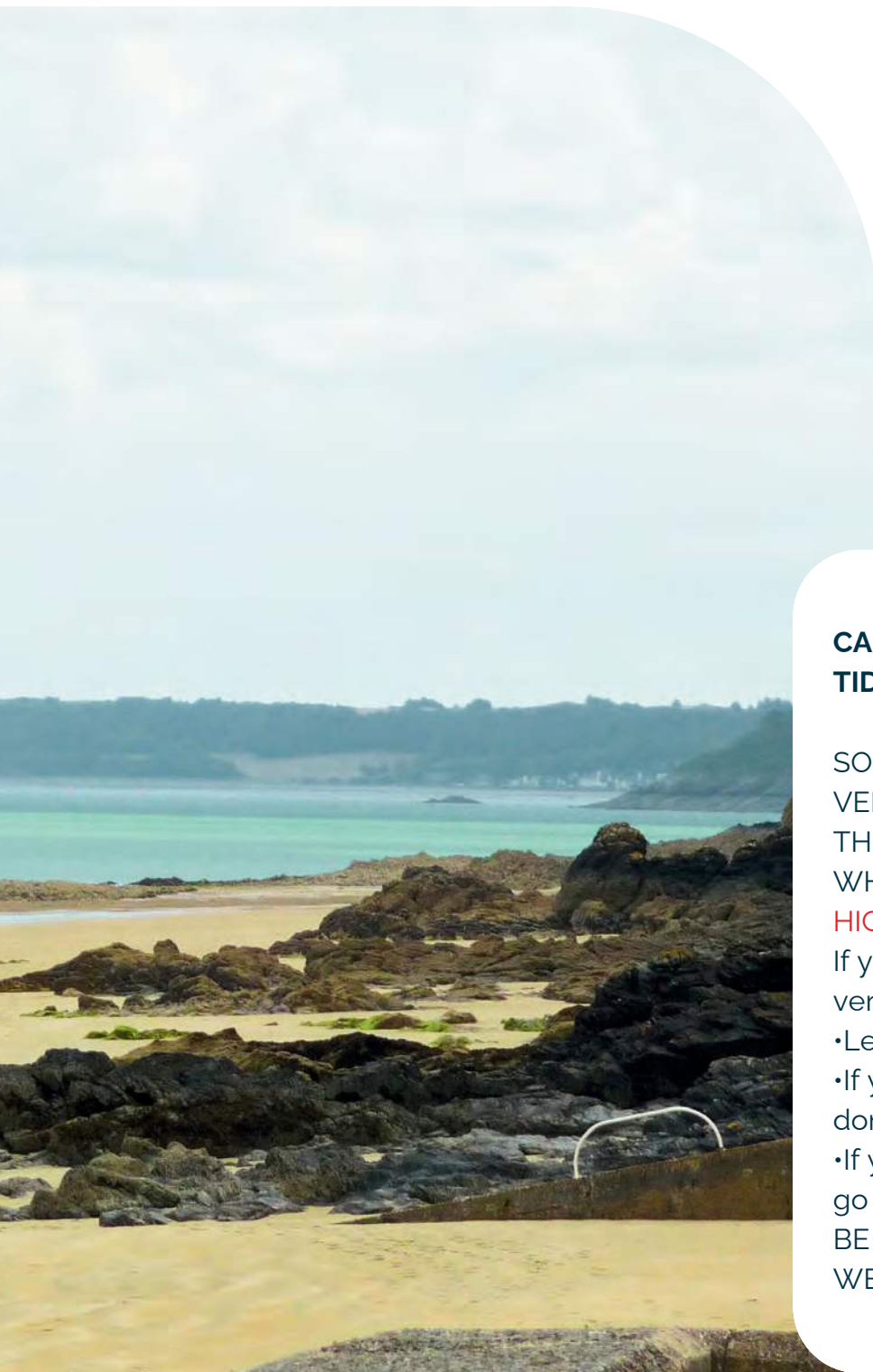




The sea caves



CAUTION ! DON'T GET TRAPPED BY THE TIDE !

SOME CAVES ARE ONLY ACCESSIBLE AT VERY LOW TIDES. IT IS ADVISED TO VISIT THEM **1h30 BEFORE THE LOW TIDE TIME**, WHEN THE TIDAL COEFFICIENT IS **HIGHER OR EQUAL TO 85**.

