



 1,5 KM

- 1h30
- Easy difficulty
- Some steep parts
- Free parks :
 - Place du Champ de Foire
 - Square Blanchet



Discover this Small Town of Character (Petite Cité de Caractère®). In order to unravel the town's fascinating history follow the 'bonhomme Quintin' through 10 historical locations within the city. Your journey starts right here, facing the Tourist Office.



«Papa au Lait» or «Bonhomme Quintin»
Place 1830



Basilica of Notre-Dame-de-Délivrance
Rue Notre Dame



Half-timbered house
Place 1830

WELCOME TO QUINTIN !

Who am I? I am «Le bonhomme Quintin» or The Good Man of Quintin. Picture me with two little horns on my head and an open mouth with my tongue sticking out. Now try and follow my gaze. Straight ahead, what can you see? I'm perched on the former lawyer house and looking at the ancient entrance doorway of the justice of the peace's house (now turned into a shop window) where you can read in Latin « nil nisi consilio » which is the justice of the peace's motto. It means « nothing without advice ». Back then justices and lawyers didn't get along very well which is why I am sticking my tongue out at the justice's house.

Turn around and cross the square towards the castle entrance

1 THE ORIGINS OF QUINTIN

Impasse de la Pompe

The town of Quintin was built during the 13th century on a strategic location, ideal for trade but also to keep a watchful eye on the river Gouët. In the past, there wasn't just one château in Quintin, but several! Today, there are only two left, one of which was never finished. Located at the heart of the town, they are well worth a visit.

Go back to the square and head towards "Notre Dame" street. The next notice board stands on the corner.

2 PLACE 1830 AND TRADE IN QUINTIN

In front of you you'll see the main square of the 'ville close' or walled town: the commercial heart of Quintin. Centuries ago you would have been able to see here the 'cohue' a wooden building under which took place the local market. Built in the 15th century, it was destroyed in 1830, which explains the current name of the square. Trade and industry prospered in Quintin and the 'cohue' (a Breton word meaning covered market) wasn't big enough to host all the merchants. So they set up their stalls in the little streets around the square (Rue au Lait, Rue au Blé, Rue aux Toiles...). These streets hosted other covered markets such as the meat and wheat markets. Imagine on the square a big wooden covered market similar to the Faouet covered market in Brittany. They would sell bread as well as fish and meat here... On the corner of the house, on the ground, you will see a rounded stone, known as the stone of the « bannies ». Standing on this stone, the herald used to announce the city news daily (Deaths, births, etc...) He preceded his news with the sound of his trumpet or drums. It was the news broadcast for Quintin!

Go down "Notre Dame" street to the basilica.

3 BASILICA OF NOTRE-DAME-DE-DÉLIVRANCE

Rue Notre Dame

The church was built between 1883 and 1887 in the neo-gothic style. It stands on the remains of the old collegiate church, built in 1405 and destroyed in 1879. The basilica is dedicated to the Virgin Mary under the name Notre-Dame-de-Délivrance, invoked to protect pregnant women during childbirth. On the façade, just above the main door there are 3 characters. On the left is the first lord of Quintin, Geoffroy Boterel I. He went on a crusade in 1248 with the Holy king Louis of France. He is holding in his hands a relic of "Our Lady's Sash". Kneeling on the other side of The Virgin is Robert de Saintonge who was at that time the patriarch of Jerusalem and gifted the relic to the lord of Quintin. The four frescoes : One of them depicts the ceremony when Robert de Saintonge is handing the piece of "Our Lady's sash" to the lord of Quintin. On your right, two paintings represent the arrival of the Lord from Jerusalem in Quintin with the relic. And on your left the last painting represents the miracle of the relic. Indeed, in 1600 a fire was accidentally started by a monk in the sacristy. He fell asleep and forgot to blow out his candle. Both sacristy and the treasure were burned. All the parishioners were really devastated as they thought the relic had burned in the fire. That last painting shows that after one week of research, two people found the relic in the ashes. The relic was just a little burnt in the corner. The bishop attested the miracle and, ever since, pilgrims have come to the basilica to pray.

