



## **Rob interviews Solenn le Ferrec about the Sleeper Train in Guisriff**

**Rob** Well, I'm sitting in a railway carriage at the station in Guisriff, and rather an unusual one because this one doesn't move. I'm with Solenn Le Ferrec, who is in charge of the station here in Guisriff. Could you describe where we are please, Solenn?

**Solenn** With pleasure, Robert. Welcome to the train, this authentic PLM car arrive in the station of Guisriff in September, 2021, and it is a magnificent train with five bedrooms, two showers, two toilets and a salon, and also a kitchen.

**Rob** Tell me, what age is this?

**Solenn** The train was born in 1926.

**Rob** 1926. Now this was originally, it had couchettes?

**Solenn** Yes, it is a train with couchettes.

**Rob** And where did it travel before?

**Solenn** The traject of the train is Paris-Lyon-Mediterranean coast.

**Rob** So, it would take tourists from Paris down to the Cote d'Azur. So, 1926. It is the time of la Belle Époque.

**Solenn** Yes.

**Rob** When, for example the Americans were very keen on the Cote d'Azur, they may have travelled in this very coach.

**Solenn** Yes.

**Rob** So, can you describe the carriage?

**Solenn** Yes. It is very original with sycamore wood and with a luxurious interior it is considered presidential.

**Rob** It's presidential?

**Solenn** Yes. Very, very good quality. In the bedroom we see sycamore wood and mother of pearl and mahogany.

**Rob** It is the panelling.

**Solenn** Yes.

**Rob** Of this carriage.



Solenn Yes.

Rob It's been converted for modern use. How have you converted it?

Solenn With the professional artisans, with bénévoles. How do you say bénévoles in English?

Rob Volunteers.

Solenn Volunteers. And also with a financier. With a financier after one year of work and many hours of volunteers 140K of investment by the Association Ar Marc'h Du, manager of the tourist site Loisirs en Gare de Guisriff.

Rob So there's 140,000 euros.

Solenn Yes.

Rob To buy, and to convert.

Solenn Yes, exactly.

Rob So there's been a lot of investment.

Solenn Yes.

Rob How will you get the money back?

Solenn We have many, many tourists and tourists can reserve the bedroom. Our rate is 70 euros 4 berth cabin bunk beds and it is 85 euros for the cabin comfort double bed and one single bed. If you want you can take your breakfast in the salon of the train.

Rob So you can pretend to be in an Agatha Christie novel.

Solenn Yes. Exactly.

Rob Because it's very much like Murder on the Orient Express, it's exactly like that.

Solenn Yes.

Rob People can come along the old railway by bicycle, perhaps?

Solenn Yes.

Rob Or walking? And stay the night here.

Solenn Yes, exactly. And also on the tourist site Loisirs en Gare de Guisriff you can sleep on the train, you can take a bicycle with the location.

Rob You can hire a bicycle here.

- Solenn Yes, and also you can play in the Escape Game. You can take a coffee or pay or as you like, and you can visit the museum of the Breton network. It is very, very good.
- Rob This is the first year that you have done this renting of the couchette?
- Solenn Yes. The train opened for the public in June, this year.
- Rob I understand there has been already a party of people staying here.
- Solenn We have a reception, a wedding, with Nicole and Matthew take a wedding and their family sleep on the train and they are very, very, very, very happy.
- Rob So how many people can sleep on the train? Maximum.
- Solenn There are 11 people can sleep on the train.
- Rob Eleven?
- Solenn Eleven.
- Rob Okay. So it's possible to hire a couchette using the station website, is that right?
- Solenn The website, yes, it's right. The website and you can phone on the station of Guiscriff, and you can write also. And also with the Facebook or Instagram as you like.
- Rob It's a pleasure to be sitting here and dreaming of the 1930s.
- Solenn Yes.
- Rob It's taken a long time.
- Solenn Yes.
- Rob Eleven years from the beginning.
- Solenn: Yes.
- Rob To now.
- Solenn Yes.
- Rob That's brilliant. Solenn LeFerrec, thank you very much indeed.
- Solenn Thank you.
- Rob And I recommend anyone who wants to dream of the 1930s in France, this is the place to come.



Solenn Yes, thank you.