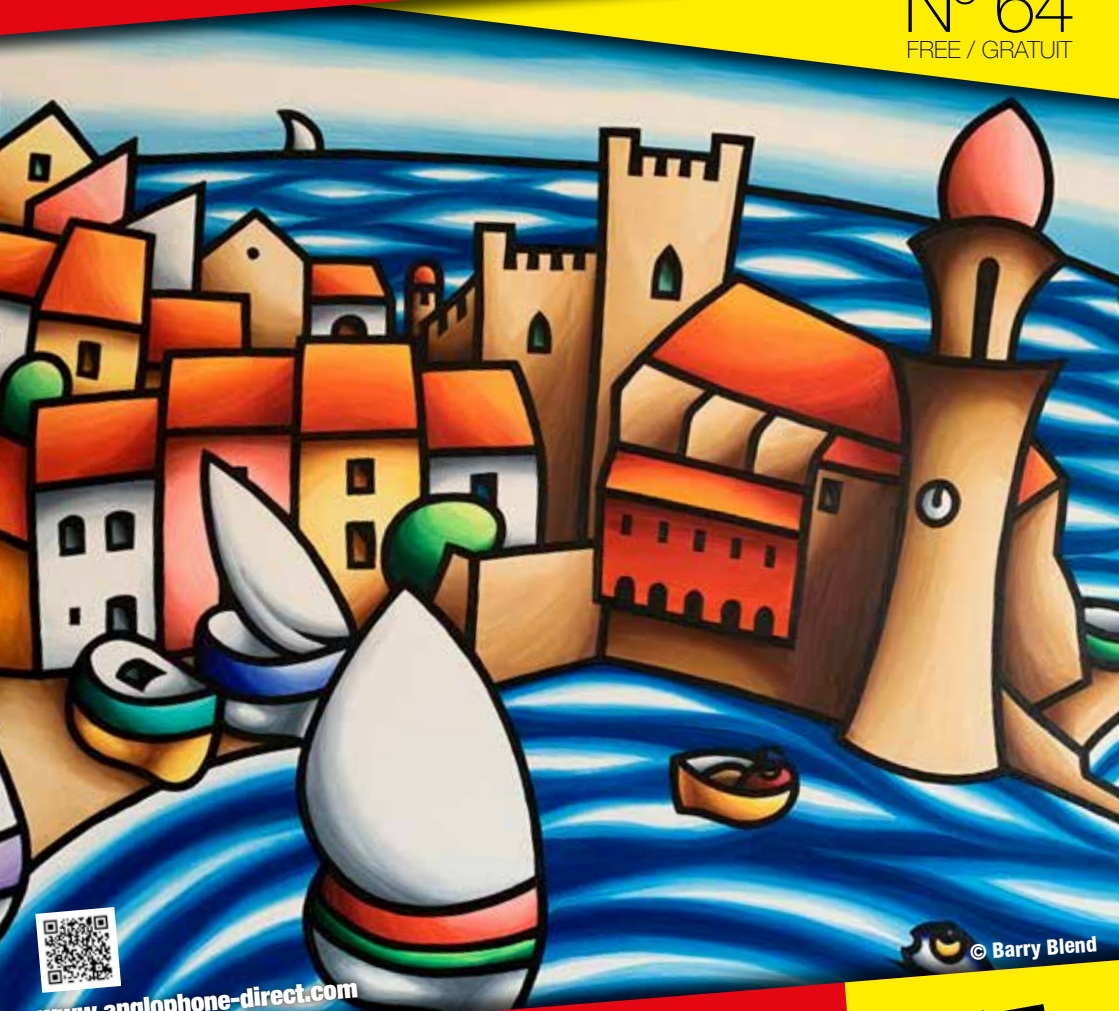


summer 2019

# P-O Life

*Life in the Pyrénées-Orientales*

N° 64  
FREE / GRATUIT



[www.anglophone-direct.com](http://www.anglophone-direct.com)

© Barry Blend

**FOOD  
& DRINK**  
Restaurant  
Reviews

**OUT for  
THE DAY**  
...In Collioure,  
Palau Del Vidre  
and Elne

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Bitters and Stingers

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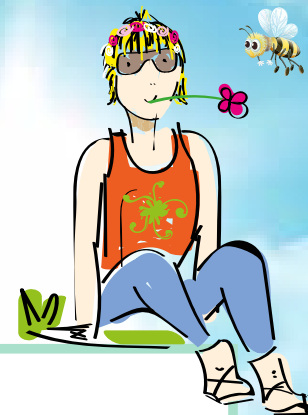
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Next to "Le Clos des Lys" restaurant and the car dealerships

*\*Depending on the current amount of living space in your property*

Edito ☺



FAISONS LA COURSE  
POUR RENTRER À  
LA MAISON



D'ACCORD - MAIS  
JE VAIS FACILEMENT  
GAGNER



ABRUTI!



