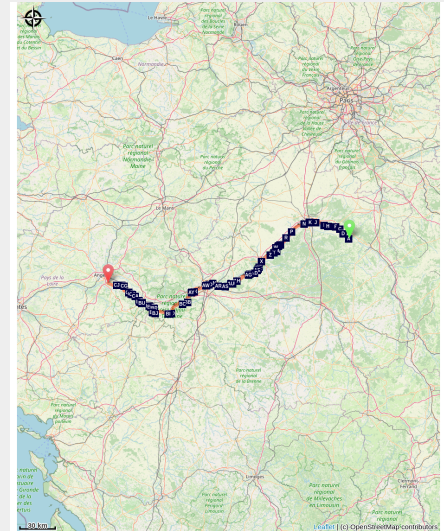


## 09. 610 France (3/8)

France - Centre-Val de Loire



Sully-sur-Loire (Amis saint Colomban)



*2720km long in France, the route of Colomban's exile in 610 is divided into 8 parts that can be followed successively or indistinctly. Starting at Sully-sur-Loire, this third part of a particularly winding route leads to Sully-sur-Loire along the banks of the Loire with its many châteaux.*

Around 610, expelled from Luxeuil, Saint Colomban and the Irish monks were taken to Nantes under the guard of armed soldiers who were in charge of taking them on a ship to Ireland. But, barely on board, they managed to escape and, fearing that they would be caught, began an incredible journey through many countries. Most of the journey into exile takes place in France from East to West and then back again after Nantes. The itinerary mainly follows the great rivers and the vineyards often planted on their banks while crossing the historic cities that mark them out.

### Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 0 min

Length : 335.8 km

Trek ascent : 3822 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Multi-day trek

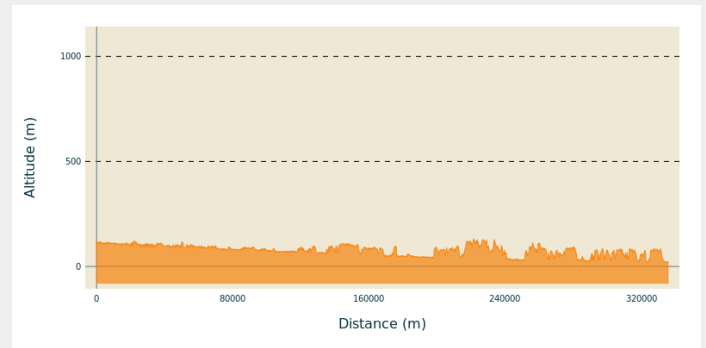
# Trek

**Departure** : 45600 Sully-sur-Loire

**Arrival** : 49610 Juigné-sur-Loire

**Cities** : 1. Centre-Val de Loire  
2. Pays de la Loire

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 18 m Max elevation 130 m

Questi due attraversamenti successivi della Francia non sono la via più diretta per raggiungere il confine svizzero a est di Luxeuil, distante solo 110 km. Ma riflettono l'immagine forte di un colombiano determinato che aveva lasciato l'Irlanda per sempre, senza alcun desiderio di tornare.

La terza parte (3/8) è composta da 14 tappe, ciascuna con una media di 24 km al giorno:

