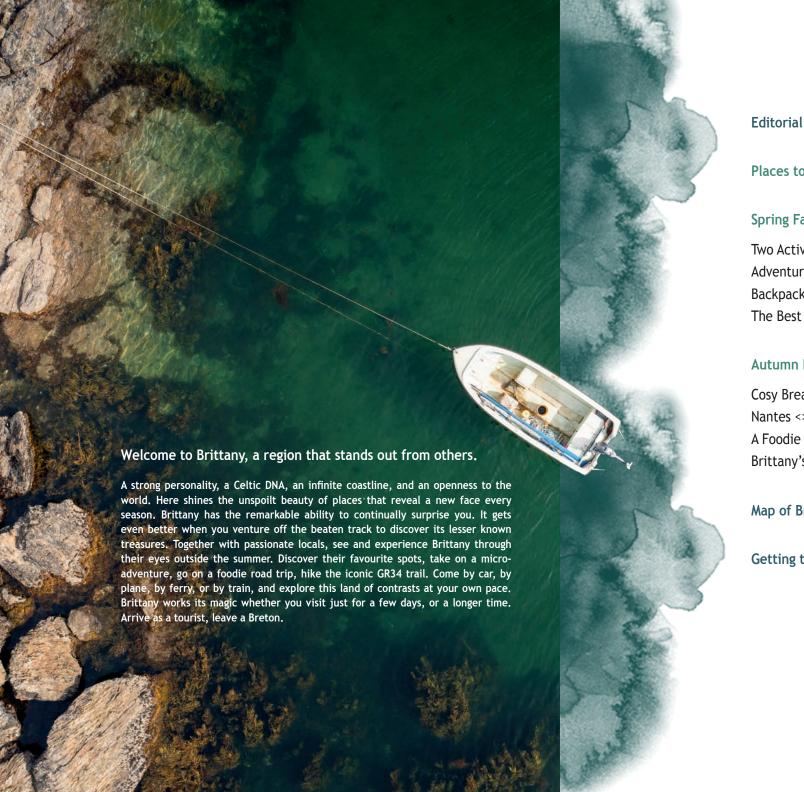
# Press pack Bretagne





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# **Great Places to Stay**

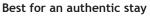
# One for Every Occasion

#### Best for affordable sea views

La Bellevue, Séné

You'll find La Bellevue B&B and Bistrot in an exceptionnal setting in the Gulf of Morbihan. The architecture of the traditionnal Breton house has been preserved, and particular attention has been given to the opening of the rooms towards the sea... The relaxed restaurant offers bistro cuisine featuring local and seasonal products. Stroll along the coastal paths, sit in the garden while enjoying a cocktail, paddle to the islet of Boedic, and enjoy the beach at the end of the garden.

FIND OUT MORE www.labellevue.bzh



Ty Monde, Poullaouen

Welcome to Jean-Baptiste and Marion (and their little boy) home near Carhaix, the beating heart of Brittany. This former school housed in a large stone building dating from the 17th century is a secret gem away from the hustle and bustle of the main tourist sites. This area beams with culture and traditions, and it's a great base to explore Huelgoat and the Nantes to Brest canal.

# Best B&B for a stylish stay

FIND OUT MORE https://ty-monde.com/en

Castel Jolly, Rennes

Stay in an elegant private mansion built in 1885, a stone's throw away from the city's main sights. Marie Jolly will happily welcome you to her beautiful, carefully renovated home. The Castel Jolly B&B has 3 comfortable rooms with a lively decor. Warm tones, woodwork, discreet lighting with a few arty and designer touches... you will quickly feel at home! Another highlight? The home-made breakfast: delicious caramel and salted butter pancakes!

FIND OUT MORE www.casteljolly.com/en









# Best for a Château stay Les Garennes, Bénodet

Best for chic country vibes

Saint-Quay-Perros

Le Manoir des Petites Bretonnes,

In the middle of a spacious estate, discover a haven of peace. The calm and warm atmosphere embraces

you. Choose from one of the nine cottages and a

cosy duplex at Manoir des Petites Bretonnes, near

the Pink Granite coast. A piece of the countryside

by the sea: pretty accommodation, wonderful

breakfasts, and right next door the possibility of a

big bowl of sea air! Here, you will receive trays of

FIND OUT MORE www.manoirdespetitesbretonnes.com/en

good produce and tips for your outings.

Fifteen bright and cosy rooms in a renovated castle. A huge park, with 5 km of trails, along the Odet river. A swimming pool with sea view, a hot tub, steam room and sauna for full relaxation. Special mention for the electric bikes that you can borrow for a ride to Sainte-Marine or Bénodet, if you can bear to leave this heavenly place at all! FIND OUT MORE www.lesgarennes.bzh/en

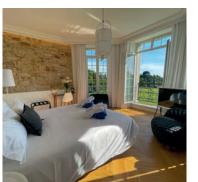


# Best for a nature fix

La Cabane Douarenn

Nestled in the Armorica Regional Natural Park, in the heart of the Monts d'Arrée hills, La Cabane Douarenn is ideally located for anyone looking for a rural break. Its central location in Finistère also makes it a perfect destination for touring the whole region, and explore inland Brittany, off the beaten tracks.

FIND OUT MORE https://en.douarenn.fr/la-cabane









# **Spring Favourites**

From Easter to the end of June, the temptation to head to the countryside, for a micro-adventure, a short break, or a longer time away, is great. We want to get outdoors, to watch nature awaken and flourish, to fill our lungs with fresh air! Brittany has bags of adventures waiting for you, whether you're a thrill-seeker or a more leisurely explorer. Embark for a journey at sea or on land, and experience Brittany to the full.



# Two Micro-Adventures by Train

Clear your head and charge your batteries in 72 hours. Travel with Eurostar to Paris, then hop on a high-speed train to Brittany... and breathe and sweat!

#### Climb & Ride the Oust Valley

Locks, cycling and paddling, unspoilt nature and a little bit of effort. From Redon train station, hop on a rental bike and set off in the direction of Île Aux Pies, a rock-climbing hot spot along the Nantes to Brest canal. Then, against a backdrop of granite and schist cliffs that plunge into the river, you'll paddle away in a tandem canoe. As the river widens, it begins to look like a Louisiana bayou. Three hours later, cheered on by the herons and kingfishers, welcome to the campsite!



FIND OUT MORE https://www.tourisme-pays-redon.com/sports/escapades-lile-aux-pies

#### Kayak to Groix island

Meet Vincent in Larmor Plage, for a briefing before setting off to Groix. A few waves and a 90-minute calm crossing later, you'll be enjoying a lunch break on Grands Sables beach, one of the longest convex beach in Europe, reminiscent of the Seychelles... Back in the boats, you'll sail the waves along the wild coast in the company of hundreds of birds and dolphins. After a night's bivouacking, watch the sun rise as you enjoy your breakfast. You might think that the return trip on the ocean would be enough to finish off the few remaining working muscles, but oddly enough, a huge seafood platter later seems to numb all pain! FIND OUT MORE www.caminokayak.com/uk



### Roscoff Paimpol Carantec Plouescat Morlaix Plouha

# Adventures at Bay in Northern Brittany



This itinerary starts in the fishing port of Paimpol on the north coast of Brittany.

Begin your journey with a walking tour of the "City of Icelanders". Stop for lunch in one of the brasseries on the port, and gain strength before walking the GR34 path towards the Beauport Maritime Abbey, a jewel between gardens, woods and marshes. Head 20mins east to Plouha to try your hand at open sea swimming at the foot of the highest cliffs in Brittany. After having trudged along the cliffs, two swimming instructors-rescuers take you on a discovery swim, or an advanced swimming techniques outing in the open sea. Learn about the swells, reading the currents and swimming techniques, as well as the local fauna and flora and the history of Plouha cliffs.

The next stop is Morlaix, known for its historical architecture and unique half timbered houses. Set off to discover the street-art frescoes before having an aperitif at SEW, a new trendy spot, installed in the former Manufacture des Tabacs, a site under conversion. To observe the town from above, go up to the first floor of the railway viaduct. The view is breathtaking. Stay in the former villa of Nina Ricci, now "Chambres d'Hôtes de la Villa Kerjannic". The next stop is Carantec, on the coast, for half a day of hiking along the GR34 trail. Follow the white and red markers towards Château du Taureau - an off-shore fortress - for a 180° view over the oyster parks! Stop at the local brewery La Brasserie Graphique, a former art gallery where Pierre Yves Jaouen installed his vats. If you decide to spend a night in Carantec, put your alarm on to get up early to experience the beautiful sunrise from Tahiti Beach.







