

Press kit

20
15








Morbihan: a boating paradise

www.morbihan.com

MORBIHAN
L'ESPRIT SUD DE LA BRETAGNE

CONTENTS



1 • MORBIHAN: GATEWAY TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN	p3
MORBIHAN IS ALSO...	
THE TOP 3 WEATHER-RELATED MYTHS	
 Tourism: Key data	
2 • THE BOATING AREAS	p5
A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME SIGHT AT GUERLEDAN LAKE	
 Take your boat license exam in Morbihan	
3 • MORBIHAN: FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE ISLANDS	p6
 The Morbihan Passeport Escales	
4 • BOATING FACILITIES	p7
AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF INNOVATION	
BOATING IN MORBIHAN: KEY DATA	
 Spotlight on Lorient	
5 • WOMEN HAVE ALSO MADE THEIR NAME IN BOATING!	p8
ANNE CASENEUVE, A KEEN ENTHUSIAST	
MARION EXCOFFON, A GIFTED DESIGNER	
 Did you know? Morbihan: a key supporter for skippers!	
6 • RELAXATION AND ENJOYMENT FOR MOM AND DAD... ...DISCOVERY AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE KIDS!	p9
NATURE & GREENERY	
A PARADISE FOR COOKS AND FINE FOOD LOVERS	
TAKE TO THE SEAS	
KNIGHTS AND PRINCESSES	
ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION METHODS	
 Things to see / Things to do	
7 • BOATING HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015	p11
SPI OUEST-FRANCE INTERMARCHÉ	
GUERLEDAN: DISCOVER BRITTANY'S LARGEST LAKE IN 2015...	
TOUR DE BELLE-ÎLE	
SEMAINE DU GOLFE (GULF WEEK)	
VOLVO OCEAN RACE	
MORBIHAN PADDLE TROPHY-OUEST-FRANCE	
THE MILLE SABORDS BOAT SHOW	
 2016: Who's going to the Rio Olympics?	
8 • USEFUL INFORMATION	p14
GETTING TO MORBIHAN	
MORBIHAN ON THE SOCIAL NETWORKS	





1 • MORBIHAN: GATEWAY TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

If one word accurately described Morbihan it would be “unique”. This “Little Sea” (mor-bihan), located in the south of the Brittany peninsula is **the only département (county) in France** whose name is 100% Breton and not French. Its **900 km of coastline** includes **170 beaches**, **1836 hectares of land** protected by the Conservatoire du Littoral (coastal protection agency) in addition to **3 breath-taking Major Natural Sites**, including the Golf of Morbihan, a member of the prestigious **Most Beautiful Bays in the World** club. Within its surface area of **6283 km²** (comprising a quarter of Brittany's total surface area), the Argoat (the inland area) and the Armor (the seaboard) together comprise a contrasting land including a luxurious natural environment, pleasant gardens, a peaceful gulf and wild seas. Last October, the Gulf of Morbihan was listed as **France's 50th regional nature park**. As a result, the département is committed to guaranteeing the **integrated and sustainable development** of its territory, something to which the General Council has already been committed for around 30 years now, as demonstrated through its partnership with the Conservatoire du Littoral which has already made it possible to protect almost **3250 hectares of sensitive natural areas**. Protecting and enhancing its natural and cultural heritage is an intrinsic part of the Morbihan spirit. Degemer mat! Welcome to southern Brittany!

MORBIHAN IS ALSO...

A land of deeply rooted maritime traditions and a hotbed for champions.

The 2014 season produced a rich crop of water sports medals for Morbihan's sportsmen and women:

- A European champions title for J80 gained in Spain by the cruising team from the Larmor-Baden Cataschool in early July.
- Bronze and silver medals at the World Championships in Brest for 2 windsurfers from La Mouette Sinagote (Séné),
- The SRV (Vannes) international Match Racing team: French champion for Elite Match Racing for the third time running at the French Internationals in Pornichet,
- 3 gold medals and 1 silver medal from the French championship for emerging windsurfing talent in Martigues, for athletes from Morbihan,
- ...and a bronze medal from the SB20 world championship in St Petersburg in mid-September to round off the season nicely

In 2013, Morbihan had **5460 licence-holders for sailing** (4049 adults and 1411 children according to data from the CDV 56) and **France's only national sailing and water sports school** is based in the area, at Saint-Pierre-Quiberon. Since 1970, this public establishment belonging to the Ministry of Health and Sport has been a long-standing key player in the development of the sporting, training and leisure aspects of the water sports. Ideally located in the heart of an outstanding natural environment, this centre of excellence for sailing is the leading centre when it comes to welcoming promising new athletes, preparing the champions of tomorrow and spotting new talent early on.



