

CIRCUIT DÉCOUVERTE PLUMETOT-CRESSERONS

5,5 km
2h/3h



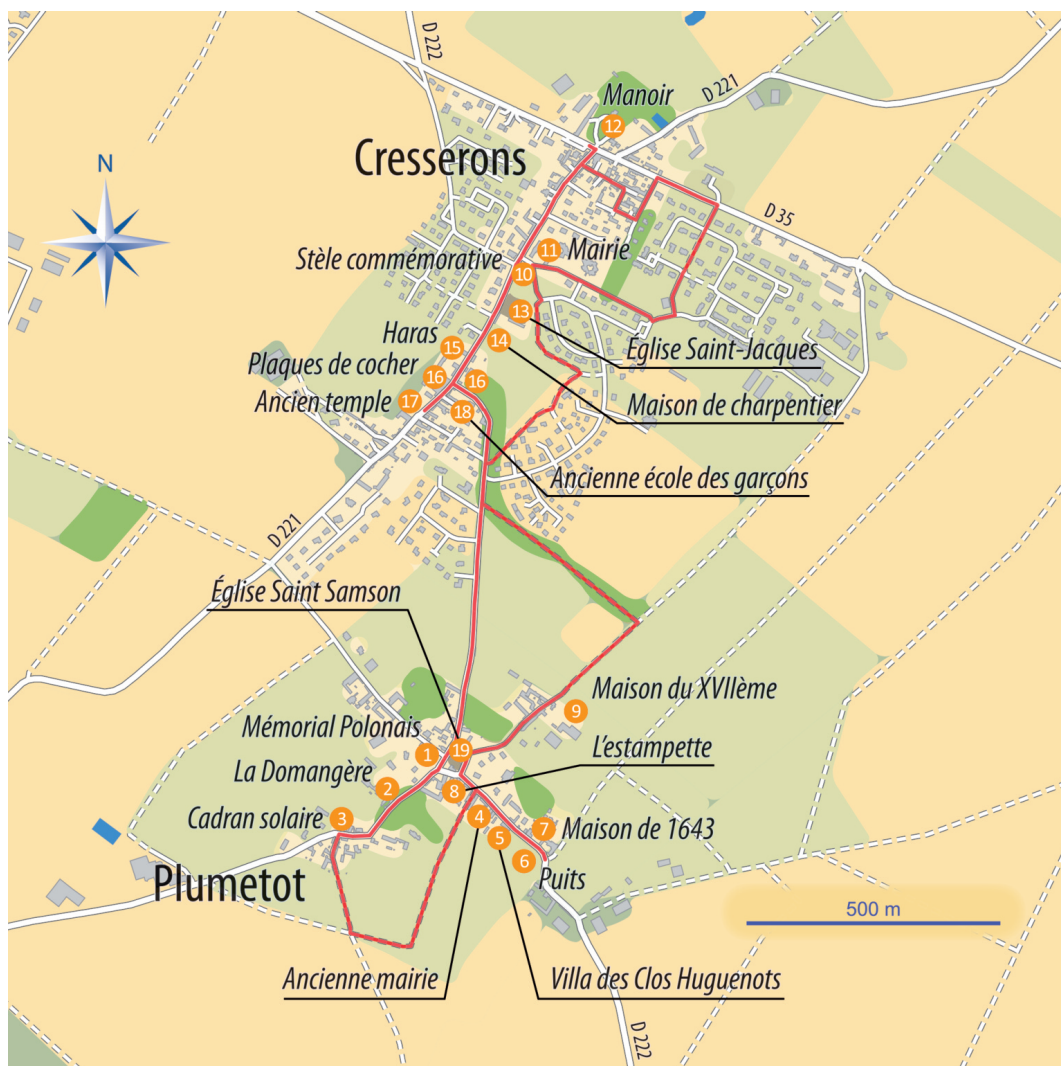
Charming preserved villages at the gateway to the sea



Church of Saint Jacques of Cresserons | Photo: F. Dupont



Church of Saint Samson of Plumetot | Photo: M. Lelandais



> START

Place de la Mairie de Plumetot car park.

1 Polish memorial (V for Victory)

After 6 June 1944, several aerodromes were constructed to support the land forces. B10, in the town of Plumetot, was built to mark the return of Polish airmen to the continent, and gave them renewed hope.

Turn right, onto the public footpath Voie Communale Bout Basset.

2 La Domangère | No.10 – private

Neoclassical style castle. The wooded passage on the other side of the road was once used as an access route.

3 Cadran solaire | No.18 – private

See the façade of this old house.

Turn left, onto Chemin du Maréchal.

The B10 aerodrome was at the end of this road.

Built in 1938–1939, it was originally used by the French and the British. Following the armistice of 1940, the Germans took possession of it, but their planes remained on the ground.

