ARCACHON

Destination Arcachon

Tourist GUIDE 2025

Destination Arcachon



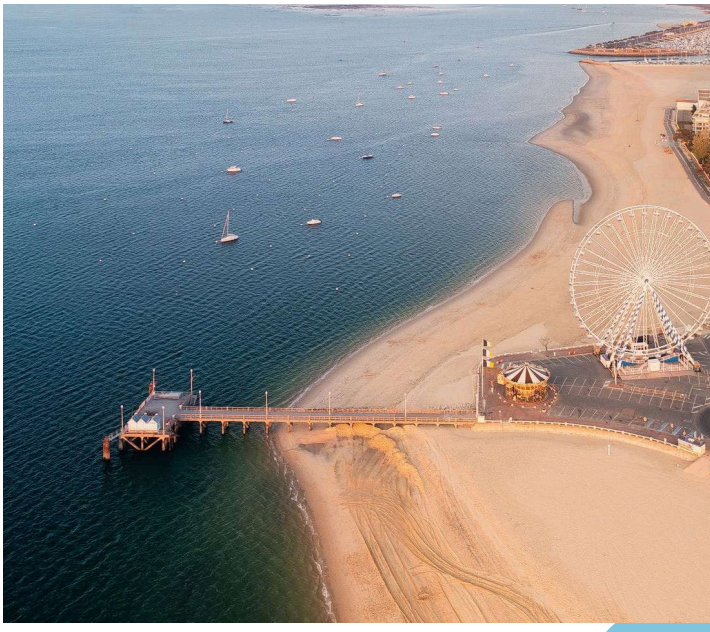
ARCACHON

BASSIN D'ARCACHON

OFFICE DE TOURISME CLASSÉ

The Atlantic seaside resort

Arcachon is an authentic destination nestled where land meets sea, surrounded by 80 km of coastline, beaches and wooded dunes marking the entrance to Arcachon Bay.
Experience an outdoor getaway in the heart of the pine forest, admire the sunset on Pereire beach, go for a relaxing stroll, venture off the beaten track on foot or by bike and simply unwind as you enjoy the moment!
Anyone who knows Arcachon will tell you that it is a charming, welcoming and pleasant town to live in year round. The architecture and city centre will win you over. You'll find it's the perfect place for a leisurely stroll to enjoy the sights and shopping options.
We've made a list of all the essential sites you'll want to discover during your stay.





The Tourist OFFICE

A trilingual team at your service
Our innovative and sustainable space is open year round for your convenience.
Ideally located at the entrance to the city centre, near Arcachon train station in the MA.AT building (Médiathèque Arcachon Associations Tourism), we are here to help you design your own customised digital visitor's book in advance or as soon as you arrive.
Our whole team is happy to share insider tips and personal favourite spots to ensure you have an unforgettable holiday.
The Tourist Office offers: a spacious interactive digital information centre, a shop with uniquely designed products, a co-working space with free WiFi, a ticket office (for shows, guided tours) as well as special access to Bunker 502, built in 1943, located in the basement of our building !



On call or on site, we build with you your personalized travel diary!
You will then have all your holiday in 1 click and on your smartphone with all the latest updates.

The extra bonus : we help you design your own customised visitor's book. Just stop by or call us! You'll be able to see all your holiday plans at a glance on your smartphone.

OPENING HOURS
July & August: 7 days a week from 9:30 am to 7:00 pm
April to June and September:
- Monday to Saturday from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 6pm,
- Sundays and public holidays, from 10am to 1pm and from 2pm to5 pm.

October to March:
- Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 6pm,
- Saturday from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 5pm.

Offices de Tourisme de France

QUALITÉ TOURISME

The Qualité TourismeTM brand is the only state-owned brand that has been used by tourism professionals for the quality of their welcome and services.

