

OUT AND ABOUT



MARKETS -Each day of the week at least one of the local towns has an extensive market, held in the morning.

Monday- Auray, Pontivy

Tuesday- Etel, Port Louis, La Trinité sur Mer

Wednesday- Carnac (large market), Vannes, Bubry (every 2nd & 4th wednesday)-small market, Guidel, Lorient, Quiberon

Thursday- Hennebont, Erderven, Guémené sur Scorff (small market)

Friday- La Trinité sur Mer,

Saturday- Josselin, Quiberon, Vannes, Baud, Lorient

Sunday- Carnac (large market), Ploemeur



HORSE-RIDING

If horse-riding or pony trekking is your interest, there are a number of friendly, welcoming stables in the local area who cater for all levels of skill, from beginners to experienced. Rachel is also happy to take your children on shorts rides around the property. Please ask.

Inguiniel-L'ecurie d'O – Le Porz, 56240 Inguiniel, Tel: 0297804191

Kernascleden-Les trois allures- Maneglau, 56540 Kernascleden Tel: 0609879188

FISHING

The river Blavet is famous for its fishing. Alternative locations include the Nantes-Brest canal and rivers Scorff & Evel. In fact there are over 28 fishing areas in the vicinity for all types of angling. Potential catches include: Roach, Dace, Carp, Pike, Perch, Salmon and Trout. Daily or weekly permits can be purchased from any Tabac.

Alternatively, for the dedicated carp enthusiasts, Blavet Valley Lakes is just a short distance from us in St Nicolas des Eaux. Blavet Valley Lakes is owned and run by an English family and offers superb carp fishing at their private lake. (Booking is advisable.)



WATER SPORTS

Just to the north of the medieval town of Pontivy is Lac du Guerledan (Brittany's largest lake) where you will find water sports and lakeside beaches, plus many woodland walks.

On the river Blavet at Saint Nicolas des Eaux, Pontivy or at Pont Augan you can hire pedalos or canoes/kayaks or have lessons.

<http://www.baudcanoe.com>

<http://tourisme.blavet.com/fiches:f-432.html>

There are also tourist barges that go along the Blavet from Saint Nicolas des Eaux & Pont Augan.

Plenty of watersports of all shapes & sizes on the coast (wind surfing, kite surfing, land yachting etc)



GO-KARTING

On the edge of Plumeliau is a large outdoor go-kart track, or go quad biking at Locmalo.

<http://www.kartcenter56.fr/>



SWIMMING

Pontivy has a large outdoor heated swimming pool and a brand new indoor pool, and not forgetting the outdoor pool here at Le Deran!

<http://www.spadium.fr/complexe-aquatique/piscine-de-pontivy-56>



RAMBLING

The area around Le Deran offers many opportunities for unrestricted rambles through forest land, farm land, and quiet country lanes. Printed maps in the info folder.

For more information and maps of walks in the area: <http://randonnees.blavet.com/fiches-rechercher.html>



CYCLING

Many of our guests have discovered the pleasure of safe cycling in the countryside around here or along the traffic free level towpath of the Blavet river, which is very relaxing for families with children.

Bikes can be hired at Saint Nicolas des Eaux.



TEN-PIN BOWLING – In Pontivy: <http://www.bowling-pontivy.com/>



GOLF

Golf de Baden, Kernic 56870 Baden

Baden is a quality 18 hole course set amidst pines and broom on the banks of the river at Auray. The pitch and putt is perfect for beginners.

Golf de Rhuys-Kerver, 56730 Saint Gildas de Rhuys

Rhuys is an authentic links course of 18 holes located in the heart of a bird reserve, on a genuine seaside course with a number of water obstacles.

Golf de Ploemeur, St Jude, 56270 Ploemeur

An 18 hole links course has vast greens with super views of the sea and Ile de Groix.

Golf de Val de Queven, Kerruisseau, 56530 Queven

Enjoy this 18 hole course with multiple play opportunities set in the spectacular landscape of this old estate.

Golf de St Laurent, Ploermel, 56400 AURAY

Golfers love the beautiful layout and high quality facilities of this 9 hole course, which was voted one of the best in France in 2001.

Golf de Caden, Le Four Bourdin, 56220 Caden

In a rural setting, within easy reach of Vannes, Rennes and Nantes, Caden is a well established course offering a wide range of facilities. Open all year with attractive rates.

Golf de Belle Ile en Mer, Pointe des Poulains, Sauzon, 56360

Surrounded by the Atlantic, off the coast of Quiberon, is a genuine 14 hole course with the second hole has its green in the sea!

Golf du Lac au Duc, Le Clos Hazel, 56800 Ploermel

The 9 hole course runs along the banks of the lake in 25ha of natural grounds with gardens having hundreds of hydrangeas.

Spectacular fairways and greens and a covered driving range.

Golf de Rimaison, 56310, Bieuzy les Eaux

This course follows the river Blavet near Pontivy and is a moderately difficult 9 hole course with plenty of valleys and hills.

There are 24 Blue Green courses in Brittany alone. Membership can be bought at any of the blue green courses. Each club has competitions that one can enter for a small additional fee. Most of the competitions are on Sundays. More information available on <http://bluegreen.com/en>

ACTIVITIES FOR A RAINY DAY

Aquarium Vannes

21 rue Daniel Gilard, Vannes

Aquarium Brest

Oceanopolis, Port de Plaisance du Moulin Blanc, Brest.

WW2 Submarine base, Lorient

<http://www.la-flore.fr/>

(Booking essential)

Cité de la voile Eric Tarbaly, Lorient

Interactive modern museum with everything to do with sailing, great fun for the kids.

Ice skating, Lanester

Patinoire du scorff, Parc des expositions, rue Jean marie Djibaou, 56600 Lanester. Tel: 0297810783

Swimming, spadium, Pontivy

SOME SUMMER EVENTS

(Please also check our website blog and Facebook page for more events)

14 July – Fete National / Bastille Day

Medieval festival Josselin (held on alternate years – 2018/2020 etc)

A fantastic day out set in the grounds of Josselin castle and the town. Many authentic medieval crafts, demonstrations, and culminating in a huge procession with costumed people etc Great atmosphere.

Festival de Cornouaille, Quimper – July

Parades, music, concerts, true Brittany atmosphere!

Aug – Festival interceltic Lorient

A global gathering of contemporary celtic culture with 10 days and nights of festivities with artists of Wales, Brittany, Ireland, Scotland, Galicia and Asturias. On stage, in the street or under big tents, the 260 events are played out in front of 300,000 spectators.

15 August – Fete des Vieux Metiers, Baud

A great day out, held at Kerguic, Baud. The festival celebrates all the old traditional crafts of Brittany, with demonstrations including hay making, clog making, Breton dancing etc. With part of the woods dedicated to craft stalls, and many outdoor restaurants.

August – Festival des Filets Bleus (Blue fishing nets), Concarneau

Over a hundred years old, the Filets Bleus festival takes place every August, when it gives the town of Concarneau and its inhabitants an opportunity to go back to their roots. A typically Breton-flavoured costumed parade, with dancing and games that have no need whatsoever for artificial colouring.

End of August - Fete de l'andouille Guemene sur Scorff

A festival celebrating the local type of sausage.

End Jul – beginning Aug -Son et lumiere, bon repos, saint Gelven

Sound and light display, set beside the nantes-Brest canal, in front of the abbey de Bon Repos, re-enactment with actors, horses and a great atmosphere !

Last week in August - Festival du galettes du monde, Saint Anne d'Auray

<http://galettesdumonde.free.fr/>

Last weekend in August – Fete de l'andouille, Guemene sur Scorff, our local 'sausage' festival-eating, music & dancing

Beginning of Aug 2018 – Large brocante / car boot Guemene sur Scorff

ATTRACTIONS

Around Vannes & the Gulf du Morbihan

Just over an hour's drive brings you to Vannes. With its old walled quarter, full of ancient timbered buildings, narrow streets and elegant shops & restaurants. Vannes also has a large attractive marina. The best way to see the Gulf is by boat; take an organised cruise, or hire a motor boat or sailing dinghy.

Take a day ferry trip across to Belle Ile from Quiberon. (Advisable to book).

Auray

A quaint small town with plenty of shops and an excellent Monday morning market. Walk down the steep streets to the old port of Saint Goustan where you will find many good restaurants along the river's edge.

