

Pointe du Raz Scenic Drive

Audierne | Pointe du Raz | Baie des Trépassés | Pointe du Van | Pont-Croix

Route	Audierne around the Cap Sizun to Pont-Croix
Distance	About 40 miles (65 km)
Driving time	About 1 hour 15, allow a full day with stops and a walk
Nearest airport	Brest (BES), about 1 hour to Audierne
Roads	Toll-free throughout
Best time	Late spring to early autumn, and sunset at the point
Car hire from	£20 a day in the quiet season

The Route, Stop by Stop

1. Audierne (7 miles / 12 min to Pointe du Raz)

The fishing port and base for the Cap. Quayside seafood, Sainte-Évette beach, the Aquashow, and boats to the Île de Sein. Park along the quay.

2. Pointe du Raz (2 miles / 5 min to Baie des Trépassés)

France's mythic land's end, a 72m prow over the Raz de Sein. 20-min walk from the car park. Statue of Notre-Dame-des-Naufragés, La Vieille lighthouse offshore. Paid car park, fills early.

3. Baie des Trépassés (2 miles / 6 min to Pointe du Van)

The wild Bay of the Dead, a broad surf beach between the two headlands. Strong currents, so no swimming. Parking behind the beach.

4. Pointe du Van (10 miles / 18 min to Pont-Croix)

The quieter, gentler headland with the Chapelle Saint-They and the best view of the Pointe du Raz. Far fewer crowds. Park at the road's end.

5. Pont-Croix (4 miles / 7 min back to Audierne)

The medieval finale: stepped cobbled streets and the great church of Notre-Dame-de-Roscudon, whose spire inspired Quimper cathedral. Park in the town.

The Best Walk

The GR34 coastal path runs right around the Cap Sizun. The walk out to the Pointe du Raz from the car park takes about 20 minutes over the heath. For fewer crowds and the finest view of the point, cross to the Pointe du Van and walk out to the Chapelle Saint-They, the insider highlight of the cape.

Where to Eat

Audierne: quayside restaurants with superb langoustines, lobster and a plateau de fruits de mer.

Pont-Croix: creperies and cafes in the old town.

Out on the cape, options are limited to convenience cafes, so eat at Audierne or Pont-Croix.

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

Driving Tips

Drive on the right. Roads are toll-free but narrow towards the headlands, so a small car helps. Limits: 50 km/h in towns, 80 km/h rural, 110 km/h dual carriageways, lower in the wet. Watch for priorite a droite. The Pointe du Raz car park is large and paid, with the final approach on foot; it fills early in summer. This is one of the windiest, most exposed places in France, so take windproof and waterproof layers and shoes with grip, and keep well back from the unfenced cliff edges.

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