Tourisme ACCESSIBLE

All information about people with disabilities is available on arcachon.com

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Diary
2024

ARCACHON
Festival day

23 March



Boat show

19 to 21 APRIL





4 & 5 MAY

The Beach of the **WRITERS**



6 TO JUNE 9

Jumping
SAND

Big concerts of the **SUMMER**



Feasts OF THE SEA

14 & 15 AUGUST





13 SEPT.

Evening at the **MAURESQUE**



17 TO 22 SEPT.

Festival **CADENCES**

HALLOWEEN



26 OCT.



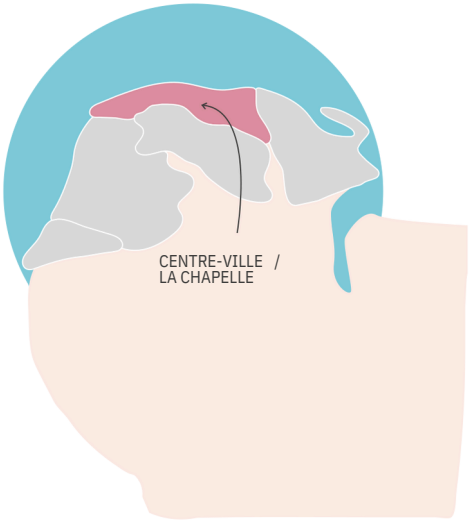
DECEMBER

Arcachon **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

D'INFOS EN SCANNANT LE QR CODE

Arcachon

THE TOP SIGHTS



The summer town

CENTER TOWN - LA CHAPELLE

Discover the city centre and waterfront

The seafront and the centre of Arcachon are known as the summer town. Several phases of renovation work carried out over the past 20 to 30 years have made this area a charming seaside town full of character. The beautiful promenade along the beach is known for its many restaurants offering a view of the bay and piers with boarding points for boats. Enjoy a stroll through the authentic town centre and discover its streets full of unique shops for the ideal Arcachon shopping experience.



Good to know : the centre of the summer town is a pedestrian area during the summer. This means you can safely stroll through the pleasant and lively streets. Leave your car behind and enjoy refreshing shaded areas and the delightful surprises that make the city centre a top destination.

The MAAT



Located in the heart of the city, the MA-AT is Arcachon's newest iconic space. This interactive area designed for exploration, events and recreation is a valuable resource for information, entertainment and education. Visitors and locals of all ages and tastes are sure to find something they love about this unique place. The versatile cultural space houses a media and game library, a digital centre, Bunker 502, which is open to visitors, a community centre, a gaming area and several workshops and entertainment offered throughout the year.

BUNKER 502 An amazing immersive experience.



Built in 1943 and closed in 1946, the German Bunker 502 located under the current Tourist Office had long been forgotten. That is, until the city initiated excavation campaigns carried out by "Gramasa", an association with expert knowledge of the fortifications which once formed the Atlantic Wall in the area surrounding Arcachon. This vestige of the Second World War has now been transformed into a space that invites visitors into an immersive experience!

The bunker is open for self-guided tours (30 minutes) whenever the Tourist Office is open. Guided tours can also be booked through the Tourist Office (1-hour guided tour).



The market

Place des Marquises

Renovated in 2012, this large square surrounded by archways with its covered market is a focal point of the city centre. At the Place des Marquises you will find a large selection of fresh local products every morning at the Arcachon market in Baltard hall. Choose from seasonal fruits and vegetables, freshly caught fish, oysters from the bay, poultry, pastries, delicatessen items, local cheeses and flowers. Stop for a coffee break, go for a stroll to take in all there is to see, or taste some oysters right on site. Your taste buds will thank you!

Market opening periods

16 September to 14 June Open Tuesday to Sunday: 7:30 am to 1:00 pm.
Open from 15 June to 15 September 7 days a week from 7:30am to 1:30pm
Open during school holidays and public holidays and from 15 September to April) 7 days a week: 7:30am to 1:00pm
The market bar is open every market day from until 8:30 pm at the Place des Marquises.

Olympia Theatre



Olympia Theatre has reigned supreme over Arcachon's cultural scene for 140 years.
The theatre offers many shows each year. It has been officially certified as a "Public-Funded Theatre of National Interest and Centre for Regional Art with a focus on dance".



