

Things to do and see in Dinard with or without a car

1. Visit Office de Tourisme opposite for up to date details of events in Dinard, including a map and tide timetable.
2. Check tide timetable as when there is a really high tide it is exciting to watch.
3. Plage de l'Ecluse, 2 minutes' walk, is excellent for swimming, sunbathing, relaxing, sandcastles, etc. plus a good view of St. Malo, and an island called Cezembre, which was the most bombed part of Europe in WW2. In the season, ferries go to Cezembre (south-facing beach).
4. Lunch at Le Glacier on the beach front – it's lovely sitting gazing out to sea, watching the world go by. The salade du pecheur is particularly good, according to Paul.
5. Have an evening drink at Le Club, also on the beach promenade, with seats right next to the beach. Lovely to catch the last rays of sunshine. Also good for morning coffee or lunch in the sunshine.
6. A great place for eating is Castor Bellux, Rue Winston Churchill. Very nice ambiance particularly on a Saturday, great pasta and pizzas and dish of the day, always popular with the locals – a good sign.
7. Have galettes at Le Roi creperie next door to flat. Their galettes are some of the best in town. Paul's favourites are Galette Sardine (2), and mine is Champignons Salade, with a tomato salad, followed by Crepe with pommes flambé with Calvados – mmm delicious.
8. More upmarket eating at Abri des Flots, in Place de la Republique.
9. Sitting at the bar (outside) Les Anges, in the market, is very pleasant, watching the world go by.
10. Lunch at Chez la Mere Pourcel, 3 Place des Merciers, Dinan, Tel: 00 333 2 96 390 380. Just catch the bus to Dinan, get off at the PTT (Post Office)/main square by La Mairie and walk through to the old part of the town. It is in the main square with blue rafters and is the best eating place in town. They do lunchtime specials for around 15 euros and if you go on Friday, you will get a rather splendid fish dish. The bus fare is really cheap, below 5 euros per person each way and you don't have the hassle of parking the car/who's going to have wine, etc.
11. Catch either the bus to Dinan, or a boat going up the river which is a bit expensive and with a loud commentary, but also rather nice, and then catch bus back. Dinan is a mediaeval town and is interesting to walk around.
12. You can catch the bus to Rennes if you want to explore further. It has an attractive centre with good shops and is the premier city of Brittany. There are some nice gardens there too.
13. Catch a vedette (small ferry) from Promenade Clair de Lune, turn right out of the flat gate, and keep going! They go every hour and it is a nice way to go to St. Malo.
14. Visit St. Malo – great walking round the ramparts, look at the beautiful stained glass windows in the cathedral, great restaurants, art galleries, and so on.
15. Markets on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. Don't miss Saturday, in particular, as they have some really nice clothes and shoes. Vegetables taste divine – why can't we buy veg. like these in UK.
16. Buy wine from Alan or Christian Couillaud, who have a stall selling Muscadet, near the fish stalls in the market. Very friendly, and will give you a tasting. All their wine is very good.
17. Walk around headland in both directions. One can walk all the way to St. Malo across the Barrage (hydro-electric dam) over the Rance, a 3 hr. walk. The power station is open for public viewing at set times and is an interesting excursion.
18. Catch bus to St. Briac, have coffee in the square or by the bay and walk back via coast. Map obtainable from tourist office at St. Briac. Walk past the second oldest golf course in Europe.
19. Lots of little galleries selling originals – some are worth a browse.
20. There is often an interesting exhibition in the exhibition hall (Palais des Congrès) on front.
21. Treatments available at the thalassotherapy hotel, at St. Enogat, a 20 minute walk away (through the town) or ¾ hr. walk via headland. Go towards the sea and turn left! You can't miss the hotel perched on the cliffs at the far end of beach at St. Enogat.
22. Carrefour City supermarket around the corner has everything you will probably need to buy. Spar in Place de la Republique is another easy alternative shop. Large supermarkets on the outskirts of Dinard on the other side of the main roundabout at entrance to Dinard or in St. Malo or Dinan.
23. Both bakeries in Place de la Republique are good.
24. Casino nearby which has interesting shows on, and restaurant with brilliant sea views.
25. Golf course just outside Dinard at St. Briac is one of the oldest in France (bus goes nearby) – check at Tourist Office.
26. Horse-riding and tennis is available at Port Breton, about 15 minutes' walk away.
27. Windsurfing, kayaking and sailing also available at Dinard.
28. Interesting tours arranged by the Tourist Office, some in English.