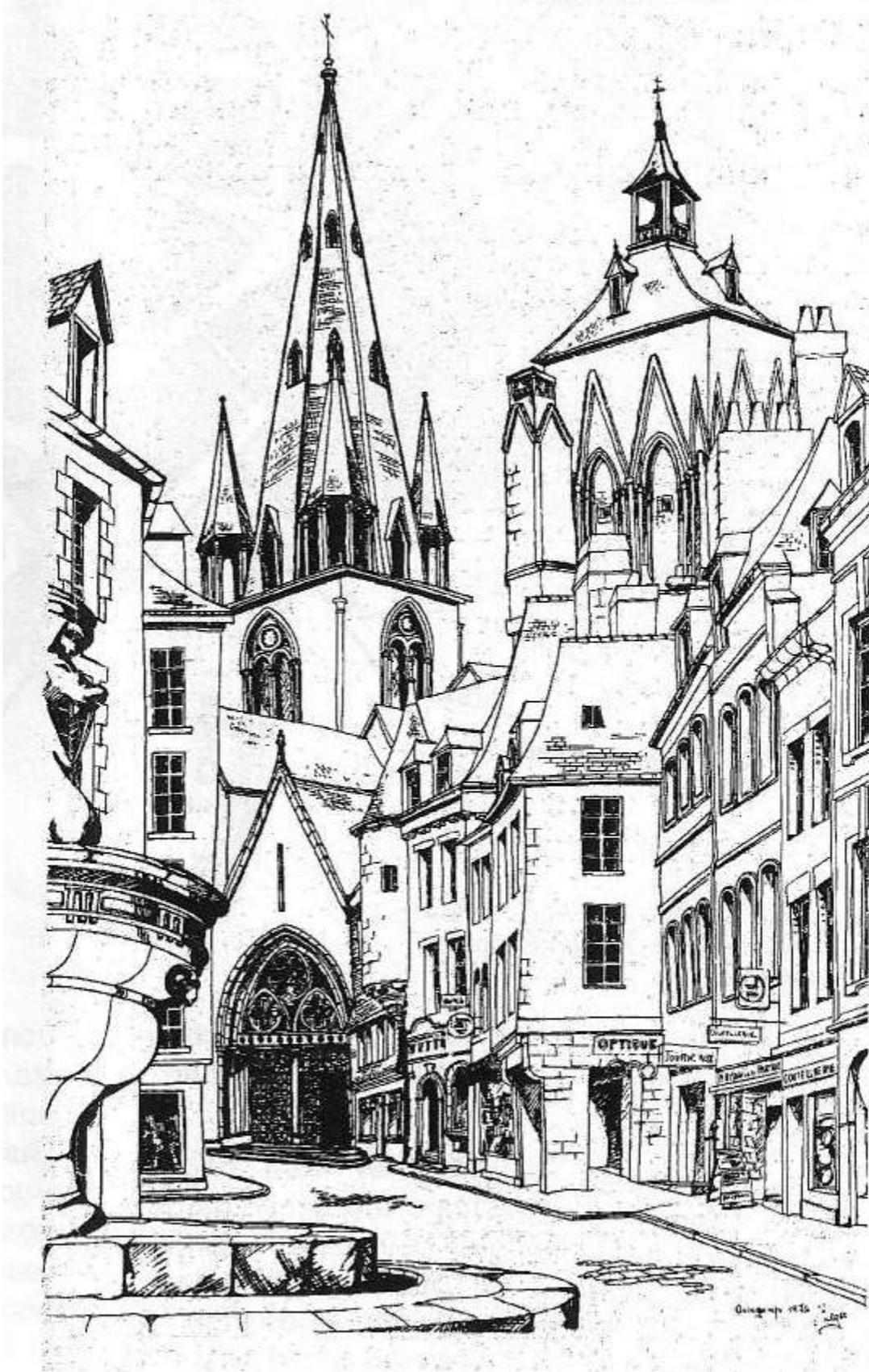
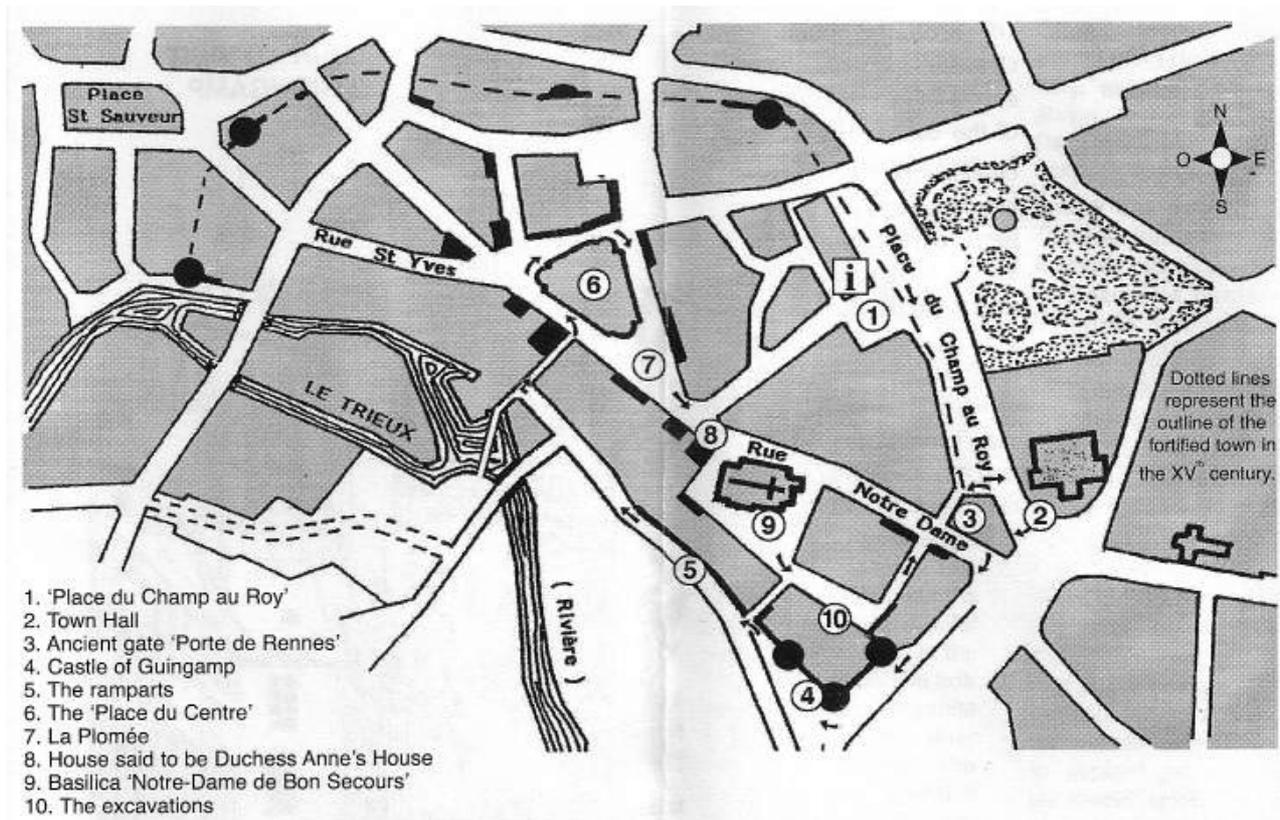


Tour to visit Guingamp



Office de Tourisme – Place du Champ au Roy - 22200 GUINGAMP



1- When leaving the Tourist Office, go to 'place du Champ au Roy' along which the ramparts were once erected. The name of the square comes from a game which occurred in the 15th century : 'le jeu du Papegault' or 'jeu du Papegay'. Pierre II, count of Guingamp, introduced this game in order to get the militia to practice archery or crossbow. When a good shot hit the target which was placed on top of the ramparts, he became a privileged man and was nicknamed the king (roy) of the archers. That's what the square's name refers to.

Notice in front of this square the public garden laid out in 1913. A wonderful bandstand is located inside and dates from the beginning of the 20th century. It is the last remaining in Côtes d'Armor.

2- The town hall is located towards the end of the square, on the other side of the street. This ancient monastery had been built from 1699 to 1709 with the stones coming from the pulling down of Guingamp's castle.

Successively, it was a hospital until 1910, then a secondary school for boys and became the town hall in 1970. Its long frontage is wreathed with curvilinear pediment windows. At the centre, the façade of the ancient chapel presents an Italian style decoration. Inside, a part of the ancient cloister remains. The chapel became a showroom.

3- From the 'Place du Champ au Roy', follow the 'Venelle du Champ au Roy'. You will find yourself close to the site of the ancient gate : 'Porte de Rennes', it was once composed of two towers ahead of a demi-lune and a draw-bridge from the XVIth to the XIXth century.

4- Go to 'rue Notre-Dame' and walk down along the 'rue du Vally' up to the castle. From the Xth to the XVth century, Guingamp had on its motte three castles built successively. The oldest, a simple wooden tower made part of the line of defence against the Viking's invasions. The lord of Penthièvre had a second castle built replacing the older one. It was first surrounded with boardings and later on, with high walls. The last castle was erected on the ruins of the latter and adapted for artillery. It was composed of thick walls - 3,50-metres wide -, towers, two rows of gunboats and a few openings. In 1626, Richelieu dishonored the castle so as to punish the rebellion against the royal authority of the Duke of Penthièvre, César de Vendôme. Ever after, the towers were planed down to the rampart's height.

5- Go down the steps where remains the last feudal door (XVIIIth century). Along the 'rue du Grand Trotrieux', you will see on your right the ramparts dating from the XIVth century. These ramparts were three metres thick and surmounted by a line of crenels and machicolations. Four gates and a postern were placed on the surround while six towers reinforced the ramparts here and there. This street used to shelter mills, tanneries and wash houses.

You could walk along the riverside of the Trieux from this area (ask for information at the Tourist Office).

6- Go up through the 'Venelle du Moulin de la Ville', a typically medieval alley. Before being remodeled in the XVIIIth century, on the 'Place du Centre' there was the town hall, the ancient covered market and public trials also took place there. Five centuries of town planning appear in front of you.

- One of the most beautiful corbelled construction at n°31 dates back to the XVth century.
- In the yard of the house n°42 is located the most magnificent renaissance door of Guingamp.
- Since the XVIIIth century, the imposing monument of the court shows its austere façade.
- In the XVIIIth century, the lintels of the windows curved so as to get more light.
- In the XVIth century ochred granite and four sides roof appeared like in the house n°14.
- In the XIXth and XXth century, grey granite was rather used as you can see on houses n° 30 and 32.
- The central esplanade is bordered with low rounded walls in the shape of a medallion Louis XV.

You can complete your visit by going to the towers 'Traouzac'h' and 'St Sauveur', vestiges of the fortified town that you'll get back to from the 'rue Saint-Yves'.



7- In the square, the 'Plomée' stands on. This Renaissance fountain is composed of three circular basins, superposed in the shape of a cone. The bottom basin made of granite supports the two other basins made of lead. The name of the fountain might come from the breton word 'Plommenn' which means 'piece of lead'. The basins are held up thanks to griffins, nymphs, winged water and decorated with masks, fishes and head of cherubs. It is topped by Virgin Mary treading on a snake and the crescent moon. For six centuries, it supplied the town with water.

8- Go up through the semi-pedestrian street. On your right, the house with a turret is said to be the Duchess Anne's House. Once, there was her armorial bearings above the door. Renaissance motifs of its frontage dates from the end of the XVIth century. The door is framed with an ancient decoration.

9- The basilica was built from the XIth to the XVIth centuries. It attests the evolution of styles and shelters a holy black virgin venerated since the XIVth century. The roman church was replaced by a gothic construction in the late XIIIth century. From the roman style, only the four pillars holding up the transept remains. The latter was reinforced in order to support the imposing pyramidal spire. The big nave, the towers, the gate in the west, Notre-Dame oratory in the north and the centre backed on to a flat chevet were erected. Two porches could be open on both sides of the transept. The north and south-east frontage incarnate the High gothic (XIIIth – XIVth). In the XVth century, the church extended towards the east. A polygonal apse was built; the windows' style reveals the flamboyant gothic. In the XVIth century, the south western part collapsed.

The reconstruction was initiated by Jean Le Moal, architect who created a school working on Renaissance style. This part shows the frieze of masks, pilasters and the exuberant decoration of the western gate with busts dressed as it used to be at that time. Since the XIVth century, the church became a famous marian sanctuary. It attracts many pilgrims in the first days of july for the religious festival called 'le Pardon de Notre-Dame'.



10 - Go up to 'Place du Château' and have a look on the latest excavations of the castle. The motte dating from the XIth century was cleared. It must have been a low platform set up with a system of terrace on different levels. The excavations also made appear the fourth tower of the castle. From the 'Venelle de l'Enfer', typically medieval, follow once more the 'Venelle du Champ au Roy'.



Enfeu of Rolland de Coatgourheden, senechal of Charles de Blois