It regularly hosts plays, comedians, singers, symphonic orchestras and prestigious troupes such as the Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse, the Malandain Ballet Biarritz, the Armstrong Jazz Ballet and the Béjard Ballet Lausanne.

The theatre programme is available on our website
www.arcachon.com

Château Deganne

Château Deganne, built in 1853, is a replica of the château of Boursault in the Marne region. It is now home to Arcachon Casino.



Arcachon piers

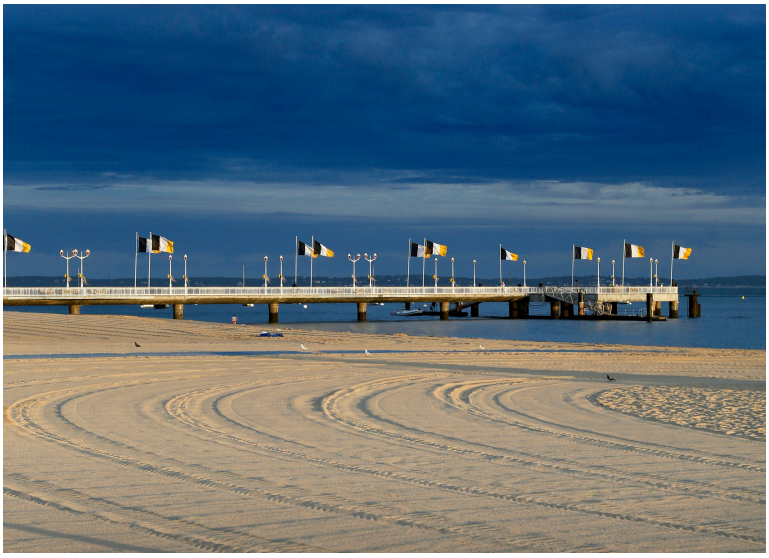
CONNECTING LAND AND SEA !

The piers of Arcachon are the ideal place to walk between land and sea. Piers for boats and pontoons for fishermen also provide protection against the force of powerful waves. They each come with their own stories and anecdotes, contributing to the city's heritage. They are certainly a must-see during your visit.



“Thiers Pier

Queen of the Arcachon piers"



Thier’s quayside has also witnessed numerous Arcachon events, including sea festivals, sailing regattas, fireworks, sand castle competitions, music concerts and religious celebrations.
After viewing the footprints of the greatest sailors at the entrance to the pier, the square with the same name is a lovely place for a walk.

First called "New Pier" in 1903, it was renamed “Thiers” in 1907 after the first president of France’s Third Republic. The most famous pier in Arcachon, located in the heart of the city, was built to provide additional walking space and an area for boat departures. Just think of all the passengers who have used this pier since then. There are endless stories and anecdotes connected to it!



Chapel Pier
HONOURS SALORS

The charming Chapel pier lies opposite Notre-Dame Basilica, at the end of the lane leading down to the bay. There you will find the monumental cross honouring sailors: Croix des Marins.



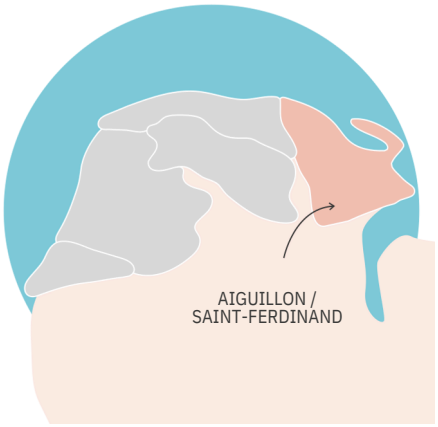
This replica from 1980, greeted by a chorus of fishing boat horns at the time, replaced the previous cross from 1865, which was accidentally destroyed. The first cross dating back to 1722 was likely a simple wooden cross.

This pier is the ideal place to relax, read and watch the fishermen throw their lines over the famous "Saint Yves hole", the deepest point of the bay (30 meters) where trawlers and boats are buried alongside a Mystèry IV aircraft.

