



Camping le Bois de Valmarie,

Le Racou, 66700 Argelès, France

T: +33 (0)4 68 81 09 92

F: +33 (0)4 68 95 80 58

GPS co-ordinates

Latitude: 42.5383

Longitude: 3.0517



Campsite Information

Camping le Bois de Valmarie, Argelès Plage

Camping le Bois de Valmarie is a small, relaxed campsite, with an amazing pool complex, just 100 yards from a beautiful beach. The terraced emplacements rise up the hillside towards the pool from where there are outstanding views over the bay of Argelès. The sandy beach of Le Racou is just metres away.

Arriving at Camping le Bois de Valmarie

Upon arrival at the site, you should go to the reception room situated at the front of the campsite next to the main 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

The campsite reception is open daily from 09.00 to 18.00 (€21.00 in high season), a night watchman is on duty between 20.00 and 08.00. Please note that for security reasons, you will be issued a wristband from reception, which needs to be worn during your stay at Camping le Bois de Valmarie.

Barrier

The barrier is closed between midnight and 07.00. If you plan to return late at night, or leave early in the morning, then you will have to leave your car outside.

Currency Exchange

This service is not available on site. There are several banks in Argelès Ville, which offer exchange facilities.

Safety Deposit Boxes

These may be rented at the campsite reception for approximately €3 per day or €20 per week.

Telephone

There is one card and one coin operated phone on the campsite. Phone cards are available from the campsite reception and the campsite shop.

Internet Access

There is internet access available at reception there is also WiFi available on site in the bar or on the terrace by the telephones.

Shopping

There is a small size shop on site, which sells a variety of produce including fresh bread, fresh fruit and vegetables, souvenirs and wine. The shop is open seven days a week from 08.00 to 12.00 and 17.00 to 19.00.

Washing and Toilet Facilities

Washing machines and tumble dryers (tokens available from reception, priced €5.20 and €4.20 respectively) iron hire, free hot showers, wash cubicles, baby bath, baby toilets and standard toilets.

Post

There is a post box at the entrance to the site. Stamps are sold at the shop and reception.

Eating and Drinking

Main Bar: The main bar is located at the front of the site and has a dartboard and wide screen television. There is also an outside terrace. Open daily from 09.00 to midnight. Please check opening hours in low season.



Beaches

Le Racou beach is just 100 metres from the site. It is wide and long, but shelves quite steeply. The beach at Argelès Plage is extremely popular and has numerous bars and restaurants lining the sea front. The beaches at Canet and Ste Marie are more suitable for young children as they shelf gently into the Mediterranean. In complete contrast, the rocky and varied coastline where the Pyrénées meets the Mediterranean, produces beaches such as Collioure, Cerbère and Banyuls sur Mer that form the Cote Vermeille. Filled with rock pools and rugged rock formations, they make for an interesting beach experience including snorkelling and net fishing.

Poolside Snack and Drinks Bar: Located within the pool complex, this bar serves light refreshments and is open the same hours as the pool.

Takeaway: The takeaway is open from 12.00 to 15.00 and from 18.00 to 22.00, and serves a good variety of popular dishes, including burgers, ribs, pizzas, chips and chicken.

Restaurant: The rustic on-site restaurant is highly recommended by Canvas customers. The food has an international flavour with a great choice of dishes and all at reasonable prices. There is a special menu for children and high chairs are available. The restaurant is open from 12.00 to 15.00 and from 18.00 to 22.00.

Recreation

Swimming: The impressive pool complex is surrounded by a sunbathing terrace and offers magnificent views over the bay of Argelès. It is open daily between 09.00 and 19.00 and comprises three pools linked by waterfalls and water chutes. There is also a separate children's pool. The pools are supervised in high and low season; however, all children should be accompanied by an adult. Please remember that you will need to wear your wristband to gain access, and no shoes are to be worn around the pool.

Scuba Diving: The scuba diving team are based at Camping la Sirène. Courses can be booked on Valmarie but take place at Sirène's pool and then continues out at sea. Please ask on site for more information.

Bicycle Hire: Bicycles can be hired in high season. Please ask your courier for details.

Table tennis: Table tennis is available for free on site – have a look in the Canvas games chest for equipment.

There is also a children's playground and a games room, as well as an area for playing boules.

Rules and Regulations

- Silence and no driving on site from 23.00 to 07.00.
- Charcoal BBQ's are forbidden on site.
- Campsite wristbands must be worn at all times.
- The one-way system must be followed.
- 10km per hour speed limit on site.

Local Information

Shopping

Supermarkets: The nearest supermarket is Lidl in Argelès Ville, open Monday to Friday 09.00 to 12.15 and 14.30 to 19.15, Saturday from 09.00 to 19.30. Carrefour ia also available in Argelès Ville and is open Monday to Saturday, 09.00 to 20.00 and Sunday 09.00-12.00.

Souvenirs: The Argelès area has a good range of craft and gift shops and Collioure is well worth a shopping trip for local art and wines.

Local Markets

Monday: Elné
Tuesday: St Cyprien, Sorède, Canet and Les Bacares
Wednesday: Elné, Collioure, Canet and Argelès Ville
Thursday: Banyuls-sur-Mer, St André and Canet
Friday: St Cyprien, Sorède, Elné and St Genis des Fontaines
Saturday: Port Vendres, St André, Canet, Cèret and Argelès Ville
Sunday: Collioure, Banyuls-sur-Mer, Elné and Canet

Markets are held every morning in Perpignan both on Place des Poilus and Place de la République. There is also a craft market held every evening from 17.00 until midnight during high season in Argelès Plage at Parking les Plantanes.

Facilities

Petrol: Fuel is available from most of the supermarkets in the area, where you will usually find that it is cheaper than the petrol stations.

Chemist: The nearest chemist is in Argelès Plage. It is open Monday-Friday, 09.00 to 12.00 and 15.00 to 18.00.

Bank: Most of the major banks are represented in Argelès Ville, complete with cash dispensers. The nearest is in Argelès-Port.

Post Office: The main post office is in Argelès Ville, and there is a 'summer' post office in Argelès Plage, on avenue du Grau.

Web/Internet Access: There is internet access available in cafes all over Argeles plage. The prices are more expensive here around €5 an hour.

Tourist Information: The main tourist bureau is at Place de l'Europe in Argelès Plage. It is open daily in high season from 08.30 to 20.00. In low season the hours are 09.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday, and 09.00 to 12.00 on Saturday.

Distances

Racou,	0,5 miles
Collioure:	6km (4 miles).
Aquarium, Banyuls sur mer,	16km (10 miles).
Perpignan:	27km (17 miles).
Cadaques,	64km (40 miles).

Local Transport

A tourist train runs a frequent service between the major campsites and Argelès Plage and Ville in high season, and stops right outside the campsite. There is a train station in Argelès with connections to Perpignan, Narbonne, Port Bou and Spain.

Doctor

A doctor visits the site daily from 1st July until 30 August.

There is a doctor's surgery at 20 Ave du Tech, Argelès Plage.

Tel: 04 68 81 62 67.



Dentist

A dental practice can also be located at 20 Ave du Tech in Argelès Plage.
Tel: 04 68 81 02 15.

Emergency Services

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

Police	17
Fire	18
Ambulance	15

Hospital

Perpignan Hospital, Marechal Joffre, 20 Av. Languedoc, Perpignan.
Tel: 04 68 61 66 33

Eating and Drinking

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

L'Oasis: *In Racou.* Serves local cuisine and offers panoramic beach views.

Menja AQUI: *In Racou.* A lively terraced bar/restaurant that specialises in Tapas.

Le Bleu Marine: *In Port Argelès.* Seafood is the speciality and there are lovely views over the port. Reservations are advised and service is fantastic.

Restaurant le Manurera: *In Argeles Port.* This is a seafood restaurant that looks out over the Mediterranean and has a warm, cosy atmosphere and a Catalan feel.

The Flowers • In Argelès Ville. A quaint little place with bilingual staff. Great inexpensive set menus with a range of other meat dishes and crêpes.

