

This short but punchy paperback is a must-have addition to any France enthusiast's book shelf. Detailing Mewes's year-long journey on foot along the Nantes-Brest canal, the narrative follows the author's daily observations as well as the history of the canal and its surrounding area. An avid walker and long-time resident of Brittany, Mewes's description of the journey from the confluence of the Erdre and the Sevre Nantaise rivers at Nantes up to the Rade de Brest bay are outlined in vivid detail. The canal and its surroundings serve as a backdrop to her passion for her adopted homeland, and her historical writings show a deep sense of empathy for the workers and technicians involved in the construction of the canal. In addition to the layers of interwoven narrative (and with a nod to the expat community) she also discusses the notion of identity and integration in a foreign country. Whether your interest lies in history or the personal, Crossing Brittany is bound to impress - curl up with a cup of tea and drink in Mewes's historical storytelling skills.

*Living France magazine*