

LA POINTE DE LA MALOUINE - 40 mins

La Malouine is a luxury coastal development built at the end of the 19th century on the site of a promontory, showcasing the resort. An exceptional development with a high quality rural setting, it was designed for aristocratic clientèle and its dominating position gave its inhabitants a symbolic social superiority.

The property developer and speculator Auguste Poussineau bought the land at the Pointe de la Malouine in 1879 with a view to building this architecturally important estate that would become part of the panorama. This walk takes you deep into the eclectic style that is characteristic of coastal resort architecture.

Don't miss the Italian-inspired villa on the edge of Écluse beach, unique in the Dinard region: the 'Reine Hortense' villa (1). It was built by the Russian Prince Vlassov, who was fascinated by the life of the mother of Napoleon III.

A staircase located at the far end of the embankment leads to the Pointe de la Malouine and the 'Kérozar' (2), 'Belle Assise' (3) et 'Roche Plate' (4) villas. Each one boasting its own original style, they combine ceramic friezes with finials and ornate designs in brickwork and roofing.

The 'Ker Annick' (5) and 'Velox' (7) villas feature bow windows, ceramic tiling and subtle neo-gothic designs. At the far end of the headland, at the start of the Allée des Douaniers, don't miss the utterly charming 'Roches Brunes' villa (6), a true gem in Dinard's crown. Built between 1893 and 1896 on steep terrain, it features neo-Louis XIII style architecture that distinguishes it from the other villas in the resort.

Just before the 'Cézembre' villa (8), with its picturesque architecture, a set of steps leads you back to the promenade. You can see the powerful retaining walls along the water's edge, built to support the foundations of the villas perched on the rocks.

Further along, you will come to the famous 'Greystones' villa (9) with its Art Deco styling in a classic design by the famous architect Roux-Spitz.

LA POINTE DU MOULINET - 40 mins

A rocky promontory jutting out into the sea, La Pointe du Moulinet skirts around the east of Écluse beach and provides an exceptional panorama to the west across to the mouth of the river Rance and the town of Saint-Malo.

This isthmus has played an important defensive role against English attack since the 17th century.

Sumptuous villas known as the 'Seaside Castles' add to the charm of La Pointe du Moulinet. Owned by the biggest names of the Belle Époque, these colossal properties whisk us back in time with their range of architectural styles.

The walk begins at Écluse beach, by the open-air swimming pool. From here, you can already see the imposing outline of the 'Saint-Germain' villa (1), built in 1870. After a walk along the water's edge, you will reach the imposing 'La Garde' villa (2). With its mock wooden panels, machicolated stonework and mullioned windows, it is reminiscent of English Tudor castles. Walk along Rue Coppinger to reach the other neo-gothic villa on the headland, the 'Granit House' villa (3) that looks proudly across to Écluse beach. As you cross the

'Emerald Bridge' (4), take time out to admire the fantastic panoramic view before reaching 'Deux Rives' castle (5) that once belonged to Rochaid Dahdah, a rich Lebanese Count who used his fortune and ingenuity for the good of the town. A pioneer of beach popularity, his investments helped the resort develop and grow during the 1870s.

Taking a detour via Rue des Cèdres, the route ends with a real jewel of religious architecture, the charming 'Saint Bartholomew' church (6), one of the most beautiful Anglican churches in France. Built in 1871, its architecture is testimony to the influence of Anglo-Saxon lifestyles during colonisation.

In a pointed Anglo-Norman style, it houses superb panelled woodwork and exceptional liturgical furnishings.

ÉCLUSE BEACH - TOWN CENTRE - 40 mins

Nestled in a deep bay between the two steep headlands, Malouine to the west and Moulinet to the east, this beach has played a key role in Dinard's history. Previously used for traditional activities such as collecting seaweed and fishing, the growing trend for seaside resorts led to bathing facilities being installed in 1859. After the First World War, the Roaring Twenties came along to stamp their magnificent style. Particularly during the summer months, Dinard became an extension of high-class Parisian districts and a firm favourite with the intelligentsia of the time. During the Belle Époque, Écluse beach became a magnet for national and international aristocracy. It owed its celebrity status to its luxury buildings, constant activity and rich clientèle. More and more casinos and hotels were built, each more

grandiose than the last, and the beach became the most prestigious of its kind on the Emerald Coast.

