



Bandit Masters Golf Trip: Vannes 2011

- Sunday 18th September ferry: Portsmouth 20.15hrs - 08.15 St Malo.
- Saturday 24th September fast ferry: Caen 12.15hrs – 14.45 Portsmouth.
- Hotel: Comfort Marebaudiere, Vannes 4 nights, 4 twin rooms, B&B.
- Luddy wins the wooden putter.

Monday 13.00: Golf de St Laurent (Par 72, 6,701 yds)

This is one of the real hidden gems of North-West France. The pleasantly tree-lined fairways lead you to firm, fast and excellent greens, providing, that is, you miss the ever-present green-side bunkers - some of which are as big as the greens themselves. There are no weak holes on the course, although the first, a short par-4, may give you a slightly different impression. By the time you get to the long par-4 3rd, you'll be well aware that your A-game is needed to score well on this excellent championship course, set as it is among some splendid rural countryside and impressive mature woodland.



Tuesday 11.28: Golf de la Bretesche (Par 72, 6,578 yds)

Towering pines and oak trees create tight-ish corridor-like fairways here in the sumptuous woodland setting of the even more sumptuous Chateau de la Bretesche. The Chateau, providing a backdrop for the 9th and 18th holes, is a definitive towers-and-turrets grand chateau, surrounded by a deep and dark moat. All very spectacular ! The golf course is a very pleasant tree-lined affair, which requires precision over power, and which opens out a little, as it nears the Chateau. Beware the large greens, they can be quite quick. Also beware the trade-mark Bill Baker U-shaped hole. Here at La Bretesche it appears as the par-4 8th, and contains far too many degrees of bend for a single par-4.



Wednesday 11.30: Golf de Rhuys Kerver (Par 72, 6,550 yds)

As a well as a wealth of wildlife, including herons and egrets, and splendid sea views, there are plenty of attractive and well-designed holes to enjoy on this very well maintained, 6550-yard challenge. Comparatively flat and consequently easy to walk, Rhuys-Kerver has an abundance of water hazards obliging golfers on at least one occasion to hit over water off the tee and then clear a pond to reach the green. Although not especially difficult, as is often the case on the coast when the wind gets up, the scores go up as well. An extensive sprinkler system installed in 2004 has certainly helped to keep the fairways in great shape.



Thursday 11.30: Golf Ploemeur Ocean (Par 72, 6,111 yds)

Seaviews and a large sand quarry provide the somewhat mixed outlook at the start of this very seaside, holiday golf course. From the 11th to the 16th holes you are treated to wonderful by-the-ocean, links-style golf, which ranks alongside the links offerings of Scotland or Ireland. On the undulating front nine, the holes are quite tightly packed together - avoiding large areas of gorse bushes, as well as small lakes and streams will be your main concern. In contrast to the compactness of the opening holes, the back-nine takes you on a circumnavigation of the tiny village of Kerham, while providing the best of the sea views and the strongest holes. A busy and popular course that has a genuine seaside feel, even though its general layout and maintenance could take you a while to warm to.



Friday 11.28: Golf de la Bretesche (Par 72, 6,578 yds)

Maps & Distances

St Malo to Vannes:
112 miles, Google estimates 2h27m

Vannes to Caen Ouistreham:
193 miles, Google estimates 3h44m

Hotel Comfort, La Marebaudiere ***



4, rue Aristide Briand, Vannes, FR, 56 000

Phone: (33) 2 97 47 3429

Fax: (33) 2 97 54 1411

