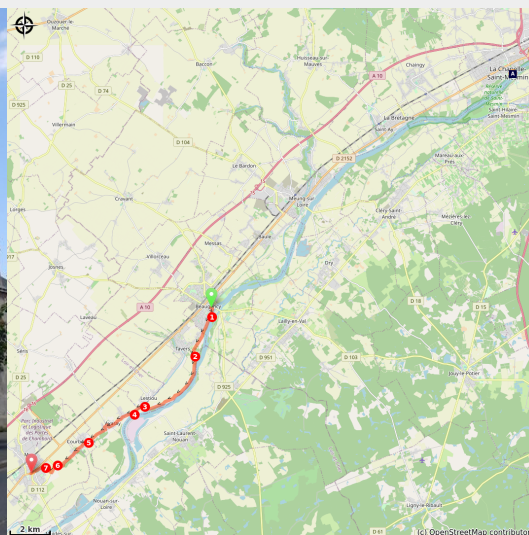# Beaugency to Mer

France - Centre-Val de Loire




Église Saint-Hilaire de Mer (Amis saint Colomban)

*A bucolic walk between the banks of the Loire with its flora and fields of cereal crops.*

From Beaugency you follow the banks of the Loire River to take the paths of the cereal fields. Enjoy the shade of some groves before returning to the Loire. Cross the village of Avaray where you go around the castle, a private property which is not visible from the Via Columbani. You arrive at Mer, the end of your stage, by visiting the church.

## Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 4 h

Length : 15.3 km

Trek ascent : 98 m
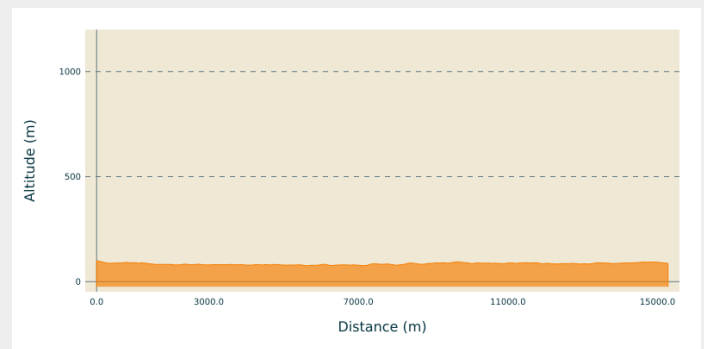
Difficulty : Easy

Type : Step

# Trek

**Departure** : Notre-Dame Church, Place Dunois, 45 190 Beaugency
**Arrival** : Saint-Hilaire Church, Place de la Mairie, 41500 Mer
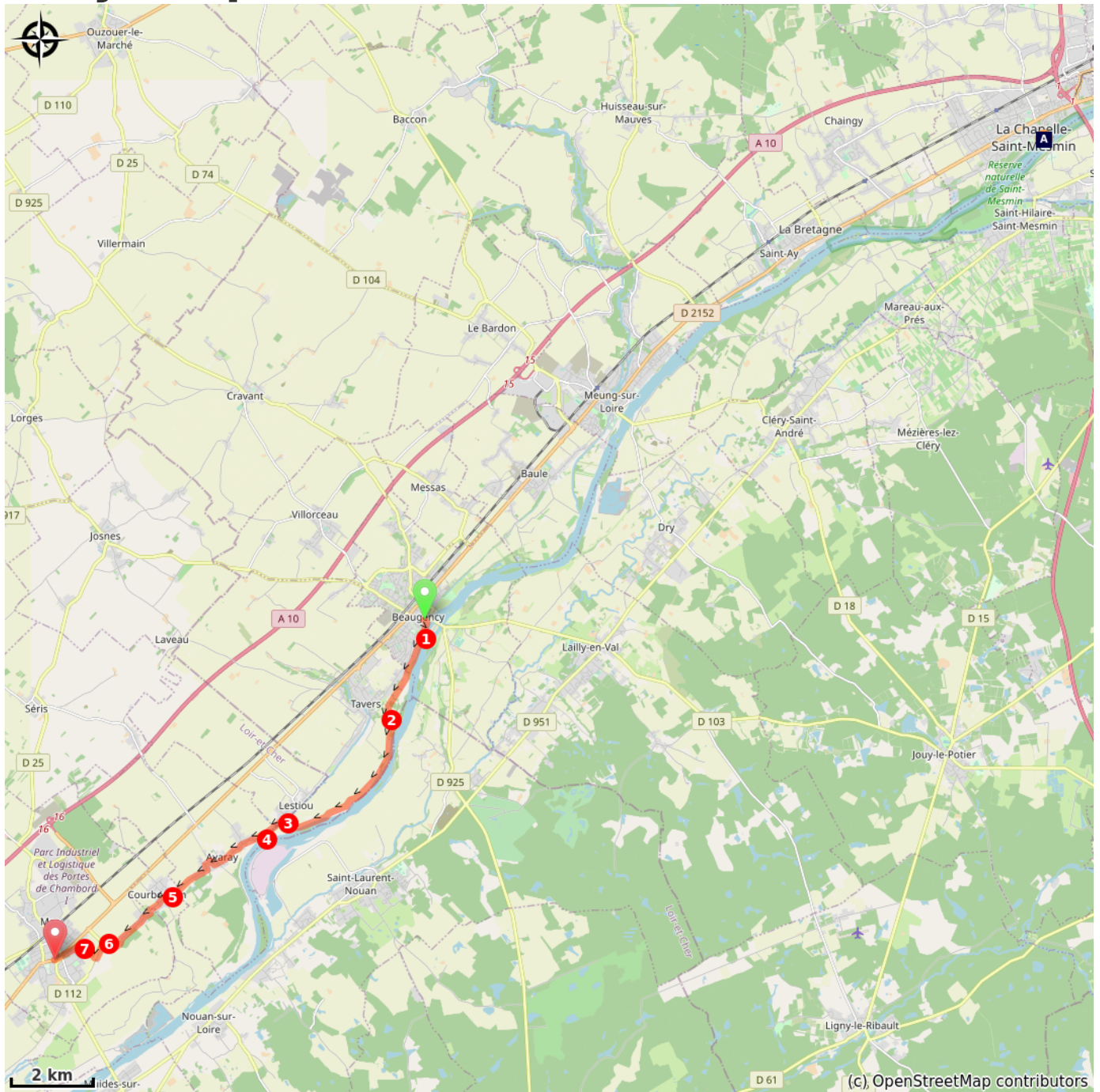**Cities** : 1. Centre-Val de Loire