Nearby

The site is just metres from the quaint fishing village of Le Racou with its bars, small restaurants and pizzeria. The vibrant beach resort of Argelès is a five minute drive away. The local area is reputed for its wine production, visit some of the co-operative wine cellars in Argelès, such as Cave Compristo on Avenue Libération, Cave Coopérative on Route de Sorède or Cave Deprade on the D914. Just around the headland is the sheltered Catalan harbour of Collioure with quaint, cobbled streets and fortress, and Perpignan is only 27km (17miles) away.

Activities

All manner of watersports are available at Argelès Plage. From Argelès Port you can take a boat trip along the coast to Spain. Go-karting is available in Argelès Plage, just behind the Luna Park amusements. A fifteen minutes' drive will take you to Aqualand where families will enjoy a great day out.

Perpignan • Once the second city of Catalonia, this lively and attractive city has preserved its folklore and traditions. The Spanish influence is evident in the imposing Palais des Rois de Majorque built in the 13th century. Le Castillet, in the centre of the town, is a little 14th century castle of pink brick. A wonderful panoramic view can be had from its terrace. It now houses the Casa Pairal, a museum devoted to Catalan art and traditions. The Cathédrale de St-Jean, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries, contains a dramatic 14th century wooden sculpture named the Dévot Christ, and other beautiful pieces.

Collioure • Just around the headland is the sheltered Catalan harbour of Collioure with quaint, cobbled streets and fortress, once the home of the painters Matisse and Picasso. A picturesque fishing village which has attracted many more artists over the years. The Château Royal is an impressive fortress and the former residence of the Kings of Majorca and Aragon. It now serves as a museum of modern painting and sculpture.

Elné • An attractive town built on a tiny hill, just 6km from the sea. Visit the fortified, partly Romanesque Cathedral of St Eulalie. The cloister displays beautifully carved motifs of lions, goats, foliage and biblical figures.

Cèret • An important artistic centre, with Picasso and Braque making it the capital of Cubism. The Musée d'Art Moderne displays works by Matisse, Chagal, Maillol, Dali, Miro and many others (open daily).



Regional Information

Languedoc Roussillon

With a long coast of beaches lapped by the warm Mediterranean and 300 days of sunshine, this area has become a popular tourist destination. There are excellent coastal resorts and spectacular beauty spots. Languedoc-Roussillon stretches from the mouth of the Rhône river, down through marshes and lagoons, to the Pyrénées. In Roussillon, vast vineyards produce more than half the wines consumed in France.

Things to do and see

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

Family Fun

Leisure Parks

Aqualand • A fabulous waterpark with a huge variety of slides, and bumper boats. In St-Cyprien Plage (Open daily, *A).

Luna Park • In the months of July and August, Luna Park fairground opens for all the family. It's free entry into the park with over 20 attractions to choose from, costing approx €2-5 per ride. Luna Park is situated just along the road from our campsite and opens from 20.30 until 01.00.

Wildlife Attractions

Port-Canet Aquarium • See marine life from five continents, including sharks, piranhas, tropical fish, turtles and more. Small and friendly. In Canet-Plage (*A).

Réserve Africaine de Sigean • Wild animals roam free in this safari park. The Nature Discovery Trail takes about two hours to complete. 15km (9 miles) south of Narbonne (Open daily, *A).

Le Jardin d'Ariane • This huge maize maze in Sainte Marie Village, north of Canet Plage, is a test of direction, logic and observation – and perhaps luck! Throughout the labyrinth, characters will either guide you in the right direction or confuse even the strongest willed. The relaxing bar awaits, once the task is complete (*A).

Le Tropic du Papillon • A butterfly farm with many different types of butterfly, originating mainly from Ethiopia, Indonesia, Australia and tropical regions. You may be lucky enough to have one land on you. In Elne (*A).

The Valley of the Tortoises • With over 40 diverse species of tortoise. To enjoy the park at its best, it is recommended that you visit the park at the times that correspond with the animal activity from season to season. In the spring and the autumn time, visit late morning or mid afternoon; - in the summer, make your visit early morning or late afternoon. Located at Sorède, 20km (12 miles) from Perpignan (*A).

