



Camping le Ruisseau,

Route d'Arbonne, 64210 Bidart, France

T: +33 (0)5 59 41 94 50

F: +33 (0)5 59 41 95 73

GPS co-ordinates

Latitude: 43.4367

Longitude: -1.5678



Campsite Information

Camping le Ruisseau, Biarritz

Camping le Ruisseau is a woodland site with its own small lake, and is one of the liveliest campsites on the French Basque coast. Biarritz is one of the most fashionable beach resorts in Europe and is just ten minutes' drive up the coast from the site. The Spanish border is under half an hour's drive to the south.

Arriving at Camping le Ruisseau

On arrival please park in the car park opposite the site entrance. From there please go to the main campsite reception where you will be issued with a barrier key in return for a deposit of €20. You should then proceed 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

The campsite reception is open from 09.00 to noon and from 14.00 to 18.00 all season.

Barrier

The campsite barrier is open from 07.00 to 23.00.

Currency Exchange

Money and Travellers Cheques (5% commission) can be exchanged at the campsite reception.

Telephone

There are two card-phones on site, phone cards can be purchased from the campsite reception.

Web/Email Access

Internet access is available in the bar, you will need a phone card to access the service. Phone cards cost €4.50 for 30 minutes and €7.50 for one hour.



Shopping

There is a shop on site, which is open from 08.00 until 19.30 in high season and from 08.00 to 12.00 and 16.00 to 19.00 in low season. These hours may change in low season. The shop sells basic provisions, fresh bread, international newspapers and toys.

Washing and Toilet Facilities

Washing machines and tumble dryers (machines are coin operated and cost €4 for a washing machine and €2 for a tumble dryer), free hot showers, free iron hire, washing cubicles with hot water, baby bath, standard and continental toilets.

Post

There is a post box at reception with a daily collection. Stamps and postcards can be purchased at reception.

Eating and Drinking

Bar: The on-site bar is open from 12.00 to 14.00 and 18.00 to 23.30 and has satellite television.

Restaurant: Located inside the bar, this is a table and self service restaurant with a wide choice of dishes and a daily 'plat du jour', all at reasonable prices. There is a large outdoor terrace. The restaurant is open from noon until 14.00 and from 18.00 until 21.30. These time will vary in low season.

Takeaway: Dishes served in the restaurant are also available to take away.

Entertainment

The site organises events in high season such as live music, disco nights, karaoke, quizzes and bingo. The site also organise sports competitions and



tournaments in high season. Please ask on site for an up to date animations programme.

Recreation

Swimming: The pool complex has two swimming pools (one of which is covered and heated), a children's pool and water slides. The pool is supervised in high season and is open from 10.00 to 19.00 throughout the season. Please note that only children over 8 years old can use the water slides. There is a charge payable for using the indoor pool in July and August of €2 per person for entry in the morning and €4 per person in the afternoon. The area includes a lazy river and Jacuzzi. This pool can be used free of charge in May, June and September, and the outdoor pool area can be used free of charge throughout the season.

Fitness: There is a gym on site with a sauna, a solarium and a Jacuzzi. There is a charge to use these services in high season - please see your courier for further details.

Tennis: Tennis courts can be hired at the campsite reception, it costs €6.50 per hour in high season.

Bicycles: These can be hired during high season from site, prices vary - please check with your courier.

Mini Golf: Mini golf is available throughout the season for a small charge per person.

There are also facilities on site for table-tennis, basketball, fishing and football, volleyball, all available free of charge. There is also a children's playground on site and a games room with computer games.

Rules and Regulations

- Silence and no driving on site between 23.00 and 07.00.
- 10km/ph speed limit on site.
- T-shirts are not permitted in the swimming pools.
- All used glass containers to be placed in the recycling bin.
- Water slides for use by those aged 8 years and over.
- Only one car per emplacements.
- Children must be accompanied to the wash blocks.
- No alcohol outside the bar or your pitch



Local Information

Shopping

Supermarket: The nearest supermarket is the Intermarché on the N10 in the direction of Anglet, open Monday to Saturday from 08:30 - 19:30 and Sundays from 09.00 - 13.00 in high season. These hours may be shortened in low season. Opposite is a LIDL supermarket. If you take the short drive across the Spanish border and turn off the motorway at Junction 2 (signposted Hondarribia) you will come to an Alcampo hypermarket, a Decathlon and a McDonalds, all with prices well below those in France. There is a branch of E. Leclerc in Anglet, open 08.30 - 20.30 from Monday to Saturday.

