



OVER THE STEPS...

# Gournay en Bray



Normandie/Seine-Maritime  
Pays de Bray

# ***Gournay en Bray***

*Gournay en Bray's area is very old. Its name comes from two Celtic names : "Gord" which means "accumulation of water" and "Nawd", which means "residence". After the Norman invasion, this site took on a fearsome aspect. It was fortified in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The Gournay Lord's coat of arms was of pure sand, with no emblem. In 1202, Philippe Auguste re-took the town of Gournay, knighted Arthur de Bretagne, heir to the throne of England, in the Saint Hildevert Collegiate Church, and he gave the hand of his daughter, Mary in marriage to Arthur.*

*In memory of this event, a silver knight holding a lance and gold fleur-de-lis emblem has been added to the coat of arms.*

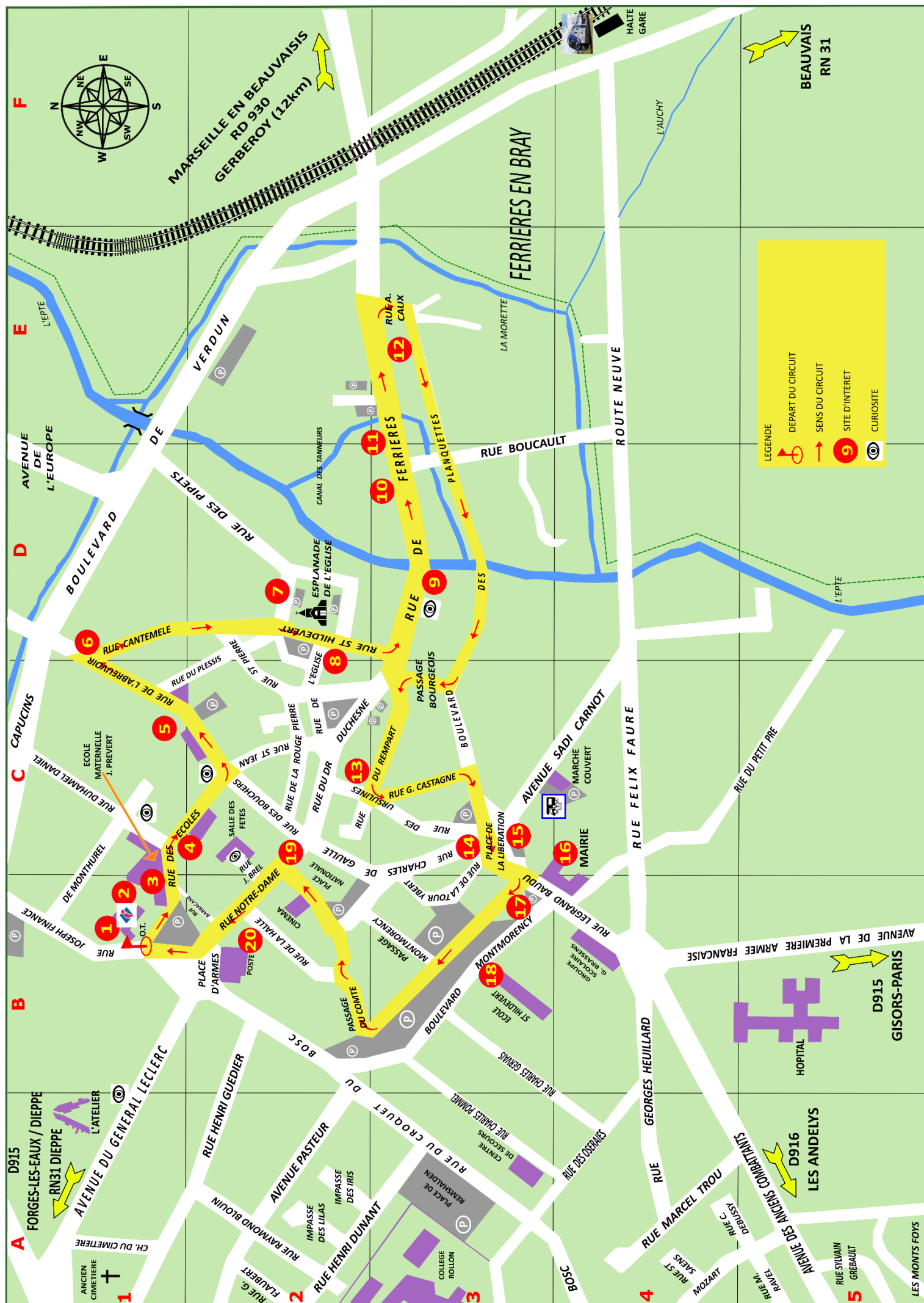
*The Gournay en Bray's market has existed from immemorial time. The abundance of products from the surrounding countryside is at its origin. Gournay en Bray was in charge of satisfying the needs of the nearby capital. Every Tuesday, butter, eggs, veal, poultry, calves and game were taken away in huge carts.*

