

Emerald Coast Scenic Drive

Cancale | Saint-Malo | Dinard | Cap Fréhel | Fort La Latte | Dinan

Route	Cancale to Dinan, via the Emerald Coast
Distance	About 65 miles (105 km)
Driving time	About 2 hours 15 minutes, allow a full day
Nearest airport	Rennes (RNS), about 1 hour from Cancale
Roads	Toll-free throughout
Best time	May to September
Car hire from	£20 a day in the quiet season

The Route, Stop by Stop

1. Cancale (9 miles / 16 min to Saint-Malo)

Oyster capital of Brittany. Buy a dozen at the Marche aux Huitres beside the harbour and eat them on the sea wall. Arrive before 11am for the market at its best. **Parking:** main harbour car park.

2. Saint-Malo (About 8 miles / 20 min to Dinard)

The walled corsair city. Walk the ramparts (40 minutes) and cross to Fort National and Grand Be at low tide. **Check the tide times before you arrive.** **Parking:** Paul Feval or Esplanade Saint-Vincent, outside the walls.

3. Dinard (19 miles / 35 min to Cap Fréhel)

Belle Epoque villas and striped beach tents. Walk the Promenade du Clair de Lune or the Lawrence of Arabia circuit. Saturday market is one of Brittany's best. **Parking:** near Plage de l'Ecluse.

4. Cap Fréhel (4 km / 8 min to Fort La Latte)

Pink sandstone cliffs falling 70m to the sea, heather moorland and a seabird reserve. Climb the lighthouse for a 360 panorama. On a clear day you can see Jersey. **Parking:** main car park, fills by mid-morning in summer.

5. Fort La Latte (26 miles / 44 min to Dinan)

A 14th century fortress on its own headland, reached by drawbridge. Ten-minute walk from the car park through pine woods. Modest entry fee, thoroughly worth it.

6. Dinan (End of the loop)

Medieval finale: 3 km of ramparts, half-timbered houses and the steep Rue du Jerzual down to the old river port. Creperies and galleries the whole way.

Where to Eat

Cancale: oysters from the market stalls, eaten on the sea wall.

Saint-Malo: galettes (savoury buckwheat pancakes) with Breton cider. Kouign-amann pastry and Bordier butter are both worth seeking out.

Dinard: seafood platters on the seafront.

Dinan: creperies along the Rue du Jerzual.

Note: many smaller restaurants close between about 2pm and 7pm. Plan your lunch stop.

Driving Tips

Drive on the right. Roads are toll-free throughout and well surfaced, but lanes near Cap Fréhel and Fort La Latte are narrow, so a small car helps. Limits: 50 km/h in towns, 80 km/h on rural roads, 110 km/h on dual carriageways, lower in the wet. Watch for *priorité à droite* at smaller junctions. Parking is paid but inexpensive at every major stop, and car parks fill early on summer weekends. An early start is the single best thing you can do.

Compare cheap car hire in Brittany from £20 a day at getcarhire.com/brittany.htm | Guide by the Digitalhound.co.uk editorial team. Drive times verified via Rome2Rio.