

# CASTEL CAMPING GORGES DU CHAMBON

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## WELCOME

**You are in** one of the most beautiful and unspoilt areas of the Charente, a little corner of paradise known as "the Switzerland of the Charente".

The variety of countryside is due to the position of our site at the crossroads of three geological regions: the plains of west Charente, the foothills of the Central Massif and North Limousin, and the limestone of the Dordogne to the South.

On arriving at the campsite you will have passed the facilities of the **open-air centre** "Le centre de plein air de Chambon". This centre belongs to the department, which has chosen to preserve and develop many open-air activities here. The word 'Chambon' means 'loop, and The Gorges du Chambon is situated in a loop of the river Tardoire and covers 28 hectares of totally unspoilt nature.

## A short history of the campsite

The campsite at Gorges du Chambon was created in the early seventies by two farmers who wished to make the most of their land. Upon their retirement in 1990, the campsite was taken over by an English couple.

In 2000, Jacques Petit and his family took over from them, and they welcome you here today.

### Practical questions

#### Opening hours

**In high season there is a 'welcome' drink and an explanation of the camp activities every Sunday at 6.00pm in the restaurant.**

**Reception – shop - sale of bread - tourist information - high season** from 8.00am to 12.30pm and from 2.00pm to 7.30pm.  
**Low and mid season** from 08.30 to 12.00 and from 14.30 to 18.00

**Restaurant – bar - takeaway dishes and snacks:** closed Sunday evenings and Mondays in low and mid season

**July - August** open every day from 7.00pm **Snack bar at the pool:** open only in high season.

**Activities office:** at the reception. **Internet:** free access at reception.

**Campsite gates and car traffic:** Gates are open from 7.00am to 11.00pm, and for the security of all campers the maximum speed limit authorised for vehicles is 10 km/h.

**Recycling and rubbish disposal:** The rubbish bins are at the entrance area of the campsite, behind reception.

Glass bottles should be placed in the large green bottle bank.

Plastic bottles, paper, cardboard, milk and fruit juice cartons, cans and tins should be placed in the rubbish bins with yellow lids. Ask for your yellow rubbish bag at the reception office.

#### Service PLUS

If you have a problem or if you need something, please ask at reception and we will try to find a solution. Ask about our Service PLUS where you will find refrigerators for hire, loan of a variety of equipment, basic tools for making repairs etc.

#### Laundry:

A washing and a drying machine are at your disposal in the sanitation block B and two washing machines are in sanitation block A, to use between 09.00am and 8.00pm. Buy your tokens in the shop.

## Shopping

**Markets** Piégut: the largest and the most reputable of the region's markets – every Wednesday morning

**Brantôme:** every Friday morning

**La Rochefoucauld, Montbron and Nontron:** every Saturday morning

**Shops : Eymouthiers:** bakery, tobacconist, petrol station and post office.

**Montbron:** Le tonus Vert, an association of Montbron tradesmen, offers more than forty shops, the Intermarché supermarket is open every day including Sunday morning until 11.45am and there is an Aldi supermarket too.

#### Producers and sale of regional products.

Shops selling regional products can be found along the road to **Piégut**. On sale you will find preserves, oils, tinned goods, pâtés etc.

**Local mills** often sell their produce such as flour, oils etc.

At **Rouzède** you will find the farm products of M. Marc Trapateau: preserves, foie gras, tinned goods, eggs, organic yoghurts etc.

At **St Sornin** you can visit the local Pineau, Cognac and wine cooperative.

**Souffrignac** offers farm vegetables and squashes.

Brochures with addresses of producers can be found at the reception office.

## Sporting activities

For all supervised activities, there are two umbrella organisations that exist:

\***ETE ACTIF**: enrollment and booking are obligatory and can only be done in Montbron at the canoeing base. We will give you a list of their activities on your arrival.

\***LES ESTIVALES DU CHAMBON**: enrollment and booking are obligatory at the Tourist Office in Montbron, behind the Credit Agricole bank. There is a brochure of these activities available at reception.

## **Swimming**

### **Swimming-pool**

The swimming pool is open from 9am to 8pm. **The pool is not supervised,**

**Supervision of children by an accompanying adult is obligatory.**

Rules are posted at the entrance to the pool area.

### **River**

Three paths give access down to the river. Children can have fun making dams and playing in the water. Several pools in the river are deep enough for adults to swim. **Swimming in the river is not supervised.**

### **Lakes**

Ask at the reception office for a map of suitable places to swim in the area. A number of lakes exist for swimming and for water sports such as sailing or pedaloos etc.

