

Welcome to Questembert



This town is named after the sweet chestnut tree. In the Breton language, it is called Kisten Berh, which means “land of the chestnuts”. In the 12th century, the name “Questembert” was found in writing; however, over time, the spelling changed.



Les Halles - © Rudy Burban

1 Hostellerie Le Guénégo

Sitting at the corner of Rue de la Salle and Rue des Halles, this building is one of the oldest houses in Questembert (dating back to the 15th century) and currently holds the Tourist Office. Jehan Le Guénégo, the owner of the site, kept an inn and an important shop, bringing together all the local products and handicraft (grocer's shop, haberdashery, wine, bed linens, leather, etc.).

It welcomed Francis II, Duke of Brittany, for one night in 1481. A ducal crest signifying that the house was under the protection of the Duke, vouches for his coming. It is visible on the wall that runs along Rue de la Salle (above the garage).

2 Hôtel Belmont

This private residence, with different ornate dormers, dates back to the 15th and 16th centuries and always belonged to wealthy families. It was restored in 2005.

3 Tower and Garden Belmont

The turret is covered with a very unique 4-sided roof with double arches meeting at the top. The roof's outside overhang has 2 carved wooden caryatids, representing "Questembert and his wife".

4 St-Pierre Church

The construction of Saint Pierre Church began in 1863 by Father Gomaud. However, it was not until 33 years later that the structure was completed, finishing with the bell tower. The church was built on the ruins of the ancient Saint-Martin du Vertou Church. With beautiful architectural lines and an impressive appearance, the 55-metre bell tower can be seen from neighbouring parishes. Inside, the choir is outfitted with remarkable woodwork, an enormous high altar and organ loft made by the Debierre workshops in Nantes.

Go back up to Place René Mulot. Here, you are in front of the Les Halles marketplace.

5 Les Halles

Located on the former town square, this covered market was built in 1552 by Jérôme De Carné, Earl of Cohignac and creator of the fairs held in Questembert. By fate, it was restored in 1675 by a local entrepreneur named Estienne Charpentier (Estienne Carpenter in English).

Les Halles were designed to cover, mark off and control trading areas. The marketplace was a great place to mingle and exchange goods. In the past, drapers, rope makers and shoemakers met here to sell their goods.

This was the main activity during old country fairs. Traditional handicraft (canvas, wool, fine linens and leather) was very important in Questembert. Craftsmen having the same profession often lived in the same neighbourhood, even on the same street. Therefore, professional relationships were very easy to make. Les Halles, restored in 1997, have never been used as much as today. It holds a large market on Monday mornings and a market selling regional

products on Wednesday evenings as well as flea markets, concerts and other cultural events. Les Halles was classified as a Historical Monument in 1922. Only four "historical" covered wooden markets have survived in the region of Brittany: Questembert and Le Faouët in Morbihan, Plouescat in Finistère and Clisson in Loire-Atlantique.

6 Headstone of the king Alain Le Grand

Built in 1907 by the Breton Regionalist Union for the 1000th anniversary of the death of Alain Le Grand King of Brittany. This 5-metre tall granite headstone commemorates the victory of this Breton leader over the Normans (vikings) in 890. On the western side, you can see the blade of a gladiator's sword pointing downward, which symbolises the sword of great conqueror.

7 St-Michel Chapel

This chapel was built in the mid 15th century, during the reign of the Duke of Brittany François I, where Saint Vincent Ferrier was believed to have preached on 3 March 1418 while staying in Questembert. It was founded by the lords of Rochefort, who had great power and influence in Questembert and surrounding areas at the time.

To the left of the chapel, you will find a 15th century stone cross and rectangular sculpture, representing a processional banner. This type of Christian monument is called a "croix bannière" in French and typical to the region of Brittany. In front of the entrance, a large several century-old yew tree seems to protect the tombs of the parish rectors, including Father Mulot, cofounder of the Montfort Fathers

congregation, who died during a mission in Questembert in 1749. The chapel was classified as a Historical Monument in 1922. Restored between 2006 and 2007, it is regularly open to the public (concerts, themed days, etc.).

Things to discover nearby

At the end of Rue du Chanoine Niol, the old rectory, washhouse and fountain.

The old 15th century rectory is a typical countrystyle and aristocratic residence of old France (private property). The rectory washhouse resembles a small version of Les Halles. The fountain, made up of three columns, is very unique.

The fountain and Saint Martin washhouse are located at the end of Rue St-Martin and Rue de la Fontaine.

Belmont Tower

