

## **North Brittany & Channel Islands Cruising Companion**

**by Peter Cumberlidge**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*

**ALL UPDATES SINCE PUBLICATION (2013)**

**Updated May 2019**

### **CAUTION**

**These updates should only be used for navigation in conjunction with up-to-date charts, chart plotters and Notices to Mariners, etc. We accept no liability for any errors or omissions, or for any accidents or mishaps which may arise from the use of this (or any) update or the original publication.**

### **Chapter 1 PASSAGES TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AND NORTH BRITTANY**

#### **p. 26 Passage Chart**

Waypoint MC34 should actually be labelled MC02 on the chart.

Portland Bill appears to be a detached island on this chart, but of course there should be a causeway connecting it to the mainland just SW of Weymouth.

#### **p. 28 Mid-Channel passages chart**

Waypoint MC34 should actually be labelled MC02 on the chart.

Waypoints MC08 and MC14 should be labelled WC08 and WC14 respectively, as given in the July 2015 corrections.

The waypoint off Dartmouth entrance which is currently labelled MC08 should actually be labelled WC08.

#### **p. 29 Waypoints list**

Note that MC13, MC14 and MC15 are really part of the west channel set of waypoints, and the same positions appear in the page 32 list labelled as WC04, WC05 and WC06 respectively.

Note that MC28 to MC34 are really part of the east channel set of waypoints, and the same positions appear in the page 27 list labelled as follows: MC28/EC05, MC29/EC06, MC30/EC07, MC31/EC08, MC32/EC01, MC33/EC03, MC34/EC02.

#### **p. 31 West-Channel passages chart**

The waypoint off Dartmouth entrance which is currently labelled MC08 should actually be labelled WC08.

The waypoint itself is correct as tabulated and shown in the right position.

### **Chapter 2 THE CHANNEL ISLANDS GUERNSEY**

#### **p. 52 St Peter Port**

##### **St Peter Port pool, visitor pontoon**

*See new harbour plan at the end of these updates. (found on p6 of these updates)*

The long “Swan” visitor pontoons at the town end of St Peter Port pool are now connected to the shore in the summer months by a floating walkway to Victoria Pier. This has effectively turned these outer berths into a mini-marina and you no longer have to dinghy ashore or take a water taxi. These pontoons have water and electricity.

### **SARK**

#### **p. 68 Visitor moorings around Sark**



Several readers have asked me whether the visitor moorings around Sark are still maintained and safe to use. The answer is yes. There are about 17 yellow visitors buoys altogether, divided between Havre Gosselin on the west coast and La Grève de la Ville on the north-east. They are free of charge and carefully maintained by local diver Andy Leaman. You use these buoys at your own risk and, while free to visitors, donations to the Sark visitor centre (at the west end of the Avenue) are always appreciated.

## Chapter 4 ST MALO

### p. 129 Visitor's berths and Anchorages Bassin Vauban Marina renovations

The waypoints themselves are correct as tabulated and shown in the right positions.

The marina at the north end of St Malo's locked Bassin Vauban has been substantially extended and refurbished, with new wider pontoons and a larger facilities block with more showers and WCs. To my mind, this makes what is now called 'Port Vauban' by far the best place to berth in St Malo.

The outside marina at Port des Sablons has become a noisy place to stay overnight because of the continuous whining generator aboard the Condor fast ferry, which lies alongside right next to the marina basin. Several yachtsmen have reported to me that they no longer use Port des Sablons for this reason, and we don't berth there ourselves now.



New port layout at St Malo Port Vauban

### p.133 St Malo Port Guide, Restaurants at St Servan.

Unfortunately, my long-standing regular in St Servan – Restaurant l'Atré on Esplanade Menguy – has recently closed.

