

RURAL SETTLEMENT

Though rural settlement has changed significantly, it is still identifiable by the buildings dating from the 19th century. It is rather concentrated in towns and open in the countryside.

Very often, ancient farms consist of traditional French style cottages called longères (long, horizontal block) and agricultural outbuildings in alignment with the dwelling. Roofs of different heights often reveal different periods of construction.



Other farms consist of several buildings arranged around a courtyard: a dwelling with few openings to prevent heat loss, the barn with its skylight for hay storage, the cowshed with its tiny openings for the cattle to get air and daylight and sometimes premises to stock farm machinery and fodder.



Their masonry (type of size and layout of stones or bricks) uses local materials which reflect the composition of the subsoil.



Since the 20th century, new materials and shapes have emerged: sheet metal, hangar... These constructions adapt to the agricultural changes.

Source: Le Pays Segréen Patrimoine d'un territoire - 2009

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY



The parishes of Chanveaux and Saint-Michel-de-Ghaisne (now Saint-Michel-du-Bois) united in 1790 to become the commune of Saint-Michel-et-Chanveaux.

This land, covered with forests as implied by its name, was one of the most ancient castellany in Anjou region and was under the jurisdiction of Châteaubriant.

Chanveaux, located in the "walks" zone between Anjou and Brittany used to have one of the few feudal mottes of the Region. A feudal motte, known as a "motte castrale" is a medieval defensive work consisting of a mound of earth atop which was built a wooden palisade (bailey). Today, though this artificial mound is barely discernible, its double moats are still very visible.



In Chanveaux, many houses have their facades richly decorated with originally framed skylights and windows.

Source: Maine et Loire dictionary,

1876, Célestin Port

Odile Halbert works - <http://www.odile-halbert.com>

In case you notice any anomaly on your way through, please inform the Commune d'Ombree d'Anjou. Your remarks will help us maintain all the trails in good condition.

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IGN MAP:
I321 E

ST-MICHEL-ET-CHANVEAUX



Sentier de la Minière

Start: Church square
➔ 12.5 km - 3 hours

— Road markers

When history united two towns into one, agricultural and forest landscapes started to mingle and gave the territory its own identity...

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Do not litter.



PLACES TO VISIT IN TOWN

Founded in the 11th century, the church dedicated to St-Michel stands against the ruins of the castle and is surrounded by the cemetery, which is rather exceptional in Anjou.

On the church side, we can admire a sculpture by Julien Roux, born in St-Michel-et-Chanveaux in 1836, who also sculpted the statue of the Comédie sitting on the façade of the theatre in Angers.

Next to the church, the ruins of the castle resisted many sieges from the English especially in 1422 and witnessed many slaughters during the Chouannerie.

Start: From the town to hamlets

Near the roundabout, take the small lane between the houses and follow the alley crossing through the housing estate.

Cross the road and walk opposite towards la Chênaie.

At the crossroads, turn left towards Le Bois Robert and Le Breil. Keep walking up to the road.

1: From agricultural sceneries to forest landscapes

Turn left and follow the wide trail over 2.5 km. After the road of la Minière, turn right and then right again.

Walk along the woods of la Minière.

2: Visit of Chanveaux

When leaving the woods, keep walking straight on up to Chanveaux. Turn right on the road, keep walking on the D182 over 1 km up to the wayside cross.

⚠ Be careful on the road!

3: Back to St-Michel-et-Chanveaux

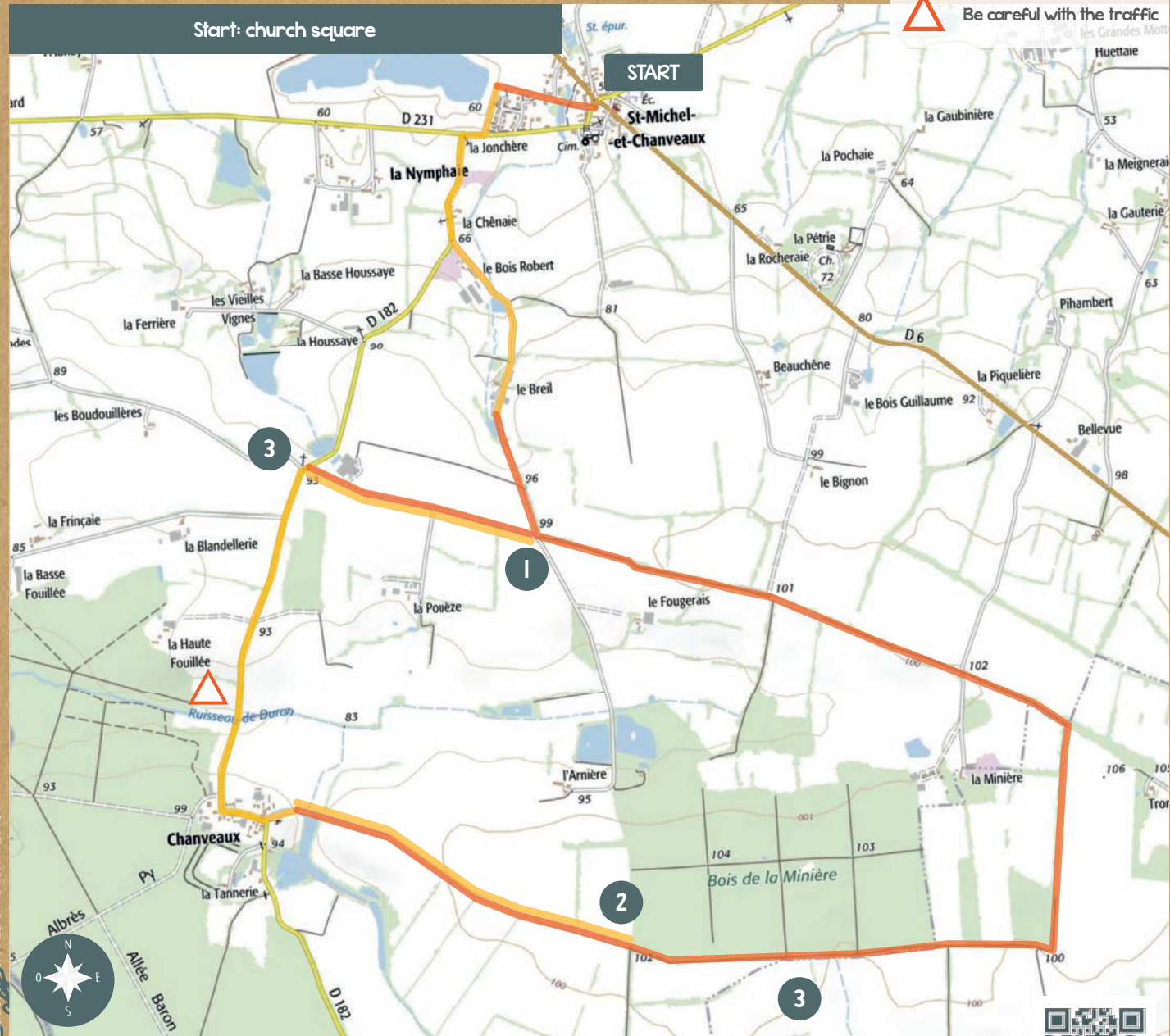
Turn right. At point 1, turn left to walk back on the same path towards St-Michel-et-Chanveaux.

Sentier de la Minière

CAPTION

- Trail, lane
- Tarred section 45/

⚠ Be careful with the traffic



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500 m

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