



ROUTES *in Caen*



CAEN  **MER**

Destination Normandie



www.caenlamer-tourisme.com



THERE

*Where
History begins*

To find your way along the route, just follow the studs on the ground in the town.



Routes in the city

Two walking routes to explore Caen:

♥ The 3.5 hrs route

♥ The 2 hrs route



City of William the Conqueror



15 km canal linking Caen to the sea



A place of memory and peace



25% of green areas



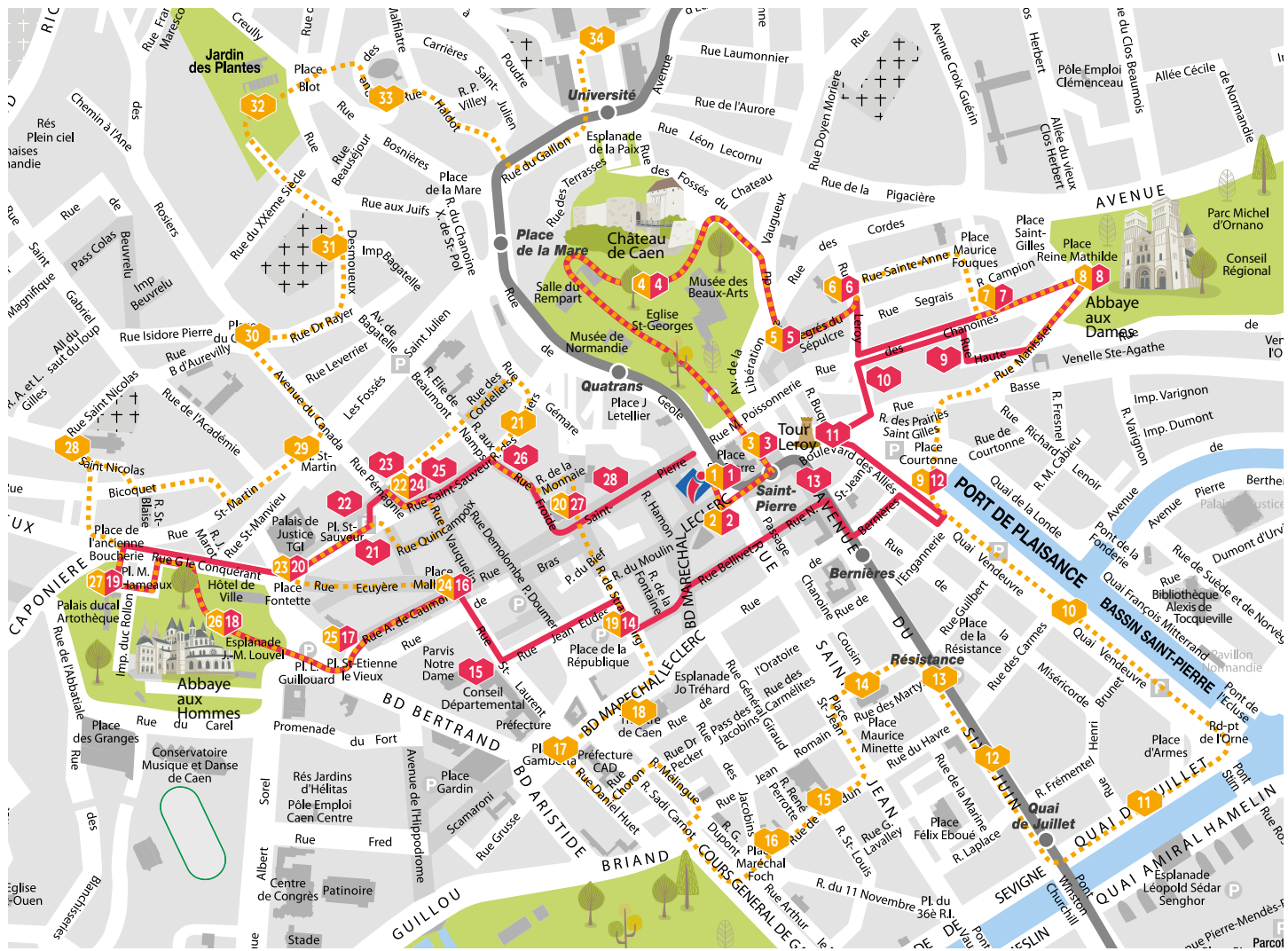
An exceptional gastronomy



Memories for the whole family



Events all year round





The short tour

- 1 You set off from **the Hôtel d'Escoville**, where the Caen la mer Tourist Office is located.
- 2 Turn right when you leave the courtyard, then right again onto Boulevard Maréchal Leclerc. **The Hôtel de Than** is on your left.
- 3 Retrace your steps towards **Saint Peter's Church**, behind you.
- 4 Now head for **the Castle**, entering through Porte Saint-Pierre and leaving through the Porte des Champs. *Since 2023, work has been underway on the castle grounds.*
- 5 Then you walk towards **the Vaugueux district** along Rue des Fossés du Château.
- 6 Go up the steps leading to **the Sepulcher** to get to **the church** of the same name.
- 7 When you get to Rue Leroy, turn right and walk to the intersection with Rue des Chanoines. Turn left into this street and you will arrive at **Saint-Gilles Church**.
- 8 Now cross Rue des Chanoines and walk to Place Reine Mathilde to see the beautiful façade of **the Abbaye aux Dames**.
- 9 Go along Rue Manissier as far as the intersection with **Rue Haute**. Turn right into this street and walk as far as the sign for the quarries that once existed here.
- 10 Turn left into Rue des Chanoines and go as far as the Venelle Bénard, where you will find information about the working-class district of **Bourg l'Abbesse**.
- 11 Next, go down the steps of the Venelle Maillard, on your left, then cross Rue Basse towards Boulevard des Alliés. On your right, you will see **the Leroy Tower**.
- 12 Continue left towards Quai Vendevre. Cross Place Courtonne and walk along Quai Vendevre, then head for the Saint-Pierre basin to see **the Caen marina**.
