

La Marche de l'Écrevisse (Crayfish Walk)

10 km 2 hrs 45 mins

Start:	Bretoncelles, 'complexe sportif' car park.
Direction:	clockwise
Signing:	yellow signposts and way markings
Ease of walking:	quite good (two wet passages, one steep climb)
Ground condition:	dirt or stony paths and gravel tracks (63%)
Points of interest:	pleasant walk including a natural conservation area.

1. Go along the path that passes to the left of the children's playground and cross the footbridge over the **Donette**. Follow the path through the natural conservation area, **l'Espace Naturel Sensible (les Vallées et Marais de Bretoncelles)**. There are information panels at points (in French). Continue behind the care home. On the left is a conservation orchard and further on **hives for the black bees**.
2. When you reach the road, turn right and continue 40 metres before turning left onto the tarmac road through **la Pezassière**. Carry straight on to **Haute Planche**. Cross the road and go up into the forest on the path opposite. Walk down to the D38.
3. Cross the road and go down towards the river and the mill called **Le Moulin de Thivaux**. Walk along the **Donette** following an uphill path which emerges onto a T-shaped junction. Take the path on the right which passes under the railway. Cross the stream, **ruisseau de la Fortune**, by the footbridge. Follow the beck for 200 metres.
4. Turn left up a bendy path to meet a coppiced path at **Thivaux**. At the first fork take the track on the right. Cross the next two intersections before turning right and emerging onto the edge of the wood. Between the meadows the path ends on the road to the **Gravard** equestrian centre.
5. Turn right. After the obstacle course take the left-hand path down to **Val Richard**. Continue straight on towards **la Grande Fosse**.
6. Once at the hamlet of **Colombier** take the tarmac track on the right. Go through **la Maintelonnière**. When you arrive at **Bel Air** turn left onto the local road leaving the railway bridge to your right. Carry on for 250 metres to meet the D294.
7. Turn right at the fork and follow the D road. Go through **Barboisseau**. Leave the D294 and take a left turn in the direction of **Ardelain**. In the hamlet take the right-hand fork and follow a path (stony to begin with). After a copse there's a pretty view of the village of Bretoncelles. Emerge onto the D620, the road to Coulonges-les-Sablons, near the calvary cross, **le calvaire des Maupinières**.
8. On the right follow the **rue de la Passerelle**, then **rue Sophie Girard**. At the traffic lights go straight across and down the **rue Henri Levier**.

Return to the car park via the schools on the right.