© Y. Boelle



© Y. Legal



© Y. Legal

THE TOP 3 WEATHER-RELATED MYTHS

IT'S ALWAYS RAINING IN MORBIHAN

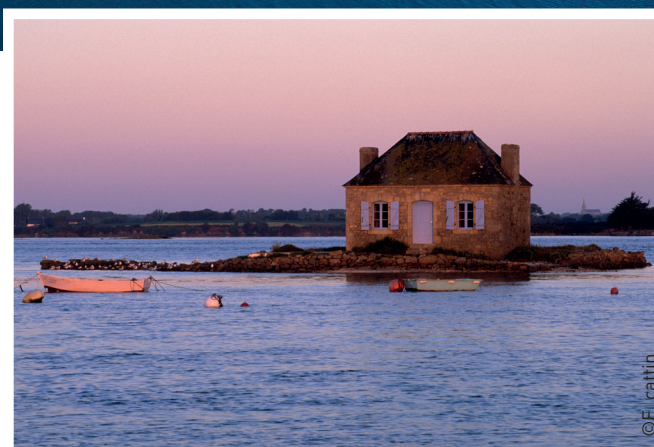
The rainfall levels can be double in some areas compared to others (ranging from approximately 650 mm of annual rainfall in Belle-Ile to 1200 mm in Guiscriff), but this is barely more than the Mediterranean basin (650-950 mm) and less than in Biarritz (1450 mm).

OK, BUT IT'S ALWAYS COLD THOUGH

With its temperate oceanic-type climate it's never too hot or too cold! That said, the weather can vary greatly from area to area, as the guide to Morbihan's flora identifies no fewer than 9 different climatic zones in the département.

THE THERMOMETER SHOWS 14°C IN THE WATER IN JULY

The temperature actually varies between 18 and 20°C in the sea in summertime. As a comparison, the seawater is consequently warmer than northern Portugal despite the fact that the latter is situated further south. As for Morbihan's rivers and streams, these can easily reach 20 to 22°C in the summer.



© E. catin

Tourism: key data

MORBIHAN IS...

- The fifth most popular département for French holidaymakers (most of these are from the Paris area - 37 % - or Brittany- 16 %) in terms of the number of overnight stays for tourism purposes in summer.
- 555,000 tourist beds and more than 32 million overnight stays for tourism purposes in 2013 (including 1.7 million in the hotel sector, the second-largest commercially available accommodation method in Morbihan after camping, which accounts for 60% of the commercially available tourist beds and 3.3 million overnight stays).
- 1400 km of Grande Randonnée (long distance) trails, with an average of 10 km per person per day covered by hikers, and 23 km by touring cyclists.
- 15 million euros of overall economic benefits, which means that this area alone accounts for almost half (40 %) of Brittany's economic benefits.



© A. Lamoureux



©Auteurs de vues

2 • THE BOATING AREAS



©M. Schallinger

THE GULF OF MORBIHAN

Separated from Quiberon bay by a 1 km wide strip of land, this almost circular 120 km² area is "Brittany's equivalent to the Arcachon Basin". With each tide, almost 400 million m³ of water enters the Gulf and one of these currents, the Jument, is the second most powerful in Europe. As a "micro-reserve" with an extremely rich ecosystem, each year the area attracts numerous species of migratory birds.

QUIBERON BAY

As a leading destination for surfers and active holidaymakers, this popular water sports area enjoys superb weather with a gentle microclimate and abundant sunshine. You'll never get bored here, with a wealth of nautical and land-based activities on offer... unless of course relaxation is what you're seeking!

LORIENT BAY

A protected natural site shaped by the ocean, this basin opens out onto the Atlantic and is a truly exceptional boating area. As the very epicentre of the "Sailing Valley" stretching from Brest to Vannes, and accounting for no fewer than two thirds of French companies operating in the nautical sector, Lorient bay also provides an opportunity for a high tech "pit stop"!

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME SIGHT AT GUERLEDAN LAKE

In **March 2015**, Guerlédan lake will be emptied for the fifth time (the last time this happened was in 1985). Guerlédan is **Brittany's largest lake** with a surface area of 400 hectares and is a popular spot for water sports activities. Once dry, visitors will be able to discover or rediscover **the 12 km long Blavet sunken valley**, which was flooded during the building of the dam in 1930. Lock keepers' houses, quarry workers' homes, fossilised trees and the remains of the Nantes-Brest Canal will be visible for six months (from May to November according to the provisional schedule) before disappearing back under the water's surface in October. Don't miss it, because it's not scheduled to be emptied again for another 30 years!

Take your boat license exam in Morbihan

If you come to Morbihan regularly, it may be a good idea to pass your boat license exam. Although you won't need this to pilot a sailing boat, it's required to drive a motor boat of more than 6 horsepower or a jet ski. The sailing licence is available as a coastal pleasure boating option (less than 6 miles from the coast) and a deep sea option which authorises you to take to the open seas (more than 6 miles from the coast, i.e. 11 km). Whichever license you choose, this can be prepared in just a few days in a training school and is open to everyone aged 16 and above. For the others, there's always the Cheetah and the Sinago!



©Auteurs de vues

3 • MORBIHAN: FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE ISLANDS

"There are as many islands in the Gulf of Morbihan as there are days in the year" according to a Breton legend concerning the 40 or so islands and islets protected by the European Natura 2000 network.

BELLE ÎLE EN MER: FOR THE LEGEND

This star of the Breton islands, described in song by Voulzy and immortalised on canvas by Monet, is the largest of the Morbihan islands (84 km²). Whatever the time of year, there's always plenty to see and do in Belle-Île, including festivals, concerts, recitals, exhibitions and sporting events, etc. This in no way prevents it from keeping a particularly watchful eye on its various protected natural areas, from the moorland to the sand dunes not forgetting the cliffs. You can't possibly leave without visiting the Aiguilles de Port Coton and their 360° view across the Atlantic Ocean, Donnant beach, the port of Sauzon, the Pointe des Poulains (breath-taking photos guaranteed, fantastic view across Quiberon bay and as far as Lorient), the Vauban fortress museum, the Sarah Bernhardt museum, the Grand Phare (Great Lighthouse) and the church of Notre Dame de l'Assomption in Locmaria.

