



THE BRITTANY TIMES



ISSUE 1 • OCTOBER 2025 • CONNECTING BRITS IN BRITTANY

Editor's note

Hello and welcome!

Thank you for picking up the first edition of The Brittany Times! We're thrilled to bring you a magazine dedicated to the beauty, culture, history, and stories of Brittany—one of France's most captivating regions.

Our goal is simple: to celebrate Brittany in all its colors, from the rugged coastlines to vibrant city streets, while keeping you informed and entertained. Whether you're a local, a traveler, or simply a lover of Breton culture, there's something here for everyone.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We hope The Brittany Times becomes your companion to explore, enjoy, and fall in love with Brittany—page by page.

Please note that this is a work in progress—we're constantly evolving, learning, and improving

This 1st edition is free.

Warm regards,

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Ship Graveyard

Brittany's maritime heritage.



Nestled near the charming town of Lanester in Brittany, France, the Bateau Cimetière, or Ship Cemetery, is a fascinating glimpse into maritime history that attracts both tourists and history enthusiasts alike. This striking site is more than just a collection of decaying vessels—it tells the story of an industry that once thrived in the region and has become a poignant symbol of time's passage.

The origins of the Bateau Cimetière can be traced back to the mid-20th century when the decline of shipbuilding in Brittany left many vessels abandoned and in disrepair. As the naval industry waned, ship owners found themselves with aging ships they could no longer afford to maintain. Many of these vessels were brought to the banks of the Lorient River, where they remain to this day—a testament to a bygone era. Over the years, the area has become a sanctuary for the remnants of these once-grand ships, which now lie in various stages of decay, ensconced in nature.

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Visiting the Bateau Cimetière offers an experience unlike any other. The haunting beauty of the rusting hulls, overgrown with vegetation and weathered by the elements, creates an evocative atmosphere that invites reflection. The contrast between nature and man-made structures evokes a deep sense of nostalgia, prompting visitors to ponder the stories behind each ship. It's not uncommon to feel a connection to the maritime heritage of Brittany as you wander the surroundings, capturing stunning photographs and contemplating the lives that once sailed these vessels.

For those interested in maritime history or photography, the Bateau Cimetière is an ideal destination. The site is relatively easy to access, allowing visitors to explore at their leisure. Many photographers and artists flock to the site, drawn by the unique combination of historic artifacts and natural beauty.

Local legends and history enrich the experience of visiting the Bateau Cimetière. Stories of daring seafarers, the challenges of maritime trade, and the eventual decline of the shipbuilding industry weave together the tapestry of this intriguing site. Engaging with local guides or taking part in guided tours can provide valuable insights and a deeper understanding of the significance of the cemetery within the broader context of Brittany's maritime heritage.

While planning your visit to Lorient, don't miss the chance to explore the Bateau Cimetière. It offers not only a visual spectacle but also an opportunity to contemplate the history of human endeavor and the inevitability of time. Whether you are an avid historian, a casual traveler, or someone seeking inspiration, the ship cemetery is a must-visit destination that beautifully encapsulates the spirit of the sea and

Motoring



As the colder months arrive, drivers in Brittany should prepare their vehicles for the region's damp, chilly weather. A few simple checks can make winter driving safer and help prevent breakdowns on those dark, wet roads.

1. Tires:

Cold weather lowers tire pressure and reduces grip. Check pressures regularly and ensure the tread depth is at least 3mm. In hillier or snowy parts of Brittany, winter tires can make a big difference in handling and braking.

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2. Battery:

Batteries lose strength in cold temperatures. Check for corrosion and secure fittings, and have older batteries tested before the first frost. A weak battery can easily leave you stranded on a frosty morning.

3. Wipers & Washer Fluid:

With frequent rain across Brittany, good visibility is vital. Replace worn wiper blades and top up with winter-grade washer fluid to prevent freezing.

4. Coolant & Antifreeze:

Ensure your coolant is topped up and the antifreeze mix is correct — usually 50:50 — to protect your engine from freezing.

5. Lights & Indicators:

Shorter days and stormy weather mean you'll rely more on your lights. Check all bulbs, including brake and fog lights, to stay visible and safe.

