



### **Camping le Vieux Port**

Plage Sud, 40660 Messanges, France

**T:** + 33 (0)8 25 70 40 40

**F:** + 33 (0)5 58 48 01 69

### **GPS co-ordinates**

Latitude: 43.7978

Longitude: -1.4011



# Campsite Information

## Messanges

Camping le Vieux Port is a lively site located a short walk from the lakeside resort of Port d'Albret. Set in a fragrant pine forest the campsite offers first class facilities for all the family, the main attraction being the superb pool complex. Located at the entrance to the campsite, it features indoor and outdoor pools, waterslides, jacuzzi and wave pools as well as a separate paddling pool for the children.

### Arriving at Camping le Vieux Port

On arrival please go to the campsite reception. Here you will be directed to the Canvas reception. Your couriers will be there 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 between 09:00 and 09:30 the following day. Customers are however requested to inform the campsite management about any delay.

### Reception

The campsite reception is open from 08:30 – 12:30 and 14:00 – 17:00 in low season and 08:00 – 20:00 in high season. The reception staff speak English. At reception you can hire a safety deposit box, buy washing tokens and access the internet. You can also use the photocopying and fax service.

### Barrier

The barrier is open from 06:00 – 23:00. A barrier card is required to gain access inside these hours. If you wish to leave outside these hours, you will have to leave your car outside the barrier, while the gates are open.

### Post Box

There is a post box close to the supermarket on site.

### Photocopy / Fax

There is a photocopy and fax service at the campsite reception. Fax's cost €1 per page to receive and €2 per page to send. To photocopy it will cost you €0.30 per page.

### Safety Deposit Boxes

There are safety deposit boxes available on site costing €3 per day or €20 for a week.

### Telephone

There are public telephones booths located in front of the campsite reception.

### Internet Access

There is WIFI access on site available in certain areas. Wifi costs €10 for half a day (6 hours) or €20 per week (7 days). Computer terminals are also available for you to access the internet. The price depends on duration of use. The terminals are operated by euro coins.

### Shopping

There is a large Spar supermarket on site which sells basic provisions including newspapers and post cards. The supermarket is open from 01/05 to 15/09.



### Washing and Toilet Facilities

There are washing and drying machines on site. Machines are operated with coins and cost €4 per wash and €2 per dry. Machines are located in the violet, orange, and yellow zones in the campsite. An iron is available for loan with a €20 deposit.

### Eating and Drinking

**Bar / Restaurant / Take away:** These facilities are available on site. Please see your couriers or the campsite reception for details of opening hours.

### Entertainment

There is evening entertainment / activities on site during July and August. The selection ranges from live music and shows to cabaret. Please note that there will be no evening entertainment in low season.

### Recreation

**Swimming:** Camping le Vieux Port has a superb pool complex which features indoor and outdoor pools, waterslides, Jacuzzi and wave pools as well as a separate paddling pool for the children. Parent's supervision is required in the pool complex as the campsite has no pool guards. The pools are open 10:00 – 18:00 in low season and till 20:00 in high season. Swimming trunks must be worn in the pool

**Waterslides:** Waterslides are only open on Saturday and Sundays before the 13th June. Slides open daily from 14th June. Opening times in low season are restricted to between 14:00 – 17:00. During high season slides are open 11:30 – 18:30.

**Cycling:** You can hire mountain and children's bikes on the campsite. Please ask at the campsite reception for more information.

**Beach:** The campsite has direct access to a lovely, sandy beach with beautiful crystal clear waters.

**Tennis:** There are three tennis courts on site which are free of charge in low season but a charge does apply in high season.

**Table Tennis:** Five table tennis tables are available on site.

**Riding school:** Horse riding and pony rides are available on site. Please check with your couriers or the campsite reception for further information.

**Surfing school:** Surfing and body boarding lessons are available in July and August. Please check with your couriers or the campsite reception for further information.

**Mini golf:** the excellent mini golf course is available all season.

Other activities on site include volleyball, boules / petanque, two football fields and two basketball courts.

### Rules and Regulations

- There is a speed limit of 10km on site
- No barbecues are allowed on the campsite.
- Maximum party size of six.
- Only one car per emplacement is allowed.
- Swimming trunks are obligatory in the pool.
- Inflatables are not permitted in the pool.
- Age restrictions apply for waterslides (10+).



# Local Information



## Shopping

**Supermarkets:** Apart from the shop on site you will find a larger supermarket five minutes drive from site. There are a variety of supermarkets in Soustons including a Fredenco and a Lidl. A large Leclerc can be found in Cambreton on Rue des Ecureuils.

