

**SUD
VENDÉE
TOURISME**

www.sudvendeeetourisme.com

— 2012 —



**RECREATION
& HERITAGE**
in Sud Vendée



www.sudvendeeetourisme.com

EDITORIAL

Fascinating, peaceful, and most certainly worth a stay - these are the words that best describe the Sud Vendée which stretches from the marshes of the Marais Poitevin to the Atlantic Coast.

Like rings from punt poles ceding to the jittering of waves, lands of great builders give way to holm oak and pine forests in premonition to the wind-swept dunes and sandy beaches of the coast, where mussel-farmers and yacht-skippers enliven the picturesque fishing ports at la Faute sur Mer and l'Aiguillon sur Mer.

Water, symbol of wealth and purity, is essential to this unique region. Gathering strength between boschage and marshes, it ends up by twisting its way through the Sud Vendée as if arranged in a choreography by nature.

You are welcome here to participate in outdoor activities in the Marais Poitevin, the forests of Mervent-Vouvant, and the Baie de l'Aiguillon. But behind this lush scenery there are also people and figures, some of whom illustrious, some legendary. Follow their footsteps and become absorbed by history as you follow guided tours and attend at performances like the ones at the Donjon of Bazoges en Pareds, the Notre Dame cathedral in Luçon, or in Fontenay le Comte, a town referred to as «Ville d'Art et d'Histoire». Pierce the secrets of the Marais Poitevin by finding your way through this intricate maze of canals that lead you to the abbeys, the guardian gates of the Sud Vendée.

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SEE ALSO...

«Gastronomie et Saveurs, du Marais Poitevin au Littoral Atlantique» : Gourmet guide listing all good restaurants and connoisseur shops in the Sud Vendée (in French).

GET YOUR BEARINGS !



www.sudvendeeetourisme.com

KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Motorway		Biological reserve of the Département
	Main road		Animal park or zoo
	Administrative centre		Watermill
	Tourist office		Windmill
	Information site		Serviced pond or lake
	Among Frances most beautiful villages		Recreation site
	Small towns of character		Recreation park
	Detours of France		Vineyard
	City of art and history		Boschage
	Natural reserve		Plains
	Station Kid		Marshlands
	Landing wharfs in the Marais Poitevin		Coastline
	Park and garden		
	Castle		
	Castle ruins		
	Cathedral		
	Abbey		
	Museum or site of interest		

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THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Towards the Atlantic coast, the flow of the inland fresh waters blends gradually with the incoming sea to breed a distinctive wealth of vegetation and wildlife in the marshlands. This is much to the delight of nature lovers and ramblers, who in the Baie de l'Aiguillon and the Pointe d'Arçay can explore a protected natural reserve. Approximately 20 km of fine, sandy beaches stretch out near the family-friendly seaside resorts at L'Aiguillon sur Mer and La Faute sur Mer which subsist at the coming and going of the tides. Enjoyment and fulfilment awaits everyone here, whether you are a surf, kite-surf, or wind-surf fanatic, a sun-addict, a sail-cart skipper, a bather, or even a sandcastle builder.



LA FAUTE SUR MER

The Pointe d'Arçay from the sky
Sail-karting



Le sud Vendée • Recreation and heritage

With more than 8 km of continuous beaches, la Faute sur Mer provides ample space for bathing, sail-carting, and a whole array of other water sports. A separate section is reserved for naturists.

Sea enthusiasts are invited to explore the fishing port, the departure point for activities out on the open sea such as excursions and fishing trips.

Nature lovers on the other hand, will be delighted to ramble through more than 200 hectares of holm oak and pine forests before reaching the bird sanctuary at the headland of the Pointe d'Arçay.

This small fishing port is located in the heart of the Baie de l'Aiguillon and is dedicated to oyster breeding and so called «bouchot» mussels, genuine treats for gourmets, who after dinner also might like to prolong their evening out at the local «Casino des Dunes».

SIGHTSEEING L'AIGUILLON SUR MER

This 12 km long and 700 m wide «needle» consists of a strip of sand and earth next to the estuary of the Lay river. Further out it then tapers towards the Pointe de l'Aiguillon near the outlet of the Sèvre Niortaise. The shoreline was strengthened with a long stone barrier at the end of the 19th century as it had no natural protection from high tide assaults. At its tip there are wild beaches tempting visitors to long walks. Due to its funnel shape, the Pointe de l'Aiguillon is a privileged location for bird watching, especially during the migrating period from October to November.

Information obtainable at the tourist office :
02.51.56.43.87

LA FAUTE SUR MER FOR NATURE LOVERS

- Close to the estuary of the Lay, at the outskirts of the Marais Poitevin, **the lagoon of La Belle Henriette** offers wild and wind-swept beaches facing the open sea. This 180 hectare large dune belt formed in the late 19th century and developed a singular biosphere where today rare and common migrating and nest-building bird species seek refuge in the reed beds. Footbridges and pathways specially designed to protect this fragile environment from harm lead you straight through its heart to the beaches.
- Another emblematic site is **the Pointe d'Arçay** which juts 9 km out into the sea over a width of 1 km. Many protected species thrive in this unique setting. Today, the reserve is managed by the ONF/ONCFS (Office National des Forêts/ Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage). All along the summer, the local tourist office proposes free guided tours through this protected area
- **Sanctuary and observatory :**
A reception area is destined at raising public awareness about the coastal region's natural environments and biodiversity as well as explaining the traditional human activities of mussel- and oyster breeding.

For more information and reservations call the tourist office at La Faute sur Mer 02.51.56. 45.19.

BY FOOT

Take walks through the pine forests and along the dunes. More than 30 km of marked-out paths will bolster your vitality ! Ask for the maps at the local tourist offices.

L'AIGUILLON SUR MER

This small and picturesque fishing port has been able to preserve much of its original authenticity. During the summer **L'Aiguillon sur Mer falls into a cheerful, family holiday atmosphere**. Located on the low banks bordering the Marais Poitevin at the head of the river Lay, l'Aiguillon sur Mer is the southernmost seaside resort of the Vendée. The border with the Charente-Maritime is not far where at a distance one can make out the bridge to the Île de Ré. L'Aiguillon sur Mer is located in a family-friendly environment and is renowned for its grocery and sea-food markets.

Its fishing port, having kept its original appearance through a myriad of wooden stakes and piles projecting from the water, has earned much of its reputation for the quality of its oysters and mussels. Three large sea-water pools warrant for safe and serene bathing, sunbathing, water sports and even fishing.

La Pointe de l'Aiguillon sur Mer, with its classified ornithological reserve, a 5 km long stone flood-barrier, beaches, and cycling tracks, invites you out on long and unforgettable daytrips and bird watching excursions. The excellence of the restaurants which specialise in the locally produced seafood needs hardly to be stressed, especially with respect to the renowned «moule de bouchot» known for its rich and subtle flavours.



Mussels de Bouchot

THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, WATER SPORTS AND RECREATION



MERRY-GO-ROUND, MINI GOLF, AND AMUSEMENT ARCADE

LOISIRS OCEAN • Avenue de la plage
85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
Tel. : 02.51.97.00.84
www.loisirs-ocean.com

Open from April to September.

BOAT «LE FLASH»

209, Bd de la forêt • 85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
Tel. : 02.51.97.04.05 ^(T) • 06.80.37.02.97 ^(M)
Fishing port • Fishing trips and sea excursions.

Open from June 15th to September 15th.

BOAT «L'APHRODITE»

2, rue du Pertuis Breton • 85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
Tel. : 02.44.59.11.47 • 06.31.78.37.50 ^(M)
rose.rosig@cegetel.net
Fishing trips and excursions. Rods and other gear
available on board. Reservations required. Departures
from the fishing port from Mondays to Saturdays.

Open from June 15th to September 15th.

CASINO DES DUNES

La grande Plage • 85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
Tel. : 06.51.27.10.29

The casino is open between 10 pm and 1 am from Sundays to
Thursdays, and from 10 pm to 3 am on Saturdays and holiday
eves. Slot machines, video poker, and boule.

Open all year.

PAINT BALL ET QUAD

Rte de la Tranche • Parc de la Californie • 85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
Tel. : 06.21.70.10.74 ^(M) • 06.99.58.98.00 ^(M)
Two paintball courts and two quadricycle tracks for young and old.

Open July and August 7days/week from 10:30 am to 21:00 pm.

BALLES EN-SEL

85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
Tel. : 02.51.56.43.41

Trampoline, sporting activities, swimming lessons, circus arts.
From 5 years and older.



We meet up at the Plage des Belugas every day in July and
August except Sundays from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and from
3:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

LES FLOTS BLEUS

85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
Tel. : 06.08.31.47.47 ^(M)

paulinfrederic@wanadoo.fr
Discover the region in a Fun Extr'm 500 buggy.
Quadricycles for rent.

Open from April to September.

ECURIE DE LA BAIE

19 rue des Bécassines • 85460 L'AIGUILLON SUR MER
Tel. : 06.82.38.82.04 ^(M)
ecuriedelabaie@gmail.com • www.ecurie-de-la-baie.fr
Pony club, boarding, stabling and pasture/stabling.

Opening period not mentioned

Several cycling track itineraries adding up to approximately 80km,
all starting out from l'Aiguillon sur Mer have been elaborated by
the Conseil Général of the Vendée. For example, take a day trip to
Maillezais and be amazed by the peculiar succession of different
landscapes offering an exceptional biodiversity. Understand the
development of the marshlands !

AUX DEUX ROUES

33, rue Jacques Moreau • 85460 L'AIGUILLON SUR MER
Tel. : 02.51.56.49.01 ^(T) • 02.51.97.18.15 ^(F)

Bicycles and motorbikes for sale and for rent. Repair works, spare
parts and accessories. Groups welcome.

Open all year.



LOCA CYCLES

3, route de la Tranche
85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER

Tel. : 02.51.27.14.73 ^(T)
Bicycles, mountain, bikes, quadricycles
and quads for rent.

Open from June to September.



ECOLE MUNICIPALE DE VOILE

85460 L'AIGUILLON SUR MER
Tel. : 02.51.56.42.79 ^(T) • 02.51.56.40.31 ^(T)
ecoledevoile.laiguillon@orange.fr
www.laiguillonsurmer.fr
or www.ecoledevoile-laiguillon.fr

Sailing courses for groups and individuals.
Wind-surfing boards, catamarans, and
optimists. Outings in kayaks and sailboats.
Open from March to October, 7 days/week in
July-August.

ECOLE DE CHAR À VOILE (SAIL-CARTING)

Plage des Belugas • 85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
courriel : contact@charavoile.net • www.charavoile.net
Tel. : 02.51.56.43.41 • 02.51.56.47.48 • 06.81.89.85.52 ^(M)

Courses and training for groups and individuals. Sailboat and kayak
excursions on reservation. Paddle Boards : new in 2012.

Ouvert all year.

ECOLE DE VOILE «HORIZON NATURE»

85460 LA FAUTE SUR MER
Tel. : 06.80.66.45.75 ^(M)
www.horizon-nature-monsite.com
horizon.nature@wanadoo.fr

Sailing lessons and training for groups and individuals.

Open from Easter to Toussaint

CINÉMA «LE GOELAND»

1, rue Général Leclerc • 85460 L'AIGUILLON SUR MER
Tel. : 02.51.27.83.09

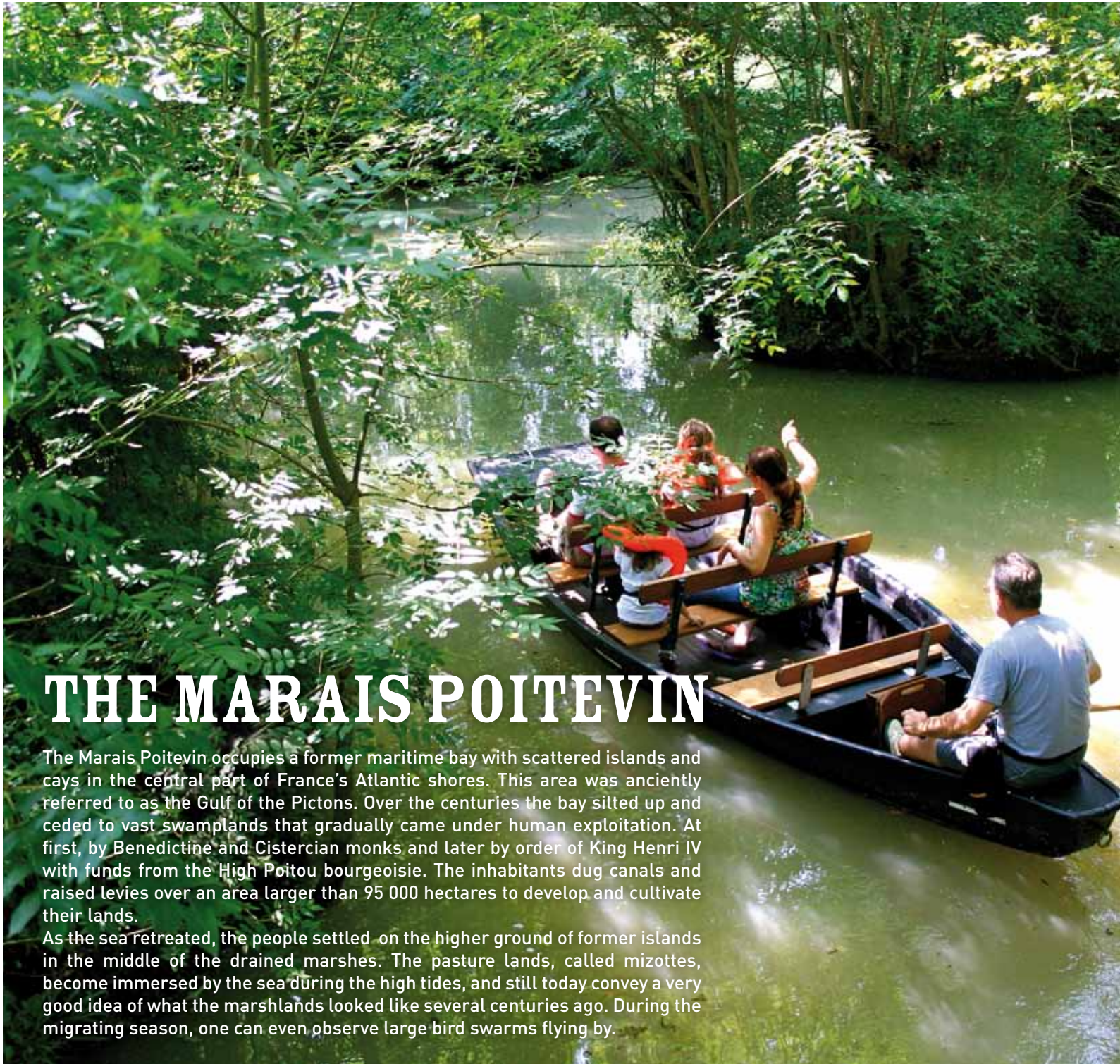
Open all year.

