

Carnac Scenic Drive

Carnac Alignments | Carnac-Plage | La Trinité-sur-Mer | Quiberon Peninsula | Locmariaquer

Route	Carnac alignments, the coast, Quiberon and Locmariaquer
Distance	About 40 miles (65 km)
Driving time	About 1h30, allow a full day with stops and a walk
Nearest airport	Nantes (NTE), about 1 hour 40
Roads	Toll-free throughout, Quiberon road busy in summer
Best time	May to September, and golden hour at the stones
Car hire from	£20 a day in the quiet season

The Route, Stop by Stop

1. Carnac Alignments (4 miles / 9 min to La Trinité)

Over 3,000 standing stones in the Ménéac, Kermario and Kerlescan rows, 7,000 years old. Maison des Mégalithes visitor centre; Saint-Michel tumulus. Park at the centre, allow 1-2 hrs.

2. Carnac-Plage (short hop to La Trinité)

The elegant beach resort: promenade, pines and five sandy beaches on the sheltered bay. Calm water, good for families. Park near the Grande Plage.

3. La Trinité-sur-Mer (about 20 min to Quiberon)

The famous sailing port, home of the maxi-trimarans. Lively quay, seafood, oyster beds. Best lunch stop. Park near the port.

4. Quiberon Peninsula (18 min back to Carnac area)

Nine miles into the Atlantic. The wild Côte Sauvage on the West (cliffs, surf, NO swimming), sandy beaches East, Quiberon town and Belle-Île ferry at the tip. Park at the Côte Sauvage viewpoints.

5. Locmariaquer (17 min / 14 km from Carnac)

The Grand Menhir Brisé, the largest standing stone ever raised (once 20m, 330 tonnes), and the Table des Marchand dolmen. Oyster village. Park at the megaliths site.

The Neolithic Pairing

Carnac and Locmariaquer together form the richest concentration of megalithic monuments in the world. Most visitors see only the Carnac rows, but the Grand Menhir Brisé at Locmariaquer, just 17 minutes away, is the largest standing stone ever raised anywhere. Seen together, the two sites complete the story.

Where to Eat

La Trinité-sur-Mer: the quay, for oysters and the day's catch by the water.

Carnac & Carnac-Plage: creperies and seafood brasseries.

Quiberon: seafood, and famous niniches (long lollipops).

Local specialities: gulf oysters, galettes, cider, kouign-amann.

Note: many kitchens close between about 2pm and 7pm. Time your lunch.

Driving Tips

Drive on the right. Roads are toll-free. The single road down the Quiberon peninsula jams badly in July and August, so do the peninsula early or out of season, or use the park-and-ride and the Tire-Bouchon train from Auray. Limits: 50 km/h in towns, 80 km/h rural, 110 km/h dual carriageways, lower in the wet. Watch for priorite a droite. Parking at the alignments, beaches and Quiberon is paid and fills early. On the Côte Sauvage the surf is dangerous, so do not swim.

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