

Welcome to La Godefrere

We hope you enjoy your stay at La Godefrere. The information in this folder is to help you get the best out of the gite and to provide details of local attractions and activities. If there is anything else that you would like to know please feel free to ask us.

Kate and Graham

The gite

Gas Cooker

The cooker in the kitchen area is supplied by a gas bottle to the side of the cooker. It will have been turned on for your arrival. Hopefully it will not run out during your stay! If this should happen let us know and we will change for a new bottle.

Bathroom

Please note that the property uses a "Fosse septique" (a septic tank for all waste). It can block quite easily! Please do not put anything down the toilet other than toilet paper. Please use only the cleaning materials and toilet paper supplied. The same applies to the toilet in the games room. If you think the toilet is blocked please let us know right away.

Hot water

The water is heated overnight in the tank in the bathroom. The water gets very hot, please take care. There should be enough hot water in the tank but if there is very heavy use you can override the timer in the bathroom cupboard.

You will find a torch, small first aid kit and replacement light bulbs under the kitchen sink. The switch for the ceiling fan is situated in the kitchen. The gite is fitted with a smoke detector, which will bleep if the battery is running low, please let us know and we will replace the battery.

TV & DVD

To access TV programmes turn on the TV at the set or via the TV remote. To get English programmes use the digital freesat remote to access a choice of free to view channels. To use the DVD switch on the power button on the DVD remote. Make sure the freesat box is turned off, Insert the DVD and it will automatically come onto screen. French TV has just converted all its channels to HD. Currently our TV is not HD ready and we have a converter so that our TV can display French TV. This does mean disconnecting either the English sat box or the DVD. If you particularly want to watch French TV let us know and we can set it up for you!!

Rubbish

Glass, plastic and paper can be recycled and can be left in the recycling bin under the worktop in the kitchen area. Other rubbish can be put in the waste bin and when full deposited in any of the rubbish bins situated at the end of most lanes around the area; this is where the refuse collection takes place. The nearest is at the end of our lane and turn left and the bin is on the corner of the next turn on the right hand side. If there is any rubbish in your bin at the end of your stay, leave it and we will deal with it.

Wifi – We have a wifi (livebox) connection in the house and a signal booster in the gite. You will get a good signal in the gite, games room and on the patio. You can get a connection by looking for "Livebox-064c_EXT" on your device and using the following password – input without spaces and all letters in capitals. Sorry it is so long!!

7AE5 FD5A 9C5D CEE3 A45F C42261

Games room and Grounds

You have use of the games room under the gite which has a pool table, dart board and other games (petanque; cricket; badminton; football etc); there are also garden chairs and a table as well

as barbecue equipment. There is a toilet and washroom which can be used and you will also find a washing machine (with instructions on top). You will find washing liquid and pegs in the games room toilet. There is a washing line to the side of the gite.

We have 5 acres of grounds and you are welcome to explore and play. There is a laid out nature walk right around the edge of our big field, which includes in the bottom corner an Ant Experience! Please remember that there can be farm animals in the fields that surround us and that there is barbed wire around the edge and an electric fence on the other side so please take care.

Bicycles

We now have two adult bicycles (one for men and one for women). We also have cycle helmets if you want to use them. If you would like to use the bikes please let us know and we will move them to the games room for you. There is lots of flat cycling around here!

Useful telephone numbers

Pompiers (Fire & rescue) – for accidents and fire – 18

Gendarmes (police) – 17

Our address is

La Godefrere

53300

Couesmes Vauce (pronounced Quem vo-say)

Our phone number is 02.43.04.69.85

Shopping

There is a large supermarket (Super U) at Gorron (20 minutes) which is open Monday to Saturday till 7pm but closed on Sundays and a smaller Carrefour Market at Ambrieres (10 minutes). It is open on Sunday mornings but is a bit more expensive than super u. In both towns there are good butchers (boucherie) and bakers (boulangerie) as well as a pharmacy (Pharmacie) and post office (Bureau de Poste) also banks with cash dispensers (Retraite de billets). Supermarkets sell almost everything but not paracetamol and other medicinal products which have to be bought at the pharmacy! See local maps for the local village small shop and bar “Le Jardin de Froulay” which sells baguettes and grocery items (closed on Monday). See also nearby mini supermarket in Le Pas.