In November 1969, this plane made a spectacular nosedive before crashing near Pereire beach. Fishermen then towed it to this famous pit that is well known among divers. It formed when a small chasm in an underwater field of dunes suddenly collapsed.

But why is it called the Saint Yves hole? It's because it was named after the villa with the lovely green and white lookout tower. Built in 1910 for Prince Auguste de Broglie it had a private pier at the time which likely collapsed when the hole was formed.

Aiguillon
SAINT FERDINAND



Discover the Arcachon port

The area of Arcachon from east of the Pierre Lataillade pier to Aiguillon Point is composed of beaches, a promenade and the port area. It is the third-largest marina in France and is an active fishing port. It can accommodate 2,600 boats of all sizes and offers a complete infrastructure spanning 21 hectares.
If you walk or cycle around the harbour, you will be struck by the diverse environments: beaches, fishing ports, the marina, and water sports activities.





Aiguillon Point

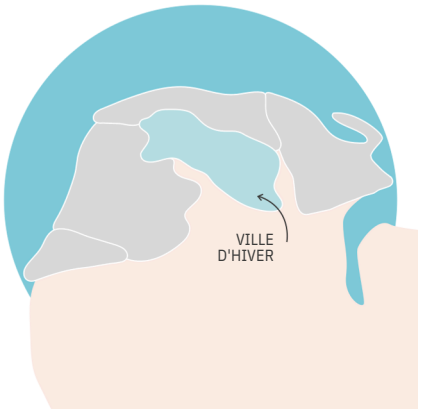
Here you will find oyster huts and a pleasant place to walk. It is also well known among photographers as the ideal place to photograph the rising sun.

Saint Ferdinand Church

Saint Ferdinand Church is a historic and iconic building in the autumn town, located next to the port. Surmounted by a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it can be seen from several places in the city. It's a bit like a smaller version of the statue that watches over Rio de Janeiro! The church is actually fairly recent, having been built as a chapel in 1855 and replaced by a church in the early 1900s. The bell tower was then added in 1927.

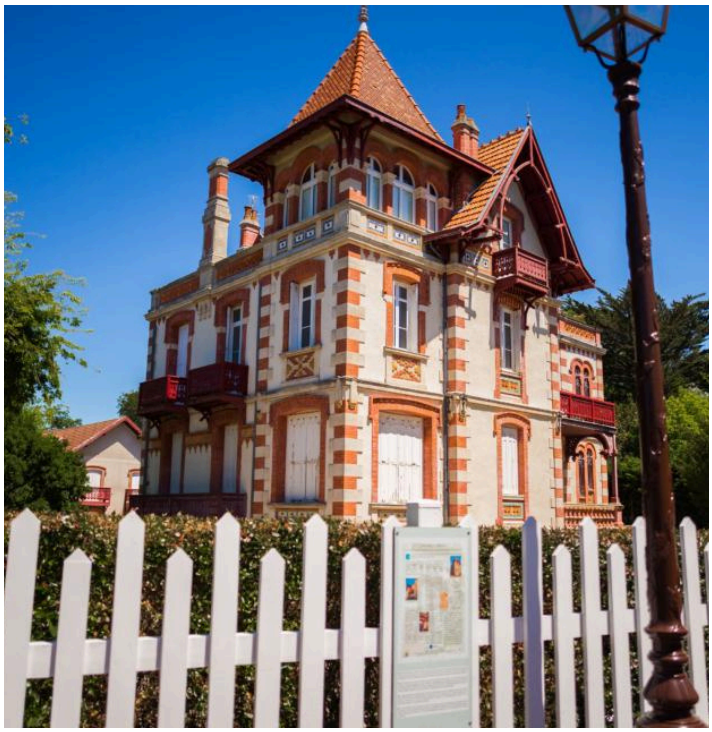


Winter TOWN



An unforgettable walk through history

The winter town of Arcachon stretches over 10 hectares. One of the most original and eccentric sets of villas was built here during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Located on the heights of Arcachon, the winter town is marked by its architecture and eccentricity.



