The Heights of Pont-Rémy PR

Follow alongside the River Somme and its ponds, then climb towards the fields and woods and head towards Pont-Rémy, well named with its many bridges or "ponts" in French.

Time: 3 hours 20 mins

Distance: 9.5km

Route: moderate

Starting at: The Canal Mooring, 250m from the church at Pont-Rémy on the tow-path (car park at the church)

Pont-Rémy, 9km southeast of Abbeville, 9km south-west of Ailly-le-Haut-Clocher.





- 1 Follow the tow-path to the bridge. Cross the bridge and continue to the Cocquerel bridge.
 - ▶ Ponds nestle in the greenery close to this path that was formerly used to tow boats and barges. A sign states that the River Somme starts its journey from Saint-Simon, 129km away.
- 2 At the bridge, head right and then left, cross the bridge and follow Rue Coquette through Cocquerel to the D112. Turn left along this road.
 - ▶ 16th century St. Martin Church built in stone with a stepped steeple and wooden cross. At the hamlet of Longuet there is a 19th century chapel and 18th century St. Julien Chapel-church with a latticed steeple.
- 3 After the lay-by as you exit the village, follow the Cadet Roussel track to the right climbing towards Francières.

- Ignore two paths to the right. At the woods, turn left and then right and follow alongside the woods to the junction.
- 4 At the junction, head left towards the woods and descend via the Francières Valley to the road. Turn left and continue to the D112.
- (5) Turn right along the D112, and then take Rue Pasteur to the left. Turn left again along Rue des Flagues and return to the starting point.
 - Like the chateau the St. Pierre Church dates from the 19th century. Before leaving the Pont-Rémy area, you must take a look at the lock.

Tourist Offices: Pont-Rémy: 03 22 27 20 71 Long: 03 22 31 82 50

Samara, a Long Calm River! A plaque at the Pont-Rémy lock states that the River Somme has travelled from Saint-Simon, 129km away. In reality, Saint-Simon is where the river becomes navigable; the source of the river is actually at Fonsommes in the Aisne. Feeding on other rivers and streams, it slowly crosses the department to which it has given its name - the Somme or Samara in Latinand flows into the Channel at Saint-Valery-sur-Somme. It there creates a bay of the same name, renowned as one of the most beautiful bays in the world. The river-bed divides and the river spreads out, surrounded by fish-filled ponds and wetlands: the former peat-bogs. The River Somme is navigable for two thirds of its 250km, either along the river itself or along the lateral canals.