Continue west to the small port of Roscoff, and embark with 'Vagabond de la Baie' for an adventure at sea with Gwendal. Learn about the local flora and fauna and surrounding architecture. The boat ride is thrilling, riding fast along the sea, twisting and turning between the small islands covered in basking seals. As you return to dry land, take a wander around Roscoff. In evening, indulge in some traditional food and drink at Le Bilig de la Plage, a crêperie by the sea, praised by locals. Further west lies the Côte des Sables, a magical place of wide open spaces, long sandy beaches and dunes shaped by the wind. Explore the bay by kayak, or try your hand at a new watersport in Plouescat. Head to one of the sheltered white sandy beaches along the coastline and sunbathe till your heart's content. If you're exploring Brittany with your gang, stay a few more days in Plouescat at 'Villa Pool and Beach Bretagne' for a good time together.

FIND OUT MORE www.baiedemorlaix.bzh/en • www.roscoff-tourisme.com/en www.guingamp-paimpol.com/en





# Backpacking the GR34 with hikes punctuated with watersports



Breathe in the fresh air in Audierne bay and admire the power of the elements at Pointe de La Torche, where the surfers put on a show every day. Between the Guilvinec fishing port and the fine sandy beaches of Tudy island, discover a part of Brittany with a strong personality: Pays Bigouden.



Hop to Isle the Sein, and tour the island on foot, between coves, pebbled stretches and old seaweed kilns. Book a kayak outing with Ile de Sein Nautisme, or hire a SUP paddle board from the Plouhinec water sports centre and make your way on the Goyen towards Pont-Croix, to get close to grey seals and common bottlenose dolphins. The best time is just before high tide. Back in Audierne on the mainland, walk along the beautiful white sandy beaches in Audierne

bay. Four hours or so later, you'll arrive at Notre-Dame de Penhors Chapel, a pilgrimage site. The next day, watch the surfers ride the waves at La Torche, and get in the water with one of the many local surf schools. Then, go south towards Pointe de Penmarc'h. You'll walk on along a very jagged coastline amidst rocks with amusing shapes. Climb the 307 steps of Eckmühl lighthouse as you arrive in St-Guénolé.



The next stage of this walking itinerary passes through the fishing villages of Le Guilvinec, Lesconil and Loctudy. Succumb to the "Demoiselles de Loctudy", these langoustines are emblematic of Pays Bigouden. From Loctudy, take a short cut to Tudy island with the small ferry. The coastal path, alongside beaches and polders, takes you to the small harbour of Sainte-Marine. It's quite adorable with its sailors' shelter, chapel and numerous terraces. Another crossing, this time on the P'tit Bac, and you'll land on the other side of the Odet, in Bénodet.



# Great Bike Rides for Easy Pedalling

Electric bikes are perfect for seeing Brittany's varied countryside in a fun, eco-friendly way. You'll find plenty of rental outlets all over the region, with suggestions for great bike rides to enjoy at your own pace.



#### A magic bike ride in Brocéliande

Set off through moorland and forest, undulating countryside and pleasant little towns on one of the yellow bikes rented out by the Brocéliande Bike Tour network. In this land of legends, you never know who you might meet: fairies, elves or the little Breton imps called korrigans! Wander around iconic sites and ancient trees. Several routes are signposted starting from Paimpont, Josselin, Ploermel and Malestroit.

FIND OUT MORE https://bit.ly/Broceliande-Bike-Tour



#### A spin along the Pink Granite Coast

From Perros-Guirec, you'll find a wild and everchanging landscape along a coastline strewn with fantastic rock formations. Inland, you'll come across old granite farmhouses, little chapels and megaliths. Explore them from the cycleway, 'La Littorale'. Electric assistance is invaluable on this very hilly section. 250 Velek'tro bikes are available for hire at 40 rental points in the region. A 'one-way' service allows you to pick up the bike at one location and drop it off at another.

FIND OUT MORE https://bit.ly/VelekTro



#### Go wild in the Armorica Regional Natural park

Heather-covered moorland, hillsides covered in 'bocage' landscape of fields and hedges, rocky coastlines shaped by the sea, peaceful estuaries etc. One quick spin of the pedals will take you deep into wild landscapes. With a fleet of 40 electric bikes, you can cycle all the twists and turns of the three signposted circuits from the Aulne estuary to the Crozon Peninsula.

FIND OUT MORE https://bit.ly/Bike-rides-PNR-Armorique

#### Cycle from canals to chapels

Along the towpath of the Nantes-Brest Canal, as you cycle from Pontivy to Rohan, you'll pass 54 locks, some remarkable trees (black walnuts, Turkey oaks, sycamore maples etc.), and the prettily-renovated lockkeepers' cottages are good places to stop for a rest. In summer, during the 'Art in the Chapels' festival, four trails take you around 12 of the chapels dotted along the Blavet Valley.

FIND OUT MORE https://bit.ly/GoSportBike-Pontivy





# **Autumn Delights**

Open your eyes and your heart... and get your tastebuds ready! Outside the summer, Brittany shares its confidences: its changing and raw colours, its more nuances and assertive lights, its serene islands, its gourmet adresses and its trendy spots! Discover an authentic land, between much loved places and hidden gems. And when the sea is calling, from the city to the sea, there is only one step.

# 14

# A Cosy Weekend Away

We have picked two little cocoons for a non flying autumn getaway with Brittany Ferries.

#### Villa Saint-Raphaël • Saint-Malo

Relaxing and escaping the whirlwind of daily life at La Villa Raphaël is so good! Before or after a visit of the iconic walled town of St-Malo, just relax and enjoy the soothing charm of this refined and natural haven. This bed and breakfast offers a warm welcome and a comfortable stay in an elegant 19th century house, 100m from a quiet beach. Enjoy the natural show of the high tides, walk the Emerald coast, dine at great local restaurants, and snuggle up under the duvet. St-Malo is a must-visit when the temperatures are about to turn. FIND OUT MORE www.brittany-ferries.co.uk • www.villa-st-raphael-saint-malo.com/en





#### La Brise B&B • Roscoff

It's all you can see as you enter the privateer city of Roscoff through the town centre. A four-minute walk from the beach and thalasso, La Brise B&B is above all a display of architecture, a quirky-looking villa with four guestrooms and two studio-flats. Once inside, it's a protective bubble where you'll love everything: Juliette's eco-responsible convictions, her attentive hospitality, the breakfast flavours and the very beautiful decoration! Take a little tour of nearby Batz island, then head to Restaurant des Bricoles: not only is it good and prettily decorated, but the view of the port is breathtaking. All you need for a happy autumn!

FIND OUT MORE www.labriseroscoff.com

# Train Itinerary

# From the City To the Sea

Nantes <> Rennes <> St-Malo

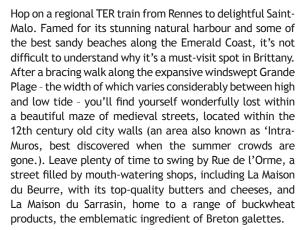


Safely arrived in Nantes? Nantes was the capital of Brittany for hundreds of years. Start at the impressive Château des Ducs de Bretagne. To the west of the château sits Bouffay district. As well as half-timbered houses, it's home to some of the city's best shopping including speciality food boutiques. The Passage Pommeraye, a spectacular 19th-century glass-roofed shopping mall, is not to be missed in the newer part of town. End your journey on the Île de Nantes beaming with great restaurants and quirky bars as well as Les Machines de l'Île: a workshop where artists have created mechanical animals inspired by Jules Vernes. Make sure to book your Pass Nantes, giving you free access to over 50 attractions.

Take a train to Rennes, and settle on a pavement-café and feel the pulse of the city. Soak up the local lifestyle, wandering through the iconic Saturday morning's farmers market, eating a 'galette-saucisses', a sausage wrapped in a buckwheat pancake. Travel through time as you wind through the historic centre of Rennes. This city is a mosaic of half-timbered architecture, historic streets, distinctive street art, Art Deco frescoes, and modern curves of buildings designed by George Maillol and Jean Nouvel. Along the way, plenty of taverns serve up some of northern France's best bistronomy. At Bistro Origines, in the former maternity hospital, you can as well simply enjoy the spot, some live music and a hand crafted beer. Do the rounds of designer boutiques. You'll find them all over the city. For second-hand enthusiasts, the city has plenty of vintage and pre-loved clothes shops.











WHERE TO STAY? La Péniche Carpe Diem in Nantes • www.carpediem-nantes.fr Le Magic'Hall Hotel in Rennes • www.lemagichall.com/en Hôtel Cartier in St-Malo • https://en.hotel-cartier.com/

# A Foodie Road-Trip Through Fishing Villages

Starting with a jaunt to Quiberon peninsula, this road trip around the Gulf of Morbihan is easy on the eyes and the taste buds!



To the west, the splendid, rugged coast of Quiberon peninsula extends for 8 kilometres with jagged cliffs and arches hollowed out by the waves. To the east, it's dotted with beautiful sandy beaches. In the middle, a little back from the coast, Quiberon's hamlets offer views worthy of postcards. In the narrow streets lined with white houses with blue shutters and blooming hydrangeas, times seems to stand still. The shops in Quiberon are very tempting too. Food lovers will be spoilt for choice with numerous good seafood and fish restaurants, crêpe restaurants and, of course, culinary specialities: niniches (lollipops), salidou (salted butter caramel), Quiberon biscuits, smoked fish and the famous tinned sardines from the local cannery La Belle-Illoise.



As you head east, you have to stop in Carnac. The famous fields of megaliths, best admired in the lowlight of the morning or at the end of the day, are next in line to become an Unesco heritage site. The 3,000 standing stones in the moors, tracing lines of around 1 km long, is one of the most extraordinary concentrations of standing stones in the world. Your next stop is in Baden, at Ivan Selo oyster farm, open to visitors until the end of September.. Learn about the region's oyster farming tradition, and get a half a dozen oysters in! Ivan's oyster beds are at the end of the Pointe de Toulvern, a coastal paradise that's worth seeing in its own right. Stop for a coffee at the picturesque small port of Saint-Goustan. Soak up the atmosphere of this medieval gem from one of the many pavement-cafés on the guays.







As you finally arrive in the charming and cheerful town of Vannes, book a food tour with Breizhtronomie to go off the beaten track. Meet local producers and taste some of the region's specialities, as you stroll around Vannes. Finally head south to the Rhuys peninsula for a helping of sightseeing along with a cheesy experience. After filling up on delicious locally-made cheese at Suscinio Cheese Farm, visit the Château de Suscinio, a 13th-century monument steeped in history and surrounded by marshes, woods and stunning seaside views.



# Brittany's Islands - The Local Way

These concentrates of biodiversity are best enjoyed when the summer crowds are gone, for a poetic and intimate atmosphere.

#### A garden on the water • Isle of Batz

Bathed by the English Channel, a 15-minute crossing from Roscoff, the island of Batz is full of coastal paths, fine sandy beaches, massive dunes and agrarian panoramas. The entire tour of the island can be done in half a day following the coastal path, bordered by around twenty beaches. Stroll around and breathe in the scent of the Georges Delaselle Exotic Garden. This botanical concentrate is a journey from California to Asia, from Australia to Chile via southern Africa, with over 2000 species reported by long-distance captains. At La Cassonade, a fisherman's house and creperie, you can enjoy lobster stews, crab, kig ha farz, buckwheat pancakes and organic vegetables. We don't leave without the flagship product: potatoes from the island of Batz which are exported internationally!

STAY AT Les Herbes Folles • www.hotel-iledebatz.com





#### The fishermen' land • Isle of Sein

Forget the car! Situated at the edge of the ocean, between coves and ridges of pebbles, the island benefits from incredibly rich fauna and flora. Over time the moor has been shaped by winds and tides. Coastal fishing still exists there: anglers fish for bass and pollack in these waters. The marine farm 'Les coquillages de l'île de Sein', the only oyster farming activity on the island, now opens its doors for visits and tasting, in addition to direct sales from a fisherman's cabin. From the end of August to mid-November, grab your binoculars to observe migratory birds coming from America and Siberia. In winter, we admire the storms that rage over Pointe du Raz and the lighthouses. We can't leave without tasting the local lobster stew, unmissable and best served on the island.

FIND OUT MORE https://bit.ly/Sail-away-to-Sein

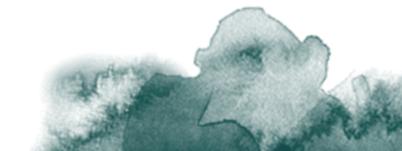


#### **Art-de-vivre & island life •** Belle-Ile-en-Mer

12 km from Quiberon, Belle-Île-en-Mer, the largest Breton island, offers a jagged coastline between a succession of beaches, secret coves, points and cliffs. We meet the island's beekeepers, we indulge in wild plant cosmetic workshops, we ride along the coast on horseback, we are pampered at the spa Castel Clara Hotel & Spa, we wander through the busy Friday farmers markets. In the kingdom of slow food, we delight in local flavours, ultrafresh shellfish, including the famous thumb-foot, "lamb from the sea", "beef from the sea spray" or krassens, salty fritters cooked in a sauce. In October, don't miss the 'Presqu'île Breizh Festival', a Celtic festival which brings together 800 dancers and bell ringers.