- 13 Retrace your steps. At the traffic lights, cross the road and walk along Rue de Bernières as far as the intersection with **Avenue du 6 Juin**. Turn right into this road.
- 14 Take care crossing the tramway track and walk down Rue Neuve Saint-Jean. Go straight ahead, then turn into Rue Saint-Jean. You

will arrive in Rue Bellivet. Follow the street as far as Rue Pierre-Aimé Lair, after crossing Boulevard Maréchal Leclerc, then continue until **Place de la République**.

- 15 Walk around the square until Rue Jean Eudes, and you will see **Notre-Dame-de-la-Gloriette church** at the end of the street.
- 16 Then continue along Rue Saint-Laurent as far as the intersection with Rue Arcisse de Caumont. Turn left into this street and you will arrive at **Place Malherbe**.
- 17 Continue on Rue Arcisse de Caumont as far as **Saint-Etienne-le-Vieux church**. You will walk round the apse (the top section) on your right.
- 18 Now cross Place Louis Guillovard and take a look at the attractive façade of the **Abbaye aux Hommes**. Then follow the passage near the abbey church apse, and you will come to Rue Guillaume le Conquérant.
- 19 If you have time, you can turn left and walk to **the Ducal Palace** on Impasse du Duc Rollon.
- 20 Otherwise, continue along Rue Guillaume le Conquérant, then turn right and go straight on as far as **Place Fontette**.
- 21 Next, walk towards Place Saint-Sauveur. At n°19 in the square is **the Hôtel Canteil de Condé**.
- 22 Cross the square to see the n° 20: **the Hôtel Fouet**.
- 23 Go around the right-hand side of the square and cross Rue Pémagnie. At n°10 on the square is **the Hôtel Marescot de Prémare**.
- 24 In **Place Saint-Sauveur**, cross the forecourt of the church of the same name and you come to a street, also called Saint-Sauveur.
- 25 Turn left, and near the square you can read about the history of **the university** and **the Vieux-Saint-Sauveur**.
- 26 Continue along Rue Saint-Sauveur until the intersection with **Rue Froide**.
- 27 Walk down the road and at the end you will see **Saint-Sauveur church**.
- 28 Then turn left into Rue Saint-Pierre and go to look at the n°52 and 54, where you will see two remarkable **timber-framed houses**.