## THE RIVER RANCE

### p. 136 Plouër Marina

#### New scrubbing grid on the River Rance at Plouër

We have kept *Stormalong* in Brittany since 2008, and soon after we arrived a new French law came into force, causing some inconvenience. In January 2009 it became illegal for yachts to dry out in harbours, rivers or creeks and scrub off on the tide in the traditional way.

For years shellfish producers had been lobbying for legislation against anti-fouling pollution, perfectly reasonably considering the vital importance of mussels and oysters on French restaurant menus. Enjoying these treats ourselves we sympathised with the new law, but for a traditional yacht of a certain age it was a flipping nuisance. Now we would have to be lifted out for scrubbing and anti-fouling, never so kind to an elderly wooden hull as settling down against some sleepy quay up a sheltered river.

But in the spring of 2017 a new quayside scrubbing grid – *cale de carénage* – was opened right next to where we berth at Plouër-sur-Rance. Here, for a modest charge, you can dry out on the ebb and scrub off to your heart's content. All the nasty antifouling gunge drains into a sump and is pumped to a holding tank for collection and treatment. Water and electricity are on hand and the Restaurant de la Cale is just opposite. Available to any visiting yachts cruising in the St Malo area, the new facility is run by Plouër marina's helpful *surveillante de port* Liliane Faustin and her genial *adjoint* Thierry Baujard.



Scrubbing grid on the River Rance at Plouër.



**p. 137 Reaching Le Châtelier Lock**  
**New large-scale sketch chart for the upper Rance**  
*(Found on p7 of these updates)*

Cruising up the Rance between Plouër marina and Port du Lyvet is not difficult and the directions in the current edition of *North Brittany and Channel Islands Cruising Companion* still apply. However, this new sketch chart of the River Rance between Plouër and Le Châtelier lock should make this short passage simpler and clearer.

**ST CAST**

**p. 142 St Cast Restaurant Guide**

In St Cast, my favourite restaurant is now **Le Jardin Délice**, a block in from the seafront at 23 Boulevard Duponchel. The attractive covered terrace has a cool, soothing atmosphere. The cooking is creative and refined without being precious, and everything is home-made.



Tel: +33 (0)2.96.81.05.27, [www.restaurant-stcast-jardindelice.fr](http://www.restaurant-stcast-jardindelice.fr)

**ST CAST**

**p. 141 St Cast marina (opened 2009)**

Tucked beneath a sheltering headland, the snug 800-marina at St Cast is now a favourite port-of-call in the Gulf of St Malo. It opened a year after this edition was published and had taken quite a while in the planning, building and finishing. The final result is an undoubted success.

Accessible at any tide, the marina has a relaxed atmosphere of carefree summer holidays. You berth below a wooded headland of soft pines and secluded villas, looking south towards a golden beach and curving seafront. An attractive level promenade follows the shore from the marina into town, which has some good shops and plenty of cafés and bistros. The marina has excellent modern facilities, apart from the fuel berth which is

squeezed tightly into the north corner of the basin and is a bit of a pain.

Just above the marina you can join a spectacular cliff path and follow the coast west around the long drying Baie de la Fresnaye to a picture-book fortress on Pointe de la Latte and the commanding lighthouse on Cap Fréhel.

**Approach and entry**

The marina is close south of Pointe de St Cast in the north-west corner of Anse de St Cast, a glorious shallow bay shelving gradually towards the holiday beaches around St Cast seafront. Half a mile north-east of Pointe de St Cast, Les Bourdinots rocks dry 2m and are marked on their seaward side by an east-cardinal buoy.



Most yachts approaching St Cast enter the bay east of Les Bourdinots, heading for the substantial breakwater which curves south and south-west towards the marina entrance. Keeping just east of the breakwater and inside some moorings, you follow red and green buoys right round to the breakwater head and turn in to starboard. The visitors' berths are at the inner end of pontoon D, though you can also go alongside any of the hammerhead pontoons if there's room.

