

# Vendée 2024

Welcome to Vendée



# WELCOME TO VENDÉE

Wherever you see the "Welcome" sign, pop in and say "bonjour".

This logo is intended for English-speaking people in Vendée. The aim is to give English-speaking tourists a dedicated network of tourism services through 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" members, go to: [in-vendee.com](http://in-vendee.com)**

Experience the Vendée> I'm interesting in> Dedicated welcome for English speakers.



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# VISITOR INFORMATION MAP



Welcome labelled tourist offices



One of the most beautiful villages in France



Picturesque villages



Town of Art and History

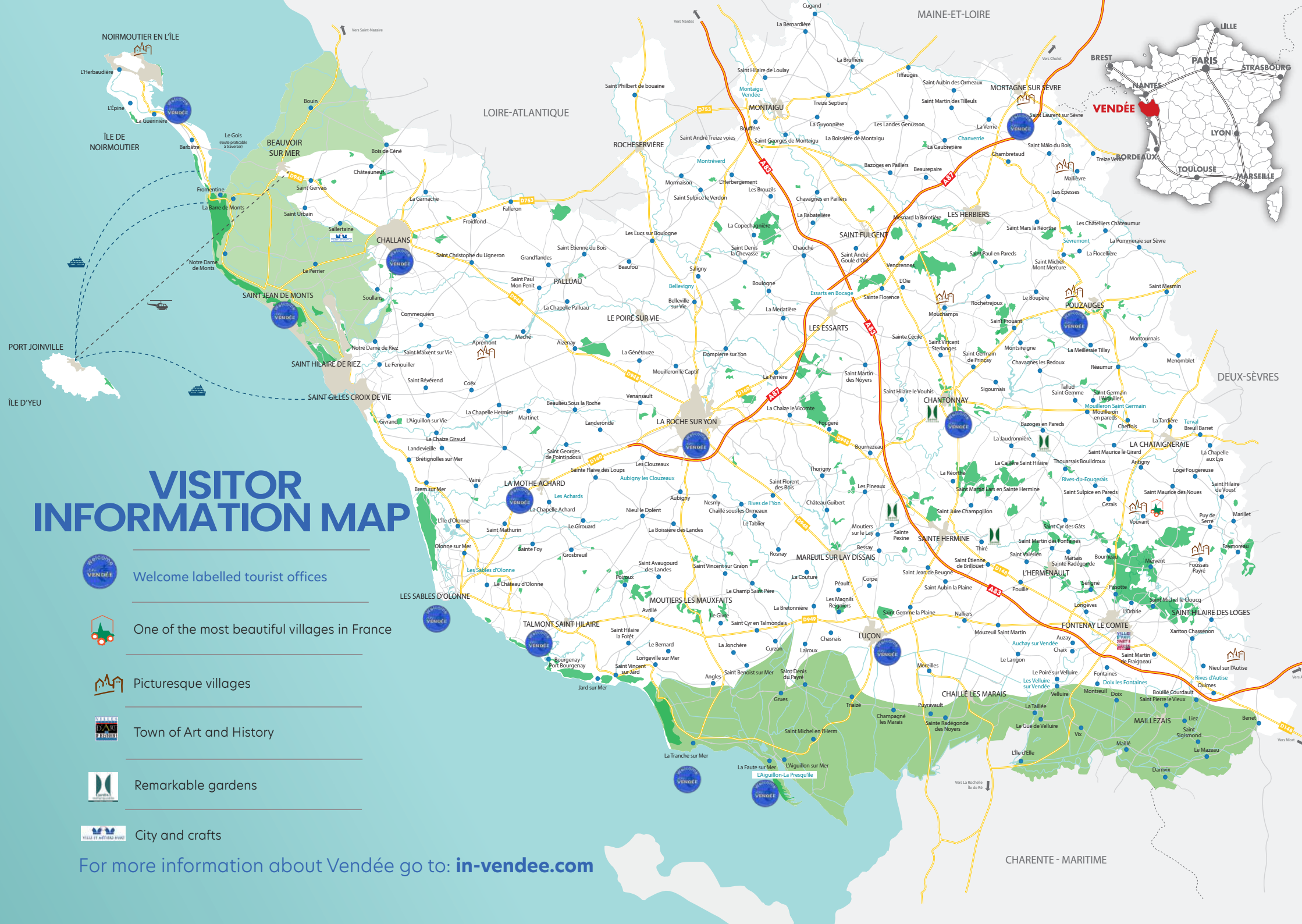


Remarkable gardens



City and crafts

For more information about Vendée go to: [in-vendee.com](http://in-vendee.com)



# BETWEEN LAND AND SEA



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.

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

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.