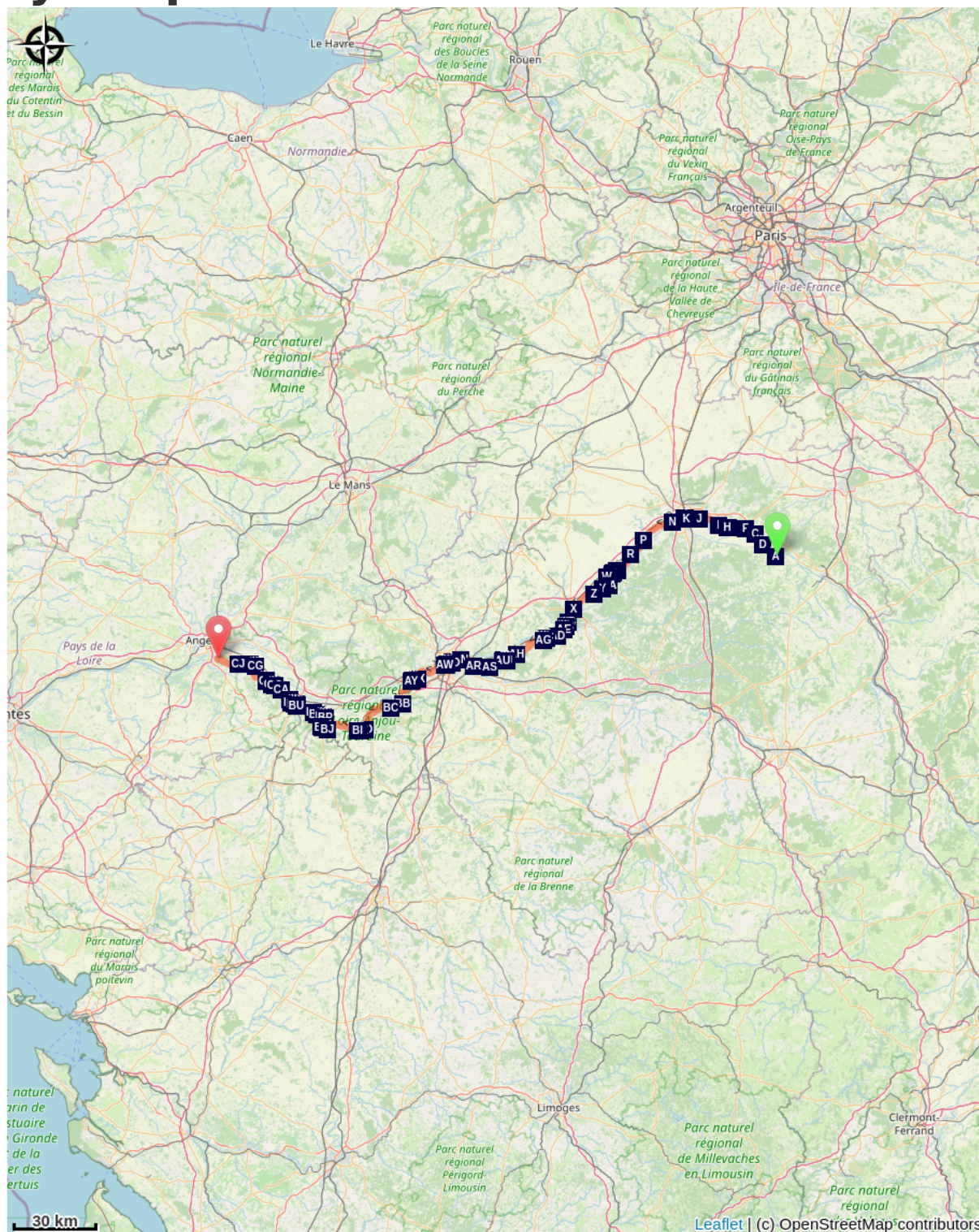
1. Sully-sur-Loire - Châteauneuf-sur-Loire
2. Châteauneuf-sur-Loire - Orléans
3. Orléans - Beaugency
4. Beaugency - Mer
5. Mer - Blois
6. Blois - Chaumont-sur-Loire
7. Chaumont-sur-Loire - Amboise
8. Amboise - Tours
9. Tours - Azay-le-Rideau
10. Azay-le-Rideau - Chinon
11. Chinon - Fontevraud-l'Abbaye
12. Fontevraud-l'Abbaye - Saumur
13. Saumur - le Thoureil
14. le Thoureil - Juigné-sur-Loire





## Stages :





- 1.** Sully-sur-Loire to Châteauneuf-sur-Loire  
25.9 km / 177 m D+ / 6 h 30
- 2.** Châteauneuf-sur-Loire to Orléans  
28.0 km / 363 m D+ / 7 h 30
- 3.** Orléans to Beaugency  
27.6 km / 207 m D+ / 7 h
- 4.** Beaugency to Mer  
15.3 km / 98 m D+ / 4 h
- 5.** De Mer to Blois  
23.4 km / 177 m D+ / 6 h
- 6.** Blois to Chaumont-sur-Loire  
20.3 km / 222 m D+ / 5 h 30
- 7.** Chaumont-sur-Loire to Amboise  
19.8 km / 220 m D+ / 5 h
- 8.** Amboise to Tours  
25.9 km / 181 m D+ / 7 h 30
- 9.** Tours to Azay-le-Rideau  
30.0 km / 259 m D+ / 7 h 30
- 10.** Azay-le-Rideau to Chinon  
27.5 km / 451 m D+ / 7 h
- 11.** Chinon to Fontevraud-l'Abbaye  
17.6 km / 202 m D+ / 4 h 30
- 12.** Fontevraud-l'Abbaye to Saumur  
26.8 km / 368 m D+ / 7 h
- 13.** Saumur to Le Thoureil  
27.3 km / 542 m D+ / 7 h
- 14.** Le Thoureil to Juigné-sur-Loire  
23.5 km / 317 m D+ / 6 h