Souvenirs: There are numerous gift shops in Biarritz and Bayonne or you can take a trip to Arcachon.

Local Markets

Monday: St Jean-Pied-de-Port.

Tuesday: St Jean-de-Luz, Bayonne, Oloron, Orthez and fortnightly in Iholdy and Hasparren.

Wednesday: Espelette (fortnightly) and Hendaye.

Thursday: Bayonne, St Pee-sur-Nivelle, and fortnightly in Dax.

Friday: St Jean-de-Luz, Oloron and fortnightly in Morlaas and St Palais.

Saturday: Bidart, Bayonne, Hendaye, Dax, Urt and Sauveterre-de-Bearn.

Sunday: Oloron.

Facilities

Petrol: The Intermarché sells fuel; this is also the nearest 24-hour service. You will generally find that fuel is cheaper at the supermarkets in France.

Chemist: The nearest pharmacy is the Pharmacie du Centre in Bidart. It is open from 08.30 until 19.30 from Monday to Friday and 08.30 until noon on Saturdays.

Bank: The nearest bank is the Crédit Agricole in Bidart. It is open from Monday to Friday from 09.30 until 12.30 and from 14.30 until 19.30. The Intermarché supermarket also has a cash dispenser.

Post Office: The nearest post office to the campsite is in Bidart. It is open from Monday to Friday from 09.00 until noon and from 14.00 until 16.30. It is also open on Saturday morning from 09.00 until noon.

Tourist Information: The nearest tourist information office is in Bidart. It is open daily from 09.00 until 19.00 in high season.

Distances

Bidart:	2km (1 miles)
Biarritz:	6km (3.6 miles)
Bayonne:	17km (11 miles)
St Jean-de-Luz:	10km (6 miles)
Pyrenees National Park:	194km (153 miles)

Local Transport

The nearest train station to the campsite is Biarritz with good connections to other towns in France and to Spain. There are frequent bus services running along the N10 between Bayonne and St Jean-de-Luz. Please check for timetables at the main reception and at the Canvas reception.

Doctor

Dr Chambre Muriel
Rue Errétéguia,
64210 Bidart.
Tel: 05 59 54 93 08

Dentist

Dr De Poutier and Dr Frouart
Rue Tarte Berria,
64210 Bidart.
Tel: 05 59 54 93 54



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 that have been recommended by Canvas customers and couriers in previous years:

Auberge Fleuri, Arbonne. Traditional French menu, recommended for families with small children.

Eskualduna, Arbonne. Great food from a varied menu - highly recommended in the past.

Les Dunes, Bidart. Seafood dishes are this restaurant's speciality.

Petit Grill Basque, St Jean de Luz. Paella is the speciality at this restaurant.

Hotel Ypua, Bidart. Inexpensive regional specialities; this restaurant is highly recommended.

Buffalo Grill, on the N10 between campsite and Bidart. An American-style steak house with value-for-money set menus for adults and children.

La Pizzeria, Bidart. Great selection of pizzas and pasta dishes. Wonderful view from the terrace.

This is an excellent area for dining out with plenty of restaurants offering regional Basque specialities and seafood.

Beaches

The nearest beach is Bidart, a ten minute drive or forty minute walk from the campsite. It is quite small but wide and sandy. There are many other sandy bays along this coastline. The Grand Plage of Biarritz is a long, sweeping beach, which hosts the world surfing championships in August. Because of the strong currents this beach is not suitable for small children.

St Jean-de-Luz has fine, sandy beaches, as does Hendaye, which are more suitable for children. From Hossegor to the Spanish border there are long sandy beaches but take care as there can be strong undertows.