6. Keep It Clean:

Road salt and mud can cause corrosion. Rinse your car regularly,

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Off-Season Brittany

The Quiet Charm of November



Stock image

When summer fades and Brittany exhales, a quieter magic takes hold. The crowds are gone, the light softens, and the region returns to its rhythm — wind, tide, and village life.

Coastal Calm

Beaches once packed with holidaymakers are now wild and empty. Walk Carnac's long sands or the pink cliffs of Ploumanac'h and you'll hear nothing but surf and seabirds. November isn't for sunbathing — it's for breathing in salt air and feeling Brittany at its rawest.

Village Rhythm

Away from the tourist season, cafés and markets feel personal again. In small towns like Rostrenen or Pont-Aven, stallholders chat, share

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recipes, and pour a glass of local cider for regulars. Community life comes back into focus.

Theatre of Weather

Brittany wears grey skies well. Storm-watching from Pointe du Raz or Cap Fréhel is unforgettable — a display of sea and sky that makes you feel small in the best possible way. Inland, Huelgoat's forest glows with damp gold, and mist settles over stone villages like an old story retold.

A Slower Season

Museums, galleries, and medieval streets — from Dinan to Douarnenez are yours to explore without queues or hurry. It's the time for wood fires, galettes, and unhurried afternoons.

November may be Brittany's off-season, but for many, it's the best season.

A time when the landscape and its people show their truest selves: weathered, warm, and quietly wonderful.

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Albatross

A Season of Success on the Blavet



Moored at Saint-Nicolas-des-Eaux, the Dutch cruiser Albatross has just completed her very first season as part of AB Fluviale—and what a season it has been. From spring through late summer, families, couples, and groups of friends have hired her to explore the peaceful waters of the Blavet.

Self-driver rentals run from April to October, licence-free, with guests taking the helm after a thorough handover and a little help through the first locks. In winter, Albatross stays put at the quay, transforming into a cosy floating gîte — perfect for a snug Breton escape when the waterways are closed.

The response has been excellent, with guests praising both the boat's comfort and the charm of her mooring in Saint-Nicolas-des-Eaux.

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AB Fluviale is already looking forward to welcoming more travellers for the upcoming season.

Special reader offer: mention «The Brittany Times» when booking directly with AB Fluviale and receive 5% off your stay. Abfluviale.fr



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Beer Crop



I moved to Brittany in 2016 with my husband. I had been a professional gardener in Suffolk and I was looking forward to being able to grow a whole different range of plants that the Breton climate allows.

As a professional gardener I have an annoying habit of pointing at a plant and telling people around me what its full botanical name is. It's a joke in my profession, where we work you will find the Swear Jar with a few coins in the bottom and then there's the other jar labelled Giving a full botanical name when no-one asked for it. This jar would be full to the top and go towards the staff Christmas dinner at the local pub.

I had envisaged spending my retirement finding plants with interesting

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names. I could then stand next to the plant until someone walked by and I could point and say *Catalpa bignonioides*, that's an Indian Bean Tree, it's a beautiful tree and has an interesting botanical name.

We bought a polytunnel and we were going to grow brassicas under netting. Unfortunately, where I thought the milder climate would help with my growing it also produced a storm that blew the netting away. After having a re-think my husband decided to grow *Humulus lupulus* in the polytunnel and trained the plants over the hoops. *Humulus lupulus* is commonly known as hops. We have discovered that my husband is very good at growing hops, which is good because he's also very good at making beer. I'm also very good at drinking it.

Sheila The Gardener



What's on in November

Festivals !

Jazz à l'Ouest – Rennes

22 November

Every autumn, Rennes swings to the sound of Jazz à l'Ouest. From intimate club sessions to big-band performances, the festival transforms the city into a meeting point for jazz lovers. Expect both established artists and rising talents, along with creative collaborations that cross

Pano Rap Festival – Morlaix

7–8 November

Morlaix turns up the volume with Pano Rap, a festival dedicated to the power of words and beats. Now in its second edition, it brings together emerging rap artists and established performers for two days of high-energy concerts celebrating urban culture in the heart of Finistère.

Les Indisciplinées – Lorient

2–11 November

A bold and eclectic festival, Les IndisciplinéEs champions new sounds from France and beyond. Expect indie, electro, pop and rock acts performing across Lorient's venues. Its mission? To showcase the most original, rebellious, and promising talents of the current scene.

Celtomania – Across Brittany

October–No-

Although it begins in October, Celtomania continues through November, celebrating Celtic and Breton culture through concerts, exhibitions, storytelling and dance. From bagpipes to Breton choirs, it's a vibrant celebration of Brittany's roots and its place in the wider Celtic world.

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Back to Queen – Guilvinec

22 November

Fans of Freddie Mercury are in for a treat as this high-energy tribute show brings Queen's biggest hits to life. Expect roaring guitar solos, soaring vocals, and an electrifying atmosphere as the spirit of the legendary band takes over Guilvinec for one night only.

Folklores du Nord – Rennes

28-29 November

The Orchestre National de Bretagne explores the musical heritage of Northern Europe in a symphonic journey filled with emotion. This concert blends folklore, tradition, and orchestral brilliance, offering a refined yet heartwarming experience for classical music lovers.

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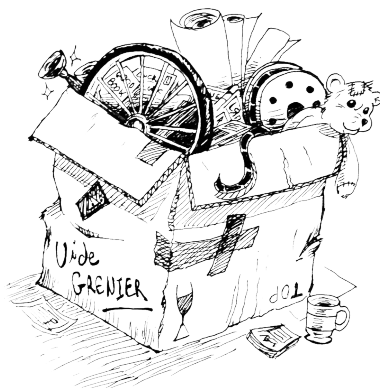
What's on in November

Brocantes & Vide-Greniers

- 01 Nov – Dinard – Salon des collectionneurs
- 01 Nov – Guipry-Messac – Vide maison
- 01 Nov – La Gacilly – Antiquités brocante
- 01 Nov – Saint-Brieuc – Brocante sous les halles
- 01 Nov – Vannes – Bourse coquillages & fossiles
- 02 Nov – Caudan – Troc et puces d'automne
- 02 Nov – Dinard – Brocante place Crolard
- 02 Nov – Douarnenez – Troc et puces du Basket Club
- 02 Nov – Étel – Brocante sous la criée
- 02 Nov – Guipavas – Vide-greniers Halle du Moulin Neuf
- 02 Nov – Lanester – Troc et puces du quai 9
- 02 Nov – Le Faouët – Troc et puces salle polyvalente
- 02 Nov – Le Relecq-Kerhuon – Vide-grenier de l'AGK
- 02 Nov – Miniac-Morvan – Vide-grenier Espace Bel-Air
- 02 Nov – Plobannalec-Lesconil – Puces de mercerie & loisirs
- 02 Nov – Plonéour-Lanvern – Troc et puces Halle Raphalen
- 02 Nov – Plouay – Troc et puces salle des fêtes
- 02 Nov – Plouider – Vide-grenier & foire à la puériculture
- 02 Nov – Plouzané – Vide-greniers école de Kroas Saliou
- 02 Nov – Questembert – Vide-grenier tennis
- 02 Nov – Quéven – Troc et puces puériculture/jouets/vêtements
- 02 Nov – Quimper – Grand troc & puces école Diwan
- 02 Nov – Rennes – Foire aux disques & BD Halle Martenot
- 02 Nov – Yffiniac – Vide-grenier hippodrome
- 06 Nov – Rennes – Brocante Halles Centrales (La Criée)

