



THE OLD AGE TRAVELLER'S FAVOURITE FRENCH AND SPANISH CAMPSITES

Yes, we're both in our 80's now but still thoroughly enjoy our current motorhome. It's a 175 Majestic which we love and just at the start of its third season with us. We don't carry bikes because you don't bounce so good as you get older, but we do take our Hound with us. As a result we prefer Ste-na's Rosslare - Cherbourg ferry because they allow you to leave your dog in the van but give you access to it during the trip. (Even in their kennels dogs travel free!) *We usually choose campsites that are within walking distance of cafes, shopping and other things to enjoy.*

We use the ACSI card whenever possible but are not tied to it - finding the right spot comes first!

About a 3 hour drive from the Cherbourg ferry, **Camping St Michel** is our regular first stop. **Map No. 1** (2020 ACSI No 1362) (N 48° 37' 41" W 1° 24' 57") About 5 kms from the



Sandra, Richard and Hound

motorway and just outside the tiny village of Courtils, which still had one cafe/bar in 2018. The site has a v. pleasant atmosphere and good facilities, including water fill by hose. Reception has a small bar and shop where you can sit overlooking the pool with one of their coffees!



Above: Le Mont St Michel

Our regular return choice to the ferry is at Vaast-La-Hougue, east of Cherbourg on the coast with great shops and cafes located around the harbour and just one block back from the seafront. **Camping La Gallouette** **Map No. 2** (2020 ACSI No 1387) (N49° 35' 04" W1° 16' 8") is a 5 minute stroll from the town, but also has easy driving access to 2 large new supermarkets en route to the adjoining towns of Quettehou and Barfleur. There is also an easily found Veterinary practice in Quettehou handy for getting the dog cleared before going to the ferry check-in.

Heading down the west coast Vannes is a regular stop with a very appealing old world feel to the town centre that leads out onto the Quayside. Great atmosphere on a market day and you can get the bus from outside the **Flower Camping Le Conleau** for a Euro or two! **Map No. 3** (2020 ASCI No 1515) (N47° 38' 0" W2° 46' 48") A well equipped campsite and adjoining Aire is about a 5 minute dog walk to the end of the Bus route where there are a couple of very French cafes, plus lots of boats and an artificial swimming lagoon. The site also has its own bar and small restaurant, but there's no supermarket within easy walking distance so come equipped if you want to do your own cooking.

There are two other Brit-tany campsites that we have enjoyed for different reasons. Marcus & Julia Gregory's **Camping La Pointe** just outside Chateaulin. **Map No. 4** (2020 ACSI No 1410) (N48° 11' 15" W4° 5' 5") And don't miss the almost concealed sharp turning! In a secluded glen with lots of trees on both sides this is an unusual smaller campsite where the warmth of welcome and the



friendliness of the English owners is matched by their croissants, eggs and other garden produce, and their knowledge of the locality. There's an excellent supermarket at the far end of Chateaulin, and also a very convenient vet with private parking.

Camping La Fief is located just south of the bridge at St Nazaire. **Map No. 5** (2020 ACSI No 1597) (N47° 14' 7" W2° 10' 3") This is a large campsite and one that we

would miss in high season when it can be too busy for us, but during the 3 weeks in a sunny September that it's still open, the swimming facilities, the cafe and bar are brilliant to laze away a few days.



Above: Camping La Fief

Camping Baie D'Aunis in La Tranche Sur Mer **Map No. 6** (N46° 20' 46" W1° 25' 56") is one of our all time favourites being 400metres along the sea to a beautiful seaside town. It has a market on Tuesdays and Saturdays and the best cappuccinos in L'Equipe cafe and self service restaurant. Non ACSI, it's comparatively expensive and no dogs are allowed during July and August, but the location



Above: Camping Baie D'Aunis with fabulous sea frontage

is brilliant, as is the campsite!

At Camping Beau Rivage you'll meet Richard and Wendy Curtis and their family who run a very well organised campsite located on the edge of an incredible walled medieval town, Navarrenx.

Map No. 7 (N43° 19' 12" W0° 45' 43")

Coming from the A64 Mourenx direction go RIGHT at the first roundabout in Navarrenx even if your GPS says otherwise, and follow the signs for the campsite and municipal pool. Fabulous to walk

around and with a couple of cafes, this is a magic place to sit and watch small town France mix with its visitors. This is a non ACSI site so slightly dearer than some, but a great stopping point en route to the Pyrenees and Spain.

