

NO 1 | VOLUME 1 | JULY 2022

FRANCE

SURF GUIDE

BY [SURF-ESCAPE.COM](https://surf-escape.com)

DISCOVER THE ATLANTIC COAST OF FRANCE



TABLE OF CONTENT

p.2

AN INTRODUCTION

Why is France such a popular destination for surfers?

p.4-8

15 GREAT SURF SPOTS

What are the main surf spots for beginners, intermediates and advanced surfers?

p.9

WHERE TO STAY

Find some excellent campsites to discover France the best possible way?

p.11

CONCLUSION

Just a summary why you should enjoy surfing in France.





SURFING IN FRANCE

AN INTRODUCTION

A 5 star surf destination in Europe

France scores 5 out of 5 stars as a surfing destination. And for good reasons too.

Most Europeans are aware that France is a great location to go surfing. During the summer, you can find plenty of surfers at basically every campsite along the coast. You can recognize them by their surfboard on top of their car, or next to their tent.

The surf conditions in France are great. The beaches are beautiful. And the weather – generally – provides the perfect summer temperature from May to late September.

The best surfspots

Les Landes, the Aquitaine region and the Basque Country are traditionally popular surfing areas in France. Mimizan, Biscarosse and Lacanau are just a few of the popular spots here.

But let's not forget Brittany and the Vendee.

Discover awesome surf spots in our France Surf Guide, with:

- Surf spots for each surflevel.
- Surf spots in a lovely setting.

And BTW, we got some tips for you to stay as well.

FIND YOUR SURF SPOT

[SURF-ESCAPE.COM](https://surf-escape.com)

DISCOVER THE ATLANTIC COAST OF FRANCE





surf spot near La Torche

BRITTANY

In Brittany, you'll discover surfers' paradise with crystal clear water, raw rock formations, and bays for shelter, and it's always good for the smallest swells.

Surfing is virtually guaranteed here.

As for the weather; Yes, it's raining sometimes. But as the locals say: *It only rains on fools.*

A great region for everyone

Brittany is a beautiful part of France, and it's also one of the best places in Europe for surfing. In this article, we'll go over some things you may want to know about surfing in Brittany so that you can enjoy yourself when you visit!

Baie de Trépassés

In Brittany in the most western tip of France. Deep in the Atlantic Ocean you will find a bay. With always clear water. And waves plenty.

It's Baie de Trépassés.

It's a pretty big bay. With waves in the middle, on the south and north of the bay. So you can choose where it's best for you.

La Torche

The most famous place to surf in Brittany is La Torche, near Quimper. The protected area of La Torche offers ideal conditions for beginners and experienced surfers alike. When the winds are strong, you can enjoy a good wave on the Western side of the cape (west coast), while if they're more moderate or even light, then go ahead and ride the waves along its eastern side (east coast). It has a very big bay that allows for long rides without being affected by waves from other bays in Brittany like Audierne or Lorient!

Penhors

Do you rather want to escape the crowds of La Torche? At half an hour from Baie de Trépassés you will find another great choice in Brittany. As soon as the wind has some north direction you'll find mellow waves at Penhors. Then this is the place. Great for beginners and intermediates. Lovely to spend a day on the beach with your family. Works mainly with rising tide. Mid to high tide especially. Surfschool and -rental is available at the beach. Fancy a pizza? Check: Penn ar Bed

Crozon Peninsula

The Crozon Peninsula, at the western tip of Brittany, is known for its surfing beaches. The best-known spots are the beaches of Lostmarc'h and La Palue. Other popular surfing beaches include Goulien, Kersiguenou, and Kerloc'h.



surf spot Bretignolles sur Mer

VENDEE

South from Brittany you will find the Vendee. Adjacent to the ocean and the beautiful Loire area (tasty wines!). And not so far away from Paris.

The Vendee is not spectacular in its landscape. Even on the coast side it can get a little boring. Until you are on the beach. You will find some smaller cliffs and some bays. And you have crazy good surf spots here. Especially for Parisians the perfect place, because it is only 4 hours away from the capital. And did you know that the Vendee together with the Cote d'Azur has the most sunshine every year?

Tip: The Vendee is famous for the delicious oysters

La Sauzaie

In the Vendee. At the village of Bretignolles sur Mer. Actually even right in the village. La Sauzaie is a gem. One of the many reef breaks in the Vendee. Through the surface, the waves here always break higher than in the area. Expect some locals. And get in from midtide. Only then it starts to run well. But the wind must have something easterly in the direction. Although it can handle a maximum of 3 Bft onshore. Upcoming tide is best. Don't go in when it's lowtide. Tip for overnight stay: Camping Les Cypres.

Les Dunes

Les Dunes is a mellow wave. You'll find longboarders and SUPers here. The bottom is quite flat (and only sand) where the waves break on it quietly. Camping and surf schools can be found here on the beach. Though camping season runs from high to low season, book well in advance as space is limited.

Les Conches/ Bud Bud

Perhaps the most famous spot is Les Conches/Bud. The wave here can get really good when it's over 1 meter and has a period of over 10 seconds. Then the wave starts to barrel and gets pretty fast too.

La Terriere is a little quieter than Les Conches, just a few miles south.

Many campsites are found in this region.



surf spot in Les Landes

LES LANDES AND GIRONDE

The area between Bordeaux and Biarritz. Bordeaux is a great authentic French city that is worth a visit on the flat days.

Hossegor is the main attraction of Les Landes. All surf brands are represented here with a shop. What makes it a nice surfing feast. But it is also known for annual surfing event: Hossegor Pro. The best surfers in the world come together in autumn to score points for the World Championship.

In this area you'll find the typical French beaches. Outstretched. Needle forests. Naked beaches. And great surf!

The sandbanks should be very favorable here. If that is not the case then walk a stretch over the beach. Somewhere near, the banks will be good. And it's also a bit quieter.

Le Porge

Le Porge is the closest surfspot to Bordeaux. So super easy to drive to. And yet it is not very busy here. At least, if you compare it to Lacanau a few kilometers away.

Le Porge is a small French village. Not so attractive, but **Plage le Porge** has it all. A typical French beach. With the nude beaches on every side of the beach ofcourse. The scent of the coniferous forest. And good waves. In the high season you can easily rent a surfboard in various places. Lessons are also possible of course.

Camping tip: Camping La Grigne. On a walking distance to the beach.

Lacanau

Lacanau attracts surfers from around the world. Every tide is good here. Summer early mornings are best with off-shore winds, while waves are best when they come from the West to Northwest with a maximum period of 12 seconds. Lacanau consists of two towns: Lacanau-Ville and Lacanau-Océan. Be sure you head out to Lacanau-Océan to hit the waves. You'll find plenty of surf shops and schools.

Mimizan

Mimizan is a popular village and surf spot on the Atlantic coast. Wide beaches and pine forests characterize this area, which has plenty of surf schools and bars / restaurants. Mimizan is located exactly between Bordeaux and Biarritz.

Vieux Boucau

Just below Bordeaux. Here you find quite a lot of tourists in summertime. But where it's rather quiet from September. While the water is still warm. And the swells follow each other in a rapid pace. The wind must be offshore. This is often the case in the morning (in summer and late summer). In principle, every tide is good here, but at full tide the wave machine can stop for some hours.



Awesome righthander near Guethery

THE BASQUE COUNTRY

This feels like California. In all cars, there is a surfboard. And it has a pretty warm climate.

Here the Spanish life and cuisine is mixed with French life and cuisine. A great fusion. That makes the Basque Country an interesting place. Delicious culture and a tasty kitchen.

And surfing here is just awesome. There's enough choice for each level. From big waves to relaxed smaller waves.

Biarritz

Surfing in Europe began in Biarritz, a legendary French coastal town. In the water at Grande Plage in front of the casino in Biarritz itself, there's an exciting amount of activity. But there are more spots—some busier, others less so.

Lafitena

Lafitena is right in the heart of the Basque country. At a truly phenomenal place, the waves break in a fixed place. All to the right.

Because it's such a wonderful wave, you're never here alone. And around lunchtime, you will find the employees of the Quiksilver headquarters in the lineup. But go there. It is all worth it. You simply paddle to the peak. You let some surfers go. Until your wave comes. Because it will.

Cote de Basques

This place almost has a cult status because of the idyllic location and the house on the rocks. Moreover, the Roxy Pro is held here annually. A surfing competition for the Pro ladies on longboards. That is not for nothing. You often have mellow waves here. But of course the surf schools know that too. So it is often busy here in the high season. But afterwards you can drink a beer in sizzling Biarritz.

Hendaye

If it's ON in France, this is your salvation if you still want to surf waves.

Small waves will then roll into this large bay. And the beauty of this spot is the environment. You are very close to the Pyrenees. This makes this an excellent destination for surfers who also have an eye for nature.

Campsites

The area around Biarritz is ideal for camping. You'll find beautiful campsites in the area. We have a great tip: Camping Pavillon Royal, south of Biarritz.



WHERE TO STAY

AN INTRODUCTION

WHERE TO STAY IN FRANCE

The best way to stay in France, in our opinion, is to stay at a camping. There are so many campsites to mention. Some of them you already discovered. We'll list a few other gems.

Pors Peron, Brittany

At 250 m from this beautiful beach in Brittany, we're talking about the Breton camping Pors Peron. A small and quiet campsite, ideal for families and couples. From here you can drive in 20 minutes to the best surf spots (so a car is a must). Baie de Trépassés, Penhors, Saint Tugen are nearby. The beach of Pors Peron, see photo, is especially suitable for bodyboarders and bodysurfers.

La Grigne, Gironde

A large campground with spots all the time. Within easy reach of the beach and a good surf spot. For all levels. It is close to Lacanau, which has numerous spots for surfing and other water activities such as kayaking or sailing. By bike, it's about a half hour ride away from Lacanau if you're biking from here. You can rent bikes at the campsite if you'd like to go exploring on your days off from surfing!

Huttopia Les Landes

If you don't want to be directly on the coast, but still want spacious sites and a swimming pool, then this campsite of the Huttopia chain is for you. It's about 20 minutes drive from Moliets, where there are many surfing schools. This campsite is located among trees and has spacious family sites. Prices for this campsite are slightly lower than for other Huttopia campgrounds.

Camping Le Pavillon Royal, Basque Country

Camping Le Pavillon Royal is a very nice campsite. It's a bit closer to Biarritz than Pavillon Royal and has a good location at the beach. There is no swimming pool, but that's okay for surfers and families.

FIND YOUR SURF SPOT

[SURF-ESCAPE.COM](https://surf-escape.com)

DISCOVER THE ATLANTIC COAST OF FRANCE

Surf spot in Les Landes, early morning



CONCLUSION

France is one of the greatest surf destinations in Europe. It has an excellent coastline from especially Brittany to The Basque Country. It also has some of Europe's best waves. Besides that, the food and the French culture are just great. And it's pretty easy to find a place to stay close to a surf spot.

More info on www.surf-escape.com



M E R C I

