

TO SEE IN MARAIS POITEVIN IN SOUTH VENDEE : SITES TO VISIT



Discover architectural treasures, like : the grandiose ruins of the abbey of Maillezais, the “small towns of character” with the Romanesque cloister of the abbey at Nieul sur l’Autise or surprising mined at Faymoreau

ABBEY ST PIERRE : ABBAYE OF THE MARSH

The Abbey of Maillezais is a unique and outstanding place of heritage. Not to miss!

This pantheon of the dukes of Aquitaine welcomed Rabelais and Agrippa d’Aubigné.

Successively a fortress, an abbey then a cathedral, this thousand year old abbey played a major role in Southern Poitou. This Middle Age sanctuary is surrounded by the wet marsh. From the top of the cathedral, you can admire the imposing vestiges of its past.

All along the year, a sound guide, a marked path and a gripping movie will guide you through your visit. In summertime, dramatic sketches will stage the important characters of the Abbey.

Contact :

Abbaye du Marais
85420 MAILLEZAIS
00 (33) 2 51 87 22 80
abbaye.maillezais@vendee.fr
www.abbayes.vendee.fr

Open :

- March : every day (except Tuesday) from 10 am to 12:30 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm
- April, May and September : every day from 10 am to 12:30 pm and from 1:30 pm to 6 pm
- June to August : every day from 10 am to 7 pm
- October 1st to November 11th : every day (except Tuesday) from 10 am to 12:30 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm
- Closed from November 12th to February 28th

Admission:

- 6 €/adult - 4 € for youths between 18 and 25 and free for children under 18
- Reduced fares for combined visits of the abbey and the Abbaye d’Aliénor
- Groups : 5 €/pers.
- Pass Vendée : 21 €
- Service +
- Groups : guided tours for groups all year by appointment

NIEUL SUR L’AUTISE, PETITE CITÉ DE CARACTÈRE

Located at the gates of the Marais Poitevin, Nieul sur l’Autise is one of the historic landmarks of South Vendée, which earned it the status among the Vendée’s five “Small towns of character”. To appreciate the wealth of this village, take the discovery loop that by aid signs and panels identifies over twenty symbolic locations, including a water mill built in 1728 and the cloister of the Royal Abbey, an architectural highlight of the Lower Poitou.

In pursuing your way, you will reach the Neolithic site at Champ Durand protected by triple enclosure ditches dug into the limestone bedrock. As a tribal Centre, Champ Durand appears to have served several purposes: defence site, cemetery, meeting and market place.

ABBEY ST VINCENT : THE ABBEY OF ALIENOR

In the heart of one of the most beautiful villages of the region, discover the jewel of Romanesque art.

Bordering the marsh, the Abbey St Vincent is one of the rarest complete monastic ensembles of Southern Poitou. The abbey church, cloister and monastic buildings welcome you. Established in 1068, it benefited from the protection of the earls of Poitou and the dukes of Aquitaine. It was named Royal Abbey by Aliénor d’Aquitaine, Queen of France. A visit between virtual and reality will transport you back in time to discover the monastic and musical life of the Middle-Ages.

Contact :

Abbaye d’Aliénor
1 allée du Cloître 85240 NIEUL SUR L’AUTISE
00 (33) 2 51 50 43 00
abbayes-sudvendee@vendee.fr
www.abbayes.vendee.fr

Open :

- Every day
- April, May and September: from 10 am to 12:30 pm and from 1:30 pm to 6 pm
- June to August: from 10 am to 7 pm –
- October to March (closed on Tuesdays) : from 10 am to 12:30 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm

Admission :

- 6 €/adult, 4 €/youth between 18-25, free for children under 18
- Reduced admission for combined visits of this abbey and the Abbaye du Marais
- Groups: 5 €/pers
- Pass Vendée: 21 €
- Service +
- Guided tours for groups all year by appointment

FAYMOREAU, PETITE CITÉ DE CARACTÈRE

Although this seems surprising, coal was mined in the Vendée! Between 1827 and 1958, miners and their sons and grandsons descended into the bowels of the earth. Today, the mining history cannot be forgotten. The terrace houses are still inhabited, the gardens cultivated, and the stained-glass windows by Carmelo Zagari still illuminate the miners chapel, while the Museum continues to witness to the great adventure of the coal mining activities in the basin.

Walk through the mining village along its terrace houses in the centre of this small working-class town built by the mining company.

See also the stained-glass windows by Carmelo Zagari at the Chapelle des Mineurs. This unique public work of art, consisting of 19 stained glass panels executed in a contemporary style, blends colours, figures, and spirituality in an reverence to the men who once worked and lived here.