Mayenne has a range of small shops but Laval is the nearest town for serious shoppers. Fougères also has a number of nice shops. There is an excellent French street market at St. Hilaire de Harcouet which takes place every Wednesday morning and is about 30 minutes from here. There is also a big and typical French street market at Fougères on Saturday morning. For both markets it is advisable to get there early as they close up at midday.

Remember in France there is the “heure de déjeuner” which means that most shops and quite a few tourist attractions are closed for lunch, for between an hour up to 2 hours between 12 and 2pm. Supermarkets usually stay open but not much else!! It is advisable to check the opening and closing times for tourist attractions. It is also advisable to check which days they are open. We have had people locked in on the right day but wrong time and locked out on the wrong day but right time!!!!!!

Restaurants

Le Jardin de Froulay - an English run local bar/restaurant in the village of **Couesmes Vauce** just a 15 minute walk. It serves bar snacks daily apart from Monday. At weekends on Saturday a full English breakfast and on Sunday lunch times they serve a traditional English roast dinner (booking necessary). It is open as a bar all day and in the evening. Tel: 02 43 00 93 79

Restaurant Relais de la Varenne, 2 Rue Notre Dame, **Ambrieres Les Valles**. 15 minutes drive serves pizzas and a French a la carte and fixed price menu. Open Tuesday to Saturday for lunch

and open from 7pm in the evening. Open Sunday for lunch and closed on Monday. Also serves takeaway pizza. Telephone 02.43.04.90.54

Bistro du coin - Passais la Conception, about 20 minutes by car, next to the church. A friendly English run restaurant serving pizzas and a range of meals. The big advantage is that it is open in the evening as well as for lunch (closed Mondays). (Also does take away food). Tel: 02 33 96 77 07

Le Gue de Genes – 27 Rue Notre Dame, **Ambrières les Vallées**. Hotel and restaurant serving a menu du jour (12 to 17 euros). 15 minutes by car. You could combine lunch with a walk along the river. www.guedegenes.fr Tel 02 43 00 25 15

La Cachette - 2 Rue de la Guesdonnière, **Ambrières les Vallées**. A small and delightful antique shop and tea room/restaurant serving lunches daily. See their website for details www.lacachette53.com Tel : 02.43.03.88.28

L'éveil des sens – 1 star Michelin restaurant, 429 Boulevard Paul Lintier 53100 **Mayenne**. Suitably expensive but worth it for a real treat. Superb French food. Closed Sunday evening and Monday and Tuesday lunch time. Lunch 1200 to 1300 and Dinner 1930 to 2100
See www.restaurant-leveildessens.fr/ Telephone 02.43.30.42.17

La Marjolaine, La Bas-Mont, 53100, **Mayenne**. This is an excellent restaurant which is on the main road from Mayenne to Laval. It can also be reached from the riverside path which runs alongside the Mayenne River, and they welcome walkers. There is a gastronomic menu but also on weekday lunchtimes a “bistro” menu: 2 course for 17.40 euros or 19.50 Euros for 3 courses. See their website - www.lamarjolaine.fr/. Telephone 02.43.00.48.42

Le Briccius, 1 Rue du Lavoir, 53120, **Brece**. Only 15 minutes away from here. This restaurant serves a daily fixed price menu. On weekdays for only 12.50 Euros you get a three course meal, wine and cider on the table and coffee. There is a good choice of food and it is excellent value and quality. Open every day for lunch. Why not combine lunch with a walk or a stroll along the waymarked walk along the River Colmont. See the “guide des randonnees” leaflets for more details.
Telephone 02.43.00.59.04

Places to visit

There are lots of places to visit within a relatively short distance and there are leaflets describing many of them in this folder. A bit further away are the Mont St Michel, which is spectacular and well worth a visit (75km, about 1 hour 20 minutes) and St. Malo (2 hours). The Normandy landing beaches are about a 2 hour drive from here. There is a local tourist information office at Les Jardins des Renaudies open from April to September. There is also one in Ambrières just by the bridge over the river, but only open July and August.

St. Fraimbault (10 mins) – A floral village which is full of flowers and flower displays. There is also a lake, with picnic and play area. There is also a tour round local farms producing Cider (Cidre) and pear cider (poire) and offering tastings (degustation). (See leaflet). There is also a cider museum with exhibits and a chance to buy. The museum is at Melleray la Vallée about 20 minutes away (see leaflet)

Lassay Les Chateaux (20 mins) – A lovely small town with its own town rose garden, it also has some nice cafes and an interesting castle and pretty walks from the castle. There is also a local tourist information office. (see leaflet)

Les Jardins des Renaudies (20 minutes) – lovely gardens (over 3000 plants), children’s play area, maze, and museum. (see leaflet)

Mayenne (25 minutes) – large town with castle containing museum, also large basilica. Also range of small shops and cafes. (see leaflet)

Domfront (25 minutes) – Medieval town centre, castle and nearby abbey. (see leaflets). Also local forest for walks, picnics.

Bagnoles de L’Orne (30 minutes) – Thermal spa town, with boating lake, restaurants, local walks etc.

Parc Naturel Regional Normandie-Maine Large regional park area. (Covers area from Ambrieres see leaflet for details). Park information centre (Maison de Parc) at Carrouges (45 minutes). There is also an interesting Chateau at Carrouges (see leaflet).

Jublains (35 minutes) – Roman town with baths, amphitheatre, town layout, castle and museum (see leaflet)

Juvigne (40 minutes) – Museum of the Agricultural revolution and floral village (see leaflet)

Fougeres (45 Minutes) – Largest medieval fortress in Europe and large town (see leaflet)

Sainte Suzanne (45 minutes) – Castle and pretty village (see leaflet)

Cosse le Vivien (1 hour) - The museum of Robert Tatin, an amazing collection of his sculpture and painting. (See leaflet). There is a nice restaurant in Cosse – L’Etoile which combined with the museum is a nice day out!!

Parc des Loisirs de Vaux at Ambrieres there is a park with an outdoor pool (July & August) with tennis, boats, crazy golf, horse riding etc.

Walking, cycling – There are a number of walks, cycle paths around the area and some are listed in the leaflets with this folder.

Fishing – On many rivers (Varenne and Mayenne close by) and the Lac du Haute Mayenne.

Golf – There is a municipal 9 hole course at Bagnoles and a full 18 hole course at Laval

Parc des Loisirs de la Colmont at Gorron. Swin Golf (with one club and three faces, a softer ball and bigger holes!!), canoes and kayaks, paintball and riverside walks.

Swimming – Jardin Aquatique, Evron or L’Aquabulle, Laval. (July and August open air pool at Ambrieres Parc des Loisirs de Vaux). Please note that you will need to have a proper pair of swimming trunks (not shorts)

Other things

Zoos – There are several zoos within a couple of hours. In Normandy Champrepus Zoo and Jurques Zoo are about 80 kms from here a journey of 1.5 hours. There is a big zoo at La Fleche which is 112km about 2hours. There is also an animal refuge – de l’Arche near Chateau Gontier, 82kms about 1.5 hours. (See leaflets for more details).

Terra Botanica – A sort of Eden Project meets amusement theme park! At Angers around 128km and about 2 hours. A family with a 3 year old said it was a great day out. (See leaflet for more details)

Bird watching and wildlife – There are birds to be seen, including garden birds, Buzzards, Kestrels, Owls and Hoopoes in the summer, from La Godefrere and the surrounding fields. If you want more details about places to see birds or would like to see the La Godefrere wildlife, bats, butterflies, fire salamander, foxes, hares and deer (as distinct from the cats and sheep) ask

Graham who will be happy to assist. The summer brings a high number of butterflies and we can let you have details of the ones we have here.

Local Maps – You will find in this book a couple of maps showing La Godefrere and the local surroundings. This shows the local Couesmes village bar Le Jardin de Froulay (run by an English person), this also has a very small shop open early from 7-30am (closed Mondays) and which sells baguettes and other groceries. It is about a 15 minute walk. It also shows Le Pas which has a French owned bar (Chez Fanfy) and a small mini supermarket. This is around 30 minutes on foot. The maps are copied so please feel free to take them with you.

Check the guide books in the gite and local tourist information offices for more activities If you find somewhere new please bring us back a leaflet and we would be pleased if you would add something to the visitors book at the end of your stay.

BONNES VACANCES

See also our website www.lagodefrere.com and read our weekly blog or keep up to date by liking our Facebook page – La Godefrere