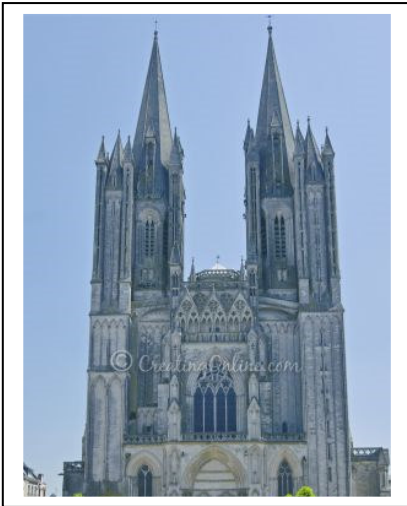


Coutance



Only 30 minutes from our bed and breakfast is Coutance which was once the religious centre of the whole of France. This is probably why the Cathedral is surrounded by 3 churches. The Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame which dominates the town is mainly 13th Century Gothic. It was originally built in 1040 by a prominent local family upon the site of an older church.

The present building, constructed between 1220 and 1275, used the remains of the old church. It is an example of local Norman architecture and the Gothic style with Gothic stained windows. Built on a hill Coutance can be seen from the distance.



The botanical gardens are in a dip that has its own micro climate which is why it is able to grow such a varied variety of plants all year. Originally belonging to a lawyer Rihouey Julien, in the 17th Century it passed through many

hands including a hotel and finally in 1852 the gardens were bequeathed to the general public.

The garden was designed by Adele Sebastian Minel (1789-1869) a retired engineer and watercolorist, by combining the groves in England, the Italian terraces and also maze and water jets on three levels.

Villedieu Les Poeles



Villedieu-Les-Poeles is renowned as the centre of copper making. They still make the copper and also make and repair bells in the old tradition that started in the middle ages under the tutorage of the Knights of Malta. There are cobbled alleyways that lead to 47 ancient courtyards. You can visit one of the last active bell foundries and three copper workshops. On Tuesdays there is a large French market.



Many people combine the two places with their trip to Mt St Michel. Having spent the early part of the day at Mt St Michel when it is quieter they stop off on their way back as they are on route.