



Lake information from Rostrenen Tourist Office

Rob And I'm here talking to Dominique Elvi in the Office de Tourisme at Rostrenen. Perhaps, uh, Dominique, you could start with telling us about the lake itself in general.

Dominique Um, so the Lake of Guerlédan is the second largest lake in Brittany and it's a very important spot in the tourism of Brittany. Lots of people are coming here in Guerlédan for the nature and for all the activities on the lake, like canoeing, water skiing, walking around the lake, uh, lots of nature activities.

Rob And this year's special because of the emptying of the lake. What can you tell us about what happened last time?

Dominique Yeah, the last time the lake was drained was in '85 and lots of people went to see the lake empty. There was a huge crowd every weekend coming to Guerlédan and parking everywhere and going down the lake everywhere. There were lots problems as well for, for car parks and all these things. So, so this year everything has been done for all the crowds to prevent all these things with the car parks. We will have lots of areas for parking all the cars and buses and, um, all the things have been done to welcome all these people.

Rob Are you expecting a lot of people?

Dominique We are expecting a lot of people because in '85 a lot of people went to Guerlédan and even if there wasn't Internet and there wasn't all the communication that we have today. And today we've got all the locals who are very interested by the event and, of course, all the communication around the event is going to bring more people in.

Rob What's being organised for all these people. You've talked about car parking arrangements, that's going to be in farmer's fields I suppose, is it?

Dominique Yes, some, some farmers gave their, their fields for the car parks during the six months of the drainers..?

Rob The emptying of the lake.

Dominique The emptying of the lake...

- Rob The drainage I suppose you could say but, the emptying of the lake... And is the road going to be open to drive around the lake?
- Dominique Some roads are going to be closed and some are going to be open. That's what we are calling the roads **red and blue** and you can see all the map of all roads opened or not opened on the Internet site of the government. morbihan.gouv.fr
- Rob OK, OK. Is there any information on the site of the Office of Tourism here in Rostrenen?
- Dominique Yes you can, you can see all the information about the touristic information about the emptying of the lake on the Tourist Office site.
- Rob And, OK, so , more, uh, specifically, what are the Tourist Offices organising for visits, because I understand that it's not going to be possible to actually walk about in the bottom of the lake, the empty lake?
- Dominique The Sous Préfectures have decided not to allow the people to go inside the valley of Guerlédan when... once the lake will be emptied because of security. There is some slate pits so that's very dangerous and, um, because of the mud inside we are not sure about the security of the people if they are going alone. So the State has decided not to allow people to go for themselves. So the Tourist Office are going to guide some tours to bring the people inside, but we are going to bring the people inside the empty lake but with all the stories of the lake. It's not just to give them a ticket to go inside, it's to tell them all the stories of the lake and the history and all the stories the legends, the.., all the things that are around Guerlédan.
- Rob Where will these guided tours begin?
- Dominique The guided tours are going to, to take place in four, uh, in four places around the lake. Tregnanton (St Gelven), Saint-Aignan (L'Anse de Sordan), inMûr de Bretagne (Au Point de Lac) and in Caurel (Beau Rivage). So from these four places you'll be able to go with a guide on a guided tour, and all the guided tours will occur on weekends and bank holidays May, June and September and every day in July and August. And there will be four guided tours a day.
- Rob This will be..... visitors will have to pay a small amount for this guided tour?
- Dominique Yes
- Rob It's a guided tours with stories; it's not just you're not just taking people to the lake? You're going to.....
- Dominique We are going to explain them all the history of Guerlédan and all

the, all the legends and all the things that care around Guerlédan. It's not just to take them inside the emptied lake.

Rob Will they be in different languages?

Dominique Yes, some English guided tours are going to take place as well. At least in Tregnanton, probably once a week you'll have a guided tour in English, maybe more. But there will be a written events guide that will be released in April and this event guide will give all the information about the guided tours, all the events going on around the lake like the Son et Lumière at Bon Repos and all the things you can do around Guerlédan during all this period.

Rob Okay. So, if people want to look at the lake themselves they're not allowed to go to the bottom of the lake but they can still walk around the lake?

Dominique Of course you can go by yourselves around, around the lake, you can take all the path around the lake that will be open, during all the, during all the summer as well.

Rob And I understand there will be the opportunity to maybe go on horseback or even on a bicycle?

Dominique Ah, not inside the lake, uh, around the lake, yes, you can go by bike or you can go by horse, but not inside the lake.

Rob OK, I think that one is very clear. That's great Dominique, you have really explained it well. Thank you very much indeed

Dominique You're welcome.