# On your path...



-  The castle of Sully-sur-Loire (A)
-  Oratory of Germigny-des-Prés (C)
-  Saint-Martial Church in  
Châteauneuf-sur-Loire (E)
-  Saint-Denis Church in Saint-Denis  
de l'Hôtel (G)

-  The Crypt of the Saint-Benoit  
Basilica in Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire (B)
-  Saint-Benoit Abbey in Saint-Benoit-  
sur-Loire (D)
-  Castle in Châteauneuf-sur-Loire (F)
-  Saint-Étienne Church in Jargeau (H)

-  Latingy Castle (I)
-  Saint-Aignan Church - Orléans (K)
-  Grolot mansion in Orléans (M)

-  The Bief in Combleux (J)
-  Holy Cross Cathedral in Orléans (L)
-  Saint-Mesmin Church in La Chapelle Saint-Mesmin (N)

# All useful information

## How to come ?

### Access

Sully-sur-Loire is accessible by bus, as is Juigné-sur-Loire.

### Advised parking

Luxeuil

# On your path...

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## The castle of Sully-sur-Loire (A)

This castle is the first of a long series that will accompany you throughout your peregrination on the banks of the Loire.

Rare are the castles which underwent as many architectural modifications as that of Sully-sur-Loire. The first traces of the castle were reported in 1102, it was then a defensive post on the left bank of the Loire.

In 1218, Philippe Auguste took advantage of a disagreement between the lord of the place and the bishop to briefly seize the place and build an imposing cylindrical tower, unfortunately disappeared. After a devastating flood in 1363, the castle changed family in the name of the marriage of the sole heiress to Guy de La Trémoille. The latter embarked on a major renovation project and asked the architect of the king and the Louvre, Raymond du Temple, to draw up new plans.

At that time, Joan of Arc stayed in Sully twice to visit King Charles VII, who was visiting the castle. From the 18th century, the castle of Sully-sur-Loire was the subject of many destructions and reconstructions that in turn changed its appearance.

[To visit the castle](#) of Sully-sur-Loire

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban

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## The Crypt of the Saint-Benoit Basilica in Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire (B)

It was around the year 672 that the monks of Fleury formed an expedition to Mont-Cassin. There they found the relics of Saint Benedict, then abandoned. The monks repatriate them to Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire and it is then that a pilgrimage is formed in Fleury. The pilgrims will help the Abbey to develop through their many gifts.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban





## 🏛️ Oratory of Germigny-des-Prés (C)

On this site was built in 806 the villa of Theodulfus, bishop of Orleans, abbot of St. Benoit and intimate adviser to Emperor Charlemagne, of which only the oratory remains today. Theodulph, Goth by birth, was one of the best minds of his time. A highly educated poet and art lover, he was interested in all the branches of knowledge of that time. This is undoubtedly what made him one of the most eminent missi-dominici of Emperor Charlemagne, before falling into disgrace and dying in a prison in Angers in 820.

This building with a square plan and four leaves is gathered around a lantern tower. During its restoration in the 19th century two absidioles were destroyed.

Inside this oratory, in the eastern apse is a vault, decorated with a mosaic unique in France, in cul de four, dating from the 9th century. On each side two angels representing the Jewish people the Christian people and two cherubs carry the Ark of the Covenant.

Attribution : Manfred Heyde ©-2007



## 🏛️ Saint-Benoit Abbey in Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire (D)

Between 630 and 650, double foundation under the patronage of St. Mary and St. Peter.

The first mention of a monastery living under the Rule of Saint Benedict appears in Gaul around 620 in a letter addressed to the Bishop of Albi by the abbot of a monastery near Castres. Shortly afterwards, a few monks settled on the north bank of the Loire, 30 km upstream from Orléans, on a small hillock near the village of Fleury, and built a church dedicated to Notre Dame, while a second colony of monks settled a hundred metres further on, around a church of Saint Peter. At that time these communities shared, according to the custom of the monastic foundations located in northern Gaul, a mixed rule known as that of the good fathers Benedict and Coloman. The two communities soon merged and the monastery is now known as Saint-Pierre de Fleury.

In the 10th century, under the Abbot of Abbon, Fleury reached the height of its influence. Abbon is considered by his contemporaries as the most educated man of his time, his literary and scientific work is vast and he knows how to discern and promote the literary gifts of his monks.