FAISONS LA COURSE - LET'S HAVE A RACE  
ABRUTI - IDIOT

**SUMMER'S HERE** and the time is right... for dancing in the streets...and oh boy, are **our P-O streets a-boppin' and a-poppin'** with live music, festivals, Catalan tradition.... Join us for a day out in **Collioure** on the coast, **Palau** and **Elne**, and up into the **Conflent** in search of cooler air and some **fabulous concerts in amazing venues**. We have loads of restaurant ideas...and check out the Yellow Pages at the back for a butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker (or even a builder, plumber, electrician...). **Thanks to our advertisers** who keep us afloat - and to **thousands of loyal readers**. **We wouldn't exist without you!**

Wishing you sunshine, laughter, cold beer and plenty of shade this summer!

Kate



Magazine gratuit. Tout Droits réservés, Reproduction interdite

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Have you signed up for our free weekly newsletter full of all the stuff that we couldn't cram in here? Or dropped in on our Facebook Pages where you can chat, recommend, ask questions, buy and sell your bits and bobs....

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Concepteur et rédacteur: Kate  
Maquette & Création: Maïte Sant



### Cover by BARRY BLEND

Love his work? Visit him at his gallery on Rue de la Fraternité, Collioure.

Tel: 06 28 04 25 41

Email: **barry.blend@gmail.com**

Website: **www.barryblend.com**

# WELCOME TO THE PYRENEES-ORIENTALES!

**www.tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com**

Agence de Développement Touristique  
2, bd des Pyrénées - CS 80540 - 66005 Perpignan Cedex  
Tél : +33 (0)4 68 51 52 53 - **info@cdt-66.com**



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**APPROX 15 MINS FROM CERET: HOUSE** with magnificent cathedral lounge and kitchen leading onto superb, stone terrace. 2 bedrooms. Shower room. Large garden approx 1600 m<sup>2</sup>. Spacious garage approx 40 m<sup>2</sup>. **Separate cottage for conversion approx 24 m<sup>2</sup>**

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**MAUREILLAS: ATTRACTIVE HOUSE** built in 2006 with terrace. Well-insulated and **located in a quiet area near shops.** Large living room, modern kitchen, shower room and 2 bedrooms.

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**MAUREILLAS: BRAND NEW BUNGALOW.** Light and airy lounge leading out onto a terrace. Open-plan kitchen. 2 bedrooms, shower room, WC and garage. Quality fixtures and fittings. **DON'T DELAY!**

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OUT <sup>for</sup>  
THE DAY

# Summer <sup>in</sup> the ROUSSILLON CONFLENT



Getting a bit hot under the collar on the coast? Why not head for the fresher, cooler air of the Roussillon Conflent, up close and personal with the sacred Mount Canigou?



**Bike, quad, horse ride** along the many panoramic tracks, through sweet smelling garrigue, **shady forests of chestnut and cork oak**, or take a drive along dramatic scenic routes with breathtaking views, through pretty Catalan villages, amidst countryside steeped in history. Wander back in

time in the footsteps of **prehistoric man**, discover ancient **art and architecture**, meet the people, visit the markets, taste the wine, the regional specialties, enjoy the restaurants and cafés.... **simply sit back with a cool drink on a shady summer terrace and watch the world go by....**

## MAKE A DAY OF IT!

### LES PASSEJADES

Dive into the region's history with **FREE ENTRY offered by the 6 communes of the Roussillon Conflent** into many of the fascinating heritage sites (**Le Château Musée de la Préhistoire, Le Moulin à l'Huile, La Coopérative fruitière, les églises romanes, les fontaines ...**) followed by a cool evening market from 6.00 pm onwards with complimentary tastings, a spot of wine tasting and maybe dinner under the stars? Sounds good?

### WHEN & WHERE?

**Friday 19th July** > Bouleternère  
**Friday 26th July** > Millas  
**Monday 29th July** > Montalba le Château  
**Wednesday 31st July** > Ille sur Têt  
**Saturday 10th August** > Bélesta  
**Friday 23rd August** > Corbère

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

### > LES FEUX DE LA ST JEAN - 23rd June-

A flaming torch passed from hand to hand in relay lights up bonfires in every village. Important celebration and symbol of the unity of the Catalan culture. **Dance, tradition and muscat!**

### > LA FÉRIA DE MILLAS (8th - 11th August)

Four days of music, eating and drinking - and bullfighting if that's your thing!

### OR HOW ABOUT.....

### FEST'ILLE NIGHT EDITION - 3rd August

### RANDO JAZZ IN RODÈS - 11th August

### LE DESERTIVAL IN ILLE SUR TÊT - 31st August

....AND A WHOLE LOAD OF FESTIVALS, FETES, VISITS, WORKSHOPS, FAMILY EVENTS...

