



Camping Château des Marais,

Route de Chambord,
41500 Muides sur Loire, France.

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GPS co-ordinates

Latitude: 47.6661

Longitude: 1.5292



Campsite Information

Camping Château des Marais, Chambord

Set in the green and spacious grounds of an old manor house, Château des Marais enjoys a lovely position near the river Loire and the stunning Château de Chambord. Lying sixteen kilometres east of the town of Blois, Château des Marais is a five minutes' walk from the riverside village of Muides sur Loire.

Arriving at Camping Château des Marais

On arrival go to the Canvas reception; your Canvas couriers will be here to meet you between 16.00 and 20.00.

Early/Late Arrivals

Please note if you arrive before 16.00, your accommodation may not be ready. If you arrive between 20.00 and 22.00, you will find directions to your courier and/or accommodation at the Canvas reception. Arrivals after 22.00 cannot be accepted on site. Please note that if you do arrive late and cannot be admitted onto the campsite, you have full responsibility for finding alternative off-site accommodation. A Canvas courier will be available on site from 09.00 the following day. Please telephone your couriers if you know that you are going to be late.

Reception

Reception is open from 08.00 until 19.00 throughout the season.

Barrier

The barrier is closed between 22.30 and 07.00. Should you wish to depart early in the morning or arrive back late at night, please leave your car in the car park outside the barrier.

Currency Exchange

Currency can be exchanged at reception; there is a commission charge for these services.

Safety Deposit Boxes

This facility is not available on site.

Telephone

There are two card-operated telephones on site. Phone cards are on sale at the tabac in Mer or Muides.

Web/Email Access

This facility is available at the campsite reception.

Shopping

The small on-site shop sells basic groceries, essentials and produce as well as fresh bread, croissants and milk. The shop is open daily from 08.00 to 13.00 and 15.00 to 20.00.



Washing and Toilet Facilities

Washing machines and tumble dryers (tokens for these are on sale at the campsite reception, €6 for a washing machine and €3 for a dryer), wash cubicles with hot water, a baby room, baby bath, free hot showers and standard toilets.

Post

There is a post box on site, located opposite the campsite reception. Stamps and postcards are available to buy from the on-site shop.

Eating and Drinking

Bar: The small and friendly bar is located next to the restaurant in a restored manor building. It has a lovely terrace overlooking the swimming pool. The bar offers satellite television and serves ice cream and hot drinks. It is open from 16.00 until 23.00 in low season and 15.00 until midnight in high season.

Takeaway/Pizzeria: The takeaway is adjacent to the restaurant and sells a range of favourites such as pizzas, burgers, steak, sausages, chicken and chips. It is open from 12.30 until 13.30 and from 18.00 until 22.00 all season.

Restaurant: The traditional-style restaurant has a large outdoor terrace and offers a variety of tasty regional dishes at reasonable prices. The restaurant is open from 18.00 until 22.00.

Entertainment

During high season the site has an animation team which organises various activities such as theme nights, karaoke and quizzes in the bar. There is a diverse activity programme for children and teenagers every afternoon and sports competitions and tournaments are also organised.

Recreation

Swimming: The spacious pool complex has a large pool for swimming, a large children's pool, a heated jacuzzi, lazy river, two water chutes with a separate plunge pool and a paddling pool. These facilities are surrounded by a wide sun terrace with sun loungers. The pools and water chutes are open from 09.00

until 21.00 throughout the season. Please note that the pools are not supervised and that children should be supervised by a responsible adult.

Cycling: Bicycles are available to hire on site throughout the season. Prices for a half day are about €6 for a child's bike and €7 for an adult.

Fishing: You can fish free of charge in the small lake on site lake - no permit is required. Equipment is not provided, so you will need to bring your own.

Tennis: Tennis courts are available to hire at a cost of €8 for an hour.

Canoeing: You can hire canoes or kayaks from the site reception.

Children's Playground: The children's playground on site has various equipment including swings, climbing frames, a seesaw and roundabout.

There are also facilities on site for table tennis, football, volleyball and basketball, free of charge.

Hoopi's Club

Hoopi's Club is available 6 days a week and is full of fun activities for all those aged between four and 11 including Parachute Games, Harry Potter Days and Water Games. Ask your Hoopi's courier for more details about the weeks programme or see the noticeboard outside Hoopi's tent.

