

Atlantic coast **Vendée**

COLLECTION 2013-2016

BEACHES - YEU AND NOIRMOUTIER ISLANDS - VENDEE GLOBE - PUY DU FOU - GREEN VENICE



www.vendee-tourism.co.uk

The Vendée,

your next great holiday destination!

Welcome to the Vendée!

The Vendée lies on France's Atlantic coast, just south of the majestic river Loire and less than three hours' drive from the nearest Channel port. It is only an hour by car from the airports of Nantes and La Rochelle. This is a holiday destination, steeped in history, where you can cycle through amazing natural landscapes and enjoy countless leisure and sporting activities.

Thanks to its micro-climate which boasts as much sunshine as the south of France, the Vendée is a place you can visit all year round.

Five main spots make it famous:

- Les Sables d'Olonne seaside resort,
- Vendée Globe, the ultimate round-the-world sailing race,
- Puy du Fou®,
- Noirmoutier Island,
- Green Venice.

Thousands of top-grade campsites, comfortable holiday cottages, friendly and charming "chambres d'hôtes" (bed and breakfasts) and stately château-hotels provide accommodation to suit every taste and pocket.

250 km of protected coastline and 140 km of fine sandy beaches	....p. 3
18 seaside resorts	.....p. 4
Vendée Globe yacht race: the stuff of legend	.....p. 5
The Island of Yeu: a small paradise	.....p. 6-7
Secret seaside: the Island of Noirmoutier	.....p. 8-9
Sport and leisure	.....p. 10-11
The Vendée: a land of history and tradition	.....p. 12-13
Puy du Fou®	.....p. 14-15
The Bocage: hills and valleys	.....p. 16-17
The Marais Poitevin: the secrets of "Green Venice"	.....p. 18-19
Fêtes and festivals	.....p. 20
Food and wine: land and sea produce	.....p. 21
A wide and varied range of high quality accommodation	.....p. 22
Getting to the Vendée	.....p. 23

March 2013

"Atlantic Coast 2013-2016" has been produced by the Comité Départemental du Tourisme de la Vendée (CDT Vendée), 45 boulevard des Etats-Unis, 85005 LA ROCHE SUR YON, tel. 00 33 2 51 47 88 20, fax 00 33 2 51 05 37 01, info@vendee-tourisme.com, all rights reserved, registered trademark, reproduction prohibited. Every care has been taken in the production of this publication and CDT Vendée accepts no liability for any printing errors or omissions. Photographs, text and descriptions are on a non-contractual basis. CDT Vendée own all intellectual property rights relating to "Atlantic Coast 2013-2016" and under no circumstances may "Atlantic Coast 2013-2016" or any part thereof be reproduced, portrayed, modified, transmitted, published, adapted or used in any way, shape or form without the prior written authorization of CDT Vendée. Any use of "Atlantic Coast 2013-2016" or any part thereof which has not been so authorized by CDT Vendée may be subject to appropriate legal proceedings, in particular in respect of copyright infringement.

Photo credits

Cover: www.images-et-reves.com

www.images-et-reves.com, S. BOURCIER, V. CURUTCHET/DPPI/Vendée Globe, F. LEROY/ www.imag-in-air.com, A. LAMOUREUX/OTI du Pays de Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, D. FUGERE, DANGALL, Y. SUINAT 2012/Les Régates du Bois de la Chaise/Association La Chaloupe, Surf Vendée CDelicado KWPT, J. LESAGE, Apesanteur Attitude, Conseil Général de la Vendée, Puy du Fou®, M. CHAIGNEAU, Festival de Poupet, Festival de Cugand/S. BOURCIER, Salsa Swim Festival/Océan Marais de Monts.

Design and printing: Jet Réalisations - +33 1 49 37 92 60



250 km of protected coastline

and 140 km of fine sandy beaches



Rocky coastline at the Island of Yeu.



The "Veillon" at Talmont Saint Hilaire.



The Grande Plage at Les Sables d'Olonne, reputed to be one of the finest beaches in Europe.



The 8 km stretch of beach at Saint Jean de Monts, a "station kid".



The fishing port of Saint Gilles Croix de Vie.

18 seaside resorts



Samantha Davies/
Savéol



Alex Thomson/ Hugo Boss -
3rd in 2012-2013



Mike Golding/ Gamesa



Vendée Globe yacht race

the stuff of legend

The Vendée Globe takes place every 4 years. This round-the-world race is for solo yachtsmen and women, who must sail the course unaided and non-stop.

The Island of Yeu

a small paradise

Built on a rocky islet, the Old Castle takes you back to the 14th and 17th centuries.



Port Joinville by night, heart of the island.



Between rocky coast and fine sandy beaches...



A 4,5 km long uneven cobble-paved causeway, which is covered twice a day by up to 4 m of water.

Secret seaside

the Island of Noirmoutier

The “Bois de la Chaise” regatta sees one of the largest gatherings of traditional sailing ships on the Atlantic coast, with over 140 vessels taking part each year during the course of the 3 day festival.



