

## Parks and gardens

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Quimper, town of art and history, offers its inhabitants an exceptional quality of life and its visitors sources of inexhaustible discovery. Our town enjoys a privileged geographical situation and a remarkable architectural legacy.

We should capitalise on these riches by a daily appreciation of our environment. It is in this spirit that the green spaces management of Quimper town hall improves our well-being by working on the standard of our quality of life. These efforts have been rewarded because Quimper has twice received the « National Town In Bloom » prize, the highest award of its type.

Whilst everyone enjoys the floral footbridges on the Odet or the ramparts' borders, Quimper's most beautiful gardens are sometimes hidden from those not seeking them. At the turning off an alley, or at the end of a rather ordinary little square, marvellous places are sometimes hidden.

### The Retreat Garden « Jardin de la Retraite »

Located inside the ramparts of the old walled town, this walled garden of about half a hectare is both intimate and varied in its outlook by virtue of its configuration into landings.

A former monastery garden, it was used for walks and as a cemetery. Its full south orientation and its chalky soil allow the acclimatization of relatively cold-sensitive plant species such as palms (for example a very well-developed *brahea edulis* specimen) originating from America, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, China or simply the Mediterranean region. The difficulty of acclimatizing these arid-origin species in Brittany is bypassed by planting on large drainage ditches which avoid water stagnation during cold periods which is the limiting factor for these types of plants.

Surface area : 5800 m<sup>2</sup>

Access via rue des Douves and rue Elie Fréron



### The theatre garden

Laid out at the end of the 19th century on a former branch of the Odet the theatre garden is designed in the English romantic style with plants originating from the USA and China. This half hectare garden assembles a few rare species in a limited space. One can find a torrey, a ginkgo biloba, a variegated tulip tree, a giant sequoia and a Louisiana cypress. These large subjects are surrounded by azaleas, rhododendrons and perennial plants. It is one of Quimper's oldest gardens.

Surface area : 6400 m<sup>2</sup>  
Access via boulevard Dupleix



### The Priory garden « le jardin du Prieuré »

This garden bordering the Odet next to Locmaria priory and Henriot faiencerie (pottery) is laid out with aromatic and medieval plants in the style of monasteries from Anne of Brittany's era. Chestnut, oak, shale, granite and forged steel are the foundation materials. Fruiting as well as food-producing plants grown at the time are in raised beds which complete the garden.

In the middle of the garden a kiosk holds a fountain, symbol of the source of life which once irrigated Paradise. The pergolas symbolise the celestial heavens and each plant is a bearer of a message which was well-known in the Middle Ages such as the rose representing youth or the white lily purity.

Doors closed at night.  
Surface area : 1700 m<sup>2</sup>  
Access via place Bérardier



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