Activities

Water sports dominate the area, with centres providing surfing equipment and boat hire, jet-skiing water-skiing and so on, dotted along the coast. Golfing, horse riding and even micro-lighting are also available in the proximity. Have a look through the Local Information Folder in the Canvas reception for more details.

If you feel like being pampered, why not try one of the 30 spa/thalasso establishments between Lourdes

and Hendaye. Minerals in the hot or warm natural spring water are said to relieve or cure a variety of ailments.

Nearby

Bidart • This is the nearest village to the campsite and only a 25 minute walk away. Here you will find all your basic necessities and a small market that is held on Saturday mornings.

Biarritz • Biarritz was a whaling port until Eugénie de Montijo, the future wife of Napoleon III, launched a fashion for sea bathing. From then on it became a playground for the rich and aristocratic. For a tremendous view of the sunsets, for which the area is famous, go to the Rocher de la Vierge (the Virgin's Rock). This rocky spire, with a statue of the virgin on it, is connected to the shore by a footbridge. Legend has it that sailors who were caught in a storm sent a prayer to the Virgin and promised her that they would put a statue in her honour on top of the rock if they reached the shore. The Port des Pêcheurs, the old harbour, gives a glimpse of the Biarritz of old.

St Jean-de-Luz • South of Bidart lies the fishing town of St Jean-de-Luz. Based around a small harbour it is one of the most Basque towns north of the Spanish border. St Jean-de-Luz is home to one of France's largest and finest Basque churches, Église St Jean Baptiste. It was here that Louis XIV and Maria Teresa were married. It is well known as an active fishing port with large catches of sardines, anchovies and tuna, all of which are available fresh in the town's cafes and restaurants.



Regional Information

South West France

The Landes Pine Forest stretches almost 100 miles, as far as the coastal resort of Biarritz. Further south lies the Basque country, where forests and pastures meet the dramatic coastline and where the Basques have kept their own language, traditions and cultures.

The Pyrénées form an impressive backdrop and act as a natural border and barrier between France and Spain. The French Pyrénées can be divided into three areas. The Pays-Basque and Roussillon occupy the west and east ends respectively and the real mountains lie in the centre, forming the southern wall of the Midi-Pyrénées départements. This is an area of unspoilt and breathtaking natural beauty.

Eating & Drinking – Regional Specialities

In Basque country the cooking is spicy due to a sauce made from hot red peppers, piment d'Espelette.

Combined with tomatoes, onions and eggs it is the basis of piperade, which is served with the local ham. Combined with chicken, tomatoes and onions, it becomes Poulet Basquaise.

For dessert try Gâteau Basque, an almond-flavoured tart served with cream or jam. A rather sharp cider is made called Pittaria, and a herb-flavoured liqueur called Izarra is also popular.

In the Pyrénées, accompany your meal with wine from Jurançon. Sweet Jurançon is served as an aperitif, while the dry whites best accompany fish dishes. After your meal have a glass of Armagnac, and as an apéritif try a floc de Gascogne, a mixture of Armagnac and fresh grape-juice.

Things to do and see

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

Family Fun

Le Petit Train d'Artouste • Board the little train which runs along a narrow-gauge railway through the Ossau Valley for some breathtaking views. At the journey's end a 15-minute walk leads you to Artouste Lake. In Artouste-Fabrège, off the D934, approx. 50km south of Pau (open daily, *A).

Le Petit Train de la Rhune • Enjoy a recommended trip on the 'Petit Train de la Rhune' and see both the French and Spanish coastlines as well as across the Pyrénées themselves. In high season, the station opens at 8:30am and the first departure is at 10am, and every 30 minutes thereafter. The last departure is around 5pm. There is also a path leading to the summit for the more adventurous, which takes two and a half hours up and two hours to walk down (*A).

Musée de la Mer • Discover the Bay of Biscay's marine fauna in 24 oceanariums, one of which provides a superb sub-aqua view of the seal's pool. In Biarritz (open daily, *A).