ÎLE-AUX-MOINES: FOR THE NOSTALGIA

Is it the wisterias, hydrangeas, mimosas and asphodels which grow here or the romantic names of the local woodland (Bois d'Amour, Bois des Regrets or Bois des Soupirs - The Forests of Love, Regrets or Sighs) which have earned it its nickname of the "Pearl of the Gulf"? Without a doubt, it's a little bit of each. Also known as "Izenah" in Breton, this island also includes a number of astonishing sites such as the Kergonan Cromlech, where 24 standing stones are laid out in a semi-circular pattern, the retro beach huts at the Grande Plage (great beach) or the attractively named narrow streets such as Rue de la Grimpette, Rue de la Forge or Rue des Corsaires. Just like its fellow islands, hiking is a pleasure here and nautical leisure activities are always popular.

GROIX: FOR THE SURPRISES

If you look up towards the spire of the church of Saint-Tudy, you'll probably be intrigued to notice that on Groix's weather vane, a tuna has replaced the arrow or the cock (in recognition of the island's status as France's leading tuna fishing port). Well known for its extensive mineralogical resources, the island also has a few surprises in store: its Grands Sables beach with its highly original convex shape, its International Island Film Festival in August and its 80 films to be watched indoors or out in the open air.

ARZ: FOR THE TRANQUILITY

Nestling in the centre of the Gulf, this island (which is pronounced "Ar" and not "Arze") offers a lifestyle as gentle as its climate and is far removed from the usual hustle and bustle of day-to-day life or the clamour for recognition and fame. A high-quality environment of the kind which inspired young organic producers to set up on the island in early 2010, supported and encouraged by the Île-d'Arz municipal council.

HOUAT: FOR THE AUTHENTICITY

This fishermen's island, whose motto is "Ag e mor e viuamb" (we live from the sea), offers a peaceful and charming picture postcard setting. The port of Saint-Gildas, its colourful boats and its lobster pots piled up on the quayside, its fine sandy beaches, its turquoise waters and the endless views are simply magnificent. Nature lovers (or just lovers) and enemies of the motorcar will be spoiled for choice here, as will those with a taste for bass, sea bream and fresh lobster.

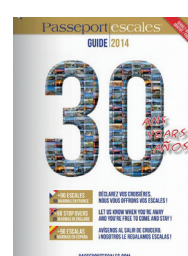
HOEDIC: FOR THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Bring along some high quality footwear because on this small island of 2 km² everything takes place on foot, including exploring the Vauban fort, walks in the amazing natural environment and touring the 8 km of coast, etc... In the summer, holidaymakers looking for peace and quiet can enjoy the tranquillity of its beaches without the usual tourist attractions to distract them. In the winter, poets can marvel at the majestic sight of the storms and high tides with which Hoëdic is so often associated. And you can always take home one of the island's typical lucky charms: a lamb's wool pompon.

The Morbihan Passeport Escales

The Passeport Escales (berthing passport) is the ultimate guide for boaters, created 30 years ago in Morbihan. From the eastern coast of Great Britain to Italy, travelling via France and Spain, around 100 ports look forward to welcoming visitors. The principle behind the Passport is simple: you declare your cruise, and the overnight stays are free of charge in those ports you stop off in. Don't miss this great opportunity to travel by boat from port to port.

For further information: www.passeportescapes.com





4 • BOATING FACILITIES

Since 2006 a water sports and naval cluster has developed in this ideal area of southern Brittany at the initiative of the General Council of Morbihan, which is today one of the leading nautical départements in France.

AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF INNOVATION

In 2013, the département accounted for **514 companies** and **5,200 direct jobs** related to boating and water sports contributing to the local economy. Spurred on by numerous national and international events (the Volvo Ocean Race, Eurocat in Carnac, the Mille Sabords boat show, etc.), the organisation of this industry into a cluster has favoured networking among the various companies in this sector, in addition to partnerships with key players likely to further enhance its dynamism. The stated goals are: boosting employment and improving productivity but above all creating an environment conducive to innovation within this industry. In November 2014, aid to the nautical sector totalled €905,700 for 41 projects (making a total of **334 projects initiated** and **€7,847,411 granted** by the département since 2006). Today, this cluster boasts a varied range of skills, the potential for state-of-the-art R&D and recognised know-how internationally.

Did you know? The most recent Route du Rhum event gave several companies from the département plenty to celebrate. Loïc Peyron's win was also a success for the naval architects VLP from Vannes, undefeated since 1990, but also Multiplast where the Banque Populaire trimaran was built and which won the competition for the second time running, and finally Lorima, the mast manufacturer from Lorient selected to equip the vessel. A fine threefold victory!



KEY DATA FOR THE BOATING SECTOR IN MORBIHAN

Morbihan is:

- **23,000 vessel spaces** in port,
- **43 water sports centres**,
- 18.9 % of the market share for new vessels in France in the sailing sector (CG56, November 2014),
- 14.4 % of the market share for used vessels in France in the sailing sector (CG56, November 2014),
- **12 ports** in the département: Locmiquélic, Port-haliguen/Quiberon, Le Crouesty / Arzon, La Roche-Bernard, Port niscop / Belz, La Trinité-sur-Mer, Port-Blanc en Baden, Ile aux Moines, Arzal-Camoël, Étel, Hoëdic, Arradon and Foleux,
- A reception **capacity of 9,914 spaces**: 8,057 spaces in port and 1,857 spaces on land (in 2013),
- 51,971 overnight stopovers in 2013,
- A Passeport Escales network with 91 ports and more than
- 17,000 yachtsmen and women

Compagnie des Ports du Morbihan : www.sagemor.com

Spotlight on Lorient

With a total of 205,000 inhabitants, Lorient (An Oriant in Breton), nicknamed "the town with five ports", is Brittany's third largest urban area. Located in the heart of Sailing Valley, which reaches from Brest to Vannes, Lorient Bretagne Sud (Lorient Southern Brittany) is a maritime centre of excellence which has become one of the largest sailing sites in Europe. As the leading European centre for ocean racing and a training centre for the best skippers, it accounts for a unique concentration of international teams and state-of-the-art companies related to the water sports sector (Absolute Dreamer (Jean-Pierre Dick), Groupama sailing team (Franck Cammas), Initiatives Cœur (Tanguy de Lamotte), Beyou Racing (Jérémie Beyou), Team Banque Populaire (Armel Le Cléac'h), and Team Jolokia, etc.). As the hometown of the Cité de la Voile Eric Tabarly (Eric Tabarly sailing centre) it also has around 3,000 pontoon moorings for pleasure boats and supports 1,300 jobs in the nautical industry and services sector. Water sports are almost an official religion here and children learn to sail free of charge from primary school onwards.



5 • WOMEN HAVE ALSO MADE THEIR NAME IN BOATING!

Although most licenced sailors and professionals in the boating sector are men, more and more young girls are taking part in sports competitions and today women are nowhere near as rare in this sector as they were 10 or 20 years ago.



MARION EXCOFFON, A TALENTED DESIGNER

A young mother and designer, Marion Excoffon (founder of the Excoffon Design agency in Baden and joint founder of the company TIWAL SAS) had a dream, or rather two: to make sailing accessible and to create a genuinely novel boat which would overcome the transport, storage, usage and upkeep constraints inherent to all vessels. She came up with the idea of a smart dinghy: the Tiwal. This small inflatable boat, which can be stored in two bags, can be assembled in 20 minutes and is simple to use, weighing just 50 kg and measuring 5m2 with a length of 2.20 m. It can easily be carried in a car and stored in a garage. Perfectly suited both for family outings (it can carry up to 180 kg) and for sporting activities (by sitting on one of the two wings), the Tiwal 3.2 recently scooped the Best of the Best award at the German international design competition RED DOT AWARD (category: Outdoor, leisure, sports and fun).

ANNE CASENEUVE: A KEEN ENTHUSIAST

This woman in her fifties, whose time is divided between Morbihan and the Caribbean, owns a sailing school and has salt water running through her veins. Weighing just 50 kilos (compared to her 5-tonne boat!), this intrepid sailor from Morbihan is living proof that sailing isn't just a sport for the boys!

- **Last name:** CASENEUVE
- **First name:** Anne
- **Date and place of birth:** April 12, 1964 in Vannes
- **Place of residence:** Arradon
- **Childhood:** Divided between Africa (Zaire, Gabon, Senegal) and Morbihan (L'Île-aux-Moines).
- **First experience in the water:** With her father's "Requin" and her grandfather's "plan Constantini".
- **Interesting facts:** She undertook her first transatlantic crossing at 18 years old and today has more than 50 crossings to her name.
- **Most recent noteworthy achievements:** she was one of just 4 women (out of 91 skippers) to have started for the last Route du Rhum (her 5th participation), and the only one to have tried her hand with a multi-hull onboard her 52 foot trimaran ANEO. On November 19, this determined fighter took first place in the Rhum class!

www.anne-caseneuve.com

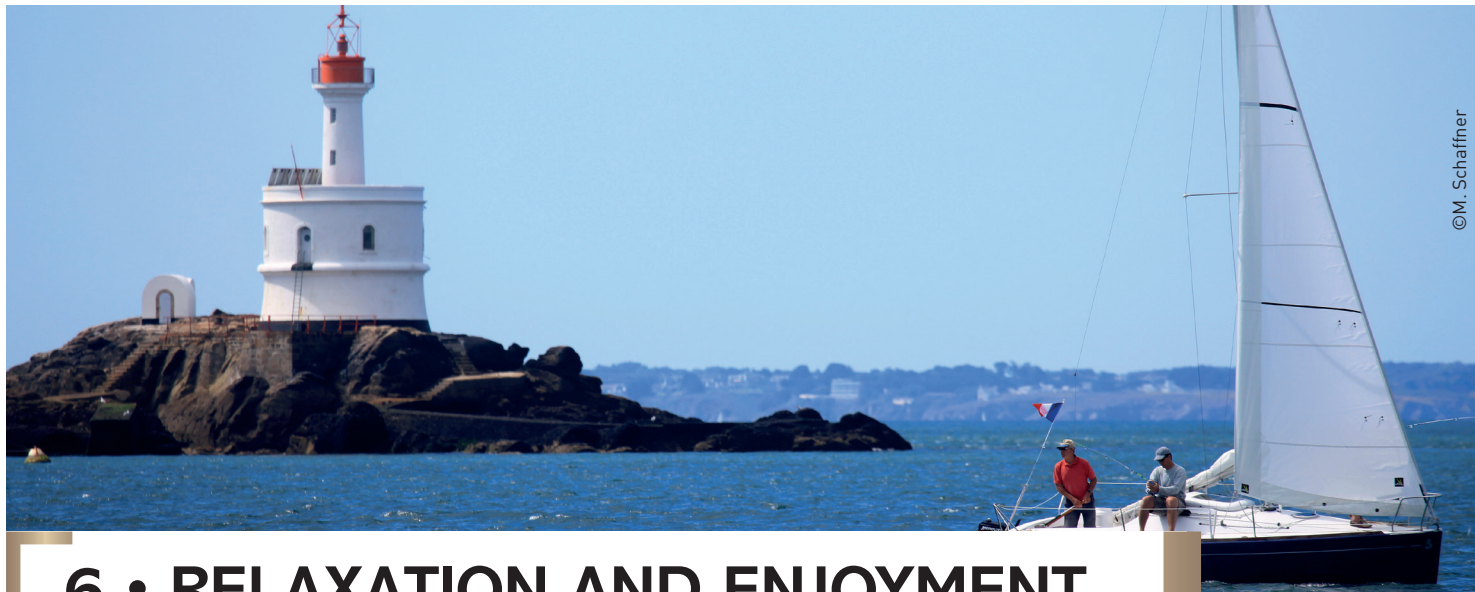
What's Marion's favourite spot in Morbihan for having fun with her Tiwal? "At Toulindac, in the Gulf. This is our favourite place and it is here that we test all of our boats".

www.excoffon.com

■ Did you know? Morbihan: a key supporter for skippers!

This year, there were around 20 skippers from Morbihan in the Route du Rhum competition from among a total of 91, including 2 women from Morbihan (out of only 4 women in all). There were 8 of them in the Class 40 category (Amedeo, Brasseur, Delesne, Lantin, Lautrou, Pedote, Roura, Pêtrès), 5 Ultims (Coville, Josse, Guichard, Lemonchois, Eliès, Joyon), 3 Imocas (Beyou, Guillemot, De Lamotte) and 2 Rhum (Caseneuve, Capelle).

For the 10th edition of this legendary race, the Morbihan General Council sponsored two skippers: Juliette Pêtrès and Fabrice Amadeo. This gamble was particularly bold as the young skipper in her 30s (a veterinarian who recently moved to Vannes) has only been sailing for five years! On the other hand, for the Figaro journalist and enthusiastic seaman Fabrice Amadeo, this was already his second Route du Rhum. On November 20, he came ninth in his category (Class 40).



© M. Schaffner

6 • RELAXATION AND ENJOYMENT FOR MOM AND DAD...

Among the many good reasons to come to Morbihan, here are some which will certainly delight holidaymakers seeking a change of scenery, a place to unwind and have fun or just plenty of peace and quiet:

- **2,500 hours of sunshine per year** in Quiberon bay and **300 days' surfing** possible in the best spots at Plouharnel,
- **4 thalassotherapy centres**, including the well-known Miramar Crouesty**** (currently closed for upgrades before seeking a 5th star) easily recognisable for its impressive cruise liner-shaped architectural design,
- **9 golf courses, including 4x 18-hole courses:** Baden, Saint Laurent, Rhuys Kerver and Ploemeur Océan

NATURE & GREENERY

The invigorating sea spray combined with the cool, fresh air of the forest... can you imagine anything better for giving a tired body a welcome dose of zest and vitality? In Morbihan, almost 135,000 hectares of forests are waiting to be explored and admired at your leisure. Pont-Calleck, Quénécan, Lanouée and many more provide superb leafy settings where the fauna and flora are every bit as impressive as their oceanic cousins.

A PARADISE FOR COOKS AND LOVERS OF FINE FOOD

Your stomach won't remain empty for long in Morbihan! They do everything here to delight your taste buds and to give your senses a real treat. Will you be tempted by the savoury flavours of our Tome de Rhuys cheese with chestnut and Guéméné chitterling sausage? Or perhaps the sweet pleasures of the niniche, the famous cylindrical lollipop made exclusively in Quiberon? Or why not both? With the sheer quantity and diversity of physical and sporting activities available in Morbihan to burn up those calories, it would be a shame to go without!

TAKE TO THE SEAS

With cruises lasting several days or other waterborne trips, Morbihan's waterways enable pleasure boaters to criss-cross Brittany from East to West and North to South thanks to the Nantes to Brest canals, to the Blavet between Lorient and Pontivy or the Vilaine between Redon and Arzal. This is a fun and unique way to admire the many facets of Morbihan, such as its picturesque villages and historical towns including: Malestroit, Josselin, Rohan, Pontivy and Hennebont, etc.