The Vendée's architecture ranges from Romanesque churches and medieval castles to fishermen's cottages and tiny thatched farmhouses. The 12<sup>th</sup>-century abbeys of Maillezais 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.



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®.



## 27 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
- Musée Blockhaus in Les Sables d'Olonne
- Aquarium de Vendée in Talmont Saint Hilaire
- 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 Epesses
- Prieuré de Grammont in Saint Prouvant
- Cité des Oiseux 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 Maillezais
- 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:  
[in-vendee.com/leisure-and-activities](http://in-vendee.com/leisure-and-activities)

# 10 FREE GOOD IDEAS in 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



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

4



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

5

6...



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

9...



Admire our 9 Petites Cités de Caractère (Little Towns of Character): Apremont, Mallièvre, Foussais-Payré, Niell sur l'Autise, Mouchamps, Vouvant, Pouzauges, Mortagne sur Sèvre et Noirmoutier en l'Île.

10



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

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 traditional markets.



As a bonus...

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

8



Stroll along the trails in the Mervent-Vouvant forest, the biggest woodland of Vendée.

9

# WHAT TYPE OF TOURIST ARE YOU ?

Looking for inspiration?

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

Visit [in-vendee.com](https://www.in-vendee.com) to find a large selection of ideas such as accommodation, activities, outings and events in the four corners of Vendée.

Our specific section : [Experience 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 Vélodyssée, the longest veloroute in France
- Our selection of touring bike routes in Vendée

## Heritage lover

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



# SOME SPECIALITIES from Vendée



## GASTRONOMY FROM THE LAND AND THE SEA

**Bar:** Sea bass.

**Bigorneau:** Periwinkle.

**Bulots:** Whelks.

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

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

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

**Crevette grise:** Shrimp.

**Crevette rose:** Prawn

**Fine de claire:** Type of cultivated oyster.

**Flan ou Fion:** Sweet or savoury custard tart.

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

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

**Huître:** Oyster.

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

**Langoustine:** A large prawn.

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

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

**Préfou:** Garlic bread served at aperitif time.

**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.

**Sardine:** Sardine or pilchard.

**Sole:** Dover sole.

**Tourteau:** A type of large crab.

# 10 TASTY SOUVENIRS from Vendée

- 1 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.
- 2 Fish soup, rillettes, marinated anchovies, moquettes from La Conserverie "La Sablaise", a family-run canning factory in Olonne sur Mer.
- 3 Brioche: This is a well-known pastry in Vendée. It is usually eat for breakfast. In the past, it was made for family celebrations such as communions, weddings...
- 4 Glasswort (Salicorne): a salt-marsh plant rich in vitamins and minerals, used to season salads or fish.
- 5 Finest-quality sea salt.
- 6 A bottle of wine from the Fiefs Vendéens vineyards.
- 7 Kamok: a locally-made coffee liqueur created in 1860 in Luçon.
- 8 La Troussepinette: a local aperitif made with black thorns from plum trees.
- 9 La Napoline: chocolates in the shape of Napoléon's bust , created by Patrick Gelencser in La Roche sur Yon.
- 10 Creamy salted caramel or biscuits from Biscuiterie "Les Petits Cagniotés" on the Island of Noirmoutier.



La Bonnotte from Noirmoutier



Jambon-Moquette from Vendée



Brioche from "La Lutine"

# 10 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY IN THE VENDÉE

**Experience #1**

Freedom of the great outdoors



Veillon's beach

**Experience #2**

An enchanting getaway on one of the islands



Port de la Meule - Ile d'Yeu

**Experience #3**

A maritime stop-over in Saint Gilles Croix de Vie



Sardines

**Experience #4**

An unusual excursion to the heart of the Marais Poitevin



Walk on Green Venice

**Experience #5**

Travel back in time exploring some of the quaint little villages



The town of Mouchamps

**Experience #6**  
Daydreaming on board a legendary train



Le Chemin de Fer

**Experience #7**

The Puy du Fou® - Pure emotion



Le Bal des Oiseaux Fantômes

**Experience #8**

Life in a chateau



Castle of Boisniard

**Experience #9**

A bucolic walk through the Vendean vineyards



Mourat's vines

**Experience #10**

A gourmet break at Michelin-star restaurants



Alexandre Couillon, 3<sup>rd</sup> star awarded in the 2023, La Marine, Noirmoutier



A photograph of a stone building facade featuring several arches. A black lantern is mounted on the wall to the left, and a large bush of pink flowers is in the foreground. A semi-transparent orange rectangle is overlaid on the upper part of the image, containing the text 'in VENDÉE' and a white logo.

*in*  
**VENDÉE**

**#envendee**

**[in-vendee.com](http://in-vendee.com)**