*Large quantities of cheese were transported almost daily to Paris. This market still exists today. Lively and active it takes place on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.*

*The reconstruction did not or could not keep the remains of the monuments and the residences, so Gournay en Bray preserves little trace of its past.*

*This walking shows however the trace which remains.*





1

**THE MONASTERY : B1**

The Convent was built in 1642 by the Capucin Order, and occupied by the monks until the Revolution in 1789. Then this establishment was occupied by various administrations. It's a remarkable building of stones and bricks. The old monastery gable, which was destroyed to widen the street, has been rebuilt with the same materials to look the same as before.



2

**THE CAMPANILE : B1**

The Campanile contains the three bells coming from a construction which rose with the site of the current Post Office. In 1976, this construction is destroyed and the Campanile (belltower) placed at the current place : Square Pierre Petit.



3

**THE ROCKER : B1**

Near to the Campanile, you will find a strange small building which contains the former rocker machinery...

→ Please, continue your visit by "the School Street"

4

**THE SCHOOL STREET : B1/C1**

Until 1882, Gournay's former ancient orphanage the origin of which goes back to 1666 was installed in this street. Successively called "rue du Bureau des Pauvres" and "rue de l'Hospice", from then on this street shelters schools thanks to the gift of M. Daniel Duhamel.

→ Please, go to n°35 of the street of the watering Place.

5

**WATERING PLACE STREET : C1/C2**

In this place, there was formerly an ancient theatre, built in 1765. Restored in 1823, it retains only its decorated pediment. In Front of



the Theatre, the tax office was a bank for a long time "la Caisse d'Epargne" built in 1889. In 1999, Juliette and Jacques DAMVILLE as well as teenagers realize a big wall fresco within the framework of a workshop "Initiation à la céramique architecturale". (With the financial assistance of the town hall of Gournay en Bray). Three tons of stone floors in stoneware were necessary to realize this puzzle of bottom-relies. The enamelled and cooked set to the factory CERAFRANCE in Ferrières en Bray.



→ Please, go to the corner of "Cantemele's Street"

**6****THE CANTEMELE STREET : D1/D2**

Houses of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, not to be missed for their architectural style. From 1833 to 1859, the Ernemont Ladies Institution lived here. This street was a way into Gournay from the North. It linked the Cantemèle Door to the church, called “the Gateway tower”. This Door was destroyed in 1780.

➔ Please, follow your road to discover the St Hildevert Collegiate Church

**7****THE SAINT HILDEVERT COLLEGIATE CHURCH : D2**

Saint Hildevert, abbot of Saint Riquier and then bishop of Meaux in 672, was canonized in the X<sup>th</sup> century. On the occasion of works in the cathedral of Meaux, three Clerics travelled through France with the relic of the Saint. That’s why how the relic was set down in Gournay in order to show it to the Congregation. Lots of miracles occurred. As they were



leaving, the relic was so heavy that they couldn’t lift it up. The Sire of Gournay set it on fire and the relic rose up. The Sire decided that a Church, in memory of the Saint would be built.

**The outside**

° The Church dates from the X1<sup>th</sup>, XII<sup>th</sup> and XIII<sup>th</sup> centuries. The altest part is the Chapel Saint Lucien.

° The central tympanum represents the relic of Saint Hildevert, which is burning. It’s surmounted by the

statue of the Saint. The left tympanum represents Saint Hildevert who is consecrating a child, whereas the right one represents the stoning of Saint Etienne, first patron of the Church.

