

chom river



Practical information

MAP PRODUCED BY

Pays Vallée de la Sarthe (open all year round)
E-mail : office@tourisme@ville-mans.fr
www.lemans-tourisme.com / www.ville-mans.fr
Pays du Mans
40 rue de la Galère - 72000 LE MANS
Tel : 02 43 51 23 23
www.paysdumans.fr - accueil@paysdumans.fr

Feel free to contact our tourist boards



FOR MORE INFORMATION ASK FOR OUR BROCHURES

Office de Tourisme du Mans - Tel : 02 43 28 17 22 (open all year round)
E-mail : office@tourisme@ville-mans.fr
www.lemans-tourisme.com / www.ville-mans.fr
Office de Tourisme de Malcorne - Tel : 02 43 94 74 45 (open all year round)
E-mail : ot.malcorne@akeonot.com
www.ville-malcorne.fr
Office de Tourisme du Pays de Sablé (open all year round)
Tel : 02 43 95 00 60
E-mail : office.tourisme@sablesur-sarthe.fr
www.tourisme.sablesur-sarthe.fr
Syndicat d'Initiative de Morannes (open in July-August 2009)
Tel : 02 41 42 21 30
Office de Tourisme de Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe (open all year round)
Tel : 02 41 69 82 89
E-mail : tourismechateauneufsur-sarthe@wanadoo.fr
Syndicat d'Initiative de Tiercé (open all year round, contact the town hall)
Tel : 02 41 31 14 40
Comité Départemental du Tourisme de la Sarthe
Tel : 02 43 40 22 50
www.tourisme.sarthe.com
Comité Départemental du Tourisme de l'Anjou
Tel : 02 41 23 51 51
www.anjou-tourisme.com
SEM Régionale des Pays de la Loire
Tel : 02 40 48 24 20
www.enpaysdelaloire.com



From Trade to Pleasure Boating Drifting down the River Sarthe...

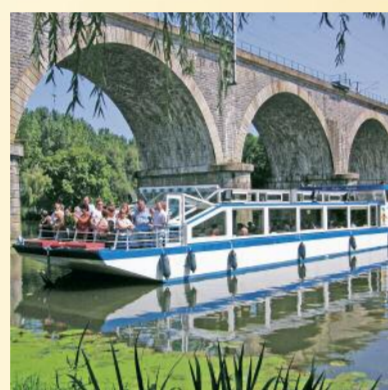
Like many rivers, the River Sarthe has been used since the Middle Ages for river navigation by small water craft. It is navigable for 133 kilometers, from Le Mans to its confluence with the Mayenne River. The Sarthe connected the Atlantic Ocean to the agricultural regions of Normandy, the Maine and Central Brittany by way of the Loire River.

Trade by waterway reached its true height in the 16th century. The river was populated by numerous barges transporting coal, grain, wood, hemp, marble, wine, and tuffeau limestone.

Trade was first carried out by the use of winches to tow flat boats (gabarres) through mill lanes.

In the 19th century, twenty one-stage locks were constructed in the Sarthe River to improve navigability. A tow path for horse-drawn craft was created along the shoreline. Many small villages that we still find today turned toward this new means of transportation. Steam vessels were used for travel. By about 1930, diesel-powered barges were preferred as a means of transportations.

In the years that followed, the development of railways brought on the progressive decline of commercial river navigation which disappeared definitively in the early 1970's. But after lying forgotten for a short period, the Sarthe is turning the tables: it has become the site of another flourishing activity by lending its charms to pleasure boaters and holiday-makers.



From rivers to trails

The Sarthe also represents a starting point for hikers. Many different trails start at its shores and allow hikers to discover the countryside by way of the valley.

- **Hiking in Pays de Sablé** : 6 circuit trails for all types of hikers (from 2.2 km to 20 km). Tickets are on sale at the Bureau de Tourisme of Pays de Sablé for 2 €.

- **Hiking in the Sarthe Valley** : 11 circuit trails around La Suze-sur-Sarthe (10 village loops and one cycling trail in the town of Louplande). A topographical map of the area is free to download at www.val-de-sarthe.fr

- **A Get-Away in Vègre** : Brûlon, the Sarthe's mountain-biking capital, is an official FFC mountain biking site with: 12 marked-out circuit trails, a total of 190 km of circuit trails for riders of every level. Local Tourist Board of Brûlon 02 43 95 05 10.

- Discover all the possibilities **Nature Hikes in the Sarthe Valley** (circuit trails, village loops, interpretation trails, and wetlands) at the following website www.vallée-de-la-sarthe.com

- **Between Le Mans and Arnage**, discover the **Boulevard Nature** between the **Pont Rouge** and **Pont d'Arnage** : There are a multitude of trails starting from the tow path on the edge of the Sarthe from Le Mans to Teillé! For information call : Tourist Board of Le Mans Telephone: 02 43 28 17 22



A Fisherman's Paradise

The Sarthe and its tributaries (the Huisne, the Vègre and the Gée) are reputed for the quality and the variety of their fish populations. Many other sites are adapted specifically for fishing, of which some offer specially equipped floating docks to permit use by persons with reduced mobility.

River Fishing/Angling
The Sarthe is home to many carnivorous species of fish: pike, zander, perch, and white fish such as : bleak, roach, red eye, bream, carp, tench, chub, and gudgeon. All of the public areas of the Sarthe are classified as night carp fishing areas.

The glane brown bullhead, has been reintroduced into the Sarthe river for some time and its nature guarantees that it will put up a strong fight.

The black bass can also be found but more seldomly in lakes or ponds.

Fishing permits
Holiday permits 30 € (15 days). Youth permit 15 € (1 year). Adult permit 64 € (1 year). Dayuse permit 8/20 €.

All permits available in local businesses and Tourist Boards of Suze-sur-Sarthe, Noyen-sur-Sarthe, Malcorne-sur-Sarthe, Loué, Brûlon, Morannes (and its campgrounds), Fillé-sur-Sarthe, Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe, Tiercé, Sablé, and Saint-Denis d'Anjou.

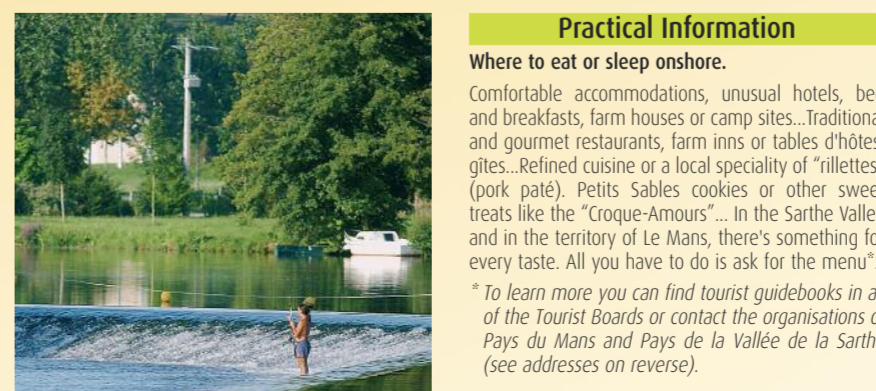
Sarthe Federation for Fishing and Protection of Aquatic Life - Telephone: 02 43 85 66 01
www.federation-peche-sarthe.com



OFFICE DE TOURISME, D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE, PAYS DE LA VALLEE DE LA SARTHE, VILLE ET METIERS D'ART, MUSEE DE FRANCE

The Captain's Advice

If you rent a houseboat for a weekend, you could for instance, go from Sablé-sur-Sarthe to Malcorne-sur-Sarthe or from Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe to Sablé-sur-Sarthe (plan for about 10 hours of river travel).
If you happen to have a week free, you could enjoy a cruise leaving from Sablé, travel upstream to Fillé, and then travel back downstream to Châteauneuf (plan for about 30 hours of river travel).
Whichever option you choose, you'll never run out of interesting stopovers to see for the length of your trip. The Sarthe is lined with many picturesque sites, tourist sites, hiking trails, meal stops, and all of the other attractions that a cruise on the Sarthe has to offer.
(To learn more, read further on reverse side about river stopovers on the Sarthe.)



Practical Information

Where to eat or sleep onshore.

Comfortable accommodations, unusual hotels, bed and breakfasts, farm houses or camp sites... Traditional and gourmet restaurants, farm inns or tables d'hôtes, gîtes... Refined cuisine or a local speciality of "nilletes" (pork pâté). Petits Sables cookies or other sweet treats like the "Croque-Amours"... In the Sarthe Valley and in the territory of Le Mans, there's something for every taste. All you have to do is ask for the menu!*

* To learn more you can find tourist guidebooks in all of the Tourist Boards or contact the organisations of Pays du Mans and Pays de la Vallée de la Sarthe (see addresses on reverse).

River Tourism/ Sight-seeing

There's nothing better for getting away than casting off. With its armada of house boats, day cruises on pleasure boats, and the multitude of sport and leisure activities centring around the river, the Sarthe offers almost too much to choose from.

Cast off !

Many specialised guides recommend the Sarthe for its especially peaceful boating experience as well as its rich natural and historical heritage. The Sarthe is an easily accessible river even for beginners due to the fact that it has very few locks. The Sarthe unfolds into 130 km of navigable waterways perfect for a slow, thoroughly enjoyable cruise down the river marked by watermills, flowered locks, small villages and gourmet restaurants. There's no need for a permit or licence to become a ship's captain and take command of your own comfortable houseboat perfect for cruises of two to seven days. You can expect gentle guidance as soon as you leave port, and through each lock so that all that's left to do is follow a few simple boating rules (found below) in order to become the best captain ever.