Close by - Shrine of Saint Anne d'Auray - <http://www.sainteanne-sanctuaire.com/>

One of the most prestigious shrines in western France.

Carnac

Just to the south of Auray, world famous for its collection of prehistoric stone monuments. These megalithic alignment sites are home to some 3000 menhirs (standing stones), dolmens & tumulus. Carnac also has an old town with a large Wednesday & Sunday morning market. Plus 5 pure white long sandy beaches! Hire windsurfers, body boards, pedalos etc.

In the town, visit the Museum of Prehistory, which has one of Europe's finest collections of prehistoric objects that have been unearthed in the department.

Beaches & Islands

Brittany has some of the cleanest & most beautiful beaches in all of Europe and a coastline as varied as it is long. The nearest sandy beaches are at Port Louis and Larmor Plage, both approx 40 minutes drive.

Our location in the Scorff valley means that we are able to reach many other fabulous beaches within an hour and a half's drive; Here are some of our favourites; Benodet, Concarneau, Le Pouldu near Quimperlé, Quiberon, Erdreven, Carnac.

There are many offshore islands – Belle Isle, Ile de Groix, Ile d'Houat & Ile Hoedic, - all can be reached by ferry from Lorient or Quiberon.

Hennebont

At Hennebont, located in a former Cistercian abbey, is the national stud. - Les Haras National – This is dedicated to the breeding of pure blood stallions. You can take tours round the stables, and there is also a museum & exhibition centre. During the summer there are fabulous displays & equestrian shows.

Picturesque towns, villages & chateaux.

Some of our favourites are;

-Pontivy a bustling town with river, shops & castle.

-Josselin, a pretty small town of character along the river Oust, with a castle and grounds.

-Vannes, A walled medieval city with port and harbour and old shopping streets to wander round.

-Auray, Monday morning market, river and quaint old port with shops & cafés.

-Pont Aven, a lovely village with a river running through over huge boulders into the harbour. Pont Aven has many interesting shops, art galleries, & restaurants, and is best known for its association with the painter Paul Gauguin.

-Concarneau, the third largest fishing port in France, well worth a visit. Jutting out into the sea is the ville close; a walled city built on a small island in the port and tightly packed with historic buildings and small shops.

Aquarium, Oceanopolis, Brest

An excellent day out for a rainy day

<http://www.oceanopolis.com/>

Aquarium, Vannes

Some 50 aquariums from 2000 to 110,000 litres create a moving undersea world that you could never hope to see in the wild. Seahorses from the Gulf of Morbihan, crocodiles from the Nile, electric eels, piranhas from the Amazon, sharks, turtles from the coral reefs, etc. From the Gulf of Morbihan to the Red Sea, passing through the Amazon and the Pacific Ocean, you plunge into three different aquatic worlds to discover these treasures of nature.

<http://www.aquarium-du-golfe.com/>

Zoo, Pont Scorff

<http://www.zoo-pont-scorff.com/>

(Night time visits the last week in July)

Bat living museum, Kernascleden

<http://www.maisondelachauvesouris.com/>

Living bee & ant museum, Le Faouet

A bee and ant farm where children can see the insects at work. Also an exhibition of old bee-keeping tools and equipment. Commentary in English

<http://www.abeilles-et-fourmis.com/>

Poul Fetan

Within 20 kms of Le Deran is the beautifully restored 15th-17th century thatched village museum. Lovingly restored, Poul Fetan is a working museum with a traditional baker, potter, farm etc, where you can see costumes, architecture & activities such as butter making, potter, wool spinning etc.

<http://sagemor.com/village-de-poul-fetan.html>

Village de l'An Mil

Close to Melrand is another small medieval working museum, including a traditional farming community with rural livestock breeds.

<http://villagedelanmil-melrand.fr/>

Camors adventure forest

Challenge yourself and test your courage safely, under the watchful eyes of qualified professionals. Camors Adventure Forest offers a varied course with 95 activities for children and adults. Zip lines, vines, rope bridges, pirates' net, surfing, rodeo stirrups, Nepalese bridge, weighbridge ... Equipped with helmet, harness, pulleys and carabiners, you can opt for the extreme circuit if you're a pro, the difficult circuit if you know what you're doing, the easy circuit if you're a beginner, and an introductory circuit if climbing is totally new to you. If you like a challenge, you'll love this! There is an area for children aged 2- 6.

