

Villedieu and Mont Robin

This route takes in two of the attractions visited on Monday and so hopefully you can take in the ones you missed. I would suggest a visit to the cider farm today.

The ride takes you to the town of Villedieu following the same route as the short ride. After this the ride heads across country to the high point of the area at Mont Robin which affords extensive views. The route description is the best I can do, just head for the highest bit you can see!! After this the ride passes the ruined Abbaye de Hambeye. According to the Michelin Guide this is one of the must see sites in this area. The route returns via the cider farm and they are expecting us for a guided tour and tasting.

Distance 85.2km / 53.3 miles

Places of Interest

1) Villedieu

Bell Foundry

Closed Monday and Sunday

<http://www.afranceattraction.com/france-attractions-uz/bell-foundry.htm>

The Bell Foundry is another of the fascinating old style workshops that exists in the town and is still working. The centre is open to the public and you will be amazed to see a process that most will have never witnessed before. The craftsmen use specialist tools and a 20 ton oven to make the large bells, and then there are several specialists who work on the inscriptions. You are able to watch the whole process before your eyes.

Copper Workshop

Closed Sunday

54 rue de General Huard

<http://www.thecopperworkshop.com/>

The Copper Workshop is quite simply unique; it is owned by Etienne Dulin a descendent of the original "Sourdins" copper workers. It is the only manufacturer that is still based in the very heart of Villedieu-Les-Poeles.

Copperware Museum and Lace Centre

Closed, mornings of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

25 rue de General Huard

<http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/pcu/copperware-museum-et-lace-centre---musee-de-la-poeslerie-et-maison-de-la-dentelliere/villedieu-les-poeles/fiche-PCUNOR050FS000TF-2.html>

http://www.museesvilledieu.sitew.com/#Villedieu_les_Poeles.A

The old, rebuilt 17th century workshop plunges you into the world of the stove maker. Upstairs, you can admire an exhibition of numerous pieces in copper and brass, dating from the 15th to

the 19th century. At the Lacemaker's house (Maison de la Dentellière) visitors will discover this very special craft, with a demonstration of bobbin-lace making to round off the visit

2) Mont Robin

At a height of 276m/905foot, there is an expansive view east towards the direction of Suisse Normandy. By climbing the rocky mound to the right of the calvary, there is another viewpoint from where you might see the spires of Coutances cathedral. On a clear day you might even see the Channel Islands

3) Abbaye de Hambye

<http://patrimoine.manche.fr/reseau-sites-musees-manche.asp>

<http://patrimoine.manche.fr/abbaye-hambye-N.asp>

<http://tripideas.org/abbaye-de-hambye-france/>

Situated in the Normandy region of France, the Abbaye de Hambye is a Benedictine monastery founded in the mid-12th century, whose ancient buildings and picturesque ruins are open to visitors. The monastery's golden age lasted from its inception into the 14th century when its decline began until it fell into disuse in the 18th century. It has changed hands numerous times since then. Most of the original furnishings were sold at auction. The buildings themselves have even served as source of construction materials for their stones in the 19th century, but since 1900, the Abbaye de Hambye has been the beneficiary of active restoration efforts on the part of private donors and of the French government.

Today, a number of buildings remain from the original complex. The sanctuary itself has lost its roof, but most of the structure remains and displays its magnificent mixture of Romanesque and Gothic architecture. On the first floor of the novices' building, a permanent exhibit, "From Prayer to Fields, the Economic Life of a Medieval Abbey" illustrates the daily existence of the Benedictine monks.

Additional buildings have survived, such as the Scriptorium (where manuscripts were copied), the Chapter House (where the brethren gathered daily), the Sacristy, as well as some remarkable frescoes. Altogether, the historical complex at the Abbaye de Hambye is the largest and most complete monastic monument in France, second only to the famous Mont Saint Michel, which is still an active religious community.