It forms a mosaic composed of one eccentric dwelling after another. The architects time clearly let their imaginations run wild as they decorated these villas, Swiss chalets, Gothic-style mansions and Moorish houses with carved balconies, turrets, colonnades, neoclassical facades, extravagant roofs, unusual staircases, as well as winter and exotic gardens.

To walk through the rambling streets in this neighbourhood is to be transported back in time. Whether it's sunny, rainy, windy or snowing, with or without an umbrella, this setting remains just as charming. You can start at Villa Teresa (which mixes Spanish and Moorish styles) before making your way to Villa Toledo (Spanish style with a trompe l'oeil staircase) and then on to the ostentatiously decorated Villa Alexandre Dumas and Villa Brémontier (reinterpretation of a Swiss chalet), Villa Trocadéro (near Place Brémontier), and Villa Carmen (built with stones and bricks).

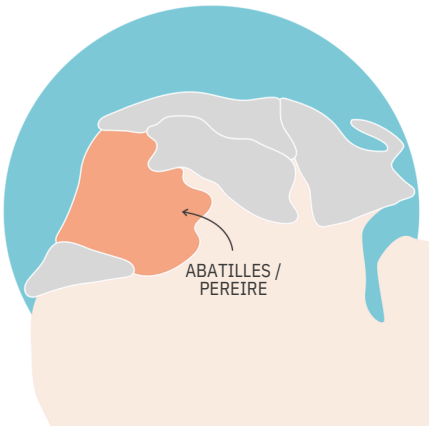
Guided tours of the winter city are offered year round.

Contact the Arcachon Tourist Office for more information and to book your tour – +33 5 57 52 97 97





Abatilles
PEREIRE



NESTLED IN A GREEN SETTING WHERE PINE TREES REIGN SUPREME, BORDERED BY PEREIRE BEACH, THE SPRING TOWN OFFERS A BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SETTING.

Pereire
BEACH

In the shade of tall pine trees, Pereire Park offers an enchanting view of this authentic natural environment. The sand, sun and sea are in perfect harmony here. This area boasts breathtaking scenery and one of the most beautiful sandy beaches in Arcachon. For a little taste of paradise, take a stroll among the maritime pines, holm oaks and strawberry trees, stop for a picnic or enjoy a bike ride (starting from Pereire you can follow the bike path to centre of Moulleau). Pereire Park also offers a long shaded pedestrian walkway along the beach to the Arbousiers car park.



Abatilles
BEACH



Abatilles beach is located next to Pereire beach. Long sandy beach with a pedestrian walkway stretching 3 km features a playground, skate park, cycle path, a seaside promenade and a pine forest surrounding wide lawns where families can play ball and fly kites.
Abatilles beach offers a beautiful view of the Cap Ferret peninsula and lighthouse.

Abatilles

WATER SOURCE



Discovered in 1923 by Louis Lemarié who was looking for oil, this water was first marketed in 1925. Renowned for the excellent quality of its mineral water (nitrite-free), the spring is 472 m deep and comes directly from the Massif Central (1 km every 300 years!).

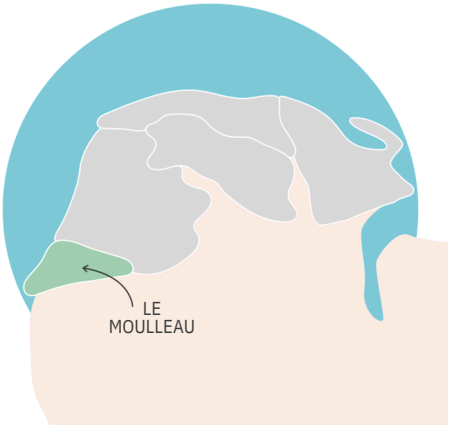
Notre Dame Basilica

Notre Dame Basilica is one of Arcachon's many treasures. The protected and revered site was built from 1858 to 1860 and is highly esteemed by residents. The Gothic-style building houses the Chapel of Sailors, built in honour of the miraculous statue of Virgin Mary found on the beach by a man named Thomas Illyricus.