## BORN TO RUN? GET YOUR NAME DOWN FOR.....

### LA RONDE DES DOLMENS - Corbère-les-Cabanes - 20th July

### LA RONDE ILLOISE - Ille sur Têt - 28th July

### LA PANORAMIQUE - Millas - 8th August



**FOR MORE INFO**, contact the **Office de Tourisme Roussillon Conflent** on **04 68 57 99 00** or visit their site at **www.tourisme-roussillon-conflent.fr**



OUT <sup>for</sup> THE DAY

# Summer <sup>in</sup> the ROUSSILLON CONFLENT

Ille sur Têt was an important religious centre in Medieval times.

The huge cathedral-like church of St Etienne dominates the town, way out of proportion to the narrow streets that surround it. Through the grand pink marble doorway the vast nave is dark, the gold on the altars and side altars gleams, there is a Cross des Outrages, a huge organ, many paintings.

Visit the **Hospice d'Ille**, now the Centre of Sacred Art, but once used to care for the poor, the elderly, passing pilgrims, lepers..... In the small sleeping alcoves, statues, crosses and altars are displayed.



> Eglise St Etienne

Wander around the town with several small and attractive 'places' bars, restaurants and an impressive tower, **La tour de l'Alexis**, once used as a signal tower and for defence, made from the same river stones as the ramparts. Although the fortifications are no longer, various gateways, walls and towers can still be seen.

**VISIT THE TOURIST OFFICE FOR MORE INFO**

Office de Tourisme Roussillon Conflent  
Place Henri Demay 66130 ILLE SUR TET



## Le Square

Try our **Plat Combiné\***  
+ home-made dessert 16,50€

\*Starter & main course combined

ONLY FRESH INGREDIENTS

04 68 61 48 40

55 avenue Pasteur, 66130 ILLE-SUR-TET

SHADY TERRACE

### THE FRESCO FIASCO

Abandoned in 1561, the ancient houses are in ruins, but the XI century chapel of St Sauveur and a tall square tower still stand, surrounded by ancient olive groves. The chapel once contained some of the oldest frescoes in Europe, but the mayor and town council sold them on in the '50s for a pittance in a shady deal, much to local dismay. Many years later most of them were recovered and can be seen at the Hospice d'Ille sur Têt.



© Emile Fondacave

### LES ORQUES

Difficult to miss the strange limestone cliffs dominating the landscape, forming a natural amphitheatre made of tall pillars of rock, eroded into wonderful tall fairy chimneys, sculpted by nature over the last five million years.

Follow the well laid-out trail, accompanied by an explanatory booklet (included in the admission price of 5€, through incredible scenery. Free parking, café and kiosk with local delicacies.

# Laroca Immobilier

Your International Estate Agents

PRICE: 395 000 €



**BANYULS-SUR-MER:** In the centre of the resort, very attractive house approx 100m² living space. Large living area with open-plan kitchen. 3 large bedrooms. Garden, terrace and garage. Very quiet location. **Rarely seen on the market!**

PRICE: 275 000 €



**CERBÈRE:** Bright village house situated minutes from the beach and all amenities. Approx 90m² living space. **Large ground floor area with lots of potential.** Cellar and workshop. Wooded garden and terrace.

PRICE: 195 000 €



**BANYULS-SUR-MER:** Spacious 2-bed apartment approx 80m² living space, with a south-facing terrace approx 15m². Large living area, kitchen with pantry, 2 big bedrooms, shower room with walk-in shower. **Magnificent mountain views. Very quiet location!**

PRICE: 199 000 €



**VILLELONGUE-DELS-MONTS:** 2-bedroom stone house with both garden and fantastic views! Very quiet area. Approx 55m² living space - with potential to convert the terrace into another sitting room. Room for a pool. **Rare find!**

PRICE: 244 000 €



**LAROQUE-DES-ALBÈRES:** A view to die for across the Albères with Mount Canigou and the Château! Single storey, 2-bedroom house with terrace, garage and garden with room for a pool. Well located in very quiet area, close to local shops.

PRICE: 520 000 €



**LAROQUE-DES-ALBÈRES:** Spacious, 3-bedroom detached house with view, in very quiet residential area near shops. Large living room. Easy-to-maintain garden approx 1,230m². Double garage. **Quality fixtures and fittings. Great location!**

**2 agencies at your service:**

Place de la Mairie, LAROQUE-DES-ALBÈRES

1 rue Saint Pierre, BANYULS-SUR-MER

[www.Laroca-Immobilier.com](http://www.Laroca-Immobilier.com)



**+33 (0)4 68 39 20 94**

[laroca@live.fr](mailto:laroca@live.fr)



# walk the region AMELIE, MONTBOLO, PALALDA



**Access:**  
map IGN 1:25000 CERET: AMELIE LES BAINS – PALALDA 24490T

> View of Amelie from ascent route

## GETTING THERE

Take the D115 from Le Boulou to Amelie les Bains. Park by river off main road or in Charles de Gaulle underground car park at roundabout near entrance to the town.

## START OF WALK AT RUE DES GINESTAS

Either walk through town centre or follow main road on footpath in direction of Arles sur Tech to reach a bridge over river Tech at traffic lights. Turn right across bridge, cross road and a park area (through gates) then turn left along Route de la Corniche behind swimming pool. Look out for second right – rue Heliopolis – and turn up this steep little road. Find start of footpath, signed to Montbolo, beside entrance to rue des Ginestas.