4) Ferme de l'Hermitiere

<http://www.ferme-hermitiere.com/index.htm>

<http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/Hermitiere-Cider-Farm---Ferme-Cidricole-de-l-Hermitiere/PCU/SAINT-JEAN-DES-CHAMPS/fiche-PCUNOR050FS000TU-2.html>

Meet the people who make the wealth of our Norman´s sail. Jean-Luc Coulombier, producer and owner of the farm invites you to share his passion of the cider. In a verdant setting, surrounded of apple trees, “la Ferme de l´Hermitière” is an invitation to discover the cider and calvados making. A video film and a guided tour will permit you to understand what is necessary to produce a high quality cider. In front of a century old still, you will understand the distillation of cider into calvados and it improvement in our barrels

This visit has been arranged .and they are expecting us

Places to eat

- 1) **13.5km La Haye Pesnel** Several Places
- 2) **21.4km Champrepus** Boulangerie
- 3) **41.9km Gavray** Several Places
- 4) **57km St-Jean-des-Champs**, several places

Route Description

Villedieu-des-Poeles and Mont Robin LONG RIDE- Friday 7th. June 2012			
Inst.	Miles		Notes
	Total	Stage	
0	0.0	0.0	Exit the campsite by the back entrance and head left
1	0.2	0.2	250 metres bear left (large cross LHS) and head east through Angomesnil
2	1.1	0.9	1.8km SO at XR, cross D973, SP St Aubin-des-Preaux 1.5, along D154
3	1.8	0.7	3.0km In St-Aubin-des-Preaux, TR towards St Ursin, la Haye-Pesnel (This is the turn before the church) At the next crossroads, SO SP St Ursin 4.5, along D30 and follow this to St Ursin
4	5.2	3.4	8.55km Through St Ursin, staying on D309
5	7.5	2.3	12.1km TL at TJ, no SP along D35 (Other way La Lucerne)
6	7.6	0.1	12.3km In la Haye-Pesnel TL at XR, SP Gavray, Coutances along D7
7	7.8	0.1	12.5km TR, SP Le Tanu, along D165 (car park RHS) climb out of town
8	9.6	1.9	15.5km Having just passed under the railway TR at TJ, SP Le Tanu 1.5 along D165
9	10.6	1.0	17.1km Follow sign SO for Champrepus 3.5
10	12.0	1.4	19.4km Bear right SP La Lande Airou along D165
11	12.8	0.7	20.6km TR at TJ, SP La Lande Airou 2, along D579 opposite farmyard (you'll pass left turn very shortly afterwards-don't take this)
12	13.7	0.9	22.1km Keep straight following sign for La Lande-d'Airou
13	14.1	0.4	22.7km TL at TJ, SP Villedieu les-Poeles 6 along D41
14	16.3	2.2	26.3km Cross motorway
15	16.8	0.5	27km TL at XR and descend the N175, opposite traffic island (there isn't a quieter way in that I can find)
16	17.8	1.0	28.7km At the traffic lights (filter lane) TL (not the immediate left) SP Centre Ville
17	18.0	0.2	29.1km At the roundabout in front of the church in Villedieu-les-Poeles, TR, SP Saint Lo, Caen. Bear right as you have to through the centre passing the statue in the centre LHS, passing through the centre of town
18	18.3	0.3	29.6km TL , SP Percy, St Lo, along D999/E1
19	19.0	0.7	30.7km TL, SP St Lo, Caen, Percy
20	19.6	0.6	31.6km At the roundabout just before the motorway, SO, SP Percy, Granville, over the motorway, then at the next roundabout SO, SP Saint Lo, Percy, along D999
21	20.2	0.6	32.7km TR, SP St Colombe, along D452
22	21.3	1.1	34.4km In La Colombe, bear left (dead end sign and church SO), then TR, SP Beslon, along D485. Then having passed the church RHS, take the next left, SP Le Chefresne 4, along D452
23	22.8	1.5	36.8km TR at TJ, SP Le Chefresne 2, along D208
24	24.1	1.3	38.8km In le Chefresne at the stop sign, TL at TJ, no SP (other way Margueray 1) then take the SECOND right SP Montabot 5, along D452 (not the first signed road to Montabot) This road will pass the church RHS and there will bear left heading north out of the village
25	25.6	1.6	41.4km TR at TJ, SP Montabot 3, Tessy sur V 10, along D98
26	26.1	0.4	42.1km TL, SP Beaucoudray, along D452
27	26.6	0.6	42.9km This may be tricky. Take the second left (The first is just before this turn) It will be signed hopefully either Mont Robin, le Val Hubert or la Butte - or all three, and the lane will climb. You will pass a lane LHS leading to le Val Hubert, but carry on until you come to a group of buildings called la Butte. Turn Left here and this will take you to Mont Robin. Once you've seen the view, continue along the D258E downhill to join the D258.
28	27.5	0.9	44.3km Mont Robin
29	28.2	0.7	45.5km TL at TJ, towards Percy, along D258
30	28.4	0.2	45.7km SO at XR, crossing the D999, along D258 (If you want food/drink, TL here and go to Percy, you can then take the D58 west from Percy to rejoin the route)
31	29.8	1.4	48km Keep going straight at the slightly staggered XR, and when the D453 goes right shortly afterwards)
32	30.5	0.7	49.2km TL at TJ, along D58, no SP (sign the other way Hambye 5) Then shortly afterwards TR, SP Abbaye d'Hambye 4, along D258
33	33.4	2.9	53.8km Abbaye d'Hambye RHS

