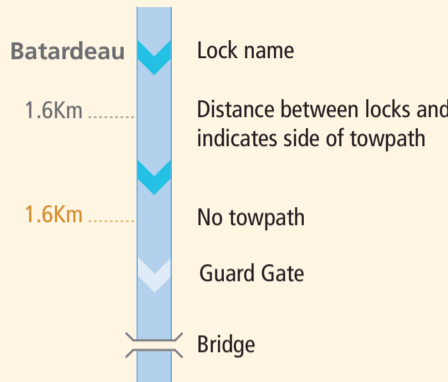


THE LUCIOLE

THE NIVERNAIS CANAL ROUTE MAP



- Vineyard
- Château/Historic building
- Bar/Café
- Cathedral/Abbey/Basilica/Church
- WiFi/Internet Café



There is an excellent Tarmac path alongside most of the Nivernais Canal. Perfect for biking or strolling along.

OUR VISITS

CHABLIS

Barely sixteen kilometres to the east of Auxerre lies Chablis, one of the greatest names in wine. Production is within a strictly-defined area, with the most prestigious wines produced from vineyards on the south-west facing slopes just beyond the town.

NOYERS-SUR-SEREIN

To the east of our route lies this charming medieval centre. With its half-timbered houses, cobbled streets and turreted ramparts, Noyers is justifiably named 'one of the most beautiful villages in France'. Above the town, the reconstruction of the medieval castle progresses. Catholic Henry IV ordered the destruction of the Protestant-owned château in 1599.

BAZOUCHES

The splendid Château of Bazoches, was the home of the outstanding military tactician the Marquis de Vauban (1633-1707). One of Louis XIV's closest advisers, Vauban was responsible for the creation of the first coherent network of fortifications surrounding the developing kingdom of France. He was also a prolific and at times visionary writer who remained steadfastly loyal to his roots in the Morvan region around Avallon and Vézelay and considered the Château of Bazoches as his true home.

VÉZELAY

A centre of pilgrimage for centuries, Vézelay lies just over 16 km from the waterway. Surmounted by the magnificent Basilica, the steep-sided hill town has numerous shops and cafes. Vézelay was the historic starting point for two of the crusades to the Holy Land, including that preached by Saint Bernard in the presence of Louis VII and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Vézelay owed its position of influence and prestige to the relics of Saint Mary Magdalene and a papal declaration attesting to their authenticity. A high point of medieval pilgrimage, it was a major gathering point on the way to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain.