



*To the Sea... Bretagne and the Gulf of Morbihan...*

After almost three weeks of waiting, the repair was fixed....we were ready to go again, or so we thought. Mais non. As the mechanic was finishing, he dropped the bombshell that the elbow exhaust had rusted away (all normal wear and tear after 30 years service, but why now?!). If we sailed we risked ruining the engine. And the boss who could order it was just leaving on holiday for 2 weeks. So....so did we. West to the coast...800 km to the beautiful Golfe de Morbihan in Brittany. Based in a caravan in the cool and shady Camping de l'Allee' in quiet **Arradon**, we spent 8 days exploring the many absolutely delightful tiny towns and river estuaries in this area of



There is only one word to sum up this area....**boats!** Everywhere...around every corner, in every bay, river, harbour and backyard! For me, so much of it reminded me of S. Devon. At **Vannes**, with a marina 25 km from the coast...the historic, lively and elegant city centre of half-timbered houses, cathedral, fortifications and flowers was a good place to enjoy (at last!) "moules et frites"! **Port St. Goustan** strung along the river named after the patron saint of sailors and fishermen founded in the 13C by the Dukes of Burgundy....**Quiberon and the Cote Sauvage** (Wild Coast) with its kilometers of sandy beaches and black granite rocks....**Concarneau** with its walled town in the middle of the harbor reached by a drawbridge...and he buttery crepes the region is famous for (with Chantilly cream and ice cream!).





**Port de Cruesty and Port Naval** have the 2<sup>nd</sup> strongest tidal current in Europe – up to 9 knots- where we enjoyed a lovely walk along the coastal path. Port Navalo turned out not to be a tiny Breton village but a huge upmarket marina filled with luxury yachts by the hundred! And there were many of these.



But we preferred the tiny quiet spots....18C **le Bono** with its muddy harbor at low tide waiting for the water to come back in, and the path under the iron bridge lined with pictures and stories of local fisherman. Once the centre of oyster farming, now just pleasure boaters.



Another breath-taking spot was **Locmariaquer** where the tidal flats stretch for miles ....one of the most important oyster producing areas in the world...and famous for some of the most ancient the megaliths in Europe...over 3000 stones scattered over the whole area. From here, there are also boat trips to the many islands in the Golfe de Morbihan- we considered it until we saw the queues...so we had an ice cream instead....all three of us. There are more than 40 islets and islands in the gulf (incl. the famous Belle Ile), but we had to give it a miss this time.



Brittany – area 27,309 sq. km and population of almost 3 million - is known as the Cornwall of France – and is, in fact, one of 6 Celtic nations. The northern area of St. Malo, Dinard and Dinon is perhaps more well-known. Its heritage is Celtic and it has its own language, still widely spoken, and all road signs are in two languages. It is close to Welsh. Much of the coast is rugged (Finistere) but the areas we visited were mainly a little inland on gentle river estuaries. Fishing has declined, but much of it is still agricultural, predominantly pigs, poultry and calves (veal).