Walk along the basilica's left side next to the car park. The next notice board stands at the edge of the car park, above the city wall.

4 THE 'FAUBOURGS' OR SUBURBS

Parking du Square Blanchet, vue de la tour de la Porte Neuve

The 'faubourgs', from the Latin words 'foris' (outside) and 'burgus' (market town) was the area just outside the town walls during medieval times. All the dirty, noisy or smelly activities took place there. It was the living place of those who weren't welcome in the heart of the town. When the town walls eventually disappeared, the 'faubourgs' became new quarters of the town itself.

Go down the stairs on your right and turn left in "la rue des Douves" street.

Keep walking straight up until the street crosses "la rue des Degrés" street on the right. The next notice board is on the left side of "la rue des Degrés" street.

5 THE LINEN TRADE

La Fabrique - Atelier du Lin : 1 rue des Degrés

From the 15th century onwards, the linen-weaving trade development brought prosperity to Quintin. It earned its reputation during the 16th century and the town gave its name to a variety of fine cloths: the 'quintins'. Later on, new fibres such as cotton, along with the mechanization of the weaving industry, led to the downfall of Quintin's prosperity during the 1830s.

The Weaver's House: known before as the «café du Bas Jard» was bought by the town of Quintin in 1993. This house still has a trodden earth floor. In Quintin, we reckoned about 700 weavers and 300 merchants of linen during the period called «Manufacture des toiles bretagnes» (1650-1830). Here you will experience the different stages of the linen's work, from the seed to the linen cloth. You will also see the old tools used centuries ago, like the loom of 19th century... These linen clothes were exported in South of America. The guided visit is about 45 min, from June to September (Tuesday to Saturday) at 2:30pm, 3:30pm and 4:30pm. The Weaver's House's host also speaks English.

Continue straight up, "la rue des Degrés" street to the "Chappelle st Yves". The next notice board will be across the street.

6 A RELIGIOUS QUARTER

1 rue des Ursulines

Brittany is well known for its attachment to religion and Quintin is no exception. You can see it in its architecture and furnishings. Despite the destruction of some of its buildings, the town still offers many examples that testify this religious fervor.

Walk in "rue des Ursulines" street past the notice board. The next notice board will be on your left before the primary school's playground.

7 LITTLE STREETS AND ALLEYWAYS

Between 7 and 9 rue des Ursulines

The little streets and alleyways of Quintin are here for you to discover, so please take a look. Some alleyways contain some of the town's hidden treasures waiting to be found. This one is called "La venelle Sonne Sonne" meaning "The ringing alleyway". This name comes from the kids who used to walk there a long time ago. To protect themselves and scare monsters and demons away, they used to hit the ground with their little clogs.

Walk down the "venelle sonne sonne" alleyway. At the end of the alleyway, turn right in "Marechal Leclerc" street and enter the park through the portal across the street. The next notice board stands in the middle of the park next to a bench between the two ornamental ponds.

8 ROZ MARIA PARK

These are the former gardens of the Carmelite Fathers, a religious order dedicated to preaching and meditation. They arrived in Quintin in 1619, but left in 1791 after being driven out by the local population. They made the gardens the perfect place for contemplation by installing water features and planting a variety of tree species.

Reach the other side of the park and exit in "rue des Carmes" street facing the "Hôpital St Jean-Chapelle". Head left and go down the street to the city centre.

You will reach the "Place du Matray" Square. The next notice board is on the left side of the square in front of the "Crédit Mutuel de Bretagne".

9 PLACE DU MARTRAY

Most of Brittany's old towns have a Place du Martray (from the Latin 'martyrium': field of martyrs). It was the place for public punishments during the middle ages and public executions during the French Revolution. In Quintin, no death sentence was ever pronounced, so fortunately the guillotine was never used on Quintin's "Place du Matray"!

