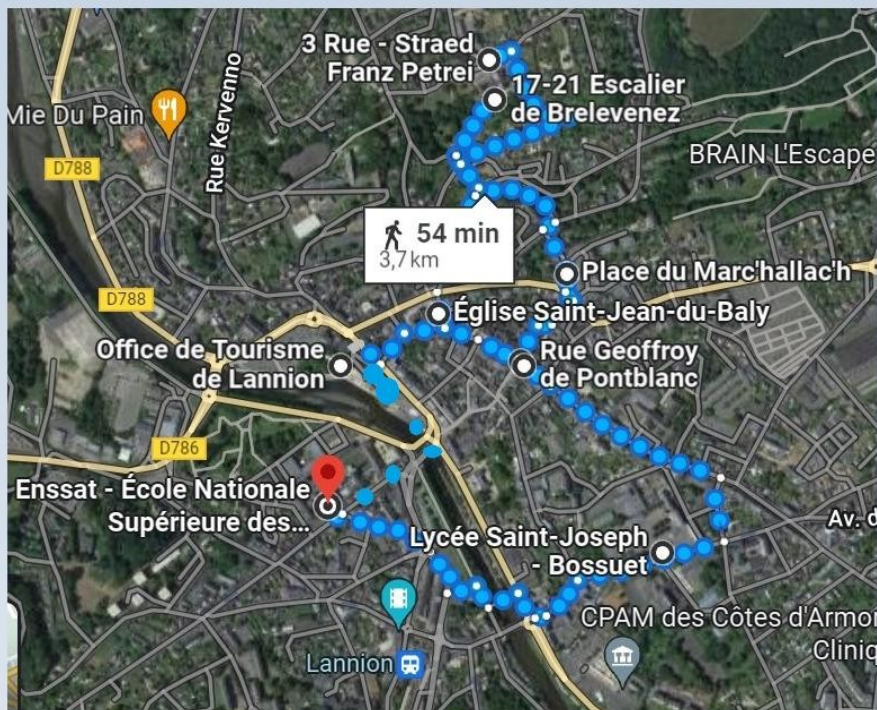




# Guided tour of the city of Lannion





## Before leaving

The first remains found around Lannion demonstrate the presence of human activity from the Neolithic era, 7000 years ago. Many vestiges are found before the arrival of the Gauls around 1600 BC. With its ford on the river Léguer Lannion will develop in the Gallo Roman era and the promontory of Yaudet at the mouth of the river conceals many treasures in the remains of many villas. The recently restored golo baths show the sophistication of the baths of the time.

In the Middle Ages, Lannion was the scene of many clashes including the fortresses of Tonquédec and Coatfrec upstream on the river. Then, and it is relatively little known, the wars of religion were particularly active, in particular with massacres in Lannion, Plestin les Grèves or Perros-Guirec.

The town of Lannion has developed over the past two centuries, but it was the arrival of the Center National d'Etudes des Télécommunications in 1961 that profoundly changed the economy and the population in less than ten years, making this peasant village a technical and university center radiating internationally in areas that made the societal revolution of the late nineteenth century with digital technology, fiber optics, speech processing. We don't always know it, but the flat screens you have in your hands or in your televisions were born in 1984 in Lannion.

# Lannion - Cité millénaire



## **Saint Jean du Baly**

The church of Saint Jean du Baly was built at the beginning of the sixteenth century.

It replaced the chapel of the old fortified castle of Lannion.

Although originally it only had a nave and two narrow aisles, it was embellished with chapels built by brotherhoods at the end of the sixteenth century.

A renovation in the nineteenth century revealed an intact overturned carina vault, dating from the sixteenth century.

There are symbols relating to the maritime domain as well as painted ermine tails, a symbol of the independence of Brittany.

It also has a fine series of Art Deco stained glass windows that we owe to Henri Marcel Magne, the painter who created the stained glass windows for the Montmartre basilica in Paris.

An imposing organ case dating from the beginning of the seventeenth century has recently been renovated.

Outside the monument, you can see the imposing Calvary dating from one thousand eight hundred and sixty seven, made by Yves Hernot.