° The portal is flanked by two square towers. These towers are bored of few ribs and surmounted by slate-roofs from the XVII<sup>th</sup> century.

The south façade of the bas nave and the west façade of the transept are composed of 10 roman windows. On the south façade, above the windows of the low-nave, grimacing figures are sculpted.





## The inside

° The Church is 48 metre long, 19 metre large and 19 metre high.

° The nave is 28 metre long and is made of six archways.

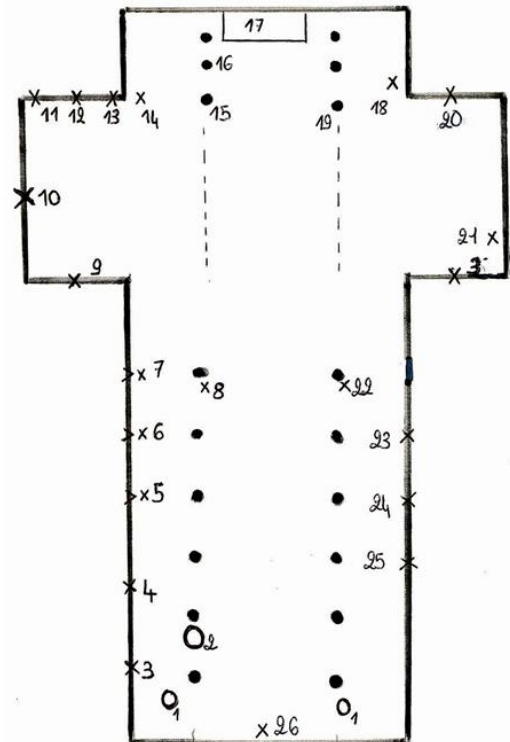
It's surmounted by big square pillars with 4 half-round columns. Each column has sculpted capitals.

The nave became vaulted at the end of the XII<sup>nd</sup> century. The vault is made of 6 parts.

The most important to see inside



- 1) Stoups
- 2) Chaire 1728, sculptures by Martin Bradel, Saint Paul with a sword, Saint Luc with a bull, Saint Jean with an eagle, the Virgin Mary on a crescent moon, Saint Mathieu with a child, Saint Marc with a lion.
- 3) Confessional
- 4) Altarpiece of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century
- 5) Saint Eloi- XVIII<sup>th</sup> century
- 6) Churchwarden's pew by Martin Bradel (1730)  
- meeting between Abraham and Melchisedech.
- 7) Saint Elisabeth of Hungary- XVII<sup>th</sup> century
- 8) "Vierge a la grappe" XV<sup>th</sup> century « bunch »
- 9) Blessed Sacrament Chapel
- 10) Pieta in polychrome wood – XVII<sup>th</sup> century
- 11) Saint Antoine de Padoue
- 12) "Saint Curé d'Ars" / St John Vianney
- 13) Virgin XVII<sup>th</sup> century
- 14) Saint Therese
- 15) Assumption- XVIII<sup>th</sup> century
- 16) Joan of Arc
- 17) Altar- XIX<sup>th</sup> century
- 18) "Vierge au croissant en bois" –XVII<sup>th</sup> century
- 19) Deposition –XVIII<sup>th</sup> century
- 20) Relics of Saint Hildevert- XV<sup>th</sup> century
- 21) "Christ aux Outrages" –XVI<sup>th</sup> century
- 22) Saint Hildevert- XV<sup>th</sup> century
- 23) Saint François d'Assise– XVII<sup>th</sup> century
- 24) Saint Augustin- XVIII<sup>th</sup> century
- 25) Saint Therese d'Avila
- 26) Organ Case (inaugurated in 1538) received from Notre-Dame's Church in 1793, the 7<sup>th</sup> of july and restored during the XIX<sup>th</sup> century.



On the balustrade, you can see 14 sculptures representing the Apostles, Saint Paul and the Christ.

## Wainscot of Bellozanne



° The Abbey of Bellozanne has been founded in 1198 by Hugh III rd of Gournay at the edge of a brook, the Osanne. That's why the monastery is also named "Osanne". The founder appealed to the order of the Premonte , the neighbouring monastery of the Isle-Dieu. Bellozanne was a daughter of the Isle-Dieu.

