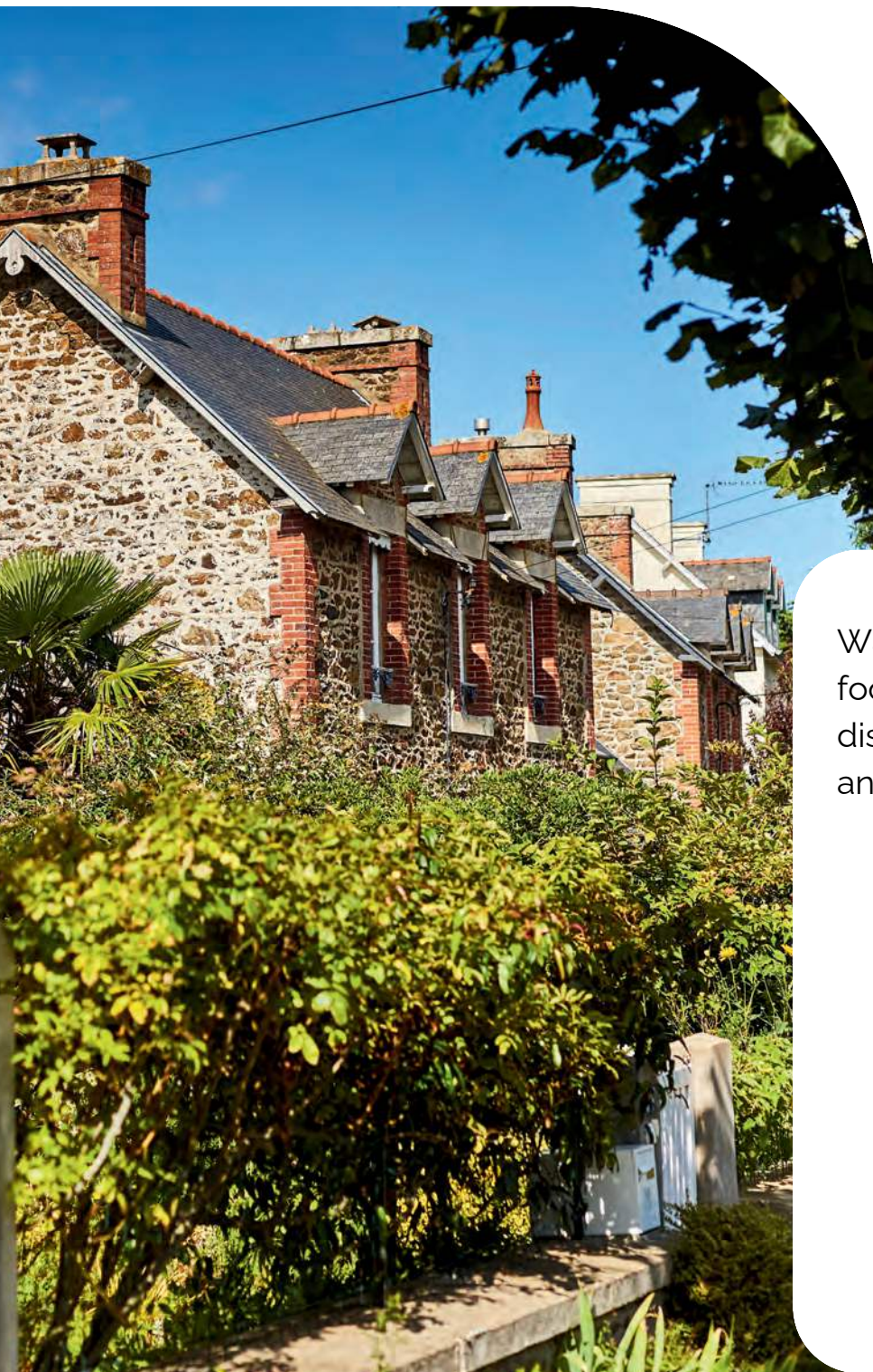




The route of a tourist at Etables



Walk on a 1909 tourist's footsteps at Etables and discover history of the villas and the Godelin beach.