Houseboat rentals

- **Anjou Navigation** - Sablé-sur-Sarthe
Telephone : 02 43 95 14 42
www.anjou-navigation.com
- **Maine Anjou Rivières**
Launches in Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe and la Suze-sur-Sarthe
Telephone : 02 41 95 10 83
www.maine-anjou-rivieres.com

Some important boating rules

Before departure, you can expect a personalised explanation of the on-board equipment. You will also be given a navigation guide. The rules and techniques of boating are quite simple.

One must generally keep to the middle of the river, passing on the right when one encounters other boats. It is forbidden to turn off a boat's engine and allow it to drift with the current.

You must also :

- Avoid boating upstream from dams.
- Be sure to overtake and pass other boats safely.
- Heed all warning signs and adhere to speed limits (a maximum of 10 km/hr. on the river and 4 km/hr. on the canals).
- Keep a certain distance from the river banks out of courtesy to fishermen.
- Equip your boat with easily-accessible life jackets for everyone aboard.
- Generally be considerate of others enjoying the river (fishermen, canoes, punts and other small boats, and residents on the shore).

Passing through Locks

Passing through locks isn't difficult at all. There are floating docks available for waiting up and downstream from locks. Passing through locks is based on a first come-first served policy. This process lasts about 15 minutes. Each lock is equipped with hand ropes. Be careful when climbing ladders and slippery steps, and keep an eye on your children...



Choose your cruise !

Following the same route that the old Steamboats Company of the Sarthe used in 1850, you will see boating villages and the magnificent Solesmes Abbey.

These river boats will take you back in time for a day or more. You can cruise for sight-seeing and appreciate the cuisine with lunch or dinner served on board.

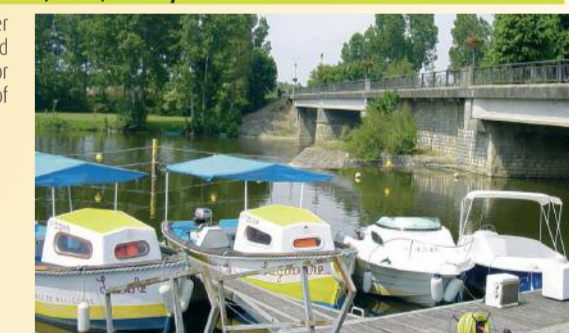
Cruise boats

To take part in a cruise, you may reserve tickets with one of the four cruise boat companies that are found along the Sarthe :

- **Le Lutin Suzerain**
Leaving from : la Suze-sur-Sarthe and Le Mans
Telephone : 02 43 84 13 13
www.le-lutin-suzerain.com
- **L'Union** - Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe
Telephone : 02 41 42 12 12
www.bateau-croisiere-union.com
- **Le Sablesien** - Sablé-sur-Sarthe
Telephone : 02 43 95 93 13
www.sablesien.com
- **Le Festival** - 101 quai Amiral Lalande
72000 Le Mans - Telephone : 06 07 58 18 31
aqua.service.paris.seine@wanadoo.fr

Row, row, row your boat...

Whatever your purposes, whether with friends or family, you can find all sorts of boats appropriate for your needs, perfect for a day of pleasure boating or picnicking...



Electric boats and motor boats

Hourly or daily rentals

- **Anjou Navigation**
Sablé-sur-Sarthe
Telephone : 02 43 95 14 42
www.anjou-navigation.com
- **Tourist board of Malcorne**
Malcorne-sur-Sarthe
Telephone : 02 43 94 74 45
www.ville-malcorne.fr

Punts, canoes and pedal boats

Hourly, half-day or daily rentals

- **Monbizot** - Leisure Center of Pont d'Orne (canoes) - Telephone : 02 43 27 60 44
- **Arnage** - Leisure Center of La Gémerie (pedal boats and punts) - Telephone : 02 41 69 82 02
- **Juvardeil** - Rives Gabare (Canoe) - Telephone : 02 41 60 81 95
- **Canoe Trips**
Supervised trips offered by Clubs affiliated with the **French Canoe and Kayak Federation** :
- **Fillé-sur-Sarthe**
Boat Tour Center (Discovery tour from 2 to 4 hours long) - Telephone : 06 20 24 58 01
- **Canoeing Club of Sablé-sur-Sarthe** (pedal boats and punts) - Telephone : 02 43 92 58 30
Canoeing on several rivers : The Sarthe, Erve and Vaigre.
- **Brûlon** - Fred Chauvier Leisure Center - Telephone : 02 43 92 46 70
Canoeing on the Vègre River
- **Kayak Club of Tiercé** - Telephone : 02 41 43 44 06
- **Juvardeil (Banks of Gabare)** - Telephone : 02 41 60 81 95

Drifting Down the River Sarthe

From Cheffes-sur-Sarthe upriver to Le Mans, there are no less than 22 river stopovers with mooring spots on the Sarthe with an average of one every 6 kilometers! With so many stops and moorings, it is easy to discover all the attractions of the river: picturesque sites, tourist attractions, hiking trails, and meal stops among others...