This is the end of the route. To return to the Tourist Office, carry on in the same direction all the way to the end of Rue Saint-Pierre and then turn right.



The long tour

1 The **Hôtel d'Escoville**, the most typical of Caen's Renaissance mansions.

2 Admire the **Hôtel de Than** on your right.

3 **Saint Peter's Church**: due to spatial limitations, this church is aligned north-south and has no transept. Its Renaissance chevet boasts intricately carved stonework. The church's interior decoration reflects the wealth of the parish at the time the church was built.



4 **The Castle**: a vast 5-hectares castle complex, built on a promontory and protected by 13 towers. The walls offer a fine panoramic view of the city. Behind its walls, it houses the Musée de Normandie, the Musée des Beaux-Arts and a number of monuments. You enter through the Porte Saint Pierre and leave the Castle through the Porte des Champs. *Since 2023, work has been underway on the castle grounds.*

5 Cross the moat to reach the **Vaugueux Quarter**.

6 Climb the Degrés du Sépulcre steps to the heart of Vaugueux and the **Saint Sépulcre Collegiate Church**. A Norman cleric brought back a relic of Christ's Cross from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Having fallen into disuse during the Revolution, the church became an ordnance store and a barracks. It now hosts events and exhibitions.

7 Walk along Rue Saint-Anne as far as the Place Maurice Fouques, then cross the square where the ruins of the **Saint-Gilles church** can be found.

8 **Abbaye aux Dames**. Founded in 1060 by Mathilde de Flandre, wife of William the Conqueror. In the 18th century, the conventual buildings were rebuilt to provide greater comfort and security for the community. They now house the offices of the Normandy Regional Council. The Parc Michel d'Ornano serves as a showcase for these buildings. Visit the Abbey Church of Sainte-Trinité with its rich and diverse decoration. It boasts the only crypt in Caen.



9 Walk along Rue Manissier, continue along Rue Basse and then turn right into Rue Bochard, which will lead you to **the marina**. This breathing space in the heart of the city serves as a reminder of Caen's proximity to the sea.

10 Walk along the **Quai Vendevre** which is lined with restaurants and bars. It is a beautiful quayside walk with views of the new **Presqu'île quarter and its buildings** such as the library Alexis de Tocqueville or the Pavillon, an old port building which has been converted into an exhibition and events venue. At the end of the Quai Vendevre, you will see Le Cargô, a contemporary music venue and the Maison de la Recherche et de l'Imagination (Science and Technology centre) which was built using transparent materials.

11 Turn onto the **Quai de Juillet** and walk along the bank of the Orne. On the opposite side, you can see the new **Rives de l'Orne Quarter** which replaced a large area of wasteland. Housing, office blocks and shops have profoundly altered the appearance of this part of the city.



12 Turn right into Avenue du 6 Juin. You will see **six apartment blocks**, dubbed "Marines", which were built between 1951 and 1953. They give this section of the avenue a sense of grandeur. They mark the beginning of the "triumphal route" which leads to the Castle. Notice the elaborate limestone-clad façades. And the decorative bas-reliefs above doors.

13 **Place de la Résistance** - statue of Joan of Arc. Turn left into Rue des Equipes d'Urgence.

14 **Saint-Jean Church**: built in the 15th and 16th centuries. The unfinished bell tower suggests that the church was never completed. Walk round the church into Rue Saint-Jean and then Rue de Verdun.

15 **Hôtel Le Brun de Fontenay**, now the Banque de France. It is a faithful reconstruction of the private mansion which was destroyed by the bombardments in 1944. The mansion in which the Banque de France is housed shows how magnificent the quarter once was.

16 **Place du Maréchal Foch**. The buildings here were inspired by Haussmannian architecture. Opposite you, are the **Prairie Park and the racecourse**. Surrounded by the rivers Odon and Orne, the area acts as a huge green lung for the city. The first trotting race was held here in 1837. The course hosts around thirty race meetings a year.



