

The Emerald Coast

Hotel-to-hotel  independent walking

- Beautifully varied and unspoiled scenery; hardly touched by tourism
- Deserted coastal paths, shaded forest trails, magnificent white beaches; kingfishers, otters and a huge variety of nesting seabirds
- Traditional Breton fishing ports; superb seafood specialities; wealth of historical sites
- Pink granite boulders above stunning turquoise seas; spectacular views
- Exceptional value for money holiday; lots of travel choices



An outright winner from the outset, this walk is simply stunning. The dramatic scenery, wealth of colours and medieval influences distinguish it from all other holidays in our program.

During the first few days of your holiday, you will be walking along the magnificent paths that hug the northern coast. It's a landscape of pinky-gold cliffs, secret coves, deserted, heather-backed beaches and traditional Breton fishing villages untouched by tourism. It is perfect for exploring on foot and, at every turn, you're rewarded with fabulous panoramic views of the entire Emerald Coast.

Heading inland, the route takes you along the banks of the river Rance and on through the majestic Hunaudaye Forest. Highlights include the feudal Fort de la Latte and the beautiful stone-crafted town of Dinan. In the Middle Ages, Dinan served as one of the main strategic strongholds of the Duchy of Brittany and much of her medieval charm remains today.

The hotels you stay in are full of contrasts too and include a lovely seaside hotel in Sables d'Or-Les-Pins and a superbly located 3-star hotel built into the ramparts in the heart of historic Dinan.



THE EMERALD COAST | DAY BY DAY



Day 1 Arrive at Lamballe

Your holiday starts at M. Jamin's C16 manor house in the countryside just 3kms/2mis outside the market town of Lamballe. With only 15 rooms, it's a lovely intimate place to stay. The inner courtyard opens up on to beautifully kept gardens and elegant terrace for *al fresco* dining on fine summer evenings.

Day 2 Lamballe to Sables d'Or-Les-Pins 17km/11mi/5hr

A short transfer to the tiny Breton fishing port of Dahouët. From here, it's coastal walking at its best: extensive views, aquamarine seas, white sandy beaches and rocky coves - don't forget your swimming things! Lunch on the beach at Caroual then inland and on to our lovely hotel at Sables d'Or-Les-Pins.

Day 3 At Sables d'Or-Les-Pins

Sables d'Or-Les-Pins is a lovely seaside village with magnificent golden sand beaches. It would be easy to just spend the day here, however we strongly recommend following our suggested circular walk (full route notes provided) along the spectacular GR34 around the cliff and on to nearby Cap d'Erquy - a delightful fishing village with some outstanding seafood restaurants for lunch.

Day 4 Sables d'Or-Les-Pins to Dinard 17km/11mi/5hr

Deserted beaches and heather-topped cliffs provide the colourful artists backdrop for today's walk which leads you via the Cap Fréhel lighthouse (look out for nesting seabirds) to the famous C14 feudal stronghold of Fort de la Latte. Perched on a rocky promontory over the ocean, this castle occupies one of the finest sites in Brittany - climb up the tower for magnificent coastal views, out as far as Jersey on a clear day.

Day 5 At Dinard

Once a sleepy fishing village on the estuary of the Rance, the English transformed the town into one of the most famous and upmarket resorts in Europe. Walk out to the Pointe des Étrêtes for views of the off-shore islands, or take a 10-minute water taxi across the bay to St Malo and lose yourself in the narrow cobbled streets within the *Intra Muros* (fortified walls) of the ancient mediaeval city.

Day 6 Dinard to Dinan 21km/13mi/6hr

Starting from the picturesque Breton village of Langrolay-sur-Rance (lift provided), today's route takes you inland, mostly following the course of the river. It's wonderfully tranquil walking through shady forests, fruit orchards, and along peaceful riverside paths. Our 3-star hotel in Dinan is superbly located within the ramparts of the mediaeval old town and boasts a lovely rooftop garden with great views.

Day 7 At Dinan

This beautifully preserved ancient walled town, with riverfront port is an absolute gem. Wander round the marvellously restored ancient squares, visit the imposing C13 castle, admire the flamboyant Gothic basilica and stroll the lovely cobbled streets packed with authentic artisan workshops.

Day 8 Dinan to Plorec/Lamballe 22km/14mi/6hr

A short transfer (provided) then off along the Pays du Tour du Penthièvre where shady woodland paths skirt the river as far as the impressive 13C Château de la Hunaudaye whose ruins date back over 800 years.

Day 9 Leave Lamballe



Dates and Prices

Departs every two days **Tour Only**

2012 departures

May 13-25, Sep 12-20	\$2,653
May 27-31, Jun 8-12	\$2,653
Sep 2-10	\$2,653
Jun 2-6, Jun 14-Jul 8	\$2,739
Aug 29-31	\$2,739
Jul 10-Aug 27	\$2,779
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,595

Singles: Add \$64 per night (2 nights will be in a single room; 6 nights will be sole occupancy of a double room).

Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Room upgrade: Prices from \$13 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

Departs: Every two days from May 13 to Sep 20.

Duration: 9 days (8 nights).

Meals: Continental breakfast and 6 evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Paris CDG Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Lamballe train station at 18:28 Mon-Fri, 18:39 Sat, 18:01 Sun, (transfer to hotel, 15 mins, provided). **Return:** Lamballe train station by 09:48 Mon-Fri, 09:48 Sat & 09:51 Sun.

Rail Options: Paris Montparnasse to Lamballe (via Rennes) 15:05/18:21 Mon-Fri, 15:05/18:09 Sat, 15:05/17:58 Sun. **Return:** Lamballe to Paris Montparnasse (via Rennes) 09:52/13:28 Mon-Fri, 09:52/13:26 Sat & Sun.

Second Class French Rail: Add \$264 per person, round trip.

First Class French Rail: Add \$483 per person, round trip.

Tour only: Transfers included from Lamballe train station at 18:21 Mon-Fri, 18:09 Sat, 17:58 Sun and back to Lamballe train station departing hotel at 09:15.

W08BT

THE EMERALD COAST | WHERE YOU STAY



Le Manoir des Portes
★★
Lamballe
Days 1+8



Hotel de Diane
★★★
Sables d'Or-Les-Pins
Days 2+3



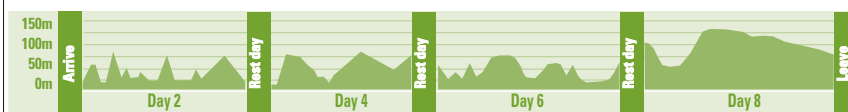
Hotel Printania
★★★
Dinard
Days 4+5



Hotel d'Avaugour
★★★
Dinan
Days 6+7

For extra nights we recommend Lamballe and Dinan.

THE EMERALD COAST | WALKING DETAILS



Varied walking following well marked GR routes along coastal paths, river banks, country lanes and shady forest tracks. Some steep, but short, ascents and descents, but a good head for heights is not necessary.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

18 21 24 23 21
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

56 42 52 40 54
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP