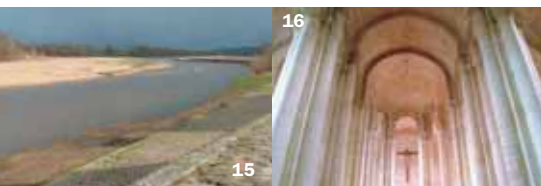


continue straight on in the Rue J.L. Rapado. The **Tour de Trèves** 13 will gradually come into view. This tower is over 30m high and is divided into six floors. At the foot of the tower you will discover the **church of Saint Aubin** 14, one of the two priory churches in the village. Follow the rue d'Engien around the church and back to the Loire.



The Loire was long an important shipping route, as is attested by the presence of numerous boat slips, such as that at the **Cunault boat landing** 15. The blocks of limestone extracted by the stonemasons were transported by barge. Cross the main road and discover the **Notre-Dame priory church** 16. Opposite the main door stands an admirable Renaissance-style dwelling, the **Logis du Prieur** 17, or prior's house. Climb the rue du Cadran to the ruins of the **church of Saint-Maxenceul** 18. This disciple of Saint Martin is said to have evangelized the area in the 4th C. and to have established a small monastery.



Leaving the cemetery, continue the road, turning right at the intersection and return to the church. In the rue Notre-Dame on your left stands the "jeu de boule de fort", a local cross between bowling and pétanque. The main gate (17th C.) you see at the entrance of the castle of Cunault (19th C.) belonged to the former priory. Finally, take the ruelle Dupuy Charlemagne, on your right, and return to the Loire.



CHÊNEHUTTE-TRÈVES-CUNAUT
Overall view with location of points 8 - 9 situated between Chênehutte and Trèves

Starting point
Tourist information interactive terminal (Chênehutte)
Information tourist point (Cunault, opened July-August)

Pre-historic occupation of the sites is attested by numerous archaeological remains. On the hillside, the Roman road ran from Angers to Saumur. The Gallo-Roman settlements were supplanted in the 11th and 12th C. by fortresses, priories and parish churches, completed or renovated over the following centuries. Cunault grew up around its rich Benedictine priory. Trèves, overlooked by its fortress, was a toll port and the site of periodical large fairs. Chênehutte made its living from the quarries that produced the limestone, known as tuffeau, used in local construction but also shipped out on the boats known as gabares. Shipping on the Loire reached its height in the 18th C. and under the first Empire; many of the inhabitants of the villages were bargemen. But transport by waterway plummeted with the arrival of the railroad. In the mid 20th C., the quarries were used to produce the mushrooms known as "champignons de Paris", an industry that in its turn provided work for many of the villagers.



Information / visits

- Gennois Tourist Office**
Tel. 02 41 51 84 14 ~ ot-gennois@wanadoo.fr
- Tourist information interactive terminal 24h/24**
Chênehutte, place du Pont Pouillet
- Information tourist point (july-august)**
10, rue Notre-Dame ~ 49350 Cunault
Tel. 02 41 67 92 55
- Group guided tours on request**
Information tourist point of Cunault, otherwise Mairie of Chênehutte
- Mairie (Town Hall)**
22, rue des Ducs d'Anjou ~ Tel. 02 41 67 90 49
chenehutte.trèves.cunault@wanadoo.fr
www.chenehutte-trèves-cunault.fr
- Communauté de Communes du Gennois**
Tel. 02 41 38 08 57
http://www.cc-gennois.fr



The "**Petites Cités de Caractère**" distinction is awarded to the little towns and villages in our region that have a remarkable architectural and natural Heritage, and meet the essential criteria when it comes to welcoming their visitors. As a guarantee for quality, this label urges the communes belonging to the network to keep on improving the emphasis placed on their attractions through restoration, promotion and activities. The Petites Cités de Caractère of the Pays de la Loire present a wide range of historical authenticity and are a reflection of the geographical territory to which they belong to.

Petites Cités de Caractère des Pays de la Loire

Les Petites Cités de Caractère en Maine-et-Loire



Association des Petites Cités de Caractère de Maine-et-Loire
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teatime 06 72 66 49 71 - juin 2010. Photos : Mairie de Chênehutte-Trèves-Cunault, E. Pierre / Romanes.com

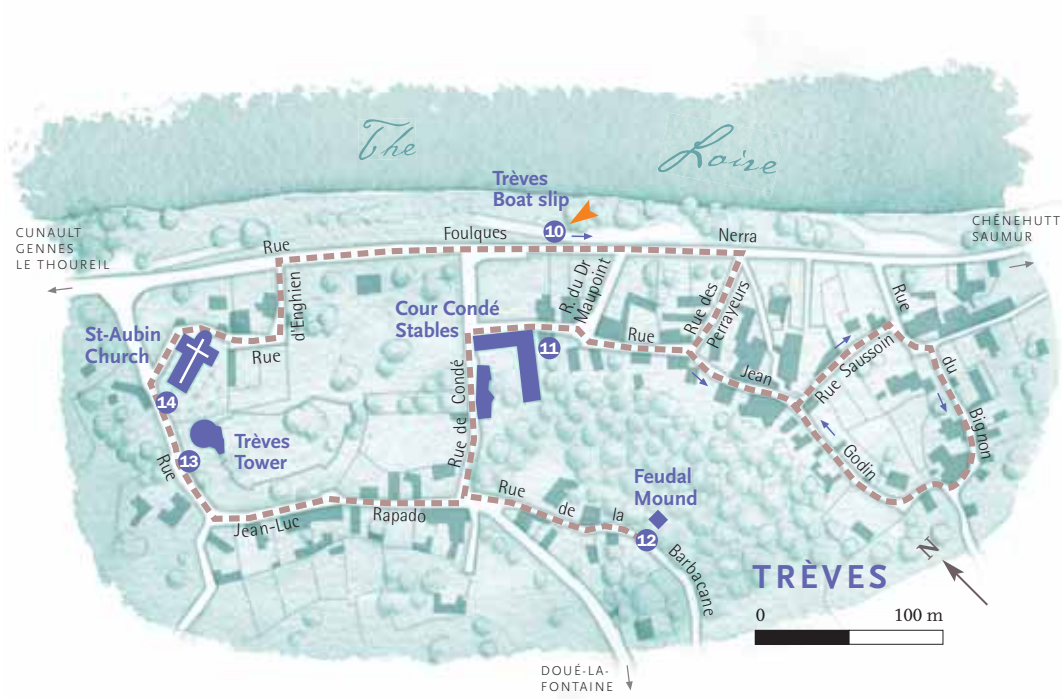
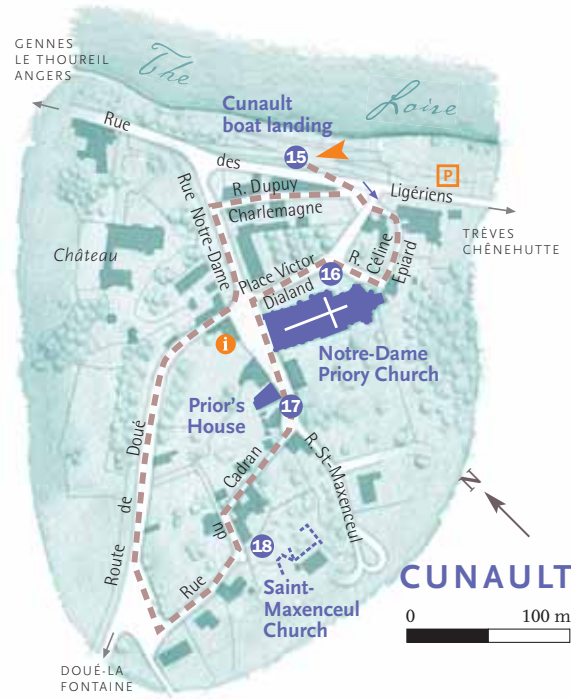


Chênehutte Trèves-Cunault

Petite Cité de Caractère en Maine-et-Loire



ON THIS WALK, THE VISITOR WILL DISCOVER AN EXCEPTIONAL ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE THAT ATTESTS TO THE DIFFERENT PERIODS AND SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF LOIRE VALLEY, IN PARTICULAR STONE QUARRYING AND RIVER SHIPPING, WHICH HAVE GIVEN THE REGION ITS SPECIFIC CHARACTER.



Starting point : The boat slip at the Tuffeaux landing 1 is emblematic of this village once populated by bargemen

(mariniers). Shipping on the Loire reached its height in the early 19th C., only to go into decline with the arrival of the railroad. Cross the road and turn left into the chemin du Chatelier, a path typical of villages on the Loire. Then walk down the ruelle de la Cave Forte. Turn right and continue the road for 10m along the small stream, known as the "Ru d'Enfer". Take the path on the right, which leads around the magnificent Renaissance-style manor de

Grissay and its gardens. Formerly a chapel, this 13th-C. edifice was remodelled in the 16th C. Continue on the left to the road. Turn right and carry on to the **Fanum** 2, or temple, situated next to the school. Walk back down the road and take the impasse de la Marquerie, a 16th-C. dwelling. Follow the steep path up the hill. At the fork, turn left. You are now on the Gallo-Roman raised road. Carry on 150m to the clearing, where you will see the remains of



the Gallo-Roman dwelling, **La Fourchardière** 3. Return to the intersection and turn left. After a few meters you will see, on the right-hand side, the remains of a 19th-C. **windmill** built over a cellar 4 (for your safety, do not climb on the ruins.) Go up the three steps on the right. In the field below once stood a vast oppidum, or Gallo-Roman village. Return along the path, keeping to the right until you come to the graveyard and turn right. On your left are the **Priory** 5 and the remains of the church of Saint Pierre. Until 1790 Chênehutte and Les Tuffeaux were two distinct



parishes, which explains the presence of two churches: Saint-Pierre for Chênehutte and Notre-Dame for Les Tuffeaux. Continue on to the calvary and admire the **view** 6. Then carry on down to the church, **Notre-Dame de la Prée des Tuffeaux** 7, which takes its name from the meadows (prés) that once lined the river. The church contains two wooden ex-votos, one presented by the stonemasons (perrayeurs) and the other by the bargemen,



Perrayeurs. Climb the ramp and turn left into the rue J. Godin. Note the façade of the former convent of La Fidélité. Walk down the rue Sausoin and turn right up the rue du Bignon. At the fork, take the rue Godin once again and note as you go the cave dwellings. Carry on to the end of the road, where you will see the **stables of the Cour Condé** 11. Climb the rue de Condé and then turn left into the rue de la Barbacane to the **feudal mound** 12. Walk back and

a testimony to the principal old activities of the commune. To the right follow the rue des Bateliers and return to the boat slip. At Saint-Jean, 1.5 km in the direction of Gennes, stands a small, 18th-C. oratory, a gift from the bargemen. It bears the heights of earlier floods and once stood closer to the water. Cross the main road and take the rue A. Sarazin to the **Hermitage de Saint-Jean** 8. At Préban, you will pass in front of La Colombière, today the Musée **G. Pimienta** 9. The sculptor of classical tradition (1888-1982) worked there for 35 years. He is buried in the Trêves graveyard beside the Marquise of Narros, his muse and patroness. The Loire boasts an exceptionally rich fauna and flora, which can be glimpsed from the **boat slip at**

Trêves 10. Turn left and take the rue des

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- Historical heritage itinerary
- Starting point
- Historical heritage marker
- Tourist information interactive terminal or Tourist information Point
- Parking
- View point