The monastery will be occupied by the monks until the French Revolution, when they will be expelled. The Abbey is then sold as national property and abandoned. It was only in 1944 that the Abbey of Fleury regained its religious activity when the monastic community reoccupied the premises.

Attribution : Gilbertus Wikipédia





## Saint-Martial Church in Châteauneuf-sur-Loire (E)

In the middle of the 12th century, the parish church dedicated to Saint Martial, located in La Ronce, was transferred to its present location. From destruction to reconstruction, it has been profoundly transformed over the centuries. With its eventful history, the church of Saint-Martial is a prime witness to the history of Châteauneuf-sur-Loire. Listed as a historic monument in France, this Romanesque building is full of treasures: the Gothic tomb of the Marquis de la Vrillière, the organ and its chamade pipes, the polychrome wooden statue of the Virgin and Child...

More information : [Tourism Loiret](#)

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



## Castle in Châteauneuf-sur-Loire (F)

The origin of Châteauneuf-sur-Loire dates back to the 11th century, the name of the town was given by the "Castrum Novum".

Of the castle of the 17th and 18th centuries, the remarkable rotunda as well as the numerous outbuildings of the castle still remain.

Today, the Town Hall is located inside the castle.

Around it, an English-style park extends over 33 hectares and offers a pleasant and restful setting with trees, most of which are two hundred years old. This natural area now links the botanical park to the Loire River.

Next to the town hall visit the marine museum.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



## Saint-Denis Church in Saint-Denis de l'Hôtel (G)

Built on an old building dating from the 12th century, it was destroyed in 1567 by the Calvinist armies of Coligny. Its reconstruction lasted until 1637, a date engraved in stone above the main door surmounted by a Romanesque arch. The windows are of pointed arch construction, the thick box-trees rest on massive buttresses.

This building, which is 40 metres long and 14 metres wide, has no pillars; the walls alone bear the weight of the "basket-handle" vault made of chestnut wood.

The interior aspect has changed little since the First Empire. The church, as it still appeared in 1905, with above the porch, the symbol of the republican spirit of the time, "propriété communale république française liberté égalité fraternité".

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



## Saint-Étienne Church in Jargeau (H)

The presence of a religious community in the town of Jargeau is attested by many historians as early as the 4th century. No vestiges remain from this period. The church then undergoes, as in all villages on the banks of the Loire, the many invasions of the Normans, causing the disappearance of this community. A new one will settle when the relics of Saint-Vrain were transferred in the 11th century.

The development of the pilgrimage of Saint-Vrain pushes the authorities to build a new place of reception. Thus, in 1154, the choir of a new church was consecrated. The nave and the porch tower were subsequently built. As this church was still not sufficient, a larger choir was rebuilt in the 14th century with an ambulatory and chapels.

The religious wars did not spare the building, which was regularly sacked by Protestants or the king's troops trying to reclaim the city.

Around 1625, the choir of the church was rebuilt on the limits of the old choir but without the ambulatory and the chapels.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban

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## Latingy Castle (I)

The lordship of Latingy dates back to the 15th century. It occupies the lands of the Sainte-Croix d'Orléans Abbey. The buildings of the original castle were unfortunately demolished and rebuilt in the 19th century. Part of the buildings of the "barnyard", the castle farm, remain, including a magnificent dovecote probably dating from the early 16th century. It is known that it was a sign of nobility and a privilege to own a dovecote. The one in Latingy is a round tower built over a beautiful vaulted cellar.

The castle is a private property and cannot be visited.

A gîte is available on the site

Attribution : Image Loiret Tourisme

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## The Bief in Combleux (J)

Le bief de Combleux est une section du canal d'Orléans. Il constitue le débouché historique en Loire du canal. D'une longueur de 5 450 m, il est presque entièrement situé sur la commune de Chécy.

Après le creusement par Robert Mahieu d'un premier tronçon entre Vieilles-Maisons-sur-Joudry et Buges entre 1676 et 1678 et son ouverture au transport du bois et du charbon, la construction du canal jusqu'à la Loire est entreprise de 1681 à 1687. Il est inauguré en 1692. La construction du bief de Combleux et de l'écluse de la Patache, débouchant en Loire est réalisée dans cette deuxième phase. De 1692 à 1793 le canal est en plein essor. Au 18<sup>e</sup> siècle, 1 500 à 2 000 bateaux remontent la Loire par an depuis Nantes pour gagner Paris. En 1793 le canal devient un bien national. Aujourd'hui il n'est pas utilisé.