**At night:** The north elbow of the breakwater has a key light (IsoWG.4s.9/6M). Its white sectors keep you clear of Les Bourdinots and close in you leave the green light to starboard while heading down towards the flashing reds and greens of the approach channel buoys. Rounding up into the marina you leave the breakwater head light (Fl(3)G.12s.4M) close to starboard. Note that Les Bourdinots buoy is unlit and there is no light on Pointe de St Cast.

**BINIC**

**p. 148 Binic port de plaisance – new entrance gate**

A new, rather space-age looking bascule entrance gate has been installed at Binic inner basin, almost doubling the window of access for this attractive Brittany marina. This can make for a more relaxed start if, for example, you are leaving Binic in the morning to cruise north towards Île de Bréhat and Lézardrieux.

However, it is important to note that, when the gate opens and before it closes, a strong current runs through the marina entrance gap at up to 5 knots during spring tides. Outbound yachts should stay securely moored to their pontoon until this strong flow has settled down and it's safe to move. It is unwise to 'hover' near the gate, ready to dash through as soon as it opens!



#### p. 149 Binic Restaurant Guide

I'm sorry to say that what was once my favourite Binic restaurant, **À la Table de Margot** in Place de l'Église, has now closed.

#### p.159 Paimpol Port Guide, Restaurants



Crêperie Penn Ty is a tiny low-key crêperie hidden behind the harbour on the cobbled Rue des Huit Patriotes. Crêpes – pancakes – are an important part of the Breton culinary scene and savoury *galettes*, made from buckwheat flour (*blé noir*), make a delicious supper. At Penn Ty the *galettes* are wafer-thin with just the right crispiness. I usually choose a filling of Coquilles St Jacques in creamy leak sauce. Traditionally you drink Breton cider with *galettes* and a bottle of chilled Loïc Raison Brut is perfect with the scallops. Tel: +33 (0)2.96.55.11.41

#### ÎLE DE BRÉHAT

##### p. 168 La Chambre anchorage and Port du Guerzido

This attractive sheltered inlet on the south-east corner of Île de Bréhat has been effectively closed to visiting yachts. A discouraging notice to that effect is secured to the rocky spur which forms the west side of the entrance to this once very soothing anchorage. I suppose that La Chambre became so popular over the years that local residents decided to reclaim this snug natural harbour for their own moorings.



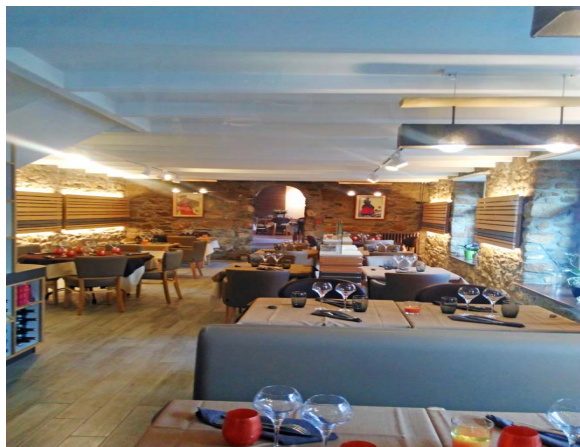
However, between springs and neaps you can anchor off the wide sandy bay just west of La Chambre and east of Men-Allan south-cardinal beacon, outside a string of yellow buoys protecting the swimming beach there. This attractive spot, called Port du Guerzido, is a pleasant lunchtime anchorage, especially as the tide falls away to expose more of the enclosing rocks. It is also fine overnight in quiet summer weather or moderate north-westerlies.

##### p. 172 Lézardrieux Port Guide, Restaurants

Up in Lézardrieux village, the Auberge du Trieux was the first Brittany restaurant I sampled on my first ever Brittany cruise, and it has stood the test of time under several owners. From Lézardrieux marina, walk up to the square and turn left at the end. Now



run by Dominique and Maudez Le Corre, the Auberge looks traditional outside, but the contemporary interior reflects its stylish cooking. A *Maître Restaurateur*, Maudez is one of the few chefs I know to use the French 'home-made' (*fait maison*) logo on his menus. Tel: +33 (0)2.96.20.10.70.



