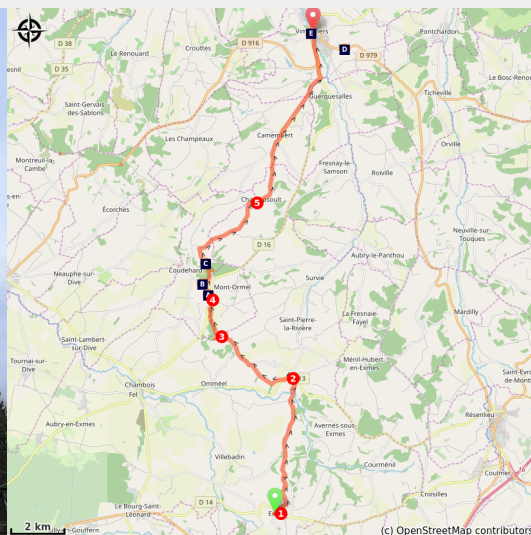


# Exmés to Vimoutiers

France - Normandie



Église Notre-Dame à Vimoutiers (Amis de saint Colomban)



*The route is very often uneven, without any particular difficulty. The built heritage of remembrance and churches is offered to you.*

The landscapes and the hilly relief of the Orne department will accompany you. A memorial to the battles of the liberation of Normandy in 1944 offers you a visit.

You'll be taking departmental roads, so be careful.

## Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 6 h

Length : 24.6 km

Trek ascent : 354 m

Difficulty : Medium

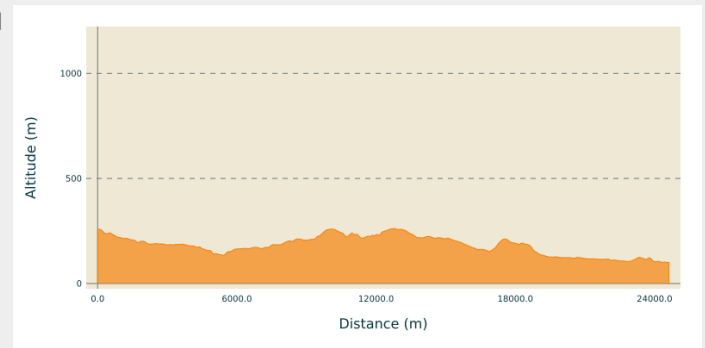
Type : Step

**Departure** : Saint-André Church, place du Marché, 61 310 Exmés

**Arrival** : Notre-Dame Church, 1 avenue du Général-de-Gaulle, 61 120 Vimoutiers

**Cities** : 1. Normandie

## Altimetric profile

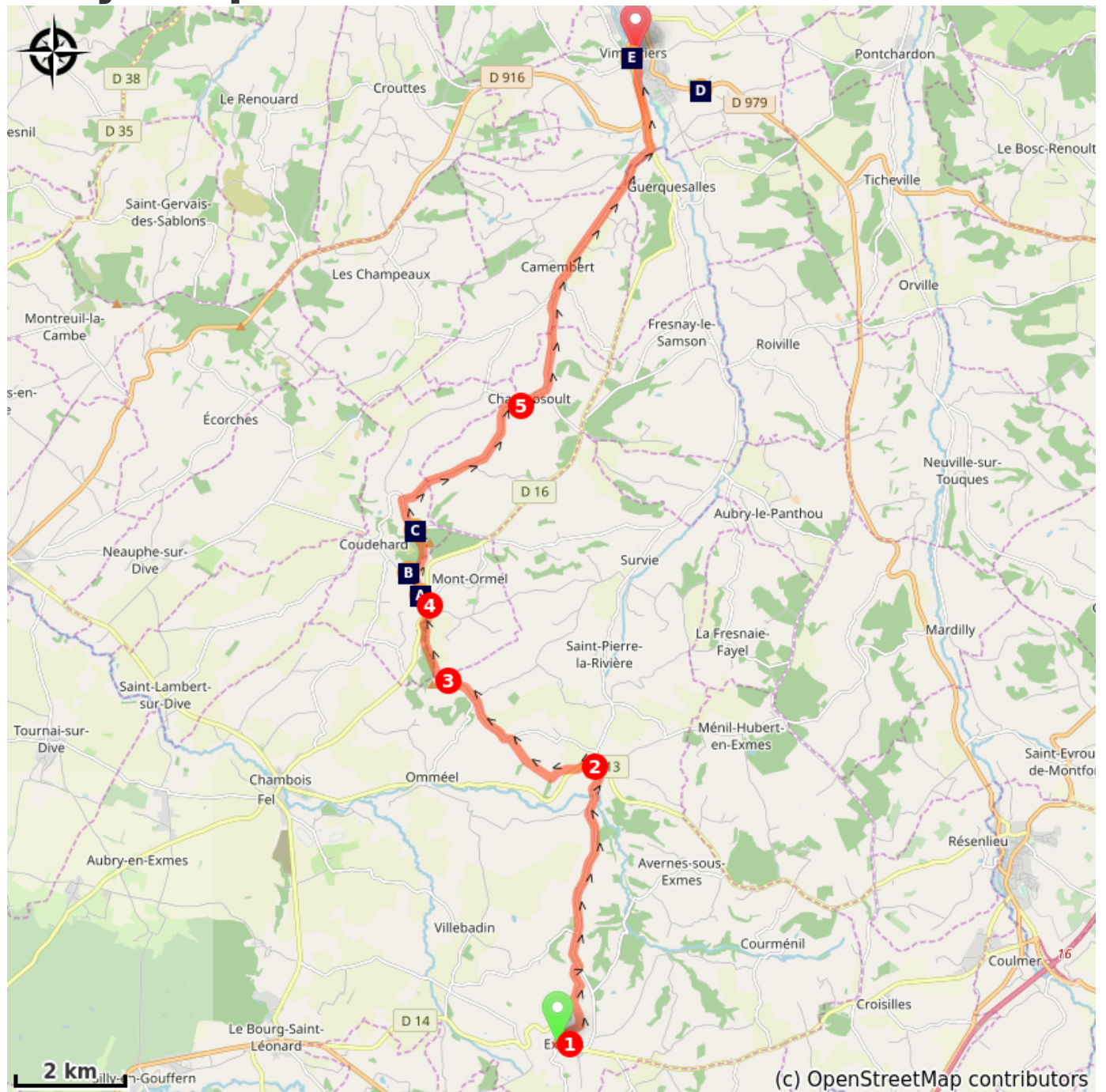



Min elevation 99 m Max elevation 262 m


From the Saint-André church cross the market square on the left rue Neuve, on the right Grande-Rue, on the left D 26


1. After 100 meters turn right on dirt road, Chemin des Fontaines et de la Beslière C8, left towards C 10 rue des Gassias, straight ahead on tarmac road, stay on main road, left at the crossroads with D 26
2. At the crossroads with D 13 on the left, right on the first dirt road, left at the crossroads with D 713, right straight on at the fork, leave the D 713, chemin de la blondellerie au Tacq et aux Guesroult VC 4
3. Left path after passing the pumping station in the meadow on the left, slightly to the right along the fields on the edge of the woods, right at the junction with the D 16, left at the crossroads of the Calvary.
4. Turn right, go up to the Goudehard-Mont-Ormel Memorial, pass the museum and go down along the wood, enter the wood straight ahead, left at the crossroads with the D 242, right on the C 4 towards Champosoult.
5. Turn right at the crossroads with D 703, leave D 703 at the right-hand bend while remaining straight on the left, right at the crossroads with D 246, straight on, left at the crossroads with D 16, rue de Forfingbridge, go straight down at the junction with D 916, avenue des Canadiens, right on rue Paul Cléton, left on rue du Moulin you arrive on the square in front of the church of Vimoutiers.


# On your path...




 1944 Memorial of Coudehard-Mont-Ormel. (A)

 Stele of the "Cote 262 Nord" in homage to the fighting of 1944 (C)

 Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Church in Vimoutiers (E)

 Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Coudehard (B)

 German Armoured Tiger of Vimoutiers (D)

# All useful information

# On your path...

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## 1944 Memorial of Coudehard-Mont-Ormel. (A)

Located between Chambois and Vimoutiers, the Memorial of Coudehard - Montormel is situated in the heart of the Falaise pocket. It is on the very site of the memorial that the powerful German war machine deployed in Normandy collapsed between 18 and 22 August 1944. Montgomery was to call this battle "the beginning of the end of the war", and as a testament to the efforts of four Allied nations to defeat a common enemy, the Memorial offers an unforgettable plunge into the hell of the Battle of Normandy. Its discovery is an emotional and educational experience of rare significance. More information Memorial of Montormel.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban

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## Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Coudehard (B)

12th century church to be visited after the museum of Montormel. The parish of Coudehard, a parish under the jurisdiction of the diocese of Lisieux before the Revolution, was under the governance of the abbot of Saint-Wandrille. The parish church of Saint-Pierre-et-Saint-Paul is located away from the town, on the side of the hill of Montormel.

The church has a rectangular plan. It is covered with a gable roof, surmounted by an octagonal bell tower on a square base covered with slates. A sacristy flanks the south-east corner of the church. The whole has been beautifully restored. Enjoy the beautiful view from this church.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban

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## Stele of the "Cote 262 Nord" in homage to the fighting of 1944 (C)

Hill 262: The name given to this hill refers to the altitude shown on Allied staff maps of the time.

The "Hill 262 North" stele on the commune of Coudehard commemorates the end of the Battle of the Falaise pocket, where the 1st Polish Armoured Division, commanded by General Maczek, and the 4th Canadian Armoured Division were engaged. During this bloody episode, Poland paid a heavy price: 325 soldiers killed, 1,002 wounded and 114 missing.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban





## German Armoured Tiger of Vimoutiers (D)

This tank of the 102nd Heavy Tank Battalion (Panzer Abteilung 102), known as Tiger I type E N°231, took part in the counter-attack behind the Falaise pocket on 19 August 1944 and broke down on the road to Vimoutiers. His team scuttled it by detonating two charges inside. On August 21, 1944 the battle of "la Poche de Falaise" ended with the victory of the Allied armies.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban

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## Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Church in Vimoutiers (E)

The new church of Vimoutiers, built at the end of the 19th century, is a neo-Gothic building. It replaces the 16th century church, which was already enlarged but became too small due to the town's expansion in the 19th century. It was built between 1888 and 1896, and its dimensions and decoration bear witness to the ambition of its builders.

Its two spires reach for the sky and its construction, made of granite, limestone and ashlar, has resisted the onslaught of time and the bombing of the city on 14 June 1944, which pulverised the stained glass windows. The town of Vimoutiers asked the master glassmaker of Chartres, Gabriel Noire, famous for his stained-glass windows with reinforced cement crimping to replace the traditional lead.

The church's stained glass windows tell the story of Normandy and the Pays d'Auge: the Vikings, the monks of Jumièges, Joan of Arc, the Camembert, etc.

The MH listed organ, the last organ created by Aristide Cavaillé-Coll (the twin of this organ, built at the same time, is in Moscow). It is the largest organ in the Orne department (3 manuals, 1800 pipes). Aristide Cavaillé-Coll built 499 organs, including the one in the church of Notre-Dame de Paris.

The organ was restored in 2018.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban