

Welcome to the Vendée



vendee-tourism.co.uk

Welcome to the Vendée

Wherever you see the « C'est Beau Ici » sign, pop in and say « bonjour ».

This logo is intended for English-speaking people in Western France. The aim is to give English-speaking tourists a dedicated network of tourism services this could be in in tourist offices, accomodation, restaurants, attractions.

Wherever you see this logo, you'll find friendly faces, waiting to share their passion for the area and to give you all the advice you need to make your holiday a real success. They will speak to you and provide information in English.

Just look for this logo and you're sure to receive the warmest welcome!

To discover all the «Welcome C'est Beau Ici» members, go to : vendee-tourism.co.uk
Experience the Vendée> Dedicated welcome for English speakers : you are very bienvenue.





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Visitor Information



Welcome labelled tourist offices



One of the most beautiful villages in France



Picturesque villages



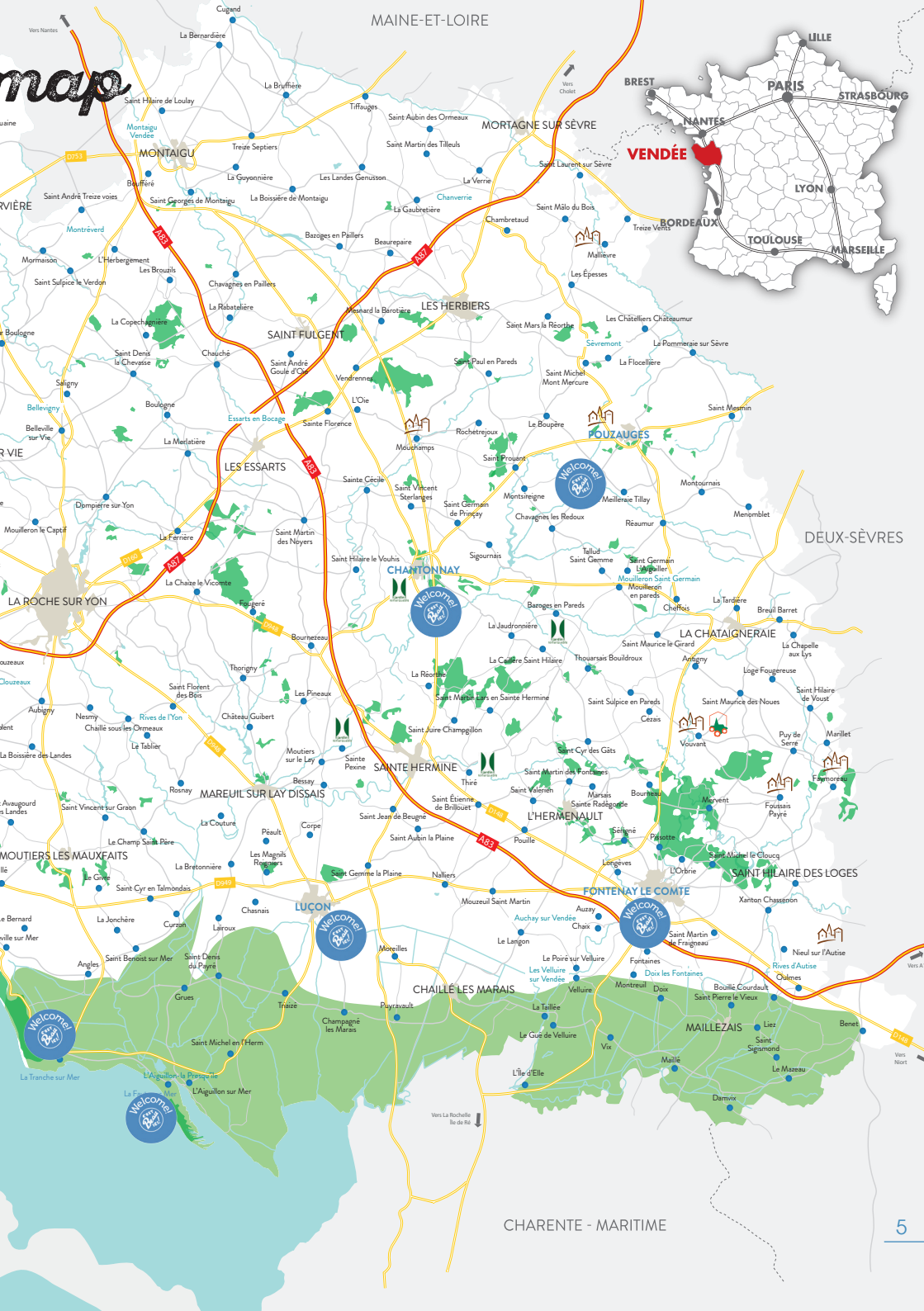
Town of Art and History



Remarkable gardens



City and crafts



map

MAINE-ET-LOIRE



LILLE
PARIS
STRASBOURG
NANTES
BORDEAUX
TOULOUSE
MARSEILLE
LYON

VENDEE

LA ROCHE SUR YON
MONTAIGU
LES ESSARTS
LES HERBIERS
CHANTONNAY
SAINT HERMINE
LUÇON
CHAILLE LES MARAIS
MORTAGNE SUR SEVRE
POUZAUGES
LA CHATAIGNERAIE
L'HERMENAUT
FONTENAY LE COMTE
MAILLEZAIS

CHARENTE - MARITIME

The two faces of the Vendée



Saint Jean de Monts

First, and best-known, are those long (140 km), **sandy beaches** stretching as far as the eye can see, which characterise the Vendée's seaside resorts. These have long been family favourites for their safety and for the great variety of activities they offer.

Offshore lie the **Island of Noirmoutier** and the **Island of Yeu**. Their whitewashed houses, coloured shutters and Mediterranean-style vegetation add a touch of elegance, a special style so dear to island-lovers.

Surfers and kite-surfers head for the "**spots**" around la Tranche sur Mer or Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, sites of regular **international championships**.

6 The seaside is, of course, the place for yacht racing — in which the **Vendée Globe** in Les Sables d'Olonne is the undisputed world leader.