Pleasure boating from March 27 to November 2, 2015, except on the Blavet in 2015 as the canal is exceptionally being emptied (Maximum vessel size: 25 x 4.30 metres).



© morbihan tourisme/M.Schaffner



© Y. Boelle



...DISCOVERY AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE KIDS!

Including surfing, sailing, dugout canoes, canoeing, stand-up paddle, sea kayaking or diving, the numerous water sports activities proposed by the different water sports clubs and schools throughout the region never fail to delight young holidaymakers. However, Morbihan also has so much more to offer them...

KNIGHTS AND PRINCESSES

A land of legends and mysteries, Morbihan is guaranteed to capture the imagination of all kids with a love of history, capes, swords and witches, in a visit with three key stages:

■ **The Château de Suscinio.** Situated on the Rhuys peninsula, this Château is an impressive sight: a majestic **fortress**, **moats** worthy of their name, a breath-taking panoramic view and marshland which was once home to the prey which the Dukes so enjoyed hunting... You'll find it all here. They'll love the unusual and theatrical **thematic guided tours**.

■ **The Château de Josselin.** Overlooking the Oust Valley, this flamboyant gothic architectural treasure belonging to the Rohan family since the Middle Ages has a superb rose garden and above all a **Doll and Toy Museum**. Opened in 1984, this museum today has almost 5,000 dolls, making it the largest private collection of dolls and toys in France.

■ **Brocéliande Forest.** You'll be entering the **magical land of the fairies**, the korrigans and **King Arthur's** legendary Knights of the Round Table. An outstanding natural site of more than 12,500 hectares where you can discover the remains of this legendary age such as **Merlin's Great Oak**.

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION METHODS

Morbihan knows the secrets of a holiday which youngsters will remember and cherish forever, with their nights just as exciting as their days. And to achieve this, there's plenty of choice: a cabin or see-through tent up in the tree tops, a gypsy caravan or a far west feel in an Indian tipi, in a former mill or an old school, at the top of the Lighthouse (after climbing up seven floors!) or in a Mongolian yurt. An unforgettable experience awaits them.

www.morbihan.com (section: Stays> Unusual accommodation)

■ To see / to do

The Pont-Scorff zoo and the Branféré botanical and wildlife park - Le Guerno, the sailing centre in Lorient to enjoy sailing as a family, the megalithic sites at Carnac, Gavrinis, Le Petit Mont and Locmariaquer for the dolmens and standing stones, or the Domaine de Kerguéhennec to discover contemporary art.





7 • BOATING EVENTS IN 2015

Including annual or special events and key stages of legendary races, here are details of the “must see” events in Morbihan this year!

APRIL

SPI OUEST-FRANCE INTERMARCHÉ

Just as it does every Easter weekend, La Trinité-sur-Mer - a hotbed for sailing - welcomes the Spi Ouest-France Intermarché in April. This year, the 37th edition of this major European event for single-hulled cruisers will be held from **Thursday, April 2 to Monday, April 6 2015**. The regatta involves several stages spanning four days. Just like each year, registration for the Spi will open at Nautic, the international boat show in Paris, on December 6.

www.spi-ouestfrance.com



MAY

THE TOUR DE BELLE-ÎLE

We look forward to seeing you on **Saturday, May 9, 2015** for the 8th Tour de Belle-Ile which Eol and the Yacht Club de La Trinité have already been preparing for several months now. Registration will open following the opening of Nautic in Paris, on December 6. Who will follow on from Alain Gautier, the winner in all categories on Sensation Océan in 02h09'09" in 2014?

A single starting line for everyone... this is the principle behind the Tour de Belle-Ile. Almost 500 boats will be lining up in the majestic Quiberon Bay! You'll find all kinds of boats there, the 60' Opens participating in the major ocean races (Vendée Globe, Route du Rhum...), the trimarans, maxis, legendary boats such as the Pen Duick or cruising yachts from 6 metres upwards.

The Tour de Belle-Ile departs from the centre of Quiberon bay for a superb sail around Belle-île-en-Mer. This outstanding journey is further enhanced by the fascinating contrasts and the sheer variety of astonishing landscapes. Only one restriction applies: the boat in which you are sailing must measure 6 m or more.

However, due to the success of this event, for safety reasons since 2012 the organisers have been obliged to run **two events**:

1/ Le Grand Tour (Event open to sailing boats equipped for deep sea navigation)

2/ Le P'tit Tour (Event open to sailing boats equipped for coastal navigation)

www.tourdebelleile.com



GUERLÉDAN: DISCOVER BRITTANY'S LARGEST LAKE IN 2015...

Since 1930, with the construction of a hydroelectric dam at Mûr-de-Bretagne, the steep-sided valley of Guerlédan has been transformed into a lake surrounded by the forest of Quénécan. Guerlédan is usually a paradise for those who enjoy the open air and water sports activities not to mention all lovers of natural or architectural heritage sites. What's more though, as the lake is being emptied in 2015 to enable work to be carried out on the dam, Guerlédan will be revealing its hidden and mysterious side from mid-May onwards and for just six months. Six months during which you can admire its numerous ruins, its canal, its lock keeper's houses, not to mention its unusual and temporary lunar landscapes... Six months to learn more about the history of the "sunken valley" of Guerlédan.

www.lacdeguerledan.com

SEMAINE DU GOLFE (GULF WEEK)

The eighth Semaine du Golfe du Morbihan (Morbihan Gulf Week) will be held from **Monday 11 to Sunday May 17, 2015** on the quayside in Vannes. This biennial festival which takes place at Ascension, is a major international maritime event, not to mention a popular cultural festival celebrating the "Little Sea".