ATLANTIC OCEAN



Utter pleasure and
sheer happiness!





THE MARAIS POITEVIN

The Marais Poitevin occupies a former maritime bay with scattered islands and cays in the central part of France's Atlantic shores. This area was anciently referred to as the Gulf of the Pictons. Over the centuries the bay silted up and ceded to vast swamplands that gradually came under human exploitation. At first, by Benedictine and Cistercian monks and later by order of King Henri IV with funds from the High Poitou bourgeoisie. The inhabitants dug canals and raised levies over an area larger than 95 000 hectares to develop and cultivate their lands.

As the sea retreated, the people settled on the higher ground of former islands in the middle of the drained marshes. The pasture lands, called mizottes, become immersed by the sea during the high tides, and still today convey a very good idea of what the marshlands looked like several centuries ago. During the migrating season, one can even observe large bird swarms flying by.



Abbaye St Pierre at Maillezais

As time went on, the Marais Poitevin developed into a dense aquatic maze, its canals hidden behind ash trees and poplars. Today, trees and water cohabit in a flawless harmony while punts and canoes gently glide along large and small canals at the beat of the oriole's chant.

This aquatic landscape is also the stage for a rich architectural heritage, such as that left behind by the Benedictine monks at the impressive site of the Abbaye St Pierre at Maillezais. Together with the narrative depictions on the church portals of St. Eulalie at Benet, and Notre Dame at Oulmes it bears witness to the past power of this diocese in the Medieval Period.

Numerous old hydraulic locks and gates mark the landscape that still regulate the water levels of the marshes. Among them are le Gouffre, the Ecluses du Canal des 5 Abbés and Clain, la Bonde du côteau, Portes des grands Greniers...

ABBAYE ROYALE ST VINCENT NIEUL SUR L'AUTISE



After its foundation in 1068, the abbey at Nieul sur l'Autise benefited from the protection of the counts of the Lower Poitou as well as the dukes of Aquitania. In the 12th century it was accorded the status of a royal abbey by Alienor d'Aquitaine, the then queen of France.

The abbey is one of the few monastic complexes in the historical Lower Poitou to have preserved its three basic elements consisting of church, cloister, and convent in an almost excellent state of preservation. Its Romanesque cloister is the only one of its kind in Western France to have survived in its entirety.

Its restoration and rehabilitation is considered to be exemplary. The pure lines of its modern glass and wooden architecture are inspired by the monastic spirit. The monastery is exhibited to the public in a modern scenography based on sound and light effects with state of the art audio-visual technologies, which are perfectly integrated to the setting : As you walk through the premises, lights turn on, instruments sound up, and special effect characters appear from virtual books to enhance the drama of this optical theatre.

CULTURAL EVENTS FOR YOUNG AND OLD

In spring :

- L' Art en goûter : conference, snacks, and concert on March 4th, April 1st, September 23rd, October 28th and November 18th.
- Interactive theatrical workshops around history : April 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th, and May 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th.
- Festival des Voûtes Célestes: sacred music festival from May 12th to June 23rd.

July and August :

- Guided tours around monastic life in the Medieval Period.
- Daily guided tours for dressed-up children between 5 and 9.

CONTACT

Abbaye royale de SaintVincent • Nieul sur l'Autise
Tel. : 02.51.50.43.00 • Fax : 02.51.50.43.01
abbayes-sudvendee@vendee.fr
www.vendee.fr



ABBAYE SAINT PIERRE MAILLEZAIS



The Benedictine abbey at Maillezais was built in 1003 on an island in the Golfe des Pictons in a unique architectural style for the region of Poitou Saintonge. The monks played an essential role in the economic development of the marshlands. While its cemetery served as a burial ground for the dukes of Aquitania it also was the bishop's seat during three and a half centuries. The abbey also accommodated the dramatist François Rabelais and actually inspired him for his description of the «Abbaye de Thélème» in his novel Gargantua. During the Wars of Religion, Agrippa d'Aubigné had the site transformed into a protestant fortress. With the French Revolution, the abbey was confiscated by the state and later sold to serve as a stone quarry. As you access the abbey's esplanade, let yourself become overwhelmed by the sheer size of the cathedral's ruins, the seven halls of the convent including its kitchen, refectory, storage rooms and salt cellar. Don't miss the exceptional view over the marshlands from the top of the abbey. This millennium-old abbey is the largest animated site within the Poitevin marshes.

EVENTS TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR :

In spring :

- Interactive theatrical workshops around history : April 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th, and May 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th.
- Festival des Voûtes Célestes : sacred music festival from May 12th to June 23rd.

July and August :

- Historical characters recount the abbey's past splendour.
- Daily guided tours for dressed-up children aged between 5 and 9.
- Guided tours around the excavation and reconstruction sites.

NOVELTY



CONTACT

Abbaye Saint Pierre • Maillezais
Tel. : 02.51.87.22.80 • Fax : 02.51.87.22.81
abbaye.maillezaais@vendee.fr
www.vendee.fr

WHAT ELSE TO SEE?

Protected churches : Notre Dame at Maillé with its 12th century facade. Chapelle de Chalais at St Pierre le Vieux (early 12th century chancel and a souterrain refuge). Eglise St Hilaire at Champagné les Marais: Romanesque church modified during the Renaissance, enlarged in the 17th century, and restored in the 19th century. Eglise St Maixent (Vouillé les Marais) and Eglise St Hilaire (Ile d'Elle), both perfectly exemplifying the neo-classic style architecture of the mid 19th century. The Eglise Templière de Puyravault (unique in the Vendée) displaying the soberness of the Order of the Templar Knights.

The Moulin de Pacouinay at Oulmes : Windmill dating to the 17th century. Admissions free. Open every day from April to September. Ask for an appointment during the low season.
Tel.: 02 51 52 40 58 or 06.98.99.63.52 ^(M)

Bird watching sites : La «Héronnière du Pain Béni» at Chaillé les Marais with its nest breeding herons, the «communaux» (seasonally flooded meadows) at Vouillé les Marais, Le Poiré sur Velluire, and Nalliers/Mouzeuil St Martin. Also the «Marais de la Vacherie» at Champagné les Marais listed as Réserve **Naturelle Régionale** which also is the seat of the LPO Sud Vendée (bird protection league) equipped with a freely accessible observatory (don't forget your binoculars and telescopes). Access for people with reduced mobility. Programme listing animated events may be obtained upon request.

Information: 02.51.56.78.80 <http://vendee.lpo.fr>

MEMO PAD

THE ABBEYS IN THE SUD VENDÉE :
Abbaye Saint Pierre - Maillezais
and Abbaye royale de Saint Vincent

- Guided tours all year with advance reservations during the low season.
- Local branch of the Ecole Départementale du Patrimoine 02.51.50.43.04.

ADMISSION FEES FOR EACH ABBEY :

- 5 €/adults, free for all under the age of 18.

REDUCED ADMISSION FOR BOTH SITES :

- 4 €/adults in a group.

LA MAISON DE LA MEUNERIE NIEUL SUR L'AUTISE



This well-preserved watermill from 1728 still produces flour from organically grown wheat and buckwheat. Visitors to the mill can buy it, though it is primarily sold to the local bakeries and restaurants. Visitors are guided through the premises by aid of an audio-visual system installed in each room and explaining the mill's mechanics and the traditional job of the miller. The visit takes you through the well-restored private quarters preserved in an ambience of the 1920's. In the adjacent buildings you can admire a traditional clog manufacture, an old wash-house and bread stove. Local products are for sale inside the shop.

CONTACT

16 rue du moulin • 8520 Nieul sur l'Autise
Tel. : 02.51.52.47.43 • Fax : 02.51.50.49.82
contact@maisondelameunerie.fr
www.maisondelameunerie.fr
GPS : lat. 46°42'13.47 long. -0,682542

MEMO PAD

OPENING HOURS FOR INDIVIDUALS :

- **From April 8th to April 30th** : from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- **In May on weekends and legal holidays** : from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- **In June and September every day except Saturday** : from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm.
- **July/August everyday** : from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm.

FOR GROUPS :

Accessible all year upon reservation !

ADMISSION :

- **Individuals** : 5 €/adults and 3 €/child aged between 7 and 18.
- **Groups** : larger than 15 individuals: 3,8 €/pers. One free entry for 20 paid tickets. 2 €/child between 7 and 18. Free entry for children aged under 7. Groups smaller than 15 individuals benefit from a flat-rate of 50 € including a guided tour.



EVENTS :

- **Numerous events throughout the summer** entertain our visitors around special themes such as bread baking, gourmand visits, night-time sight-seeing, or «guingette» dinners. For reservations, ask for the agenda.

LA MAISON DU MAITRE DE DIGUES CULTURE AND TOURISM SITE



La Maison du Maître de Dignes : job, life, and local history !

This traditional «cabin» in the heart of the dry marshes (Marais Désseché) was once the home of the levee keeper. Here you will get to know about the life and the job of a key figure in the marshlands former water management. A genuine meeting point for the past and the present ! A key site for young and old to understand the Marais Poitevin.

🇬🇧 The explanations in the museum are translated to English.

P'tit Marouin : is a booklet (in French) for children aged between 7 and 12. It contains fun information about the local heritage and is handed out with each entry ticket.

This year a **temporary exhibition** will be staged around the history of dairy milk production in the dry marshes.

CONTACT

7 rue de la coupe du rocher • 85450 Chaillé les Marais
Tel. : 02.51.56.77.30
maison.maitrededigues@orange.fr
www.mmd-maraispoitevin.fr
GPS: lat. 46°25'19.67"N, long. 1°02'2123"W

MÉMO PAD

OPENING PERIOD :

- **Low season** : October, November, March from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Closed on Saturdays and Sundays.
- **Mid season** : April, May, June, September from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Closed on Saturdays.
- **High season** : July-August every day from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- **The site is closed to the public in December, January, and February.**

ADMISSIONS : • 5 € - 3 € and free entry for children under 18.

- Groups (+ 10 pers): 3 €/pers. Flat-rate of 15 € including guided visit (advance booking required – snacks and meals available upon reservation)








«AMBASSADEUR» offer : Get a customer card if you like to visit the museum as often as you like throughout the year !



THE MARAIS POITEVIN AND ITS LANDING STAGES

The monks who settled in the region at the beginning of the Medieval Period marked the landscape of the Poitevin marshes in terms of economy, environment, and history. Today the region thrives from the coming and going of sightseers who pass by in barges as they serenely glide through wondrous and unforgettable sceneries. Around ten landing stages located in traditional village centres will tempt you out to guided or unguided excursions through 37 000 hectares of wet marshes accessible through approximately 600 km of navigable channels. Find out more and benefit fully from this enchanted environment where time tends to go astray as you succumb to your daydreams.



ADDRESS	TEL (T) FAX (F) MOBILE (M)	PRICES	DESCRIPTION	OPENING PERIOD
• Near CHAILLE LES MARAIS				
LA TAILLEE (85450)				
La Taillee 2000 • 86 Rue du 8 Mai	02.51.52.53.94 ^(T) 06.75.48.09.17 ^(M) 02.51.52.52.48 ^(T)	Without guide, 8 € per card offering 2 loops which can be made any time during your stay	2 circuits bordering the wet marshlands. View over the dry marshes.	Reservations required
LE GUE DE VELLUIRE (85770)				
Le Guétréon • 7, Place de la Rivière	02.51.52.53.87 ^(T)	Without guide. Map of the canals provided. Punt (5 pers): 12 €/h, 17 €/2h, 30 € / ½ day. Canoe (2pers): 10 €/h, 14 €/2h, 25 € / ½ day.	Circuit on the river Vendée river bordering the wet marshes. Discover the hydraulic heritage, wildlife and vegetation.	From May 15 th to Sept. 15 th . Every day from 9:30 am to 7:00 pm. (No rentals between noon and 2:00 pm)
• Near MAILLEZAIS and ST-HILAIRE-DES-LOGES				
DAMVIX (85420)				
 Les Embarcadères de Damvix Le grand Port - Route d'Arçais embarcadere.des.conches@wanadoo.fr www.marais-poitevin-embarcadere.com	02.51.87.14.00 ^(T) 02.51.87.10.15 ^(F) 06.08.35.36.64 ^(M)	Guided tour 32 €/hour/punt (in a group of 4). Without guide 15 €/hour/punt (for a group of 4). Canoe 15 €/hour/3pers.	Guided and unguided tours in punts, canoes, and pedal boats. Individuals, groups, families, school classes.	From Easter to Oct. Every day.
LE MAZEAU (85420)				
 Embarcadère de la Venise Verte Le Port martine.matray@orange.fr www.la-venise-verte.com	02.51.52.90.73 ^(T) 02.51.52.95.97 ^(F)	Guided tour 32 €/punt/hour. (for a group of 4). Without guide 16 €/hour and punt (for a group of 4). Canoe 13 €/hour/3pers.	Guided or unguided promenades in traditional punts on the Sèvre Niortaise (reservations advised). Individuals, groups, families, school classes...	Every day from April to Oct. Reservation required during low season.
MAILLÉ (85420)				
 Embarcadère des Capucines SARL Les Astérides • Le Port contact@lesasterides.com www.lesasterides.com	02.51.87.07.52 ^(T) 02.51.24.75.55 ^(T) 06.83.52.02.52 ^(M)	Electrically propelled boat, 34 €/hour/boat with a capacity of 9 pers. 54 €/half day in a boat between 1 and 5 pers. Canoe: 12 €/hour/ 3 pers.	Unguided outings on the the Sèvre Niortaise in electrically propelled boats. Individuals, groups, families, school classes. Guided tours on reservation. Lunch stops on reservation.	Mid-April, Mai, June, mid-September on week-ends and holidays. On weekdays upon reservation. Otherwise every day in July and August.
MAILLEZAIS (85420)				
 Embarcadère du Petit Port Sauvage Impasse du Petit Versailles	02.51.00.71.77 ^(T) 06.83.47.70.29 ^(M)	Guided tour 32 €/hour and punt (for a group of 4). Without guide 18 €/hour and punt (for a group of 4). Canoe 13 €/hour/3pers.	Outings in punts with or without a guide. Individuals and groups.	July, Aug. open every day. April to Oct, closed on Mondays.
 Embarcadère de l'Abbaye Le Vieux Port embarcadere.abbaye@wanadoo.fr www.marais-poitevin-tourisme.com	02.51.87.21.87 ^(T) 02.51.87.21.87 ^(F)	Guided tour 32 €/hour and punt (for a group of 4). Without guide 18 €/hour and punt (for a group of 4). Canoe 13 €/hour/3pers.	Discover the Marais Poitevin in a punt with a guide. Punts and canoes for rent. Theme-based outings. Individuals, groups, families, school classes.	Open from April to November. Reservations required during low season.
SAINT SIGISMOND (85420)				
 Embarcadère de l'Autize Le Port vincent.liebot@orange.fr www.embarcadereautize.com	02.51.52.97.45 ^(T/F) 06.86.53.09.59 ^(M)	Guided tour 28 €/hour and punt (for a group of 4). Without guide 15 €/hour and punt (for a group of 4).	Outings in punts with or without guide. Evening outings on reservation on Thursdays in July and August. Individuals, families, groups	Open every day from April to September. Reservations required during low season.
 Label attributed by the Parc Interrégional du Marais Poitevin to wharfs providing guided tours in punts complying with 150 site- and service related criteria.				

