

and further a field...



The Don moorside
Moisdon-la-Rivière
Grand Auverné

Nearby...

Eglise Saint Jouin at Moisdon-la-Rivière (listed Historic Monument). This Romanesque church, fortified in the 11th century, has a 16th century spire and 18th century altarpieces. Visitor leaflet available at the church.

The Étang de la Provostière (13 km towards Riaillé via Grand-Auverné). Linked by a channel to the Lac de Vioreau, this reservoir is a secondary source of water for the Nantes to Brest canal. There is a walk round the lake, the old home of the Forgemaster and the fine restored coal deposit (both private), and an inn on the lake edge. Tel: 02 40 97 86 54

Lac de Vioreau (11 km towards La Meilleraye-de-Bretagne). A 200-hectare lake, with bathing facilities, supervised in summer; walks round the lake, sailing. Info. Nature Sport Vioreau Tel: 06 83 41 61 59



Forge Master's Manor

Loire-Atlantique
Pays de Châteaubriant



3h00



The delights of nature on the banks of the Don...

Steep little paths paved with slates, winding along the edges of the lake, take you to a landscape of moors and low-lying rocks.



The lake

The beautiful views seen from the shade of the great maritime pines or by the quiet waters of the Don, will stop you in your tracks.

Surrounded by the atmosphere of the ancient forges, this is a splendid walk for opening up the gateway to Brittany. There is also a 7 km alternative to this route.

Useful Addresses

Châteaubriant Tourist Office

Tél : 02 40 28 20 90

accueil@tourisme-chateaubriant.fr

www.tourisme-chateaubriant.fr

Pays de Châteaubriant

www.aupaysdechateaubriant.com



To find out about other walks or make a suggestion about the itinerary, contact the **Comité Départemental du Tourisme** :

Tel. : 02 51 72 95 40 - info@loire-atlantique-tourisme.com

www.loire-atlantique-tourisme.com

Explore

one of the last schist moors...

Getting to the starting point

Carpark to the right of the lake

- From Nantes (64 km): heading towards Rennes (N 137), take the Châteaubriant exit (N 171). Continue towards Treffieux, Issé, then Moisson-la-Rivière (D 29). Follow the signs for the site. Cross the forges site and park to the right of the lake.
- From Rennes (88 km): heading towards Nantes (N 137), take the Nozay exit and head towards Châteaubriant (N 171). Then follow the instructions above.

Accessibility

Circuit closed from 16th September to 26th February for the hunting season. Steep paths, narrow sections, liable to flooding in winter.

Signposting

Yellow

The Pluses

- An exhibition on the history of forges in the old coal depot. Open on Sunday afternoons in May, June and September, and from Wednesday to Sunday in July and August Tel: 02 40 07 62 07
- Restaurant at the forges site Tel: 02 40 07 76 85
- Picnic area - Toilets

At the foot of the moors, the Forge-Neuve

Built at the end of the 17th century, this forge was to be one of the most important in France for more than a century. It was very active during the revolution, especially as it supplied the iron and cast iron needed for manufacturing canons at Indret.

You will see the last traces of this industry at the beginning of your walk - the great coal depot, the workers' houses and the Forge Master's Manor (private).



Along your walk

Starting point : Facing the entrance to the carpark, take the path to your right which goes up past the Forge Master's Manor, and follow the main path winding above the lake (very steep) and then the Petit Don.

1 At the road, take the left fork straight away and you'll come into a narrow path running alongside the fields before joining the banks of the river in the undergrowth. *You can take the big wooden footbridge to go straight to 3.*

2 At the road, turn left, keeping behind the crash barrier, and follow the path winding along the Petit Don.

3 At the footbridge, go up to the right, then take the farm track to the left. 400 m further on, turn left on the moor, then follow the route through the gorse bushes growing along the Petit Don.

4 At the road turn left and then right before the bridge to follow the route along the Don higher up.

Variation : cross the bridge and turn immediately left to walk along the lake and back to the carpark.

5 Cross the bridge over the Don on the left, and immediately take the footbridge to the left to go along the other bank. Cross the previous bridge again and continue on the other side along the lake and back to the carpark.

Carpark

Picnic area

Panorama view point

Tourist / Heritage Site

Tourist Office

Walking tour

Starting point

On paths

On roads

Variations