

## *Carentan*

Monday is a great day to visit Carentan with the lively bustle of the weekly market. If you are stopping for lunch try one of the sausages in a French stick or pop into one of the cafes on the harbour front. If you still want to shop, pop into one of the largest antique depots, ideal if you are looking for an antique bargain or a little piece of history. Be sure to stop off at the 18<sup>th</sup> century wash house opposite which has been lovingly restored.



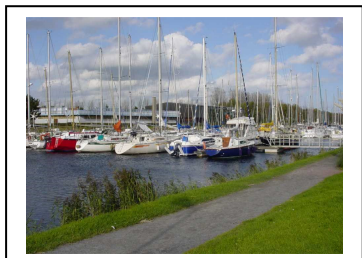
Carentan's 12th Century church is almost big enough to be a cathedral with an 18<sup>th</sup> century listed organ. The Church Organ is listed for its case and pipes. It was built between 1803 and 1805. It is the work of Louis Lair, organ builder at Le Mans. Damaged during the war, look out for the replaced stained glassed windows.



The washhouse was built in 1784 and contains a shallow sink of wide slabs of bedded stone that is open to the sky. It has a covered gallery of massive columns made of Caen stone. The square based columns carry an imposing wooden structure as cover. Look out for the superb stone gargoyles that decorate the sink.



The four medieval houses incorporating 10 pillars are believed to be the remains of a former covered market from the 14th century. Walk around the side streets and look up to discover old French alleyways with some charming buildings.



Then take a stroll around the harbour along to the end of the lock gates and if you are energetic try the path that has a sports track with athletic exercises.



The Town Hall was constructed between 1644 and 1652 by the Sisters of the Order of Our Lady, who opened their convent there in March 1652. In 1792, the nuns were ordered to leave the convent because the town wanted to use part of the buildings. The building served in turn as a barracks, military quarters and police station