River stops on the Sarthe

Stopover number 1 Cheffes-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - Floating dock with 4 spaces, on the left after the lock.
 - 3 other floating docks near the Chapel, with 3 spaces each.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - +++ Plessis Bourré castle, go toward Ecuillé (D74), 4.6 km. Open every day in July and August from 10 am to 6 pm, and in April, May, June and September from 10 am to noon then from 2pm to 6 pm (except Wednesday and Thursday mornings). Telephone : 02 41 32 06 01
 - Notre Dame de Cheffes church, Notre Dame de Saint-Sulpice Chapel.
 - Berry-picking farm, going in the direction of Champigné (RD190), 1.8 km (Pick-your-own blueberries and raspberries) Open from mid-June to the end of September. Telephone : 02 41 42 14 14.
 - Champigné Golf Course, go in the direction of Champigné via the RD 190 at 5 km.
 - Hiking and walking : lengthy hiking trail "GR" and several trail loops from 4.5 km to 19 km long.
 - Anjou Sports and Nature Boating Center (lock camp site) Canoe and kayak rental and possible guided canoe tours. Telephone : 02 41 95 14 32
 - Fishing, Anjou boules, tennis...



- Where to eat**
 - Restaurants and shops are found at this location
- Events**
 - Second weekend in June : Water Festival on the Port: neighbourhood car-boot sales, painting contest, children's activities, beginners' fishing class.
 - 21st of June : Music Festival at the church square.
 - End of June and beginning of July : Outdoor theatre performance behind the town hall.
 - 13th of July : The "Sardines have Ears" Festival at the lock camp site : concert, tasting of grilled sardines, fireworks display.
 - End of July / beginning of August : Festival "Les Bouillonnantes" (acting troupe) at the port.

TOURIST INFORMATION - Maison Intercommunale Loir et Sarthe, Telephone : 02 41 37 56 70

Stopover 2 Tiercé/Etriché stopover at Ivray Mill

- Where to dock**
 - Floating dock with 2 spaces at Ivray Mill pier.
 - Please note that the canals are narrow and be careful of the water lilies.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - The church, the chapel of Ivray Mill.
- Where to eat**
 - Shops and restaurant 2 km away
 - Markets at Tiercé on Wednesday mornings.
- Events**
 - 14th of July - A variety of organized activities, performances, car-boot sales, fireworks displays and a dance in Tiercé.
 - Last weekend in June ! Village Celebration with a fair and Festival of Music on Saturday and car-boot sales on Sunday).



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist Board of Tiercé. Telephone : 02 41 31 14 40
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 30 mins

Stopover 3 Juvardeil

- Where to dock**
 - Floating dock with 3 spaces
- What to do and what to visit**
 - Anjou Water Activities and Nature Center: Half-day or day-long canoe trips. Telephone : 02 41 95 14 32 or 06 80 34 61 74
 - Walks along tow paths at river's edge.
 - KAKO Pierre : Rock Sculptor. Telephone : 06 09 48 89 82
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurant and shops at this location
 - Eco Pain (Organic bread and pastries) 1 km away in Cellières, on the road to Cheffes. Open Monday, Thursday and Friday evening from 5 pm to 7:30 pm. Telephone : 02 41 18 00 39
- Events**
 - Beginning of July : Nighttime walk
 - In September : Mountain biking and canoe trek, Vallée de la Sarthe. Information : Anjou Water and Nature Sports Center, Telephone: 02 41 95 14 32



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist Bureau of Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe. Telephone : 02 41 69 82 89
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 20 mins
Heritage Site Visible from the River : Lime-kiln at 300 meters before Châteauneuf, on the left.

Stopover 4 Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - Floating dock with 8 spaces and another floating dock with 2 spaces, upstream from the lock.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - +++ In the Maison de la Rivière (River House), you will find a staged exhibition that will take you back in time through the history of the River Sarthe. Open all year long. Telephone : 02 41 33 91 64
 - ++ "Autour du Pot" Pottery by professional craftsmen, gift shop and guided tour of workshop. Telephone : 02 41 69 85 21
 - "Boule de feu" (Anjou boules). This traditional game was supposedly invented by sailors to occupy themselves while they were below deck. Information at the Tourist Board of Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe. Telephone : 02 41 69 82 89.
 - Circuit Trail of Varennes, a 12 km mountain bike trek leaving from the Maison de la Rivière.
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurants and shops and a market every Friday morning
- Events**
 - Mid-May : Water Sports Festival (different events on the river during the National Water Sports Celebration). Beginning of June : Jazz sur Sarthe Festival. 13th of July : Fireworks display and dancing.



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist Board of Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe. Telephone : 02 41 69 82 89
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 1 hr - **Lock** : (1) at Châteauneuf
Heritage Locations Visible from the River : Priory of Abbot Port and Castle of La Chapetière (2 km away on the right).

