

# Bretagne

## Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra and our Friends

September 12-22, 2020

UI James CONDUCTOR as Host Judy Borisky and Roberto as Hosts

\*\*\* **OUR SURPRISE IS A JUDY SURPRISE GUEST** as Hostess. Judy Asst, Guide-ess & **FRIEND!!!**

Activities begin after included breakfast at hotel. Hotel Stays at St. Malo, Perros Guirec \* and Vannes Perros Guirec or the "Cote de Granit Rose" was added for its breathtaking scenery. After reading what we will be doing on the itinerary, you will realize why we are excited. We hope that you will follow our excitement and let us put your name on our "list" . The trip is just about filled, but we are checking with those who accepted early to see if all are going with us; and we'll be glad if you can go too.

**13 September: Sunday** : Depending on our arrival time and city of Rennes or Nantes, we may take a look at Rennes, the capital of Brittany.

This afternoon, enjoy a short walk in the **Forêt de Brocéliande**. About 18 miles west of Rennes, the forest of Paimpont is all that remains of the vast forest that covered ancient inland Brittany aka Argoat. **Legend has it** that the 25 square miles of woodland is also the location of mythical Brocéliand. We are at the site of the magical forest of King Arthur's legend...and the Wizard Merlin and the region exudes an ancient and mysterious aura.

PM ST Malo center between city walls

**On to St Malo where we have A NICE DINNER TOGETHER tonight or tomorrow night.**

### **14 September: Monday:**

Today you will visit the Mont Saint-Michel (we are 1-hour away). Situated in the middle of a bay, the Mont Saint-Michel welcomes us. Saint-Aubert, the Bishop of Avranches, founded Mont Saint Michel in 708 after having seen the archangel Saint-Michel appear in his dreams three times.

We visit to the Mont Saint-Michel Abbey. In 966 a community of Benedictines settled on the rock at the request of the Duke of Normandy and the pre-Romanesque church was built before the year one thousand. In the afternoon, enjoy some time at leisure to explore the island on your own.

For those who have been or do not want to go to Mont St M, we'll have another close destination or exploration of St Malo.

PM St Malo



## 15 September: Tuesday

This morning you will visit nearby Dinan. Dinan is without doubt one of the most attractive and best



preserved small towns in Brittany. With its 1.8 mile (3km)-long ramparts, half-timbered houses, attractive port and cobbled streets filled with art galleries and craft shops, it's worth a day of anyone's time. Lunch will be at leisure in Dinan. After taking a look at Dinard, we should finish the day in St. Malo enjoying the atmosphere. With a stunning location thrust out into the sea, Saint-Malo is one of the most popular destinations in Brittany. Its walled

citadel (Intra Muros) is the main attraction, most of which was painstakingly restored. The city also enjoys a number of pleasant beaches and an extremely large selection of restaurants, appropriately focused on seafood.

3<sup>rd</sup> pm St Malo Intra Muros

## 16-17 September: L'Agapa Hotel Spa Nuxe\*\*\*\*\* in Perros Guirec

Located on the Pink Granit Coast of Brittany, This 5-star hotel offers panoramic sea views of the archipelago of the 7 isles. We plan to have a dinner here with glass walls as our background.

**Our 1<sup>st</sup> stop today is toward the west to charming Lannion. Afternoon walk from Perros Guirec to admire the stunning « pink granite coast ». The imposing, pink granite rocks between Trestraou and Saint-Guirec beaches are world-famous. Some of them are more than 20 meters high! They are 300 million years old and stretch over an area of 25 hectares, forming a dazzling backdrop. Your 1-hour walk will end in Ploumanach. The former fishing village offers visitors an almost unbelievable view, with its pink rocks. You'll see that the boulders and Rock formations are a rose color along the blue sea. This is the Cote de Granit Rose.**

**Brittany is known for its delicious cider, which is traditionally drunk with galettes or Crêpes.**

**We will organize tastings.**

**Of course, this being France, you'll also find excellent wines in Brittany. Perhaps best known is**

**Muscadet, a white wine that goes well with seafood. And we'll call in our Dionysis < Bacchus**

**Gordon>For his annual input.**

**We have a boat ride after breakfast on 17<sup>th</sup> to the 7 isles. There, we will enjoy sea life and sea birds, include their penguins, perhaps puffins, if in season. The nature lovers will observe colonies of sea birds and breeding birds: gannets, guillemots, puffins, penguins, oystercatchers, shags, who have taken up residence. The natural reserve is also home to a group of thirty gray seals who raise their pups. The rest of the day is for the hotel's full spa, < learn of their available facilities in case you need an appointment >, or you may visit the nearby village. Every vacationer needs to have a vacation day, bien sur.**

### **18 September: Friday**

Recognized as one of the most beautiful villages in France, Locronan is also home to the legend of Saint Ronan, after whom the town is named . Our 1<sup>st</sup> visit today enjoying the village will be followed by our visit to Quimper, almost a big city. Afternoon walking tour of the city. Be charmed by this mythical city in Brittany and its former three hearts. Gourmet city with lively shopping streets, the cultural capital of Brittany, Quimper is of the end of the world, authentic and preserved.

Breton Departemental Museum. Founded in Quimper in 1845, the museum displays an outstanding collection of elements representing the local archaeology, the decorative and the popular local arts. The Museum is one of 6 nice to great museums in Quimper, so we give you a choice to visit on your own or just enjoy the city. Colorful FAIENCE pottery pieces are in musuems. Pottery shops, outlets...This is another museum but maybe you want the shops for the pottery.

