

CIRCUIT DÉCOUVERTE DOUVRES-LA-DÉLIVRANDE

A commune with 2000 years of history

4 km
1h30



Notre Dame de la Délivrande Basilica | Photo: F. Dupont



Vierge noire | Photo: C. Hudson



> START

Start at the Notre Dame de Fidélité Community

1 Lalique Chapel

*ISMH** : 2007

René Lalique (1860–1945), famous master glassmaker, inspired by the sanctuary's light, built different liturgical furniture for the chapel.



When you exit, turn left towards the traffic lights. Cross the street.



Beware, narrow pavements.

2 The roman arcs of the old chapel

Roman arcs, remains of the 12th century roman chapel. Built at the request of the Douvres baron to show the virgin statue discovered by one of his sheep to the pilgrims. It was the old chapel replaced by the current basilica.

Walk towards the basilica.

3 Sainte Famille Community

Father Saulet contributed to a new foundation of religious society as soon as 1844, in the spirit of the « Sœurs de Saint Vincent de Paul »: the « Sainte Famille » in reference to the Saint Family of Nazareth. The community's mission continues today to support outsiders through social and pastoral activities.

4 Notre Dame de la Délivrande shelter

Intrusted to a community of secular and eudists priests, to serve the pilgrims by exchanging and learning. This place also receives all types of groups (pilgrimage, camps, schools, families...).

5 Old seminary | 17th century

Seminary founded in 1644 and used as a hospital during the First World War. Currently the Maîtrise Notre Dame school. Typical architecture from the Louis 13th era. The door is surmounted by a pediment with 3 recesses, probably destined to house statues. On the second floor, a dormer with a triangular pediment rests on grooved pilasters with an ionic style tent.

6 Neo gothic Notre Dame de la Délivrande Basilica

*ISMH** : building - 1975 / western façade and chevet - 1927

*CLMH*** : bell tower - 1862

Here stood a Gallo-roman temple that was replaced by the Notre Dame roman chapel during the 12th century (of which we can only see the roman arcs 2). The current basilica was built by Father Saulet and his successors between 1845 and 1895. This basilica recalls the story of one of the oldest Norman pilgrims dedicated to the virgin through the tympanum's illustrations on the three entry doors. Here stood a Gallo roman sanctuary dedicated to the Mother Goddess brought by legionnaires from Africa; that would explain the statue's dark skin.

During the 7th century, this cult was replaced by a Christian cult. During the 9th century the Virgin statue disappeared during Viking raids. Later, during the 11th century, one of the Douvres baron's sheep unveiled the disappeared virgin statue while scratching the ground. To celebrate it, a new chapel was built, but during the 16th century, protestants destroyed the statue which was replaced with the current one.



*Supplementary Inventory of Historical Monuments

** Listed as a Historical Monuments





Lesage pharmacy | Photo : C. Hudson

Walk towards rue du Général De Gaulle.

7 Lesage pharmacy

ISMH* : façade and roof on street / interior decor - 1975

Art Nouveau building. Piece by F.Rouvray with influences from H.Guimard.

The facade shows architecture elements from the renaissance and classical style, while the ironworks, the door and window frames and the handrail are from the art nouveau style. Inside, several pieces of furniture remain from the time.



8 Justice de paix | 41 rue du Général de Gaulle

In Douvres, justice hearings used to be held at the police station. In 1912, the mayor decided to build a building with the help of Aumasson, a famous architect. This building housed the justice hearings until the 50's.

9 Cour d'Yvrande

Old farm built during the 19th century. Restoration of the building and the barn to host exhibits. The courtyard's garden houses a game area. The entry gates are reused from the Sainte Croix property (old town hall).



7 KIOSK IN 7 TOWNS FROM COURSEULLES-SUR-MER ALL YEAR ROUND

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Walk towards the round-a-bout. Turn right and go under the porch with the wooden rail.

10 Old 19th century train station

This building is an old train station opened by the railroad Company from Caen to the sea in June 1875. This railroad was closed in 1950, since then the building has become the Association House.

11 Town hall

Old Sainte Croix property, as shown by the « s » and the cross engraved on the pillars at the entry. This building was built in 1876 and is typical from that period's architecture. See the decorated ceramic frieze at the top of the town hall.

Return to the old train station and take the gravel path along the watercourse.

12 Thomas de Douvres walk

This path along the Douvette got its name from a famous person: Thomas Osbern, who became archbishop of York (England) in 1071 (thanks to Odon de Conteville, step brother of William the Conqueror and bishop of Bayeux) after being treasurer of the church of Bayeux. Thomas Osbern will then be known as Thomas de Douvres in reference to his birthplace.

After 300m along the path, up to the road, turn left and go towards the church.

13 Saint Remy church

ISMH* : western façade and chevet - 1927

CLMH** : bell tower - 1862

Of roman style, the bell tower is crowned with a gothic steeple. The nave is prolonged by a 14th century chancel rebuilt in 1832 after lightning damage. A 18th century statue of Saint Regnobert, one of the first evangelizer of Normandy, is kept in a side chapel.



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On the other side of the church, walk down the presbytery road.

14 Priory mansion | 9 rue du presbytère

Old presbytery, 18th century building. Its gate is made of a carriage door flanked by two finely crafted pilasters and two doors. We can still see the cross above the gate.

15 Manor | 4 rue du presbytère - private

19th century manor. Seaside architecture style. The finely crafted gate is probably from the same period.

At the end of the street, take on your right, rue de la Poterie, and continue to the Baronnie.

16 The Barony

CLMH** : the dwelling, the remains of the chapel / the barn / the gatehouse / the episcopal enclosure and its enclosing walls / the pit of the resurgence of the Dover tank and the channel that flows out of it - 1995

The creation of a Barony in Douvres probably dates back to the 11th century. At the time, it was owned by people close to William the Conqueror. It was sold during the Revolution and became town property in 1974. The buildings and remains were from the 12th to the 17th century. We can still see two buildings, one served as a hall (for reception, formal room and even justice room) and the other as a house. These two buildings resemble a typical Anglo-Norman domain from the 13th century. There was also a chapel from the end of the 12th century, the only remains are a few walls and fortifications. Today, it is cultural space, game area for children and a good spot for walks.



Guided tours are regularly organised. More information in our events calendar.

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