



Parc
naturel
régional
de Brière

3

WILD LANDSCAPES

Férel / Assérac



17,6 km



Starting point: Place de la Mairie - Férel



Circuit ends: Pen Bé - Assérac

Type of circuit:

- Route using roads low-traffic density roads & dedicated cycle paths
- CAP à vélo cycle route.

Tourist Office Pénestin (56760)

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You're sure to fall under the charm of this particular circuit which single-handedly offers a veritable 'anthology' of different landscapes to be discovered across the Peninsula: villages and 'bocage', dunes and moors, coastline and salt marshes... The many vantage points and the wide variety of environments you will come across provide the perfect opportunity to observe the rich fauna and flora which exists here. You'll be spoilt for choice for where to look next!



THINGS TO SEE ALONG THE WAY...

• Assérac

You're sure to fall under the charm of the village of Assérac to be found on the coast with its vast tapestry of landscapes from salt marshes, oysters beds to the country paths...

The bays at Pen Bé and Pont-Mahé together form a veritable paradise for swimmers and surfers alike, the salt marshes of the Mès river basin and its famous sea salt (sold under the brand name of 'Sel de Guérande') these are but a few of the riches to be found at Assérac.

• The moorlands of Pen Bé

These coastal moorlands are the most 'extensive' still in existence today in our area of France. The flora to be found here, typical of this type of area includes heathers such as bell heather or the taller shrub like heather Erica scoparia known locally as 'bruyère à balai' ('broom heather'). Also to be found here is the western gorse, subspecies of common gorse, which when in flower at the end of winter gives off a pleasant perfume of coconut...

• Manors in Assérac

Assérac's history has been marked by the presence of wealthy families. Their passing born witness to by the impressive architectural heritage present to this day including manors, grand town houses, windmills and dwellings dating from the XIVth to the XVIIIth century. The first lords of Assérac lived in the village until the XIIth century. The Rochefort and the Rieux then ruled over the village which was subsequently elevated to the status of marquisate in 1574.

During your visit be sure to find the time to take a look at the former manors such as Faugaret manor, the first residence of the lords of Assérac or Kerougas manor built on the site of a former fortress (these residences are private properties please admire them from a respectful distance).



DID YOU KNOW...

• Oyster farming in the 'traict' (sea water inlet) of Pen Bé

A 'traict' is an enclosed bay which is subject to the tides. Common to the Guérande Peninsula it allows the salt marshes to be provided with the sea water needed and also forms an excellent site for the farming of shellfish. The 'traict' at Pen Bé is used for the greater part for oyster farming. Introduced in the second half of the XVIIIth century the flat oysters (true oysters) from Morbihan were decimated by disease and subsequently replaced by Japanese oysters (*Magallana gigas*). They are 'farmed' inside sacks placed on metal tables which are submerged by the sea according to the tidal movements.

In close proximity to the coast, in the salt marshes of the river Mès, some of the basins have been adapted to become beds for their growth and development.

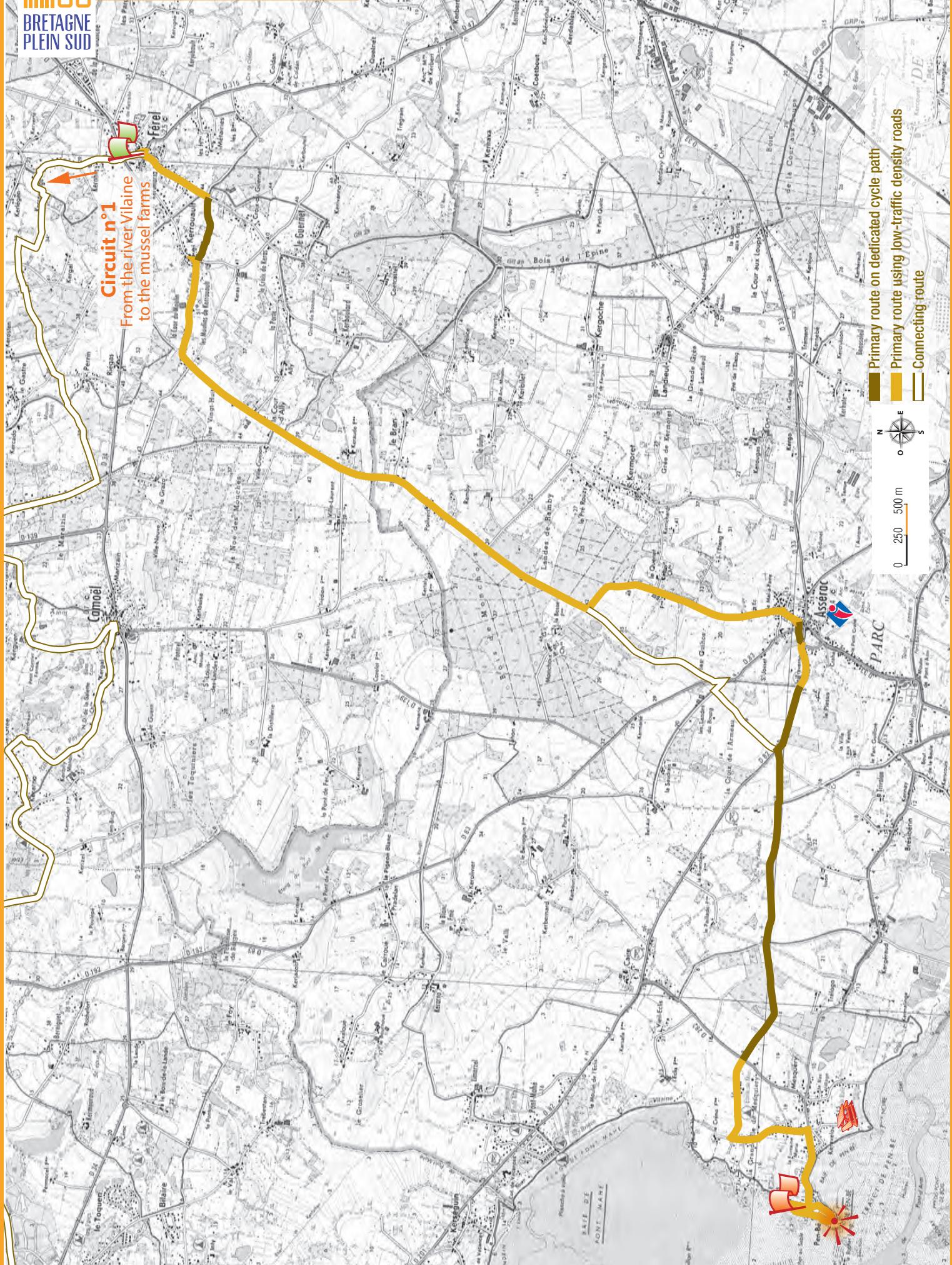
It takes three years for an oyster to develop from spat (larval stage) to the 'ready to be eaten' adult size.



TO GO JUST A LITTLE FURTHER...

- Circuit n°1 'From the river Vilaine to the mussel farms'.





Primary route on dedicated cycle path

Primary route using low-traffic density roads

Connecting route