The seaward façade of the current casino (9) was built in 1966, whilst the neo-classical façade overlooking the street dates from 1911. Built in 1902, the domed 'Grand Casino' (2) was later extended with the addition of two floors.

Other hotels sprang up beside these leisure facilities to accommodate tourists, such as the 'Hôtel Royal' (3) built in 1902 by the architect Blanchet in a classical style.

Towards the town centre, you will come across two Art Déco gems: the imposing concrete outline of the 'Gallic Hôtel' (4) built in 1927 by the architect Marcel Oudin, and the former 'Hôtel Eden' (5).

A little further along, on Boulevard Féart, hotspots for festivities in Dinard still exist with the 'Montplaisir' villa (8) in its British style, and the 'Le Bocage' (7) villa surrounded by a lovely public park.

THE CLAIR DE LUNE PROMENADE - 40 mins

With its sheltered position, the Clair de Lune promenade offers an exceptional view across the river Rance and is home to lush Mediterranean vegetation. Designed in the 1930s, it is testimony to the town's aim to compete with the French Riviera. A palm grove had been bought from the Paris Colonial Exhibition in 1931 and Rennes botanic gardens donated a variety of rare and exotic plants.

The promenade begins at the Bec de la Vallée quayside. Built in the 19th century, this was where steam boats would dock heralding the arrival of the first tourists.

Having passed by the hotel Printania with its Art Déco façade, you will reach the former Natural History Museum next to the 'Bric à Brac' villa (1).

Built in 1860 by the Faber family, one of the first English families to settle in Dinard, the villa has been altered several times. The most notable transformation was in 1879 when Colonel Hamilton had a roof terrace and mock crenellations added. The Museum was built in the regionalist style in 1935 by the architect Yves Hémar.

The 'Belle-Rive' villa (2) dates from 1860. Overlooking the sea, its belvedere, bow and sash windows feature the typical architecture of a seaside resort. Built in 1932 in a regionalist style, the 'Yacht Club' (3) was an essential facility for any major seaside resort. Dinard also boasts a tennis court built in 1879 due to the influence of the English who introduced the sport to France, as well as a golf course and a horse racing track. Overlooking the port, you will come to the 'Ker Patrick' villa (4): with a neo-classical style façade on the street side, its seaward façade features a magnificent wrought iron verandah on stilts.

After the palm grove, leave the promenade to rejoin Avenue George V and turn right. You will pass Dinard's 'Grand Hôtel' (5), built in 1858. This hotel was the first to be built in the resort, and has retained all the charm of the Belle Époque.

A little further on, stop a moment to admire two 'English' villas that are also visible from Avenue George V; the 'Castelmar' and 'Miramar' villas (6).

Walking along Avenue George V, you will once again come to the Natural History Museum (1) with its superb panoramic terrace that houses a statue of Eve, sculpted

by Auguste Guitton in 1875. The steps to the left of the belvedere enable you to return to the promenade below. As you go down, don't miss the Museum's beautifully sculpted door.

THE PRIEURÉ DISTRICT - 40 mins

Leaving the port, walk along the promenade that leads to the Prieuré open-air swimming pool. Next, turn right up the path that leads to the street, where you will find 'Notre Dame' parish church (1). Consecrated in 1858, it was built when church services were transferred from Saint-Enogat to Dinard.

A small castle surrounded by four circular towers, the 'Eugénie' villa (2) was built in 1868 to accommodate Napoleon III and empress Eugénie. By staying there, the imperial couple launched the success of the new resort with great pomp and ceremony.

Having enjoyed the view, go back down to the promenade. With its westerly aspect overlooking Saint-Servan, Prieuré beach is more sheltered and less prestigious than Écluse beach. Between 1880 and 1890, tourist guides distinguished Écluse beach as being 'the place to show off' whereas Prieuré beach was described as being 'quiet and family-orientated'. The attraction of this beach was increased in the 1930s with the construction of the Clair de Lune promenade and open-air swimming pool (3).