## PERROS-GUIREC

### p. 195 Perros-Guirec Restaurant Guide

Le Relais du Port and the Restaurant Le Levant are both closed. Up in the town centre in Place de l'Église, **La Crémaillère** is still in great form and remains my first choice in Perros-Guirec.



## Chapter 6 CÔTE DE GRANIT ROSE

### p. 186 Tréguier Port Guide, Restaurants

A first for us last season, the restaurant L'Abri des Barges is a peaceful rural retreat on the east bank of the Tréguier River near an old tide mill, 1.3 miles downstream from Tréguier marina. Sailing barges once lay alongside by the mill, but it's tricky getting to the restaurant by dinghy because the tides are never right both ways. However, L'Abri is only an hour's walk from the marina, over the bridge and through country lanes. Your reward will be fish of the day and fresh vegetables, impeccably cooked.



Closed on Tuesdays. Tel: +33 (0)2.96.40.04.04, [www.abridesbarges.com](http://www.abridesbarges.com)

Downstream at **La Roche Jaune**, Le Merle Moqueur is an off-piste gem for those who enjoy anchoring and running ashore by dinghy. Roche Jaune village is on the west side of the Tréguier River, two miles above La Corne lighthouse. Anchor downstream of the jetty, clear of the moorings. Neaps are best, when you can land at any time. From the quay stroll up the hill and turn right to Le Merle Moqueur – unassuming from the outside but delightfully welcoming within. Last season we enjoyed superlative pork cheek in cider sauce, a Breton classic. Tel: +33 (0)2.96.11.84.50



### p. 212 Trébeurden Port Guide, Restaurants

La Tourelle des Roches Blanches is a first-floor restaurant next to Trébeurden marina and the place to



go for lunch or dinner. Don't be misled by the stark frontage – just walk up the outside steps to the right of the ground floor café and step inside a comfortable spacious dining room with plenty of light. La Tourelle's excellent fish soup is home-made and I relished a succulent fillet of brill (*barbue*). This is also the place to splash out on a lightly roasted lobster (*homard rôti*). Tel: +33 (0)2.96.23.62.73

## Chapter 8 BAY OF MORLAIX

### Roscoff marina

#### p. 232 Morlaix Port Guide, Restaurants

La Marée Bleue, just below the viaduct on Rampe St Melaine, was usually my restaurant of choice in Morlaix. Now called Le Viaduc, I can confirm that it is still excellent. This quietly modern restaurant has traditional Breton roots and continues to hit the mark for a run ashore. The dining room has stone walls brightened by colourful abstract paintings and there's an atmosphere of assured competence. We tend to eat meat here rather than fish, and the duckling with cherry sauce is particularly yummy. You can get a luscious *mousse au chocolat* for dessert, one of my tests of a proper French chef.

Tel: +33 (0)2.98.63.24.21, [www.le-viaduc.com](http://www.le-viaduc.com)



#### p.235 Roscoff marina (opened 2012)

This new 625-berth all-tides marina was opened to visitors in 2012, though work on the shore facilities was still going on during 2013. The marina is just south of the Brittany Ferries terminal and 20mins stroll from Roscoff town. It will have full services, including a travel-hoist. The fuel berth is on the inside of the north wall.

For the nearest supermarket, climb the short hill from the marina, turn left *away from* Roscoff, then right along Rue Kerhoret for a quarter mile, then left just after a mini-roundabout onto Rue du Pontigou. You soon reach a Casino supermarket, whose friendly staff will deliver heavy bags of shopping back to the marina office.