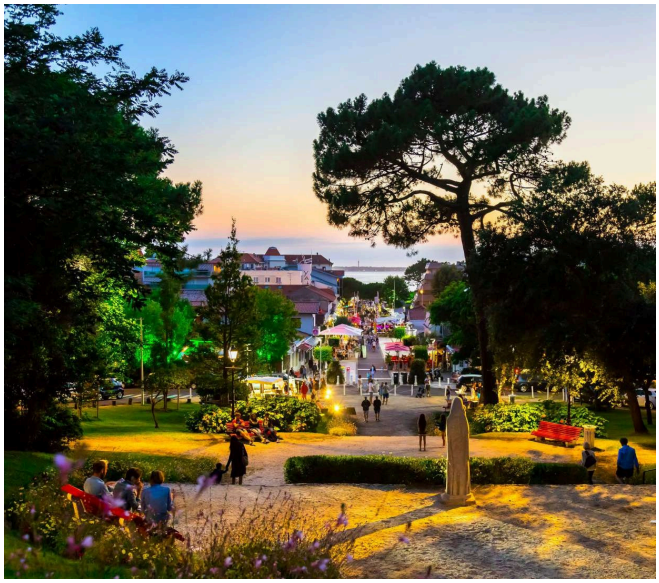


Le Moulleau



Vibrant Days and Nights

Le Moulleau is more of a village than a neighbourhood. Built around the pier that juts out into the sea, it offers a panoramic view of Arcachon Bay and Cap Ferret. From the beach you can also admire the magnificent houses on the coastline, such as Villa Kypris with architecture reflecting the extravagant tastes of the 1930s.
With an ice cream in hand, the pedestrian streets lined with fashionable upscale boutiques are ideal for a leisurely walk down to the waterfront.



There you will find a bronze cannon dating back to the naval campaigns of the Napoleonic wars which children love to climb on while their parents take it easy on the terrace.
Early in the evening, the bars and restaurants begin welcoming couples and groups of friends. The night scene is just getting warmed up. The night life begins early at Le Moulleau and continues well after midnight.

Le Moulleau beach



Enjoy the scenery at Le Moulleau pier. Located opposite the Cap-Ferret lighthouse and just a few kilometres from the Dune du Pilat, it is a popular spot for photographers and lovers, especially at sunset. That's when the magic happens: time comes to a halt as the bay lights up with a wide array of sumptuous colours.

“From pier to pier”

Once upon a time...

THE STORY OF LE MOULLEAU PIER

Former mayor of Arcachon, James Veyrier Montagnères, moved to his villa in Le Moulleau in the late 1890s. He then started developing this neighbourhood far from the city centre. In 1899, he built a wooden pier right next to the Grand Hotel. It was rebuilt in 1932 using concrete to increase its longevity.





But did you know that there were once two piers at Le Moulleau?

The first was located to the left of the Grand Hotel. It was not until 1973 that it was moved to the right, aligning it with Notre Dame des Passes church and the Cap Ferret lighthouse.

The old pier remained in place until the new one was completed and operational. This moment was captured by a photographer.

Here is an anecdote from this area

James Veyrier Montagnères and the great aviator Louis Paulhan created quite a buzz on 7 April 1912. The two men landed on Le Moulleau beach, next to the pier, after taking off from Eyrac beach for a flight lasting a total of three minutes.

The history

BEHIND LEGALLAIS PIER

In 1811, François Legallais met and married a wealthy woman from Teste-de-Buch. Using the money from her dowry, he built the first seaside hotel in 1823 on the shores of the bay, east of Eyrac.



The pier that was named after him was built in 1898 as an extension of the street of the same name. It was washed away and rebuilt several times, including during the storms of 1905 and 1919.

It also served as a starting point for regattas for some time due to its proximity to the Grand Hotel with its wealthy clientele. It was integrated into the boulevard-promenade in 1936 and changed into a groyne for greater protection from the currents.