> Start of walk at rue des Ginestas

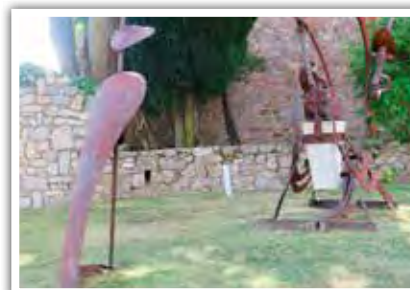
## WALK

Pass behind flats and then turn to rise steadily through forest in zig zags. Near start of ascent cross a double track. Orange spots on trees mark the route. Continue upwards for about 50 mins to reach large cairn where alternative track from Pla Bernadou joins on left. Continue upwards for few minutes to sign indicating Montbolo straight on and ascent to the “Antenne” to left. Follow Montbolo.

Path contours the side of a steep valley and descends to cross a stream and then rises the other side. Reach road into Montbolo at approx. 1h 40 mins from start. Turn right into this well-kept village with its wonderful views across the mountains. Cross the park on right, (viewpoint available) descending to left alongside large stone building and parking area.



> Park in Montbolo



> sculpture in Montbolo

Turn right past interesting sculpture and follow road round bend to Le Point d'Art Bistrot de Pays, behind the Mairie

## MONTBOLO

Combine a visit to this delightful village, with its amazing views and fortified XII century church, with lunch at the panoramic \*bistrot ‘Le Point d’Art’ run by a local lady and her English husband. Take a wander through the ‘jardin botanique’ and the fascinating ‘parcours géologique’ where the different stones mined in the Canigou are on exhibition. If you’re feeling fit, walk up to the ruins of the old mine workings of Batère, a fascinating insight into the mining industry of Canigou’s past, with stunning view over Canigou, the Alberes, the Vallespir, the Tech valley, the Roussillon plain and the Mediterranean.

\* ATTENTION. The restaurant doesn’t take cards, so make sure you have cash if you don’t want to be stuck with the washing up!



Path for descent starts behind the Bistro de Pays and is very well marked with red and yellow waymarks.

After 2 road crossings the path divides – right directly down to Amelie past the cross which dominates the hill across from town – and left to Palalda. We chose left and descended to the Clinique La Sola, passing an imaginative electricity sub station disguised as a stone cabin!



> Electricity sub station - not cabin!



## Walk the region AMELIE, MONTBOLO, PALALDA

Do make time to **explore the fascinating medieval centre of the village**. There is a Bistrot de Pays for refreshments.



### THE RODELLA DE MONTBOLO

Why not join the Rodella procession? In 1465, a Montbolo shepherd had a vision on the Col de Formentera, in which two witches came to the village, bringing with them bad weather to destroy the crops. Two saints, Abdon and Sennan forced them to take away the bad weather and the crops survived. Grateful villagers made that day a yearly celebration and every 30TH OF JULY the Rodella, a coil of bees wax fixed to a cross is offered to these Saintly protectors of Arles-sur-Tech. At 7h, a procession leaves Montbolo and heads down forest paths towards Arles-sur-Tech. Many wear traditional local dress. Arriving at the église Sainte Marie d'Arles, they kneel, embrace the saintly relics, and attend Mass. Holy water is distributed from the Saintly Tomb and you can buy mini Rodellas to repel your own storms!

...

Emerge at small field and follow edge to wide track. Cross and descend once more into forest to left of gates to an old property. Emerge, about 1 hour from Montbolo, **onto double track and into Palalda**.

### PALALDA

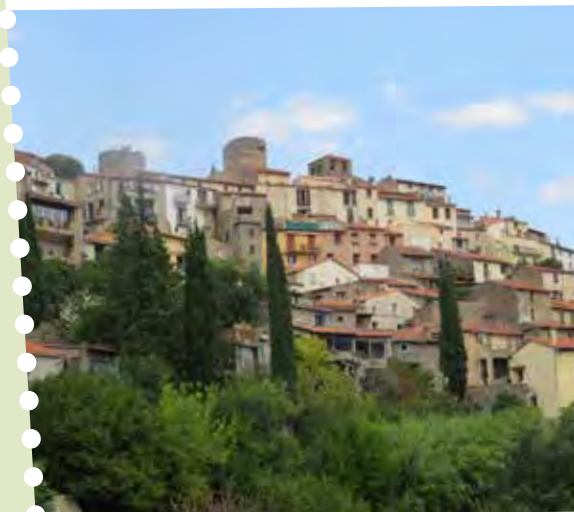
Originally named Paladdanum meaning 'Dan's Palace', this pretty medieval pedestrian-only village has bar, Musee de la Poste (smoke signalling, ancient telegraph, stamps, the evolution of communication...) which also sells crafts, a Xth century church with swirly decorated door, and a sprinkling of artists/craftspeople, all of which may or may not be open depending on the day and time of year. Once a castle, the remains of a tower still stand. The cobbled village with its labyrinth of narrow streets is well worth a visit itself. On summer Fridays, it has a small night market with a traditional bread oven baking delicious bread and pizzas, a seafood man selling fresh oysters, prawns and mussels, and the bar puts on a paella or similar dish. Locals and tourists mix, and the atmosphere is lovely.