On 18 June 1944, the English began to redevelop the site. The dirt track was lined with a parallel track, which was covered with an asphalt carpet. It was the only one of the nineteen British field airfields to have such protection. From 23 June 1944, this 1200 m runway allowed powerful planes to land.

At the crossroads, turn left onto Chemin du Bas Cachy.

In 1944, planes in need of repairs were camouflaged under the apple trees in the field to your left.

Head down the tree-lined lane on the left. At the end, turn right onto the public footpath Voie Communale Bout aux Charrières.

The « charrières » are paths that carts used to trundle along.

4 The former town hall | No.18 – private

There also used to be a school here, in the rear courtyard. There are inscriptions on the flagpole. It was customary for visitors to make their mark by engraving the date and their name or initials.

5 Villa des Clos Huguenots | No.22 – private

This used to belong to a protestant family of the same name.

6 The well

7 The oldest house in the village, dating back to 1643 | No.29 – private



Turn around and head to Place aux Fayards.

8 Estampette l private

A former tavern and café, which was a favourite haunt of the villagers. It was hit by a shell on the night of 7 July 1944.

Turn right and continue along the public footpath Voie Communale Bout Cerfs.

9 17th century house

This is typical architecture of the time, with an external staircase. The lower floor was reserved for animals, and the naturally-heated top floor was used as living space.

Continue down the green lane and follow the path to the left – just before the donkey hut. This takes you through Bois Sainte Marie, a vestige of the castle park. Leave the woods by taking the footpath on your right, just after the rue du Clos du Four.

10 Remembrance stone

This is a monument in memory of the British soldiers from the 22nd Dragoon Regiment of the 30th Armoured Brigade, who died for the liberation of Cresserons in June 1944. In the small hours of 6 June 1944, the town found itself under the control of English soldiers from the 1st South Lancashire Regiment of the 8th Infantry Brigade, supported by the riders of the 22nd Dragoons. The area was liberated on 7 June 1944.

The square is dedicated to Ian Hammerton, who led the 22nd Dragoons. There is a permanent exhibition of portraits of veterans on the back wall of the square.



Portraits of veterans | Photo : C. Hudson

11 Cresserons Town Hall

Built and inaugurated in 1884, this building was both a town hall and a school.

Head down the lane towards the stadium, passing the town hall and school. Then turn left onto rue Albert Camus. Turn right onto rue du Bac au Port.

This road dates back to the Gallo-Roman era, and was part of the important Roman road leading to Bayeux-Lillebonne.

Turn left onto rue de la Couturette, and then rue Neuve.

12 The manor house

This manor house (also known as a « country house »), with Louis XIII-style architecture, dates back to 1880.

Retrace your steps and head back towards the church.

13 Church of Saint Jacques of Cresserons

ISMH* : western façade - 1925

12th century, Romanesque style; door with two archivolts (lozenges & zigzags) and small window columns which overhang the door. The building was restored in 1610. The chancel and the transept were built between 1830 and 1870 by Bishop Desclais, who served the parish. Christened in 1927, you will find two bells there. The bigger one is called Ellen, Yvonne, Emilie and the other is known as Émilie, Marie, Andrée.



14 Carpenter's house

The framework of this house was made by a marine carpenter. The roof looks like an overturned ship's hull!



Polish memorials | Photo : A.-M. ruffier

15 The stud farm

On each of the pillars at the entrance, a horse's head serves as a reminder of the original use of these buildings. A second stud farm is located on rue de la Délivrante. One of the races at Vincennes is called the « Prix de Cresserons ».

16 Coachman plaques

Look above the sign for Plumetot/Biéville Beuville, and on the other side of the road.

These 19th century relics of local history were placed high up so that they could be seen by coachmen travelling on major communication routes. Five of them have been restored and left in place by a passionate volunteer from the municipality.

17 The former temple

The third temple in the municipality. Built in 1877 in a neo-Gothic style, it is now used as a youth centre.

Re-trace your steps and turn right, towards Plumetot.

18 The former boys' school l No.6 - private

Built in 1852, this boys' school was open until 1884.

19 Church of Saint Samson of Plumetot

ISMH* : building - 1927

From the 12th and 18th centuries. Romanesque style. In the chancel are two beautiful keystones and a baptismal pool with a tri-lobed arch. One of the keystones depicts an angel whose semi-erect wings form a circle. At the top of the bell tower is a mechanical clock from 1891 with a dial made of Volvic lava stone. Other remarkable elements are the 17th century cross in the cemetery, the beautiful fish bones on the façade, and the markings left by the stone carvers – a hand, a cross, and a memento mori on one of the buttresses of the church.



*Supplementary Inventory of Historical Monuments

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