Stopover 5 Brissarthe

- Where to dock**
 - 2 floating docks each with space for 5 boats
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - Brissarthe Church : A twelfth century church in front of which Robert the Strong (an ancestor of the Capetian Kings), was killed in 866. A brochure with tour information is available inside the entrance of the church.
 - Two mountain bike trails starting in Brissarthe.
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurant at this location.
- Events**
 - 13th of July-Fireworks on the banks of the Sarthe River.



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist Bureau of Châteauneuf-sur-Sarthe. Telephone : 02 41 69 82 89
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 40 mins. - **Lock** : (1) at Villechien

Stopover 6 Morannes

- Where to dock**
 - 3 floating docks with 6 spaces each.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - ++ lovely little village (mariners' homes and manor houses).
 - Interconnecting hiking and walking paths starting in the village.
 - Aquaculture Farm of Anjou, 4 km away from Morannes. Fish farming, river or pond fish and aquatic plant farming. Telephone : 02 41 42 26 80
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurants and shops at this location
 - Picnic area
 - A market on Thursday mornings
- Events**
 - In June : Fishing Festival. 15th of August: floral floats parade
 - Painting exhibition at the Cercle du Père Riou
 - Guided walking tour leaving from the Tourist Board.



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist Board of Morannes open in July and August-Telephone : 02 41 42 21 30 or Tourist Board of Avoise. Telephone : 02 41 76 37 26. **Length of boat travel between these two stopovers** : 1 hour - **Lock** : (1) "Le Pendu"

Heritage Sites Visible from the River : beautiful view of the village of Chemiré, Roches Castle 3 km upstream on the right, Chapel of Varennes Bourreane on the left, 3 km after the lock "Le Pendu". Beautiful estates leading up to Pincé.

Stopover 7 Pincé

- Where to dock**
 - 4-space floating dock
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - Hike : Tour of Pincé Forest (16 km- 4 hrs.) Meeting point of tour is at "Chemin des Gaucheries (a marked-out circuit trail). You can find the other circuit trails on the topographical map of hiking trails in Pays de Sablé.
 - Medieval garden of Souches Manor House (on the hiking trail, it is possible to connect up with Courtilliers village and follow the Souches trail)
 - Aquatic center at 6 km from Pincé.
 - Sablé-Solesmes Golf Course is 4 km away. It's classified as the nicest course in Pays de la Loire.
 - The Championship course is open to everyone. Open every day. Telephone : 02 43 95 28 78
- Where to eat**
 - Picnic area with playground for children.
- Events**
 - Contact the Tourist Board of Pays de Sablé to learn about the events in Pincé and the surrounding areas. Telephone : 02 43 95 00 60



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist bureau of Pays de Sablé. Telephone : 02 43 95 00 60
Length of boat travel between the two stopovers : 1 hr 15 mins.
Locks : (2) Beffes Lock and Sablé Lock.
Important note : It is also possible to moor on the right at the golf course after the Outinière viaduct, next to the Outinière restaurant.

Heritage Sites Visible from the River : golf course on the right after the viaduct, a view of Talbot rock on the left.

Stopover 8 Sablé-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - Port of Sablé-sur-Sarthe (10 spaces)
 - Boat dock upstream from the bridges at the former Henri Royer swimming pool.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - ++ Castle grounds, guided tour of the old town center, museum of "The Balloon Man"
 - ++ "Le Petit Sablé" cookies, two sales locations : La Maison du Sablé at Raphaël Elisé square, and La Sabléienne de biscuiterie at Avenue Jean Monnet.
 - Castle Villeneuve Art Gallery. Exhibition and sales, open everyday except Wednesday. Telephone : 02 43 95 42 57
- Where to eat**
 - Many restaurants and shops near the port
 - A market every Monday, every Friday, and every Saturday morning.
- Events**
 - 21st of June : Music Festival in the town center
 - +++ In July : Rock ici Mômes, rock festival for children from 3 to 12 years old, in the Castle gardens.
 - 13th of July : Fireworks at the port of Sablé and a community dance.
 - +++ In July : "Summer Nights", two evenings of free concerts in the castle gardens.
 - +++ End of August : Baroque Festival of Sablé. Sablé temporarily becomes the capital of Baroque music for 5 days, offering a total of 14 concerts. A complete programme of the event and reservations are available at the Cultural Center of Sablé. Telephone : 02 43 62 22 22.



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist Board of Pays de Sablé. Telephone : 02 43 95 00 60
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 30 mins. (Sablé-Solesmes)
Lock : (1) Port of Juigné
Heritage Sites Visible from the River : Across from the port, Sablé Castle rises above the old town center. View of a former marble quarry on the left at 2km from Sablé.