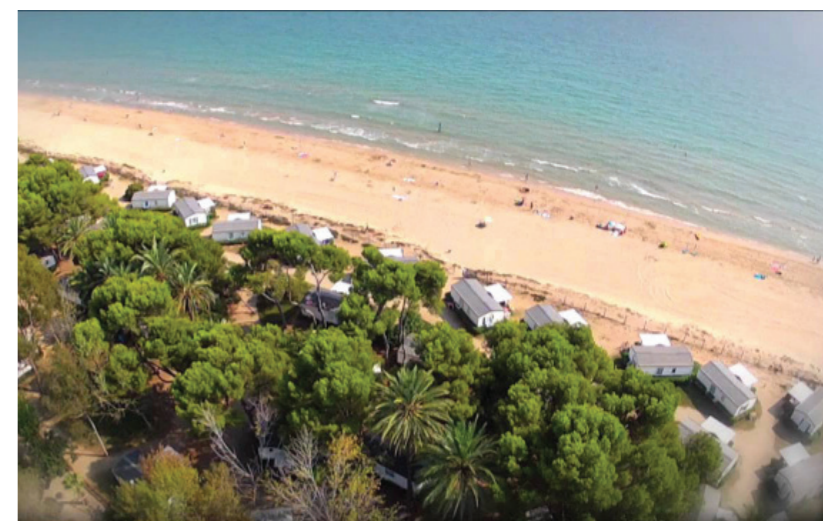
From Navarrenx head for Oloron Ste Marie then drive through some of the most incredibly beautiful mountains and a tunnel to Jaca in Spain and eventually Huesca. As a diversion turn off the newish A23 at Sabinanigo for Biescas using **Map No. 8** (2020 ASCI No 2951) (N42° 37' 10" W 0° 18' 12") to take you to **Camping Gavin**. Beautiful views surround you on a terraced hillside campsite which has food and a bar adjoining reception but a rather empty shop on a lower level. Go right when you rejoin the main road again at Biescas for more wonderful scenery but be cautious of returning over the border in this direction: it's unbelievably beautiful but very narrow in parts!!

Left: Peniscola's Medieval town - view from beach



From here we usually head for Tarragona and **Las Palmeras Map No. 9** (N41° 7' 49" E 1° 18' 43") Theoretically an ACSI site (2020 ACSI No 2871) but with a very short discount season, it's otherwise expensive, huge and can be extremely busy. It also has the main railway lines at the back of the site. On the plus side it has the best swimming facilities of any place we know outside of parts of the Greek Islands. It also has its own very convenient restaurant and a largish supermarket, plus it's about a 5km trip into the city of Tarragona which is a day's sightseeing by itself. A bike will help you get around this huge site which seems to be about a mile long, all of which connects directly to the sandy beach.

Camping Eden at **Peniscola Map No. 10** (2020 ACSI No 2925) our No 1 Spanish favourite is found at (N40°



Above: Las Palmeras Campsite in Tarragona, Spain

22' 16" E0° 24' 10") and lives up to its name. With all the usual facilities to a very high standard, in a great location, about 200m from the seafront. A 20 minute walk takes you into the town of Peniscola with its large number of cafes, restaurants and shops, whilst adjoining this on the end of the peninsula is the old town and castle. As a tourist you can meander around this place for hours. In addition to the long sandy beach, there is a large campsite pool, restaurant and supermarket. If you prefer there is a

handy supermarket across from the seafront and some excellent restaurants – our favourite does fabulous bowls of garlic prawns very reasonably, and is the first on the left once you reach the seafront!

Camping Les Trois Vallees **Map No. 11** (2020 ASCI No 2342) (N43° 00' 44" W00° 05' 50") About 10Kms south of Lourdes and located directly off the roundabout at the bottom of the hill that leads up to the scenic village of Argeles-Gazost is a very special campsite. Excellent swimming facilities combine with the most lavish toilet blocks you could wish to see. But the surrounding mountains make the 10 minute climb up steps and streets to the centre, a place to always remember. Then there's the chocolatier in the square...

Left: Picturesque Argeles Gazost