RECREATION IN THE MARAIS POITEVIN

The Poitevin marshlands extend from Maillezais to the Baie de l'Aiguillon and present a great variety of different landscapes reaching from the wet swamps to the dryer, polder-like marshes closer to the coast. You can explore this multi-facetted region in many different manners. To fully benefit from your trips, don't hesitate to prepare your excursions by getting qualified advice from our professionals.

ADDRESS	TÉL (T) • FAX (F) MOBILE (M)	DESCRIPTION	OPENING PERIOD
BY BIKE			
CHAILLE LES MARAIS (85450)			
CAMPING L'ÎLE CARIOT • Rue du 8 Mai camping.ilecariot@gmail.com www.camping-chaille-les-marais.com	02.51.56.75.27 (T) 06.75.70.24.13 (M)	Hybrid bicycles for adults and children. Reservations required.	From April 1 st to Sept. 30 th .
DAMVIX (85420)			
À BICYCLETTE Centre équestre « La Maison des Champs » a-bicyclette@cegetel.net • www.a-bicyclette.net	06.71.67.40.83 (M)	Mountain bike and hybrid bike rentals. Baby seats and trailers. You may leave the bikes within a perimeter of 15 km to Damvix or Liez.	Open from April 1st to September 30 th . Reservations require in the low season.
Coupleloisirs 3 rue du cloucq	02.28.13.92.67 (T)	Quadricycles with 2 to 8 seats, bicycles (BTWIN), and tandems.	During the summer season open every day. In the low season only on Sunday and Wednesday on reservation.
LE MAZEAU (85420)			
EMBARCADÈRE DE LA VENISE VERTE • Le Port martine.matray@orange.fr • www.la-venise-verte.com	02.51.52.90.73 (T) 02.51.52.95.97 (F)	Hybrid bikes for adults, mountain bikes for kids, baby seats.	Open every day from April to September. Reservations required during low season.
LIEZ (85420)			
A BICYCLETTE • 1 rue des marais a-bicyclette@cegetel.net • www.a-bicyclette.net	06.71.67.40.83 (T)	Hybrid bikes, baby seats, trailers. You may leave the bikes within a perimeter of 15 km to Damvix or Liez.	Reservations required for all seasons.
MAILLÉ (85420)			
EMBARCADÈRE DES CAPUCINES • Le grand Port contact@lesasterides.com	02.51.87.07.52 (T) 06.83.52.02.52 (T)	Bicycle rentals for the entire family.	From mid-April, Mai, June, to mid-September on week-ends and legal holidays. Otherwise every day in July and Aug.
MAILLEZAIS (85420)			
À BICYCLETTE • Embarcadère de l'Abbaye - Le Vieux Port • embarcadere.abbaye@wanadoo.fr www.marais-poitevin-tourisme.com	02.51.87.21.87 (T/F)	Mountain bikes and hybrid bikes for young and old. Infant seats, trailers.	Open every day from April to Oct. Reservations needed for low season.


ON HORSEBACK

BENET (85490)			
LA COLLINE DES FRETIS Ecurie du Marais • Ste Christine accueil@ecuriedumarais.com • www.ecuriedumarais.com	06.32.11.13.79 (T) 06.69.74.80.86 (T)	Outings from 1 hour to one day. Thematic discovery of the marshes, night-time tours, outside riding courses. Meets the standards of BEES1/ATE/BPGEPS – Equestrian Tourist Guide. Groups and beginners are welcome...	July-Aug. Reservations during low season.
BOUILLE COURDAULT (85420)			
LA COLLINE DES FRETIS 75 Rue du Plessis lacollinedsfretis@hotmail.fr	06.69.74.80.86 (M) 06.32.11.13.79 (M)	Outings from 1 hour to one day. Thematic discovery of the marshes, night tours. Riding courses outside in Olympic disciplines, dressage, show jumping. Pony riding, classic gallop gaits. Meets standards of BEES1/ATE/BPGEPS – Equestrian Tourist Guide. Groups and disabled are welcome. Equestrian tourist centre labelled FFE	Open all year.
CHAMPAGNE LES MARAIS (85450)			
LES ECURIES DU SHETLAND La rambauderie • Route de Luçon	06.80.18.39.94 (M)	Riding courses with ponies and horses. Boarding and gentling. Outings on horseback from 1 hour (20 €) to 1h30 (30 €) in to the marshes. Hand-lead pony excursions for children. Picnic area on the premises. Pony tours 8 €/½ hour.	Open all year.
DAMVIX (85420)			
SOCIETE HIPPIQUE SUD VENDEE « La Maison des Champs » • shsv@orange.fr • www.sh-sud-vendee.ffe.com	02.51.87.13.89 (T) 06.80.04.34.18 (M)	Riding courses with ponies and horses. Outings, boarding and gentling. Groups welcome. Reservations advised.	Open all year. Reservations required.
CROSS NATURE VENDEE « La Maison des Champs » cross.nature.vendee@hotmail.fr www.cross-nature-vendee.ffe.com	06.80.45.69.98 (M)	Discovery of the marshes around Damvix for one hour or more in a horse-drawn cart. Reservation required. Groups welcome.	Open all year. Reservations required.
MAILLEZAIS (85420)			
LES ROULOTTES DE L'ABBAYE jerome.czubak@gmail.com • www.baladeencaleche.com	06.20.02.03.19 (M)	Outings in a horse-drawn cart departing from Maillezais. Reservation required between 3:00 pm and 6 pm	Open all year. Reservations required.
ST HILAIRE DES LOGES (85240)			
L'ECOLE DU CHEVAL • Serzais ecoleducheval@hotmail.fr www.ecoleducheval.com	02.51.52.13.71 (M)	Outings, riding courses, initiation for 4-5 year old children, competition, trick riding, riding exams, equestrian art, art of living for aesthetic and harmonious riding as inspired by the great masters. Groups and individuals.	Open all year.
VIX (85770)			
LES ECURIES DE CASSINELLE • Rue du Pré Querelle syndieroy@neuf.fr • www.ecuriesdecassinelle.fr	06.13.90.54.83 (T) 02.51.00.65.69 (F)	Riding and training courses for children, adults, disabled, outings, boarding.	Open all year.
STE RADEGONDE DES NOYERS (85450)			
CENTRE DE DRESSAGE 15, route du Canal du Clain attelagedressagepoitevin@wanadoo.fr	06.43.47.94.81 (T)	Horse carts incl. harness and coachman for rent. Cart excursions excursions and various demonstrations during the summer. Groups welcome. Market for Poitevin mulassier horses, donkeys, and mules once a year (Oct.).	Open all year.

WELLNESS

LIEZ (85420)			
CENTRE LE FIL DE SOI® Mme Oriana Brigitte HEYDEL 2 bis route de Chanceau lefildesoi@wanadoo.fr • www.lefildesoi.com	02.51.00.73.83 (T) 06.50.26.82.88 (T)	Located in the heart of the Venise Verte, the centre offers a friendly atmosphere where guests seek wellness through art therapy, art coaching, colours, sounds, and graphology. Mandala yoga, and biorhythmic dance and palpation workshops are offered, aquatic and sub-aquatic approach. Harmonisation of handwriting and language. Life coaching for all.	Open all year. Reservation required

THE MARAIS POITEVIN FROM NATURE'S PERSPECTIVE AND HERITAGE



© Pascal Baudry

THE PARC INTERREGIONAL DU MARAIS POITEVIN



The appreciative and perceptive eye is incessantly surprised by the Marais Poitevin. Whether you are near a tree-lined canal in the wet swamps, or on a former island in the dry marshes, or just somewhere close to the coastal flood barriers, landscape diversity, natural wealth, and market-gardening know-how are perceptible everywhere.

Stay in good company during your outings
Experimented guides, members of the Réseau d'Education à la Nature, à l'Environnement et au Territoire (RENET) Marais Poitevin, will unveil the hidden side of the marshes to you. Break away during discovery activities proposed to young and old and enter a different world, be it on foot or a bike, in a punt, a cart, or a boat, or on a fishing trip. Make sure to take full benefit from such privileged moments by soliciting qualified advices.

Exhaustive information is available at the local tourist offices and at www.emotion-marais-poitevin.fr

Service providers for activities and guided tours - members of the RENET

PROVIDER	ADDRESS	TEL (T) • FAX (F) MOBILE (M)	WEBSITES AND EMAILS
L'Ecurie du marais Awareness raising farm and accommodation	Sainte Christine 85490 BENET	06 30 56 04 54 (M)	accueil@ecuriedumarais.com www.tourisme-maraispoitevin.com
Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux League for bird protection	Antenne Sud-Vendée Le grand Mothais 85450 CHAMPAGNE-LES-MARAIS	02 51 56 78 80 (T)	melanie.laplace@lpo.fr www.vendee.lpo.fr
Accueil Découverte Marais Océan	Jean-Guy BLUTEAU 32 avenue de la Gare 85770 L'ÎLE D'ELLE	06 61 49 70 86 (M)	bluteau.jeanguy@wanadoo.fr www.location-marais-poitevin.com
Maison du Maître de Digue House of the Levee keeper	7 rue de la Coupe du Rocher 85450 CHAILLE-LES-MARAIS	02 51 56 77 30 (T) 02 51 56 75 91 (F)	maison.maitrededigues@orange.fr www.mmd-maraispoitevin.fr
Pêches Actives de Loisir Fishing	Gilles DAVERDON Moniteur-guide de pêche de loisirs 21 rue de la Bougraine 85420 MAILLE	06 15 36 80 88 (M) 02 51 00 30 42 (F)	peche.maraispoitevin@free.fr www.peche-marais-poitevin.fr
Association Familles Rurales	Embarcadère de l'Abbaye Le Vieux Port 85420 MAILLEZAIS	02 51 87 21 87 (T/F)	famillesruralesmaillezais@wanadoo.fr www.marais-poitevin-tourisme.com
PALIER Sébastien	Animateur Environnement Moniteur-guide de pêche de loisirs 7 rue de l'Océan 85580 SAINT-DENIS-DU-PAYRE	06 75 85 56 43 (M)	sebastien.palier@free.fr www.cap-peche-et-nature.fr
Office de tourisme du Pays né de la Mer	5 place de l'Abbaye 85580 SAINT MICHEL-EN-L'HERM	02 51 30 21 89 (T)	officedetourisme@paysnedelamer.fr www.paysnedelamer.fr
Association Pêche Sport Nature	19 rue de l'ancienne Cure 85120 YUUVANT	02 28 13 06 47 (T) 06 86 74 21 42 (M)	pechesportnature@orange.fr www.peche-sport-nature.com
Réserve Naturelle Nationale « Michel BROSSÉLIN »	Pôle des Espaces Naturels 2 rue du 8 mai 85 580 SAINT-DENIS-DU-PAYRE	02 51 56 14 69 (T) 06 01 77 17 15 (M)	m.saintdenisdupayre@lpo.fr www.reservenaturelle-saintdenisdupayre.fr
Pôle d'attelage • Centre de dressage	15 route du canal 85450 SAINTE RADEGONDE DES NOYERS	06 43 47 94 81 (M)	attelagedressagepoitevin@wanadoo.fr



In 2010, the Marais Poitevin benefited from two following labels :

Grand Site de France® and Destination Touristique Européenne d'Excellence

NATURE OUTINGS INTO THE HEART OF THE MARAIS POITEVIN :

• All along the summer months the tourist office at Maillezais organises fun and original visits for the entire family !
Programme and information at the tourist office Vendée Sèvre Autize
Rue du Docteur Daroux - 85420 Maillezais • Tel. : 02.51.87.23.01 • www.maraispoitevin-vendee.com

• **La Réserve Départementale de L'Île de Charrouin à Vix (85770)**
This vast reserve larger than one hundred hectares consisting of a genuine maze of canals and typical landscapes of the Marais Poitevin is managed by the Conseil Général de la Vendée. Its open meadows alternating with so called «terrées», ponds, canals and ditches harbour an exceptionally rich fauna comprising remarkable species. Open all year. Guided tours on reservation.
Information : 02.51.30.96.22 • www.vendee.fr

