

Pré-en-Pail-Saint-Samson / Bagnoles-de-l'Orne

Veloscenic : Paris to Mont-Saint-Michel cycle route

□

Départ

Pré-en-Pail-Saint-Samson

Arrivée

Bagnoles-de-l'Orne

Durée

1 h 41 min

Distance

25,38 Km

Niveau

I begin / Family

Thématique

Family-friendly
alternative route

Continue your cycling journey on the greenway leading to Bagnoles-de-l'Orne Normandie. This stretch serves as a link between the French counties of Orne and Mayenne, meandering through landscapes marked by rivers, forests and hedge-divided fields typical of the Parc Naturel Régional Normandie-Maine. Safe and well signposted, this stage presents no particular physical challenges. Before reaching Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, stop at the Chapelle de Notre-Dame de Lignou, with its supposedly miracle-working statue and its pilgrims' tales and legends. Do make a detour to see the 16th- and 18th-century grounds of the Château de Couterne.

□ On this stage, you're taking one of **two alternative routes** between Alençon and Bagnoles de l'Orne.

□ Stage description and details:

Departing from Pré-en-Pail-Saint-Samson, cross the N12 trunk road and then follow a greenway for 18km, taking you into the commune (parish) of Rives d'Andaine. The compacted sandy surface is smooth and not pot-holed.

At Rives d'Andaine, leave the greenway and follow the signposting to reach Bagnoles riding along quiet little roads for 6km. This stage doesn't present cyclists with any physical challenges.

□ Don't miss:

- **The Mont des Avaloirs**, the highest point in France's northwest quarter (at an altitude of 416m) as well as a listed natural reserve, offering splendid views over the traditional hedge-divided fields in these parts. On exceptionally clear days, it's said that you can spot the silhouette of the Mont Saint-Michel far away. You can reach the summit by branching off the greenway shortly after the tunnel at the level of the village of Lalacelle.
- **La tomme de Pail** is a local cheese that you can find in the delicatessen Le Comptoir in Pré-en-Pail-Saint-Samson or by visiting the Ferme de la Mercerie at St-Cyr-en-Pail.
- **La ferme de la Mercerie** offers guided tours of the production of their excellent goat's cheeses.
- **Chapelle Notre-Dame de Lignou**: standing out between Couterne and Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, you can't miss its 40m-high steeple. The interior was redone at the start of the 20th century in neo-Byzantine style and includes splendid mosaics.
- **The grounds of the Château de Couterne** covering some 20 hectares and with over 3km of well-maintained, wood-lined paths that prove a joy to walk along. Open freely year-round.
- Why not treat yourself to a relaxing stopover in **the natural spa town of Bagnoles de l'Orne**, with its delightful lake, arboretum, Belle Époque villas and casino. Climb the Roc au Chien by foot to enjoy the views.

□ Food and drink en route:

- **Pré-en-Pail-Saint-Samson:** with many stores and a market on Saturday mornings on Place du Général de Gaulle.
- **Neuilly le Vendin:** a few small shops (reached via little roads by leaving the greenway 11km after Pré-en-Pail-Saint-Samson).
- **Rives d'Andaine:** boulangerie and a market on Tuesday mornings on Place de l'église.

☐ *Bring up **Accueil Velo accredited restaurants** by clicking on the ☐ icon on the map. De-select "only show accueil velo accredited services" to view further possibilities.*