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 76 m   Max elevation 99 m

In front of the church on the right, go down the rue de l'Abbaye, on the right, quai de l'abbaye

1. Follow the banks of the Loire, Barchelin promenade
2. Second road on the left and then on the right along the Loire river.
3. Follow the dirt road branching off to the right, after the bridge over Le Lien to the left, at Lestiou, rue Basse, rue André Spire
4. Turn right Cross the village Le Tertre, rue du port au Vin, rue du Tretre, Avaray, Grande-Rue, turn right then left and right to go around the castle park, rue de la Place.
5. In Courbouzon, route d'Avaray on the right, first left, rue des écoles, second left, rue Champsort, first right, rue de Colurin, go through the village of Herbilly.
6. Before the roundabout, cross the road, suburb of Mer take the road to Chantecaille.
7. Third on the left, rue du chemin Vieux, route d'Orléans, route Nationale, you arrive at the Saint-Hilaire church.

# On your path...



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 🏛 | Notre-Dame d'Avaray Church (A) | 🏰 | Avaray Castle (B) |
| 🏛 | Saint-Saturnin de Courbouzon Church (C) | 🏛 | Saint-Aignan Church of Herbilly (D) |
| 🏛 | Saint-Hilaire de Mer Church (E) | | |

# All useful information

## How to come ?

Transports

[Gare SNCF à Mer](#)

# On your path...

### Notre-Dame d'Avaray Church (A)

The present church was rebuilt around 1835 on the site of an 11th century church.
From the old church, on the north side remains the jamb of a 12th century portal with a small column, patched up in 1611, and to the left of it an 11th century coat hanger with small wedges. These remains are probable replacements used during the reconstruction of the church, which was destroyed in the early 15th or mid-14th centuries by English troops. This reconstruction was probably undertaken only after the liberation of Orléans by Joan of Arc in 1429.
After the Revolution, the dilapidation was such that the complete reconstruction of the church was decided upon.
The church is closed.

Attribution : Amis saint Colomban

### Avaray Castle (B)

Private property, not open to the public.
The castle first belonged to the de Mineray family before being bought by Jacques de Béziade in 1621. In 1737, the fortified castle rebuilt in 1474 was replaced by the current building, only the moat and two corner towers are preserved. In 1791, one of the lord's sons helped the Count of Provence, one of the King's brothers, the future Louis XVIII, to escape. During the Restoration, the King did not forget his companion in exile and raised him to the title of Duke and Peer of France. Under the chapel called "tribune" of the castle, there is a vault opened in 1824, which has 11 coffins: the first is that of Louis XVIII's companion in exile, the last, that of Antoine de Béziade, Marquis of Avaray and last descendant of the lineage, who died in 1921.

Attribution : www.zankyou.fr

### Saint-Saturnin de Courbouzon Church (C)

The church of Saint-Saturnin de Courbouzon was a priory of the Beaugency Abbey before the Revolution. The square bell tower dates from the 16th century, the belfry is later, the rest of the church was rebuilt in the 19th century. There is only one large nave, extended by a semicircular choir. The chapel to the left of the bell tower houses the baptismal font. The double axial bay was built at the beginning of the 20th century.

Attribution : Amis saint Colomban

# Saint-Aignan Church of Herbilly (D)

The hamlet of Herbilly, near the town of Mer, was attached to the latter in 1808. Its church stands on the central square. In 1944, a bombing seriously damaged it. The present building is the result of a restoration carried out in 1955, which focused largely on the Romanesque nave. The church consists of a single nave, elongated in the 15th century, with a portal in the flamboyant style (walled), and an unvaulted apse. To the south rises the bell tower, built in the 16th century, with oblique buttresses at each corner, bays on all its sides and a portal to the south. The chapel disappeared in 1944.
The first church dates from the 12th century and was rebuilt in the 15th century.

Attribution : Amis saint Colomban

# Saint-Hilaire de Mer Church (E)

The church of Saint-Hilaire in the commune of Mer is a building built in the 12th century but which was remodelled in the 16th century, for the bell-tower-porch, and in 1700 for the rest of the building.
The latter consists of a flamboyant, high-quality bell-tower-porch with exceptional mouldings (foliage hooks and pinnacles), a vast panelled nave ending in a three-sided apse and two chapels on the south side.
The wainscoting is classified as a Historic Monument.
As you leave the church, admire the old town hall in its 19th century style.

Attribution : Amis saint Colomban