Le sud Vendée • récréation and Heritage

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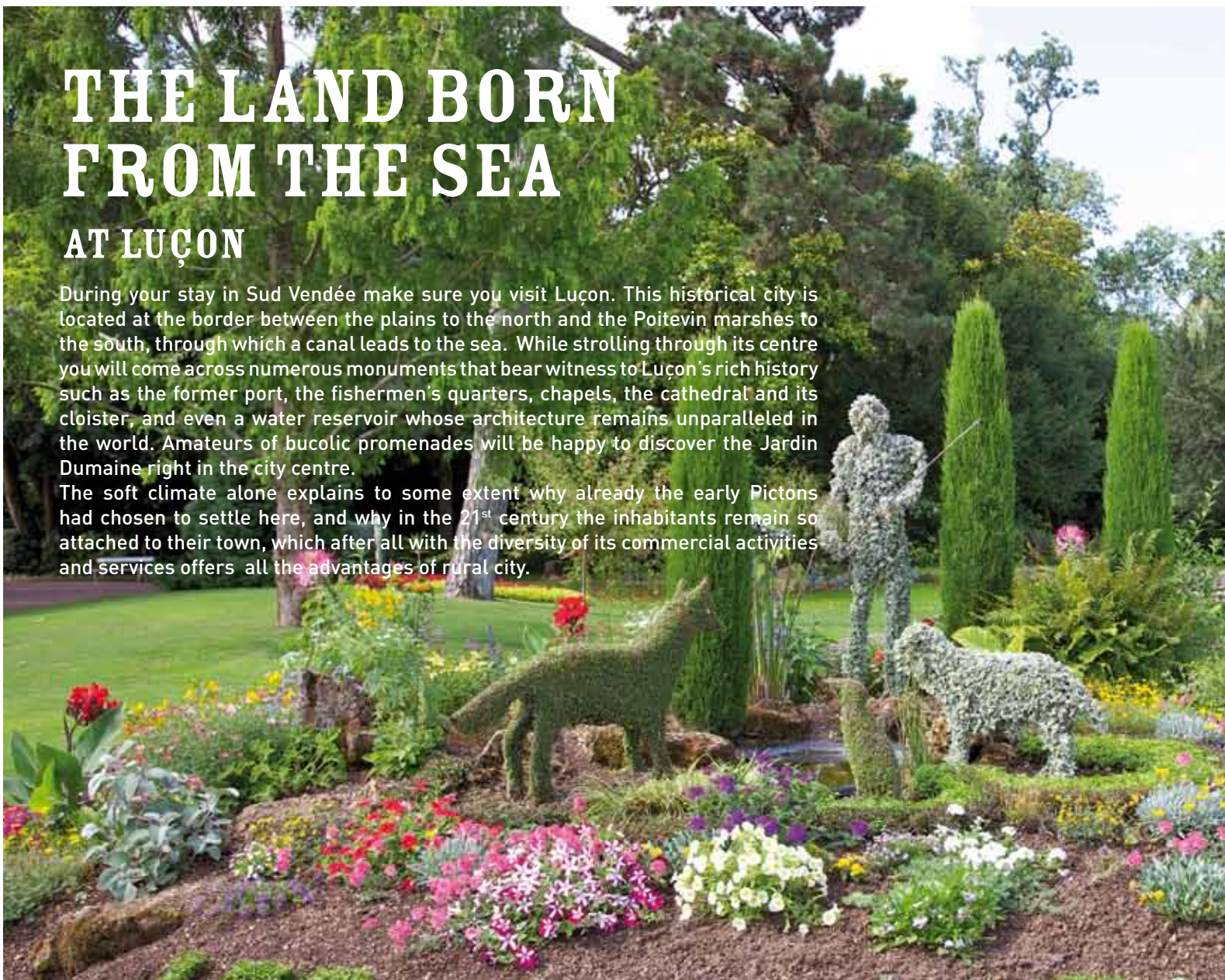
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THE LAND BORN FROM THE SEA

AT LUÇON

During your stay in Sud Vendée make sure you visit Luçon. This historical city is located at the border between the plains to the north and the Poitevin marshes to the south, through which a canal leads to the sea. While strolling through its centre you will come across numerous monuments that bear witness to Luçon's rich history such as the former port, the fishermen's quarters, chapels, the cathedral and its cloister, and even a water reservoir whose architecture remains unparalleled in the world. Amateurs of bucolic promenades will be happy to discover the Jardin Dumaine right in the city centre.

The soft climate alone explains to some extent why already the early Pictons had chosen to settle here, and why in the 21st century the inhabitants remain so attached to their town, which after all with the diversity of its commercial activities and services offers all the advantages of rural city.



The Jardin to Dumaine at Luçon.



Notre Dame Cathedral of Luçon.

SIGHTSEEING

Collect more information at the **Office de Tourisme du Pays de Luçon né de la Mer** :
Tel. : 02.51.56.36.52. www.tourisme-lucon.com • officetourisme.lucon@orange.fr

« **Le Centre Historique de Luçon** » : Guided tour for groups available all year. On Thursday afternoons in the summer also for individual visitors. Theme-related tours in the half season.

« **Le livret des bornes historiques** » (in french) : With this brochure discover the history of Luçon at your own pace, or else with the «Livret-Jeu» (in french) for children and their families. Both are obtainable at the tourist office.

The cathedral and the cloister, the Jardin Dumaine, the Sainte Thérèse and Carmel chapels, the water reservoir (Château d'Eau) and the canal are freely accessible all year round.

• **Guided visits for the Chapelle Sainte Ursule** are available in summer.

• **Daily sightseeing tours in a horse-drawn cart** in summer.

Information at l'**Office de Tourisme de St. Michel en l'Herm** : Tel. : 02.51.30.21.89
www.paysdelamer.fr – officedetourisme@paysdelamer.fr

Abbaye Royale de Saint Michel en l'Herm : a pearl among the heritage of the dry marches covering 13 centuries of history displaying a remarkable architecture. It will be open to the public in a series of exceptionally organised guided tours starting June 26th until mid-September on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. In September however, call 02.51.30.21.89 for short notice information.

Musée Deluol : the artist André Deluol, who drew his inspiration from the splendour of the human body, has left a legacy of more than 150 paintings and sculptures exhibited in this museum. The sensual expression of his art is highlighted in sculptures from stone, marble, and wood. The museum is open from June 25th to mid-September between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm from Monday to Saturday. In September however, call 02.51.30.21.89 for short notice information. Guided visits available for groups in off-season upon reservation.

Ile de la Dive : during a guided promenade be captivated by the natural and historic wealth of the heritage on this former island in the middle of the Golfe des Pictons. Unbeatable panorama over the Baie de l'Aiguillon. Visits take place on Wednesday mornings in July and August.



Natural Reserve of Saint Denis Payré.



The Royal Abbey St Michel en l'Herm

In the heart of the Marais Poitevin discover an **extraordinary landscape formed by the draining of the swamps, where villages cling to low hillocks being** the visible vestiges of former limestone islands that once scattered all over the Golfe des Pictons. The countryside of the dry marshes today is hence the product of man's relentless labour and is marked by embankments and canals.

The land born from the sea is best explored during bicycle outings and walks. It is the harbour to both wealthy natural and cultural assets found on the Île de La Dive, **the Musée Deluol, the Abbaye Royale, and a number of protected churches.**

The nearby Baie de l'Aiguillon with its immeasurable biological output represents a true safe-haven for migrating birds. Here in an area larger than 5000 hectares with mud flats and salt meadows locally referred to as «mizottes» warrant for refuge and food for thousands of birds. Bird watching trips can be supplemented with a visit to the **Réserve Naturelle Nationale Michel Brosselin at Saint Denis du Payré** (see following page). Its observatory is located on the so-called «communal» at Lairoux, which consists of a vast field used as pastureland in springtime but which is flooded in winter, thus turning into a true lake.

This year the Parc Interrégional du Marais Poitevin, has inaugurated a new scenography and information site called the **Pôle des Espaces Naturels** à St Denis du Payré. For all those who would like to get to know more about the Poitevin marshlands a visit to this site would be most compelling.

On your itinerary through this seaborne countryside you have yet not reached your last surprise !

ON FOOT AND BY BIKE THROUGH THE LAND BORN FROM THE SEA

Numerous way-marked circuits indicate your way through the countryside. They are intended to charm you with the prosperity and diversity of its natural, historical, and rural heritage. They take you for example through **the historic city-centre of Luçon**, along **the embankments at Grues**, through **le Bois Gilaud (forest) at Saint Denis du Payré**, **the alleys at Saint Michel en l'Herm**, the so-called «**Chênes**» at Chasnais, «**les Guifettes**» at Luçon the «**Charrières**» at Magnils Reigniers, or the «**Iris**» between Triaize and Luçon. Try also the one at the «Prés St Jean» near Triaize.

Each locality proposes loops for **cyclists**. During the **summer season**, the tourist offices offer **guided and commented excursions**. They are happy to give you more detailed information.

SIGHTSEEING

The Reserve Naturelle Nationale Michel Brosselin Saint Denis Du Payré



Among the most interesting features of the Marais Poitevin are the so called «**prairies communales**», which are partially inundated during the winter and early spring months. Traditionally, they are used as extensive pastureland in summer which has occasioned that these lands have retained a distinctively diverse fauna and flora.

This nature reserve was created in 1976, thereby protecting 207 hectares of communal land. Around 120 bird species are counted here each year. To name but a few, there are the black-winged stilt, the common redshank, the western marsh-harrier, the black-tailed godwit, the northern pintail, the Eurasian spoonbill, the northern lapwing, and the greylag goose.

You can safely access the observatory throughout the year via a 400 m long and elevated wooden path built on stilts and without any particular bird-watching gear. The centre is roof-covered and equipped with 18 seats and field glasses. You are here in the heart of the nature reserve «nose to beak» with wild, mostly migratory birds.

During opening hours, the observatory is permanently manned with naturalist guides. Dogs are prohibited.

MÉMO PAD

La Réserve Naturelle, Pôle des espaces naturels Saint Denis du Payré

OPENING PERIOD :

- Sundays in January and March. Jan. : 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm; March : 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm.
- From Feb. 12th to March 4th : daily except Saturdays, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm.
- From April 8th to May 6th : daily except Saturdays and May 1st from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm.
- From July 1st to August 31st : daily except Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

EVENTS :

- In July and August on Thursdays at dusk for reserved groups not exceeding 18 individuals.
- During spring holidays and in July/August, «un autre regard sur le marais» («the marshes from a different angle» limited to 15 participants, reservations required).
- Fiday Feb. 3rd : World Wetlands Day. Conference on «Water management in the marshes». Film show «Les 4 saisons du Marais» and discussion on the issues of water level management.
- March 10th -11th drawing workshop with Olivier Loir, naturalist illustrator. Reservations required. Limited to 14 participants.

ADMISSIONS :

- **Tickets at the Pôle des Espaces Naturels from May 2012.**
- 5 €/adults, 3,50 €/child aged between 7 and 17, free for children under 7.
- Special «migration cards» cost 16 €.
- Families with more than 3 children pay 17 €.

CONTACT :

Réserve Naturelle Nationale « Michel Brosselin »
Pôle des espaces naturels - 2 rue du 8 mai - 85580 Saint Denis du Payré
Tel. : 02.51.56.14.69 ou 06.01.77.17.15 ^(M)
rn.saintdenisdupayre@lpo.fr
www.reservenaturelle-saintdenisdupayre.fr

THE LAND BORN FROM THE SEA, SPARE TIME



ADDRESS	TEL (T) • FAX (F) MOBILE (M)	DESCRIPTION	OPENING PERIOD
BY BIKE			
LUÇON (85400)			
DOMAINE DES GUIFETTES Route de la Clairaye lesguifettes@domainedesguifettes.com www.domainedesguifettes.com	02.51.56.17.16 ^(M) 02.51.56.31.90 ^(F)	Bicycle rental. Accommodation and camping site next to a 42 hectare artificial lake.	Please contact us.
SAINT MICHEL EN L'HERM (85580)			
CAMPING LES MIZOTTES • 41, rue des anciens quais courriel : accueil@campinglesmizottes.fr www.campinglesmizottes.fr	02.51.30.23.63 ^(M) 02.51.30.23.62 ^(F)	Bicycle rental.	From April 1 st to September 30 th .



The «Clé des Champs» and the «Miellerie des Fontenelles» are two pedagogic farms welcoming their guests in summer and the rest of the year (reservation), for tea-time snacks, discovery, and theme-based visits.

LA CLÉ DES CHAMPS

La Papotière • Beugne l'Abbé • 85400 LUÇON
Tel. : 06.74.87.97.59 ^(M)
lacleeschamps85@wanadoo.fr
www.camping-lucon.fr

Pedagogic farm around cereal production, outings to the marshes with donkeys, slide shows, and shop with local products.

LA MIELLERIE DES FONTENELLES

Route de Luçon • 85580 TRIAIZE
Tel. : 06 83 25 15 03 ^(M) • fax : 02 51 56 93 34
claude.poirot2@wanadoo.fr
Pedagogic bee farm with exhibitions and honey tasting. Shop offering local produce. Guided visits on Fridays in July and August. Reservations required. Please contact us.

AÉRO CLUB DE LUÇON-CHASNAIS

Route de l'Oulérie • 85400 CHASNAIS
Tel. : 06.86.40.13.45 • 02.51.97.77.31
http://voureuils.jimdo.com
Plane excursions. Flying school, flying licence.

Open all year.

DOMAINE DES GUIFETTES

Route de la Clairaye • 85400 LUÇON
Tel. : 02.51.56.17.16 • Fax : 02.51.56.31.90
lesguifettes@domainedesguifettes.com
www.domainedesguifettes.com

Numerous sporting activities: mini golf, tennis, pedal boats, bicycles, covered and heated swimming pool, sauna, and spa. Groups are welcome.

Open all year.



PLAN D'EAU ET BASE NAUTIQUE MUNICIPALE

Route de la Clairaye • 85400 LUÇON
Tel. : 02.51.29.04.18 • base.nautique.lucon@wanadoo.fr
Wind surfing, sailing (catamaran, dinghy), and kayaking lessons by state licensed teachers. Equipment rentals. Groups are welcome and accommodated if so desired. Annual flat-rates are available for all activities. Artificial lake covering 42 hectares. Sea or river excursions in kayaks. Angling (permits).

Please contact us for opening hours.

PISCINE INTERCOMMUNALE

Rue de l'Adjudant Barrois • 85400 LUÇON
Tel. : 02.51.56.03.78

This indoor swimming complex comprises one sports pool and one pool for children with two slides. Swimming lessons, aqua-phobia training, and aqua-form lessons are available for beginners. All activities are supervised by state qualified instructors. Sports clubs: diving, triathlon, and nautical clubs.

Admissions : single, multiple and cards.

Open from September to June from Tuesdays to Sundays and during school holidays (for more information please contact us).

ETANG DE LA FONTAINE

Rue du Bas du Côteau • 85580 SAINT MICHEL EN L'HERM
Angling for trout, carp, and carnivores, open all year. Fishing permits for a day, month or year. Information is available at the tourist office.
Call 02.51.30.21.89

CINÉMA «ESPACE»

Boulevard Michel Phélippon • 85400 LUÇON
Tel. : 08.92.68.31.45
Multiplex including five showrooms. Snack-bar.
Art and essay films.

FISHING ... IN SUD VENDEE

Water is everywhere in the South Vendée. Soaking the countryside in a characteristic network, it calls our visitors to benefit from various recreational activities, including fishing. Indeed, there are numerous locations reserved for angling in freshwater lakes and barrages, rivers, canals, and ponds. There are even four itineraries for fishing carp after dusk. At the coast you can also cast a line from a boat into the open sea or else just into the surf along the beach.

CONTACT

Fédération de Vendée pour la pêche et la protection du milieu aquatique (fishing and water environment protection)
10, bis Rue Haxo – BP 673 – 85 016 La Roche sur Yon Cédex
Tel. : 02.51.37.19.05
contact@federation-peche-vendee.fr
www.federation-peche-vendee.fr



1 BESIDE THE SEASIDE, L'AIGUILLON AND LA FAUTE

During your stay, become acquainted with the pleasure of fishing and enjoy some exceptional moments! Go to the beach at low tide with a basket in your hand and gather molluscs, shellfish and small fish. For a couple of hours the outgoing tide will uncover areas concealing unusual riches. However, some rules must be observed as some fishing practices might be destructive to the environment and contribute to natural degradation.