The Hernot family, over nearly 3 generations, aimed in the 19th century to raise the churches of Trégor and populate the roads with calvaries. They were at the origin of the realization of 967 calvaries and crosses.

Head towards the central square passing in front of the town hall of Lannion.





## **The center square**

Stroll through this square, the center of life in Lannion for several centuries. Then, at the end of the square, stop in front of these two adjoining cob and half-timbered wooden houses which probably date back to the beginning of the seventeenth century.

Remember that Lannion was almost destroyed during the sixteenth century during the wars of religion.

The corner house was already used as a business and belonged to Henri Jagou, "cloth and silk merchant". The merchants then succeeded there: shoes, fashion, sheets, knitting, "Café du centre", Tricolaines, "Lannionnais"...

The house at n°39, covered with slates with two turrets on the facades, is classified as a historical monument.

Like the others, it had to be destroyed by fire during the wars of religion. The reconstruction dates from 1646 and it is possible that from that time it was lined with slates. Maybe to protect themselves from the fire? »

This store was a millinery for a long time... a stone's throw from rue des Chapeliers.

Admire along this street the very beautiful constructions which date from the seventeenth century.





## Marc'hallac'h square

The Marchallac'h square takes its name from the horse market that was born in the Middle Ages.

A few years ago, it was still very lively on Thursday, market day, with in particular its pig and chicken market where old peasant women sold their chickens on the ground.

It was also the place where people were guillotined until the end of the Revolution.

It should be noted that it was not used much: a dozen men and a woman still lost their minds there,

History remembers above all that of two priests: Lageat and Le Gall".



## **The Brélévenez stairs**

Approaching the neighborhood, you come to a small square called Place des 142 marches: it is at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the church and, as the name suggests, there are 142 steps to climb.

The cross at the bottom of the steps is called the Mathurin cross. It was erected in the 16th century as a tribute to the monks who freed sailors taken as slaves by pirates.

The old stone staircase has plants and flowers growing in the cracks and spaces between the stones, which adds to their beauty. On one side of the staircase there are small traditional cottages and on the other side you have a view of Lannion, while in front of you, at the top of the staircase, you can see the church of Brelevenez.



## **the church of Brélévenez**

The church dates, at least in part, from the twelfth century - it is believed to have been built by the Knights Templar although this is not certain

It has several interesting features. The apse and south porch are the oldest parts of the church, and you can see the original columns in the porch, with the worn but still visible capitals.

Most of the other parts of the exterior, including the tower and spire, the porch on the west side of the church and the ossuary date from the 14th and 15th centuries.

Inside, Gothic-style arches supported by stone columns separate the nave from the aisles. These have retained their stone vaults added in the 14th century, when the church was also fortified.

The altar is a later addition, in the Baroque style and added in the 17th century. The most interesting pieces of furniture in the Church of Brelevenez include a 13th century statue of Christ and a sculpture also from the 13th century which you can see above the sacristy door, as well as an 18th century Entombment in the crypt.





## **Geoffrey of Pontblanc**

At the end of the street is a monument to the memory of Geoffroy de Pontblanc

During the War of the British Succession, the English supporting Jean de Montfort wanted to take Lannion, supporting Charles de Blois.

In 1346, Sir Richards Toussaint, head of the English garrison at La Roche-Derrien, managed, after several fruitless attacks, to bribe two soldiers from the Lannion garrison who brought him and his men into the square, while all the inhabitants were still sleeping. They plundered and killed all that offered them the slightest resistance.

The noise woke the knight Geoffroy de Pont-Blanc who went to face the assailants. He showed himself to be particularly courageous and dangerous by killing several English soldiers single-handedly, taking advantage of the narrowness of the street so as not to face too many combatants at once. The soldiers didn't dare come too close to him. It was necessary to call upon an archer's shot which hit him in the knee, causing him to lose his resources. The English were then able to throw themselves on him and beat him until they killed him. Then they attacked his corpse. But Richards Toussaint, appreciating Geoffroy de Pont-Blanc's fighting values, wanted his whole troop to pay him funeral honours. He himself marched at the head of the funeral procession, despite having been wounded in battle.



