in the making as you visit the XIIIth century Castle of the Dukes of Brittany, where Duchesse Anne signed the edict that united Brittany and France.
- Meet inhabitants of a "Living Oasis", an eco-habitat where several families live together and explore a more sustainable lifestyle.
- Dine but don't dash in this rare restaurant, set in the cells of what was once an ancient jailhouse.



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DAY 8: NANTES AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

MORNING

- Take in the massive size of the largest ships of the world in the making as you visit the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipbuilding facility. Currently under construction, the "MSC Virtuosa", and the "Wonder of the Seas" ordered by the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line.
- Dine in a restaurant.

AFTERNOON

- A new tasting experience with Christian's local Muscadet wine, among others. Visit his family vineyard and taste a range of white and rosé wines as he shared the challenges of sustainable growing.
- Dine in a local micro-brewery, the "Little Atlantic Brewery", located in what once was the bustling Dubigeon ship-building wharf in Nantes. Savor delicious local beer and visit the facilities with Arthur.
- Overnight in a charming guest house.



- VIP guided tour of the AIRBUS A320, A330 and A350 airplane assembly lines.
- Bake your own bread together with Renaud, a baker who grows his own ingredients. Learn about state-of-the-art permaculture techniques for organic growing on his homestead.
- Get to know Isabelle, a farmer who specializes in attaining unequaled taste and quality in her natural products. Attend a milking session, beat your own butter and taste the produce grown on her farm.



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DAY 9: EXPERIENCE KEY EVENTS OF FRANCE'S HISTORY AT THE PUY DU FOU IN VENDÉE

MORNING

- The magnificent live-action shows at the PUY DU FOU will astound you and imprint key moments of history. The theme park has earned many awards from several international jurys.
- Lunch in an inn run as in medieval times.

AFTERNOON

- Dial time back to the IIIrd century after Christ and witness a masterful equine show in a 2 500 m² replica of the Roman Coliseum.
- Dine in a restaurant that will serve you surprisingly tantalizing delicacies prepared by a visionary chef.
- The night will see you welcomed as a close friend of late King Louis the XIVth, in a hotel inspired by the Marly castle near Versailles.



AVAILABLE OPTIONS Extend the stay in the area for one day

- Nature walk in the nearby Puy du Fou nature preserve. Safely observe over 1000 animals such as deer and rabbits, live wolves and even eagles.



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DAY 10: VIP BEHIND-THE-SCENES VISIT OF THE PUY DU FOU, AND EVENING ATTENDANCE TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST NIGHT SHOW EVER!

MORNING

- Behind the scenes visit of the Puy-du-Fou theme parc by local guide Benjamin, one of the evening show's main actors. Meet Falconry masters and their 530 birds of prey.
- Dine in a restaurant.

AFTERNOON

- Visit the workshops of passionate artists and craftsmen (sculptors, wooden clog-makers, cobblers...). They'll show you techniques that are centuries old and demonstrate that the Middle Ages were far from being the Dark Ages.
- Attend the "Cinéscénie", the World's largest evening show ever held: lights and sound will highlight the deeds of over 2500 actors as they mark the milestones of France's past on a scene that spans 23 hectares.
- A surprising dinner awaits you in the vicinity.
- You'll be surprised by the setting for night.



AVAILABLE OPTIONS Extend the stay in the area for one day

- Falconry training with Ritchie: unveil the secrets of master falconers and learn to guide majestic birds of prey in their flight.



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DAY 11: VISIT THE LA FAYETTE MILITARY FRIGATE IN ROCHEFORT

MORNING

- Visit the "Hermione" in Rochefort, a full-sized replica of an ancient 3-mast military frigate which La Fayette commanded in 1780 as he helped Americans fight for their independance.
- Sailors will share their daily routine and you'll get to visit their quarters aboard the ship!
- Lunch on site.

AFTERNOON

- Charlotte is an exceptional guide who will introduce you to the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud.
- Founded in 1101, it is one of the largest monastic compounds of Europe. It is among the World Heritage sites under the patronage of UNESCO.
- Dine in the Michelin One Star restaurant within the Abbey grounds, served by Bocuse d'Or chef Thibaut Ruggeri. For you, he will transform healthy local produce into amazing "creative cuisine"!
- Timelessness best describes the night you will spend within the sanctuary of old itself.



- Immerse yourself into seas of knowledge in the National Museum of Sea and Royal Rope-making, in its heyday the place where the longest ropes of Europe were wrought.
- Work out in the Accro-mâts theme park, an adventure park 100 feet (30 meters) up in the airs among the masts of a massive sailboat. Open to families with children.
- Explore the depths of the sea and its mysteries in the La Rochelle aquarium.
- All hands on deck, a workshop for children age 9 to 12: learn to knot ropes and pilot a sea vessel with a professional deckhand.



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DAY 12: AN UNEXPECTED STAY IN ANJOU

MORNING

- Delve into the troglodyte cave village of Rochemenier with Annie, and visit an underground farm dug out by the work of toiling peasants from the VIIIth century onwards.
- Lunch in a troglodyte restaurant inside the network of caves, and take hearty bites of local medieval delicacies such as "fouaces", which are breads sliced and stuffed with fillings like rillettes, butter or cheese.