<http://www.camors-adventure-forest.com/>

Branféré animal park

Even though it is 1.5 hours away, many of our guests have enjoyed this park.

150 species of birds and animals from 5 continents, botanic park, activity park, Don't miss the bird show!

<http://www.branfere.com/visite-parc-animulier-botanique-2-146.html>

Parc Aquanature, Priziac.

The Parc Aquanature du Stérou is an exceptional 80 hectare natural site and home to 140 stag and deer living in complete freedom. Spreading across several valleys around the River Aër and three waterfall pools, the estate reveals the natural riches of the region. On the itinerary - visit the 20,000 litre aquariums, along the watermill race, hike across the pedestrian trails that stretch from 1 to 15km, discover remarkable sites (Trou du Biniou, Clos des roches de l'Aër...), go pony-trekking... You can also take a ride in a horse drawn carriage or go for a guided and narrated Breton style 4x4 safari (accessible for people with reduced mobility), to get closer to the deer.

<http://www.parcquanature.com/>

Lac de Guerledan –

The Lac de Guerledan is the largest lake in Brittany - it's an artificial lake and was first flooded around 1930 for electricity production and fresh water supply.

There are many woodland/lakeside walks around the lake, plus restaurants & boat hire.

Walking & rambling

The tourist office in Gueméné, next to the town hall provides handy “randonnées” cards with detailed maps & information on the various hiking circuits.

(There are also some local walks in the information folder.)

In the summer, the Maison du Scorff (Scorff discovery centre), and its partners offer a choice of activities and events: narrated walks, packsaddle donkey treks, canoe trips, visits of architectural interest etc...

Maison du Scorff, 2 rue du Palud, Bas-Pont-Scorff, 56620 Cléguer.

Abbey de Bon Repos, north side of Lac de Guerledan.

A 12th century Cistercian abbey, beside the Nantes Brest canal with regular art exhibitions, a Sunday morning artisan market, and a spectacular ‘sound and light’ show every August.

Sculptor/creator/artist creates machines, toys, musical sculptures and more from waste material.

Open daily 1 April to end October and open Sundays and holidays November to March. Special rates for children up to 14 years. At La Ville Stephant, Lizio

<http://www.poeteferrailleur.com/>

Kerguehenec chateau, near Locminé

Kerguehenec château, built in 1710, stands resplendent in its grounds. Visitors are free to explore every inch of the place whatever the time of year, including its recently restored interior. The sculpture park is a rarity in France and one of the most significant in Europe. It began life in 1986 as a result of an initiative by the regional arm of the French Ministry of Culture (the ‘Drac’) and the Breton regional contemporary art fund (the ‘Frac’,) and now includes over twenty works by major artists. The château itself regularly hosts temporary art exhibitions, all featuring contemporary art.

<http://www.kerguehenec.fr/>

Valley of the Saints, Carnoet

On the hillside you'll see huge statues that look like modern rows of standing stones. This project could be seen as a bid for immortality, a fascinating saga chiseled in stone – or a slightly crazy concept created by Philippe Abjean, depending on your point of view! There are currently around 50 statues standing on the grass, representing the monks who came over from Ireland, Wales or Cornwall to bring Christianity to Brittany. Year by year, new creations are erected in the memory of these saints, each bearing the signature of a different sculptor. In 50 years' time there will be 1,000 of them.

**Finistere -
Locronon**

In Finistere, this Breton Petite Cité de Caractère and one of the prettiest villages in France. Close to the bay of Douarnenez.

La Point du Raz

Wild and windy Pointe du Raz, France's equivalent of Land's End, is one of Brittany's most popular natural sites. With its breathtaking clifftop walks (you'll need a head for heights!), perilous waters, intriguing island and charming fishing ports, this area offers an authentic slice of Breton life.

Quimper

The town is known for its cathedral, atmospheric old quarter and museums and for its annual festival celebrating Breton culture.

<http://www.festival-cornouaille.com/>

Please don't hesitate to ask for advice on the best places/beaches etc to go to!