



CASTELLI HEADLAND (LA POINTE DU CASTELLI)

Piriac-sur-Mer



10 km 2 hours 30

Section dependent on the tides



Place du Lehn

Access

follow signs to the Tourist Office at Place Paul Vince, then take the Rue des Cap-Horniers on foot



Piriac-sur-Mer Tourist Information Office

7 Rue des Cap-Horniers +33 (0)2 40 24 34 44



PIRIAC-SUR-MER, 'PETITE CITÉ DE CARACTÈRE' (CHARMING LITTLE TOWN)

The foundation of Piriac-sur-Mer dates back to the 6th century, but the town did not really flourish until the 17th century, when it turned to the fishing trade.

The boats sailed for Newfoundland, and the port prospered for almost two centuries. The houses from the 17th and 18th centuries, built from local granite, still bear witness to this today. Although seaside tourism has now taken precedence over fishing, Piriac-sur-Mer has lost none of its character, which has earned it recognition as a 'Petite Cité de Caractère' (charming little town).

Half of this route is along the coastline, offering the senses all the diversity of the seaside. Jagged cliffs and surprisingly shaped rocky outcrops are followed by fine sandy beaches, while the calls of the gulls are lost in the clinking of the halyards in the marina. Your exploration in the salty sea air ends with a stroll through the streets of Piriac, where the granite houses still bear witness to the past splendour of this 'Petite Cité de Caractère' (charming little town).

From Saint-Michel beach, turn left. Go along the beach to the Pointe du Closio.

1 There are two options depending on the tide:

- At low tide: continue along the beach and then take the steps. The coastal path leads you to the Pointe du Castelli. On the way back, go around the semaphore, and at the car park, head to the right to take the coastal path.

- At high tide: at the car park, go along Rue du Closio, then turn right onto Rue de Chatousseau. At the intersection, keep to the right and take Route du Sémaphore. From the car park, if you feel like it, you can go to the Pointe du Castelli by turning right. Alternatively, cross the car park to join the coastal path.

The Pointe du Castelli, the 'Finistère' of the Loire, offers an exceptional panoramic view. On your right, the Rhys peninsula and, on a clear day, the islands of Houat and Höödic. Closer to home is Dumet Island, the only island in the department. Finally, on your left, you'll see the Pointe du Croisic.

2 Continue along the beach to the small port of Lérat. On the way, don't miss the enigmatic rock known as the Tomb of Almanzor. Legend has it that it houses the remains of the Lord of Lauvergnac, named Almanzor. Returning home after a crusade with Saint Louis, his ship is said to have sunk on the reef after a violent storm. The rock is said to have opened up to receive the body of the valiant warrior that was washed up there by the waves.

3 At the junction with the RD 99, turn right onto Léral beach and go along the beach for 500 m. At the end of the beach, go back up towards the road along the coastal path, go past the car park and then cross the main road at the crossroads. Turn right towards the rest stop and then turn left on a small path that runs alongside Brandu lake. At the intersection, turn left and then immediately right onto Rue de la Fontaine. At the end, turn left and go straight on.

4 Cross the RD 333 and carry on opposite along the Route du Ravy to the Pays Blanc pool complex. Turn left to go around the pool, then take a narrow path that winds alongside a stream. Cross back over the RD 333 to continue on this route.

5 At the intersection, go up the road to the right. Then, at the crossroads, turn right onto the Route de Kevin. Then turn left onto Route du Terrasseau. At the crossroads, cross back over the RD 333 and carry on opposite. At the next crossroads, take the Chemin des Faux Serments opposite, at the calvary. Go as far as the beach and turn left towards the port. Follow the port to the church and from there, explore the maze of narrow streets until you find the Place Paul Vince.



TO SEE ON THE WAY...

- the coastal path and the Pointe du Castelli
- the tomb of Almanzor
- the marina and the 'Petite Cité de Caractère' (charming little town)



