



Brittany for Americans Gary and Annie

Elaine: Let's start by asking why. Why are you here?

Annie: I will go first, I guess. We had been living in Saleilles, near Perpignan down on the Spanish border since, um, December of 2014.

Gary: And I think when we lived in the south of France there was something that I think I kind of really missed about, about the weather and the terrain. As an avid fly fisherman I would read about different regions in, in France, and Brittany was described as wilder, kind of a little more remote than, you know, than other places we've lived and, and I think that really kind of peaked my curiosity and interest.

Elaine: And what, what places up t.. here have you visited so far?

Annie: We travelled to Carnac in the Fall and, um, actually we tried our hand at doing some filming because we were wondering if we'd want to do documentary and pretty much. And so we would get up, we waited 'til sunset to be near the uh, the alignments there and we also got up at sunrise and did some filming then. So we are still seeing if that will work for us. Um certainly. And then we went to Vannes and Quimper, we've been in, in Rennes, there's a wonderful museum there, as well. And Saint Malo I have been to several times and we have actually, we were up in Lannion and on the pink granite coast. So it's been pretty much that we've stayed up in this corner more, the north down, you know, kind of you could draw an arrow down towards the Lakes.

Gary: That's what really gets me out and about more than anything is probably I'm an avid fly fisherman, um, and so I, I've been doing a lot of exploring related to streams and finding lakes in the region.

Elaine: Well, you'll certainly find, I think you'll find plenty of fishermen around, it is very much a hobby and also of course going out in a boat, taking a boat out and going fishing.

Gary: Yeah.

Annie: And we eventually wanted to do some kayaking because we did that when we were in Alaska as well so we are, yeah.

Elaine: We have that just down at the lake here.

Annie: Right, that's right. So we brought back our ...

Gary: Lifejackets.

Annie: Our lifejackets so that we are real good to go, and set.

Elaine: That's in the summer to get out there. So how would you describe or sum up Brittany if you were talking to friends or family back home in the States who have never been here?

Gary: When I've talked to family and people have said 'what's it, what's it like there, you know, why do you like it,' I think at one level for me it, it has a real familiarity. Here in Brittany we are surrounded by, by the ocean and the channel, and what I notice in the countryside, there is just a familiarity to it all. The types of trees that I see, the rolling hillsides, the climate that's moderated by, by these large, you know, large body of water.

Annie: And then also for us, because we are walkers, walkers as well as you are, that the places where these huge boulders appear to have just been tossed about, or I have really begun to love walking in gorges, and we find these in France, I mean in Europe. So, so there's so much. It's... and also for me here in Brittany with these beautiful, when you can look off across the countryside, but you have a sense of elevations even though it is not very high but there are valleys and swales and hills and it's so beautiful that I can't really describe it. I try to tell people but I can't describe it.

Elaine: Well, the thing is to say to them is you've got to come and visit.

Annie: Yes, you have to come and visit.

Elaine: Because it's hard to explain.

Annie: And I also want to say this because when we drove here with our things from Saleilles our worldly goods that we have left, that driving into Brittany is like driving into fairytale land. There is something that happens here, and I think, so it is more than a physical feeling, there is a I would say a spiritual presence and certainly an emotional presence. There's physical, I mean it's all here. But it's not just the space, it's time. It feels like time opens up into this kind of magical place that's so beautiful.

Elaine: Well, enjoy the rest of your time that you are here and may it be a long time because it certainly sounds as though you have been totally captivated.