Pierre Lataillade

the oldest pier

At the time, the railway line stopped at La Teste. Visitors then had to take a boat and disembark at the Eyrac pier to enjoy the seaside resort. It is also a workplace for fishermen. Arcachon became the first fishing port in 1910. Oyster farmers from the bay offered oyster tastings.

Built in 1845, the Eyrac pier is named after Pierre Lataillade, a former mayor of Arcachon who passed away in 2020. Originally built entirely of wood, it was reconstructed using reinforced concrete in 1903 to withstand storms. It was very popular even before the creation of Arcachon in 1857.



From Arcachon

TO THE SURROUNDING AREAS

Top sights in the bay area

Arcachon bay is a vast area spanning 155 km2 with astonishing landscapes that change with the tides and seasons. It will take you more than one day to see it all !



Boat trips

When you go sailing on the bay, you soon discover the diversity of the landscapes that make up this amazing area. To get this experience, you have a wide range of options available : classic sightseeing boats, traditional private pinasse boats, sailing catamarans and even paddleboards and kayaks to take along the coast. You won't want to miss this unforgettable experience during your holiday.

If you choose to take a guided tour with regular departures, the excursions leave from Thiers pier (in the city centre of Arcachon on the waterfront). Several companies and several types of boats are available there. You can book online or buy your tickets directly at the pier.

If you opt for a private boat: you can then book a customised trip for your family or friends with a skipper, the captain of the ship. In this case, you will depart from the small marina, or the Thiers pier depending on the boat you choose.

If you are looking for an independent boat (sea kayak, paddleboard, windsurf board), many clubs offer rentals or supervised services.
Whatever you choose, the Tourist Office is here to help you organise your sailing adventure.



The lighthouse in Lège

CAP FERRET

The Cap Ferret lighthouse lets you reach great heights (53 m) in both summer and winter. Climb the 258 steps to the top for breathtaking views of the bird island, oyster parks, dune and the ocean. The site also features an interactive area for discovering marine cartography.
Suggested route: take a UBA boat or water taxi (30 minute crossing from Arcachon)



The Ornithological

Reserve of Le Teich



The diversity of forests, marshes and lagoons in this reserve attracts 300,000 migratory birds each year. Numerous observation posts let you get a closer look at the wild birds. The park has two walking routes: 2.5 km or 6 km.
Suggested route: take a Baïa bus or train from Arcachon station (a Baïa ticket can be used for the bus and/or train). The Ornithological Reserve of Le Teich is about 16 km from Arcachon.

Oyster Museum “The Oyster House ” in **Gujan-Mestras**

The Oyster Museum on Larros port is open year round. Discover the world of marine shellfish farming and the work and techniques of oyster farmers. The various exhibitions are very popular with visitors.
Suggested route: take a train (Gujan-Mestras stop). Distance from Arcachon: less than 10 km. Baïa bus tickets can be used for the train.



Sand Dune

Pilat

The highest dune in Europe has been a classified site since 1994. The dune's size is impressive in size and offers breathtaking panoramic views of Arcachon Bay, the Banc d'Arguin, the Cap Ferret lighthouse and the forest reaching as far as the eye can see. Climb to the top and then just take it all in !

A staircase is installed from Easter to All Saints' Day to facilitate the climb, but many adventurers still prefer taking the sand road.

Suggested route: take a Baïa bus from Arcachon station, or by bike along the bike paths.



Insider tips for getting

AROUND ARCACHON AND PARKING

Give your car a break during the holidays by taking advantage of a wide range of green transport options:
• Baïa buses: for all southern bay locations and in the city
• Boats: water buses, boat shuttles and water taxis
• TER trains to all the towns in the southern bay area and Bordeaux
• Bicycles
• Walking
• Electric vehicles

IF YOU MUST DRIVE, HOWEVER, HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR ARRIVAL IN ARCACHON

Park and ride

Keep it simple when visiting Arcachon in the summer! Use the park and ride area at the entrance to Arcachon and take the free shuttle in front of the SNCF train station to the city centre.
• fixed amount parking offers
• free shuttle

Book your parking online

No need to find a parking meter: keep an eye on your costs and see the remaining time at a glance. Restart or stop your time remotely and find all the information you need about current times and prices with a convenient app (apps to download: Prestopark or Paybyphone).