° Woodcarving was one of the religious community's activity. The works were in oak from the wood of Bray. The abbey has been ransacked during the French Revolution, the Church was sold, the buildings were demolished and all the objects scattered.

° **At the entrance of the Chore**, there is the statue of Saint Hildevert. He's represented with a cope, a mitre and a crook in the right hand. The higher part of the cope is ornate with figurines of the Apostles, on the one side Saint Thomas (with the square), Saint Pierre with the key, Saint Jacques with the shell, Saint Andre leant against the cross. On the other side we can see Saint Jean with the cup and Saint Jude who is holding a sword.

° Above the stalls there are two nice low-relief in oak. On a side we can see an Assumption, similar to the Assumption of Bremontier, the ascending movement is well-rendered by rolled-up clouds. These clouds are typical of the Wainscot of Bellozanne. On the other side there is a "descente de croix" (Deposition) inspired of a painting by Jouvenet, which is similar to the Deposition of Bremontier.



July 2000 – Bibliography by Pierre PETIT, Saint Hildevert, its life, its collegial Church

Written history of Gournay by Nicolas Cordier

➔ The Collegiate Church is open every day from 7.30 a.m. till 6 p.m.

8

### THE OLDEST GOURNAY HOUSE : D2

On the Saint Hildevert Collegiate Church Square, you can see the oldest Gournay house. This house was a Saint Hildevert Collegiate Church outhouse, surrounding the cloister. Restored in 1978, its building dates are written in the middle of the original frontage of the house, so calculate how old it is !

Please, go to "the Ferrières street" to join the watermill.



**9****THE WATERMILL : D3**

In 1660, the canals of Epte and Morette were dug to bring some water up to the mill which kept its current place. Before the Revolution, the mill belonged to Montmorency's family. In 1950 the wheel removed. Today, mill Dupuis is settled there. The main activity of this company concerns the production of flour.

**10****THE FERRIERES STREET : D3/E3**

In the street, observe in n°77-79 this old Norman house in corbelled construction. This house was the residence of a noble family because of coats of arms sculptured on its façade.

**11****THE TANNER CANAL : E2/E3**

It has its origin in the confluence of the Epte and the Morette. It goes along the back of the houses of the street of ferrières. Many tanners had settled up the river in this part of the canal. In 1950, whilst carrying out works in a house a pit piled up with skins was discovered.



→ Please, turn Athanase Caux. You are "Boulevard des Planquettes".

**12****THE "PLANQUETTES" BOULEVARD : E3/D3**

This boulevard carries the name of a bridge made of bad boards (planquette) formerly used to cross the river. In 1833, the current bridge replaced it. Convenient to stroll on foot, this boulevard is lined with lime trees.

→ Please, go to "the Bourgeois Passage", then towards the "Rempart Street" (Nicolas Bourgeois : Mayor of Gournay from 1831 till 1871.)





### 13 THE REMPART STREET : C3

City strengthened in the Middle-Ages, Gournay keeps few tracks of its past. Only this tower, the conical base of the other on as well as ditches are the vestiges of this defensive work.

At the moment fortified town and seigniorial house, these fortifications are going to lose of their utility after the religious wars. Ditches are then sold to private individuals and doors will be successively demolished.



➔ Please join the Liberation Square by way of the Géraud Castagné Street. (Mayor of Gournay in 1935).

This passage crosses the formers ditches. On your left, please, observe this house built on the remains fortifications.

### 14 LIBERATION SQUARE : C3

This place was formerly a very lively where a market was held for poultry, rabbit, game and veal. On one of the pavilions one can again perceive the support of the bell which indicated the opening of the deals.



#### THE PRESBYTERY : C3

Madam Duhamel's former house, given in 1856 to Gournay's town to house the parish priest and the curate.

#### THE WAR MEMORIAL : C3

Work dedicated to the victims of the first and the second world wars. The pedestal is surmounted by the victor crushing the German eagle. Element killed in 1940.



### 15 PARIS DOOR : C3

Two hundred years old, it is situated on the site of the old fortified entrance built with the help of the Duke of Montmorency. The set consists of two pavilions and two pillars surmounted by a vase. These last ones were moved in 1960 to widen the road.