AFTERNOON

- Roam around a natural rose garden that boasts over 1000 rare rose varieties.
- Meet vineyard keepers converting their fields to organic agriculture – with a democratic touch! – and try out their local wines. Chief among them is the "Coteaux-du-Layon", a soft, sweet white wine that is only grown and crafted in a small portion of the Loire valley.
- Trip back to Paris.



- Safely ride a hot-air balloon above the breathtaking scenery of the Anjou region.
- Visit the tallest castle of France in Brissac, registered as a National Monument.
- Go treasure-hunting in a rose garden labyrinth.
- Discover delectable culinary creations with roses as a main ingredient.
- Family time solving a historical mystery, a paper chase that leads children to learn the lore and past of the Fontevraud Abbey in a fun way.

Experience the French "art de vivre"

At Finding France, we offer a unique selection of elegant, family friendly B&B's or boutique hotels.



Example of French-style accommodation. Non-contractual photo.





RATES FOR A DAY TOUR DEPARTING FROM PARIS (8 AM TO 8 PM):

Starting at **250** € per person.

RATES FOR A TRIP DEPARTING FROM PARIS (FROM AT LEAST 2 DAYS):

Starting at **500** € per person per day.

Please contact Clément Decré for a personalized quote : email: <u>clement@findingfrance.fr</u> / Cell.: +33650023121 (available on WhatsApp)

Exclusions for all trips: International Air / Tips / Travel Medical and Cancellation & Interruption Insurance.

Travel in intimate, private groups, starting from 2 persons.

Discover the France of your dreams – from the destinations we offer, you decide which to visit and how long your stay at each should last.

Booking your travel experience through Finding France ensures authentic relationships with local artisans and directly supports the local economy.

A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER....

CLÉMENT DECRÉ

Finding France arose from an intuition that visiting France in a more authentic and friendly manner was possible. Time is precious, and taking the time is the true meaning of leisure.

Whether you travel as a couple, as a family, or with friends, my endeavor to serve comes from the heart. I yearn and work for you to create enduring memories – all in your own time.







Contact us:

RING US A CALL +33 6 50 02 31 21 WRITE US AN EMAIL clement@findingfrance.fr VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.findingfrance.fr



Travelling with Finding France helps support local French craftspeople and producers!

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STAY SAFE WITH FINDING FRANCE

The health and safety of our guests is of utmost importance to us.

Our private tours are designed to preserve your social bubble against Covid-19. We usually allow a maximum of 8 people per tour.

We implement stringent safety measures to protect you against Covid-19.

Daily disinfection of the vehicle with a virucidal agent, face masks and hydro-alcoholic gel provided everyday, whenever requested. Once you are in France, we pick you up at your doorstep and drop you off after the tour at the location of your choice.

Physical contact is limited to the strict minimum.

Given the constant evolution of the epidemic, we recommend that all guests review their own country's local travel guidance and health advisories, as issued by health authorities, related to this outbreak.

Please click the link below leading to the France Diplomacy website. It details all entrance requirements for foreign travelers:

https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All trips and packages, no matter the duration, will only be formally reserved and booked after down-payment of at least 30% of the total package price.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Down-payment is 100% refundable for a cancellation occuring earlier than 6 months before the tour start date.

For a cancellation that occurs after the 6-month mark, but earlier than 61 days before the tour start date, the customer forfeits 30% of the total cost of the trip.

For a cancellation between 60 and 31 days before the tour start date, the customer forfeits 50% of the total trip cost.

For a cancellation less than 30 days before the tour start date, the customer forfeits 100% of the total cost of the trip.

There is no cancellation penalty if funds are allocated to a future trip or tour. In case of "no-show" or last-minute cancellation: the customer forfeits 100% of all paid-out funds.

The customer may modify travel itineraries without any penalty up to 90 days before the tour start date, subject to Finding France's partner's availabilities.

In case of cancellation due to travel restrictions issued by the French government related to COVID, Finding France will issue the customer a voucher by email or by post. Voucher value is equal to the value of the initial travel project. It can be redeemed within 18 months after date of issue, in part or in whole, for the same travel tour or for another.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

INSURANCE:

We highly recommend that all participants file for a medical travel insurance, as well as a cancellation and interruption insurance with a travel insurance company in their homeland.

The driver-guide and the vehicle are fully insured as per French legal requirements.

See our detailed terms and conditions here: <u>https://findingfrance.fr/index.php/mentions-legales</u>

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Legal form of the company: SAS - Simplified joint-stock company Head office: 72 rue Carnot, 60180 Nogent sur Oise, FRANCE National Identification Number: 83323682100017 National VAT Number: FR08833236821 Registered capital 21 000 € - National Sector Code: 7912Z – Number RCS 833 236 821 ATOUT FRANCE registration number: IM060190003 Public liability insurance: HISCOX SA – 38, avenue de l'Opéra 75002 PARIS Financial liability: APST – 15 avenue Carnot – 75017 Paris Contact: Clément Decré <u>clement@findingfrance.fr</u> / Cell: +33650023121 / <u>findingfrance.fr</u>

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Retail customer service can be contacted for complaints at the following email: <u>clement@findingfrance.fr</u>. Please attach receipts and supporting documents.

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