### Approach and entry

You approach Roscoff marina by turning in past the Brittany Ferries jetty and then heading just south of west towards the marina's north entrance gap. Port traffic signal lights (on the ferry breakwater and just north of the marina entrance) control yacht and fishing boat movements if a ferry is about to enter or leave. *Do not* try to enter the marina through its wide south gap, which is littered with drying rocks.

A significant tidal stream runs north-south through the marina on the flood and south-north on the ebb. This stream is strongest near the visitors' berths at the end of pontoon B, so try to enter or leave the marina near slack water if possible, to make manoeuvring easier and safer.

**At night:** The Brittany Ferries breakwater head has a white approach sector leading in from the NNE (Fl.WG.4s.10/7M) and after you round the breakwater the marina entrance has obvious green and red lights – Fl(2)G and Fl(2)R. A lit N-cardinal buoy lies a cable ESE of the marina entrance.

### A strategic location

Boats crossing from the West Country now have Roscoff as a useful landfall, 90 miles from Salcombe entrance or 97 miles from Plymouth breakwater. But the new marina will be of strategic benefit to anyone cruising in North Brittany or working along this coast to get round into Biscay.

This far west end of the French Channel coast has always been rather bleak for passage-making. Even after Trébeurden marina was completed in the early 1990s, you still had a 45-mile haul west past quite a remote stretch to reach the next snug haven at L'Aber Wrac'h. Now it's only a 30-mile hop from Roscoff to L'Aber Wrac'h entrance, with the first few miles through the fascinating sheltered channel inside Île de Batz.

For boats returning from a Biscay cruise, Roscoff marina may be handy if, as often happens, you run short of time or meet unhelpful weather in the Channel. Leaving a boat at Roscoff for a while is safe and easy – the ferry to and from Plymouth docks right next to the marina.

### Cruising near Roscoff

The local cruising is rich in Breton atmosphere. Roscoff marina lies in the north-west corner of a grand, two-pronged estuary scattered with reefs, islets and beacon towers, and pierced by navigable



channels into the Morlaix River on the east side and the narrower Penzé River on the west. The outer Penzé beacons are just east of the marina and above half-tide you can easily follow the river four miles inland to a sleepy anchorage wafted by the salty tang from oyster and mussel beds.

Just opposite Roscoff, charming Île de Batz has a picturesque village and a mostly drying harbour on its south side. At neaps, moderate draught boats can anchor near the harbour, though the best way to explore Batz is to leave your boat in the new marina and take a day trip by ferry from Roscoff's distinctive long jetty – the low-tide *Embarcadère*.



**New charts can be found overleaf**

**p. 239 Roscoff Port Guide, Restaurants**

It's tricky eating in Roscoff. The restaurants are many and varied, and being a ferry port the place is sometimes packed. While the marina is a handy passage stop, not many folk linger too long, so for eating ashore I'd recommend pushing the boat out and dining flamboyantly off-budget nearby. Why not? It's what cruising is all about. The sumptuous, single Michelin dining room at the Hôtel Brittany has views towards Île de Batz and is an easy stroll from the marina on Boulevard Sainte Barbe. The evening will be pricy but completely sublime.

Tel: +33 (0)2.98.69.70.78, [www.hotel-brittany.com](http://www.hotel-brittany.com)



## Chapter 10 CÔTE DES ABERS

**p. 261 L'Aber-Wrac'h Port Guide, Restaurants**

The last deep-water haven on the North Brittany coast, L'Aber Wrac'h has always appealed to my fondness for Brittany. Although this wild salty ria can feel remote and far-flung, the marina is snug and you'll find surprisingly good choices for eating ashore. Still going strong, L'Ecailler des Abers is behind the marina a little way west of the chandler. Genial, good value and accomplished, this fishy bistro can keep you interested for several days if you are waiting for weather. Don't miss their *ragoût de lotte*, a monkfish masterpiece, or try a succulent lobster treat – *ragout de homard*.

Tel: +33 (0)2.98.37.42.87, [lecaillerdesabers.fr](http://lecaillerdesabers.fr)