➔ Please, go towards the Boulevard Montmorency, take the stone steps (just opposite the town hall)

**16****THE TOWN HALL : B4/C4**

Since 1921, the town hall offices are settled there. This large impressive house is the bequest of Mrs Legrand-Baudu. The façade is composed of two rows of big glazed bays and a hall which gives access to the park of the town hall.

*\* The park of the town hall is open every day from 9.00 a.m. till 5 p.m. Sunday is open from 10.00 a.m. till 6 p.m. of the 15/05 to 30/09.*

**17****THE TELEGRAPH STATUE : B3**

In front of the town hall, at the top of the stone stairs, under the limes, admire the telegraph statue, embellishing the Montmorency boulevard entrance since 1935. This statue was one of the twenty statues standing on Trocadero square in 1878 for the universal exhibition. Realized by Hubert Lavigne in 1843, it evokes by its hairstyle, its drape and its profile, sculptures of Antique Greece

**18****THE NEW HOTEL : B2/B3**

Built in 1904, it was an important gastronomic meeting place between Paris and Dieppe. Requisitioned during the Occupation, it was the seat of the "Kommandatur".

In March 1948, the St Hildevert Company bought the new hotel to give it to sisters of Mesnil Esnard's Providence. This place wasn't predisposed to welcome a school because one counted several barns and garages. In the course of the years, alteration work and construction were necessary.

Today, the school welcomes 700 children.



➔ Please, join "the County crossing". Please, go down walking on your right side to join the National Place. You are in the ancient ditch of the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

**19****THE NATIONAL PLACE : B2/C2**

Formerly a royal square, then a public square, it has been renovated to become an attraction. It's the heart of Gournay, the open market has taken place here since 1830. Along this place, you see the Kursaal and the monumental fountain.





### THE BUTTER HALL AND THE KURSAAL : B2

The ground floor of the building was built in 1821. It formerly housed an ancient butter hall. In 1927, the butter hall was surrounded by a cinema whose the frontage is characteristic architectural tendencies of the beginning of the XX century.

### THE MONUMENTAL FOUNTAIN : B2/C2

Built in 1779, it was put up for the recollection of the first water conveyance. The fountain consists of a pyramid resting on a square pedestal. On every face, a plaque recalls the history and the debates that the project aroused as well as the names of those that worked on the construction.

The water which springs from four bronze mouths resulted from Bézy's sources situated in the hamlet of Hyancourt. Since 1943, the fountain was fed by Elbeuf-en-Bray's source.

➔ Please, take again Notre Dame Street to go out of the old town and take a glance at Hall Street.



**20**

### THE HALL STREET : B2

It was called in 1794 the Conquered Prejudice Street because, in the past the Notre-Dame Parish Church stood on this street corner with Notre Dame Street. Closed in 1792, this church was bought then destroyed.

➔ You are now in the Place d'Armes, at the end of your walk.

### Unusual: D1 Avenue of Europe (+/- 1km from the OT)

On November 9th, 1989 the Berlin Wall fell.

You can see three sides of the famous Berlin Wall. These three parts form a triptych.

Visible behind the grids of the SIKA company next to the entrance.





## Gournay's market has always existed !

Every Tuesday morning, you can stride our big market and discover the living pultry exhibition. There is an another market every Friday morning (less important than Tuesday morning)



Primarily, the Gournay's market has to meet the capital's needs : butter, cheese, eggs, pultry and game. There was also a livestock markets.



Every Tuesday morning, you will find « La Poule de Gournay » our mascot.



« La Poule de Gournay » is a round black pultry spotted with black. According to the legend, before the French Revolution, a farmer covered her white hens with black soot: the Lord confused it with crow and the farmer didn't pay the feudal rent. A few day days later it began to snow at Pays de Bray and she discovered the white coat hidden. The breed "La Poule de Gournay" was born.



### OFFICE DE TOURISME DES 4 RIVIERES EN BRAY

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[www.tourism-gournayenbray.com](http://www.tourism-gournayenbray.com)

### OPENING TIMES

April to September Tuesday to Saturday evening 10am/12am – 2pm/5:30pm

October to March Tuesday to Saturday morning 10am/12am – 2pm/5pm