17 Pass the church and walk along Rue Mélingue, turn left into Rue Choron and then right into Rue Daniel Huet. Pass the Prefecture buildings. Stop to admire the **Pavillon des Sociétés Savantes**, before you reach the **Place Gambetta**. Don't miss the private mansion which houses the **Prefecture** and the **Post Office**.

18 Take Boulevard du Maréchal Leclerc on your right. Walk past the **Theater** and then turn left into Rue du Pont Saint-Jacques.

19 This will lead you to the **Place de la République**.

20 Continue along Rue de Strasbourg, until you reach **Place Bouchard** at the eastern end of the **Saint-Sauveur church**. Notice the **half-timbered houses** in Rue Saint Pierre on your right, and the **statue de Malherbe** (a local poet, 1555-1628) in the square. And take a look at the **Cour des Imprimeurs**. Walk along Rue de la Monnaie and turn right into Rue Froide. A charming and homogenous collection of houses.



21 Turn right into Rue des Croisiers, looking at its **bookshops and art galleries**. Then turn left and left again into Rue des Cordeliers.

22 Continue along Rue Pasteur as far as the **Place Saint-Sauveur**. Turn left and walk round the **Vieux-Saint-Sauveur Church** on the street of the same name. Then turn right into Rue Vaquelin. You are now in the Old Town. Turn right into Rue Quimcampoix and then return to Place Saint-Sauveur via Rue aux Fromages.

23 Walk along the façades towards Place Fontette and the imposing complex of buildings ahead of you. You now reach **Place Fontette**.

24 Walk down Rue Écuyère until **Place Malherbe** where you can see the poet's house.

25 Then turn into Rue Arcisse de Caumont which leads to the **Saint-Etienne-le-Vieux Church** 14th and 15th centuries. You are standing opposite the immense Abbaye aux Hommes.



26 **The Abbaye aux Hommes** consists of an abbey church (11th, 13th and 14th centuries) and conventual buildings which were rebuilt in the 18th century. It was founded by William the Conqueror. His tomb lies in the chancel. The conventual buildings now house Caen Town Hall.

27 Walk through Passage Guillaume le Conquérant and then turn left into Rue Guillaume le Conquérant. From the Place Mgr des Hameaux, make your way to the **Palais Ducal**, home of the **Artothèque**. This building was designed to accommodate prestigious guests. The Artothèque regularly stages exhibitions. Go through the Passage Saint-Benoît, cross the Place de l'Ancienne Boucherie and then go up the Venelle Saint-Nicolas which leads to the church of the same name.

28 **Saint-Nicolas Church**. This building is a perfect example of Norman Romanesque architecture. It has not been altered since the 11th century. Take a look at the cemetery which adjoins the church. Follow Rue Saint-Nicolas, turn left into Rue Bicoquet and then left into Rue Saint-Martin. This will take you to Place Saint-Martin with its statue of Constable du Guesclin.

29 **The Fossés Saint-Julien**. These ditches were filled in 1786 to create a boulevard. Every Friday morning, a large market extending to Place Saint-Sauveur takes place there.

30 Go up Avenue du Canada on your left. Opposite the old railway station, turn right into Rue du Docteur Rayer. You are now in **19th century Caen** with its bourgeois houses built in the eclectic style. Turn left into Rue Desmoueux.

31 **The cimetière des 4 Nations**. A number of Caen's famous sons and daughters are buried in the cemetery. Turn left into the Venelle du Jardin des Plantes and enter the botanic gardens.

32 **The Jardin des Plantes**. The botanical gardens cover 3.5 hectares and include a lower section with a greenhouse, orangerie, medicinal and themed garden and an upper section with a collection of exceptional trees.



33 Walk through the Jardin des Plantes and leave at the Place Blot. Cross the square and walk along the tree-lined footpath which leads to the **Saint-Julien Church**, a fine example of religious architecture from the rebuilding of the city after the WWII.

34 Then turn into Rue du Gaillon which takes you to the **University**, work of Henry Bernard, classified as a historic monument. The pillars which support the glass gallery are engraved with representations of illustrious Normans. End your visit by returning to the Place Saint-Pierre.



Please return this
guide to the Tourist
Office so that it can be

RECYCLED or
REUSED

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Tout est



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+ FACILE**



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