

Mortery

The parish was first mentioned in 1250, as Murtri. At this time, the town was owned by Guillaume de Mortery, who died in 1260. It was a refuge for lepers as from the 12th century. According to the proverb: "The wounded go to Mortery, the cured go to Guériton, the dying go to Mourant", each village name aptly resembling the state of the lepers they hosted in French.

Thus, lepers were sent to one of the three towns according to their condition. Another, more joyful, custom in Mortery, was that of the chapel Notre-Dame-de-Grisy, demolished in 1734 and replaced by a cross, for young girls hoping to get married. They used to go on a pilgrimage to the chapel or calvary cross, on Pentecost Monday. They would jump, feet together, over one of the springs in Durteint, holding a lit candle in their right hand and chanting a rhyme:

*"Notre Dame de Grisy
Give me a husband
as good as I am pretty
And I'll light a candle for you!"*

In 1900, there was very little work in the village, although there were many large farms: Guériton, Marolles, Bois Bourdin, Limars, Mourant, often former leper-houses from the Middle Ages.



Panoramic views of the village of Mortery and countryside along the trail



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Access: Mortery is about 6.3km north-west of Provins.

Practical information: you can park in Rue de Marolles, outside the Town Hall.

The Hiker's Code of Conduct

- Do not leave the marked paths.
- If there are any doubts regarding which path to take, markings take precedence over the description.
- Respect nature and private property.
- Don't litter.
- Avoid routes during hunting season (check with the town halls or the Seine-et-Marne hunting federation).
- Close gates and fences after you.
- Whenever possible, remove any obstacles from the path.



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Hiking

in Provinois, Bassée-Montois and Morin

MORTERY Following the lepers

Leprosy dates from ancient times. Returning crusaders spread it throughout Europe in the Middle Ages. Lepers were isolated in leper colonies or houses to prevent the disease from spreading. As you hike through the Brie countryside, you'll come across three of these former sites: Mortery, Mourant and Le Guériton



8 km



Duration: 2h40



Yellow



Easy



PROVINS TOURISME
entre Bassée, Montois et Morin

Following the lepers

- 1 Starting in Rue de Marolles, turn right into Rue de Provins. Leave the village, follow the track on your right to the fork. Turn right into the track overlooking Durteint valley heading towards Mourant.
- 2 At the farm, take the left track to go down to the Durteint river and cross it. Go up the right track for 500m. At the crossroads turn right, go down to the road.
- 3 Turn right and, at the fork, turn left (there's a lovely view of Guériton). Pass the road, paths on your left and Bois Bourdin farm. Keep walking to Limars farm.
- 4 Bear right, the road becomes a track leading to Mortery cemetery. Take the road on your left to the Town Hall.



Large farmhouse
in Limars



Bois Bourdin Farm



The trail markings on this route are installed and maintained by 250 footpath wardens from the Seine-et-Marne departmental hiking committee. (Codérando 77). It is part of a network of 4,500 km of walking and hiking trails in the department. If you notice any irregularities during your hikes (errors or lack of markings, poor maintenance, illegal waste disposal), please inform Codérando 77 via the website <http://sentinelles.sportsdenature.fr/> by selecting the "hiking" activity.