



### **Camping le Clarys Plage,**

Avenue des Épines,  
85160 St Jean de Monts, France

**T:** +33 (0)2 51 58 10 24

**F:** +33 (0)2 51 59 51 96

### **GPS co-ordinates**

Latitude: 46.7528

Longitude: -2.0144



# Campsite Information

## Camping le Clarys Plage, St Jean-Plage

Camping le Clarys Plage is a lively site located in the heart of the popular Vendée, close to St-Jean-de-Monts and a five walk from a golden sandy beach. The facilities are modern with a superb pool complex with water slides, jacuzzi, fountains and bridges. The bar terrace overlooks the pool perfect for relaxing in the day and the site of evening entertainment throughout the season.

### Arriving at Camping le Clarys Plage

On arrival go to the Canvas reception, your Canvas couriers will be here to meet you between 16.00 and 20.00. After you have been shown to your accommodation you will need to go to the campsite reception to collect bracelets. A deposit of €2 per person is payable for these. You need to wear the bracelets at all times. If possible please telephone the campsite and let them know if you are going to be late.

### 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.

### Reception

The Campsite Reception is open from 09.15 to 12.30 and 14.30 to 18.15. These hours may be shorter in low season. Here the staff speak French, German and English

### Barrier

The barrier is closed between 23.00 and 07.00. Should you wish to depart early in the morning or arrive back late at night please leave your car outside the barrier. The barrier operates by means of a pass code, which will be issued to you upon arrival.

### Currency Exchange

Exchange facilities are available at several banks in St Jean de Monts.



### Safety Deposit Boxes

Safety deposit boxes are available at reception at a cost of €3 per night.

### Telephone

There are pay phones on the campsite. Please ask your couriers for the location.

### Web/Email Access

There is free WiFi access available in the campsite bar. There is also internet access available at the library in St-Jean-de-Monts for around €5 an hour. There is a cyber cafe in St Jean and another in Orouet.

### Shopping

There is no shop on Camping le Clarys Plage. There is a well stocked Marché U supermarket just a short walk away. It opens Monday to Saturday 09.00 to 12.00 and 14.30 to 19.30 in low season. Hours are extended to 08.00 to 20.00 in high season. On Sundays it is open from 09.00 to 12.00.

### Washing and Toilet Facilities

Washing machine and tumble dryers operate by tokens which cost €4, free hot showers, baby room and standard toilets.

### Eating and Drinking

**Bar:** The bar is open daily from 09.00 until 01.00. These hours may be shorter in low season.

**Takeaway:** The takeaway is open from 10.00 until 00.00. Opening times may be shorter in low season.

**Restaurant:** Although Clarys Plage does not have a restaurant. There is a choice of restaurants just a short walk from site. Simply turn left and follow your nose.

### Entertainment

The site organises a variety of entertainment during high season. Events include bingo, disco nights, live music and cabaret. Please ask your couriers for an up to date animations programme.

### Recreation

**Swimming:** Camping le Clarys Plage has a fabulous pool complex with waterslides, a separate covered pool and a paddling pool. The pools are open from 10:30 until 20.00. Access to the pool area is gained with the bracelet that you must wear on site throughout your stay. During high season the site provides water aerobics sessions in the pool free of charge. Shoes, toys, food, smoking, jumping and running are not allowed in the pool area.

**Tennis:** There are tennis courts on site, which are available for use throughout the season at a cost of approx. €8 per hour in high season and €4.50 per hour in low season.

**Table tennis:** Table tennis is available in low and high season, free of charge.

**Boules/Petanque:** There is an area for playing boules onsite, free of charge.

**Games room:** There are electronic games in the campsite bar.

**Football and volleyball:** Sessions of football and volleyball are run by the campsite staff in high season.

### Canvas Active

Canvas Active is available at Camping le Clarys Plage. Canvas customers have researched golf courses in the local area. For further details please see the activities booklet, available to download from the Canvas webiste.

### Rules and Regulations

- Bracelets must be worn at all times.
- There is a speed limit of 10km per hour on the site.
- Swimming trunks are compulsory in the pool.
- One car only permitted per emplacement.
- You must be eight years old or more to ride the slide in the swimming pool.
- Swimming trunks are compulsory
- It is forbidden to use bangers or fireworks on site.



# Local Information

## Beaches

There is a safe, sandy beach just 15 minutes' walk from the campsite. St Jean de Monts beach is superb, with miles of soft sand and excellent watersports facilities. The sandy beaches of Sion sur l'Océan, St Gilles Croix de Vie and Les Sables d'Olonne are also within easy reach by car.

## Shopping

**Supermarkets:** There is a Marché U supermarket just a short walk from site. It opens Monday to Saturday 09.00 to 12.00 and 14.30 to 19.30 in low season and 08.00 to 20.00 in high season. On Sundays it is open from 09.00 to 12.00. Super U and Intermarché are located on the outskirts of St Jean de Monts, next door to each other. They are open Monday to Saturday from 08.45 to well past 19.00. On Sundays the Intermarché is open from 08.45 until 12.00. The nearest hypermarket is E.Leclerc in Challans (open 08.45 until 20.00).

**Souvenirs:** Shopping for gifts is fun in St Jean de Monts at the street stalls.

## Local Markets

**Monday:** Les Marines, Jard sur mer and Ile d'Yeu and Merlin Plage.

**Tuesday:** Challans, Clisson, Sion, Ile d'Yeu, Noirmoutier, La Tranche sur mer, Mortagne sur Sevre, Les Sables d'Olonne, La Roche sur Yon, L'Aiguillon sur mer and St. Gilles Croix de Vie.

**Wednesday:** Croix de Vie, Les Sables d'Olonne, St. Jean de Monts, Clisson, Ile d'Yeu, Barbâtre, Commequiers and Luçon.

**Thursday:** Brétignolles sur Mer, Talmont St Hilaire, St. Hilaire, St. Gilles Croix de Vie, Les Sables d'Olonne, La Roche sur Yon and Ile d'Yeu.

**Friday:** Brem sur Mer, Challans, Clisson, Sion, Les Sables D'Olonne, L'Aiguillon sur mer and Noirmoutier.

**Saturday:** Coëx, Croix de Vie, Les Sables d'Olonne, St. Jean de Monts, Commequiers, Challans, La Roche sur Yon Talmont St Hilaire, La Tranche sur mer and Luçon.

**Sunday:** Brétignolles sur Mer, St. Hilaire, Les Sables d'Olonne, Olonne sur mer, Notre Dame de Monts and St. Gilles Croix de Vie

## Facilities

**Petrol:** There is a Total garage in St Jean de Monts but fuel is cheaper at Super U or the Intermarché supermarket in St Jean de Monts.

**Chemist:** There is a chemist on Rue Général de Gaulle in St Jean de Monts.

**Bank:** There are branches of Crédit Agricole, CIC and Banque Populaire in St Jean de Monts, with cash dispensers.

**Post Office:** Post Offices can be found in St Jean de Monts, open 09.00 to 12.00.

**Web/Internet Access:** This facility is available at the library in St Jean de Monts and there are cyber cafés in St Jean de Monts and Orouet.

**Tourist Information:** The nearest tourist information office is at Plage de Sion but the one in St Jean de Monts, at the Palais de Congrès, has a better range of maps and guides.

## Distances

St Jean de Monts:	7km (4 miles)
St Hilaire de Riez:	7km (4 miles)
St Gilles Croix de Vie:	10km (6 miles)
Challans:	20km (13 miles)



## Local Transport

The nearest train station is in St Gilles Croix de Vie with services to Paris and Nantes.

The nearest bus stop is in St Jean de Monts, serving all local towns.

## Doctor

Dr Rabec, 133 Avenue d'Orouet in St Jean de Monts. Tel: 02 51 58 67 90.

## Dentist

M. Potereau, 8 Rue de la Plage, St Jean de Monts. Tel: 02 51 58 65 38  
Emergencies. Tel: 02 51 58 63 60.

## 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. All are in St Jean de Monts, unless otherwise stated.

**Chez Tante Paulette:** On Rue Neuve. This small, family-friendly restaurant specialises in fresh seafood dishes at reasonable prices.

**La Cloche d'Or:** At 26 Ave. des Tilleuls. The shellfish, especially crab, are particularly recommended. Indoor and outdoor seating is available and the set menus are of extremely good value.

**La Guillaume Tell:** On Avenue de la Plage. Local people flock to this informal brasserie, especially at lunchtime, for the tasty, good-value set menu.

**Crêperie Vendéenne:** 28, Esplanade de la Mer. Children are made welcome at this friendly crêperie which also serves fresh mussels and a range of grilled food.

**L'Alambic:** On Ave de la Mer. Tex Mex food, burgers and great salads are on offer at this lively, informal eatery with widescreen television and pool tables.

**Auberge la Chaumière:** In Orouet. Just five minutes from the campsite, you can choose to eat indoors or out in a woodland setting. Tasty regional cuisine with set menus available.

**Pub le Melanie:** located in St Jean de Monts serves British dishes including fish and chips and fantastic burgers. There is a children's menu and the staff are very friendly. English spoken.

## Activities

The Vendée boasts five 18-hole golf courses, including its newest at Talmont St Hilaire. A Vendée Golf Pass is available which entitles the bearer to one

round on each, plus a discount on further green fees. Golf clubs may be hired on the spot. Please see your Canvas activities booklet for more information.

## Nearby

**St-Jean-de-Monts** • In recent years St Jean de Monts has evolved from a small fishing village into a bustling cosmopolitan resort. The town boasts 8km of golden beaches, bordered by acres of dunes and pine forests.

**Sallertaine** • Near Challans, this pretty village is full of arts and crafts shops. Rent a canoe and spend a peaceful afternoon exploring the surrounding canals.

**St Gilles Croix de Vie** • An attractive, busy port renowned for sardines and anchovies. The Maison du Pêcheur is furnished with items from a typical local fisherman's home in the 1920's. There are several festivals during July and August. Check with the local Tourist Information Office for details.

**Ile-de-Noirmoutier** • You can access this island by bridge from Fromentine. However, it is more fun to use the Passage du Gois, a 5.5km causeway open at low tide. A blue-signposted 'Route de l'Île' guides cyclists and motorists on a 40km tour of the island with its attractive villages such as Le Vieil, La Blanche, Bois de la Chaise and the smart, bustling capital Noirmoutier-en-l'Île - a pretty place with an impressive château at its centre.

**St-Philbert-de-Grand-Lieu** • One of the oldest churches in France is situated in this picturesque village. The Abbatiale St-Philbert was built in 815, to hold the relics of their saint, by monks from Noirmoutier fleeing the Norman invasion. St Philbert's sarcophagus can be seen in the crypt. At the Maison de l'Avifaune du Lac you can learn about the birds that use the wetland habitat to the north (\*A).



# Regional Information

## Vendée

The Vendée makes an ideal holiday destination, with over 140km of wide, sandy beaches and over two thousand hours of sunshine each year. Beaches are often backed by sand dunes and pine forests, which act as a natural windbreak. The wide shallow shores are safe for bathing and watersports. Inland you will find marshes, plains and wooded hills, rich in legend and history. To the south of the region, lies the Gironde and the vineyards around Bordeaux

### Eating & Drinking – Regional Specialities

Vendéen regional fare tends to be simple and hearty. With such a long coastline, there is a wealth of fish and shellfish; especially good are the mussels, sardines and sole. Don't leave without trying the moules marinière (mussels in a white wine and onion sauce) or with cream. The Vendée is famous for its brioche (sweet bread) with each village having its own recipe. The region produces three kinds of Muscadet, a dry white wine particularly good with seafood. There is an even drier wine called Gros-Plant. Red, white and rosé wine is marketed under the Fiefs Vendéen label.

### Things to do and see

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

## Family Fun

### Leisure Parks

**Futuroscope** • Futuroscope is Europe's first park devoted to technology. Attractions include a Kinemax cinema with a 600m<sup>2</sup> screen, a 3-D cinema, a "dynamic" cinema with simulated seating, a rotating tower, an "enchanted lake", bumper boats, remote controlled cars, adventure playgrounds, a water maze and a Lego exhibition. Just outside Poitiers, exit 28 off A10 (open daily, \*A).

**Atlantic Toboggan** • A family waterpark with huge pools and lots of waterchutes. 7km northwest of St-Hilaire-de-Riez (open daily, \*A).

**Chateau de la Guignardiere** • Chateau de la Guignardiere is a castle with a twist. Take the whole family around an adventure trail in the castle grounds to discover the chamber of chests and win prizes. Explore the castle fully furnished in a renaissance style including a free guided tour; meet the animals in the grounds and visit the menhirs also with a guided archaeological tour in high season.



