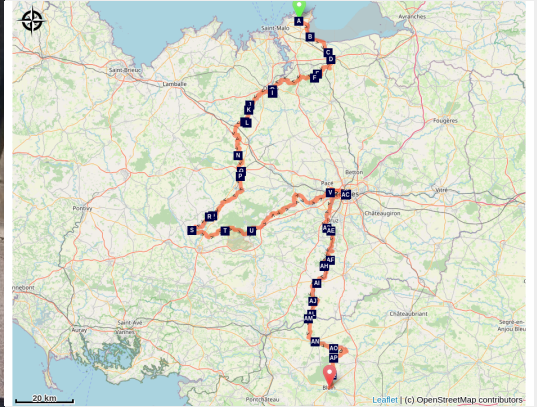


## 18. Brittany Region (1/5)

France - Bretagne



Dol-de-Bretagne (Amis saint Colomban)



*The regional tour of Brittany links the 45 sites that perpetuate the memory of Saint Columban and his Irish companions. 1700km long, it is divided into five parts, which can be followed successively or indistinctly. Starting at Saint-Coulomb, this first part leads inland to Blain, towards the southern limits of Brittany.*

Alternating between coastal and inland routes, this great Celtic loop combines the traditional Tro Breizh, which links the towns of the seven founding saints of Brittany, with the more personalised Tro Breizh of Saint Columban - two pilgrimages in one.

### Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 0 min

Length : 354.0 km

Trek ascent : 4283 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Multi-day trek

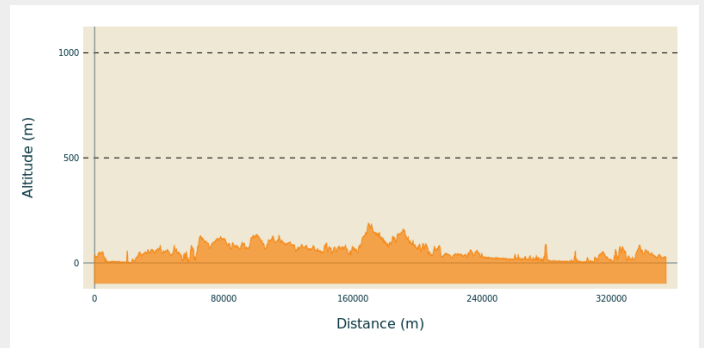
# Trek

**Departure** : 35350 Saint-Coulomb

**Arrival** : 44130 Blain

**Cities** : 1. Bretagne  
2. Pays de la Loire

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1 m Max elevation 189 m

With Saint Colomban, the route offers the opportunity to discover Brittany in all its diversity.

