

F. Hostel Montgomery

This hotel was once the home of the Earls of Montgomery who settled there after its construction in 1528. Rebuilt in the eighteenth century, it still retain within its walls many original features such as wooden floors and its staircase. In one of the rooms, stands amidst this untouched scenery, a majestic four-poster bed that is believed to have never left this house since its installation in the sixteenth century. In 1850, the house was transformed into a hotel that is still in operation today.

G. Séquoia

The Sequoia, which proudly stands on the car park is nearly 350 years old. It was imported by the citizens of Pontorson in the XIXth century. It has been classified as a "remarkable tree" by the CAUE of the Manche.

H. Road of Douves

On November 1793, the Vendéans who were defeated at Granville head back to Pontorson. They are victorious of the republican general Tribout and his 4 000 men.

I. Water cistern

Curiosity of the town, this cistern which was built around 1900 has a misleading appearance as it is not made of wood but of reinforced carved concrete. Located on the side of the servants' quarters buildings, it is topped with a roof that can remind you of kiosks while its decor is inspired by the flora. Under the tank, you can still see a rockery set in a small pond from which sprang waters in the old days.

Glossary

The Vendee War (1793) is a French Revolution in full conflict between the Revolutionary Republicans now (called the Blues and the Sans-Culottes) and Royalists (called white). After the defeat in Cholet, Whites go into the "virée de Galerne" to try to find an English help but fail at the gates of Granville ... They then repent.

An Altarpiece is a carved or painted decoration behind the altar of the church or near thereof.

The Religious Wars started in 1562. Charles IX then began his reign after the death of his father, Henry II murdered by Gabriel, count of Montgomery whose castle is located in Ducey. His family home is also located in Pontorson at the F of the visit. The Wars of Religion then oppose the Protestants and Catholics. The conflict officially ended in 1598 by the Edict of Nantes: the Protestants are tolerated in the kingdom of the Protestant king converted to Catholicism, Henry IV.

Practical informations:

The Montgomery Hotel, the cistern, The Roman House and the Protestant temple are private buildings. They are not opened to the public.

Mass schedules at the church :

- Saturday at 6:00 pm
- Sunday at 10:30 am

Historic Tour Pontorson

2 km – 1 hour



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DESTINATION
MONT SAINT-MICHEL NORMANDIE

les vacances de ma vie !

A. Le Boulevard Clémenceau

Let's be imaginative to tour Pontorson. Here once stood the walls of the castle of Pontorson that was destroyed in the XVIIth Century, under the reign of Louis XIII.



C. Church

William the Conqueror vowed to have a church erected in Pontorson. Notre Dame was built by the companions who erected the Abbey of Mont Saint Michel. Of Romanesque and Gothic transition, it is characterized by the massive aspect of its construction : its west façade is punctuated by two Romanesque towers. The décor of the carved stones are very sober. On the arches of the entrance portal, you can see beautiful Romanesque decorations. Inside the church there is an altarpiece* (late XVth Century) carved in the very famous Caen stone and depicting the life of Christ. The altarpiece was damaged during Wars of Religion (1562-1598) and the French Revolution (1789-1799).

D. « Maison romane » (house)

Probably built in the XIIth century, the home Guiscard de la Ménardière called "Maison Romane " was modified over time leaving a lot of questions as to its origins unanswered. Its facade arcades looks like an installation of commercial stalls, the building could also have housed the old Hotel-Dieu. Its facade has however kept its unity and, remarkably preserved, the house is now a beautiful testimony of the medieval period of the ancient fortress.

E. Protestant temple

This building is a testimony of an important part of the history of Pontorson, that of Protestantism and the Wars of Religion*. It is the only protestant building the Manche prior to the Edict of Nantes (1598). Protestantism was established in Pontorson in 1590 under the leadership of the Count of Montgomery. Eight years later, Protestantism was to be tolerated in France by the Edict of Nantes under the reign of Henry IV (1589 -1610). It is very likely that this building is a reuse of an existing building. Its architecture and its proximity to the church could signficatate an old tithe barn.

B. Public garden

The first bridge was probably built around 1030 by a captain named Orson. Commissioned by the Duke of Normandy Robert the Magnificent, father of William the Conqueror (1027-1087), Orson founded a city on the banks of the river Couesnon. Pontorson was named after that Orson who built the bridge (pont in French).