Maillezaïs Abbey

The **Vendée's architecture** ranges from Romanesque churches and medieval castles to fishermen's cottages and tiny thatched farmhouses. The 12th-century abbeys of Maillezaïs and Nieul sur l'Autise stand on the fringes of the tranquil "**Venise Verte**", or "**Green Venice**", a charming rural landscape in the heart of the Marais poitevin.



Feu de Grosse Terre in Saint Hilaire de Riez

For those who prefer a world without cars, it's easy to take to simpler modes of transport such as a horse, a bike, or simply one's feet. Today, **1,800 km of cycle paths** lead to every corner **of the Vendée**, from Fontenay le Comte (Town of Art and History) to Mervent (legendary domain of the French fairy Mélusine), and from the Marais poitevin northward to **the unmissable theme park of Puy du Fou®**.



Puy du Fou®

25 places to visit with your family

Coastline

La Route du Sel in Sallertaine

Explora Parc in Saint Jean de Monts

Vendée Miniature in Brétignolles sur Mer

Le Grand Défi in Saint Julien des Landes

Les Salines in Les Sables d'Olonne

Zoo des Sables in Les Sables d'Olonne

Château de Talmont in Talmont Saint Hilaire

Le Château des Aventuriers in Avrillé

O'Fun Park in Moutiers les Mauxfaits

O'Gliss Park in Le Bernard

Heart of the Vendée

Historial de la Vendée in Les Lucs sur Boulogne

Haras de la Vendée in La Roche sur Yon

Bocage

Logis de la Chabotterie in Montréverd

Château de Tiffauges in Tiffauges

Puy du Fou® in Les Eppesses

Prieuré de Grammont in Saint Prouant

Cité des Oiseaux in Les Landes Génusson

Marais poitevin

Natur'Zoo de Mervent in Mervent

Château de Terre-Neuve in Fontenay le Comte

Abbey in Nieul sur l'Autise

Abbey in Maillezaïs

Embarcadères du Marais poitevin in the heart of Green Venice

Parc de Pierre Brune in Mervent

Maison de la Meunerie in Nieul sur l'Autise

Centre Minier in Faymoreau

Find all touristic sites in the Vendée on: vendee-tourism.co.uk/leisure-and-activities

10 free good ideas



in the Vendée

1



Play with the animals on Place Napoléon in La Roche sur Yon.

2



Collect clams on the beach at Saint Jean de Monts.

3



Picnic in Lac de l'Espérance in Pouzauges (ask for the full list of picnic areas in your nearest Tourist Information Office).