Canvas Active

Canvas Active is available at Chateau des Marais. Canvas customers have researched walking routes and cycle rides in the local area. There is also information on golf courses. For further details please see the Activities booklet downloadable from the Canvas Holidays website.

Rules and Regulations

- Silence and no driving on site between 22.30 and 07.00
- 10km/ph speed limit on site.
- Please recycle bottles in the bins provided.
- Only one car is allowed per pitch.

Local Information

Beaches

The nearest riverside beach is a fifteen minutes' stroll from the site in Muides sur Loire. There are several sandy beaches along the banks of the Loire, some with special parking and picnic areas.

Shopping

Supermarket: The closest supermarket is Super U in Mer. It is open every day from 08.00 until 19.00.

On Sunday, opening hours are 09.00 until 12.30.

The nearest hypermarkets are Auchan in Blois, open Monday to Saturday from 08.30 to 22.00, or E.Leclerc in Tavers.

Souvenirs: There are numerous gift shops in Blois and further afield in Orléans and Tours.

Local Markets

Monday: Montrichard (pm).

Tuesday: Blois.

Wednesday: Tours, Loches and Romorantin.

Thursday: Blois and Mer (pm).

Friday: Montrichard and Amboise.

Saturday: Beaugency (am and evenings), Blois, Loches and Tours.

Sunday: Blois and Amboise.

Facilities

Petrol: Fuel is available at Super U, open the same hours as the supermarket.

Chemist: The nearest chemist is in Muides sur Loire. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 09.00 to 12.00 and 16.00 to 19.00.

Bank: There is a branch of Crédit Agricole in Mer, which also has a cash dispenser.

Post Office: The nearest post office is just off the village square in Muides. Open from 09.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 until 16.00 Monday to Friday, Saturday mornings only.

Tourist Information: The closest Tourist Information is on Place de la Liberation in Muides-sur-Loire. The tourist office in Blois is on 3 Avenue Dr Jean Laigret. The Tourist office in St Dye is open from 09.00 to midday and 14.00 to 17.00.

Distances

Muides sur Loire: 0.5km (0.3 miles)

Château de Chambord: 6km (7 miles)

Blois: 18km (11 miles)

Chenonceau: 58km (42 miles)



Local Transport

There is a train station in Mer with services to Amboise, Blois, Orléans and Paris.

Doctor

Dr Luc Deprouw. 15 Rue Eglise, Muides sur Loire.
Tel: 02 54 87 50 09.

Dentist

Dr P. Dupont, Place du Mairie, Mer.
Tel: 02 54 81 14 38.

Emergency Services

There is a two-digit phone number for emergency services:

Police 17

Fire 18

Ambulance 15

Eating and Drinking

You may like to try these restaurants and bars, which have been recommended by Canvas customers and couriers in previous years:

La Trattoria, In Mer. A wide variety of pizzas as well as fresh pasta dishes and homemade quiches are served at this friendly, informal restaurant. Families are made very welcome.

Au Rendezvous des Pêcheurs, Blois. Lovely bistro with some of the best cuisine in the region. Extremely popular, so reservations are recommended,

La Pousse Rapière, Cheverny. Highly recommended by previous visitors for its delicious food and excellent service.

La Lampara, Amboise. Friendly and relaxed atmosphere with children made especially welcome. Set menus are available.

Restaurant de la Poste, Amboise. Traditional French food is the speciality at this informal restaurant where set menus are available at reasonable prices.

Auberge des Trois Maillets, Avaray. Close to the site serving a good variety of inexpensive food. Excellent atmosphere.

Le Petit Bateau, Beaugency. A restaurant popular with the locals, which serves a quality, fixed course menu.

Activities

Lac de Loire, near Blois, has windsurfing, canoeing, sailing, pedaloes and water-skiing on offer. There are many golf courses in the area, see your Canvas Activite Guide downloadable from the Canvas Holidays website for details of some of the best courses in the area.

Family Fun

Visit the Zoo Parc Beauval near St Aignan, it has been created for the well being and respect of animals. There are around forty different cats and 160 monkeys here, in surroundings designed to recreate their natural environment. This is also home to the largest tropical birdhouse in France and there are eagle and sea lion shows daily.