### **The sea**

The nearest beach is at Royan, approximately 2 ½ hours away. However in the evenings the roads are very busy and the journey time may be longer.

## **Mountain biking**

The centre at Chambon is classified as a mountain biking centre in France, a map of routes is available at reception.

It is possible to hire basic mountain bikes for use on and around the campsite.

More sophisticated bikes can be rented from 'Etablissement AUPY', at Montbron; these can be hired before your arrival on 05.45.23.62.85 email: [ets.aupy@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ets.aupy@wanadoo.fr) Bikes can be delivered to the campsite for the longer hire periods.

## **Bicycles**

A file with ideas of circuits is available at the reception office, with looping circuits to help you discover the region. We are on the 'European No. 6 circuit'.

## **Canoeing**

We have three canoes and a kayak at the campsite; the use of them is free unless you need transport upriver, for which there will be a charge. A list of times is available at reception. Canoes can also be hired from the canoe base in Montbron.

## **Walking**

Chambon is an important departure point for walking. At reception there is a map of marked tracks as well as maps set up by the campsite.

May we remind you that before setting off on a walk a minimum safety equipment is necessary. If you have a health problem it is advisable to seek advice on the difficulty of your chosen track.

On weekdays in July and August, we offer free accompanied rambles with a qualified guide, to help you discover the rich variety of flora and fauna in the area.

There are three signed walks around the site for your use.

## **Horse riding**

Half-day horse riding sessions are regularly proposed and professionals give training from the open-air centre. You can reserve directly at the stables – there is usually someone there at 9, 12, 2 and 5pm – just 200 mtrs from the campsite.

There are three horse riding centres in the area, which organise outings for all ages; please ask for information at reception.

It is important to have your own hard shoes or at least trainers, and long trousers when horseriding.

## **Archery**

Organised half-day sessions are available on the site near the entrance to the campsite. Reservation is necessary. This activity doesn't take place every week.

## **Tennis**

Non-supervised activity (free) Booking is recommended.

The 3 tennis courts are open from 9am to 7pm (out of respect for residents). One court, of mediocre quality, is situated in the heart of the campsite, and the other rather better quality courts, are up a short path on the left as you leave the campsite. We can also lend you rackets and balls at reception.

There is also free access to a training wall behind the refreshment stand.

## **Fishing**

**Our free private fishing lake is available.**

In order to fish in the Tardoire, which is classified as a 'first category fishing river', you need a fishing card. These can be bought at the 'Coup Franc' bar opposite the post office in Montbron.

## **Boules**

There is a boules pitch available, which can be lit up in the evenings (light switches on the nearby electric points); no play after 21.30pm please.

## **Rock climbing**

There is a rock climbing wall nearby; it is private and we ask you to leave it as you found it, and to give priority to any groups.

## **venture courses – Tree scaling**

Discover a new and exciting activity with professional instructors. A wonderful activity with Tyrolean descent, rope bridges etc. There is a site at Chambon as well as a site near the Lacs de Haute Charente. Enrollment obligatory. This activity doesn't take place every week.

## **Mini-golf**

This is a free activity with unlimited access. A small deposit is required when borrowing balls and clubs from reception.

## **Golf**

The 18 hole golf course at La Prèze is 6km from the campsite on the road to Ecuras. Ask for a card at reception to benefit from the special tariffs arranged.

## **Pitch and putt**

Only 200m from the campsite, clubs and special balls available from the Centre de Plein Air (deposit required); a fun activity for all the family.

## **T.V.**

Satellite Television with numerous French and foreign channels is available in the room above the restaurant. A dvd player is available too, as well as a small selection of campsite dvds..

## **Hot air ballooning**

Take off from the campsite with a team of professionals. 3 people per flight. Ask at the reception office for information.

## **Nautical base**

20km from the campsite with the possibility of hiring sailing dinghies, catamarans, kayaks etc.

## **Tastings**

There are opportunities to taste local products at the campsite.

## **Activities**

### **Mini-club - for children**

Open in high season only, from 2.30pm to 5.00pm . Closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Meet at the club, next to the pool.

### **Ponies**

There are 2 small ponies at the campsite for children under 12 (max 30 kgs). The ponies can be hired for 15, 30 or 60 minutes .Parents must accompany their children on these outings round the campsite. Reservation at reception.

### **Active summer - Été actif –for all ages**

Every summer the Charente organises activities for people of all ages; ask for a calendar of events at reception and try to book well in advance as they get filled up very quickly.

### **Organised activities – for all ages:**

The campsite also organises activities, such as bowling competitions, volleyball, rambling, sports and cultural activities and tasting of local produce.