Stopover 9 Solesmes, Port of Juigné, and Juigné River Stopover

- Where to dock**
 - It's possible to dock at the foot of the abbey.
 - Dock with 6 spaces
 - Floating dock with 2 spaces upstream from the Juigné-sur-Sarthe lock.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - +++ Solesmes Abbey: An important location for Gregorian Chant, it's possible to attend sung services every day at 10 am (high mass) and at 5 pm for Vespers (in summer on Thursdays, Vespers takes place at 4 pm and at 5:30 pm in winter, and it's possible to attend Compline at 8:30 pm.
 - Notre Dame du Nid Chapel
 - ++ L'Amusant Musée : a must-see stopover if you have children aboard! Even adults can have fun revisiting their childhood toys. Open all year long (with reservations). Telephone : 02 43 92 44 62
 - Visit of Solesmes village (valuable altarpieces to see) and of Juigné-sur-Sarthe village (historical village)
 - ++ Hike : Tour des Galbais (an entirely marked out trail), 6km long, takes about 30mins. Meeting point for start of hike is at the parking lot at the boat dock. Follow in the footsteps of the young mine workers (galibots). You will look out over the Valley of the Sarthe River and then on the way back you will take the tow path along the river.
 - Ironware art in Juigné. Telephone : 02 43 92 49 33
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurants and shops in Juigné-sur-Sarthe and Solesmes.
 - Market in Solesmes every Wednesday.
 - Picnic area near the dock e
- Events**
 - Mid-May : Boating Festival at the docks (walking tours, kayak tours and other activities on the edge of the river). In September, a village talent show in Juigné-sur-Sarthe. In the context of National Heritage Celebration Days, exhibition and unusual tours centering around the village's industrial history. Organized by the Association Ans Traces Sites. Telephone : 02 43 95 46 37



TOURIST INFORMATION : Tourist Welcome Agency of Solesmes (open seasonally) and Tourist Bureau of Pays de Sablé. Telephone : 02 43 95 00 60
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 1 hr 30 mins.
Locks : (2) Juigné and Courtigné locks.
Heritage Locations Visible from the River : view of la Perrine du Cry on the left before Avoise.

Stopover 10 Avoise

- Where to dock**
 - A 5-space floating dock at Avoise Port.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - Hike : Interpretation trail
 - Guided tours of the village given with reservations at the Tourist Board of Pays de Sablé. Telephone : 02 43 95 00 60
 - ++ Dobert Castle (15th and 18th centuries). Tours given with reservations. Telephone : 02 43 92 01 52
 - ++ La Perrine de Cry. Tour with reservations. Telephone : 09 60 43 38 79
 - +++ Medieval village Asnières-sur-Vègre, 4 km away. Small historical village (frescoes inside church, old 15th and 17th century homes, court manor house,...) Possibility of guided tours for individuals. Telephone : 02 43 92 40 47
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurants in Asnières-sur-Vègre.
- Events**
 - End of May/Beginning of June: Asnières sur toile (Asnières on canvas) (painting competition, concert,...) Information at Association du Patrimoine d'Asnières. Telephone: 02 43 92 40 47
 - July : French horn concert at Dobert Castle (mass at 11 am followed by a concert with apertif) Free. Telephone: 02 43 95 75 20
 - September : Wine and Local Products Fair.



TOURIST INFORMATION : Tourist Board of Pays de Sablé. Telephone : 02 43 95 00 60
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 30 mins. **Lock** : (1) Parcé

Stopover 11 Parcé-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - 2-space floating dock downstream from the mill.
 - 3-space floating dock in the village upstream from the lock.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - +++ Small historical village with peaceful little streets, lined with 18th century houses, Saint Peter Lower, St. Joseph's Chapel... Guided tours (Tourist Board)
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurant and shops at this location.
 - Market every Thursday morning.
- Events**
 - In August : Village Celebration and bric à brac sale



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist Welcome Agency of Parcé (Open seasonally). Telephone : 02 43 95 84 13, and the Tourist Board of Pays de Sablé. Telephone : 02 43 95 00 60
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 1 hr. **Lock** : (1) Ignières
Lock Heritage Sites Visible from the River : View across from Ignières Mill. Lock and Pechesuel Castle at 1 km on the left after the lock.

Stopover 12 Dureil

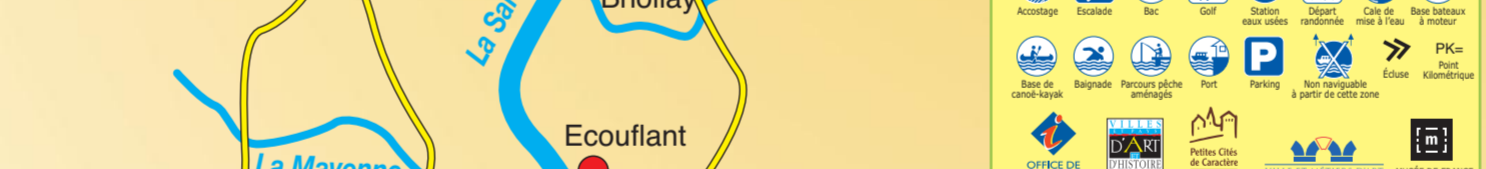
- Where to dock**
 - Floating dock with 2 spaces
- What to do and what to visit**
 - Pleasant walks in the neighbourhood
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurant on the spot
- Events**
 - International competition of traditional fishing
 - Village celebration with traditional games and meals available