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- 08 Nov – Guipry-Messac – Braderie de jouets
- 08 Nov – Saint-Brieuc – Brocante sous les halles
- 08 Nov – Scaër – Troc & jouets APEA Joliot Curie
- 09 Nov – Rennes – Les Puces du Mail François Mitterrand
- 09 Nov – Crozon – Vide-grenier des Deuches du Bout du Monde
- 09 Nov – Cléguer – Vide-grenier salle polyvalente
- 09 Nov – Étel – Troc & puces criée
- 09 Nov – Lanvollon – Vide-grenier salle polyvalente
- 09 Nov – Loudéac – Brocante collections hippodrome
- 09 Nov – Plérin – Brocante du Légué
- 11 Nov – Balazé – Vide-grenier salle de sport
- 11 Nov – Mellac – Troc et puces salle polyvalente
- 13 Nov – Rennes – Brocante Halles Centrales (La Criée)
- 15 Nov – Saint-Brieuc – Brocante sous les halles
- 16 Nov – Guidel – Troc et puces de la Guidéloise Football
- 16 Nov – Hennebont – Troc & puces APEL Notre Dame du Vœu
- 23 Nov – Pluneret – Vide-grenier école Germaine Tillion
- 23 Nov – Sainte-Anne-d'Auray – Vide-grenier salle omnisports
- 30 Nov – Dinan – Bourse multi-collections
- 30 Nov – Maunon – Vide-grenier handball centre culturel
- 30 Nov – Ploërmel – Vide-grenier “En attendant Noël”
- 30 Nov – Pluneret – Troc & puces salle omnisports



History & Culture

The Myth of Ys: Brittany's Sunken City



@Wikipedia

Along the rugged coastline of Brittany, France, whispers of a lost city have endured for centuries. Ys, a magnificent city said to have flourished at the edge of the ocean, remains one of Brittany's most captivating legends — a tale of beauty, sin, and the inexorable power of the sea.

According to the story, Ys was built by King Gradlon, a ruler whose wealth and wisdom made the city prosperous and renowned. The city's protection lay in a remarkable sea wall, complete with a magical gate that controlled the flow of the tides. At the heart of Ys was Dahut, Gradlon's daughter, whose rebellious and pleasure-loving nature would ultimately seal the city's fate.

One fateful day, Dahut, defying her father's warnings, either stole the key to the city gates or opened them in a moment of mischief. The ocean surged through, engulfing Ys and sweeping away its grandeur in a single, catastrophic flood. King Gradlon narrowly escaped atop his horse, sometimes guided by Saint Corentin, while Dahut was either drowned or

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transformed into a spirit of the sea, depending on the version of the tale.

The origins of the legend are rooted in oral traditions, later written down between the 15th and 18th centuries. Variations abound: in some, Dahut is a villainous figure; in others, she is a tragic victim of fate. Scholars suggest the myth may have been inspired by real flooding events along Brittany's coast, intertwined with moral tales warning against pride, indulgence, and hubris.

Beyond its narrative, the myth of Ys has profoundly shaped Brittany's culture. It has inspired novels, operas, poems, and modern Breton music, keeping the legend alive in both scholarly and popular imagination. Coastal towns like Douarnenez claim ties to Ys, offering visitors museums, exhibitions, and guided walks that celebrate the story. Symbolically, Ys represents the fragile balance between humans and nature, the consequences of unchecked desires, and the enduring mystery of the sea.

Whether viewed as a morality tale, a historical allegory, or a poetic reflection on the human condition, the Myth of Ys endures as a testament to Brittany's rich cultural heritage.

A sunken city that remains alive in the imagination, where the waves of



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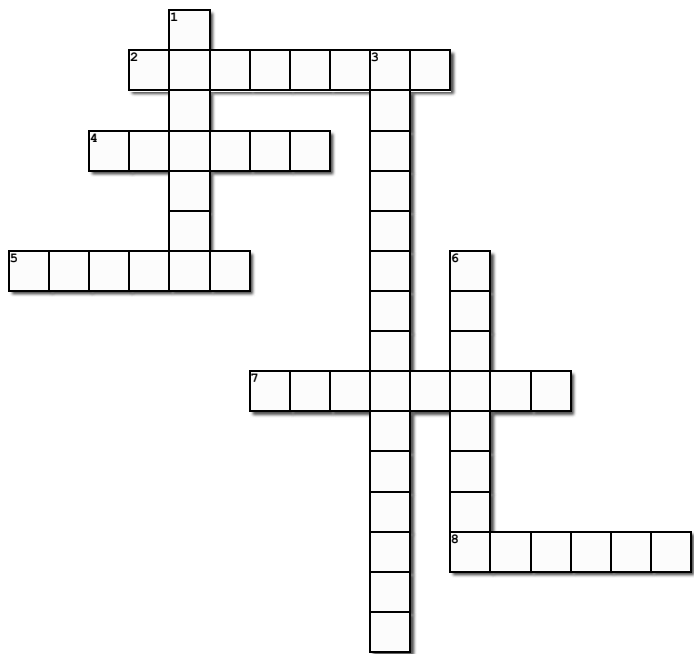
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Crossword puzzle