Go for an electric car

Electric car sharing services are available for rent 24/7 at the train station, and at Aiguillon, Pereire and Moulleau which feature electric recharging stations. Just use your phone to register using the “Mobilize Share” app.
Find the car parks.
Whether you want long or short, outdoors or underground parking, you have options!
The team at the Tourist Office is here to help you understand all the options available.

Find the car parks

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Sustainable

TRANSPORT

Regular boat shuttles

UBA: Regular boat shuttles run from Arcachon to Cap-Ferret and to Canon, Andernos and other destinations.
Certain routes are offered year round. Bikes are allowed on all lines. The Moulleau line does not allow you to take electric bikes and "unusual" bikes on the boats.
+33 5 57 72 28 28
Passe-Marée shuttles: Regular boat shuttles run from Arcachon to Cap-Ferret or Andernos.
+33 6 50 26 89 61

Sea buses

These boat shuttles run between the small port, Thiers pier and Moulleau, during the summer.

Water taxis

On-demand departures and arrivals.

By bike

Take advantage of over 220 kilometres of bike paths and multiple bike rental stations and discover Arcachon Bay safely and at your own pace.
Find a wide range of trip ideas, from a few hours to a half or full day on our website www.arcachon or at the Tourist Office.
Find a list of bike and motorized two-wheeled vehicle rental companies on our website www.arcachon.com or at the Tourist Office.

By bus in the **SOUTHERN BAY AREA**

The Baïa bus network allows you to travel around the city of Arcachon and four municipalities in the southern bay area (Arcachon, La Teste, Gujan-Mestras, Le Teich). The frequency of departures is adapted to the number of visitors. You can book tickets online. Good to know: your transport ticket "Baïa" pass also permits you to travel by train (between Arcachon and Le Teich) or by sea bus within a one-hour limit.
Baïa shop. +33 800 100 937 - https://www.bus-baia.fr/

Special services in addition to regular lines

On-demand transport services (Transport à la Demande TAD) are available for senior citizens and people with reduced mobility for night outings. It includes two services upon reservation: a door-to-door on-demand service for senior citizens over 75 and people with reduced mobility, and an on-demand stop service (TAD night) for night outings from certain stops in the network. www.bus-baia.fr/transport-a-la-demande

MOBI

Your Arcachon Bay mobility guide provides practical tools to help you organize your trips in the Arcachon-Val de l'Eyre bay area! Find all the alternatives to taking an individual car in one spot.

Electric vehicles: charging stations

An electric car-sharing service is available for rent 24/7 (see previous page). In addition, if you already have an electric vehicle, you will find recharging stations in all areas of Arcachon.

By train

The TER provides a practical, economical and sustainable option for travelling all around the southern bay area and to Bordeaux:
• You can use a Baïa transport ticket for €1 to travel around the southern bay area.
• The trip between Arcachon and Bordeaux takes just 52 minutes by train. Once you arrive in Arcachon, you have all the transport options you need: tram, bus, bike or simply on foot (23 round trips run between Arcachon and Bordeaux every day - TER Aquitaine).
• The LGV Paris-Arcachon high speed train line takes you to the centre of Arcachon in 2:55.
www.ter.sncf.com/nouvelle-aquitaine

Air

TRAVEL

Bordeaux Airport

Getting to Arcachon from France or other countries:
• Find all direct flight destinations and helpful information about your trip from the airport on the website: bordeaux.aeroport.fr
• For more inspirations, tips, and services, follow the airport on Facebook and Instagram!
For your round trip between the airport and Arcachon:
• Take the TER: take the direct shuttle to the Bordeaux train station (30 minute trip)
• Vehicles for hire, taxis, car or helicopter rentals are also available.
Tel. +33 5 56 34 50 50 - www.bordeaux-aeroport.fr
Taxis, vehicles for hire and car rentals
Find a list of taxis, vehicles for hire and car rental companies on our website www.arcachon.com or at the Tourist Office.

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