After exploring the village centre drop down to the riverside through the maze of narrow streets. Turn right to make your way back into Amélie. **Pass under the impressive stone bridge carrying road to Super Amélie.**



> Stone roadbridge over Tech at Amélie

Soon after this find a footbridge over the Tech on left. Cross river and turn right to return to parking. Although you could park near the Swimming pool or at Palalda to do this walk, **we suggested parking in Amélie as it offers lots of options for refreshments at the end of a really good walk.**



> Looking up to Palalda from river

### AMELIE

Named after Queen Amelia, wife of King Louis Philippe who launched the thermal station in the XIX century, Amélie les Bains is a lively little spa town, well known for its sulphur springs and baths. The spa is well known for treatments of rheumatism and respiratory problems. The rivers Mondony and Tech meet here and the town is surrounded by forested mountains. There is a good selection of bars, cafes, restaurants and shops and a helpful Tourist information office on the main street as well as a charming little daily market and a large bustling one on Thursdays.





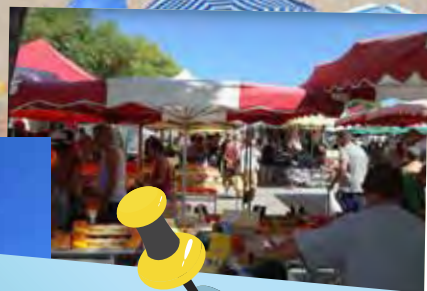


# a-POPPIN' AND a-BOPPIN' in LE BARCARÈS

Once a small fishing village, today a family-orientated, purpose-built resort with more than 8 kilometres of sandy beach and shops, hotels and restaurants to suit every pocket, there is always something going on in Le Barcarès.

Between port, village and plage, you will discover a mix of modern and wild, with salt water lake, nature reserve and birdwatcher's paradise, outdoor art gallery along the sea front, walking tracks, cycling paths, renovated fishermen's huts, water sports... and a **summer programme of activities to get your ears a-poppin' and your feet a-boppin'!**

## HERE ARE JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS



### EVERYBODY LOVES A MARKET!

Weds, Fri & Sun morning (village)  
Tues (Coudalère)  
Mon & Thurs (beach)

### NIGHT MARKETS

Every evening (port)  
Fri & Sun (Coudalère)  
Tues & Thurs (Suisse & Bordeaux car park, near the marina)  
Mon, Weds & Sat (village)

### FISH MARKET

ALL YEAR ROUND, every morning  
Straight off the BOATS

## JULY & AUGUST

> EVERY MONDAY  
**Place De La Martinique, Coudalère**  
**PORT BARCARÈS JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
Live Jazz Under The Stars

> EVERY WEDNESDAY IN AUGUST  
**In the streets**  
**ALLÉE DES ARTS**  
Street Parades From The Lydia To The Place du Tertre

> EVERY THURSDAY  
**Port**  
**SOIRÉES SALSA**  
Sizzling Salsa Lessons  
And Latin/Cuban Evening

> EVERY OTHER FRIDAY  
**Place De La République**  
**BIG BANDS!**

## NIGHT PARTIES!

## JULY

> 12TH - 14TH - Jardins du Lydia  
**ELECTROBEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
The biggest electronic music festival in France....

> 13TH - 14TH  
**FÊTE NATIONALE**  
Parades, bands, majorettes and firework display (13th) to turn the sky bleu, blanc, rouge.



> 15TH - Village  
**MEETING AERIEN**  
Sky ballet. Exciting air acrobatics with Bleuciel Airshow.

> 28TH - Port De Pêche  
**GÊME TROBADA À VOILE LATINE**  
Discover the charm of the Barques Catalanes with their latin sails, as these traditional fishing boats leave the port in colourful procession!



## SEPTEMBER

> UP TO 6TH - Around and about  
**SEMAINE EN OR DES SENIORS**  
Fun, Culture and Sport for the Young at Heart!

> 6TH - 8TH - Jardins Du Lydia  
**OIL & SAND**  
US Army vehicles, motorbikes, stands, concerts.....

## AUGUST

> 4TH  
**LYDIA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY & FIREWORK DISPLAY ABOARD THE LYDIA**

Come and celebrate the 52nd birthday of this middle-aged lady with son et lumières and fireworks as the 'Eiffel Tower' of Port Barcarès is 'set alight' in style!

> 12TH - Place De La Martinique, Coudalère  
**MANU KATCHÉ, THE SCOPE**  
The last of the Monday jazz nights with the renowned Manu Katché.