4



Ride along La Vélodyssée, a cycle route that follows the Vendée's coastline

5

6



Put your trainers on and walk along the Marais poitevin canals in the shade of pollarded ash trees.



Roam the streets of Fontenay le Comté, a Town of Art and History, a jewel of the Renaissance.



7

Take the mythical **Passage du Gois**, the causeway linking the mainland to the Island of Noirmoutier at low tide.



8

Discover the Vendean lifestyle strolling around our **markets** (see more pages 8-9).



9

Admire our **Petites Cités de Caractère** (Little Towns of Character): Apremont, Mallièvre, Foussais-Payré, Nieul sur l'Autise, Mouchamps, Faymoreau, Vouvant, Pouzauges.



As a bonus...

Visit the **Village des Artisans** (Arts and Crafts Community) of Sallertaine, a former island in the Marais breton vendéen marshland.

10



Discover the bay of **Les Sables d'Olonne**, integrated into the club of the most beautiful bays in the World in 2021.

What type *of tourist* *are you*?

Looking for inspiration?

Need advice or good ideas to enjoy your trip to the Vendée?

Visit **vendee-tourism.co.uk** to find a large selection of ideas such as accomodation, activities, outings and events in the four corners of the Vendée.

Our specific section : [Experience the Vendée > I'm interested in...](#)
will guide you depending on your profile.



Family friendly



- Kids friendly accommodation and restaurants
- Safety beaches
- Nautical activities for little sailors
- Rainy day activities, a «just» in case option



Natural lover



- Top slow travel experiences
- The GR8, the best hiking trails in Coastal France
- Eco label accommodation



One on one in charming places



- The top 10 luxury holidays experiences
- Sleep in a chateau
- Luxury hotels, self catering cottages and B&B's

Dog friendly



- The "Toutourisme" label
- Dog friendly beaches
- Some tips to prepare your dog friendly holidays in France



Cyclist friendly



- Bike friendly accommodation and services
- Touristic map Vendée vélo Guide
- The Véلودyssée, the longest veloroute in France
- Our selection of touring bike routes in the Vendée



Heritage lover



- Maritime heritage
- Typically quaint french villages to visit
- Remarkable gardens in the Vendée
- Heritage accommodation: sleeping in the heart of the Vendée



Some tips to enjoy your stay in the Vendée



In case of any problems or emergency, contact 112 for:

- Police secours
- Fire brigade
- Emergency medical services



To call abroad from a French landline, dial the following number and drop the first zero of the phone number:

- United Kingdom: 00 44.
- Germany: 00 49.
- Ireland: 00 353.
- Belgium: 00 32.
- Netherlands: 00 31.
- Switzerland: 00 41.
- Spain: 00 34



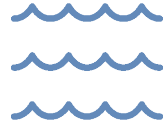
To eat and drink:

- Lunch is still regarded as the important meal in many contexts in France. Service begins at midday. In most restaurants you will not be served after 2 pm.
- In the evening, service will begin around 7 pm. In most restaurants, service will stop at around 9 pm. Cafés are usually open from early in the morning until late at night. The age limit for drinking alcohol is 18.
- VAT is included in affixed prices in France.



Cooking temperature:

- Very rare: Bleu
- Rare: Saignant
- Medium rare: Saignant-à-point
- Medium: A point
- Well done: A point-bien cuit
- Very well done: Bien cuit



At low tide, you can collect clams on the beaches or cross the famous Passage du Gois to go to the Island of Noirmoutier.

Fishing excursion in La Tranche sur Mer



Some specialities from the Vendée



GASTRONOMY FROM THE LAND AND THE SEA

Gâche: Gâche is a sort of local brioche from the Vendée.

Crêpe: Large, thin, wheat-flour pancake either sweet or savoury.

Flan ou Fion: Sweet or savoury custard tart.

Galette (de blé noir): Buck-wheat-flour pancake filled with cheese, meat or fish.

Préfou: Garlic bread served at aperitif time.

Mogettes et jambon de Vendée: A type of white haricot bean and raw ham cured in dry salt.

La Bonnotte: A rare variety of potato cultivated on the Island of Noirmoutier.

Fressure vendéenne: Pig's liver, heart, lungs and spleen cooked in blood and served cold.

Rillauds / rillons: Bits of pork cooked in seasoned lard and preserved in jars.

Rillettes: Bits of pork or goose meat which are first prepared as rillauds, then using a mortar and pestle, it is pounded into a paste and preserved in stoneware pot.

