

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DUCAL CASTLE OF GAVRAY

THE NORMAN DUCAL PERIOD (933-1204)

The site was first fortified by Henri I Beau Clerc, son of William the Conqueror, at the end of the 11th century while the first actual castle was built here around 1040.

FIRST FRENCH PERIOD (1204-1354)

In 1204, Normandy was taken over by Philippe Auguste, King of France. Gavray Castle was considered an important fortress as it was one of five Norman castles that housed a commandant appointed in 1290.

THE NAVARESE OCCUPATION (1356-1380)

In the 14th century, the castle became the property of the King of Navarre, Charles le Mauvais. In 1378, after a difficult siege, the castle was taken by French forces under the command of Du Guesclin. It was immediately dismantled by order of the King of France and then demolished in 1390.

THE ENGLISH OCCUPATION (1417-1449)

In 1417, the castle site was taken by the English who subsequently reconstructed the castle. In 1449, it was once again besieged and retaken by the French under the command of Constable Arthur de Richemont.

THE SECOND FRENCH PERIOD (1453-)

After the Hundred Years War, Charles VII restored the castle and it housed a garrison until the beginning of the 17th century. From this time on, it was progressively demolished. In 1667 the castle site was granted by Louis XIV to his illegitimate son Louis-Alexandre de Bourbon.

19th CENTURY

On December 5th 1832, the Compagnie du Cotentin, exercising the rights of the House of Orléans, freely granted 106 ha 49 ares of land, including the castle site, to the Commune of Gavray. On July 20th 1876, a fire destroyed some 140 houses in the village and the municipality authorised the removal of stone from the castle site in order to rebuild the destroyed homes.

20th CENTURY

In 1980, the site was little more than a dot on the map when the newly created Association for the Protection of the Castle decided to undertake a series of archaeological excavations. These were conducted each summer until 1990.

21st CENTURY

In 2001, the castle site was upgraded and visitor information panels were installed. In 2015, the Association, with the support of Manche Numérique and under the auspices of the la Communauté de Communes du Bassin Coutançais, created a self-guided tour of the site in three languages.

OUR PARTNERS:



Welcome to the site of the DUCAL CASTLE OF GAVRAY



For more information

Address of the Association: Mairie de Gavray 50450 GAVRAY

Contact: 06 74 62 70 00

Website : www.chateaugavray.fr

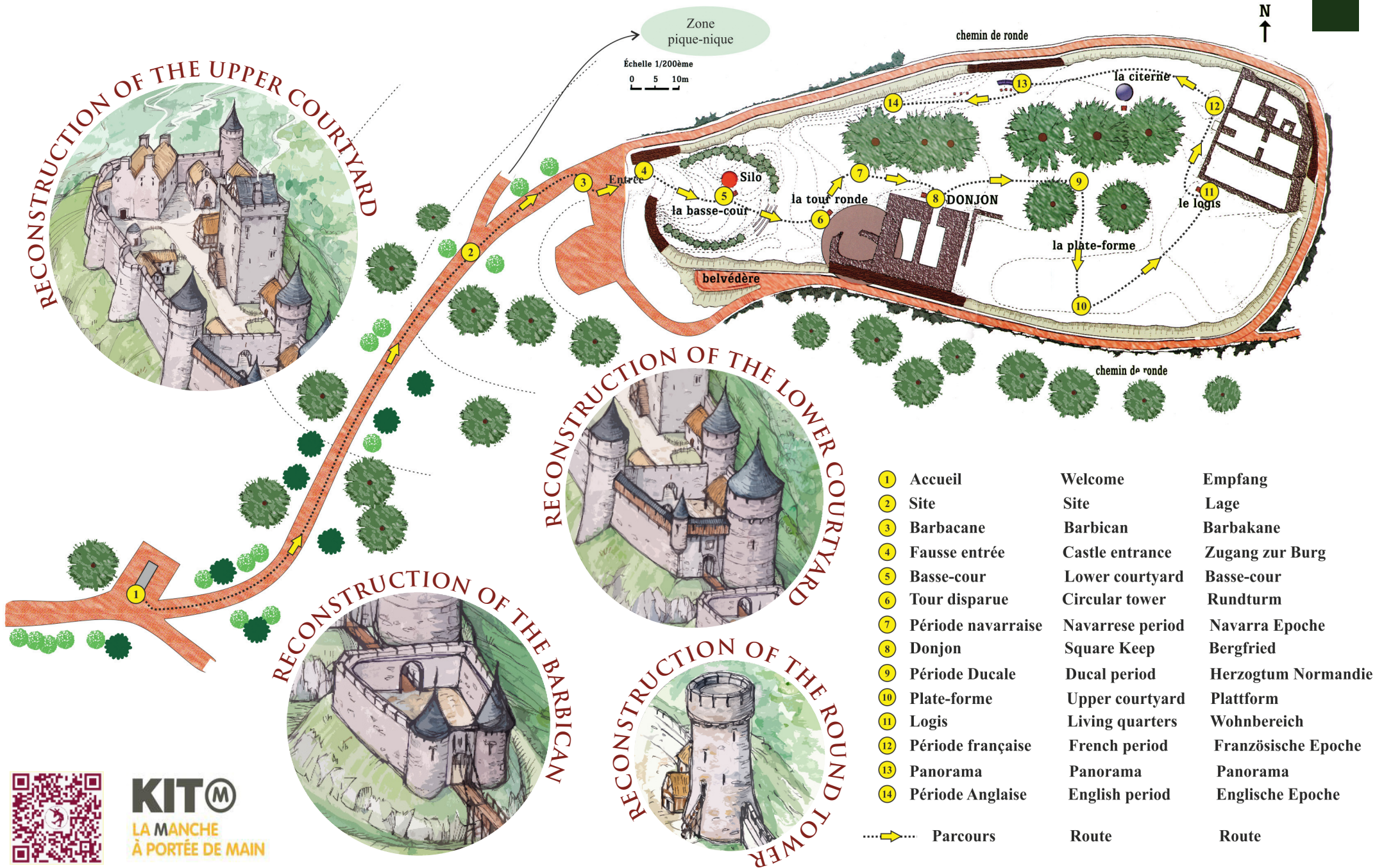
Facebook : www.facebook.com/chateaugavray

Coutances tourisme Portes du Cotentin 02 33 19 08 10

Visit the site of what the Medieval chronicler Jean Froissart described as "the most beautiful castle in Normandy in the mid 14th century".

Using your mobile phone (KIT-M application or Flashcode) you can access a self-guided tour of the site in 14 steps that will explain the history of the castle and its principal remains.

Guided tours available by appointment at 06 74 62 70 00:



| | | | |
|---------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Accueil | Welcome | Empfang |
| 2 | Site | Site | Lage |
| 3 | Barbacane | Barbican | Barbakane |
| 4 | Fausse entrée | Castle entrance | Zugang zur Burg |
| 5 | Basse-cour | Lower courtyard | Basse-cour |
| 6 | Tour disparue | Circular tower | Rundturm |
| 7 | Période navarraise | Navarrese period | Navarra Epoche |
| 8 | Donjon | Square Keep | Bergfried |
| 9 | Période Ducale | Ducal period | Herzogtum Normandie |
| 10 | Plate-forme | Upper courtyard | Plattform |
| 11 | Logis | Living quarters | Wohnbereich |
| 12 | Période française | French period | Französische Epoche |
| 13 | Panorama | Panorama | Panorama |
| 14 | Période Anglaise | English period | Englische Epoche |
| --->--- | | Parcours | Route |
| | | Route | Route |



KIT[®]
LA MANCHE
À PORTÉE DE MAIN