> 14TH - 15TH - Port  
**FÊTE DES PÊCHEURS**

Homage to the sea and the hardworking men and women who make their living on the water. Mass at the church, followed by Catalan music and tradition, firework display, water sport demos...



> 16TH - Place De La République  
**FÊTE DU VILLAGE**  
Discover some of the ancient traditions of the former fishing village.

> 17TH & 18TH - Jardins Du Lydia  
**BARCARÈS FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL**  
Love food and wine? Come and try local, national and international specialities from trendy food trucks by the sea! Fun activities and entertainment, American soccer demo and live music.

> 30TH - 31ST - Place De La République  
**BODEGA DEL MAR**  
A fabulous, fiesta finish to a scorching summer season. Parades and processions, bodegas, music and dancing, equestrian shows, firework display and the controversial bull running.

## FOR MORE DETAILS.....

OFFICE DE TOURISME (village)  
**PLACE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE**  
TEL: 04 68 86 16 56  
Mail: [tourisme@lebarcares.fr](mailto:tourisme@lebarcares.fr)  
Facebook : [www.facebook.com/portbarcares](https://www.facebook.com/portbarcares)  
[www.portbarcares.com](http://www.portbarcares.com)





# Summer in THE



## MUSÉE D'ART MODERNE CÉRET

### EXHIBITION: ANDRÉ MASSON

**Saturday 22nd June – Sunday 27th October**  
At 21, wounded, and broken in body and spirit, Masson returned from the war. In 1919 he arrived in Céret where he painted landscapes inspired by Cézanne's cubism, as he slowly put himself back together. These landscapes are one of the major themes of this exhibition.  
Also works by Picasso, Soutine, Dufy, Tàpies, Miró ....  
**Open daily from 10h - 19h**

Tél : 04 68 87 27 76  
contact@musee-ceret.com  
www.musee-ceret.com

## MÚSIC MUSÉE DES INSTRUMENTS CÉRET

Quirky, intriguing and original, MÚSIC brings together an impressive collection of over 350 traditional instruments and boasts the largest collection of oboes in the world. Headdresses, crafts, toys, fabric, jewellery.....

### PRESENT EXHIBITION:

SUPERSONIC, en quête de l'inouï, highlighting what has NOT been heard before, what has NOT been spoken about; extraordinary, exceptional, incredible! Go see for yourself!

14 rue Pierre Rameil, Céret  
Tél : 04 68 87 40 40  
contact@music-ceret.com  
www.music-ceret.com

## POUPÉES ET PATOTES Miroirs de sociétés



## MAISON DU PATRIMOINE FRANÇOISE CLAUSTRE CÉRET

### EXHIBITION: POUPÉES ET PATOTES MIROIRS DE SOCIÉTÉS

Dolls: their history, their creation, their uses!

Place Picasso, Céret  
Tél : 04 68 87 31 59  
contact@maisondupatrimoine-ceret.com  
www.maisondupatrimoine-ceret.com

## FORT DE BELLEGARDE LE PERTHUS

Fort de Bellegarde stands guard over north and south Catalonia. From its terraces, the views are breathtaking. With 63 metres deep well, the deepest in Europe, delightful walks and strolls and nearby cycle path all the way to Girona if you're feeling sporty! Unspoiled, made safe but not restored, wander round the ramparts or visit the chapel, barracks, small museum, various exhibitions...

Open every day from 10h30 to 18h30

Tel: 04 68 54 27 53  
pointinfoperthus@orange.fr

## CHAPELLE SAINT MARTIN DE FENOLLAR MAUREILLAS-LAS ILLAS

The spectacular 12th-century frescoes in this tiny chapel are acknowledged as the best Romanesque wall paintings in Roussillon. Picasso and Braque were said to be much inspired by them.

Open every day (July & August.) Closed Tuesdays in September

Tél : 04 68 87 73 82  
saintmartindenfenollar66480@gmail.com

## DON'T MISS.....

### JULY

CÉRET: Féria, Festival de Sardanes  
LES CLUSES: Fête de la Saint Nazaire  
MAUREILLAS: Festa Major

### AUGUST

L'ALBÈRE: Fête du Roser  
LE PERTHUS: Fête de la Saint Louis  
REYNÈS: Festa Major  
SAINT-JEAN PLA-DE-CORTS: Fête du Roser

### SEPTEMBER

VIVÈS: Festa Major  
CÉRET: La Ronde Céretane  
CÉRET: Fête de la St Ferréol  
TAILLET: Automne Musical

### MORE DETAILS

www.vallespir-tourisme.fr-> se divertir

## GUIDED VISITS IN ENGLISH

DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF OLD CÉRET  
Fri 12th July & Fri 9th August at 11h00  
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Office de Tourisme  
Intercommunal du Vallespir  
**04 68 87 00 53**  
<http://vallespir-tourisme.fr>







# ...In PALAU DEL VIDRE ...and ELNE

Palau de Vidre, Palace of Glass, was for many years under the authority of the influential Knights Templar, during which time the village was fortified.