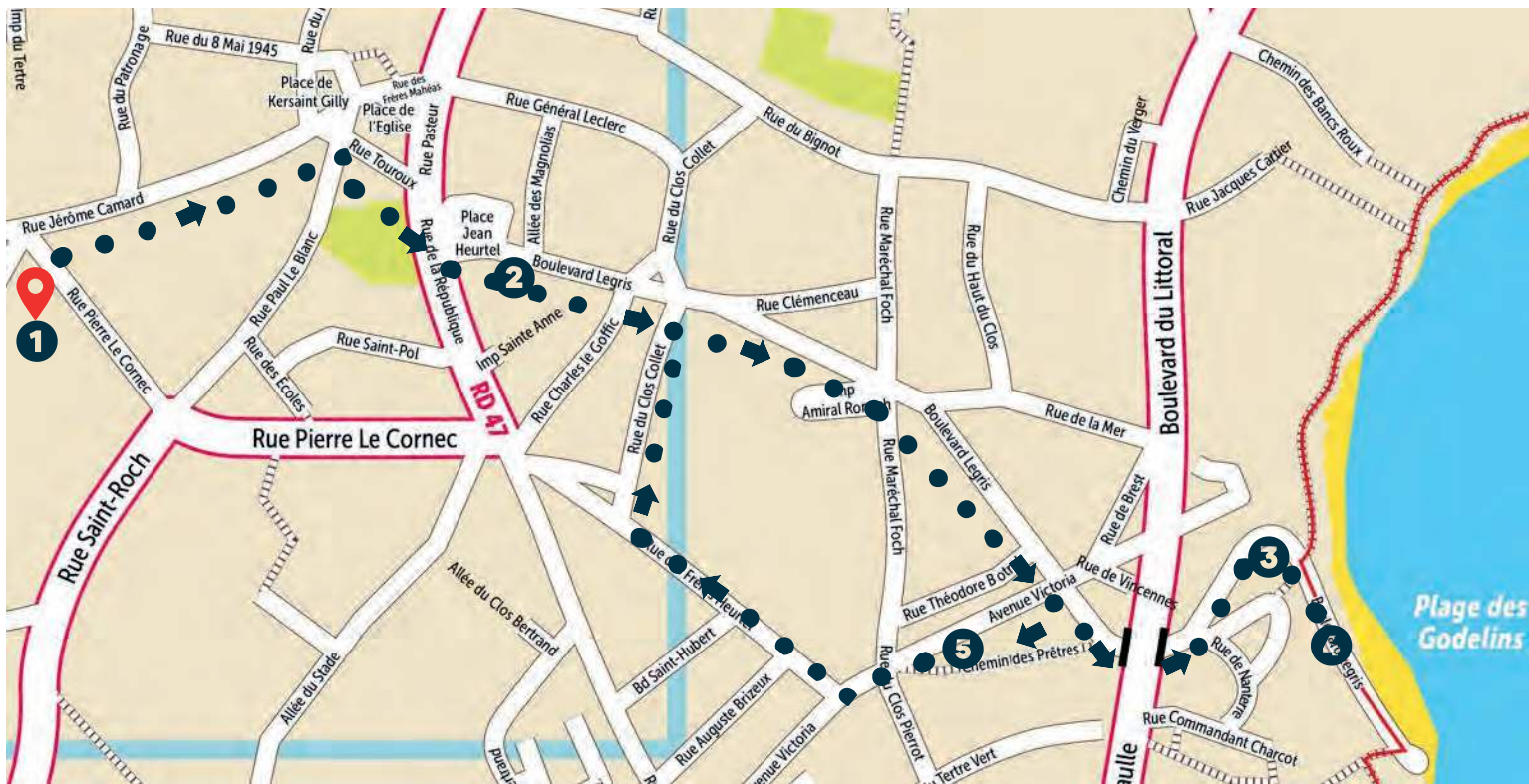
Departure and arrival : Salle des Loisirs (Leisure room), rue du Chemin de Fer at Etables-sur-Mer



Distance : 4 km



Time : 45 mn



1 THE LEISURE ROOM

It is situated on the site of the former train station. The name of the street ("Rue du Chemin de Fer" – "Railway Street") have remained from this period.