This event for sailors and water sports lovers attracts all kinds of boats (sailing and rowing boats, small "touring" sailboats, traditional pleasure boats, old-style fishing boats, etc.) from a variety of locations (the French Atlantic coasts, the British Isles, the North Sea, Scandinavia and the Mediterranean, with no fewer than 10 nations present in 2013).

The event will be welcoming around 20 major sailing ships admirably representing European maritime heritage including three-masters, bricks, topsail schooners, ketches, and luxury yachts, and will be held in 16 districts: Arradon, Arzon, Auray, Baden, Crac'h, l'Île aux Moines, l'Île d'Arz, Larmor Baden, Le Bono, Le Hézo, Locmariaquer, Plougoumelen, Sarzeau, Séné, Saint-Armel and Vannes.

After having already honoured the Mediterranean coast, Wales, Pasaia and the Basque country and more recently the Netherlands, this time it is the turn of **Croatia to be the guest of honour for this 2015 event**, providing the opportunity to discover traditional vessels from

Dalmatia and Istria (Gajeta, Pasara, Leut, Guc, Falkusa). Featuring entertainment, exhibitions, workshops and a restaurant offering Croatian specialities and traditional music (with the superb male voice choirs from Split), the Croat Village will include a tourism stand for any globetrotters who may be tempted to go and discover the Adriatic charms of Rovinj, Pula, Hvar, Makarska and of course Dubrovnik.

The sailing programme will be unveiled at the Nautic show in Paris.

www.semainedugolfe.com

JUNE

VOLVO OCEAN RACE

The world's largest international round-the-world crewed race will be stopping off at Lorient from **Tuesday 9 to Wednesday June 17, 2015**. This town in Morbihan had already welcomed the race in 2012 and its Pôle Course au Large (Ocean Racing Centre) will once again be organising this stage (the team of Franck Cammas, winner of the last Volvo race, has been based here for 15 years).

For this 12th race, the participating teams will be covering more than 38,000 miles (i.e. more than 60,000 km) around the world over the space of eight months. The race began in Alicante (Spain) on October 11 2014 and will be arriving in Gothenburg (Sweden) in late June 2015.

During this sporting event (the longest in the world) including 11 stopovers, the 7 (8 with the pit stop) other towns chosen to welcome the event are as follows, in order: Cape Town (South Africa), Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), Sanya (China), Auckland (New Zealand), Itajai (Brazil), Newport (United States) and Lisbon (Portugal), just before Lorient (France, Morbihan), which will be followed by a pit-stop of a maximum of 24 hours at The Hague (Netherlands), before arriving in Gothenburg (Volvo's hometown), to complete the circuit!

www.lorientgrandlarge.org



MORBIHAN PADDLE TROPHY - OUEST-FRANCE

In late August 2014, the first Morbihan Paddle Trophy Ouest-France attracted 200 participants for the two routes!

In terms of spectator numbers, several thousand people turned out from Port-Navalo to Vannes to cheer on both the top level sportsmen and intrepid amateurs. It made for a truly enchanting sight in the superb setting of the Gulf of Morbihan.

The second event will be held on June 13 and 14, 2015 in the required tidal conditions to ensure that they are favourable to a journey time of approximately two hours for the "Elites" who will be leaving Port-Navalo on Sunday 14. For their part, the "raiders", will be leaving Baden-Toulindac an hour later for 12 km. Finally, a new 7 km route will be reserved for the many young enthusiasts aged 14 and under, departing from Arradon beach. They will be setting off once the elites have passed.

This major StandUp Paddle event will begin the previous day, Saturday June 13, with "runs" in the Port of Vannes. The selections will take place from midday to 3 PM and the main event (which is truly amazing when viewed from the quays) will resume in the evening for the finals from 7PM.

www.morbihanpaddletrophy.fr

NOVEMBER

THE MILLE SABORDS BOAT SHOW

During the Toussaint (All Saints) weekend, from November 1 to 4, the Mille Sabords boat show (a leading European event for used pleasure boats) will be exhibiting almost a thousand used boats in the port of Crouesty, sold by private or trade vendors. With free admission and open to all, there's really nothing like Le Mille Sabords. As the largest European show devoted entirely to used boats, each year it attracts some 60,000 visitors who eye up the vessels on offer in the hope of discovering that rare gem. Whether you're looking for sailing boats, motor boats or dinghies, small or large vessels, used but recent vessels or something older, there's a boat for every taste and every pocket. How should you go about choosing your boat? All the information you'll need before buying is on hand... with experts there to provide advice.

www.lemillesabords.com



©Auteurs de vues

2016: Who's going to the Rio Olympics?

