Welcome to
Rochefort-en-Terre

Les Plus Beaux Villages de France®
Petites Cités de Caractère
Villes et Villages Fleuris — LE LABEL NATIONAL DE LA QUALITÉ DE VIE

Malestroit
La Gacilly

rue du Vieux Bourg

2 View of les Grées

3 Vieux Bourg

D 774

rue du Vieux Bourg

Chapel

Saint-Roch chapel

Naia Museum

1 Park of the castle

chemin des Douves

Turret

9 rue du Porche

5 Place des Halles

rue St Michel

place St Michel

Parking des Grées

rue du Souvenir

Malansac Redon

Pluherlin
Questembert
Vannes

rue Haute Candré

10 Place du Puits

Garden of the culture

Grande venelle

venelle du Milan

rue Candré

St-Michel chapel

4

rue de la Grêle

D 777

rue des Scourtets

D 774

ruelle du Four à Ban

rue Notre-Dame de la Tronchaye

venelle du Milan

rue Saint Roch

rue du Château

rue Porte Cadre

rue de Graslin

rue de l'Étang

6 Porte de l'Étang

7 Washhouse

Pluherlin

rue de la Croix aux Moines

D 774

8 Notre-Dame de la Tronchaye church

L'Étang

La Fuie

La Fuie

Limerzel
La Roche-Bernard

Leisure center
Moulin Neuf Aventure
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Key

👫	Water closet	🛈	Tourist Office
⛺	Camping	⋮	Stairs
🚐	Motorhome area	🏛	Town Hall and Post Office
🚐	Motorhome parking area	✝	Religious building
🏧	Cash machine / ATM	☷	Picnic table
♿	Parking space for people with reduced mobility	✚	Pharmacy
🅿	Parking		

Rochefort-en-Terre is very lucky to have a rich architectural heritage. Thanks to the local government's desire to maintain and protect the site, this village is now classified as a *Petite Cité de Caractère®* (an award honouring the remarkable architectural heritage and landscape of small villages in France). Rochefort-en-Terre is also part of the *Plus Beaux Villages de France®* (Most Beautiful Villages in France) and *Villes et Villages Fleuris* (an award recognising a town's respect for the environment, protection of a social and community network, and quality of its tourist facilities) with four flowers thanks to the combined efforts by the community and residents.

1 Park of the castle

During the 12th century, the castle and city were built on this rocky spur, called "Roche Fort" (largerock). From then on, the place and family were both named "Rochefort".

In the 14th century, the Rochefort family no longer had any heirs and, therefore, married into the Rieux family. The site and feudal castle thus belonged to the Rieux Rocheforts. It was under this family's reign, especially under Jean IV de Rieux Rochefort, that the city began to thrive. Jean IV, like several other Breton lords, was opposed to the annexation of Brittany by the Kingdom of France.

Nonetheless, Charles VIII commanded to destroy all Breton castles, including Rochefort, after winning the battle of St-Aubin-du-Cormier. However, Jean IV was the guardian of Anne of Brittany, who married Charles VIII and became the Queen of France. Therefore, Charles VIII granted Rochefort 100,000 gold coins, which allowed him to rebuild his castle, surround it with strong fortifications and bring canons into the church. The castle was then destroyed during the French Revolution.

It was not until the 20th century that the American painter, Alfred Klots, bought the ruins and turned the castle's old outbuildings into luxurious apartments.

2 View of Les Grées

Hills covered in schist used for building houses and making roof slates. Present in the towns of Pluherlin, Malansac and Rochefort-en-Terre, slate quarries were used from the 13th to early 20th century. There is a great deal of slate located in the village of Rochefort-en-Terre. Today, Les Grées is considered a protected area.

The castle alley - © Alexandre Lamoureux

3 Vieux Bourg (Old Town)

Located below the castle and most "noble" houses, this old artisan town symbolically upholds the social hierarchy: the most important people (clergy, public figures and knights) lived on higher ground where as the lowly (tanners, potters, etc.) lived in the lower part of the city.

4 St-Michel chapel

Saint Michel de la Grêle Chapel dates back to the 17th century. It replaced the old Saint Michel Priory, which belonged to the Benedictine Abbey of Redon. Today, the chapel (renovated in the 20th century) is used to celebrate religious services on the feast day of Notre Dame de la Tronchaye (the Sunday following 15 August).

5 Place des Halles

As the town's main square starting from the 17th century, Place des Halles has long been one of the most important places in the city thanks to its economic role (U-shaped covered market used for fairs and markets). It was also used for celebrations and events.

To the right of the market is Hôtel Burban, a former 17th century seigniorial prison; to the left, La Biscuiterie, formerly known as Auberge Lecadre, which hosted many painters including Alfred Klots in the late 19th century. The town hall is located in the front of the hotel and decorated with bicentennial wisteria every summer.

6 Porte de l'Étang

This opening is one of the Rochefort entrances. This north-south road coincides with the salt route: salt arrives from La Vilaine Maritime (La Roche-Bernard and Guérande) and transported inland (throughout Brittany). Therefore, Rue Candré is the main road and called "Grande Rue" (Main Street).

7 Washhouse

This 16th century public washhouse got its water from Le Candré River. A private washhouse is also located nearby.

8 ND de la Tronchaye church

Notre-Dame-de-la-Tronchaye Church is oddly located on a slope in the lower part of the city. Legend has it that during the 9th or 10th century, during the Norman invasions, a priest hid a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary breast-feeding her baby in a hollow tree trunk in order to protect it from the pillaging. Two centuries later, a shepherdess found the statue in the tree trunk and the town decided to build a church there. The story is retold on the stained glass windows.

A sculpted cross recalling the Passion of the Christ is found in the square in front of the church, where the former Rochefort cemetery was located up until the 19th century.

Upon entering the church, you will be surprised by the pillars that lean due to the landslides towards the south, and then the west. To prevent the church from collapsing, buttresses were built on the southern end, extending the aisles parallel to the nave, and on the western side, lengthening the nave and allowing a tribune to be built. In 1498, Jean IV de Rieux-Rochefort founded a college, thanks to the 100,000 gold coins

that he received from Anne of Brittany, for seven canons to pray for the repose of the soul of the lord and his family. In the choir, you can still see their carved stalls.

In 1925, Rochefort-en-Terre became dedicated to the Virgin Mary and two new stained glass windows were built in the church: one window in 1926 representing the Holy Family located in the back choir and the second built in 1927 of the shepherdess discovering the statue of the Virgin Mary in the tree trunk.

9 Turret

This building is constituted by two adjoining housing. Its south-oriented and granite facade as well as its size let suppose that his owners were wealthy. It remarkably combines late Gothic and Breton Renaissance styles.

10 Place du Puits

On this place, different architectural periods are displayed, the slate and granite houses alternating with half-timbered houses. Check out the scale carved above the door next to the well: the building (built in the 17th century) held the seigniorial court. The town's first covered market was located here. The guillotine was also probably set up here in 1793 for the execution of three people convicted for counter-revolutionary crimes.

Place du Puits - © Alexandre Lamoureux