Out and About

The picturesque town of Amboise, nestling under its fortified château, is an easy day trip from the campsite. It is protected from the river Loire by a dyke, whose flower-covered heights are an excellent place for a riverside stroll. The château tops the rocky outcrop. Amboise has been fortified since Roman times and there are magnificent views of the town and the Loire valley from its ramparts. Free English-language brochures for walks around Amboise are available from the tourist office on Quai Général de Gaulle.

One 'must-see' is Le Clos Lucé where Leonardo da Vinci lived and worked for the last three years of his life. The building contains restored rooms and scale models of some of his inventions. With its lovely garden and watchtower, it is a fascinating place (*A).

Nearby

Muides-sur-Loire is a small riverside village just a short walk from Camping Château des Marais. It is a traditional French village where you will find a pharmacy, a post office and a baker. Blois is an attractive and bustling town. Look out for the Maison des Acrobates, a half-timbered medieval house, carved with acrobats and jugglers. From the gardens beside the Hôtel de Ville you have fine views over the town and river. The Château de Blois was built in stages between the 13th and 17th centuries and shows several architectural styles. Château de Chambord was built by Francois I in 1519 as a hunting lodge, Chambord is the largest and most extravagant château of the Loire. Its double-helix staircase is a notable feature. People can climb or descend, neither meeting nor losing sight of each other. From the roof terrace there are expansive views over the forest, this is where wives and mistresses used to watch their menfolk out hunting.



Regional Information

Loire

This region, known as the 'Garden of France', takes its name from the Loire, France's longest river. The scenery is varied, from vast plains covered with cereals and forests, to rolling hills and green valleys covered with vines and other fruits. Hundreds of châteaux populate the Loire region adding to the natural beauty of this area.

The region is ideal for all types of sports. You can horse-ride, cycle or walk through the countryside paths, soaking up beautiful scenery. There are water sports on the many lakes and rivers, including canoeing, sailing and water-skiing. For golf fans there are several good courses.

Eating & Drinking – Regional Specialities

This region is famous for fresh produce; cheese, mushrooms, cereals and, of course, wine. The most famous cow's cheese is St Paulin, which is creamy in texture. Goat's cheeses are also a speciality of the region. There is a wide range of fruit tarts. Try tarte tatin, an upside-down apple tart, which originated in the Loire Valley. This region produces some excellent wines - fruity reds from Touraine, and Vouvray, a sparkling alternative to champagne. If you like dry white wine, try Savennières, Sancerre and Pouilly Fumé. The Loire also produces a number of fruit liqueurs including Cointreau.

Things to do and see

*A • an admission charge is payable for these attractions.

Family Fun

Parc Mini Châteaux • A park with scale models of Loire châteaux and a forest of bonsai trees (*A). Nearby, the Aquarium de Touraine has a huge variety of marine life. In Lussault-sur-Loire (*A).

Jardin Zoologique de Doué • An unusually situated zoo in a former quarry, complete with pits, tunnels, troglodyte caves, lakes, islands and lush vegetation. In Doué-la-Fontaine, 16km south-west of Saumur (Open daily, *A).

Futuroscope • Futuroscope is Europe's first park devoted to technology. Attractions include a Kinemax cinema with a 600m² screen, a 3-D cinema, a "dynamic" cinema with simulated seating (seats which move in reaction to events in the movie), an "enchanted lake", bumper boats, adventure playgrounds, a water maze and a lego exhibition. Just outside Poitiers, exit 28 off A10 (open daily, *A).

Zoo Parc de Beauval • A beautifully landscaped park with many animals including big cats, birds, monkeys, gorillas, sea-lions, snakes, crocodiles and more. There is a mini zoo for children. In St Aignan-sur-Cher, on the D675, 35km south of Blois (open daily, *A).

Village Troglodytique • Cut into the limestone of a quarry, this well-preserved village was inhabited by farming families until the 1930s. You can see furniture and ornaments along with displays about life underground. In Rochemenier-Louesse, north of Doué-la-Fontaine (*A).

Grottes Pétrifiantes • Caves with stalactites, a lake, petrified cascades and a Gallo-Roman cemetery. Children will enjoy the realistic model dinosaurs in the caves. Savonnières, on the D7 west of Tours (*A).



Places of Interest

Château d'Azay-le-Rideau • This early 16th-century château was built on the site of an old stronghold. It is beautifully situated on an island in the Indre River. You can see furnished rooms and a fine collection of Flemish tapestries from the 16th and 17th centuries (open daily, *A). An excellent son-et-lumière is held in the châteaux grounds on summer evenings.

Château de Chaumont • Beautifully situated on a cliff with tremendous views over the Loire. Rebuilt in the 15th century in Renaissance style, it has retained its fortress-like appearance. The majestic stables, built in the 19th century, are worth a visit (open daily, *A).

Château de Chenonceau • The arches of this 16th century Renaissance palace span the River Cher. The rooms are sumptuously furnished and contain some wonderful tapestries and paintings. You can canoe under the long gallery built over the river (open daily, *A). In July and August a son-et-lumière, 'Au temps des Dames de Chenonceau', reconstructs the major events of the château.

Château de Cheverny • Built in 17th century classical style. The descendants of the original owner still live here and have retained the furnishings and decoration. The château also houses a hunting museum (open daily, *A). A lengthy son-et-lumière performance with hunting as its theme and haunting sound effects is staged at 22.00 on the last three Saturdays in July and August.

Chinon • Chinon is an interesting small medieval town. At the château overlooking the town, Joan of Arc met Charles VII in 1429 and persuaded him to let her take command of an army to drive the English out of France. The château is mostly in ruins but the bell tower houses a small Joan of Arc Museum. The gardens can be visited and there is an excellent view of old Chinon from the ramparts (open daily, *A). The old town lies between the castle and the river and has cobbled streets lined with 15th and 16th century houses. Here, in August, you will find the Rabelais market, an old-style street fair with jugglers, fire-eaters and minstrels.

Château de Valençay • A 16th-century Renaissance castle with lavish furnishings and decoration. The grounds include a formal garden with statues, peacocks and an animal park. The museum in the château grounds exhibits cars and motorbikes dating from the late 19th century onwards. Valençay presents a son-et-lumière show from mid-July to late August (open daily, *A).

Vendôme • A picturesque town situated where the river Loire divides. Stroll through narrow streets admiring the medieval buildings, little bridges and

pretty waterside flower gardens. The 11th century castle is now in ruins but you can visit the gardens for great views.

Tours • The lively town of Tours has the cosmopolitan feel of Paris in miniature with wide avenues, formal gardens and streets lined with cafés. It has a lovely old quarter with half-timbered houses and interesting shops. The Cathédrale St-Gatien has superb 13th century stained-glass windows and contains a beautiful Renaissance marble tomb in memory of two of Charles VIII's children. In the Château Royal you will find a museum telling the history of the region using waxwork figures, and an aquarium with many tropical, sea and freshwater fish (open daily, *A). The Musée des Beaux-Arts displays work by Rubens, Rembrandt and Degas among others (*A). At the Église St-Julien there is a wine museum and another museum dedicated to the history of the craftsmen's guilds and their customs.

Château d'Ussé • The romantic architecture of this château is said to have given Charles Perrault the idea for Sleeping Beauty's castle. Built between the 15th and 17th centuries, it is a combination of Gothic and Renaissance styles. The rooms are furnished with tapestries and antiques, and waxwork displays illustrate the story of Sleeping Beauty. There is a delightful 16th-century chapel in the garden (open daily, *A).

Château de Villandry • This 16th century château is particularly noted for its spectacular Renaissance gardens. Restored to their original form in the early 20th century, the gardens are arranged in three tiers; the water garden, the ornamental and "love" garden, and the famous vegetable garden and ornamental flower beds (*A).

Loches • A well-preserved, fortified, medieval town picturesquely situated above the River Indre. The Château de Loches was once the residence of Charles VII and contains the alabaster tomb of his mistress Agnès Sorel. South of the citadel, the (keep) has impressive dungeons. From the ramparts there are great views of the town (*A).

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained within this guide, to the best of our knowledge, is both helpful and correct at time of going to press (March 2010). Canvas Holidays cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.