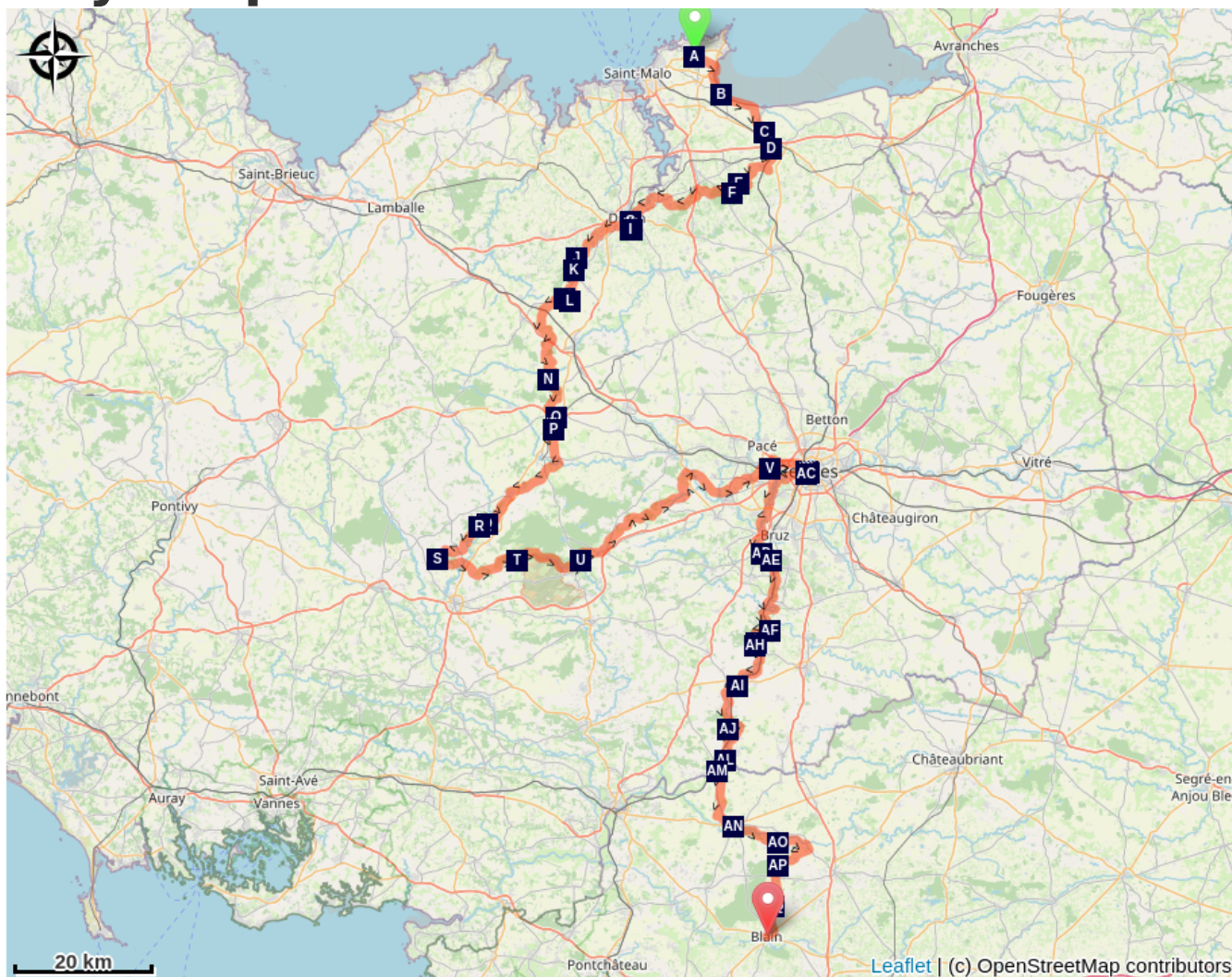
This first part (1/5) offers 15 stages with an average daily distance of 24km:












1. St-Coulomb - Dol de Bretagne
2. Dol de Bretagne - Le Tronchet
3. Le Tronchet - Lehon
4. Lehon - Yvignac
5. Yvignac - St Méén le Grand
6. St Méén le Grand - Mauron
7. Mauron - Loyat
8. Loyat - Plélan le Grand
9. Plélan le Grand - Talensac
10. Talensac - Rennes
11. Rennes - Pont-Réan
12. Pont-Réan - Messac
13. Messac - Langon
14. Langon - Marsac sur Don
15. Marsac sur Don - Blain

## Stages :

- 1.** St Coulomb à Dol  
26.2 km / 236 m D+ / 6 h 36
- 2.** from Dol de Bretagne to Le Tronchet  
13.4 km / 134 m D+ / 3 h 24
- 3.** from Le Tronchet to Léhon  
25.9 km / 444 m D+ / 6 h 24
- 4.** from Léhon to Yvignac la Tour  
23.2 km / 301 m D+ / 5 h 42
- 5.** from Yvignac to St Méen  
30.5 km / 329 m D+ / 7 h 36
- 6.** from St Méen le Grand to Mauron  
19.5 km / 157 m D+ / 4 h 36
- 7.** from Mauron to Loyat  
22.7 km / 265 m D+ / 5 h 48
- 8.** from Loyat to Plélan le Grand  
29.2 km / 554 m D+ / 7 h 24
- 9.** from Plélan le Grand to Talensac  
26.5 km / 366 m D+ / 6 h 36
- 10.** from Talensac to Rennes  
26.3 km / 207 m D+ / 6 h 48
- 11.** from Rennes to Pont-Réan  
17.8 km / 100 m D+ / 4 h 42
- 12.** from Pont Réan to Messac  
30.3 km / 448 m D+ / 7 h 30
- 13.** from Messac to Langon  
16.8 km / 205 m D+ / 4 h 18
- 14.** from Marsac-sur-Don to Langon  
30.1 km / 423 m D+ / 7 h 30
- 15.** from Marsac-sur-Don to Blain  
18.6 km / 147 m D+ / 4 h 48

