



CÔTES D'ARMOR

3 PERFECT DAYS

♥ DAY 1 // A MEDIEVAL MARVEL

Begin with a morning exploring Dinan's old town (opposite), followed by lunch at Les Trois Lunes (p66) or L'Atelier Gourmand (p66) and a leisurely afternoon cruise along the Ille-et-Rance (p64). Practically everywhere is within easy driving distance, so base yourself either in a self-catering chalet at Malik (p291) or up the luxury ante at the Hôtel-Manoir de Rigourdaine (p291) or La Demeure in Guingamp (p291).

♥ DAY 2 // COASTAL EXPLORATIONS

On day two, head west along the coast, making detours to the beaches of St-Castle-Guildo (p66), the wild and windy promontory of Cap Fréhel (p67) and the coastal castle at Fort la Latte (p67). Have a long lazy lunch of scallops and seafood in Erquy (p67), and work off some of the calories with a stroll around Pléneuf-Val-André (p68) before piling them on again at the fantastic Voile d'Or (p67) in Sables d'Or les Pins.

♥ DAY 3 // AND AGAIN!

On day three, you could either opt for a day-trip over to the Île de Bréhat (p71), or continue your coastal explorations with a visit to Paimpol's street market and sea museum (p70), Tréguier's cathedral (p73) and the seaside resorts of the Côte de Granit Rose (p73) and the Côte des Ajoncs (p73).

DINAN

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pop 11,000

When it comes to medieval mood, there aren't many Breton towns that can measure up to Dinan. Picturesquely perched above the River Rance, it boasts one of the loveliest old towns in northern France, a muddle of cobbled squares, half-timbered cottages and snaking ramparts tumbling down to the old port, where barges and river boats still putter along beside the old town quays.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

TOURIST OFFICES // **Dinan** (☎ 02 96 87 69 76; www.dinan-tourisme.com; 9 rue du Château; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat, 10am-12.30pm & 2.30-6pm Sun Jul & Aug, 9am-12.30pm & 2-6pm Mon-Sat Sep-Jun) Hour-long guided tours of the old town cost €5.50/3.50 for adults/5-18yr child.

EXPLORING DINAN

🏰 CHÂTEAU & MUSÉE DE DINAN // DISCOVER DINAN'S MARTIAL PAST

Dinan's part-ruined **castle** (☎ 02 96 39 45 20; rue du Château; adult/12-18yr €4.40/1.75; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Jun-Sep, 1.30-5.30pm Oct-May) was begun in 1380 by Jean IV, Duke of Brittany, and later refortified with two towers and a drawbridge between 1585 and 1598. First a ducal residence, and later a prison, it's now home to the town museum, with artefacts detailing the town's history as a textile-industry and religious centre.

🏰 THE OLD TOWN // STEP BACK TO THE MIDDLE AGES

Dinan's medieval centre radiates around **place des Cordeliers** and **place des**

Merciers, where colourful multistoreyed houses teeter precariously above the cobbles and covered colonnades. Nearby on rue de l'Horloge is the town's 15th-century clock tower, the **Tour de l'Horloge** (adult/under 18yr €2.95/1.90; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Jun-Sep, 2-6pm Apr-May), whose tinny chimes ping every quarter of an hour. Winding stairs lead to a bird's-eye view over Dinan's jumbled rooftops.

The Gothic cloisters are all that remain of Dinan's 15th-century **Couvent des Cordeliers**, off rue de la Lainerie, but the town's striking **Basilique St-Sauveur** (place St-Sauveur; ☎ 9am-6pm) is still very much in situ; its buttressed basilica looms over place St-Sauveur, blending elements of Romanesque and Byzantine architecture – look out for the fabulous carved arch above the main doorway. Just east of the church is little **Jardin Anglais** (English Garden) and the 13th-century **Tour Ste-Catherine**, which provides a postcard panorama over the river – just try to zone out the traffic buzzing over the town's 19th-century **viaduct**.

Though Dinan's ramparts have taken a battering down the centuries – most famously in 1357, when the heroic knight Bertrand du Guesclin saw off a determined English siege – many of the old watchtowers have been carefully restored. You can walk along one section between the old city gates of **Porte St-Malo** and the **Porte de Jerzual**, leading past the 15th-century artillery tower of the **Tour de Gouverneur**. The access gates on rue Haute-Voie and rue de l'Ecole are open from 8am to 9pm.

Be sure to head downhill along the steep cobbles of **rue Jerzual** and **rue du Petit Fort**, two of the best-preserved medieval streets in Brittany. The oldest house is the **Maison du Gouverneur**

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