Choucroute de la mer: Sauerkraut served with different types of fish.

Moules à la marinière: Mussels cooked in a creamy sauce with tumeric and saffron.

Tourteau: A type of large crab.

Bigorneau: Periwinkle.

Bulots: Whelks.

Crevette grise: Shrimp.

Crevette rose: Prawn.

Huître: Oyster.

Fine de claire: Type of cultivated oyster.

Sardine: Sardine or pilchard.

Sole: Dover sole.

Bar: Sea bass.

Langoustine: A large prawn.

10 *tasty souvenirs*

from the Vendée



Refined tinned sardines from the canning factory “La Perle des Dieux” in Saint Gilles Croix de Vie. Freshly caught sardines, the best of the season, are selected and prepared by hand in the traditional way.

Fish soup, rillettes, marinated anchovies, mogettes from La Conserverie “La Sablaise”, a family-run canning factory in Olonne sur Mer.

Brioche: This is a well-known pastry in the Vendée. It is usually eat for breakfast. In the past, it was made for family celebrations such as communions, weddings..

Glasswort (Salicorne): a salt-marsh plant rich in vitamins and minerals, used to season salads or fish.

Finest-quality sea salt.

A bottle of wine from the Fiefs Vendéens vineyards.

Kamok: a locally-made coffee liqueur created in 1860 in Luçon.

La Troussepinette: a local aperitif made with black thorns from plum trees.

La Napoline: chocolates in the shape of Napoléon’s bust , created by Patrick Gelencser in La Roche sur Yon.

Creamy salted caramel or biscuits from Biscuiterie “Les Petits Cagnioltes” on the Island of Noirmoutier.



Sardine fins «La Perle des Dieux»



Les Petits Cagnioltes



Brioche from «La Lutine»

A little bit of french

Do you want to try out your French while you're in the Vendée?
This small guide is for you.

BASIC WORDS

Good morning / good afternoon / hello - **Bonjour**

Good evening - **Bonsoir**

Good bye - **Au revoir**

Thank you - **Merci**

Please - **S'il-vous-plaît**

Excuse me - **Excusez-moi**

Yes - **Oui**

No - **Non**

I don't know - **Je ne sais pas**

I don't understand - **Je ne comprends pas**

Could you repeat please?

Pouvez-vous répéter s'il-vous-plaît ?

Could you speak more slowly, please?

Pourriez-vous parler plus lentement, s'il-vous-plaît ?

I'm looking for ... **Je cherche ...**

How much does it cost? **Combien ça coûte ?**

The bill, please - **L'addition s'il-vous-plaît**

What time is it? **Quelle heure est-il ?**

Open / closed - **Ouvert / fermé**

Free - **Gratuit**

Exit - **Sortie**

TO PAY OR WITHDRAW MONEY

I'm looking for a cashpoint.

Je cherche un distributeur.

Where can I get some money changed?

Où puis-je changer de l'argent ?

Do you take credit cards?

Est-ce qu'on peut payer par carte bancaire ?



Mortagne sur Sèvre

TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE AREA OR A PLACE

Could you give me a brochure about the area?
Pouvez-vous me donner une brochure sur la région ?

Do you have this brochure in English?
Avez-vous cette brochure en anglais ?

Do you have a street map of the town?
Est-ce que vous auriez un plan de la ville ?

Do you have a map of cycling / walking routes in the area?
Avez-vous une carte des itinéraires de randonnées pédestres / à vélo des environs ?

Could I have the list of the town's facilities?
Pourrais-je avoir la liste des services de votre ville ?

Have you seen the weather forecast for tomorrow?
Est-ce que vous avez vu la météo pour demain ?

Where can I find a doctor ? A chemist?
Où puis-je trouver un docteur ? Une pharmacie ?

Where are the toilets please?
Où sont les toilettes s'il-vous-plaît ?

Have you got a WiFi or Internet connection?
Avez-vous le WiFi ou Internet ?

Where can I find a petrol station?
Où puis-je trouver une station-service ?

When is this shop open?
Quand est ouvert ce magasin ?

Where can we find a bicycle hire shop?
Où pouvons-nous trouver un loueur de vélo ?

Find all

Welcome members

in the Vendée



vendee-tourism.co.uk

Experience the Vendée > Dedicated welcome for English speakers



Stay Connected



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**VENDÉE
TOURISME**