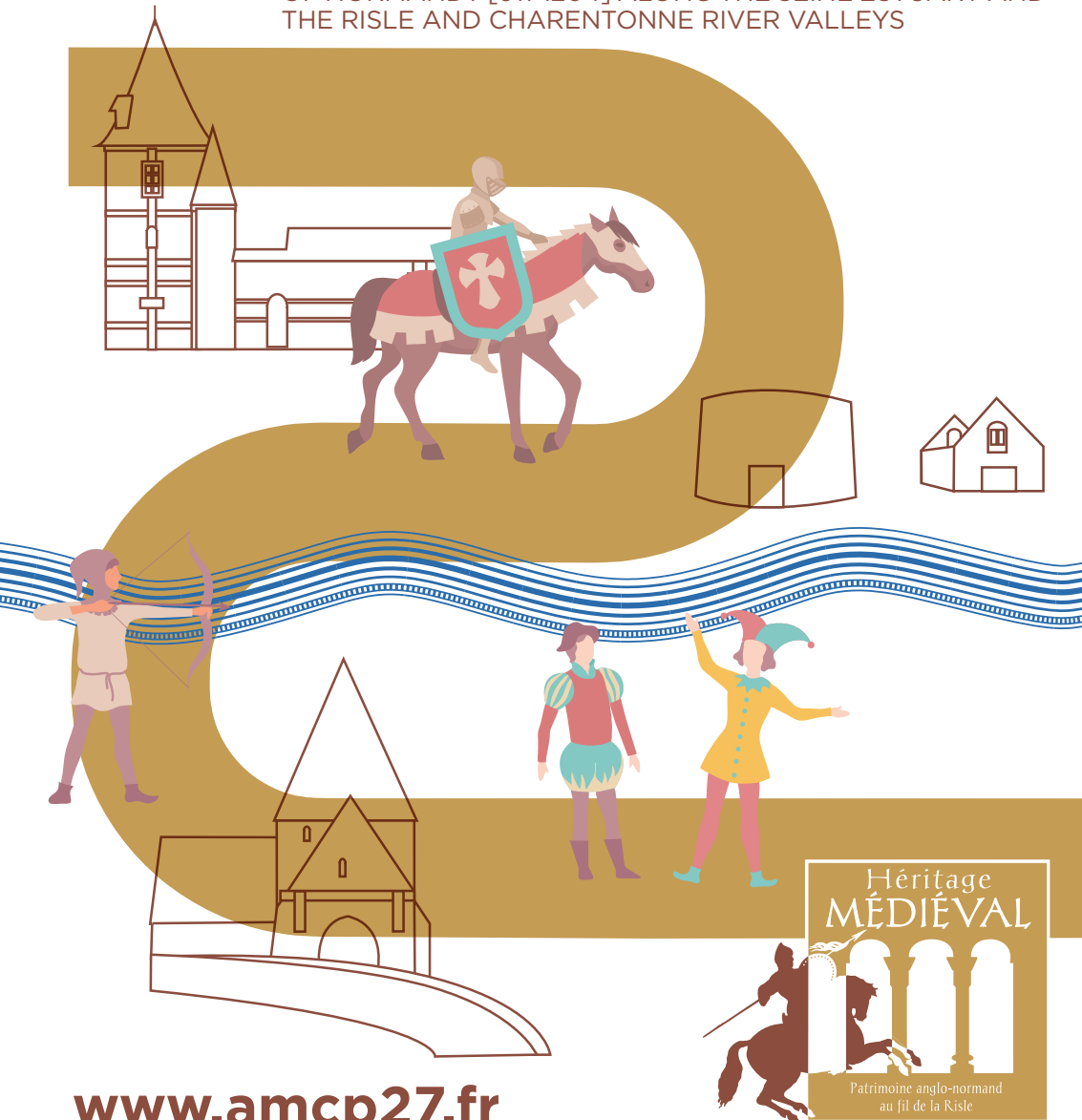


# DISCOVER THE TOURIST TRAIL MEDIEVAL HERITAGE



• 12 SITES OVER 90 KM • THE HERITAGE SITES OF THE DUKES  
OF NORMANDY [911-1204] ALONG THE SEINE ESTUARY AND  
THE RISLE AND CHARENTONNE RIVER VALLEYS



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE  
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02 31 89 23 30

**TOURIST INFORMATION  
POINT**  
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27210 BEUZEVILLE  
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**TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE  
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11 RUE THIERS  
27500 PONT-AUDEMER  
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**HERITAGE TRAIL  
INFORMATION POINT**  
29 RUE SAINT PIERRE  
27290 MONTFORT SUR RISLE  
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**TOURIST INFORMATION  
POINT**  
1 RUE LANFRANC  
27800 LE BEC-HELLOUIN  
02 32 44 05 79

**INFORMATION POINT  
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13 RUE DU CHÂTEAU  
27800 HARCOURT  
02 32 46 29 70

**TOURIST INFORMATION  
POINT**  
6 PLACE DE L'ÉGLISE  
27170 BEAUMONT-LE-ROGER  
02 32 44 05 79

**TOURIST INFORMATION  
OFFICE BERNAY**  
29 RUE THIERS  
27300 BERNAY  
02 32 44 05 79



### 1 FIQUEFLEUR CHURCH

This church, dedicated to Saint George, was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by Robert Bertran and then gifted to the priory of Beaumont-en-Auge. In the shape of a Latin cross with protruding transepts and a flat chevet, it still retains its pre-Romanesque style despite having been reworked in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Decorative elements, including a lion and a sheep, can be seen on the exterior stonework. Only possible to view the building from the exterior.



