

To see, to discover

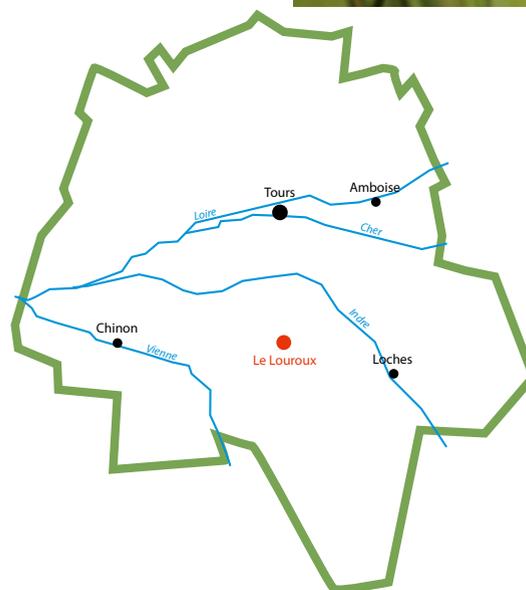
A group of 12th -15th century buildings that constitute the priory with a church, a tithe barn, a residence and a hexagonal tower. Presently being restored.

Event

The Carnival of Manthelan, a century-old tradition in February.

Leisure activity

4.5 km from the village of Louroux, the glider flight club (daily from 15/04 to 15/10, by appointment the rest of the year).



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 sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr



Hiking
NATURE

Watching birds
around
the "Louroux" pond

Le Louroux

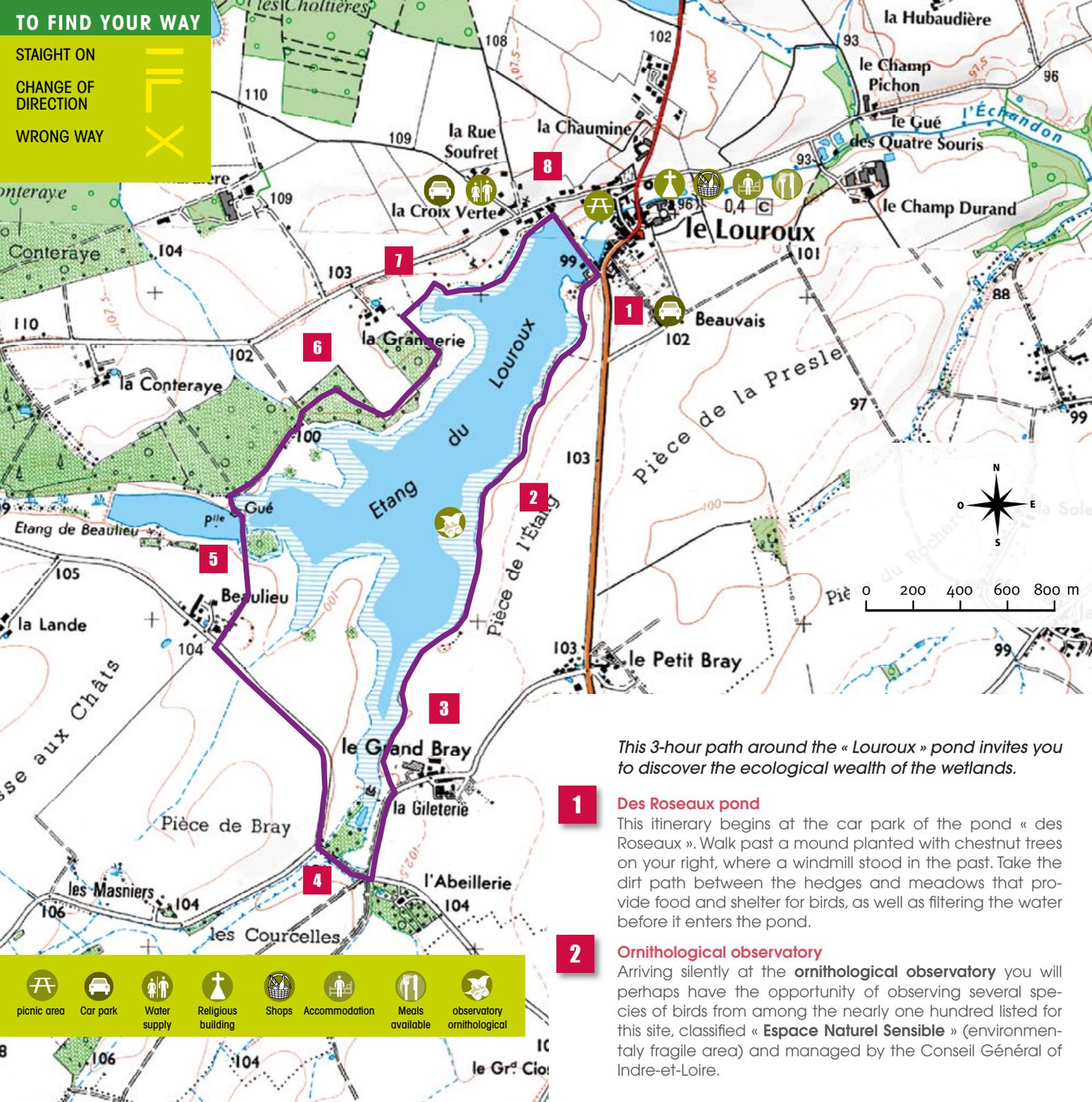
2h - 5,2 km - easy

TO FIND YOUR WAY

STRAIGHT ON 

CHANGE OF DIRECTION 

WRONG WAY 



This 3-hour path around the « Louroux » pond invites you to discover the ecological wealth of the wetlands.

- 1 Des Roseaux pond**
This itinerary begins at the car park of the pond « des Roseaux ». Walk past a mound planted with chestnut trees on your right, where a windmill stood in the past. Take the dirt path between the hedges and meadows that provide food and shelter for birds, as well as filtering the water before it enters the pond.
- 2 Ornithological observatory**
Arriving silently at the **ornithological observatory** you will perhaps have the opportunity of observing several species of birds from among the nearly one hundred listed for this site, classified « **Espace Naturel Sensible** » (environmentally fragile area) and managed by the Conseil Général of Indre-et-Loire.

- 3 Grand Bray farm**
You then leave the made-up foot path and continue your way along the edge of the pond. Willows and ash trimmed into pollards border the path leading to the **farm « Grand Bray »**. Here, the pond narrows to form a « tail », at the end of which a system of grates prevent the fish from swimming up the stream. At the farm, take the public tarmac road to the right.
- 4 Louroux stream**
At the first crossroads, turn right again and go past two culverts. The second goes across the stream of « Louroux », in which the stone loach still lives. This is the main source of water for the pond and the outlet of a pond draining about 2,300 hectares of agricultural land.
- 5 Beaulieu lake**
Follow this small tarmac road and branch off to the right, just before the **farm of Beaulieu**, onto the grassy path to reach the wood. You will come to the second « tail » of the pond where, the **lake of Beaulieu** was dug. It now acts as a filter for the « **Étang des Roseaux** » (reed pond) located on your right.
- 6 Undergrowth**
Go over the wooden footbridge and turn right to reach the second footbridge before winding through the wood. The ruts are voluntarily preserved to encourage the reproduction of frogs and newts. In the same way, dead trees, particularly appreciated by woodpeckers and wood eating insects, are left in place. Turn left upon arriving at the fence. Sheep find pasture on the moor in summer to maintain an area that is open and favourable to the development of numerous protected plant species, such as the **buttercup « Grande Douve »** and the **Gentian violet**.
- 7 Damp area**
Continue by taking the culvert of carved stone located at the heart of the wetlands where, among the irises and willows lying in the water, you can perhaps observe the reproduction of carp in spring.
- 8 Dyke and lake**
You will find the footpath that leads to the car park via the embankment of the pond. From the Middle Ages, the Benedictine monks, belonging to the Abbey of Marmoutier, used the Louroux pond for the reproduction of carp. The former fishing ground is still visible in the small valley on the left. Fish are today captured with « sennes » (nets) directly in the pond.

