

BRITTANY

CHURCHES

Antrain

St Andre

North east of Rennes and south
of Mont St Michael

This church dates from the XIIc. It has a single nave and originally two rounded side chapels and apse. Only the north one remains. The apse and sacristy (off the south transept) are of later construction, as is the west end of the nave. The nave and the north side chapel and the west wall of the south transept retain small, slim windows that are typical of the XIIc. By the south door are some crudely sculptured heads.

Chatillon sur Seiche

South of Rennes

This church has a single nave, a small transept and a rounded apse. There is a low tower with a spire. It all shows evidence of rather tasteless restoration carried out in the 1860s Below the choir is a small crypt, the only one in the departement of Ille-et-Vilaine.

Dinan

St Sauveur

North west of Rennes

This is a former priory church. The lower part of the west façade dates from the XIIc. The façade has a door between two blind arches. These are XIIc, but the tympan over the door is XIXc. The three arches have fine columns with well sculptured, though weathered capitals; these depict fantastic animals, 'vices', the Adoration by the Magi, the Massacre of the Innocents etc. In each side arch is the mutilated remains of a statue, each set in an individual niche and standing on a lion. Above the arches are the symbols of the four Evangelists. The whole façade shows influences from Poitou or the Saintonge and is unique north of the Loire.

See 'Art Roman en Bretagne'

Gahard

St Exupere (a IVc bishop of
Toulouse)

The romanesque parts of this church are the nave and the side aisles. The apse and the porch area at the west door are XVc. The church is built from granite. The interior is without decoration. The nave and side aisles

<p>North east of Rennes</p>	<p>are divided by plain pillars. Over the exterior of the small north door, on the door arch, is a primitive sculpture of a head below which is a faint inscription.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>Langon Parish church South of Rennes and west of Chateaubriant</p>	<p>This church, that is of XIIc origin, has a wide nave with side aisles. The apse is rounded and there is a low tower, topped by a modern spire. The apse has fine, large blind arches.</p>
<p>Langon St Agatha South of Rennes and west of Chateaubriant</p>	<p>This is a tiny pilgrim chapel across from the parish church. The short nave has beautiful stonework made up from small, even stones of different colours. Over the south door is a crudely carved figure. The apse is very small and rounded. The nave is gallo-roman and inside the choir has frescos. They are also gallo-roman.</p> <p>See leaflets</p>
<p>Machecoul South west of Nantes</p>	<p>Though of XIIc origin, there is little of that period remaining today.</p>
<p>Plechatel South of Rennes and north west of Chateaubriant</p>	<p>Of XIIc origin, this granite church reflects little of the character of that period. It has a high central nave with side aisles, a rounded apse and two side chapels. The nave is lit by six large windows each side; these are set within blind arches. The stepped west door appears to be recent. The door leads into a narthex above which is the tower.</p>

<p>Quimperle Abbaye St Croix North west of Lorient</p>	<p>This abbey was founded in 1029 and was built in the late XIc. It was modeled on the Benedictine model of the church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem. The nave and transept were rebuilt between 1864 and 1868 following their collapse in 1862. The crypt is XIc and the apse is XIIc. The crypt has a triple aisle divided by short stubby columns with pinkish granite capitals that are carved with celtic inspired foliage patterns. There are some very narrow windows. The rounded apse and choir have inspiration from Poitou. Inside, there are blind arches with broad windows; the columns have sculptured capitals. The windows on the apse are largely undecorated and are separated by tall, thin columns topped by capitals that are made from a pink granite.</p> <p>See leaflets</p>
<p>Quinquenavant South west of Nantes</p>	<p>This XIIc chapel is now a farmyard barn. The west wall has been rebuilt with that in mind. It is no longer of structural interest.</p>
<p>Redon St Sauveur South west of Rennes and north west of Nantes</p>	<p>The nave remains from the early XIc church. The nave has two side aisles. It had been longer, reaching the now free-standing bell tower. The apse is gothic. The fine bell tower over the crossing is mid XIIc. It has a line of slim blind arches above which are two lines of openings; the upper layer are half the height of the lower line.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>St Brioux les Iffs South east of Dinan and north west of Rennes</p>	<p>This is a small granite built church that is of XIIc origin. There is a single nave and a flat ended apse. The square tower has a XIXc spire. The nave and apse were altered in the XV/XVIcs.</p>

<p>St Cado</p> <p>East of Lorient and near Belz</p>	<p>On a small inlet on the Elet river, the chapel was founded by a welsh hermit in the VIIc. A place of pilgrimage, the sick were cured when they placed their head in a niche that had been the place for St Cado's bed. The present apse and nave with side aisles are XIIc. It was part of a priory that was founded in 1089. The porch and sacristy were added in 1832. In the choir is a small XIIc window. There are two capitals with sculptured acanthus leaves. The aisles are divided from nave by large, plain granite columns.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>St Gildas des Bois</p> <p>North east of St Nazaire and north west of Nantes</p>	<p>The abbey church was built in the XIIc. It was severely damaged by bombing in 1944 and now is part of an active abbey, having been rebuilt. It has a long, rounded apse, transepts and a nave with side aisles. The north wall of the nave is XIXc. The nave is lit by tall windows set in the upper part of the walls. The west door is stepped, but it is almost without decoration. The church is built from granite.</p> <p>See leaflet</p>
<p>St Philbert du Grandlieu</p> <p>South west of Nantes</p>	<p>This is the only Carolingian church (XIc) in Brittany. It is a rectangular structure onto which additions were built. The nave has side aisles that are divided off by huge pillars built of stone with interleaved layers of bricks. The transept is divided from the choir by an arch with plain capitals; these are probably XXc replacements. The choir has a cul-de-four vault. There is an ambulatory that is created by plain arches. The tomb of St Philbert is set within it, though the remains of St Philbert were removed to Tournus (71) for safety. In the transepts are arches that fall on to gallo-roman capitals and columns.</p> <p>See 'Art Roman en Bretagne' and booklet</p>

<p>St Sulpice la Foret North east of Rennes</p>	<p>This church is now in ruins. It was called Notre Dame du Nid du Merle and it dates from the XIIc. Only the transepts and part of the nave remain. They are roofless, but the fine, broad arches of the crossing may be seen. On the south wall are a number of holes for scaffolding.</p>
<p>Tinteniac North west of Nantes</p>	<p>This is a large church. Of the XIIc church little remains. The apse is rounded and the north transept is XIIc but there are XIVc arches. The Nave is later. The church is built from granite.</p>
<p>Tremblay St Martin South of Mont St Michael and north east of Rennes</p>	<p>This church dates from the XIc. Of that church there remain the south nave, the rounded apse and the north transept. There were two rounded side chapels; the outline of the north one is visible on the outer wall of the transept. The south one has been replaced and a north aisle added in the XVIIc. Over the door to the north aisle are re-used sculptures – an arch with a bogomil style man, lions and foliage. Above is a worn sculptured stone with the outline of a mandola.</p>