# On your path...



-  St Coulomb's Church (A)
-  Duchess Anne's Dyke (B)
-  Cathedral of Dol de Bretagne (D)
-  Beaufort Abbey (E)
-  Tronchet Abbey (F)
-  Dinan (G)
-  Léhon Castle (I)
-  Lannouée - Commandery of the temple (K)
-  Chapel of St Firmin (L)
-  Church of Yvignac-la-Tour (M)
-  Benin Chapel (N)

# All useful information

## How to come ?

### Access

Saint Coulomb is accessible from Saint-Malo by bus, train or ferry if the pilgrim is arriving from Great Britain.  
Blain is accessible by bus.



# On your path...

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## ☀ St Coulomb's Church (A)

In the church you can see

**a monochrome wooden** statue of St Columban. It predates 1820 (previous church). The base of this statue contains two relics of St Columban, one of which was presented to Father Michel, the parish priest of St Coulomb, by Monsignor Ambrosio, Bishop of Bobbio, in July 2017, on the occasion of Columban's Day 2017 in Pianello Val Tidone.

**the curragh:** displayed in front of the gallery, it is used during the pardon procession and was made by a member of the association "Les Amis Bretons de Colomban" in 2015. The curragh is the ship used by the monks to travel between Ireland and the continent.

**the banner:** recently made, it evokes the arrival of St Columban

**The wooden bas-relief** at the foot of the altar: This depicts the arrival of St Columban on the beach, awaited by the local people. It was made in 1953

**the stained glass window** of St Columban in the choir, made in 1868 by the master stained glass artist Ernest Steizi.

At the end of the village in the direction of Cancale: statue of St Columban dating from 2000 and donated by Martine Latimier and Bertram Wawera.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban

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## 🌊 Duchess Anne's Dyke (B)

The Digue de la Duchesse Anne is a dyke built on the ancient barrier beaches that separated the bay from the marshes of Dol de Bretagne. It stretches for around thirty kilometres as far as Ste Anne's chapel.

Construction probably began in the 11th century and continued over the following centuries, transforming the marshes into polders.

A comparison of the ground levels on the bay side and the polder side confirms that the bay has silted up.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban



## 🏰 Mont-Dol (C)

Le Mont-Dol is a mound of 65m isolated in the middle of the 12000 hectares of the marsh of Dol de Bretagne. It was once surrounded by the sea.

Mammoth bones among others, have been discovered at the foot of the mountain. At the top of the mountain, there is a chapel, a tower topped by a statue of the Virgin Mary looking towards Dol as well as several mills.

From the top, there is a magnificent panoramic view of the marshes of Dol and the bay of Mont St Michel, from Cancale to Granville.

The village with the church StPierre of the XIIth century is located at the foot of the mount.

Attribution : alain.faverais



## 🏰 Cathedral of Dol de Bretagne (D)

Dol de Bretagne was the episcopal see of St Samson, one of the seven founding saints of Brittany. The cathedral of Dol is a stage of the "Tro Breiz".

The cathedral of Dol de Bretagne is in Gothic style. It was erected between 1200 and 1280 and replaced a burnt-out Romanesque building. One of the towers has remained in the state of project.

One of the peculiarities of this cathedral is its double shaft; an external cylindrical shaft 90cm in diameter and 12m deep and an internal parallelepipedic shaft of 0.80X0.60m recently discovered. These 2 shafts are connected by a gallery 4m long and 1.80m high at 11.50m deep.

On the forecourt of the cathedral is exposed a granite vessel, "Maen vag" (the granite vessel). It recalls the legend that the Irish monks, including St. Samson, landed on our shores in stone troughs. This boat, sculpted by Jean Yves Menez in 2000, is 4m long and weighs 3.5 tons and floats ... It even crossed the Rance River!

Nominoë, whose statue stands in front of the cathedral is one of the first creators of a unified and independent Brittany. He erected Dol as the religious metropolis of Brittany and was crowned King of Brittany by St Samson in 848.

