

Morbihan, Brittany Itinerary

July 22-24

This was one of our **best hiking weekends** yet and also one of our **least expensive weekend trips** (€130 euros each plus food). As Friday was my birthday, I did decide in the end to take the day off work, leave on Friday morning and spend the day exploring **Morbihan** with a friend. My two hiking buddies arrived late Friday night by train and we did not need a car (or a bus or taxi or anything but our feet!) for the remainder of the trip.

The coastline of Morbihan is beautiful—the shoreline reminded me of Maine with the seaweed-covered rocks and the smell of the ocean. The villages reminded me of Ireland, with some of the most beautiful stone houses I have ever seen.

Date	To	Flight/Hotel/Car Details	Cost	Comments
Fri, July 22	Auray	<p><i>Train:</i> 22h05 (Montparnasse), Train #8779 Arrives Auray 1h30</p> <p><i>Hotel:</i> Terminus 3, Rue Pierre Et Marie Curie Auray, 56400 Téléphone +33297240009 terminus@orange.fr Booking # 589073439</p> <p>Hotel Terminus is right by the train station (but with double-paned windows). No frills but perfectly adequate, newly renovated, extremely clean. Sink in the room but no private bath. It's a couple of kilometers from the center of town, but perfect if you are arriving on the late train and wanting to save a bit of money. There's even an ATM-like machine outside that allows you to check in (even without a reservation) after hours.</p>	<p><i>Train:</i> €68 (round trip, 2 people)</p> <p><i>Hotel:</i> €48 for 3 people</p>	<p><i>Abby's New Train # 8701:</i> 08h30 from MONTARNASSE 11h43 arrives AURAY</p> <p>Friday was my day to explore the area by car, with a friend who knows the area well. We visited Port-Louis and the beaches by the mouth of the Etel River. We had wonderful seafood lunch in the small fishing port of Portivy on the Quiberon peninsula:</p> <p>La Passarelle Portivy, 56510 St Pierre Quiberon Tel. 02 97 30 93 23</p> <p>We visited the more touristed town of Quiberon and bought the traditional lollypops (<i>niniches</i>) of caramel (<i>salidou</i>) at La Maison d'Armorine. We stopped at a few spots along the côte sauvage then visited the towns of Carnac (including the prehistoric megaliths or <i>menhirs</i> and the 16th century stone village of Saint-Colomban), La Trinité-sur-Mer and Saint-Philibert (for its beautiful stone church). We had dinner and caught a wonderful sunset in the charming seaside town of Locmariaquer. These were some of the best crêpes I have had:</p> <p>Crêperie Les Iles 8, place Dariorigum 02 97 57 35 79</p>

Sat, July 23		<p><i>Hotel:</i> Hotel Parc Fétan 17 rue de Berder 56870 Larmor-Baden 02 97 57 04 38/ contact@hotel-parcfetan.com</p> <p>This may in fact be the only option for accommodations in Larmor-Baden, a delightful small town along the coast between Auray and Vannes that makes for a wonderful place to stop for the night. Our apartment had a kitchenette, one bedroom and a loft with a single bed. The hotel has a restaurant and there are also a couple of brasseries in town. We ate at:</p> <p>Ty Fétan 15 Rue Pen Lannic, 56870 Larmor-Baden 02 97 57 16 51</p> <p>The <i>moules frites</i> were excellent and prices very reasonable.</p> <p>I would definitely visit Larmor-Baden again and stay at the Hotel Parc Fétan.</p>	<p><i>Hotel:</i> €65 €90 (we upgraded to a triple/apartment when we learned we were 3 people</p>	<p>Hike Auray to Larmor-Baden (24km/6h)</p> <p>In two days, we followed the GR34 coastal path from Auray to Vannes.</p> <p>This first stretch of the hike starts in Auray's historic Port Saint-Goustan. (On the town center side of the stone bridge over the river there's a great breakfast place to start you off. With green chairs and tables outside—you can't miss it. Just €4.50 for fresh squeezed OJ, a hot beverage and croissant/baguette.)</p> <p>Leaving Auray, the path winds up through some residential neighborhoods and after about 2km to the beautiful village of Sainte-Avoye. After Sainte-Avoye, walk along the river's edge to Le Bono, another charming town. After Le Bono, the path generally hugs the coast, but there are some diversions into towns and through residential areas, which we actually grew to appreciate, as the houses in the area are magnificent.</p>
Sun, July 24	--	<p><i>Train:</i> 20h32 – 00h20 (#8796) Vannes - Montparnasse</p>		<p>Hike Larmor-Baden to Vannes (38km/9h15)</p> <p>This was an ambitious distance for our second day, but there is no part of the path I would have wanted to miss!</p> <p>We started out around 8:30pm, ate lunch at a crêperie on the beach in Arradon, and arrived in Vannes around 6:30pm. When we finally arrived in Vannes, we were ready for a change from crêpes and luckily came upon a delightful pizzeria in a first-half-of-the-16th-century building about 1/3 of the way between the port and the train station:</p> <p>Villa Valencia Place valencia 56000 Vannes 02 97 54 96 54 Open 7 days a week</p>

Tourist Offices (they can also help with finding accommodations if you prefer to stay in a smaller B&B along the route):

Vannes : 02 97 47 24 34, info@tourisme-vannes.com

Auray : 02 97 24 09 75, infos@auray-tourisme.com

FFRandonnée - Bretagne

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9 rue des Charmilles

35510 CESSON-SÉVIGNÉ

Tél: 02 23 30 07 56

Email: randobretagne@orange.fr

Site internet : <http://bretagne.ffrandonnee.fr>

I emailed FFRandonnée – Bretagne when planning this trip and they gave me helpful suggestions on which part of the GR34 to hike and where to stay. Their **guidebook** was also extremely helpful (<http://www.ffrandonnee.fr/boutique/topo-guide.aspx?ref=561>) in planning our trip and all along the way, although the path is quite well marked. I have now purchased a number of books in this **FFRandonnée/TopoGuides series**—they are very useful in planning hiking trips and discovering new places to hike near Paris and beyond.