More information on the "The Pourhis Viaduct" leaflet.

THE TOURIST OFFICE

In 1909, a tourist office called "Beach Syndicate" was created to meet the bather's expectations. Oscar Legris, who created the seaside resort, was the Honorary President of this association.

Its first plan was to clean up and develop the beaches. The first tourist leaflet, with a list of villas to rent, advertisings... was published the same year.



In 2009, a "1900 Day" was organized to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Tourist Office. The entire town took part in this memorable day.

2

OSCAR LEGRIS

Industrialist from Versailles, founder of a dye factory, Oscar Legris fell in love with Etables and wanted to build a famous seaside resort. In 1895, he submitted his project to the mayor, M Heurtel : he planned to develop the Godelins Beach creating a road to access it, a dock and built villas nearby. The mayor accepted. Oscar Legris therefore acquired land and

built about twenty villas including his own (called Persévérance), the roadways, the boulevard later named "Legris" and the Victoria Avenue.

He rented the villas, sold the remaining land (villas of the same style and an hotel were built). Oscar Legris also wished to develop the Moulin Beach but died before.

The Legris' descendants always come to Etables on holidays.

2



3



3

THE BELLEVUE HOTEL

Oscar Legris sold some remaining lands to M Mahéas and persuaded him to build an hotel. The construction started in 1905 and the official opening was the 15th of June 1907. The building was occupied by German troops during the second World War. In 1948, it became a summer camp. At the present day this building is a private residence with several apartments.

4



4

THE GODELINS BEACH

The beach was a place of entertainment, donkey races, barrel races, even pig races ! Hot sea baths in cast-iron bathtubs were provided by Mrs Le Gallais whose descendants were still serving tourists a few years ago.

4



The cable car project : In 1910 a project for a cable car was discussed at the Beach Syndicate to respond to many bather's complaints about the slope to access to the beach. An electric cable car was first being considered, then an animal traction system. Eventually, the project didn't succeed.

4



This street is named after Madame Legris' name. The villas along were built by Oscar Legris. Each of them has a female name and follows the alphabetical order : Amélie, Béatrix, Charlotte, Denise (now St Denis), Elisabeth, Flore...

HISTORY OF TOURISM

Before the 20th century, travels were reserved for higher class people and artists.

At that time, it was inconceivable to bath in the sea considered as a fantasy world, a man-eater.

Later, sea baths were prescribed as a treatment for rabies or madness.

The Industrial Revolution began in England then in the rest of Europe. The needs and desire to travel increased, especially to treat health problems : this is the "climatism".

Sea bathing was recognized to be healthy and invigorating for the body.

"Tourist" structures development with the appearance of the first resorts (Brighton in England) was closely related to the rise of the railroads.

This phenomenon was spreading to the upper classes in the Second Empire. The example was given by the imperial couple (Napoleon the 3rd and Eugénie in Biarritz)

The seasonal arrival of the middle-class society caused the built of resort complexes, added to cities or created from scratch.

The holidays were popularized in 1936 thanks to a law that enacts three weeks of annual leaves. Nowadays, it is 5 weeks.

Sources : Book "Etables- sur-Mer au travers des siècles" by M.F Holley



Men in bathing trunks (Boulogne/Mer)



Women's bathing suit evolution

The heritage collection :

- The Pourrhis viaduct
- The sea caves
- The alleys of Binic

