


SAINT-DENIS d'OLÉRON

1 Chassiron lighthouse and scenographic museum 
 ☎ 05 46 75 18 62
 Inaugurated in 1836, it is the oldest lighthouse in the region. It was built using Crazannes stone (a quarry situated between Rochefort and Saintes) and Vendée granite was used for the 224 steps that scale its towering 46 metres. It offers an exceptional panorama on the island of Oléron, the beach of Antioche, La Rochelle, the islands of Ré and Aix and of course the ocean ... Nowadays the lighthouse is entirely automated.
 On the first floor of the Chassiron lighthouse, discover the daily life and the know-how of the men of the coast; true sailors of the land and farmers of the sea.
 Technical information and texts on the Chassiron headland and the history of wrecks are translated on terminals situated in the gardens.

2 Fish locks
 Fish locks are traps for fish consisting of a dry stone wall in the shape of a horseshoe, the rounded part facing the sea. Openings (bouchots) are set in the wall blocked by gratings. As the tide rises, water and fish pass over the wall; as the tide ebbs, the water drains away and the fish remain trapped. Today there are just 17 fish locks as against more than 200 at the end of the 19th century. They belong to the maritime public domain and can be visited at low tide.
Information at Chassiron lighthouse.
 ☎ 05 46 75 18 62

3 St-Denis church
 Established by the Abbaye aux Dames in 1047 with a notable Saintongeais-Romanesque portal. The church was set on fire during the Wars of Religion. The belltower dates from the end of the 19th century.

4 Terra Aventura - Lost in Oléron
 Terra Aventura is a great way to discover geocaching and to explore the island of Oléron and the Marennes basin. With its 100% free App, choose an itinerary, answer the different questions on your way, and find the treasure!
More informations on www.terra-aventura.fr/en

5 The Papineau marsh
 On the Papineau marsh, this ornithological reserve is home to various birds that come to nest or have a stopover: ducks, gulls, mallards, sheldrakes, greylag geese ... Free access.



La BRÉE-les-BAINS




6 The church of Notre Dame de l'Assomption
 Constructed by the inhabitants in 1960 from ironstone cut on the foreshore to build the first dwellings at La Brée, the church is topped by a campanile. The electronic pipe-organ is unique.

7 The mill
 Although the date of its construction is unknown, a map of 1720 shows the presence of a mill at "Labray" in the early 18th century and a deed of purchase is dated 1736. This tower-mill was equipped with a Berton system (sails made of slats of wood) during the 19th century. Unusually, it has two pairs of millstones and retains a large part of its mechanism.

8 The saltmarshes
 Salt made Oléron prosperous and as a royal monopoly, enabled the kingdom to raise taxes. Competition from salt mines and from the Mediterranean brought a slow decline to this activity. The saltmarshes were transformed into "claires," freshwater zones or given over to agriculture and pastures. Today a few saltmarshes are trying to make a comeback. The saltmarshes can be visited and the salt farmer's work explained, in French. Salt for sale.
Information on www.lecristaldusaunier.fr

SAINT-GEORGES d'OLÉRON

9 The church of St-Georges 
 Dating from the 11th and 12th centuries and listed as a historic monument in 1931, the church was gifted by Agnès de Poitiers to monks from La Trinité de Vendôme. The west door is richly decorated in the Saintongeais-Romanesque style. To the right of the secondary doorway can be seen a sundial etched into the stone in 1850 by Father Chaveuil, curate of St-Georges. The following saying can still be seen: "We pass by in this world as pale shadows. With big steps we walk towards our final hour."
 The sober interior is luminous and the acoustics exceptional thus making it home to numerous concerts in the season.
 More recently, the church was endowed with a statue of the Virgin Mary and legend recounts that it was saved from a ship in distress. The effigy of Eleanor of Aquitaine was placed here in 2019.
 Guided visit in French to discover the church and its secrets.
Information at a tourist office.

10 Les Halles
 A small summer market is held in the delightful old covered market opposite the church. Louis Vignal, a carpenter from St-Pierre-d'Oléron built them in 1864. An unusual feature is that the roof is slate over a wooden structure.

The villages
11 Chaucre : A very typical old village with many houses still whitewashed, wells for each little square covered in flowers and a 19th century bread oven.
12 Domino : One of the highest points on the island (hence its name in French - domine de haut = Domino) at the foot of a wooded dune, this little village has maintained traditional habitats with houses laid out around little squares.

13 Sauzelle : Surrounded by saltmarshes, hence its name, Sauzelle is the local capital of salt. Pedagogic trail in the heart of the village. Brochure from tourist offices.

14 The saltmarshes
 The marshes were created for the exploitation of salt but during the 20th century, most were abandoned and transformed into "claires" for oyster farming; some were used as pasturage. Do visit the saltmarshes at work: salt for sale on the spot.
Information on www.lecristaldusaunier.fr



BOYARDVILLE



15 Fort Boyard
 "Sure, it would be easier to grasp the moon with my teeth than to try to undertake such a task here!" - Vauban's words to Louis XIV when he was asked to construct a fort between the islands of Aix and Oléron to protect the royal arsenal at Rochefort. In the end, the construction of Fort Boyard did not start until the early 19th century in Napoleonic times. Set on an artificial base of rocks placed on sand, its construction defied nature. Work was finished, finally, in 1870 but such had been progress in artillery that it was rendered obsolete well before.
 No visits allowed but cruises around the fort with commentary in English are available from Boyardville and Saint-Denis-d'Oléron.
Information at a tourist office.

16 The Saumonards national forest
 Amongst the maritime pines andholm oaks you can see traces of the numerous wild boars that live there, watch deer or rabbits. The long-eared owl, the scops owl, pied woodpecker and many other birds find refuge there.
 A treasure hunt enables the visitor to discover the story of Fort Boyard, Fort Panorama and the Saumonards forest while having fun solving puzzles and "ordres".
Booking essential at a tourist office.
Information on 05 46 85 65 23

La COTINIÈRE

17 The port of La Cotinière
 The most important fishing port in Charente-Maritime, it is the 6th or 7th fishing port in France. The diversity of fish and the versatility of the fleet are characteristic of the port. In tonnes, the main species caught are cuttlefish, meagre, bass, wedge sole, langoustine, sole, monkfish and skate. The port is known for the artisanal quality of its fishing and the quality of the produce unloaded and sold in the fish market at La Cotinière.
 Guided visits in English to the unloading quay, the various activities of the port and the fish auction at La Cotinière.
Booking essential at a tourist office.
Information on 05 46 85 65 23.



18 Notre Dame des Flots chapel
 A modern edifice with 20th century stained glass and ex voto.

SAINT-PIERRE d'OLÉRON



19 La maison des Aïeules
 The family home of Pierre Loti, member of the French Academy and indefatigable traveller. His remains are to be found here. The property is not open to the public.

20 La lanterne des morts
 An octagonal 12th century gothic column, it is the highest in France at 23.5m. Not open to the public.

21 L'église Saint-Pierre
 Romanesque in origin, it was rebuilt in the 17th century; the 32m high belltower was a notable navigational aid. No public access.

22 The château de Bonnemie
 The residence of the lords of Fors until the beginning of the 14th century, it became the manor of the lords of Bonnemie until the end of the 19th century. While visiting the park, admire the pepper-pot towers. Not open to the public.

23 La Boirie gardens
 ☎ 05 16 65 44 36 / 06 64 21 4 63
 Nature brought to life in the heart of an old village; extraordinary collection of sage from all over the world (Mexico, South Africa, South America). Visits in English.

24 The île d'Oléron Museum 
 ☎ 05 46 75 05 16
 The île d'Oléron Museum offers a synthesis of the history and inhabitants of Oléron. Its permanent collection presents traditional activities like wine production, resin harvesting, oyster farming, collecting salt and other activities. Visits in English with documents.

25 Fort Royer 
 ☎ 05 46 47 06 43
 The oyster beds are set in an unspoilt area south of Boyardville. Guided visits in English of the natural features, the history and lifespan of the oyster, the work of the oyster farmer in history and today, a botanical trail to discover the flora of the dunes and the salt basins as well as the oyster beds. Tasting available.

DOLUS d'OLÉRON

26 St-André church
 In the heart of the pedestrian area. The superb 17th century sculpted wooden reredos was restored in 1977.

27 Art et cabanes
 Thirteen oystermen's cabins that have been transformed into artists' studios and craftsmen's workshops along La Baudissière channel. Here creators and oystermen work side by side.

28 Le Marais aux Oiseaux 
 ☎ 05 46 75 37 54
 A family-oriented discovery park! Enjoy a visit where you'll see hundreds of wild and tame birds and where hundreds of wounded birds are treated every year, thanks to your generosity!

29 Le Parc des Myocastors
 ☎ 06 59 05 29 71
 Get to know the coypu, its habits, reproduction and morphology.


30 La Perroche priory
 A Romanesque chapel built in the 11th century that has been restored several times following wars and pillaging; only the portal seems original. No visits.