Cathedrale Saint Corentin is beautiful and the stained glass windows fantastic. There are 3 rivers through the city intersecting with some beautiful bridges.After our afternoon here , well go to our next

home, Vannes, for 4 nights. Hotel-in center Vannes



### **19 September: Saturday**

We can go to the weekly market this morning in Vannes. Voted best market in Brittany and French markets are really better than other countries. This is time off or walking around the beautiful architecture in this city we've chosen to stay in for 4 days. This afternoon, well spend some time in nearby Auray. The pier at Saint-Goustan takes you back in time with its cobbled streets, stone bridge, half-timbered houses and bustling quays. The historic town of Auray is also home to one of Brittany's major

pilgrimage sites. We may try for the time at Paimpont and the forest if we did not get there on arrival day.

Tonight we head to our private event. Enjoy first a lecture about Traditional Breton Music followed by a private concert of traditional Breton music with traditional dances and crêpes tastings. We create our own festival, with a look at the wonderful Breton costuming, also. Vannes

### **20 September: Sunday**

We head to Concarneau. With its ramparts and towers built during the XIIIth century, the Ville Close looks like a wonderful sand castle battered by successive tides. In the cradle of Concarneau, it has crossed the centuries protected in the shadow of its ramparts.

Later morning we'll go over to one of the most artistic of villages, Pont Aven. Pont-Aven is an artistic haven known the for the 'Pont-Aven School' of painters. The school was centered around the artists Paul Gaugin and Emile Bernard, whose artworks show a number of depictions of the

village scenery. The artistic traditions have continued, with a contemporary art school and a number of galleries. The beautiful scenery depicted in Gauguin's works can be enjoyed in a stroll along the riverside or on the *Promenade des Moulins*, beside the town's remaining windmills. The Musée des Beaux-Arts de Pont-Aven awaits us as well as many Galleries inspired by the atmosphere of the artists who lived here.

We are trying to arrange music in an art gallery here, with dinner to follow. Scenery is so precious. Roberto and Judy stayed here both trips.

### 21 September: Monday

Today, we head to the nearby village of Locmariaquer). This small town contains the Locmariaquer megaliths. some of the most significant neolithic remains in Europe. The town has also become famous for its oyster fisheries in France. It is especially famous for its giant Belon oysters.

After lunch, we head to Carnac. With 4 kilometers of 7000 year old stones, Carnac is alive with history where visitors can experience an exceptional prehistoric heritage. As you see some sites, you can relive the history of your ancestors. We visit the Carnac Prehistory Museum, discovering daily life in the Neolithic period (4900-2200 BC.).

We'll have a dinner to say < temporary> "abientot" <see you later> to old and new friends

### 22 September: Tuesday

**Au Revoir, mes amies. Main group heads to USA Dulles, while some of us will be in the Normandie Region for 4 days/nights incl a Full day engaged in the Normandie Beachheads and environs. 3 nts Bayeux, Honfleur, and an overnight and visit near Rouen. We return to Dulles from Paris 26 Sept.**

As soon as we have a cost for MAIN TOUR , **deposit will be due for \$700.00**

We are not expecting any instant airfares, but if you take a specialty airfare , it may be required.

I can readily take credit cards now, but the vendor charges me 3.3% to use the card.

**TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:** Round Trip airfare Washington DC < DCA or IAD> into France, likely Rennes or Nantes. We are currently confirming- Air taxes and fuel surcharges cost almost same as air ticket and will be included in tour price. This air is main economy and we could have saved you money for these new lite fares, but they do not include an assigned seat, instant ticket, no refunds or changes, less cabin space. I COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS FOR OUR GROUP. COMFORT CLASS NOT AVAIL ON SOME FLIGJTS AND PREMIUM ECONOMY IS THE SUBSTITUTE UPGRADE...Dear Friends, it is a different air year, I guess we swallow it.

- 9 nights 4 \* one 5\* Hotels- City Center locations - Full Breakfast Daily
- **Hotel Portage of one bag per person**
- Deluxe Motorcoach and throughout Tour. Guide most of the time.
- About 5 Dinners of Atmosphere
- 4-5 + Music Events\*\* some are classic, some of the region. We always prioritize music and the arts.
- Gratuities for Coach driver/s and Guide /s. Gratuities incl for included dinners but you may leave the little extra as is traditional in France. Alcoholic Beverages at meals are not included.
- **Tour designed by Judy Borisky CTC expressly for Friends of WMPO. JBTRAVEL DESIGNS**
- **CONTRIBUTION Per Person for our sponsor Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Assn. and you may deduct this.**

▪ **This is a area full of the Arts, Culture and Stunning Scenery**

- ❖ Music Events: Similar to Choral Concerts \* Harp, Flute Concert \* Traditional Breton Music \* \*
- Well have a Poetry/Music "TIME" where it fits "T.B.A."

Cost of this tour will be firm soon, expectation that it will be \$5000.00-5300.00 It includes a lot, as our tours always do. We found out quite quickly that France just costs lots more than Romania and all of Eastern Europe. My suggestion is to decide to enjoy the tour, swallow and enjoy the bargains we HAD. I Pay that airfare TOO, and have been discussing every cost item for weeks. WORKING ON IT, STILL.