34	33.6	0.2	54.2km TL at TJ, SP Sourdeva 2, Villedieu 11, along D51
35	33.8	0.2	54.5km TR, SP Gavray 7, along D198
36	34.8	1.0	Bear right, SP La Baleine 3, along D198
37	35.4	0.6	57.1km Keep straight, passing the turn to la baleine RHS
38	37.4	2.0	60.3km TR at TJ, SP Gavray, Coutances 19, along D9
39	37.9	0.5	60.9km TR over the bridge into Gavray, SP Monmartin, Coutances, along D7
40	38.2	0.3	61.5km having passed through the centre of Gavray, TL at XR, SP Les Barrieres 1, along D98, then after 200 metres take the next left as the road bears right. You will effectively carry SO. The river will come close to your LHS
41	40.3	2.1	64.9km TL at XR, towards Ver, along D145 and shortly afterwards cross the river
42	40.7	0.5	65.7km In Ver, TL at TJ opposite the church, then very shortly afterwards TR, SP la Meurdraquiere 5, along D145
43	43.8	3.1	70.6km A road will go left to the centre of the small hamlet of la Meurdrquiere, carry on straight and after 400 metres you will pass another road coming in from the left from la Meurdraquiere.
44	44.5	0.7	71.7km SO at XR, SP St Sauveur la Pommeraye 2, along D145
45	45.7	1.2	73.6km In St Sauveur la Pommeraye, you will go round the church (LHS) take the first right heading west then take the first left (If you miss this left turn, no matter it reaches the D105 too, just a little further north)
46	46.4	0.7	74.8km TL at TJ, towards St Jean des Champs, along D105
47	46.9	0.5	75.6km SO at XR, SP St Jean des Champs 1, along D105
48	47.2	0.3	Cider Farm RHS, TR along the track
49	47.6	0.4	76.6km In St Jean des Champs, TL at TJ opposite the boulangerie, then shortly afterwards TR, no SP, jalong D105, just before church LHS
50	49.5	2.0	80km TR at XR, SP St Aubin dex Preaux 2.5, along D309. You are now back on the route you came out on, so retrace the route back to the campsite
51	50.9	1.4	82.3km In St Aubin des Preaux TL at TJ
52	52.3	2.8	83.5km SO at XR, SP Kairon-Plage, along D154
53	52.9	0.6	85.2km FINISH