

## POCKET HIKES

## PANORAMAS OF THE NATURE RESERVE



8,9 KM

- 2h to 2h30 walk
- Easy difficulty
- A few slopes
- Free car park :  
place Georges Palante  
22120 Hillion

Walk around the Hillion peninsula: it is a breath of fresh air at the heart of the largest national nature reserve in Brittany! This 8.9 km discovery walk along a preserved coastline is alive with exceptional wildlife and plants. Put on some nice hiking shoes and take some binoculars to observe nature at its best! Complete your knowledge of the bay with a visit of The Maison de la Baie ecomuseum!



La pointe des Guettes



The strands



Dunlin

**D** Park and start your walk from the Georges Palante square in the centre of Hillion.

Take Birlange street. Walk around the church on the left then turn left on la Porte Roy street.

Go down the Fontreven cul-de-sac then follow the GR®34 (great hiking path n°34) on your right. Keep walking right then walk down the D 34 road on your left (cliff). Turn right through l'Hôtellerie.

Leave the trail and go left: Enjoy watching the wildlife from the bird watching hide 



## **1** MAISON DE LA BAIE

The birds get closer to the shore as the tide is rising. Admire a beautiful sea duck called the shelduck, the ever-present Eurasian oystercatcher or a ballet of Brent geese visiting us from November to March every year.

Retrace your steps to reach the coastal path. Go through Saint-Guimont (fountain, washhouse) and follow the path to la pointe du Grovin.

## **2** BLOCKHOUSE AT LA POINTE DU GROUIN

In 1942, the Germans started building the Atlantic wall to protect themselves from an allied attack on the northern coasts. Artillery posts were set up at the bottom of bays, on estuaries or at the entrance of harbours. 500 blockhouses have been built in Côtes d'Armor and about 10 of them are located in Hillion.

Follow the GR®34 hiking path.

## **3** LA POINTE DES GUETTES

Use the toposcope to understand this exceptional landscape. The mussel breeding sites are easy to spot at low tide from the eastern shore of the peninsula. Many mussel farmers settled in the Hillion bay since the 60s. Mussels are traditionally raised on big wooden poles pegged in the sand called bouchots. The bay and its powerful tides make perfect conditions for the mussels' growth. Be ready to taste them from June to October. Direct sales in the Bon Abri mussel farms.

Head left towards Bon Abri on the GR®34 hiking path.

## **4** LERMOT BEACH

This beach used to be a popular gathering place at the beginning of the 20th century whether it was for sport events, religious celebrations or dances. The high amplitude of the tides would uncover a large gathering space.

Hillion fully deserves its peninsula title when you look at Lermot village as it used to be populated by fisherman farmers. They would do some bottom fishing, use seines or collect the loot from fisheries on the strand.

Head left towards the Pont Rolland on the GR®34 hiking path.

## **5** THE BON ABRI DUNES (Outside of the trail)

These dunes are the only terrestrial part of the nature reserve. They shelter a multitude of rich habitats. The moving dunes are pinned on the spot by the beachgrass. It is only to be observed from the path because stamping on the dunes would damage them! Listen for a concerto of batrachians in the spring.

Walk up the road on your right then turn left. After Prébis, turn right. Follow the road on the left then turn right on the grassy path. Take the Olivier Provost Street on the left. Go back to the city centre car park.

## **6** SAINT JEAN BAPTISTE CHURCH

7 place de l'église

Open every day from 10am

Did you know? The church benefited from donations that came from some brothers in arms of William the Conqueror. After the battle of Hastings, they came back to Hillion with substantial rewards. This Roman church (11th century) is listed as one of the national heritage sites since 1970. Do not miss the Clos Gueguen dovecot behind the town hall.







## HOW TO GET THERE :

- A 20 min drive from Saint-Brieuc with the N12 and D80 roads. Free parking around the church
- With the TUB buses: Line 20 to the Hillion-Centre stop (35 min ride)
- With the BREIZHGO (formerly called TIBUS) buses: Line 2 towards Plévenon to the Hillion-Centre stop (25 min ride)

## SE RESTAURER :



Restaurant :

### Le Breizh'Y'Moules

7 place de l'église, Hillion  
02 96 75 68 20

Many original mussel recipes on their menu like camembert cheese or chitterlings sausage mussels. Also enjoy some braised scallops, salads and meats a la carte.

### Au bon Saint Nicolas

8 place de l'église, Hillion 02 96 32 21 03

Traditional cuisine and worker's menu. Seafood platters on reservation.  
Open seven days a week during the summer



Picnic (see the map) :

Saint-Guimont / La Maison de la Baie / Bellevue / Lermot

## POINTS OF INTEREST :



### Maison nature départementale Maison de la Baie

Rue de l'étoile, Hillion

02 96 32 27 98

October to May: Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. 2pm to 6pm.

June and September: Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.  
2pm to 6pm.

July and August: Monday to Friday. 10:30am to 6:30pm

Saturdays and Sundays, 14th July and 15th August. 1:30pm to 6:30pm

Monday to Friday and Sundays from 2pm to 6pm during the shorter French school holidays

Closed during the Christmas break and bank holidays (except 14th July and 15th August)

### The nature reserve

The nature reserve is a protected space with regulated leisure activities

More info on: [www.reservebaiedesaintbrieuc.com](http://www.reservebaiedesaintbrieuc.com)

### Great tides

Tide tables on [www.reservebaiedesaintbrieuc.com](http://www.reservebaiedesaintbrieuc.com)



## Saint-Brieuc Bay Tourist Office and Convention Centre

2 quater rue des Lycéens Martyrs  
at the heart of city center of Saint-Brieuc

## ENQUIRIES?

(+33) 2 96 33 32 50

[info@baiedesaintbrieuc.com](mailto:info@baiedesaintbrieuc.com)

[baiedesaintbrieuc.com](http://baiedesaintbrieuc.com)

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## DISCOVER THE OTHER WALKS :

### POCKET HIKES COLLECTION

- ➔ The River Gouët's Granite Boulders
- ➔ La Pointe du Roselier Panorama

### POCKET HERITAGE COLLECTION

- ➔ The Old Town
- ➔ The Légue Port
- ➔ Welcome to Quintin
- ➔ Art Deco Walk



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