

# CIRCUIT DÉCOUVERTE ANISY

*Peaceful town between Caen and the sea*

2,5 km  
1h



Photo : A. Lemaire



Photo : C. Marcello



**Caution : narrow pavements**  
Traffic may be dangerous

## > START

Rue de la Chênaie townhall parking.

### 1 Sculpture by Serge Saint

Self-taught Norman artist. Various tours will enable you to discover his works: [routes-serge-saint-sculpteur.net](http://routes-serge-saint-sculpteur.net)

Head to the right until you get to the Place des Libérateurs Canadiens.

### 2 Former school and former townhall n°4 - private

Bought from the Auvray family in 1838, this building became the village schoolhouse for 125 years. From 1948, the growing number of school-age children meant that a second classroom had to be opened. It opened in the old drawing room of the second rectory, which was located in rue Charles de la Butte. This was the situation until 1963. Once the building was relieved of its pupils, it became a townhall until 1988.

### 3 Power transformer

This is painted with the colours of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, which showed up to liberate the village on 6 June 1944. This regiment landed on D-Day at Bernières-sur-Mer.

Head to the left.

### 4 Former rectory | private

Acquired by the parish in 1692, it formerly consisted of a residential house and various other buildings with a courtyard, two gardens and several patches of arable land.

Take rue de l'Église up to the fire pump.

### 5 Field hospital in 1944

On 24 August 1944, after the liberation of the village, a Royal Air Force medical unit set up a field hospital in this pasture. Several aircraft were also based here.

### 6 Hand fire pump site

This was constructed towards the end of the 19th century and used until the beginning of the 20th century. The hand pumps were often supplied by the water from nearby ponds or pools.

### 7 Church

ISMH\* : 1927

The nave with three bays and the choir were built in Romanesque style in the 11th and 12th centuries. The lancet windows were constructed in the 14th century. You can still make out the flat stones arranged in an « opus spicatum » fishbone pattern on the side walls (north façade). On the south wall you can observe lovely picture windows as well as multiple ornamental brackets. During the Liberation, the bell tower was destroyed and mass was then performed in the barn attached to the old rectory (opposite) until its reconstruction.



### 8 Ancient site of a Gallo-Roman villa

The foundations of a Gallo-Roman villa were discovered at this site, as well as foundations of buildings and the remains of a hearth from the end of the Middle Ages.

This site was then used as a stone quarry for the construction of many houses in Anisy.

Turn left on to rue Clarke Lawson.

### 9 Canadian commemorative plaque

Continue to the intersection and turn left.

### 10 Old 19th century well

This enabled pupils (during the 50s) to draw water before running water was established in schools.

Continue on rue Charles Labutte.

### 11 Former rectory in front of n°6 I private

A beautiful cross adorns the old entrance gate. During the Occupation, the substation of the German military headquarters (which was at Colomby-sur-Thaon) was located close to this building. When the Normandy landings occurred, the officers who were there fled and burned the original building.

Make a U-turn and turn right on to rue des Écoles.

### 12 N°4 rue des Écoles

This was the location of one of the classrooms of the old school (2), established in the drawing room of the former rectory (11).

Continue on rue des Écoles, and at the end of the road turn left on to rue de la Pérelle then left on to rue Principale.

### 13 Rue Principale

Completely preserved during the bombings of June 1944. The houses which line it, characteristic of the Caen Plain housing in the 18th century, are built of limestone blocks from Creully and the window frames of dressed stone from Caen.

### 14 Former grocer's shop I n°27 - private

Previously this was a farmhouse with coach house that then became the village grocer's shop until 1980. During the Second World War, a shell hit the façade, and you can still make out the restored point of impact.

Turn left.

### 15 Former bakery I n°25 - private

This building, where the name of its former owner « Gombeaux » is still inscribed, was the village bakery in the 19th century.

### 16 Roadside cross

The wooden Christ from 1932 on the old roadside cross was replaced with a new one made of white granite in 1975.

### 17 Boulodrome

Former sanitary facilities of Allied soldiers at the beginning of July 1944.

### 18 The Anisy pond

Fed by several local springs, some of which are so-called « vitouards » (small intermittent streams).

It was said that the Anisy stream aroused interest because at times it would not flow for several years, then all of a sudden it would swell and flood the valley, flooding houses, stables and barns to the point that it could drown cattle. The inhabitants had to flee, then the flooding would stop and the stream would return to its channel for several years.

In the 20th century the commune built an aqueduct under the road to resolve the problem of the overflow of water. Once a dependency of the Anisy château, this pond was used to water the farmers' cattle because there were no troughs or washhouses in the commune. Today, you can find midwife toads here, whose scientific name is « Alytes obstetricians ». This 5cm-large amphibian stands out because, after mating with the female, the male takes over the clutch, which it wraps around its legs until the little tadpoles emerge. Great crested newts, as in the Anguerny pond, have also found refuge here.

### 19 The manor of Anisy, 15th century I private

The building belonged to the family of the lords of Anisy. One of the members of this very ancient Norman family accompanied Duke Robert Courteuse to the Holy Land during the first crusade in 1096. The Anisy family was one of the most ancient in all Normandy. This manor was built on one of the 4 ancient fiefs of the village, on which the church was also dependent.

Go up rue Alfred Harel (in front of the roadside cross).

### 20 Old well between n°6 and n°4

Return to rue de la Chênaie, townhall parking.



Alyte accoucheur | Photo : O. Hesnard

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