- Recreational anglers may fish by hand or with a line.
- Your catch is for personal consumption only and cannot be retailed. Fish, crustaceans and shellfish must have a minimum size, and the catch must not exceed authorised amounts.
- Minimum sizes of shellfish are: 4 cm for mussels, 3 cm for cockles, 4 cm for clams, and 3.5 cm for scallops.
- The maximum catch per person is 5 kg for mussels and oysters, 3 kg for clams, cockles and scallops.

Some good angling spots! Plaise is best caught from the old bridge or else in the water reservoirs kept for bathing and fishing, in canals, or directly from the beach.
For more information, ask for the «Guide des Bonnes Pratiques» published by the FNPPSF (national federation of angling sports) which is available at the tourist office!

2 FISHING GUIDES AT YOUR SERVICE

Gilles Daverdon - Fishing Guide
Freshwater and sea fishing for all... All year.
Information : 06.15.36.80.88 ^(M)
peche.maraispoitevin@free.fr
www.peche-marais-poitevin.fr

Sébastien Palier - Cap Pêche et Nature
Fishing Guide - Sports and recreational fishing.
Coast, ocean, and marshlands.
7, rue de l'océan • 85580 Saint Denis du Payré
Tel. : 06 75 85 56 43 ^(M)
sebastien.palier@free.fr
http://cap-peche-et-nature.fr

Association Pêche sport nature
At your service, fishing and nature guide.
Angling training and initiation.
Tel. : 02.28.13.06.47 ^(M) ou 06.86.74.21.42 ^(M)
www.peche-sport-nature.com

3 FISHING WATERS

A list of sites is available at tourist offices and from the Federation de Pêche 85. You will be reminded to respect the rules (maps, schedules, methods, minimum sizes etc.).

THE FOREST OF MERVENT-VOUVANT

With its 5000 hectares the forest of Mervent-Vouvant is the largest single wooded zone in the Vendée and most of all, an exceptional natural environment. Located on the outermost promontories of the so called Armorican massif, the variety of rocks below the subsoil owes much to its lush and diverse vegetation, among which the oak predominates. The appeal of this forest has much to do with its topography as well as the streams and rivers that flow through it. The two most important ones are the rivers Mère and Vendée. This humid setting appeals to many animal species, both sedentary and migrant, as it allows for sustenance as well as shelter. Even man himself has sought to exploit the area in the past, as indicated by place names like Les Verreries or Les Tessonnières hinting to bygone industrial activities.

THE NATUR'ZOO

In the heart of the Mervent forest and only 6 minutes away from Fontenay-le-Comte, spend an unforgettable day at the Natur'Zoo ! More than 200 animals and 50 different species are represented and kept in spacious and wooded enclosures :

- among the large carnivores are lions, wolves, and tigers.
- the 8 000 m² large lemur forest.
- the enclosure representing the African savannah measures 2 hectares is home to the giraffes that arrived in 2011, antelopes, ostriches etc...

Unique in Europe : bears and white wolves co-habit within the same enclosure. Otherwise, suricates, owls, and apes will delight both young old, not to forget the playground and the mini farm !

Spend some extra time at the zoo's restaurant, bar, as well as its shop.

All along the summer don't miss the **feeding of the animals** (lions, giraffes...) carried out by our dedicated keepers :

New in 2012 : the African aviary !

OPENING HOURS :

- **February and March** : on Wednesdays, week-ends, and during school holidays from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- **April, May, and June** : daily from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.
- **September** : daily from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- **October and November** : on Wednesdays, week-ends, and school holidays from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

ADMISSION:

- 12,50 €/adult
- 8 €/child between 3 and 12, free for children under 3.
- Special admissions for groups, company councils and school classes: please call us or get more information from our website.

CONTACT

Natur'Zoo de Mervent •
Le Gros Roc
Tel. : 02.51.00.07.59
www.naturzoomervent.com

THE MASSIF FORESTIER DE MERVENT-VOUVANT RECREATION AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



Whether by foot, on horseback, in a barge, or on a bike, accompanied by a guide or alone, anything goes to explore the forest of Mervent Vouvant. Take full advantage of the recreation sites like the climbing rock at Pierre Blanche, the water sports base, or the high wire adventure park. These outdoor tourist sites fit perfectly into the natural environment and therefore have earned the municipality Mervent the valued label «**Station Verte de Vacances**».

ADDRESS	TEL (T) • FAX (F) MOBILE (M)	DESCRIPTION	OPENING PERIOD
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BY BIKE

MERVENT [85200]			
La Jolietière courriel : camping.lajolietiere@wanadoo.fr • www.campinglajolietiere.fr	02.51.00.26.87 ^(T) 02.51.00.27.55 ^(F)	Mountain bike rental.	Open all year.
Base de loisirs 150, Route touristique • 85200 MERVENT courriel : baseloisirs.mervent@orange.fr • www.tourisme-sudvendee.com	02.51.00.22.13 ^(T)	Mountain bike rental for grown-ups and children. School classes, groups.	Open all year. Reservations during low season.

ON HORSEBACK Whatever your intentions with respect to your horseback excursion, professionals will be happy to give you advice and help plan your outing.

FOUSSAIS PAYRÉ [85240]			
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LA SELLERIE DE LA COUR Rue de la Liberté La Cour de Payré • 85240 FOUSSAIS PAYRÉ selleriedelacour-mail@yahoo.fr • http://selleriedelacour.sup.fr	02.51.51.49.48 ^(T) 02.51.51.41.14 ^(M)	We sell and repair harnessing gear. Riding equipment. Horse related decoration and gift items. Riding lessons.	Closed on Mondays and Wednesdays.
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ST MAURICE DES NOUES [85120] - VOUVANT [85200]			
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Ferme Équestre Pédagogique LA GARRELIÈRE Béatrice et Bruno RIPAUD • 24, Rue de la Forêt ripaud-equitation@wanadoo.fr www.ripaud-equitation.com	02.51.00.81.55 ^{(T) / (F)}	Riding excursions on horses and ponies, and carts. Outdoor lessons and tests. Introductory courses. Excursions from one hour to one week through the forest and to Vouvant. Thematic stays with «A Fleur de Terre» Open to everyone, private, corporate, and disabled. Events during school holidays.	Reservations required all year. In the summer season at Vouvant.
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AMUSEMENT PARC AT PIERRE BRUNE

85200 MERVENT
Tel. : 02.51.00.20.18 • Fax : 02.51.00.29.00
pierre-brune@wanadoo.fr

Open from Easter to September 30th, in July and August from 10:30 m to 7:30pm. Day tickets give you access to all attractions inside the park. Group fares.

Family fun fair located in the middle of the Mervent forest with roundabouts, bumper boats, a giant slide, mini-golf, rodeo, mini go-carts, and inflated bouncy castles. Fast and slow food restaurants inside the park. Picnic area. Marked out walking circuits begin here. The grotto of the Père de Monfort is at a distance of 200 m from the park.

PARC AVENTURE FORESTIER

34 Chemin du Chêne Tord • 85200 MERVENT
Tel. : 02.51.00.20.63 • 06.43.17.73.70^(M)
www.loisirs-vendee.com

Open from April to November, throughout the year for groups. High wire fun in the trees: 90 fun installations. Through the forest : nature adventure circuits, acrobatic high-wire, ground games, challenges for families and friends, and treasure hunting. Picnic and snack area. Thrills, enjoyment, adventure, and magical night-time events.

ESCALADE - CD 85 FFME

Maison des Sports • 202 bd A.Briand • BP 167
85004 LA ROCHE SUR YON CEDEX
Bureau : 02.51.44.27.22 • Gaël Roger : 06.19.14.13.29
Colette Moreau : 06.50.08.70.32 • courriel : info.cd85@ffme.fr
<http://sites.google.com/site/cd85ffme/>

Open all year. Groups are welcome.

From 140 €/half-day - 240 €/day plus transport expenses. Climbing rock at Pierre Blanche, Mervent. Scaling courses for beginners. Adventure trail on tree ladders and rope bridges.

BASE DE LOISIRS DE MERVENT, NAUTISME ET PLEIN AIR

La Vallée • 150, route touristique
85200 MERVENT
Tel. : 02.51.00.22.13
baseloisirs.mervent@orange.fr
www.tourisme-sudvendee.com

Open daily in July/August. Reservations are required for the rest of the year.

Groups between 5 and 12 individuals and individual lessons.

Sailing, wind-surfing, canoes, kayaks, mountain bikes, archery with or without supervision, orienteering games, electric boat rentals. For families and groups. Open all year, with possibility of receiving introductory courses for adults and children by state approved instructors. Equipment is rented out to groups and individuals.



LES AMIS DE LA FORÊT

127, route de la Bironnière • la Jamonière
85200 MERVENT
Tel. : 02.51.00.00.87 • nadine.gachignard@orange.fr

Guided tours through the forest and visit of a saw-mill. By foot or by coach for groups. Suitable for school classes and educational schemes. Reservations all year.

THE MERVENT-VOUVANT FOREST OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WATER SPORTS CENTRE

The recreation base at Mervent has countless activities and thrills to offer.

WATER SPORTS

The water sports base with its artificial lake covering 80 hectares offers the best conditions for practicing and becoming acquainted with sailing, canoeing, kayaking, and wind-surfing. The less hardy choose to explore the magnificent Mère valley in electrically propelled boats. Visitors either hire the equipment only or ask to be assisted by an extra coach for their activity.



MOUNTAIN BIKING



Numerous way-marked tracks at different difficulties will lead you through the forest. Don't hesitate to ask for the brochure. The latest track takes you and your family along a pleasant and relatively even loop of either 1h15 or 2 hours, starting and ending at Mervent village. Bikes

are rented-out and reserved at the mountain-bike centre. Mountain-bikes with child seats and trailers are available too. Accompanied outings available upon request.

THE ORIENTEERING TRAIL



of 19 beds in two dorms, an equipped kitchen, and washrooms, as well as a small camping site.

ARCHERY

Less strenuous but more demanding on concentration and precision, archery is a perfect trans-generational activity. Advance reservations necessary. Contact us for more information.



Credits photographiques : Communauté de communes du Fontenay le Comte - Fontenay



BASE de loisirs, nautisme et plein air

La Vallée – 150 route touristique • 85200 MERVENT • Tél : 02 51 00 22 13 • baseloisirs.mervent@orange.fr



SMALL CHARACTERFUL TOWNS

Winds of legend blow through the Sud Vendée. Be told about the one of the fairy Mélusine who, while flying over the boscage, the forest of Mervent and Vouvant and its shimmering lakes, in one night erected dungeons, walls, refined estates, and superb churches with just «a handful of stones and a drop of water».

The four small towns Vouvant, Foussais Payré, Nieul sur l'Autise and Faymoreau today still retain their former charm preserved by local tradition. In summer they organise in cooperation with the towns of Xanton Chassenon and St Hilaire des Loges a renowned concert festival entitled «**Les Nuits Musicales en Vendée Romane**» as well as local markets and other events to keep up your spirits aligned with the light-heartedness of the summer season.

Cloister at the Abbaye Royale at Nieul sur l'Autise
Foussais Payré
Church at Nieul sur l'Autise



NIEUL SUR L'AUTISE

Located at the gates of the Marais Poitevin, Nieul sur l'Autise enshrines one of the architectural pearls in the Lower Poitou, the cloister of the Abbaye Royale de Nieul sur l'Autise.

At a short distance you will discover **the Neolithic camp site at Champ Durand** which consists of a triple defence ring dug into the limestone bedrock. The site probably once served as a tribal centre with defensive purposes. It also functioned as a market, meeting and burial place.

FOUSSAIS PAYRE

This little town at the outskirts of the Mervent-Vouvant forest is proud of its **church** from the second half of the 11th century as it is one of the most exceptional Romanesque buildings in the Lower Poitou. The Renaissance period as well, witnessed the construction of important buildings like the covered market, the house of François Laurent (1522), the Auberge Ste Catherine, the family home of the mathematician François Viète (1540-1603). The chalk-kilns at the town's gates remind of former industrial activities in the 19th century.

VOUVANT, ONE OF FRANCE'S MOST HANDSOME VILLAGES



The medieval city of Vouvant has earned the official label «Un des plus beaux villages de France». It is told that the fairy Mélusine still lingers around. You might just catch a glimpse of her snake-like silhouette as you stroll through the streets, or ascend the Mélusine tower, the only architectural remnant left of the powerful Lusignan fortress still dominating the medieval town.

Nearby you can admire the village church built in the 10th century under the reign of Guillaume le Grand, duke of Aquitania. Note its richly sculptured portal (11th and 15th centuries), the north apse (12th century), and its crypt.

Finish your excursion at **Mallièvre** in the heart of the Sèvre Nantaise valley, which like Faymoreau (page 23), **Apremont and Mouchamps** is listed in a heritage rehabilitation program according to the criteria of the «**Petites Cités de Caractère**».

SMALL CHARACTERFUL TOWNS SIGHTSEEING AND DISCOVERY



Tour de Mélusine at Vouvant

Watch painters at work

LES « PETITES CITÉS DE CARACTÈRE »

Vouvant and Foussais Payré: guided tours for adult groups and school classes are organised all year round.

Admissions : 3,70 €/person + 1€ for the Mélusine tower.

Information and reservation at the tourist office in Fontenay le Comte : 02.51.69.44.99

THE MELUSINE TOWER - VOUVANT

This watchtower of the Lusignan castle dates to 1242. According to the legend, it was built by the fairy Mélusine. Visit its two vaulted halls, and from the top enjoy a splendid view over the forest, and the ramparts of the medieval city.

LA MAISON DE MÉLUSINE - VOUVANT

Small exhibition inside the tourist office dedicated to the legend of Mélusine. Beware of strange things happening behind the cracks in the walls !

Admissions to each of both sites:

2 €/adult, 1 €/child.

Group tariffs are obtained on request.

Information : during low season at the Café de Mélusine 19 Rue du duc d'Aquitaine, Tel. : 02.51.00.81.34, in the high season at the tourist information.

CONTACT

High season : Tourist office • Place du Bail
85 120 Vouvant • Tel. : 02.51.69.44.99 ou 02.51.00.86.80
www.tourisme-sudvendee.com ou www.vendee-vouvant.com
Low season : Café de Mélusine

Les Nuits musicales en Vendée Romane programmation 2012

This is the 14th edition of a festival organised by the association of the «**Petites Cités de Caractère de Vendée**», member of the Fédération Française des Festivals Internationaux de Musique.

ADMISSIONS :

- **1 concert** : 19 € adult - 15 € child
- **3 concerts** : 51 € adult - 39 € child
- **6 concerts** : 90 € adult - 66 € child.

Informations and reservation :

Tel. Fax. : 02.51.51.48.92
courriel : contact@festival-vendee.com
www.festival-vendee.com

• 11/07 at Nieul-sur-l'Autise.