White gold of Noirmoutier: salt marshes...

Watery pleasures: sailing, surfing, kayak, kite surfing, windsurfing, wave skiing,...



Five 18-hole golf courses.

More than 1000 km
of cycleways.



The Vendée, to explore on foot and
on horseback.



Sport and leisure

a multitude of possibilities!



The Vendée

a land of history and tradition

120 tourist attractions and cultural sites. More than 700 châteaux, country houses, castles, abbeys and medieval fortresses delete this.



Abbey of Maillezais.



Abbey of Nieul sur l'Autise.



The Haras at La Roche sur Yon.

The Château de Gilles de Rais at Tiffauges.



The Logis de la Chabotterie at Saint Sulpice le Verdon.



The Historial at Les Lucs sur Boulogne, a state-of-the-art museum.



Puy du Fou®

a major internationally-known visitor attraction



Puy du Fou by day: get ready to travel through time!



Cinécénie®: the world's biggest night-time show!
Enjoy an unforgettable event under the stars.

Take a trip to the Bocage, along the "Sèvre Nantaise".



Les Châtelliers-Châteaumur, aerial view
of the Bocage...



Horseback trekking...



The Bocage

hills and valleys

Into the heart of the delightful Poitevin Marshes, by bike or by horse-drawn caravan...



The Marais Poitevin

the secrets of Green Venice



A boat ride along the "Green Venice", in front of the Maillezais Abbey.



Salsa Swim Festival
at Saint Jean de Monts.

Fêtes and festivals

More than 500 fêtes, festivals and shows organised each year.



Cugand Festival.



Poupet Festival at Saint Malo du Bois.



Food and wine

land and sea produce

Three Michelin-star restaurants in the Vendée.



Restaurant de Thierry DRAPEAU
at Saint Sulpice Le Verdon.



La Marine at Noirmoutier.



Cayola at Le Château d'Olonne.



A wide and varied range
of high quality accommodation

Book a stay in the Vendée: www.reservation.vendee-tourisme.com

Getting to the Vendée

By air:

To Nantes-Atlantique Airport (83 km from the Vendée)

From London City (Air France / Cityjet)
From Manchester, Southampton (Flybe / Air France)
From Liverpool, London Gatwick (Easyjet)
From Dublin and Shannon (Ryanair)
From Glasgow

To La Rochelle/Ile de Ré Airport (94 km from the Vendée)

From London Stansted, East Midlands, Cork and Dublin (Ryanair)
From London Gatwick and Bristol (Easyjet)
From Birmingham, Manchester and Southampton (Flybe)
From Leeds-Bradford and Edinburgh (Jet2)

By rail:

From London Saint Pancras to Lille Europe (Eurostar), then TGV from Lille Europe via Nantes to La Roche sur Yon and Les Sables d'Olonne.

From London Saint Pancras to Paris Gare du Nord (Eurostar), then TGV direct from Paris Gare Montparnasse to La Roche sur Yon and Les Sables d'Olonne.

Main stations in the Vendée: La Roche sur Yon, Challans, Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, Les Sables d'Olonne, Montaigu, Luçon.

By road via ferry/tunnel:

To Saint Malo (265 km from the Vendée)

From Portsmouth (Brittany Ferries)
From Poole, via the Channel Islands (Condor Ferries)

To Caen (393 km from the Vendée)

From Portsmouth (Brittany Ferries)

To Roscoff (402 km from the Vendée)

From Plymouth and Cork (Brittany Ferries)

To Le Havre (421 km from the Vendée)

From Portsmouth (LD Lines and Brittany Ferries)

To Cherbourg (428 km from the Vendée)

From Portsmouth (Brittany Ferries)
From Poole (Brittany Ferries)

To Dieppe (484 km from the Vendée)

From Newhaven (LD Lines)

To Boulogne (604 km from the Vendée)

From Ramsgate (Euroferries)

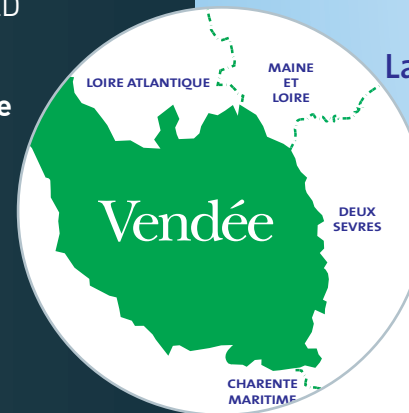
To Calais (636 km from the Vendée)

From Dover (P&O Ferries and LD Lines)

From Folkestone (Eurotunnel)

To Dunkerque (676 km from the Vendée)

From Dover (DFDS Seaways)



The Vendée,
your next great holiday destination



www.vendee-tourism.co.uk

info@vendee-tourisme.com • 00 33 2 51 47 88 20