If you wish to visit the caves apart from the very low tides :

- Leave 1h30 before the low tide time
 - If you leave from the Godelins Beach : don't go further than the Mysterious Cave.
 - If you leave from the Moulin Beach, don't go further than the Oven Cave.
- BE CAREFUL OF THE FALLING ROCKS.
WEAR HIKING SHOES.



Departure and arrival : Godelins Beach at Etables-sur-Mer



Steep route in rocks

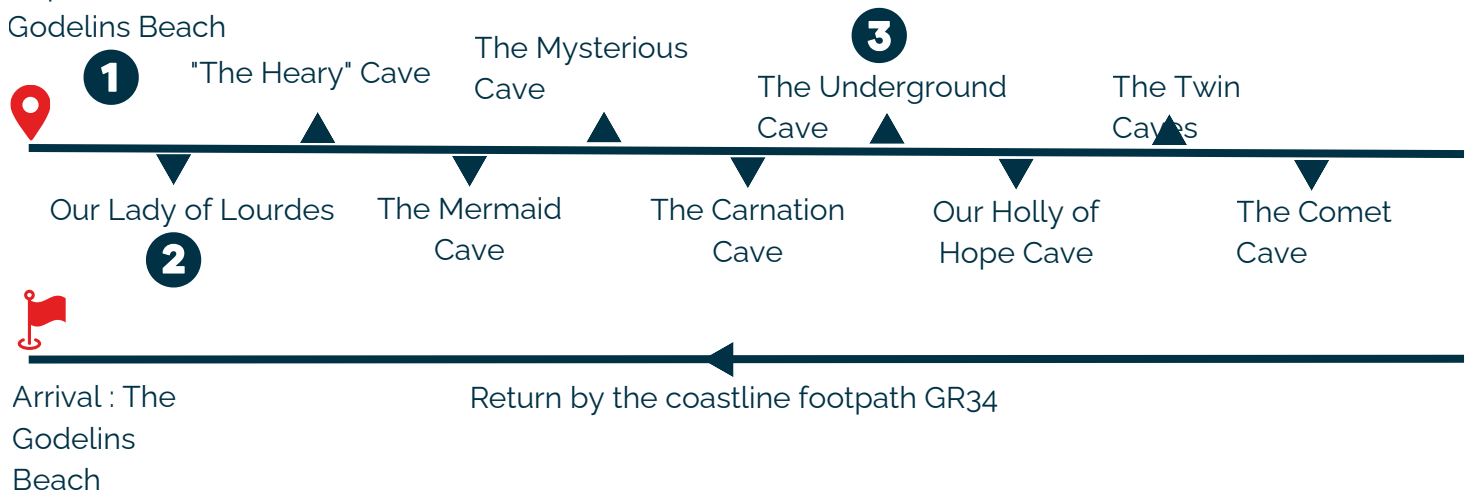


Distance : 5 km



Time : 3h

Departure : The
Godelins Beach



1 THE GODELINS BEACH

The Godelins Beach had been converted as a seaside resort beach at the beginning of the 20th century thanks to Oscar Legris. He was an industrial from Versailles who fell in love with the coast. He built the Godelin area with villas to rent (most of them are in Victoria Avenue), and he encouraged the construction of the Bellevue hotel that still overhangs the Godelin Beach.



More information on the "Route of a tourist at Etables" leaflet.

2 OUR LADY OF LOURDES

In 1878, a Parisian lady in holiday noticed a cave that reminded her the Lourdes one. As a member of her family was miraculously cured, she got carved a marble statue. It was a copy of the Holy Virgin of Massabielle. The Parisian Lady placed it into the cave and donated it to the parish. The inhabitants came here to pray during many processions that occurred between 1917 and the 70's.