Jazz and world music. Ibrahim Maalouf.
Cour du Château du Vignaud.

• 19/07 at Foussais Payré.

French popular music : Alain Chamfort.
Jardin du Prieuré.

• 26/07 at Vouvant.

BarokOpera Amsterdam «Queen Mary» by Henry Purcell. Infront of the church.

• 02/08 at Mouchamps.

Corthodox canto. Vocal quatuor Konevets of St Petersburg. At the church.

• 02/08 at Xanton Chassenon.

Jazz. Jean Jacques Milteau . Avec Galvin – Milteau – Robinson – Smyth. At the church square.

• 09/08 at Faymoreau.

Classical music. Bertrand Chamayou.
At the Chapelle des Mineurs.

VOUVANT, VILLAGE OF PAINTERS

The association «Vouvant, village de peintres » welcomes visitors every day at the artists' workshops during the summer season (July/August) as well as at special events on following dates :

June : Painters and residents.

July : Night-time arts market.

August : Painters in the street.

All year : Various exhibitions and events

Informations :

Mairie de Vouvant • Place de l'Eglise
85120 VOUVANT

Tel. : 06.82.17.17.24 ^(M) • www.vendee-vouvant.com

THE MINING CENTRE AT FAYMOREAU

musée de France



Détail vitrail "Grisou d'enfer",
© Carmelo Zagari, Faymoreau.

A voyage to the centre of the mine

The former mining village of Faymoreau located just south of the Vendée bocage and near the Poitvin marshes once lived on the exploitation of the coal reserves below its ground. During 130 years (1827 – 1958) three generations of miners had descended into the bowels of the earth to extract what in those days was referred to as «black gold».

Today the mining centre welcomes its visitors to share the remarkable exploit of the so-called «gueules noires».

One site, three visits

The museum : takes you on an animated itinerary through the «salle des pendus», the «lampisterie» before descending a reconstructed shaft like the miners. A permanent exhibition (with audio-visual installations, videos, and dummies) sheds light on the former importance of coal and the lives of the miners. There are also temporary exhibitions.

The average visit takes around 1 hour and 15 minutes. Children aged between 4 and 12 can dress-up as miners, read books and play games. The museum meets with modern norms for reduced mobility access (Tourisme et Handicap Mental et Moteur). Shop and book-shop.

The mining village : The architecture of the mining village and its typical terrace houses have not meaningfully changed since their construction by the Société des Mines in the late 19th century. Today the village is inscribed on the list of the protected «Petites Cités de Caractère». Audio-guides are available for its visit*.

The stained glass windows by Carmelo Zagari : Nineteen stained glass windows by the contemporary artist Carmelo Zagari ornament the village chapel, as unique pieces of art in combining to colour, figures and spirituality in honour of the «gueules noires».

*Audio-headsets guide you in French, English or German through the village and the chapel in approx. 1h15m.

2012 agenda at the mining centre

Exhibition : «L'électricité, du charbon aux énergies de demain»

From Apr. 7th to Aug. 30th.



Family in the «lampisterie»
© Pascal Baudry

Family activities / «VIS TA MINE EN FAMILLE!»

School holidays (winter, spring, summer and fall) during opening-hours.

For children aged between 6 and 12

«LES MERCREDIS DES GALIBOTS»

School holidays (winter, spring, summer and fall) on Wednesdays from 2:00 pm to 6:00pm, except Aug. 15th and Nov. 7th

For all

Workshop «briquet du mineur» (July 24th and Aug. 7th) led by Christophe Moreau.

Call 02.51.00.48.48 for reservations.

Workshop «vitrail Tiffany» (July 17th, 31st, and Aug. 14th) led by Erika Lemasson.

Call 02.51.00.48.48 for reservations.

«Été autour du verre» (July 17th, 31st, and Aug. 14th) from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm with Erika Lemasson.

National events

«Journées des Métiers d'Art» (March 31st), «Nuit des Musées» (May 19th)

«Journées du Patrimoine» (September 15th-16th).

Itinerant photo exhibition

at Oulmes «Empreintes d'Histoire» from June 9th to Sep. 2nd, and Benet Sep. 9th to Nov. 4th.

CONTACT

LE CENTRE MINIER DE FAYMOREAU

La cour • 85240 Faymoreau

Tel. : 02.51.00.48.48 • Fax 02.51.00.50.96

faymoreau.centre.minier@cc-vsa.com • www.centre-minier-vendee.com

MEMO PAD

OPENING HOURS AND DATES :

From February 11th to Nov. 27th

• **Winter holidays** (February 11th to March 11th) : Saturday to Sunday from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

• **April, May, June (and March 31st)** : Tuesday to Sunday (and public holidays) from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

• **July, August** : daily from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

• **September** : from Tuesday to Sunday from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

• **Fall holidays** (Oct. 27th to Nov. 7th) : Wednesday to Sunday from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Last guided tour of the museum starts one hour before closing time.

ADMISSIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS

Museum + village/chapel (audio-guide)

• adults : 8,50 € → reduced fare* : 6,50 €

• youths : (8/18 years) : 6 €

Musée

• adults : 6 € → reduced fare* : 4,50 €

• youths : (8/18 years) : 4 €

• children (under 7) : free

Exhibitions

• adults : 4 € → reduced fare* : 3 €

• youths (8/18 years) : 2 €

• children (under 7) : free

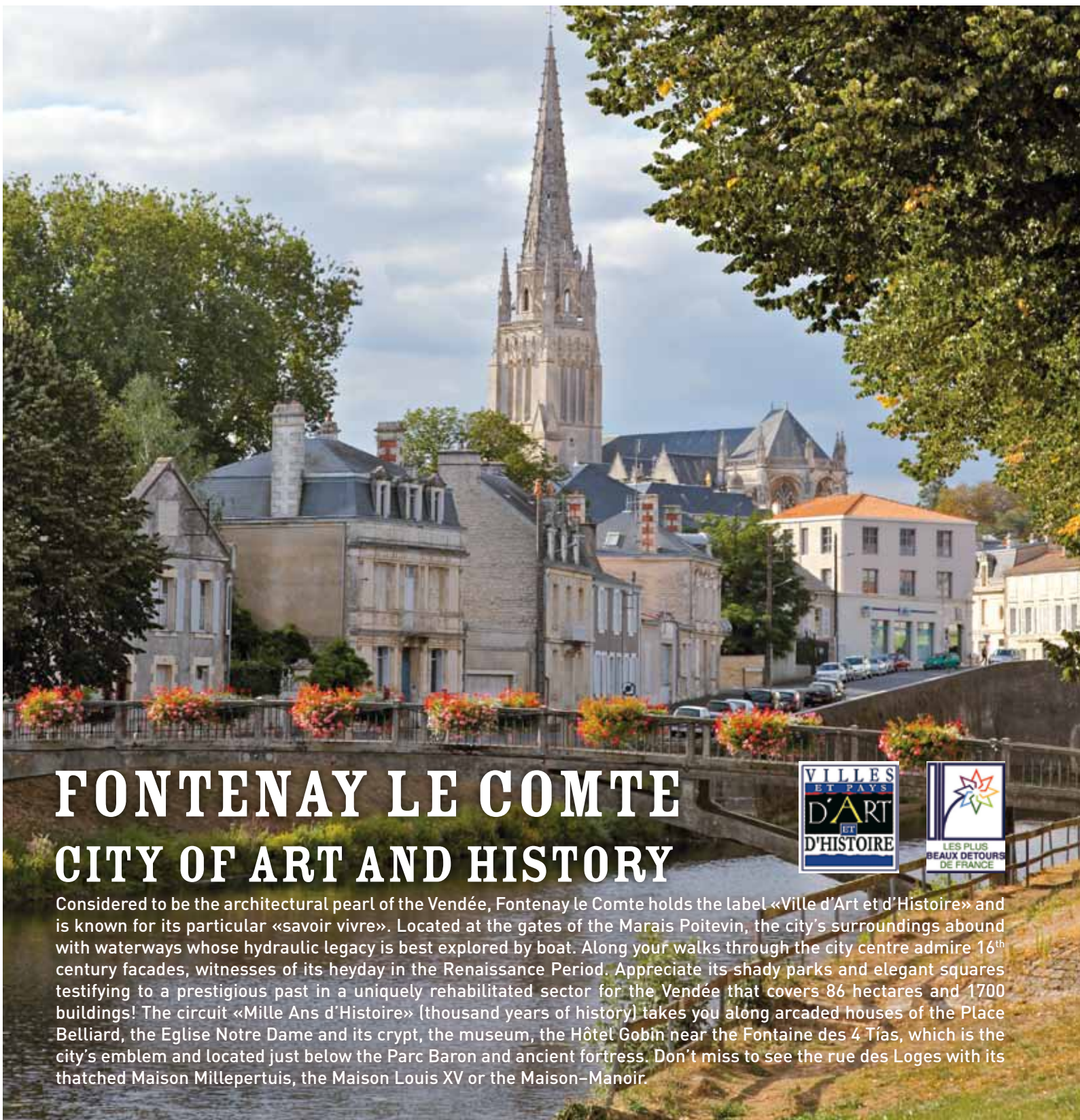
*Reduced fares for large families, students, unemployed, disabled and military personnel upon presentation of valid documents. Payment by cash, cheque, bank card and gift-token.

FAMILY OFFER

Free access to the museum for grand-mothers (March 4th), mothers (June 3rd), fathers (June 17th) in company of their children or grand-children.

GROUPS

• **Adults** (for more than 15 participants), children (except school classes) and disabled, from Feb. 11th to Nov. 7th daily, preferably in the morning for purposes of convenience. For further information on reception conditions (visits and fares) call 02.51.00.48.48



FONTENAY LE COMTE CITY OF ART AND HISTORY

Considered to be the architectural pearl of the Vendée, Fontenay le Comte holds the label «Ville d'Art et d'Histoire» and is known for its particular «savoir vivre». Located at the gates of the Marais Poitevin, the city's surroundings abound with waterways whose hydraulic legacy is best explored by boat. Along your walks through the city centre admire 16th century facades, witnesses of its heyday in the Renaissance Period. Appreciate its shady parks and elegant squares testifying to a prestigious past in a uniquely rehabilitated sector for the Vendée that covers 86 hectares and 1700 buildings! The circuit «Mille Ans d'Histoire» (thousand years of history) takes you along arcaded houses of the Place Belliard, the Eglise Notre Dame and its crypt, the museum, the Hôtel Gobin near the Fontaine des 4 Tias, which is the city's emblem and located just below the Parc Baron and ancient fortress. Don't miss to see the rue des Loges with its thatched Maison Millepertuis, the Maison Louis XV or the Maison-Manoir.



Château de Terre Neuve

Every period from the Medieval Age to the 21st century has left its mark on the city, thus contributing to its particularly original and diverse heritage. Much of it has been restored and highlighted with illuminations, rewarding Fontenay le Comte in the «Lumière dans la ville 2002» contest.

Fontenay le Comte is also a member of the very exclusive association «**les plus beaux detours de France**» after it was given the «**Prix National de l'Art de Vivre**» in 1996 and the label «**Ville Fleurie**» (3 flowers).

Numerous festivals and events take place here. The «**Ricochets**»-festival with its street performances in July and August, the «**Biennale**» and its flower-cart parade on Whit Sunday, **events, exhibitions** («Parcours contemporain» throughout the summer in the city-centre), and various **shows** at the congress and culture centre René Cassin whose 5000 seat-capacity assure a bustling cultural life throughout the year.



FONTENAY LE COMTE HERITAGE AND SIGHTSEEING

The Pont des Sardines
Thatched houses
Guided tour



THE VENDEE MUSEUM

Travel back in time as you get to know the rich history of the former capital of the Vendée. The reduced model exhibited inside the museum reconstructs the aspect of this fortified city between the Medieval Period and the 18th century. Don't miss the paintings gallery displaying local artists, the collection of headpieces, the local furniture exhibition, nor the exhibition of one of France's most comprehensive Gallo-Roman glass collection. Specific events are organised for school children throughout the year, as well as workshops for children aged between 6 and 12. Children under 10 may throw their birthday party at the Museum and go treasure hunting.



CONTACT

MUSEE VENDEEN DE FONTENAY LE COMTE
Place du 137^e RI • 85 200 Fontenay le Comte
Tel. : 02.51.53.40.04 • Fax : 02.51.69.72.76
musee.accueil@ville-fontenaylecomte.fr
www.ville-fontenaylecomte.fr

THE CHATEAU DE TERRE NEUVE

Today the Château de Terre Neuve, which was built in 1580 by Nicolas Rapin, grand provost-marshal of the French army and Compagnon under Henri IV, is a protected historical monument. Between 1941 and 1943 the writer George Simenon lived here. In tourist guidebooks the château is often quoted for its renowned «alchemy chimney», its stone box-section ceilings, its wooden panels taken from the Château de Chambord, and the gilded suns from the chambers of King Louis XIV. On display as well, are paintings, furniture, collections and superb garments from the 17th and 18th centuries. Guided tours are available.

Second half of July : Festival de théâtre de Terre Neuve.

CONTACT

CHÂTEAU DE TERRE NEUVE • 85200 Fontenay le Comte
Tel. : 02.51.69.17.75 ou 02.51.69.99.41 • Fax 02.51.50.00.83
chateaudeterreneuve@wanadoo.fr
www.chateau-terreneuve.com

MEMO PAD

Musée vendéen de Fontenay le comte

- **Admission** : 2,5 €/adult; 1,50 €/unemployed
- **Guided tours** require advance reservation.

OPENING HOURS :

- From October 1st to April 30th on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm.
- From May 2nd to September 30th, Tuesday to Sunday from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm.
- Closed on May 1st December 25th, and January 1st.

Events around the city' heritage:

- Three cultural programmes available at the tourist office and the museum are published each year.
- Throughout the year : theme-based guided tours with music and by bike. State-licensed tour guides.
- Special city tours and workshops for children aged between 6 and 12.
- Tours with audio-guides (duration about 1h30, in English, French, and Spanish) to be picked up at the museum 02.51.69.31.31, the tourist office 02.51.69.44.99, or patrimoine@ville-fontenaylecomte.fr



CULTURAL EVENTS

www.ville-fontenaylecomte.fr

- Festival des Ricochets from mid-July to mid-August : street events on Wednesdays and Fridays. For free.
- The Parcours Contemporain, admire eccentric and creative art as you walk through the city. For free.

Information at the city council of Fontenay le Comte : 02.51.53.41.41.

Chateau de Terre Neuve at Fontenay le Comte

Château privé et habité toute l'année.

- **Guided tour** lasting 1 hour
- **Individuals** : 6,70 €/adult, 2,60 €/child aged between 7 and 16.