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Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

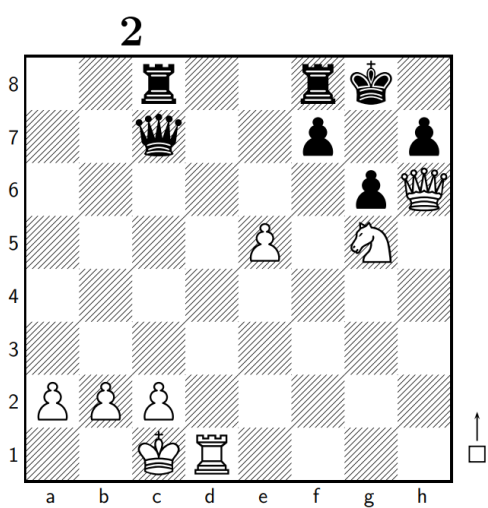
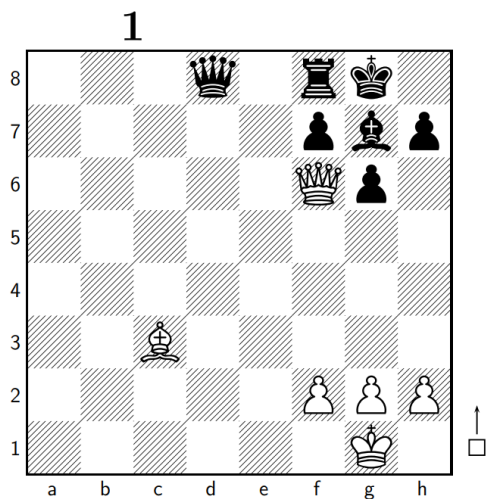
- 2. Brittany is known for its picturesque coastal scenery and what kind of climate?
- 4. Language native to Brittany, closely related to Cornish and Welsh
- 5. Brittany's capital city
- 7. Region in northwestern France known for its coastline
- 8. Famous for its standing stones, this site can be found in Brittany

Down

- 1. Type of crêpe often found in Brittany, made from buckwheat
- 3. This famous landmark is a tidal island in Brittany
- 6. Brittany is bordered by which ocean?

Looking for answers? Check out our next edition!

Chess Puzzle



Sudoku

1								6
		6		2		7		
7	8	9	4	5		1		3
			8		7			4
				3				
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	3		7					4
		7	9		2	8		

Thank you for reading

As we wrap up this edition of The Brittany Times, we'd like to take a moment to thank you — our readers, contributors, and local supporters — for being part of this growing community project.

By picking up this magazine, you're not just reading — you're helping to keep local news, creativity, and connection alive. Your support allows us to print, distribute, and continue improving with every issue.

If you've enjoyed what you've read, please share The Brittany Times with friends and neighbours. If you'd like to be part of it — by writing, advertising, or suggesting new ideas — we'd love to hear from you. Together, we can make this magazine a real reflection of the life, spirit, and stories of Brittany.

Thank you once again for reading, for caring, and for helping us bring this first edition to life. See you in the next issue — and until then, take care, stay warm, and enjoy all that Brittany has to offer.

Warm regards,

John Torode

Founder & Editor, The Brittany Times

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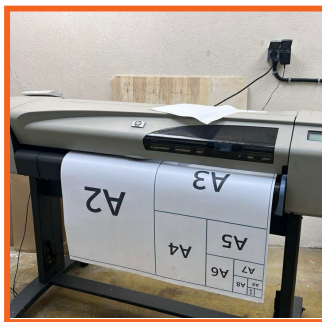
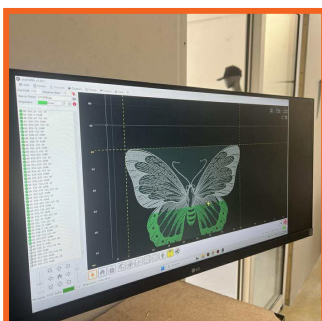
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