This beach owes its name to the 'Prieuré des Trinitaires' (4) priory, located at the end of the bay. Now privately owned, it was founded in 1324 by two knights, brothers Olivier and Geoffroy de Montfort. In the middle of the 19th century, Le Prieuré was occupied by an English Consul named Robert Monteith who loved the place so

much that he introduced it to the English colony living in Dinan. From the beach, you can see the 'Ker Arlette' villa (5), built around 1910 for an artist painter named Aimé Morot. The 'Château de Port-Breton' (6) was the resort's last seaside castle, built in 1923 for the rich American Lady Meyer Sassoon. Constructed by the architect René Aillerie, its architecture features subtle blends of traditional French and English design. You can also walk around its superb grounds.

LA VICOMTÉ - 1 hour

Situated at the mouth of the river Rance, the Pointe de la Vicomté was still very rural at the end of the 19th century. An area characterised by dunes and heathland, its only buildings were a few farms, a mill, a convent and an old castle.

Begin your walk at Port Nican bay where you will see a charming little building, 'La Ronceraie' villa (1). A hiking path along the water's edge will take you along the coastline to the former Beauvallon hotel.

In 1922, two architects planned to build an ambitious resort complex in this part of the town, comprising a casino, a grand hotel, a shopping centre, a wharf and villas. The crash of 1929 put an end to these dreams. Only the casino (now demolished) and the Art Déco style 'Beauvallon' hotel (2) were built.

At the end of the 19th century, a few villas were built on the headland, such as the neo-gothic 'Castel du Prieuré' (3) and the neo-Louis XIII style 'Brise Moulin' (4). Inspired by Italian casinos as well as Art Nouveau, the 'Roselys' villa (5) features windows with beautiful leafy decoration.

If you would like to extend your tour, you can walk as far as the 'Manoir de la Vicomté' (6) which was home to the Viscounts of Poudouvre in the 16th century. The lodge and service quarters were converted around 1896.

SAINT-ÉNOGAT - 30 mins

Before 1850, Dinard was just a small fishing port attached to the neighbouring parish of Saint-Enogat, which was the true birthplace of seaside resorts. This rich and prosperous town grew up around its church and the Place du Calvaire which now houses the market. The small granite houses were sufficient for the village's small population, made up of farmers, local fishermen and also Newfoundland cod fishermen.

With holidaymaking becoming popular and the influx of visitors, Saint-Enogat became a place for artists and the intellectual elite to meet. Albert Lacroix, who famously published Victor Hugo's works, developed 'Saint-Enogat' beach. He had a seafront complex built named 'Les Villas de la Mer' in 1875, comprising a large hotel, villas and bathing facilities.

The neo-romanesque church (1) that we know today was built in 1974 by the architect Arthur Regnault, on the site of the first Renaissance church.

After passing the Jules Verne fountain, go down towards the beach to see the villas with their characteristic seaside resort architecture. On your right, at the top of a small path, you can see the 'Norroy' villa (2). Built right into the rock, the 'Roz Avel' villa (3) has distinctive irregular façades and roofs, as well as windows that are again in a typical seaside style.

From the beach, you can see the 'Ker Alice' villa (4) and the 'Pré des oiseaux' villa (5) which once belonged to the novelist Judith Gautier. This house quickly became a meeting point for many artists and intellectuals such as Debussy, Yamamoto, Paul Valéry and John Sargent.

In the distance on your left, facing the sea, you can see the 'Château Hébert' (6) which was built around 1879 for a rich Parisian financier.

Walking alongside the beach to join the coastal path leading to the Pointe de la Malouine, don't miss the utterly charming 'Parc de Port Riou' (7) that offers a superb panoramic view of the coastline.

Going back down to the promenade, you will see the multi-coloured ceramic decoration and unusual water tower at the neighbouring villa, which gave the park its name. This 'Port-Riou' villa (8) was built around 1882 for Ferdinand De Rodays, a journalist for the Figaro newspaper who was quick to sing the praises of this seaside resort.

Dinard

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Proud of its status as a Town of Art and History, Dinard's heritage department coordinates promotional initiatives and has drawn up this tour programme. It offers year-round activities for Dinard's inhabitants and holidaymakers. Feel free to contact them for any possible projects.

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Close by : Concarneau, Dinan, Fougères, Quimper, Pays de Morlaix, Lorient, Vannes, Vitré and Rennes are also designated Towns of Art and History.

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