



A STROLL THROUGH PONT-AVEN in Gauguin's footsteps

Pont-Aven is renowned worldwide, thanks to the Pont-Aven school and the many painters who made it famous: Gauguin, Emile Bernard, Paul Sérusier, Charles Filiger, Maxime Maufra, Henry Moret, Ernest de Chamaillard, etc. The town has been a source of inspiration for numerous styles of painting, from Félix Jobbé-Duval's synthetism to Maxime Maufra's impressionism.

From 1865, a colony of cosmopolitan artists settled in Pont-Aven to paint. It was after 1886 that Gauguin, Bernard, and Sérusier brought the town on to posterity by creating a new pictorial movement, now globally recognized as the «Pont-Aven School,» considered to be the foundation of modern art. Today, the inspiration that the town offers to artists is endless, and this charming town continues to blend the beauty of its natural surroundings with its love for culture.

PAUL GAUGUIN

Gauguin was 38 when, influenced by the Impressionists and especially Pissarro, he decided to devote himself to his art. Material difficulties brought him to Pont-Aven in 1886, when he was still «just an Impressionist.» He had come to Pont-Aven on the advice of Jobbé-Duval, who recommended it as a «cheap little hole». Like his Impressionist mentor Pissarro, Paul Gauguin was deeply affected by the play of light on landscapes. From 1886 to 1894, Paul Gauguin stayed several times in Pont-Aven and Le Pouldu before leaving mainland France for good, heading to Tahiti and later to Hiva Oa, one of the Marquesas Islands, where he died in 1903.



JULIA GUILLOU, THE GOOD HOSTESS

Julia Guillou acquired the Hôtel des Voyageurs, where she was employed in 1871. «The good hostess» welcomed into her establishment both «academic» painters or the «Americans,» a term commonly used to describe members of the cosmopolitan artist colony.

MARIE-JEANNE GLOANEC

Gloanec opened her modest boarding house in 1860 (now the Maison de la Presse). It may surprise you where the «artists' colony» stayed in these cramped quarters. They stayed mostly with locals! However, it was in this boarding house that the «revolutionaries,» as the Impressionist painters were called, would gather, and later the painters who formed the Pont-Aven School around Paul Gauguin. In 1891, after selling the boarding house, she opened the Hôtel Gloanec, where Gauguin lived in 1894.



THE PORT (40 min)

Stroll along the harbour, a source of prosperity for the town in the 18th century. This port was a source of inspiration for painters. Discover the remnants of the old mills. «Pont-Aven, a renowned town, 14 mills and 15 houses.»

LE BOIS D'AMOUR (45 min)

The Bois d'Amour truly lives up to its name: many painters used to come here to give free rein to their artistic imagination, and even today, many are still seduced by the beauty of the place.



LA PROMENADE XAVIER GRALL (10 min)

Created in 1985 on an islet, this pedestrian path runs along the Aven River. This walk is named after Xavier Grall, a famous poet, journalist, and writer who lived in Pont-Aven.



THE TOWN CENTER (30 min)

The town center of Pont-Aven was built around the bridge crossing the Aven River. Nearby, you can find several places where Gauguin and his friends used to stay: the former Pension Marie-Jeanne Gloanec, now the Maison de la Presse, the former Hôtel Gloanec, now the Hôtel Restaurant «Les Ajoncs d'Or,» and Julia Guillou's Hôtel des Voyageurs, now a painting gallery.



LA CHAPELLE DE TRÉMALO (1 heure)

Its famous polychrome wooden crucifix inspired Gauguin to create «The Yellow Christ.» Easy access by car, 5 minutes away. The chapel is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- 1 Tourist Office
- 2 The Ty Meur Mill
«Les Lavandières»
- 3 Théodore Botrel Square
«La danse des quatre bretonnes»
- 4 Gauguin and the World
- 5 The Port
«La crique en face du port»
- 6 The Historical Mosaic of Pont-Aven (en travaux)
- 7 Hôtel Gloanec
- 8 Hôtel des Voyageurs
Julia Guillou
- 9 The Bridge and la Pension Gloanec
- 10 «L'atelier du Lezaven»
- 11 Galettes in Pont-Aven
- 12 The Xavier Grall Promenade and the Old Washhouses
- 13 Le bois d'Amour
«Le Talisman»
- 14 Le moulin neuf
«Baignade au bois d'amour»
- 15 Hôtel de la Poste
«Les dindons»
- 16 The Trémalo Chapel



DIRECTION
RN165
CONCARNEAU
QUIMPER

DIRECTION D783
CONCARNEAU
TRÉGUNC
NÉVEZ

DIRECTION RN165
SCAËR
BANNALEC

DIRECTION D783
RIEC-SUR-BÉLON
QUIMPERLÉ

LEGEND

- Tourist Office
- Post Office
- Town Hall
- Media Library
- Church or Chapel
- Musée de France
- Tidal Mill
- Cycle route (V5/45)
- Marina
- Toilets
- Car park
- Campervan Parking area
- Bus and Coach Parking area

MUSÉE DE PONT-AVEN

Enjoy an unforgettable artistic experience in the heart of the city of painters! The Musée de Pont-Aven offers a unique, lively and enriching tour for all the family. Over 200 works immerse you in the aesthetics of the famous 'Pont-Aven School'. The tour, which changes several times a year, features works by Paul Gauguin, Émile Bernard, Paul Sérusier and other artists from the Pont-Aven School.