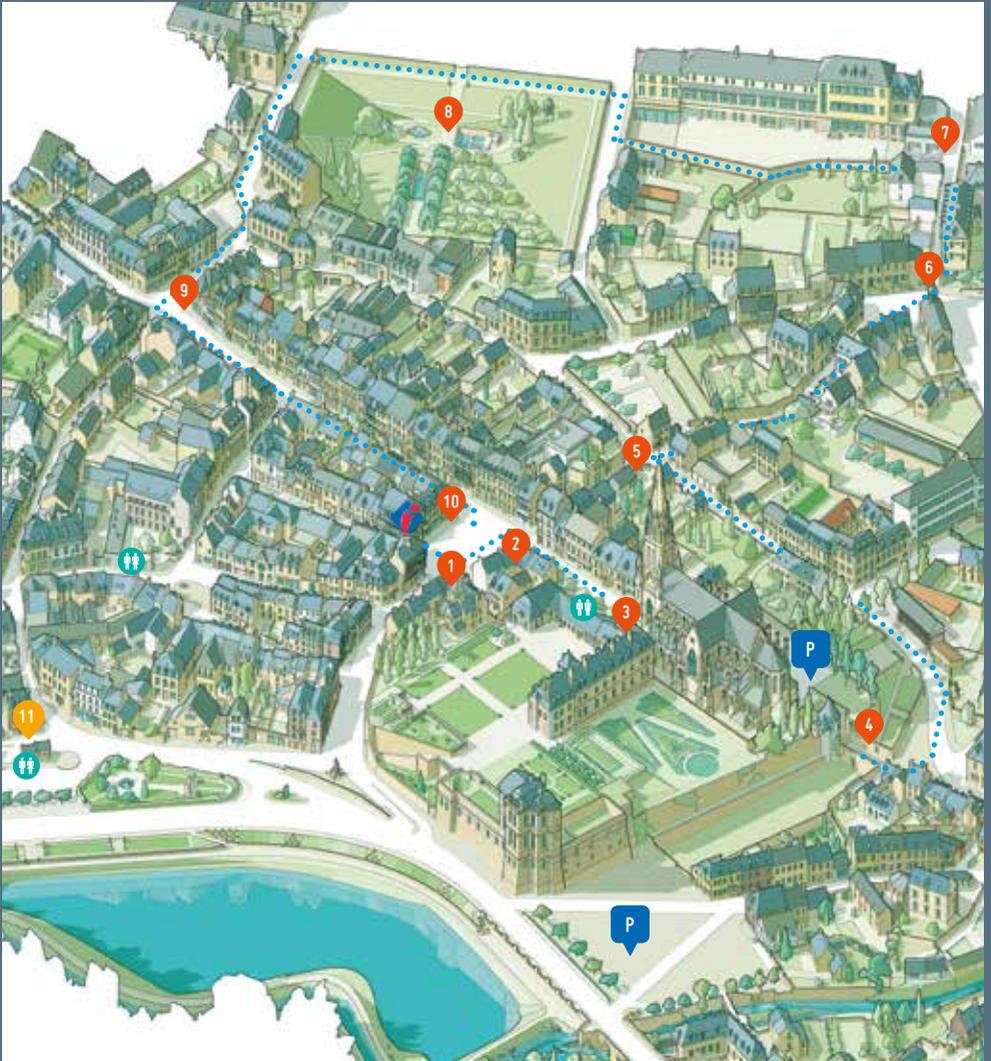
Go past the notice board into "Grande rue" street. At the end of this street on the right side stands the last notice board, back on the "Place 1830" square.

10 LA GRAND'RUE AN ARCHITECTURAL VIEW

During the medieval era, this was the longest street in Quintin. It goes from the western entrance of the town (Place du Martray) to the commercial center (Place 1830). This street shows the development of urban architecture from the 17th century onwards.

11 Your journey is over; you can take a break and eat or drink something at the "Restaurant Bar la Vallée".

Cross the square, and walk down "la rue aux toiles" street. At the end of the street turn right in "rue de la vallée" street. The location is at the bottom of the street.



Extrait du plan cavalier de Quintin dressé en 2013 par



Projet porté par:

