

To see, to discover

Candes-Saint-Martin

is listed among the most beautiful villages of France: it is a picture postcard village with its black slate roofs covering the white tufa stone buildings surrounding the beautiful collegiate church.

Collegiate church of Candes-Saint-Martin

Built in the 12th and 13th centuries, it's a church of pilgrimage where saint Martin died on 8 November 397.

Trips on traditional fishing boats

Up until the mid-19th century Candes was a dynamic fishing and shipping port. Traditional fishing boats known as «toutes cabanées», have reawakened the port's past by offering a range of boat trips along the Loire and the Vienne rivers, departing from Candes on the Amarante, the Belle Adèle and the CPIE boats.

Technical information

GPS COORDINATES N 47°20'962 - E 0°07'6918

ELEVATION + 81 m

Accommodation / Catering

Bed and breakfast

Holidays rental

Restaurants Auberge de la Route d'Or

Food shops, bread delivery and snacks,

meals upon booking, bar, post pick-up at the

service station at the village entrance

«East» car park, Santiago de Compostela route

Tourist Information point

Tourist office

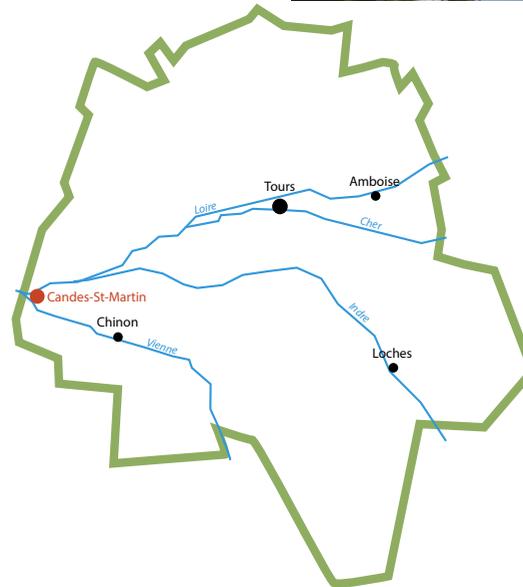
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Walking charter

Cherish and respect nature. Listen to it, do not spoil it and do not harm it. Stay on the trail and be discreet. Do not damage plants or undergrowth. Do not smoke in the forest or do not light fires. Do not scare animals. Do not neglect human contact. Respect and get to know this rural world that welcomes you.

This material is funded by the Indre-et-Loire Council as part of the Footpath and Hiking Trail Regional Plan.

If you encounter any problem during the process of your walk, please inform us at sentinellesportsdenature.fr