OPENING HOURS :

- From May 1st to Sep. 30th daily from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- Groups are welcome all year upon reservation.

FONTENAY LE COMTE, RECREATION



ADDRESS	TÉL (T) • FAX (F) MOBILE (M)	DESCRIPTION	OPENING PERIOD
BY BIKE			
VELLUIRE (85770)			
AUBERGE DE LA RIVIÈRE 2, rue du Port de la Fouarne auberge.delariviere@wanadoo.fr • www.hotel-riviere-vendee.com	02.51.52.32.15 ^(T)	Ride a rented bicycle along the bucolic banks of the river Vendée towards the woods of Velluire or else towards the «marais communal» of Poiré-sur-Velluire.	Open all year.
ON HORSEBACK			
FONTENAY LE COMTE (85200)			
L'ÉTRIER FONTENAISIEN 4, rue Ernest Cousseau etrierfontenaisien@wanadoo.fr www.centre-equestre-fontenay-le-comte.com	02.51.51.11.34 ^(T) 02.51.51.17.13 ^(M)	Riding courses for beginners and the advanced. Special courses for improving various disciplines: dressage according to CSO, CCE. Boarding, breaking in. Section sportive Départemental. Professional training. Groups welcome. Holy-day training and equestrian recreation centre.	Open all year.

CENTRE AQUATIQUE «OCÉANIDE»

Rue Gaingalet • 85 200 FONTENAY LE COMTE
Tel. : 02.51.00.05.21 • Fax : 02.51.00.00.10
Courriel : oceanide5@wanadoo.fr



Swimming complex consisting three pools, of which a game pool and a sports pool are covered. The third one is outside. The complex also includes a paddle-pool, a giant slide, a relaxation area with jacuzzi, hammam and sauna. Swimming courses. Aqua-gym, baby-club. Aqua-phobia and back pain workshops. Single and multiple admissions. Flat-rates. Fidelity and family cards.

Open all year.

BPR - RACING DRIVER SCHOOL

Pole Innovation Automobile du Sud Vendée.
A 2,4 km test track of which 800 m in a straight line. Reception, stands, paddock BPR, prototype BRS. Several options to choose from («adrénaline, sensation, immersion...»), for beginners and endurance challenges for experts.
Information: 06.33.78.81.86^(M)
www.bprdeveloppement.fr ou ipacquier@bprdeveloppement.fr

KARTING ENERGIE « LA MICHETTERIE »

La Michetterie
85200 Fontenay le Comte
Tel. : 02.51.52.94.45

Carting school approved by the Fédération Française du Sport Automobile (unique in the Vendée).
Carting track at la Michetterie. Individuals, groups, children and youths are welcome. Fast food stand and club house.
Rates at: www.kartenergie.fr

Open all year.

AIRFIELD

Route de Maillezaïs • 85200 FONTENAY LE COMTE
Tel. : 02.51.69.73.02
Open all year

CINÉMA « LE RENAISSANCE »

Rue de l'ancien hôpital
85200 Fontenay le Comte
Tel. : 02.51.69.53.35
Multiplex with three show-rooms and a snack-bar.
Program at www.allocine.fr

Ouvert every day

ROPES COURSE «LE DONJON DES CIMES»

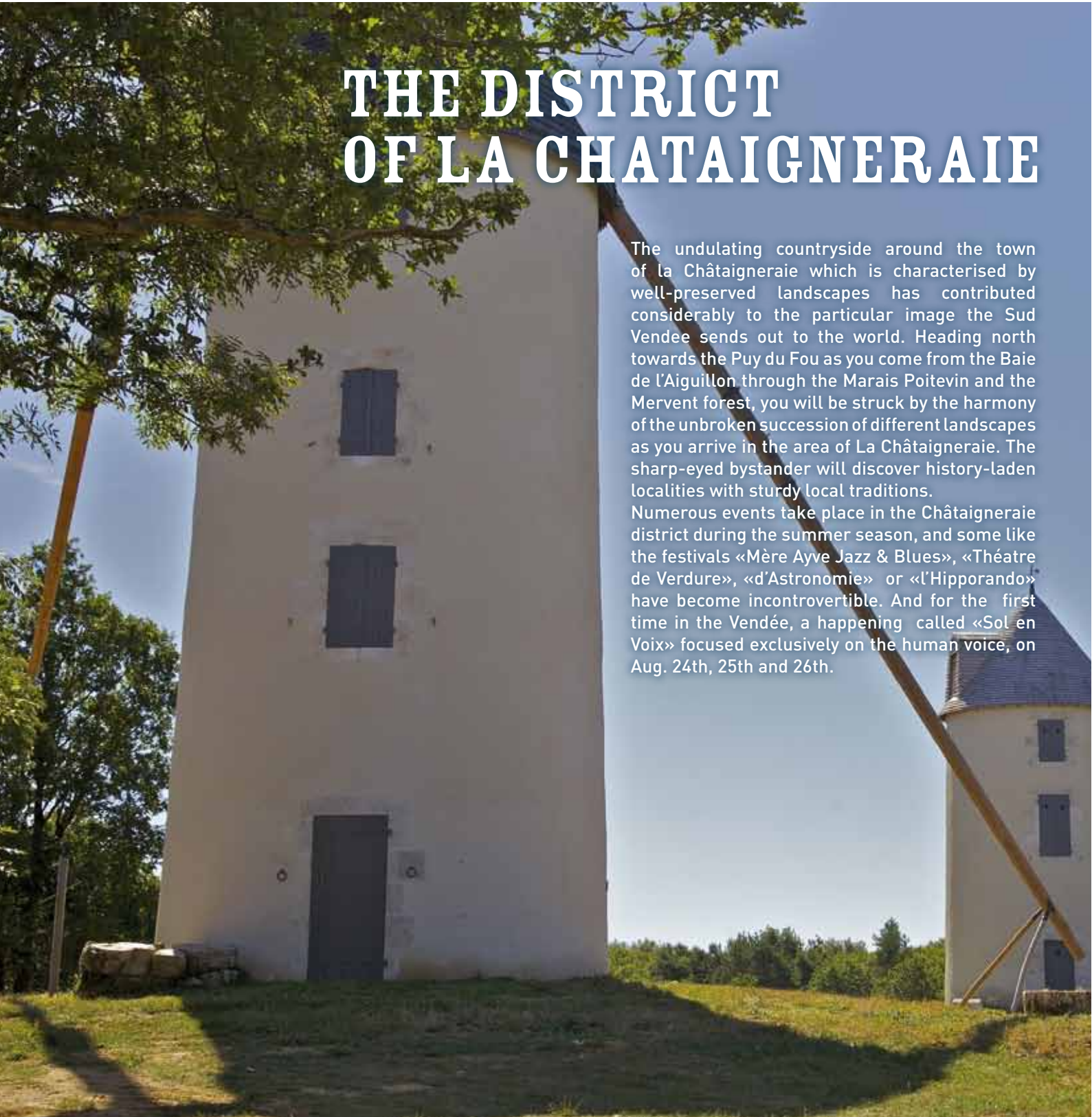


Time-out in the historic centre of Fontenay le Comte. In a confined area of 2000 m² have fun as you make your way across suspended nets attached to the trees of the Park du Baron 9 m above the ground. An unforgettable experience !
Great fun all aged over 4. Refreshments, picnic area, parking lots.
Tel. : 02.51.69.19.70
www.parcabout-fontenay.fr

Open from April 7th to Sep. 2nd from 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm (daily during holidays, otherwise on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays).

THE DISTRICT OF LA CHATAIGNERAIE

The undulating countryside around the town of la Châtaigneraie which is characterised by well-preserved landscapes has contributed considerably to the particular image the Sud Vendée sends out to the world. Heading north towards the Puy du Fou as you come from the Baie de l'Aiguillon through the Marais Poitevin and the Mervent forest, you will be struck by the harmony of the unbroken succession of different landscapes as you arrive in the area of La Châtaigneraie. The sharp-eyed bystander will discover history-laden localities with sturdy local traditions. Numerous events take place in the Châtaigneraie district during the summer season, and some like the festivals «Mère Ayve Jazz & Blues», «Théâtre de Verduze», «d'Astronomie» or «l'Hipporando» have become incontrovertible. And for the first time in the Vendée, a happening called «Sol en Voix» focused exclusively on the human voice, on Aug. 24th, 25th and 26th.



Colline des Moulins - Mouilleron en Pareds



The more you walk the footpaths suggested by the tourist office, the more you become familiar with the unique atmosphere in the area of la Chataigneraie. The paths lead you through well-preserved, hilly sceneries with an unusually wealthy and charming cultural heritage. They take you to protected churches and chapels, castles and manor-houses, mills and wash-houses, fountains and even mining head-frames. But the history-minded tourist has much more to explore, be it megalithic structures, a furnished donjon with its adjacent gardens at Bazoges en Pareds, or the traces left behind by Georges Clémenceau and Maréchal de Lattre at Mouilleron en Pareds. During your stay you can benefit from many outdoor activities. In addition to your visits at the recreation sites, participate at angling or riding excursions and take lengthy and first-rate lunch breaks at some of the district's farmhouses.

The Donjon and medieval gardens at Bazoges en Pareds

THE COUNTRYSIDE AROUND LA CHATAIGNERAIE CULTURE HERITAGE

THE DONJON AND THE MEDIEVAL GARDENS AT BAZOGES EN PAREDS



While you explore the donjon of the 14th century, become submerged by life in the Middle Ages. Take the spiral stairs that lead you up to the allure through six fully rehabilitated and furnished flights, 30m above the ground. Also, stroll through the medieval garden with old rose bushes that twine around a 16th century dovecote. Rest near the fountain and sense the fragrances from aromatic herbs, vegetables and roses. Also meet the witch of Bazoges who might just reveal some secrets about some of her plants to you.

You will also enjoy the audio-guided visit at the museum of popular arts and traditions in rural Vendée at the beginning of the 20th century.

During the high season numerous events take place. On the first Sunday in June go to «**Les festoyeries**», a market in the centre of the village, then on the first Sunday in July «**l'Apéro Jazz**», part of the festival «**Metiv son**», in the medieval gardens. In July and August, don't miss the exhibitions and events around the so-called «**Nocturnes Médiévales**».

MUSEE NATIONALE DES DEUX VICTOIRES MOUILLERON EN PAREDS



In the centre of the village Mouilleron en Pareds, birthplace to both statesman Georges CLEMENCEAU, and Maréchal Jean de LATTRE de TASSIGNY, the French ministry of culture supervises three sites open to the public.

Le Musée National Des Deux Victoires located in the former village council in this respect symbolically pays tribute to two personalities, each respectively present at the signing procedures which solemnly ended the armed conflicts of the two world wars. Since its inauguration in 1959 by the incentive of Maréchal de Lattre's spouse and André MALRAUX, the then minister of culture, le memorial-museum has welcomed more than 450 000 visitors.

The house and the garden where Jean de Lattre was born have kept their original appearance dating to the end of the 19th century. Today the exhibition inside this family home is used for educational purposes as well as the transmission of values as it retraces the life of this exceptional personality. An updated presentation (French and English) sheds light on his military and political role during the 20th century as it pays tribute to the memory of a bygone era.

The birth house of the journalist and statesman Georges Clemenceau is not accessible to the public. On special occasions however, cultural events (conferences, concerts, lectures) inspired by the local education policy are organised inside its reception rooms.



Birth house of Jean de Lattre

MEMO PAD



DONJON AND JARDIN MEDIEVAL BAZOGES EN PAREDS (85390)

ADMISSION :

DONJON AND GARDEN :

- Admission : 4 €/adult, 1,50 € for children between 8 and 18.
- Groups : 3,50 €/adult, 1 € for children between 8 and 18.

GARDEN :

- Individuals : 2 €/adult, free for children between 8 and 18.
- Groups : 1,50 €/adult, 1 € for children between 8 and 18.

DONJON + GARDENS AND MUSEUM

- Individuals : 6 €/adult, 2 € for children between 8 and 18.
- Groups : 5 €/adult, 1,50 € for children between 8 and 18.

THE MUSEUM :

- Admission : 3 €/adult, 1 €/child between 8 and 16 years.
- Families : The third child (and over) gets free admission.

OPENING HOURS :

- From February 15th to Easter and from October 1st to October 30th on
- Sundays and holidays from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- From Easter to September 9th daily from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

CONTACT :

12 cour du Château • 85390 Bazoges en Pareds
Tél : 02.51.51.23.10 • Fax : 02.51.51.21.60
tourisme@bazoges-en-pareds.fr
www.bazoges-en-pareds.fr

Musée National des Deux Victoires

Mouilleron en Pareds (85390)

- Admission : 3,50 €/adult
 - Reduced fares : 2,50 €/person.
- Free for all under 26.
Free for all on the 1st Sunday of the month.

OPENING PERIODS :

- Open every day, all year.
- Guided visits 7 days/week during working hours.
- From April 15th to October 15th at 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 noon, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm.
- From October 16th to April 14th at 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm

CONTACT :

85390 Mouilleron en Pareds
Tél. : 02.51.00.31.49 • musee-2victoires@culture.fr
www.musee-deuxvictoires.fr

THE COUNTRYSIDE AROUND LA CHATAIGNERAIE RECREATION



Explore the district of La Châtaigneraie during walks or by bike along paths through this well- preserved hilly countryside. Maps containing circuits are available at the local tourist office. Call 02.51.52.62.37.

ADDRESS	TEL (T) • FAX (F) MOBILE (M)	DESCRIPTION	OPENING PERIOD
ON HORSEBACK			
ST MAURICE DES NOUES (85120) - VOUVANT (85120)			
Ferme équestre pédagogique LA GARRELIÈRE Béatrice and Bruno Ripaud • 24, rue de la Forêt ripaud-equitation@wanadoo.fr www.ripaud-equitation.com	02.51.00.81.55 ^(T/F)	Outings on horseback, pony, and cart. Acquaintance with the riding sports. Excursions to the bosage and the forest from one hour to one week. Animations for young and old. «La main à la pâte, le pied à l'étrier», various creative workshops (around bread, leather, earth, floral arrangements, sewing). Test riding courses for galloping in open nature. Training programme and animations during school holidays.	Open for reservations at any time of the year. Reservations for the summer season at Vouvant and St Maurice.
LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT			
LA TARDIÈRE (85120)			
BASE DE LOISIRS DE L'ETRUYERE 85120 LA TARDIÈRE basedeloisirs@tardiere.fr	06.82.04.34.40 ^(M)	Fishing and pedal-boats in nearby ponds. Three star camping site, chalets, play ground, baby pool, mini-golf, picnic area, way-marked rambling tracks, groups welcome + restaurant	April 7 th to October 30 th .
LILLO Z'ENFANTS Base de loisirs de l'Etruyère • 85120 LA TARDIÈRE contact@lilo-z-enfants.com www.lilo-z-enfants.com	02.51.52.71.78 ^(T) 06.68.97.90.31 ^(M)	Playground for children aged between 2 à 12. Inflatable castles, trampolines, electric quad circuit, space hoppers, huts, sandpits, bungee trampoline, mini-slides. Fares: 5 €/2 hours, 3 €/1 hour: free for adults	From April 7 th on Wednesdays, weekends, and legal holidays from 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm. During school holidays every day from 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm.