Caves

Grottes des Grandes Canalettes • Spectacular caves adorned with stalactites and stalagmites. There is a son et lumière show held in July and August. 1km (0.6 miles) from Villefranche de Conflent (*A).

Museums

Musée de Tautavel • In 1971 excavations revealed the skull of one of the oldest Europeans known to date, 450,000 years old. The l'Homme de Tautavel, and an impressive number of other relics from the Stone Age, may be seen in this modern museum. In Tautavel (Open daily, *A).

Caves Byrrh • These amazing cellars founded in 1866 are dedicated to the production of aperitifs.



Visit the station concourse created by G. Eiffel's workshops. Admire the 800 huge casks – but, most importantly, discover the biggest oak vat in the world, holding 1,000,200 litres. The visit ends with a free wine tasting session. In Thuir (*A).

Places of Interest

North of Perpignan

Carcassonne • The wonderful 'pink' castle and fortified town of Carcassonne, featured in the film 'Robin Hood – Prince of Thieves' is a delight to wander through. Divided into two parts by the River Aude, the newer Ville Basse is an agricultural centre while La Cité is a powerfully fortified medieval city. The original fortress was built by the Romans, and sections of the wall date back to the 1st century. Cars are not permitted in Le Cité, so park outside the walls. Inside the walls you may visit the 12th century Château Comtal (*A). The Cathédrale de St-Nazaire, dating from the 11th and 12th centuries, has some beautiful stained-glass windows. Carcassonne is truly impressive at night when it is spectacularly illuminated, totally dominating the surrounding countryside.

Narbonne • Make a day trip to this quiet provincial town to look at its Roman ruins and Gothic cathedral, and use as a base for exploring the vast surrounding wine-growing area. The pretty Canal de Robine that joins the Canal du Midi runs through the centre of the city. The covered market, Les Halles, is close by. Nearby is the Etang de Bage et de Sigean, a lagoon much frequented by flamingos.

South of Perpignan

Banyuls • A picturesque little wine producing town. Try a guided tour of Cellier des Templier, one the larger wine cellars.

Castelnou • A feudal complex with a 10th century castle and fortified village, south-west of Perpignan. There is a great view of Pic du Canigou from the battlements.

Ile-sur-Têt • Sculpted by winds and storms in a sedimentary plateau over two million years old, "the Organs" are a spectacular sight. Ile-sur-Têt also houses the Centre d'Art Sacré where you can discover a feminine theme in Catalan artistic heritage. Good value for money (*A).

Prades • A charming market town 40km west of Perpignan on the N116. Prades also makes a good base for walkers wishing to make the difficult climb to Pic du Canigou (2,784m). There is a walk up to the Cholet Hotel des Cortalets and then down from the

Ras de la Cortalets (approximately 4 hours) but you need a good constitution and good weather. Worth it for the fabulous views.

Villefranche-de-Conflent • A superb fortified village on the banks of the river Cady. You may visit the Fort through the underground passage or by mini-bus (open daily *A). Whilst in Villefranche, take a trip on the Petit Train Jaune (little yellow train), to enjoy the marvellous scenery in the upper valley of the Têt. The Grottes des Grandes Canalettes are worth a visit.

Pyrénées

Andorra • A tiny mountain sovereign state, 460 sq. km in size and 900m above sea level. Apart from its reputation as a shopper's paradise, it also has much to offer in the way of sightseeing.

Spain

Figueres • Situated just over the Spanish border. It has become famous through the work of artist Salvador Dali who lived, worked and died here. Well worth the hour's drive south towards Barcelona from the campsite. Alternatively, the coastal route is a beautiful drive but not recommended if family members suffer from travel sickness. Passports and a picture driving licence (or International Driving Permit) will be required to cross the border into Spain.

Le Perthus • On and over the border you will find a quaint but busy area of shops and outlets selling everything from pork to pencils. Worth a trip for good discounted alcohol, gifts and mountains of sweets for children. Perfume, tobacco and brand clothing are sold at reduced prices.

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.