## **the Ursulines**

In the 17th century, Lannion was located in the heart of the diocese of Tréguier and benefited from an active port, a source of enrichment for the town.

The project of an Ursuline establishment was born in Lannion in 1651.

On January 13, 1659, eight Ursuline nuns arrived in Lannion, including the daughter of M. Calloët de Keranvezec.

The construction of the various buildings of the convent began in 1670 after the monastery was placed under the protection of the Holy Family.

Expelled from their monastery following the decree of August 4, 1792, the Ursulines of Lannion had to completely abandon their buildings in the hands of the city administrators.

The Ursuline chapel was requisitioned, the choir serving as a court during the revolution and the nave as a fodder warehouse. The community's assets had already been sold.

The buildings then served as accommodation for the college and high school of Lannion before the construction of specific buildings.

The building was recently restored and today the chapel provides a beautiful setting for exhibitions organized by the city.







## **Saint-Joseph-Bossuet High School**

1622

The first known occupants of the Saint Joseph College site were the Capuchins. The memory of the Capuchins in Lannion is materialized in the current enclosure of the College by two buildings (one to the left of the main entrance, the other perpendicular to the west side of the chapel)

1821

A school is created in the former convent with famous students Ernest Renan and Charles Le Goffic.

Closed in 1903, following the laws of Waldeck Rochet, the Saint Joseph Institute was created in 1907

At the same time, the Bossuet Institution was created for young girls as well as the Jeanne d'Arc vocational school.

In 1967, merger of the management of the 3 Institutes, then complete integration in 2008



## National School of Applied Sciences and Technology

Created in 1986 to meet the growing needs for engineering training, the National School of Applied Sciences and Technology was established in Lannion in one of the main French telecom basins.

It partly occupies the premises of the former Sainte-Anne hospital or the primitive Hôtel-Dieu founded by the Kergomar family in 1630. The building would have suffered greatly from the wars of the League (towards the end of the 16th century) . In the second half of the 17th century, it looked like a wooden bridge building, adjoining a small chapel dedicated to Saint Anne. This building contained two rooms for the poor and ran along the rue de Kérampont

The sumptuous library of the school is located in particular in the old chapel.

Before turning right, let's take a look to the left at one of the oldest houses in Lannion, the 16th century Langonavel manor, at 15 bis rue de Kérampont

Let's then go to the media library and the Sainte Anne space



## **Sainte Anne area**

The Espace Saint-Anne, property of the city of Lannion, includes several facilities including the Alain Gouriou media library, conference rooms, entertainment, meetings, a youth information point, an information and orientation center or even cultural service offices.

Historically, it is located on the site of the former convent of the Augustinian sisters erected in the 17th century. Indeed, the old Hôtel-Dieu and the Sainte-Anne chapel were founded by the Lord of Kergomar who affixed his coat of arms there in 1630. The buildings suffered greatly from the wars of the League. In 1667, the abbots of Trémaria and Kérisac joined forces with the noble families of the country to install 5 Augustinian nuns Hospitallers of the Mercy of Jesus from Quimper.

They restored the convent, enlarged the hospital and brought back running water through granite and wooden pipes from the fountain which was at the top of the rue de Kerampont.

The city acquired the monastery at the end of 2003. It was rehabilitated into a media library and an EHPAD (inaugurated in 2007). The nuns left Lannion definitively at the end of 2007 after 340 years in the service of the city and the people of Lannion.





the quay of Aiguillon

At the beginning of the 18th century, the port of Lannion was a mudflat where boats ran aground. However, at the same time, the city has developed an increasingly flourishing trade that has reached England and even Sweden.



From 1755, the Duke of Aiguillon, then lieutenant-general of the king in Brittany, proposed to the States General of Brittany a reorganization of the Bridges and Roads based in particular on a reform of the notion of *corvée*. only from 1762 to 1764. he had the quays built with the help of Pontcarré de Viarme, whose name remains associated with this work. The port then took the form it has

today with the two quays bearing the name of their creators.

Come back to the tourist office to end this walk





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D.8 LANNION

Vieille Maison (XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle), Rue Kérampont

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