

Royan



Distance from St Hilaire = 35.6 miles



The "Grande Conche" beach of Royan The Grande Conche beach is a magnificent area of fine sand which stretches for two kilometres, from the new pier of the yachting marina up to the cliffs of Vallières in the municipality of Saint-Georges-de-Didonne. The striped tents give the beach a nostalgic air. These tents first appeared a long time ago, when the the fashion for bathing in the sea started at the beginning of the 19th Century. This was the time of the first sea water therapies and tents were used by the patients for undressing and to rest in after invigorating swims in the sea. Today, the sea water treatments are again fashionable but in very different conditions! The thalassotherapy uses techniques much more sophisticated in specialised institutes such as the Cap Royan, in the Chay district. The tent remains the focal point for families, a beach accessory, which adds a certain charm to the beach of Royan. The hiring of tents is a municipal service with a booking office directly on the beach.



Besides sea bathing and sun bathing, the beach, which is well protected, is the centre of nautical activities such as windsurfing, sailing,

The Port

A marina, a fishing port, the landing stage of the vat for the Verdon and the Medoc, the departure of high-speed motorboats, walks at sea, the famous Cordouan lighthouse trip.... Nautical leisure amateurs, yachtsmen and those just curious about the things of the sea will be delighted!



The sea front.

On the sea front, there is a holiday atmosphere, the arcades vibrant and alive with people going backwards and forwards all day right into the evening.

Some evenings, it is difficult to get through the mass of people thronging the arcades and to avoid the waiters of the restaurants who skilfully cut their way through the good-natured crowd.



The specialities of the numerous restaurants are obviously fish, oysters, mussels, shellfish, ... the trays of superb seafood are a feast for the eye as well as the mouth. The pleasure/price ratios are fully acceptable, especially if the prices are compared to the big Parisian brasseries! (or to London restaurants !)

Amongst the other cafés and brasseries, you will notice ' Le Portique ' where it's very pleasant to have a drink or an ice-cold dessert, ensconced in the comfortable armchairs on the immense terrace of one of the most popular places on the sea front.

Royan The Port



The Espace Nautique situated in the yachting marina offers numerous nautical activities for children, young people and adults. There are various forms of training and private tuition available, covering sailing tuition at all levels. Cruises are also available. Every year, well known competitions are held at Royan. These competitions attract crews of many nationalities.

Boat trips Boat trips attract more and more tourists and they are offered by several companies based in the marina. The various trips, offered during the day or in the evening, enable visitors to view the estuary from a different angle, up as far as Talmont and along the coast up to Saint-Palais. It is possible to go out to the Cordouan lighthouse and even visit it when the tide allows the passengers to land. Some excursions to the Cordouan lighthouse allow enough time for fishing for crabs and shell fish.

Hiring a boat also based in the marina, close to the departure point for the sea trips, several companies rent out all types of boats, with and without a licence, depending on the type of boat to be hired.

The golf of Royan



The Golf of Royan is situated in the municipality of Saint-Palais-sur-Mer, in the pine forest at Maine Gaudin. From Royan, take the road for La Palmyre.

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"THALASSO" at the hotel Novotel

This is centred around a pool filled with warm sea water, which is said to be extremely therapeutic. It is a wonderful experience just being in the pool area with its steam room and sauna and plunge pool. But treat yourself and enjoy one of the many treatments on offer. My personal favourite is being wrapped in warm mud!!



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Thalasso-relaxation
Monday to Saturday 9h00 to
12h30 and 14h00 to 18h00

Fixed price 1 care	36 e
Fixed price 2 care	58 e
Fixed price 3 care	76 e
Fixed price 4 care Full Form (including 1 collective)	94 e
Fixed price Thalazur (3 care individual + 1 massage or modelling)	109 e
Chart of 10 care	300 e
Chart Zen	320

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The Covered Market Hall of Royan

All the fish look almost human, because they are so fresh.

It is not easy to go around the market at Royan. But when you see the covered market hall, you don't mind at all. If it is possible, it is better to leave your car in one of the side streets. Crossing the market, passing the stalls of fruit and vegetables, you will find the corner where the fish is sold.

The "maigre", a fish of the region The maigre is found in coastal water. The adult maigre is at least 50 cms long. It reproduces during May - June in the estuary of the Gironde. It is caught along the coast by fishermen from the harbours of La Rochelle, La Cotinière, in the island of Oléron, and Royan.

The maigre is little known except in the region. It is said that this typical sort of Charente-Maritime fish has flesh so fine and is so full of flavour that it compares favourably with sea bass.

Royan, Notre Dame church dominates the town Notre Dame church dominates the town. Its silhouette can be seen from a distance, either when arriving by road from Saintes or when leaving by the Royan-Le Verdon ferry.

It was built between 1955 and 1958, facing the east, in the same district as the original church which was destroyed by the bombing during the second world war. With its impressive dimensions and its astounding architecture, it is often described as a cathedral. The spire of the belfry is 60 metres high, the same height as the Notre-Dame de Paris towers. The nave is made of rough concrete, built without an internal pillar, in the shape of an ellipse, 80 metres long and 45 metres wide. It is 36 metres high at either end of the parabolic vault and 28 metres high in the centre. The architecture takes into account the slope of the ground with the main entrance situated on the highest part of the slope. From the top of the stairs, which descend into the nave, one can appreciate the dimensions of the building. The beauty of the stained glass window behind the altar is enhanced by the light which penetrates from the stained glass windows at the side, giving a soft light and an impression of peace appropriate for meditation **The big organ** The organ was set up in 1964. It is considered by organists and music lovers to be an exceptional instrument. It is the first large one to be built since the 18th Century, measuring sixteen feet in height and being made of beaten pewter. Concerts are regularly held throughout the season. In July 2001, the participation of the organ, aided by the use of technology in the concert "Violin on the Sand", made the organ widely popular.