The "Hairy" Cave



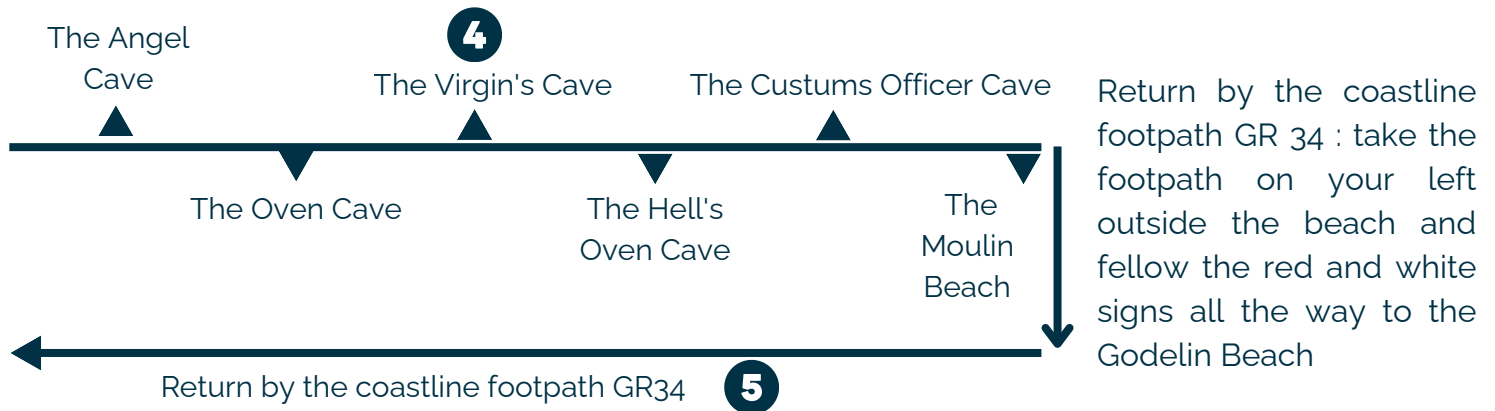
The Mermaid Cave



The Mysterious Cave



The Carnation Cave



3 THE UNDERGROUND CAVE

It was used for some unknown purpose. Some hinge and bolt marks probably due to a metalgate can be observed on the walls at the entrance. A local legend says that this cave had been used as a hiding place by Chuans (rebels against the Republic) during the French Revolution.



Our Holly of Hope Cave



The Twin caves



The Comet Cave



The Angel Cave



The Oven Cave

4 THE VIRGIN'S CAVE

Its name comes from a legend that left its mark on the inhabitants' imagination :

One night, as a ship full of goods was returning to the harbour, fairies lured the ship to the reef with fires. The entire crew perished except the look-out who was an apprentice sailor. The fairies took the treasure and the apprentice entered the cave and stole a magic ointment that allowed mortals to see fairies. He gave this ointment to the villagers so they could take the treasure back. But once in the cave, it was impossible to reach the treasure. The angry villagers killed the fairies. Their blood still covers the cave's walls (it is in fact purple schiste).



Before the 20th century, it was inconceivable to bath in the sea considered as a fantasy world, like the caves. They were fairies and korrigans' world. That's why it exists a lot of fantastic legends about these caves.

"ETABLES THE CAVES"

The number of crevices in the cliff gives to the Etables-sur-Mer coastline an original characteristic. The town was even called "Etables-the-Caves" at the beginning of the 20th century, when Etables became a seaside resort.

GEOLOGY

Etables-sur-Mer caves were carved in the rock by erosion. The rock is softer than in the next town Saint-Quay-Portrieux, which explains the presence of caves in this area. There are forty caves in the coastline, only fifteen of them have a name.

PREHISTORY ET ANTIQUITY

A bronze axe from the second century BC was found in the Carnation Cave. That proves a human presence in Etables-sur-Mer since Antiquity. Flints were recently discovered near the caves, but we don't know if they truly are prehistoric tools. In addition, mammoth bones were found near the Moulin Beach.



The Hell's Oven Cave



The Customs Officer Cave

5 THE COASTLINE FOOTPATH (GR 34)

It was created in 1791 for the Custom's officers to watch the smuggling along the coasts. Then, it's progressively abandoned. From 1968, it is little by little restored thanks to a few enthusiasts. Nowadays it is 2000 km long from the Mont-St Michel to Saint-Nazaire. The GR 34 was elected as "Best GR" by French people in 2017.



Sources : Special thanks to Mr et Mrs Laurent, passionate volunteers

The heritage collection :

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

