

## **Lac de Maison**

### **Activities & Places Of Interest.**

We have put together this brochure to provide more comprehensive details of the activities and places of interest that can be enjoyed when holidaying at Lac de Maison, with links to various sites that may be of interest.

Our gites are surrounded by countryside in what can only be described as a tranquil oasis. The nearby villages of Benassay and Vasles have great facilities with restaurant, café bar, cinema, chemist hairdressers, general store, butchers, weekly market and an excellent boulangerie for your fresh croissant and bread for breakfast.

#### **Walking and Cycling**

There are good walks and cycle paths to both villages and there are many more extensive walks and cycling in the area for those who take it a little more seriously - information and maps can be provided

#### **Motor Sport**

Go-Karting, Quad biking and off road within a half hour drive

<http://en.tourisme-vienne.com/activites/rouille/533/karting-cross-car-quad>

#### **Animal parks**

Our very own nearby village is Vasles, mouton Village (or sheep village)

<http://www.moutonvillage.fr/-Le-Parc-Mouton-Village-Vasles->

Monkey valley, discover the largest concentration of chimpanzees in Europe. Meet the 30 primate species in a place where more than 350 animals roam within 15 hectares of a natural wooded park area.

<http://en.tourisme-vienne.com/activite-juniors/285/monkey-valley-romagne>

A large reptile house **Ile de serpents** where you can see crocodiles, snakes and iguanas living in conditions similar to those in their natural habitat.

[http://www.ileauxserpents.com/pres\\_fr.php](http://www.ileauxserpents.com/pres_fr.php)

200 deer live on this farm alongside horses, ponies, sheep, cows and goats at **La Vallé des Cerfs**.

Learn about the rearing of the animals and help Patrick at feeding time. Pony and donkey treks also available from the farm.

<http://www.cerfcheval.com/uk/index.html>

One of the Vienne's newest attractions is the **Planete des Crocodiles** here you can see more than 200 crocodiles from around the world, the different types housed in large bio-sphere that reflect their native habitat.

<http://www.planete-crocodiles.com/>

#### **Theme parks**

Take the children to **Futuroscope** at Poitiers, an amazing cinema park which is dedicated to the moving image. Futuroscope has over twenty theme-based attraction areas spread across 60 hectares.

Lac de Maison - 86470 - Benassay - France

Tel: 0033 (0)5.49.54.69.59

[www.lacdemaision.com](http://www.lacdemaision.com)

Email enquiries@lacdemaision.com

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<http://uk.futuroscope.com/>

For a voyage through history, **Puy du Fou** features gladiators, Vikings, medieval city, market town, & biggest stage in the world with extravagant technical effects and 1,000 actors

<http://www.puydufou.com/>

#### **Fishing**

There are many fishing lakes within the area and **Pescalis** the freshwater fishing park not too far away recognised as Europe's premier location for both professional and aspiring amateur fishermen. It also provides a peaceful setting with relaxing holiday facilities for all the family.

[http://www.pescalis.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=44](http://www.pescalis.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=44)

#### **Cities**

The chic seaside resort of **La Rochelle** is only an hour and a half's drive, with its interesting Medieval and Renaissance architecture in the fortified old town. La Rochelle boasts a superb aquarium, museums and galleries and numerous restaurants, cafes and bars. There are also several beautiful beaches nearby which are suitable for families.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La\\_Rochelle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Rochelle)

<http://www.holidays-la-rochelle.co.uk/discover-la-rochelle,2,2,132.php>

**Poitiers** is less than half an hour away with its stunning architecture, cosmopolitan cafes and restaurants, and great shopping.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poitiers>

<http://en.tourisme-vienne.com/office-tourisme/32/tourism-office-of-poitiers>

In the north of the Deux-Sèvres, the historic towns of **Parthenay** and **Thouars** offer a fascinating day out. Parthenay is an ancient fortified town that sits on a rocky crag flanked on two sides by the River Thouet. Walk its old streets - The old street known as Vaux St-Jacques is especially atmospheric. Nearby Thouars also lies on the old pilgrim route and its imposing 17th century Château des Ducs de La Trémoille is certainly worth a look; on many Sundays there are guided tours. [www.thouars.fr/vah](http://www.thouars.fr/vah).

Around the town is a small wine-growing area producing what are known as the Vins de Thouarsais. Though not well known, they are excellent wines - not surprising perhaps when you consider you are so close to the well-known Saumur and Anjou appellations. Check out the [local vins de Thouarsais producers](#) to see if you can get a tasting!

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#### **Markets**

In the Vienne, the town of Chauvigny is considered to have one of the best markets in the area with of fresh produce, plants, chickens, jewellery, clothing, shoes and all manner of household goods. Saturday morning is a particularly good time to visit. Afterwards, either have a picnic with your freshly bought provisions or head up into the old town for lunch at one of the restaurants on the square. In the afternoon take in a performance of Les Géants du Ciel ([www.geantsduciel.com](http://www.geantsduciel.com)), a show of free-flying birds of prey that's children will love – although adults seem to like it too! Afterwards, wander through the old town with its Donjon and other medieval buildings.

#### **Golf**

There are many great golf courses in the area, most notably Chateau des Forges just a couple of miles down the road!!

A wide variety of activities can be found at the Golf Club Château des Forges, leading to a warm, friendly and relaxing atmosphere for all the family

The golf club consists of three 9 hole courses offering different difficulties, a driving range, a putting green and a “chipping green”. The golf club members, the Villa owners and the renters who are staying in villa or in the chateau have free access to the outdoor heated pool from May to October.

<http://www.golfdesforges.com>

#### **Golf courses in the Vienne, Poitou-Charentes**

There are five golf courses in the Vienne department. These are:

Golf du Haut-Poitou at Saint-Cyr (27 holes): tel 05 49 62 53 62; [www.golfduhautpoitou.com](http://www.golfduhautpoitou.com)

Golf du Connétable at La Roche Posay: tel 05 49 86 25 10; [www.golf-larocheposay.fr](http://www.golf-larocheposay.fr)

Golf de Loudun at Roiffe: tel 05 49 98 40 00; [www.domainesainthilaire.fr](http://www.domainesainthilaire.fr)

Golf Club de Poitiers at Mignaloux-Beauvoir, near Poitiers: tel 05 49 55 10 50

Golf des Chalons at Poitiers (9 holes): tel 05 49 56 13 38

#### **Golf courses in the Deux-Sèvres, Poitou-Charentes**

There are three golf clubs in the Deux-Sèvres. These are:

Golf Club Château des Forges at Les Forges (27 holes): tel 05 49 69 91 77;

Golf du Petit Chêne at Mazières en Gatine: tel 05 49 63 20 95; [www.asso-golf-mazieres.com](http://www.asso-golf-mazieres.com)

Golf Club Niortais, near Niort: tel 05 49 09 01 41; [www.golfniort.fr](http://www.golfniort.fr)

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