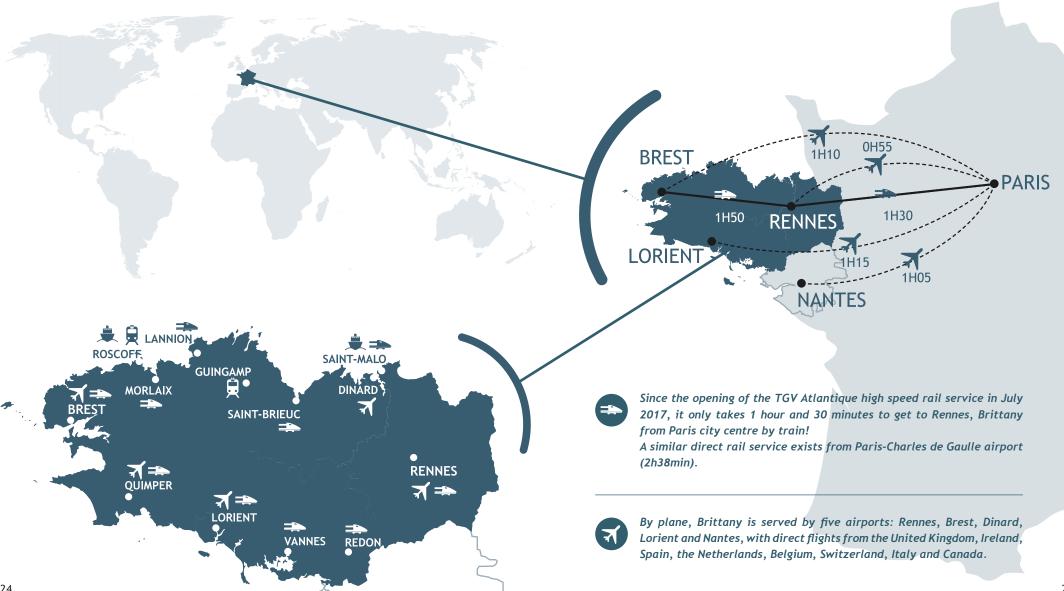
STAY AT

Hôtel Le Grand Large • www.hotelgrandlarge.com https://bit.ly/Prolong-Summer-on-Brittany-islands





# **Getting to Brittany**



**NANTES** 

# Easy access by ferry, train or plane



# By ferry

If you live in the UK or Ireland, simply hop on the ferry and a few hours' later you'll be in Brittany.

Our beautiful part of France boasts two ferry ports linking us to Portsmouth and Plymouth in the UK, and Cork in Ireland.

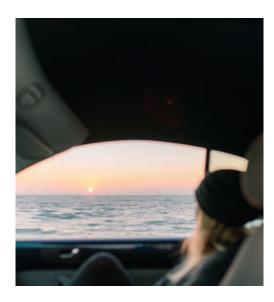
You can travel in the comfort of your own car and enjoy lots of space and fresh air once on board! If you're a cycling enthusiast, you can take your bike too.



# By car

Situated in the far west of France, Brittany is easily accessible from the Channel ports or from elsewhere in France.

There are two main motorway routes that head towards Brittany and as soon as you reach the region, road transport is made up of a network of dual carriageways which are free to travel on.





#### By train

From London, visitors from the UK can get to the Gare du Nord in Paris in 2 hours 20 minutes by Eurostar.

Then, to continue their journey, Brittany has an excellent rail service from Paris aboard the TGV Atlantique high speed train.

FIND OUT MORE + www.eurostar.com | www.en.oui.sncf





## By boat

From	То	Ferry operator	? Find out more
Cork	Roscoff	Brittany Ferries	+ www.brittanyferries.com
Portsmouth	St-Malo	Brittany Ferries	+ www.brittanyferries.com
Plymouth	Roscoff	Brittany Ferries	+ www.brittanyferries.com
Poole, Jersey, Guernsey	St-Malo	Condor Ferries	+ www.condorferries.co.uk



# By plane

From	То	Airline	<b>?</b> Find out more
Birmingham	Nantes	Easyjet	+ www.easyjet.com
Bristol	Nantes	Easyjet	<b>+</b> www.easyjet.com
Dublin	Nantes	Aer Lingus	+ www.aerlingus.com
	Nantes	Ryanair	<b>+</b> www.ryanair.com
Edinburgh	Nantes	Ryanair	+ www.ryanair.com
London Gatwick	Rennes	Easyjet	<b>+</b> www.easyjet.com
	Nantes	Easyjet	<b>+</b> www.easyjet.com
London Stansted	Nantes	Ryanair	
Manchester	Nantes	Ryanair	+ www.ryanair.com

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