### 2 GRESTAIN ABBEY

After the death of Robert the Magnificent around 1035, William the Conqueror's mother married Herluin, Viscount of Conteville, in 1037 who was living near Pont-Audemer. She gave two step-brothers to William, Odon of Bayeux and Robert of Mortain, as well as a step-sister, Adelaide. Grestain Abbey, founded by Herluin in 1050, is located near Carbec. Its imposing ruins can be seen from the road which follows the estuary between Pont-Audemer and Honfleur. The abbey also owes its charm to the stream, said to have healing properties, that runs through it.



### 3 SAINT GERMAIN CHURCH

This church was founded in the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century under the protection of Préaux Abbey. The parish of Saint Germain was later held by Onfroy of Vieilles who restored the church. This well-proportioned, Romanesque church has a six-bay nave, a transept, a tower and a choir surrounded by apsidioles. Of interest are the 186 corbels that decorate the cornice of the nave. The church was modified in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Saint-Gilles leper house, founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by Galéran of Meulan, Robert of Beaumont's son, was situated near the church.



### 4 PRIORY, SAINT PHILBERT SUR RISLE

A charter by Hugh II of Montfort dated 1076 mentions the church at Saint Philbert. The Montfort family founded a collegiate church there served by eight secular canons. In 1097, Robert I of Montfort donated the building and its emoluments to Bec Abbey. The collegiate church became a priory in 1112 and the canons were replaced by monks who followed the rule of Saint Benedict. Built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the church was modified to a great extent in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Its impressive grounds contain the traces of fishponds fed by a spring.



### 5 MONTFORT CASTLE

The fortress is situated on a rocky outcrop 120 metres above the village of Montfort sur Risle, dominating the Risle valley with an outstanding view. Founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by Hugh I of Montfort, the castle was reworked in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by his descendent Hugh IV of Montfort. Covering a total surface of 4.6 hectares, the castle was the scene of many skirmishes. It was put to siege for the first time in 1123 by Henry II of England before being attacked for a second time in 1153. Open all year round. Guided tours by appointment.



### 6 THE BARONNIE, SAINT PHILBERT SUR RISLE

This episcopal manor house, residence of the bishops of Avranches, owes its name to John of Ivry, son of Raoul, bishop of Avranches from 1060 to 1067 who then became archbishop of Rouen. The Baronnie's enclosure covers 1.5 hectares. The castle site, 105m long by 100m wide, is set out half-way up the side of the valley facing the Risle. It is enclosed at the corners by four round towers built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The entrance, positioned at the rear of the fortified enclosure, at the edge of the forest, has a large door flanked by two towers equipped with arrowslits.



### 7 SEIGNEURIAL MANOR HOUSE, GLOS SUR RISLE

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, there is mention of a castle built by the Grente family in Glos next to the church. The Grente family, whose ancestor Hugh of Grente took part in the Battle of Hastings in 1066, held the seat of the fiefdom at that time. All that is left of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century manor is the dovecote and part of the manor house. Originally the site would have included other outbuildings and an enclosure. This picturesque building has retained its twin Romanesque bays.



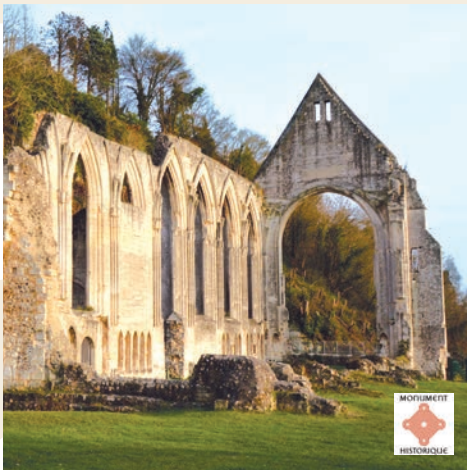
### 8 BEC-HELLOUIN ABBEY

Founded in 1034 by a knight called Herluin, the first monastery, following the rule of Saint Benedict, was established at Bonneville-Aptot, it then moved to Pont-Authou before setting up in the parish of Bec in 1039. Bec Abbey became an important cultural centre. Lanfranc of Pavia, friend and advisor to William the Conqueror, created the school of Bec which established the monastery's influence and its place as the cradle of Norman monasticism. Lanfranc became archbishop of Canterbury after the Norman Conquest.



### 9 BRIONNE FORTRESS

Brionne became a county at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century and was held by Gilbert of Brionne, Duke Richard II's nephew. The earliest castle was situated on the island between two branches of the Risle that formed the first fortified market town. In all likelihood, Brionne castle and its keep were built at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, or in the first quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Residence of the lords of Beaumont-Meulan, the fortress was built in the Norman architectural style.



### 11 HOLY TRINITY PRIORY, BEAUMONT LE ROGER

Roger of Beaumont, a powerful baron and one of William the Conqueror's advisers, was the driving force behind the construction of Holy Trinity collegiate church which started in 1070. Built below the castle of the lords of Beaumont, it was inaugurated in 1037-1038 in the presence of the Archbishop of Rouen and Robert Curthose. Roger of Beaumont installed a congregation of canons who were later replaced by Benedictine monks attached to Bec-Hellouin Abbey.



### 12 BERNAY ABBEY CHURCH

The Abbey Church is considered to be one of the first examples of the Romanesque in Normandy both architecturally and decoratively. Our Lady Abbey was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by Judith of Brittany (982-1017), daughter of Conan "the crooked" (c.940-992) Duke of Brittany, after her marriage to Richard II (970-1026), Duke of Normandy. The construction of Our Lady Abbey was completed by William of Volpiano, an Italian architect, monk at Fécamp Abbey, where the Dukes had their palace at that time.



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