### **Family activities**

There is a disco or karaoke evening once a week in high season as well as a cabaret evening. There are also bingo and Pictionary events.

**Babysitting** Ask at reception for details

## **Nature**

### **Ornithology**

The campsite is situated in a perfect setting for bird watching and is classed as one of the most reputable sites in the Charente. ( SITE LPO). We have a specific list of species to be seen on the site.

You can also see, amongst many other species:

**Daytime birds:** Buzzards, Kestrels, Kingfishers, Merlins, Hobbies, Honey Buzzards, Sparrowhawks, Goshawks and Short-toed Eagles.

**Nocturnal birds:** little Owls, Barn Owls, Tawny Owls, Scoop Owls and Long-eared Owls

Nature notices are to be found all around the campsite.

### **Gardens**

Many beautiful gardens, conservatories or collections have been safeguarded or created in the Charente. Ask for a list at reception.

### **Astronomy**

The campsite, faraway from town lighting, allows for wonderful night-time observation.

### **Tourism**

Tourist information can be found at the reception office in two large shelving units full of suggestions and brochures, maps, handouts, guides and posters.

The Tourist Office can be found in Montbron, near the Credit Agricole bank.

Some suggested visits:

### **Family visits**

Lakes, Valley of the Monkeys, Futuroscope, Aquarium at La Rochelle, bicycle on rails, sailing on the river Charente on a motorized small boat, Futuroscope.

### **Historical visits**

Château at La Rochefoucauld, The route of Richard the Lionheart, the château at Puyguilem, Aubeterre is an exceptionally pretty village, Oradour sur Glane, Brantôme.

### **Museums and exhibitions**

grottes de Villars and grottes du Queroy, Rural museum at Souffrignac, National comic strip museum at Angoulême (CNBDI).

### **Days out**

Dordogne –1 day visit to Les Eysies, Sarlat and Périgueux, circuit of the local mills, cruise on the river Charente.

### **Gastronomy**

Wine producer at St Sornin, cellars at Cognac, Pineau producers, Dordogne – strawberries, duck products, foie gras etc, and chocolate production – visit Chocolaterie Letuffe near Angoulême.

### **Going out**

**Eating** We are in a region of gastronomy. Ask at the reception office for a list of restaurants, Auberges and Guest Houses.

**Cinema** There are cinemas at Marthon (15kms), La Rochefoucauld (18kms) and at Angoulême (35kms).

**Dancing** Marthon 15 km Massignac 20km

### **Health care**

**Montbron** Doctors, dentist, physiotherapist, nurse.

**La Rochefoucauld** A number of specialists can be found here.

**Hospitals** La Rochefoucauld and Angoulême.

**Campsite rules** Rules are posted at the entrance area of the campsite and at reception . Feel free to ask for a copy.

**La Clé Verte** The centre received in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 awards for its environmental management. We make every effort to maintain the exceptional quality of the environment of the site.

**Camping quality.** Award winning campsite in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

We are here to offer you the following:

A warm welcome

A perfect cleanliness

Honest and accurate information

Private and cared-for pitches.

**Wheel Chairs** We have a special toilet and shower for the handicapped.

The reception, shop, restaurant, bar and the swimming pool area are all accessible to wheelchairs.

Our equipped tents are also accessible .

We welcome your suggestions in this respect to improve our facilities.

**La Via Natura:** An association of campsites with a passion for nature.

This is a voluntary membership, which reflects the determination of the site's owner to provide the most natural and well-preserved environment for you, the campers.

This membership also reflects the owner's desire to promote a sense of quality, comfort and respect within the campsite, which has a maximum capacity of 160 pitches, 70% of which are kept for tent and caravan usage.

### **OUR CHARTER**

**1° For man to be at the centre of our values and to respect Nature.**

**2° To offer you a natural and preserved site, where you will be welcomed personally by the owners and where there is a real atmosphere of calm and relaxation.**

**3° To enable you to understand and benefit from the surroundings**

- **by offering you documents about fauna, flora and insect life in several languages**
- **by making available equipment and observation areas**
- **by sharing our knowledge of this environment**
- **by proposing nature-based activities**
- **by informing you of places to visit along this theme**
- **by promoting regular nature outings**
- **by encouraging an informed attitude to the environment**

**4° For there to exist a balanced and profitable exchange with our local producers and partners.**

**5° To participate in sustainable tourism, notably by recycling waste effectively, by a reasonable consumption of resources (water, electricity).**

**6° To lend our support to those organisations which benefit and care for the environment.**

**BONNES VACANCES**