This connection with the 'templiers' brought the 'Palauencs' special privileges such as tax reduction and a central oven in which each villager could bake his own bread, on condition that he give one loaf in twenty to the knights.

A very small section of the ancient fortifications remains today, a reminder of a colourful past.



Ancient fortification >

In the 15th century, glass makers from around France settled in the area, attracted by plentiful resources of sand from the River Tech, wood to sustain the high temperatures required for glass blowing, and the proximity of Elne Market. The industry flourished, only dying out with the start of the French Revolution.

Today there are several glass-making workshops in the small village, but make sure you visit the impressive showroom of the PALAIS DES VERRIERS with master glassblower **Jorge Mateus** at the helm. The kids can have a go at glassblowing and even go home with a sphere with their name on it. Cool or what?

The 11th century église Sainte-Marie, whose interior was financed **Palau del Vidre – Palace of Glass** by the wealthy glass makers of yore, holds a fascinating, perfectly preserved set of ancient artwork and 'retables'.



These framed altarpieces, dating from the 16th century, painted in oils on wood, are decorated with paintings, and statues which tell a story according to the wishes of the person who commissioned it.



Look out for the 'vierge ouvrante', one of the only 48 statues in the world of a pregnant Virgin Mary, which opens to reveal the Holy Father inside, much criticised, and pronounced heretic by the church.

< Vierge Ouvrante



Take a look too at the ancient looking church doors, built and fitted only ten years ago!

Or how about a spot of fishing, no permis required, for only 10 euros, payable on site? ...

## ALSO IN PALAU.....

> **The Festival International du Verre.**

(8th - 11th August)

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> **The beautiful Château Villeclaire.**

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> **L'Ancienne Ecole.** Excellent local restaurant.

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## Around the lake

with LEIGH AND MERRY FOSTER



Plan d'Eau de Saint Marti, Palau-del-Vidre  
 Map IGN 1:25000 Banyuls/Col de Perthus/Cote  
 Vermeille (GPS) 2549 OT

This lovely stroll around a delightful small lake tucked away in Palau-del-Vidre is suitable for just about everyone. The paths are quite flat and suitable for push/wheel chairs and it is reasonably well sheltered when the Tram is blowing, with great views up to Canigou and the Albères. To reach the lake turn off the main road through Palau heading towards Elne and follow signs for Plan d'Eau.



There is a nice path all around the lake, about 1-1/2 km, and onto the small island in the middle where there are picnic tables under shady trees. There is also a 'parcours de sante', (fitness trail) to encourage you to hop, skip, and jump around the lake and work off some excess

energy if you have any, and benches where you can sit and rest your legs if you haven't.

There is some fantastic bird life to watch, including waders and Egrets if you're lucky. The lake is also popular in season for trout fishing, with the right permits (Fishing passes are available locally Tel: 04.68.39.14.36).



## ...and ELNE



A ten minute drive from Palau brings you to the ancient historical capital of Roussillon, Elne, so named in the fourth century when the Christian emperor Constantine changed its Roman name, Illiberis, to Elne, in honour of his mother Helena.

Head for the upper part of the town and park near the tourist office in Place Sant Jordi. Wander the well-signed circuit of the ramparts, or the cobbled, oleander lined alleys full of small galleries and workshops, to the huge Cathedral consecrated in 1069, with fine Croix des Outrages, magnificent marble font and superb view from the terrace. Its peaceful cloisters, containing a Museum of History and Archaeology, are made of blue Céret marble and are classed amongst the most beautiful in France, its gardens sweet with traditional herbs and medicinal plants.

Look out too for **Maillo's sculpture** and war memorial, 'Pomone', a clothed version of the **naked** original, and **Violet's large terracotta bas** relief depicting scenes of everyday agricultural Catalan life, set into the ramparts of the Cami de la Réal, where the Wednesday market is held. ...

## HANNIBAL AND THE ELEPHANTS

Carthaginian commander Hannibal stopped off at Elne to discuss a treaty which would allow his army free passage when they marched from Iberia over the Pyrenees and the Alps into northern Italy. The treaty allowed safe passage through the Panissars (Perthus) pass with 80,000 soldiers, 10,000 cavalrymen and 40 elephants. War elephants were trained to charge the enemy, trampling them and breaking their ranks.



# OUT for THE DAY

Across the way, **The Musée Terrus** has a permanent exhibition of Elne-born **Etienne Terrus**, contemporary of Matisse and Derrain and best known for his local landscapes, as well as interesting shows of artists with Elne connections. **Well worth a visit.**



> Etienne Terrus Exhibition

Just nearby, take time out for pure pleasure chez New Kids on the Block, **gourmet chocolate-makers Clarendia & Pierre** or pop in to see the lovely creations for sale from **Véronique Puig**, potter, in her small workshop. You can also sign up for pottery, painting and photography lessons or workshops.