**Souvenirs:** There are plenty of small shops to buy souvenirs in the local towns of Soustons and Cambreton.

## Local Markets

**Monday:** Soustons.  
**Tuesday:** Cambreton, Moliets (HS), Seignosse le Penon (HS) and Vieux Boucau.  
**Wednesday:** Messanges (HS) and Seignosse Bourg.  
**Thursday:** Cambreton, Magescq, Moliets (HS), Seignosse le Penon and Saint Paul les Dax.  
**Friday:** Vieux Boucau (HS).  
**Saturday:** Dax, Messanges, Moliets (HS) and Vieux Boucau.  
**Sunday:** Cambreton, Dax and Seignosse le Penon.

## Facilities

**Tourist Information:** There is a tourist information office in Messanges on route des Lacs.

**Fuel:** Fuel can be purchased in Soustons. You may find that fuel is cheaper at large supermarkets.

**Chemist:** There is a chemist in Soustons.

**Bank:** In Soustons and Cambreton there are major banks with cash dispensers.

**Post Office:** The nearest post office is in Soustons.

## Distances

Soustons	12km (8 miles)
Cambreton	21km (13 miles)
Biarritz	73km (45 miles)
Bordeaux	161km (100 miles)

## Local Transport

The nearest train station is in Rion des Landes.

## Doctor

The nearest doctor's surgery is 3km away, please ask your couriers for more information.

## Hospital

There is a hospital in carbonia (23km from site).

## Emergency Services

There are three digit emergency numbers for each of the emergency services:

Police	17 / 112
Fire	18 / 112
Ambulance	15 / 112

## Nearby

Messanges is located equally between Vieux Boucau and Moliets and relies upon its tourist trade in the summer months and farming and forestry industry.

Moliets is split into two areas, the Plage and centre ville. The centre ville is called Moliets et Maa and is a traditional example of architecture in the landes. The moliets plage has been sculptured using as many of the original pine forest and other scrubs and trees to engance the natural beauty of the village.

Vieux Boucau has an ancient centre around the Church which is surrounded by a modern exterior. The "Lac Marin de Port d'Albret" is a large salt water lake which is fed naturally by the sea. This lake is ideal for watersports as it keeps a high water level due to a tidal control sluice which is located at the estuary. The dam at the estuary provides the final link in the chain allowing a full circuit to be walked or cycled finishing at your start point.

Soustons town is located around 7km inland from the coast and on the south end of Lac Marin de Pont d'Albret.

## Beaches

Most of the Cote Landes coastline is made up of glorious sandy beaches. Each main town has a supervised bathing area in high season, but these can often become very crowded therefore it is advisable to search for a quieter location up or down the coast. Along all stretches of the coastline is a haven for watersport enthusiasts making this area Europe's surfing capital.

The area is inundated with lakes which also offer a different type of beach as an alternative from the ocean. These are somewhat better for toddlers as the ocean beaches can be strong and unpredictable.



# 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 between France and Spain. The French Pyrénées can be divided into three areas. The Pays-Basque and Rousillon 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 and Drinking – Regional Specialities

In Basque country the cooking is spicy due to the 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 desert 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 is served as an aperitif, while the dry wines best accompany fish dishes. After your meal have a glass of Armagnac, and as an aperitif 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 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 08:30 and the first departure is at 10:00 and every 30 minutes thereafter. The last departure is around 17:00. 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).

**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. Aquatic Landes: This Water Parc is located 30km from site and is ideal for all the family and the best way to have fun in the sun. La Pinede des Singes: an area in the Landais pine forests set aside for monkeys to live freely. Walk through the forest to observe the monkeys.



## Outdoor Activities

**Golf** • This area is popular for golfing and has many courses which come highly rated. The international golf course at Moliets is located in the stunning natural environment and was designed to increase the tourist trade during the winter months.

**Horseback Riding** • You will find plenty equestrian centres in the area due to the ideal terrain which covers a lot of the Cote Landaise. There is a centre ideally located on site.

**Watersports** • Due to the vast amounts of coastline and strong winds, Messanges is ideal for windsurfing, kite surfing and other water sports.

## Places of Interest

**Bayonne** • On the borders of landes and Basque Country, Bayonne has a wealth of medieval architecture and colourful Basque style streets. Pelota games brighten 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.

**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 irouléguy wines, 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, Ile 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 Urgill, by the bay, for fantastic views over La Concha bay and the city.



*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 2009). Canvas Holidays cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.*