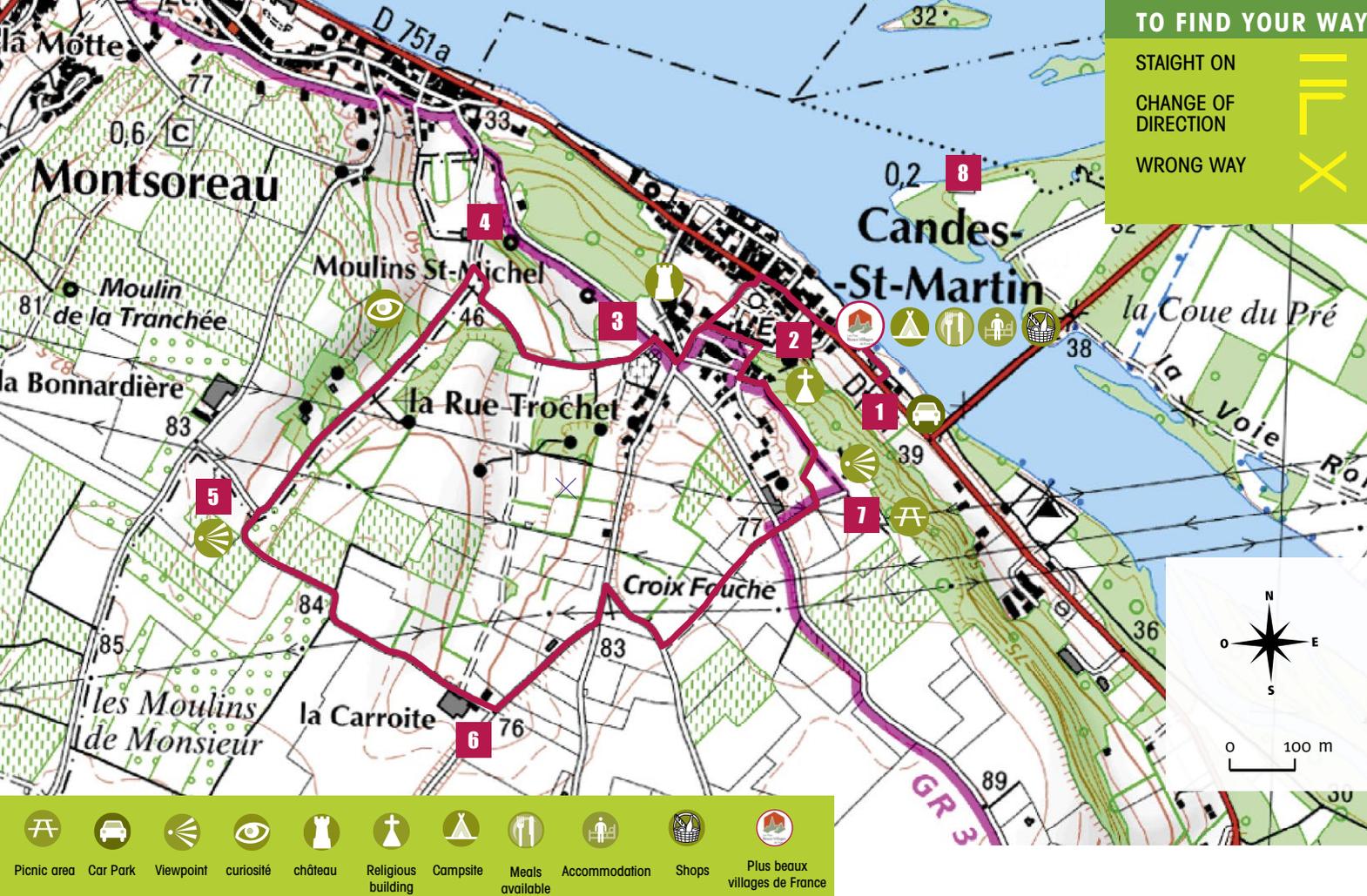


Hiking
NATURE - HERITAGE

When the Loire and
the Vienne rivers meet

Candes-
Saint-Martin

1 h - 4 km - Easy



TO FIND YOUR WAY

STRAIGHT ON 

CHANGE OF DIRECTION 

WRONG WAY 

- 3 Rue du puits St-Michel**
Arriving in the square, turn right onto « **rue du puits Saint-Michel** » and descend to the left alongside the cemetery on a tarmac road flanked by low tufa walls (a limestone specific to Touraine). You are now leaving the village, with pastures and cultivated fields on both sides.
- 4 Rue du moulin St-Michel**
Before turning left at « **La Bonnardière** », look up to the right and notice the base of the « **moulin-cavier Saint-Michel** » (windmill with a cellar). Going up the small tarmac road, you will notice the former quarries now used as storage, housing or mushroom caves. At the top of the hill, you will come to a vast plateau bordered by vineyards (AOC Touraine wine), orchards and grain fields.
- 5 Fontevraud Forest**
Following the yellow marked path and admire **the forest of Fontevault** in front of you. You turn: on the left of the hangars, you can see the mill cellar of the « **Tranchée** ». This mill has a small wooden frame called a « **hucherolle** » that supports the sails that rotate 360° at the top of the conical tower.
- 6 La Carroite**
When you arrive at « **La Carroite** », turn left and follow the path until you come to the sign « **Candes-Saint-Martin** ». Just before this sign, turn right at the iron cross, then left onto a dirt path. In front of you will be the ruins of the « **Moulin-tour** » (windmill tower).
- 7 Panorama**
The panoramic view is exceptional. Near the mill an orientation and information table, erected by the Parc naturel régional Loire-Anjou-Touraine, marks the confluence of the Loire and Vienne rivers.

Vast and diversified, the footpaths around Cléré-les-Pins are made for nature lovers and those who love history and heritage.

1 Start
When you arrive in Candes-Saint-Martin (coming from Chinon), park your car in the car park on the left just before the bar-tobacco-gas-station.

Leaving the car park, cross the road. If the level of the Vienne river is not too high, walk alongside it to reach the port of Candes. Otherwise follow the yellow way-markers through the alleyways of the village. Then walk up towards the collegiate church, crossing the road once again.

2 Collegiate Church
Walk up the cobblestone street, to the right of the church. Continue behind this magnificent fortified monument built in the 12th and 13th centuries on the spot where

Saint Martin died in 397. According to the legend, when his body was being carried from Tours by boat on the Loire river, the sun shone brightly, awakening the flora and fauna: it was the first St Martin's summer. Now pass in front of the « **Château Vieux** » which became a castellany in the Middle Ages. Louis XI is said to have stayed here 18 times.

Coming to the top of the street, turn right. You can stop here in front of the « **Château Neuf** » (or new house), built in 1782 by Monseigneur Michel Amelot de Gournay.

On this table, you can also find information concerning the fauna, flora, crops, vineyards, etc. The grassy area nearby offers you everything you need for a time of relaxation or a lunch break as you contemplate this beautiful landscape. From here, follow the grassy path along the observation benches and go down the small stone path following the yellow marked trail « **sente pavée** » to the « **Place du Puits** ». Finally, turn right, then left following the stone path to the church, arriving at the place you started your hike.

8 Confluence
Pause to take in the confluence: the Vienne river flows into the Loire river. The alluvial plain widens out. The Loire valley acquired the status of a UNESCO world **heritage site as a cultural landscape** in November 2000.

N.B.: The notice boards at the beginning of this trail were put up by the association « **Les Amis de Candes-Saint-Martin** ».