Chocolate museum • This museum is situated on Avenue Beau Rivage in Biarritz and offers the chance to learn more about the making of chocolate as well as picking up a few souvenirs from the gift shop. As well as displays there are also opportunities for tasting along the way. (open daily *A).

Adrénaline Park • An adventure park near Moliets. It has tree-top walks with rope bridges, swings and monkey bars. There is also the opportunity to take part in other activities such as paint-balling and quad biking. (open daily *A).

Grottes d'Isturitz et d'Oxocelhaya • In the Basque country, 45km from Biarritz, these caves are situated between Saint-Palais and Hasparren. Evidence of occupation by prehistoric man can be seen in

the higher chamber (Isturitz). Oxocelhaya is more beautiful, with well-lit stalactites and stalagmites. In St-Martin d'Arberoque (*A).

Museums

Landes Éco-musée • Part of the Landes Regional Park, this museum in Marquèze gives a fascinating all round view of pastoral life and ecology of the area during the last century. A train with traditional carriages leaves from Sabres to Marquèze (open daily, *A).

Places of Interest

Bayonne • On the borders of Landes and Basque Country, Bayonne has a wealth of medieval architecture and colourful Basque style streets. Bullfights and pelota games enliven the local scene. The main object of pelota is to hit a hard ball against a wall, in pairs or groups. It is reputedly the fastest ball game in the world. The Fête de Bayonne, held in late July, is the largest and one of the best-known festivals in the area. Bayonne was once a heavily fortified town. You can walk along the ramparts to view the city and surrounding area. Visit the Musée Bonnat, which has a fine collection of 19th-century paintings, including work by Rubens, El Greco, Goya and Degas (*A).

Dax • This historic city has been famous for 2000 years for the curative properties of its hot springs and mud baths. According to legend, the Emperor Augustus brought his daughter Julia here for a rheumatic cure. The most impressive sight in Dax is the hot spring itself, the largest of its kind in France. The 11th-century church of St Paul-les-Dax has interesting exterior relief carvings of dragons and other beasts. Take a walk along the banks of the Adour through the colourful public gardens.

St Etienne-de-Baigorry • Lovers of wine and food should not miss this charming village on the scenic route through the beautiful Vallée des Aldudes. It is a well-known gastronomic centre and is an ideal place to taste the delicious Irouléguay wines and sheep's milk and cheeses for which it is known.

Arcachon • A popular boating centre and a major European centre for oyster farming. The town was formerly divided into four quarters named after the seasons of the year and still has distinctly summer and winter areas. You can sail from here to the oyster beds, Île aux Oiseaux (Bird's Island) and Cap Ferret. The cliff road to the south will bring you to the exclusive resort of Pyla-sur-Mer, renowned for having the highest sand dune in Europe. The Dune du Pilat is over 100m high and over 3km long. After climbing the 190 steps you have a magnificent view of the Arcachon basin and children can enjoy the safe slide down the dune.



San Sebastian • Just over the border into Spain lies this beautiful city, perhaps one of the most glamorous in Spain. The old town has winding streets with shops selling local produce and nicknacks, and bars serving tapas. In the old town is the architecturally breathtaking San Vincent's Church. Also in the old town is Constitution Square, the peacefulness of it is deceiving, because the numbered rooms were once boxes for people to watch bullfighting! Climb Mount Urgull, by the bay, for fantastic views over La Concha bay and the city.

Pamplona • The drive to Pamplona, through the Pyrénées, is magnificent. Set in deepest Basque country, Pamplona is an historical gem. The town is probably most famous for its July bull-run, an event where the young men of the city are chased by bulls, through the narrow streets. It has a colourful history, which is probably best seen through its churches and museum.

Lourdes • In 1858, Bernadette Soubirous, daughter of a poor family saw a series of visions of the virgin Mary. Now, over 5 million pilgrims descend on Lourdes every year many seeking cures for ailments or disabilities. You can visit the grotto where Mary is claimed to have appeared, several basilicas and museums.



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 the time of going to press (March 2010). Canvas Holidays cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.