Le GRAND-VILLAGE-PLAGE

35 The St-Joseph chapel
 An 18th century modern construction decorated with frescos by a local artist that represent village life. Access by calling at the tourist office.

36 La Maison éco-paysanne 
 ☎ 05 46 75 05 16
 A traditional farmhouse and outbuildings that illustrate the daily life of islanders at the end of the 19th century. This is an interpretation centre on the island's architecture and ecological construction. Booklet and documents in English. Films subtitled in English.

37 Écomusée du port des Salines 
 ☎ 05 46 75 82 28
 Permanent exhibitions on salt production, biodiversity of the marshes and temporary exhibitions.
 Guided visits in French, tastings, boat trips. Documentation in English.

38 Le port des Salines 
 ☎ 05 46 75 82 28
 A multi-faceted discovery site on the saltmarshes.



39 Seaside architecture
 ☎ 05 46 76 00 86
 A seaside resort with "Belle Époque" villas that bear witness to the beginnings of sea-bathing at the start of the 20th century.
 A 5km heritage trail takes the visitor round this charming resort. Free leaflet from the tourist office. Guided visit in French on the story of Saint-Trojan-les-Bains.
Booking essential at the tourist office.

40 The church
 Dates from the 17th century; 2 ex-voto made from the prow of two sailing ships.

41 Le marais des Bris
 ☎ 05 46 76 00 86
 Sensitive Natural Area enabled for walking. Site of ornithological and floral interest. Free access year-round.





















42 St-Trojan-les-Bains national forest
 The national forest was planted to protect villages from being blocked with sand, the trees being an obstacle as well as keeping the sand in place. The chief species are holm oak and maritime pine but the undergrowth is also home to numerous species such as broom or seneboid. Guided visits, in French enable the visitor to observe the fauna and to see the "résiner" at work. **Bookings at a tourist office.**

43 Artists' inspiration village
 11 rehabilitated oystermen's cabins and 2 exhibition rooms are home to permanent and visiting artists. **Information on: www.lévillageinspirationdespeintres.com**

44 Terra Aventura - The artisiz little train
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Le CHÂTEAU d'OLÉRON



-  Tourist office
-  Cultural heritage
-  Natural heritage
-  Artists' village
-  Oyster farmers'cabins
-  Supervised swimming area
-  Fishing port
-  Oyster port
-  Yacht harbour
-  Anchorages
-  Aerodrome
-  IléO water park
-  Golf course
-  Surfing spot
-  Blue Flag 2020 beach
-  Naturist beach
-  Maritime link
-  Picnic area
-  Motor-home parking
-  Motor-home services area

The Tourist Office of **OLÉRON**
 accueil@marennes-oleron.com
 www.oleron-island.com

Opening hours (depending on the tourist office) :
 High season : Monday to Sunday 9.30 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 7 pm.
 Low season : Monday to Saturday 10 am - 12.30 pm & 2.30pm - 5.30 pm.

- SAINT-TROJAN-LES-BAINS** (17370) 
 Carrefour du port
www.st-trojan-les-bains.fr st-trojan-les-bains-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com
- LE GRAND-VILLAGE-PLAGE** (17370) 
 5 place des 4 vents
www.legrandvillageplage.com le-grand-village-plage-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com
- LE CHÂTEAU D'OLÉRON** (17480) 
 Place de la République
www.ci-chateau-oleron.fr le-chateau-oleron-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com
- DOLUS D'OLÉRON** (17550) 
 Parvis Saint-André
www.dolus-oleron-tourisme.fr dolus-oleron-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com
- SAINT-PIERRE D'OLÉRON** (17310) 
 Place Gambetta
www.saint-pierre-oleron-tourisme.fr st-pierre-oleron-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com
- LA COTINIÈRE** (17310) 
 28 rue des Dames
www.saint-georges-oleron-tourisme.com st-georges-oleron-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com
- SAINT-GEORGES D'OLÉRON** (17190) 
 28 rue des Dames
www.saint-georges-oleron-tourisme.com st-georges-oleron-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com
- DOMINO** (17190)
 July and August
 Place du Marché
- BOYARDVILLE** (17190)
 April to September
 Place du Marché
- LA BRÉE-LES-BAINS** (17840) 
www.la-bree-les-bains-tourisme.fr la-bree-les-bains-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com
- SAINT-DENIS D'OLÉRON** (17850) 
 2 boulevard d'Antioche (sur le port de plaisance)
www.saintdenisoleron.fr st-denis-oleron-tourisme@marennes-oleron.com

SAINT-TROJAN-les-BAINS