François PEDRO, manager of Carnac Yacht-Club, presents the sportsmen from Morbihan in the water sports fields who have qualified for the next Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 (from August 5 to 21 and from September 7 to 18 for the Paralympic games)

"For the time being, only Eric Flageul has qualified on a Sonar (adaptive), with his two fellow crew members Bruno Jourden and Nicolas Vimont-Vicary. France has so far achieved qualification for all of the series (the boats) but we still need to qualify the individuals (the crews). Our main contenders are Louis Giard for RSX windsurfing and Moana Vaireaux for the Nacra 17 catamaran. The names of the competitors will be known by 2015. I would also like to highlight another international champion from Morbihan even if her series is not an Olympic one: this is Delphine Cousin for slalom windsurfing on the PWA circuit, who is going to be trying to win a second title in New-Caledonia".

8 • USEFUL INFORMATION

GETTING TO MORBIHAN

BY CAR

The expressways in Morbihan and Brittany are free of charge between Rennes/Lorient, Ploërmel/Vannes, and Nantes/Vannes...

- You should plan on a journey time of 5 hours from Paris to Vannes, or 5h30 from and to Lorient.
- From northern and eastern France: A11 l'Océane: Paris - Rennes and RN24: Rennes-Ploërmel-Lorient; RN166 Ploërmel-Vannes.
- From southeastern France: N76: Lyon-Moulins-Tours then the A11 l'Océane: Angers - Nantes and RN165: Nantes-Vannes.

BY TRAIN

- Paris-Vannes: 3h00 - Paris-Auray: 3h20 - Paris-Lorient: 3h30 - Paris-Redon: 2h40
- Lille-Vannes: 5h00
- Lyon-Rennes or Nantes (direct): 4h30
- The "corkscrew" Auray-Quiberon line, to easily reach the Quiberon peninsula (July-August)

For information and reservations please visit www.sncf.com

BY AIR

- Regular services to and from Lorient for Paris and Lyon.
Lorient: +33 (0)297 87 21 50 - www.lorient.aeroport.fr
- Regular service to and from Nantes/Rennes for France and Europe.
Nantes: +33 (0)2 40 84 80 00 - www.nantes.aeroport.fr
Rennes: +33 (0)2 99 29 60 00 - www.rennes.aeroport.fr

BY BOAT

- Daily services all year round from Quiberon and Lorient to the Atlantic islands of Belle-Ile en Mer, Groix, Houat and Hoëdic (crossing time of approx. 45 minutes - Hoëdic 60 minutes).

Compagnie Océane +33 (0) 820 056 156 (€0.12 /min)
www.compagnie-oceane.fr

Other maritime transport companies also propose crossings from Easter to October and during the high season.

- Daily connections all year round from Vannes and Baden to the islands of the Gulf of Morbihan: L'île d'Arz and L'île aux Moines
L'île d'Arz: Bateau Bus du Golfe Tel.: +33 (0)2 97 44 44 40 - www.ile-arz.fr
L'île aux Moines: Izenah Croisières Tel. +33 (0)2 97 26 31 45 - www.izenah-croisieres.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The TIM bus network...

- 18 TIM lines serve Morbihan including services to the railway stations and harbour stations.
- Prices: €2 per ticket - €15 per 10-trip card

Full details of Morbihan' public transport services

Local rate number: +33 (0)810 10 10 56 or morbihan.fr

FURTHER INFORMATION

For tourist information please call +33 (0)2 97 54 06 56 or visit www.morbihan.com

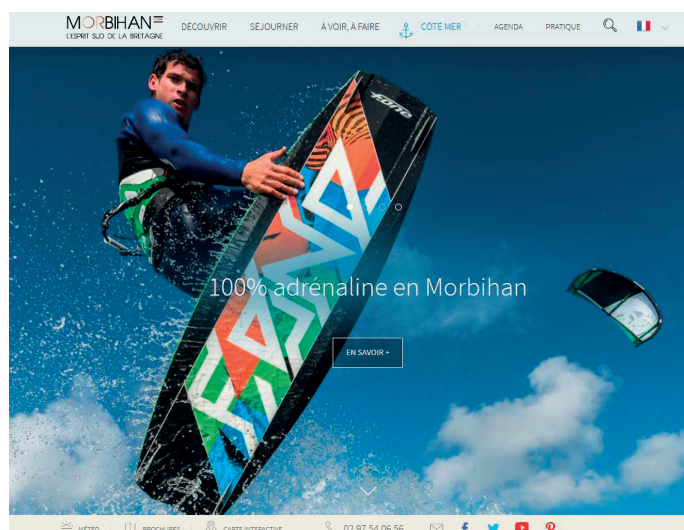
MORBIHAN ON THE SOCIAL NETWORKS

You can find and share all the latest news about tourism in Morbihan on the social networks:

Facebook: facebook.com/morbihantourisme

Twitter: twitter.com/MorbihanTourism

Pinterest: pinterest.com/morbihantourism/







© P. Levy



© M. Schaffner



© ArtJazz - fotolia

CONTACTS

Morbihan Tourisme
Contact: Armelle Jouan
Tel.: +33 (0)2 97 54 62.97

Press Relations

hémisphère  Sud

Corinne Hennequin/ Laurie Leung
Tel.: +33 (0)5 57 77 59 60 / 06 87 70 44 55
l.leung@agencehemispheresud.com



MORBIHAN 
L'ESPRIT SUD DE LA BRETAGNE

www.morbihan.com