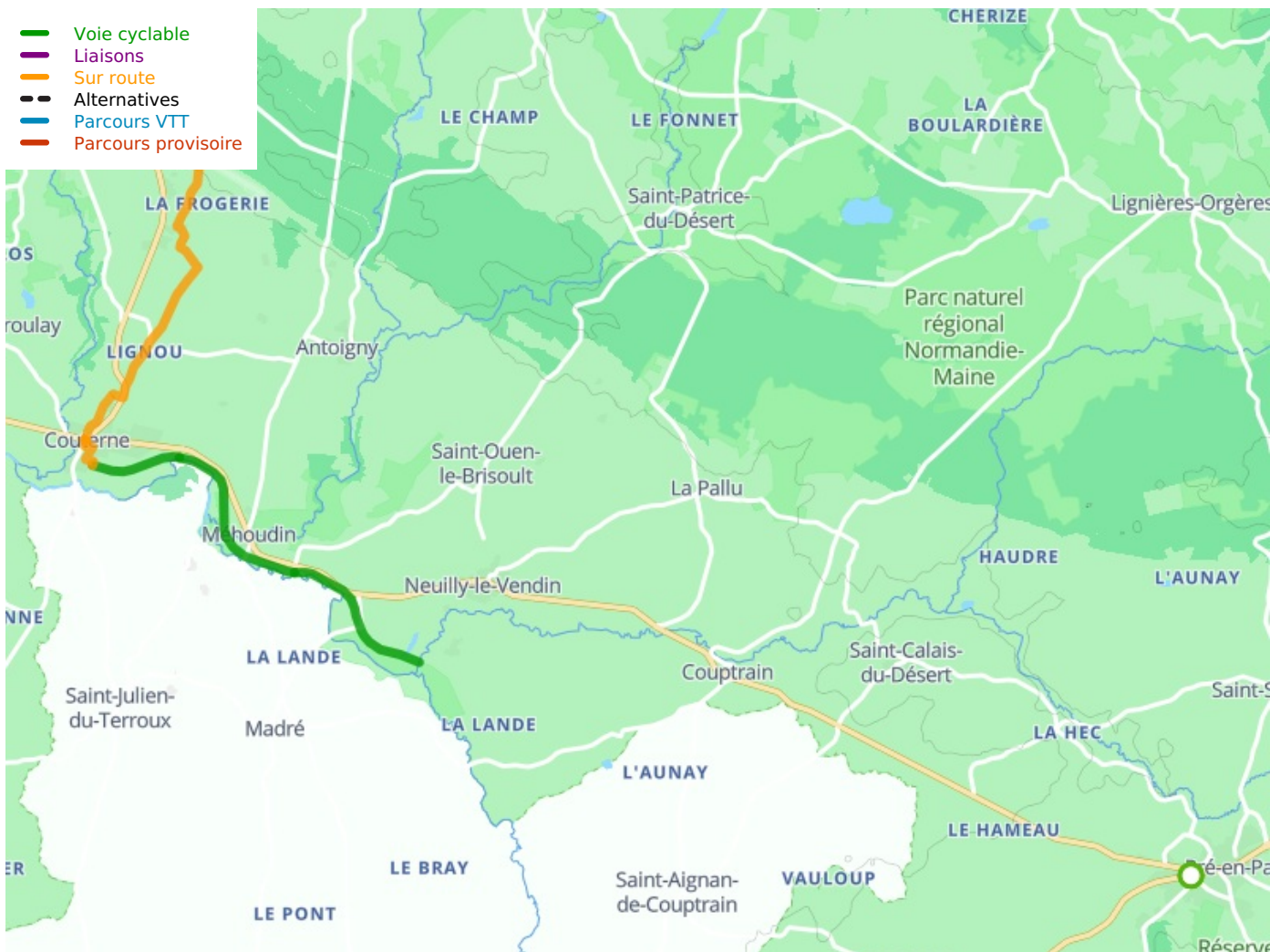
☐ **Repair Service:**

Consult [the list of all the bike repairers](#) along or near the route.

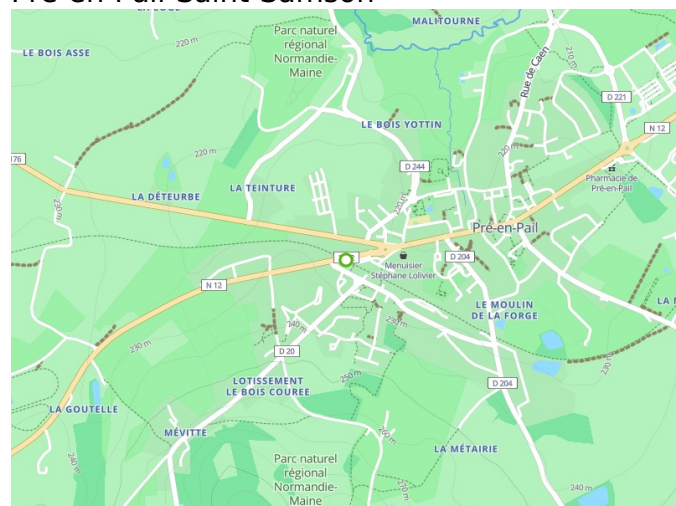
☐ **Train stations nearby:**

- **Bagnoles de l'Orne coach station** (with shuttle bus service to reach the train station at Briouze, on the Paris-Granville railway line)
- **Gare de Briouze** (on the Paris-Granville line) accessible by bike by following a greenway for 21km from Bagnoles de l'Orne

☐ *Also see our section on [reaching the veloscenic cycle route](#), including conditions for taking a bicycle on board trains.*



Départ
Pré-en-Pail-Saint-Samson



Arrivée
Bagnoles-de-l'Orne