TOURIST INFORMATION - Tourist Board of Malicorne. Telephone : 02 43 94 74 45
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 1 hr. **Lock** : (1) Bourgneuf Lock

Stopover 13 Malicorne-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - 2-space floating dock upstream from the lock.
 - 5-space floating dock downstream in the village.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - +++ A Must: Cité de la Faïence (pottery crafts): Espace Faïence (pottery museum), Faïenceries d'Art de Malicorne (Pottery Art of Malicorne), Workshop of Antoine Drouillaux (stoneware and wheel-thrown pottery), Porcelain Booth (painting on porcelain), Atlante Cottage (painting, sand-blasting and glass engraving).
 - ++ Malicorne Castle: open from mid-July to beginning September.
 - Musée des Poupées (Doll Museum) 5km away on the road to Mézéray : open from the 1st of May to the 30th of September.
 - Hikes : Circuit trail guides available at the Tourist Board with mountain bikes and hybrid bikes rentals.
 - Guided tour of the village.
 - Supervised canoe tours organized from time to time by the Tourist Board.
- Where to eat**
 - Market every Friday morning
 - Restaurants and shops
- Events**
 - Mid-May : Boating Festival
 - In July and August : Potters' Tour
 - Beginning of August: Night time market starting at 7pm, many displays and activities
 - Last Sunday in August : Organic Festival on the Castle grounds (market, activities, talks,...)
 - Activities and exhibitions all year long at the Espace Faïence (museum gift shop) and at the Tourist Bureau.
 - Second Sunday in September: Pottery Festival.



Stopover 14 Noyen-sur-Sarthe

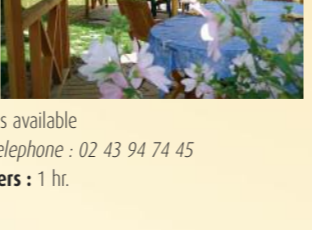
- Where to dock**
 - Floating dock at the port authority.
 - Important to note : Ouest Bateau Service - Boat and boating accessory repairs. Telephone : 02 43 55 15 48
 - Water-recycling station available.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - ++ Amphithéâtre de verdure sur l'île (flora and fauna observatory, fishing dock, picnic table,...)
 - Children's play structures on the beach.
 - 5 km away : Saint-Jean-du-Bois-trail House (trail loops, 8 km long). Download the trail maps at www.val-de-sarthe.fr
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurants and shops
 - Market every Saturday morning and other shops.
- Events**
 - End of August : Fireworks, large meal and dancing



TOURIST INFORMATION : Tourist Board of Malicorne. Telephone : 02 43 94 74 45
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 50 mins. **Lock** : (1) Noyen Lock
Heritage Site Visible from the River : Rivesarthe Castle at 1 km from Malicorne on the left.

Stopover 15 Fercé-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - 2-space floating dock
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - Trail of the 3 Cantons - A 7 km hike starting at the church. Trail maps at www.val-de-sarthe.fr
 - Bike rides on the marked circuit trail "Circuit des Chapelles", leaving from the docks. Discover the remarkable churches and chapels of the area (20 km). Varying tour circuits with the connection between tours leaving from Fercé and Chemiré docks.
 - Church altarpiece.
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurant
- Events**
 - End of July : +++ "Pic-nic Show" (8 nights, 8 villages, 8 shows) Free entry. Information, Telephone : 02 43 88 93 64 or go to www.ousceschaps.org



TOURIST INFORMATION : Communauté de communes Val de Sarthe. Telephone : 02 43 83 51 12
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 20 mins.

Stopover 16 Chemiré-le-Gaudin

- Where to dock**
 - Floating dock at St. Benoît Port
 - Floating dock at Théval
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - Hiking trail along the river
 - Bike rides on the marked circuit trail "Circuit des Chapelles", leaving from the docks. Discover the remarkable churches and chapels of the area (20 km). Varying tour circuits with the connection between tours leaving from Fercé and Chemiré docks.
 - Athenay-style church 10 km away.
- Where to eat**
 - Farmhouse Inn in Théval (reservations recommended). Telephone : 02 43 88 14 92
- Events**
 - End of July : +++ "Pic-nic Show" (8 nights, 8 villages, 8 shows) Free entry. Information, Telephone : 02 43 88 93 64 or go to www.ousceschaps.org

Stopover 17 La Suze-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - 10 spaces at Suze-sur-Sarthe Port.
 - Important note : Water-recycling station available.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - Swimming pool, play area for children, tennis court, walking trails, Epinettes Woods trails.
 - 8 km away are the gardens of Villanes Castle in Louplande. Telephone : 02 43 87 90 11
- Where to eat**
 - Restaurants and shops
 - Large market every Thursday morning
- Events**
 - Mid-May : "Les Neptunales" (performances and fireworks)
 - 13th of July : Large fireworks display, dance and carnival rides.
 - 14th of August : Summer on the Port Festival-Fireworks, dance and karaoke

TOURIST INFORMATION : City Hall of Suze-sur-Sarthe. Telephone : 02 43 77 30 49
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 30 mins.

Stopover 18 Roëzé-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - 2-space floating dock near the campgrounds
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - Boat fishing expedition on the Beunèche arm of the river (not authorized for pleasure-boating). Canoe, rowboat rentals at the campgrounds.
- Where to Eat**
 - Restaurant and shops
- Events**
 - End of July : +++ "Pic-nic Show" (8 nights, 8 villages, 8 shows) Free entry. Information, Telephone : 02 43 88 93 64 or go to www.ousceschaps.org

TOURIST INFORMATION : Roëzé-sur-Sarthe Town Hall. Telephone : 02 43 77 26 22
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 1 hr. **Lock** : (1) Fille Lock
Heritage Site Visible from the River : a lovely canal at this stopover.

Stopover 19 Fillé-sur-Sarthe

- Where to dock**
 - 3-space floating dock in the village.
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - +++ Contemporary Art Center "Moulins'ART (exhibitions, cultural activities,...) Telephone : 02 43 57 05 10
 - Cyprien Mill, demonstration of traditional flour production, traditional flour for sale.
 - Canal trail. Starts at the mill and goes for 6 km.
 - Trail maps to download at : www.val-de-sarthe.fr
 - Boat fishing expedition on the Beunèche arm of the river (not authorized for pleasure-boating).
 - Boating center : Possibility of renting canoes or rowboats at the river tour center : FILE SUR L'EAU (06 20 24 58 01) for boat tours of 2 to 4 hrs. long.
- Where to Eat**
 - Restaurants and shops
 - Organic market every third Saturday of the month from 3 pm to 6 pm. Church Square.
- Events**
 - End of July : +++ "Pic-nic Show" (8 nights, 8 villages, 8 shows) Free entry. Information, Telephone : 02 43 88 93 64 or go to www.ousceschaps.org

TOURIST INFORMATION : Communauté de communes Val de Sarthe. Telephone : 02 43 83 51 12
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 40 mins. **Lock** : (1) Spay Lock

Stopover 20 Spay

- Where to dock**
 - Domaine du Houssay Docks (9 spaces)
 - Maine Boat Club docks
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - ++ Domaine du Houssay : 80-acre wooded park with campgrounds, mini-golf, map-reading trail, picnic tables
 - canoe and pedal boat rentals
 - ++ Aquapark on the local pond (supervised swimming in July and August)
 - +++ 4 km away is Spayville Zoo. Open all year long. Telephone : 02 43 21 33 02
 - Spay canal and lock (all year long)
 - The church and its treasures (open at the same times as the town hall)
- Where to Eat**
 - Restaurants and shops
 - **TOURIST INFORMATION** : Spay Town Hall, Telephone : 02 43 21 16 33

Stopover 21 Arnage

- Where to dock**
 - Arnage port
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - ++ Boulevard Nature (paths reserved for bicyclists and pedestrians), La Gémeïc Pond, Telephone : 02 43 21 80 30
 - Many activities are offered including : fishing, swimming, wind-surfing, kayaking, and team sports...
 - + Nearby on the Boulevard Nature in Allonnes: protohistoric and Gallo-Roman archaeological site : the Sanctuary of Mars Mullo, Tours of the Centre d'interprétation du Patrimoine et de Recherches Archéologiques, starting in September 2009, which explain the career of archaeology through time (Archaeological excavations in June and July). Information : 02 43 80 68 31
- Where to Eat**
 - Many different types of restaurants (crepes, pizzeria, gourmet, traditional,...) Ask for the Pays du Mans brochure at 02 43 51 23 23
 - Many shops in the town center near the port.
- Events**
 - Ask for the Arnage Cultural Center's program or information at Arnage Town Hall by calling 02 43 21 10 06

TOURIST INFORMATION : Le Mans Tourist Bureau, Telephone : 02 43 28 17 22
Length of boat travel between these two stopovers : 1hr 30 mins. **Locks** : (3) Chaoué, la Raténe, and les Planches.

Stopover 22 Le Mans

- Where to dock**
 - Le Mans port
- Important note** : Water-recycling station available. All practical and general information about the port online at www.portdumans.fr
- Things to do and places to visit**
 - +++ Le Mans, classified as a "City of Art and History", The Platengety City, historic city center of Le Mans, a superbly preserved jewel that will transport you through time from the Roman era all the way through to the 17th century. Many monuments to visit including : Roman Wall, Saint Julien Cathedral, half-timbered houses, and Renaissance hôtels particuliers...
 - Many museums to visit.
- Where to Eat**
 - Many different types of restaurants (crepes, pizzeria, gourmet, traditional,...) Ask for the Pays du Mans brochure at the Tourist Board
 - Many shops in the town center (near the port and throughout the city)
 - Markets every day in the different neighbourhoods in Le Mans (Wednesday, Friday and Sunday mornings at Jacobsins Square)
- Events**
 - ++ In April