[Plus d'informations](#) : Wikipédia

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



## ☀ Saint-Aignan Church - Orléans (K)

Saint Aignan (c. 358 - c. 453), bishop of Orléans, played a great role, at least morally, during the siege of Orléans in 451 by Attila and his troops. Gregory of Tours, a contemporary of Aignan, attests to this. On the death of the bishop, the monastery of Saint-Pierre-aux-Bœufs, located on the banks of the Loire in an old castrum, took the name of Saint-Aignan. The monastery's Saint-Pierre church was the burial place of several Merovingian bishops. Its position outside the ramparts as well as on the banks of the Loire allows us to suppose that the stopover of Columban and his companions around 610 could have taken place in this monastery. But the Vita Columbani only mentions this stop for the supply of the monks and describes a miracle, Columban cured the father of a Syrian woman. The city of Orleans was a crossroads of international trade since Roman times and the presence of a Syrian community with camels for towing boats is attested from that time.

The church cannot be visited for security reasons.

The crypt has been altered over the centuries, located under the church of Saint-Aignan and accessible only with a guide. The Saint-Aignan crypt is a beautiful relic from the 11th century. As evidenced by the martyrium and a large ambulatory with five chapels condemned in the 15th century, the building was dedicated to the worship of the relics of Saint-Aignan, patron saint of Orléans.

Semi-buried, this splendid Romanesque crypt preserves rare sculpted and polychrome capitals from the beginning of the 11th century.

In the 7th century, the church was mentioned as a monastery under the mixed rule of the good fathers Benedict and Columban.

[To visit the crypt](#) : Orléans Tourist Office

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



## Holy Cross Cathedral in Orléans (L)

The foundation of Orléans Cathedral is the subject of two hagiographical legends in Orléans. Written at different times, they do not feature the same characters and, as a result, also diverge in their purpose.

Until the 7th century, nothing precise is known, neither about the buildings that succeeded one another, nor about their location.

In 989, the city was destroyed by a great fire which, according to Raoul Glaber, also ravaged the cathedral.

Around 1277, the Romanesque cathedral is said to have collapsed and all the walls of the building were unstable. In a deed given on July 22, 1278, Bishop Robert de Courtenay offered the land on which his episcopal palace stood for the expansion of the cathedral. However, work began nine years later, on September 11, 1287, under the episcopate of Gilles Pastai, and the construction began with the chevet.

The plan was inspired by that of Notre-Dame d'Amiens Cathedral, but features nine absidal chapels instead of the seven in the Picardy cathedral. In the 14th century, the chevet is completed by a new choir. The two campaigns of the construction site at the choir of Sainte-Croix are well known thanks to a plan on parchment preserved at the Notre-Dame de Strasbourg work.

[More information](#): Wikipedia

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban



## Groslot mansion in Orléans (M)

The Groslot Hotel is a 16th century mansion. It was built at the instigation of the Groslot family and welcomed the French kings François II and Charles IX as well as the regent Catherine de Medici.

Work began in 1530, the hotel was built for Jacques Groslot until 1545 and chancellor of Marguerite de Navarre, grandmother of Henri IV.

Jérôme Groslot, son of Jacques, who was Bailiff of Orléans from 1545, also resided in the hotel.

On 18 October 1560, King François II moved with his court into the hotel to mark his opposition to Jérôme Groslot, a fervent supporter of the Protestant Reformation. François II died in the Groslot Hotel on 5 December 1560 despite the presence of his surgeon Ambroise Paré.

Groslot mansion in Orléans

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban





## 📍 Saint-Mesmin Church in La Chapelle Saint-Mesmin (N)

In this church you will discover the history of Saint Mesmin but also his monastery of Micy founded at the beginning of the 6th century on land donated by King Clovis. The monastery was installed on the left bank of the Loire, before its destruction at the beginning of the 20th century, opposite the church of Saint Mesmin. Today the site has become the nature reserve of Saint-Pryvé and Saint-Mesmin.

The oldest life of st-Mesmin was written in the 9th century, it recounts the miracles on the tomb of the holy man. Mesmin retired to a cave to die and tradition says that this cave is located under the church you are visiting. Archaeological excavations in 2013 in front of the church of La Chapelle-Saint-Mesmin revealed the presence of a cemetery from the 6th century probably around the tomb of Saint-Mesmin.

Attribution : Amis de saint Colomban