«A Fleur de Terre» is a **network of pedagogic** farms welcoming visitors and assisting them in discovering the district around Châtaigneraie throughout the year. Reservations required :

Au potager : How to feed yourself around the year from your garden. La Coussaie at Breuil-Barret. Tel. : 02.51.87.42.97. mm.anquetil85@orange.fr

La main à la pâte : Baking bread and use of cereals. Au Grand Pin at La Tardière, Tel/Fax: 02.51.52.72.34

A la ferme laitière : How to milk cows, make cheese, keep poultry and rabbits. La Guibaudière at La Chapelle aux Lys. Tel. : 02.51.87.44.55, ja.noury@free.fr

A la ferme équestre : La Garrelière at Saint Maurice les Noues. Tel. : 02.51.00.81.55 ripaud-equitation@wanadoo.fr

PISCINE INTERCOMMUNALE LA CHATAIGNERAIE

Rue du Pavé • 85390 MOUILLERON EN PAREDS

Tel. : 02.51.87.51.96

Swimming lessons, aqua-gym, and events.

For everybody

Open from June to end of August.

Closed on Sundays and holidays.

PISCINE INTERCOMMUNALE MOUILLERON EN PAREDS

Rue Bonséjour • 85120 LA CHÂTAIGNERAIE

Tel. : 02.51.69.66.67

Open to everyone.

Managed by the Communauté de Communes du Pays de la Châtaigneraie. Tel.: 02.51.69.61.43

Open in July/August.

ELASTIC BUNGEE

M. Bertrand BETHUNE

7, rue de la Saunerie • 12100 MILLAU

courriel : info@bungee.nu

www.elasticvendee.fr

Tel. : 05.65.60.00.45

Bungee jumping 52 m above the water, from the Coquilleau viaduct, near La Châtaigneraie.

Fares : 55 €/jump, 110 €/duo, 50 €/jump/person in a group.

Information available at the tourist desk of la Châtaigneraie.

Tel. : 02.51.52.62.37

From March to November.



AIR VENDÉE LOISIRS

La Touche • 85120 BREUIL BARRET

courriel : airvendee@aliceadsl.fr • www.air-vendee-loisirs.com

Tel. : 02.51.87.42.87

Tel. : 02.51.87.42.87

Micro-light aircraft for beginners! Piloting lessons,

aerial photography. First flight : 42 €/15 minutes.

Introductory piloting courses 100 €/30 minutes.

Open all year. Reservations required.



MONTGOLFIERE DU BOCAGE

M. Damien Merceron • le Chêne

85120 ST PIERRE DU CHEMIN

courriel : damien@lamontgolfiere.com

www.la-montgolfiere.com

Tel. : 05.49.80.10.45

First flights in hot air balloons, piloting lessons.

Fares : 260 €/hour/person.

160 €/hour/child under 12.

Open all year. Reservations required.



THE DISTRICT OF L'HERMENAUT

LE PARC DU CHÂTEAU DE L'HERMENAUT

The castle park at l'Hermenaut was established around the former summer residence of the bishops of Maillezais and La Rochelle in the 17th and 18th centuries. The monuments, witnesses of a long history harmonise inside the court of the castle which opens to a magnificent perspective over the park. A succession of four superimposed terraces measuring 110m overlook the Longèves river canal and an open field bordered by a row of lime trees. A wash house, a watermill, a horse pool, and a barn with a wooden roof structure built in the method of Philibert Delorme complete the visit of the park. The site is listed in the Inventaire Supplémentaire des Monuments Historiques.

CONTACT

Tel. : 06.16.66.55.25
www.parcduchateaudelhermenaut.com
Tourist office. Tel. : 02.51.00.15.37



MEMO PAD

Le Parc du Château de l'Hermenaut (85570)

GUIDED TOURS :

- Admissions for individuals : 4 €/adult, free for children under 12.
- Groups : 3,50 €/person.

OPENING HOURS :

- **From July 15th to August 31st** : daily from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm except Monday.

EVENTS :

- Opération Neurodon, April 30th and May 1st from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm.
National event : Les Rendez-vous aux Jardins: June 2nd and 3rd from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm around the theme of «gardens and their images».

2009 Laureate of the French Heritage Society

LA RESERVE BIOLOGIQUE DEPARTEMENTALE AT NALLIERS MOUZEUIL ST MARTIN

This biological reserve and true gateway to the wet marshes covers a sizable surface of 132 hectares and is the sanctuary for an exceptionally rich ecosystem. The reserve has been the property of the Conseil Général de Vendée since 1987. It consists of the characteristic landscapes of the wet marshlands. Open meadows alternate with lower ground, the so called «terrées» delimited by canals and typically overgrown by ash trees. During your walks through the reserve, you may catch a glimpse of a heron flying by between the inundated wooded plots, or notice the footprints of an otter. Otherwise just simply contemplate the distinctive vegetation of this particularly prosperous environment. You are welcome to discover the reserve either by yourself or with a local guide.

CONTACT

MAISON DE LA RÉSERVE • les Huttes • 85370 Nalliers
Tel. : 02.51.30.96.22 • www.vendee.fr



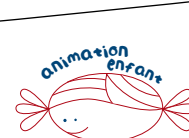
BLOC NOTES

OPENING HOURS :

- **Open from April 1st to September 30th.**
- **April, May, June and September.** Open from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm except Saturdays and Mondays.
Free visits. Guided tours at 3:00 pm. For free.
- **July and August.** Open from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Admission free.
Guided tours at 10:30 am, 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm. For free.

VISITES GUIDÉES :

- **Individuals** : 3 €/adult, free for children under 16.
- **Groups** : 2 €/person.



....RECREATION

PISCINE INTERCOMMUNALE DE L'HERMENAUT :

Heated outdoor play pool with aquatic slide and surrounding green areas. Swimming courses and aqua-gym.
Call 02.51 87 60 65 for more inquiries.

Open from July 1st to August 31st.

«LES RULIERES» ANGLING PONDS

85570 ST VALÉRIEN
Tél. : 02.51.28.00.28 ou 06.79.47.46.29
f.lesrulieres@club-internet.fr • www.rulieres.com
Two artificial lakes of 1,5 and 3 ha respectively.
Fishing village and three star camping site with chalets.
Covered and heated swimming pool.

Open all year.

THE STE HERMINE DISTRICT

Crossing the countryside near Ste Hermine, the visitor will be charmed by the varying sceneries and the small villages clustered around their churches. The landscape alters from majestically undulating plains at the far horizon to a mosaic of hilly bosage where woodlands blend with fields and meadows. Along the marked out paths discover rivers, residences and manor houses.

HERITAGE

LES JARDINS DU BATIMENT - THIRÉ

This site is listed as «Monument Historique» and «Jardin Remarquable». In creating the gardens, the famous contuctor William Christie was inspired among others by mannerist horticulture of the Italian and French Baroque. The garden is marked by yew hedges alternating with linden avenues. It also features a yew- and rosebush-bounded cloister, a chinoiserie, a sylvan theatre, as well as boxwood broderies, and a rustic pergola.

Opening dates:

- The «Rendez-vous aux jardins» : June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.
- From July 1st to 10th.
- Throughout September.
- Otherwise visit the gardens by special appointments.

CONTACT

For more information call 02.51.27.64.48^(f) or 02.51.27.39.32 (tourist office)
www.jardindewilliamchristie.fr 02.51.27.39.32 (office de tourisme).

LE CHATEAU DU FOUGEROUX – LA CHAPELLE THERM

This château was registered on the supplemental record of the Monuments Historiques in 1999 and displays a rich history going back at least to the 15th century.

The artist Octave de Rochebrune who lived here, built a neo-Renaissance fountain and a bridge of antique inspiration.

Also visit a dairy production unique to the Vendée.

CONTACT

* Mr. and Mrs. MATTON • Le Fougeroux • 85210 LA CHAPELLE THERM Tel.: 02.51.27.64.12
* Open on June 15th to Sept. 15th, guided tours by appointment, for free.

RECREATION

LES ROULOTTES DU SUD VENDÉE :

62 Rue des Brandes • 85210 La Réorthe
Departure point : Pont Sigou • 85 210 Ste Hermine
Tel. : 02.51.56.83.49 ou 06.14.48.24.77
ide.rempillon.i@wanadoo.fr
http : //perso.wanadoo.fr/roulottes

Take your time to discover a diverse natural environment in a horse-drawn trailer. For families, youths, and other groups. Enjoy your holidays !

FARES :

Tailor-cut excursions from one day and more. During the low season between 2 and 7 days: from 241 € to 686 €, travelling in a group of 5 people. Flat-rate for 1 day only without accommodation: 123 €/8 pers. Special offers for youths (school classes etc.)

Open all year.

PISCINE MUNICIPALE

Route de La Rochelle • 85210 SAINTE HERMINE
Tel. : 02.51.27.37.67 / 02.51.97.89.49
Aqua-gym and swimming lessons.
Open July and August.

Ouvert juillet / août.

CINÉMA « LE TIGRE »

34, place de l'église • 85210 SAINTE HERMINE
Tel. : 02.51.27.36.89 • paul-garnier@wanadoo.fr

The cinema «Le Tigre» opens its doors every week-end, from Friday to Sunday and proposes a varied program at reasonable prices.

«Le Tigre» is an «Art et Essai» cinema.

LA CHAPELLE JEAN PAUL II - LA CAILLERE ST HILAIRE

This traditional-style chapel was built in 2008. Its stained glass panels and furniture are designed by the glass artisan Jacques Loire from Chartres.

* Location: la Caillère Saint Hilaire, 2 km away from Saint Hilaire du Bois, on the road to Saint Martin Lars (D10).

* Open from Monday to Friday from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.
Admission free.

LE LOGIS DE LA CHEVALLERIE - SAINTE GEMME LA PLAINE

«La Chevalerie» owes its name to the important command centre the Templar Knights once operated at this site. It had been the property of powerful families connected to the French royalty and was reconstructed and enlarged in the 17th and 18th centuries. When Pascal and Eugénie Maison bought this historic monument it was forsaken and derelict, so they launched an ambitious protection and restoration program in 2004, which is planned to continue for the next decades.

Opening periods :

- From July 5th to 20th and August 20th to 31st on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- From July 21st to August 5th daily.
- From August 6th to 19th daily except Mondays and Tuesdays.
- Opening hours from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm to 6:30.
- Otherwise by appointment only.

ADMISSION :

- 5 €/ personne.

CONTACT

Tél : 02.51.28.27.94 • logisdelaquevalerie@orange.fr
www.chateaudelaquevalerie.com



WHAT ESLE TO SEE?

- A very rich religious legacy: churches and wayside crosses.
- The dolmen at Thiré referred to as «La Pierre Folle».
- **The Notre Dame de Saint Martin en Lars en Ste Hermine** renovated in 2010.
- **The covered market and the statue of Clémenceau** at Ste Hermine.



TOURIST OFFICES IN SUD VENDÉE

**LUÇON (85400)

Square Edouard Herriot
Tel. 02 51 56 36 52 • Fax 02 51 56 16 73
www.tourisme-lucon.com
officetourisme.lucon@orange.fr

** MAILLEZAIS (85420)

VENDÉE SÈVRE AUTISE
Rue du Docteur Daroux
Tel. 02 51 87 23 01 • Fax 02 51 00 72 51
www.maraispoitevin-vendee.com
office.tourisme@cc-vs-a.com

*POUILLÉ (85570)

51, route de Fontenay-le-Comte
Tel. 02 51 00 15 37 • Fax 02 51 00 17 81
www.lhermenault.com
ot-lhermenault@wanadoo.fr

*SAINTE-HERMINE (85210)

35, Route de Nantes
Tel. 02 51 27 39 32 • Fax 02 51 27 39 32
www.paysdesaintehermine.fr
officedetourisme-ste-hermine@wanadoo.fr

*SAINT MICHEL EN L'HERM (85580)

Pays Né de la Mer - 5, place de l'Abbaye
Tel. : 02 51 30 21 89
www.paysnedelamer.fr
officedetourisme@paysnedelamer.fr

*CHAILLE-LES-MARAIS (85450)

7, Rue de la Coupe du Rocher
Tel. 02 51 56 77 30
www.ot-istes-maraispoitevin.com
info.otimp@orange.fr

**FONTENAY-LE-COMTE (85200)

8, rue de Grimouard
Tel. 02 51 69 44 99 • Fax 02 51 50 00 90
www.tourisme-sudvendee.com
ot.paysflc@wanadoo.fr

ANTENNE TOURISTIQUE DE MERVENT (85200)

Tel. 02 51 69 44 99

ANTENNE TOURISTIQUE DE VOUVANT (85120)

Place du Bail
Tel. 02 51 00 86 80

**L'AIGUILLON-SUR-MER (85460)

Avenue A.Courbet - BP 59
Tel. 02 51 56 43 87 • Fax 02 51 56 43 91
www.laiguillonsurmer.fr
ot@laiguillonsurmer.fr

**LA CHATAIGNERAIE (85120)

1, Place des Halles
Tel. 02 51 52 62 37
www.paysdelachataigneraie.org
tourisme@paysdelachataigneraie.org

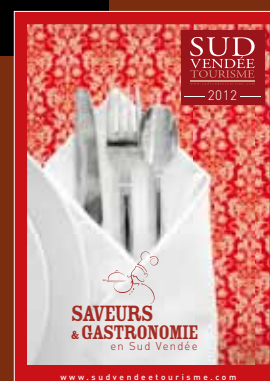
ANTENNE TOURISTIQUE DE MOUILLERON-EN-PAREDS (85390)

1, rue du Pavé
Tel. 02 51 00 32 32

**LA FAUTE-SUR-MER (85460)

Rond Point Fleuri
Tel. 02 51 56 45 19 • Fax 02 51 97 18 08
www.lafautesurmer.com
ot@lafautesurmer.com

MORE READING (IN FRENCH) :



SUD VENDÉE TOURISME

www.sudvendeeetourisme.com

51, route de Fontenay-le-Comte • 85570 POUILLÉ

Tél. 02 51 87 69 07 • Fax 02 51 87 69 08

www.sudvendeeetourisme.com

e-mail : contact@sudvendeeetourisme.com