The cathedraloscope, located next door, tells the history of cathedrals and their construction.

The city of Dol has an important military (ramparts) and civil (half-timbered houses) heritage.

[Learn more about the catheteroscope...](#)

Attribution : alain.faverais



## Beaufort Abbey (E)

Monastery of Dominican nuns belonging to the Order of Preachers (an apostolic order founded by St Dominic) situated near the pond of Beaufort.

[To know more about it...](#)

Attribution : alain.faverais

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## Tronchet Abbey (F)

Nothing remains of the 12th century abbey. The remaining buildings are those of the 17th century Benedictine abbey. Are still visible today the arcades of the cloister, the abbey church and hostelry used today as a place of exhibition.

[To know more about it...](#)

Attribution : alain.faverais

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## Dinan (G)

Dinan, a medieval town, surrounded by 3 km of ramparts and its 14th century castle dominate the Rance. Starting from the river, you can reach the town by the steep street of Jerzual and its old shops. In the town centre, there are many timber-framed houses. The heart of Bertrand du Guesclin lies in the Basilica of St Sauveur (12th century).

[To find out more...](#)

Attribution : alain.faverais

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## Lehon Abbey (H)

Léhon is a small city of character located in a loop of the Rance river at the foot of the city of Dinan. It has the ruins of an old fortified castle and a Benedictine abbey dedicated to St Magloire whose foundation dates back to the 9th century. Built on the banks of the river Rance, one can discover the abbey church and the cloister, the monks' refectory and the monastery buildings which offer art exhibitions.

[To find out more about it...](#)

Attribution : alain.faverais

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## Léhon Castle (I)

The castle is already reported in 1034. It consists of a rectangular enclosure with eight towers. It was razed in 1169 by Henry II, King of England. Its ruins were used to build the cloister.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban



## The Path of the Seven Markers (J)

This ancient medieval or Roman road (former Corseul-Rieux road) has not yet been the subject of archaeological research . It begins with the Cenefut cross (its base would date from the Middle Ages), then, over 1400m, it is marked out with monolithic markers from 1.00m to 1.60m high and separated by about 200m. There are still 6 markers. Several hypotheses have been put forward as to their usefulness, but none has been judged satisfactory.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban



## Lannouée - Commandery of the temple (K)

Built on a high point in the commune of Yvignac, the commandery is mentioned for the first time at the end of the 12th century. With the suppression of the Order of the Temple La Nouée passes to the Order of St John of Jerusalem. It gradually became a central commandery. The nave of the chapel disappeared in the 19th century. The choir (probably the oldest part) was restored in 1980. The site was listed as a historical monument in 1976. Beautiful wayside cross at the crossroads of Bas-Lannouée.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban



## Chapel of St Firmin (L)

The chapel of St Firmin is located in the village of Trélé. Rectangular in plan, it dates from the 18th century, with reconstruction in the 19th century. It is attached to a farm building and contains several wooden statues. The village has many 17th and 18th century houses with engraved stones on the facade.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colomban



## Church of Yvignac-la-Tour (M)

The old bell tower threatened ruin, it was decided in 1865 to demolish it and replace it with the 32m high tower which was completed in 1874.

In 1878 it is the church which threatens to ruin in its turn. It is decided to rebuild it. But on August 1, 1879 the church is classified as a Historical Monument and its restoration is undertaken in 1882. The work will be led by Corroyer, restorer of the Mont St Michel.

The precision "the tower" was recently added to the name of the commune of Yvignac to avoid confusion with Yffignac.

The visit of the tower is possible by appointment at the town hall.

Next to the church is a remarkable 750 year old yew tree. It is completely hollow.

On August 15, 2017 a European record was set for the largest number of people in a hollow tree: 58 people managed to enter it simultaneously. At its feet was buried in 1794 the rector Guillaume Gauvin, who died during the Revolution in the village of Lannouée.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colombran

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## Benin Chapel (N)

Chapel in adobe dated 1609 and dedicated to St Yves and St Jean Baptiste. It depended on the commandery of Lannouée. A 15th century granite calvary stands on the cupboard. Part of the chapel has been privatized.

Attribution : Amis Bretons de Colombran