



TO FIND YOUR WAY

STRAIGHT ON

CHANGE OF DIRECTION

WRONG WAY

In the heart of Touraine in the Manse valley, Crissay is classified as one of the most beautiful village in France. You will discover an exceptional architectural heritage, the surrounding landscape and neighbouring village of Avon-les-Roches.

1 Start
The 14 km red waymarked circuit (which can be shortened if you wish) starts from the car park on the edge of the village in the direction of Saint-Epain. Take the white path which goes down to the town hall (Mairie) and the 16th century church. Pass to the right of the cemetery then go right again after having a look at the washhouse next to the river **Manse** (information boards will tell you about the fauna, flora and mills).

2 Château de Crissay
Follow the path through the fields. In front of you stands the **château de Crissay** built in the 15th and 16th centuries. You can see the ruins of the newer part of the chateau, it is the

north facade which remains the most intact. As well as the chapel and the servants' quarters, the magnificent gateway to the chateau has also survived.

3 Town centre
When you get to the road head towards the village, turn left and then right onto the rue du château. Magnificent houses such as the **Maison de Justice**, the **Maison du Grand Carroi** and the **Grande Maison**, all built at the end of the 15th century, make an impressive sight. On the square you will find information boards about the architecture and history of the village. The tufa stone used for construction illuminates the streets of the village centre. On the D 21 road, in the direction of Saint-Epain, turn left in the direction of Puy Renault then shortly turn back onto the D 21 road and after a few metres turn left towards Les Rageaux and Le Puy aux Boeufs.

4 Barn carroi
At the crest of the hill, turn left in the direction of the **Carroi de la Grange**. From this height the view of

the Manse and Vienne valleys, between cultivated fields, woods and hamlets, is exceptional. If you wish to return to Crissay directly, go left again. Otherwise, turn right.

5 Crissay Forest
You will now enter the beautiful **Crissay forest** which comprises many species, mainly oaks and firs. After around 1,700 metres of woodland turn left and leave the shade of the trees to follow the rue chaude (hot street), thus called because of its exposure to the sun. On the sides of the street are troglodyte dwellings, which were once inhabited.

6 Roches-Trachelion
A little detour takes you to **Les Roches-Trachelion** and its collegiate church. The ruins are impressive, in particular the flamboyant style of the facade, a rare example of religious French Renaissance architecture. Go back down the road. Turn right and continue until you reach the Roches washhouse where there is a picnic spot. After 500 metres, take the path on the right and then the path to the left to get to La Guitière. At the crossroads, go straight ahead to get to Avon, go left to go back to Crissay directly.

7 Avon-les-Roches
The village of **Avon-les-Roches** also boasts a rich heritage with its church built in the 12th and 13th centuries. Be sure to stop in the cemetery which contains the graves of 78 Belgian soldiers who died during the First World War. Take the D 138 road and skirt the village to the left to get back to La Guitière again, then turn right.

8 Pouge hamlet
Descend to the **hamlet of Pouge**. Go through the hamlet to get to a washhouse. The village of Avon has nine washhouses in total. Turn left, then left again at the crossroads then right onto the dirt path. You can see the **Oignié dovecote** in the distance which has 2,000 putlog holes (pigeon nests) inside.

9 Vineyard
At the end of the path turn right and then left. Notice the fields of vines. We are at the edge of the Chinon appellation wine area. To the right are the surrounding walls of the grounds of the château de Crissay. Turn right to return to the village.

10 Le logis de la Poterne
As you walk down the road you will pass between troglodyte caves and dwellings dug into the tufa stone. Enjoy the shade that they offer. To the right, notice a magnificent building, the **Logis de la Poterne**, formerly known as Porte Bigot, built in the 15th century. Go over the crossroads then take the rue du Puits-Auger and turn left to get back to the car park.