**Le Puy Du Fou** • Visit a reconstructed 18th century Vendean village with a wide programme of events, including jousting and juggling (\*A). La Cinéscénie is an incredible open-air, night time show re-enacting the history of Vendée, accompanied by fireworks, lasers and fountains, with the Château le Puy du Fou and the lake providing a beautiful backdrop. Book early, as there are only about 20 performances a year - enquire at the local Tourist Information Office in the Puy du Fou, Les Épesses.

**Parc d'Attractions des Dunes** • This park has attractions for young and older children; roundabouts, go karts, toboggans, mini-golf and more. In Brem-sur-Mer (open daily, \*A).

**Parc Floral** • A beautiful flower garden with seasonal exhibitions based around the senses. Children can play Rigole aux Fleurs, a cross between mini-golf and snakes and ladders. In Coëx (open daily, \*A).

### Wildlife Attractions

**Planète Sauvage** • This great wildlife park has over 1500 animals. It is situated to the north of the Vendée. Thatched mud huts add to the African atmosphere. In Port Saint-Père (open daily, \*A).

**Zoo de Sables** • In this tree-filled zoo you can see a collection of monkeys, exotic birds, big cats and other animals. In Sables d'Olonne (open daily, \*A).

## Places of Interest

**Apremont** • A picturesque village in the valley of La Vie, crowned with the remains of a Renaissance castle. Two towers and a chapel remain of Château d'Apremont, built in 1534 (open daily, \*A). Take a ticket for the castle and the 80m high water tower, which gives a fabulous view of the area. Apremont also has a delightful lake where you can hire dinghies, pedaloes, windsurfers and rowing boats.

**Ile d'Yeu** • Boat crossings leave St Gilles Croix-de-Vie and Fromentine each day. Once on the island it's a good idea to hire a bicycle to explore. Perhaps the most spectacular part of the island is the rocky, wild Côte Sauvage on the west. The imposing ruins of the old Château overlook the pretty fishing harbour of Port-de-la-Meule.

**Nantes** • To the north of the Vendée, this is the largest town in the area. An attractive city of art, an industrial centre and a busy port. The Château des Ducs de Bretagne is a well-preserved fortress, now home to several museums. Opposite the castle, the highlight of the Cathédrale-St-Pierre is the tomb of Duke François II and his wife (\*A). The Musée des Beaux-Arts contains a fine collection of Renaissance paintings (\*A).

**Tiffauges** • The Château de Gilles de Rais towers over this little town. Joan of Arc's companion in arms, Gilles de Rais (known as Blue-Beard in

legend) retired to Tiffauges before being executed at the age of 36. A tour of the castle includes the crypt, dungeons and creepy corridors leading to a reconstructed laboratory of alchemy. You can also see reconstructions of 15th century siege machinery (giant cross-bows, catapults and cannons) operated by soldiers in medieval costume. Be careful or you may be put in the stocks! (\*A).

**St-Étienne-du-Bois** • Spared from the ravages of war, this small village has a charming collection of Renaissance houses clustered around a church. Stroll around the narrow lanes and along the banks of the river Boulogne.

**Fontenay-Le-Comte** • Formerly the capital of the Vendée, this ancient town was once the haunt of poets, scientists and philosophers. Stroll through the town admiring the half-timbered and stone houses or take a horse-drawn carriage tour. The Musée Vendéen displays prehistoric artefacts, 19th century furniture, local bird life and work by local artists (\*A). You can tour the beautifully furnished rooms of a fairytale castle at Château de Terre-Neuve (open daily).

**Les Sables d'Olonne** • A busy fishing port with a lovely beach and a zoo (see family fun). The 17th century Abbaye Sainte-Croix now houses an art gallery and a costume museum (\*A). There is a festival held here in mid August.

**Maillezais** • A pretty village on the edge of the Venise Verte. A stone museum in the Abbaye de Maillezais gives you a closer look at some of the detailed Romanesque carvings from the ruins of a Benedictine abbey. In summer the abbey is used for dramatic son et lumière shows (\*A).

**Talmont-St-Hilaire** • A charming former port overlooked by the ruins of Richard the Lionheart's Château de Talmont. You can explore this impressive medieval castle. From the top of the keep there are wonderful views of the area. Also in Talmont St Hilaire, the Musée Automobile de Vendée displays vehicles dating from 1885 to the 1960's.

### Boat Trips

You can rent a flat-bottomed boat to explore La Venise Vert from several villages in the area, including Maillezais, Coulon, Le Mazeau, Damvix and La Garette. At St Jean de Monts you can take a guided tour in a canoe through the marshes.

*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.*