**Time for lunch? Just opposite you'll find Hôtel-Restaurant Le Cara-Sol** for fine dining (alfresco or inside their air-conditioned interior) and adjacent **restaurant Au Remp'Arts** offering a lunchtime menu at just 16,90€ weekdays. Both have panoramic terraces.

Now head for the **Verrerie d'Art** in the 'Place St Jordi', behind the Tourist Office, home of **talented glassblowers, Sylvain & Véronique Magny**. Fascinating to watch, their highly original glass makes ideal gifts.

The Terrus museum in Elne dedicated to painter Étienne Terrus, was in shock recently, after a visiting art historian pointed out that more than half the museum's collection are fakes. Staff at the museum were unaware that 82 works originally attributed to the artist were not actually his! In fact, out of the 140 paintings and watercolours collected over two decades by the museum, more than half the collection is now thought to be fake.

One painting included a castle tower that had been built in the late 1950s.... but Étienne Terrus died in 1922.

The museum admitted that, on close scrutiny, some of the fakes were "rather obvious."

All paintings exhibited now are the real thing, and police have launched an inquiry into the fraud.



> La maternité suisse

The **Maternité Suisse** in **Château d'en Bardou**, is also worth a visit. This moving memorial is to young **Swiss nurse, Elisabeth Eidenbenz**, who rescued pregnant women from the misery of the internment camps of Argelès, Rivesaltes, Bacarès and St Cyprien. **She saved the lives of almost 600 babies before being closed down by the Germans in 1944.**

As you leave Elne, direction Argelès, you can't miss the large blue butterfly sign for the **Tropique du Papillon, butterfly paradise** - filled with exotic plants, tropical flowers, a caterpillar nursery and hundreds of delicate butterflies from all over the world. At its entrance, do try the cosy, **new restaurant 'Saperlipopette'** offering traditional, local fare as well as a selection of organic and natural wines and already gaining a reputation for good, simple, well-crafted food.



With murmuring fountains just next door, a greenhouse garden of bananas, lotus and hibiscus and the magnificent colours of the softly fluttering butterflies, this is a gentle oasis of peace and beauty and a relaxing end to a delightful day out.

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Did you know that the English word 'billion' is a blend of French word 'bis', (meaning twice or repeated) and 'million'. A billion in French is actually un milliard...

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OUT <sup>for</sup>  
THE DAY

# around and about ... in COLLIOURE

Can't Help  
Falling in  
Love with  
You

Most people fall a little  
in love with Collioure on  
first sight.

Its charming tangle of  
ancient cobbled streets  
and alleys lined with  
tumbling bougainvillea  
and geraniums, brightly  
painted houses, colourful  
Catalan Barques moored  
in a pretty bay overlooked  
by a royal castle rarely  
fail to work their magic.

## ART, MUSIC, LITERATURE...

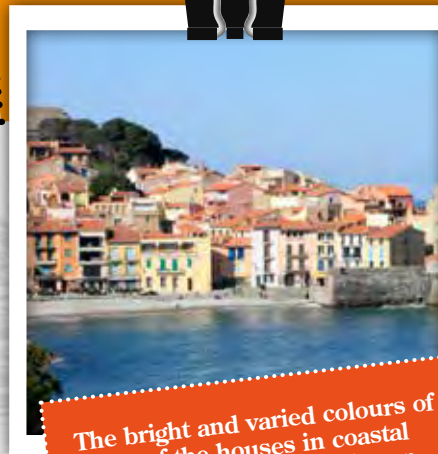
**Maurice Chevalier, Edith Piaf, Charles Trenet** and artists **Raoul Dufy, Salvador Dali, Picasso** are just a few of the town's famous lovers. Like moths to an exquisite flame, artistes great and small are drawn to this jewel in the Catalan crown. When **Henri Matisse** arrived in May 1905, he was depressed and broke. He was soon uplifted by the colour and light....and on the verge of starting a new movement in the history of art: Fauvism. He sent a simple postcard to his friend Andre Derain. "Venez!" it said. And Derain came. Together, they painted Collioure in wild colour from every angle, often side by side, the same view, different pictures, inspiring many artists to explore colour in new ways. Wander through narrow alleys, up to the top of the town following "Le Chemin du Fauvisme" a guided walk with strategically placed copies of the paintings of Derain and Matisse in the positions in which they were originally painted. Guided tours in English are also available. Visit Collioure's Museum of Modern Art next to the Dominican Convent, now wine cellar, where you can enjoy the permanent exhibition, catch a temporary one.... and pop next door for a wine tasting!

**Antonio Machado**, arguably Spain's greatest poet, fled the Spanish Civil War with his family and escaped to Collioure, only to become ill and die three weeks after arriving. He is buried in the municipal cemetery. Visitors from all over the world pay homage to the great poet and use the letter box on his grave to send personal message to Antonio in heaven.



Master and Commander author **Patrick O'Brian** lived and wrote in Collioure until his death in 2000. **Charles Rennie Mackintosh** lived and worked for the last four years of his life in Port Vendres but also painted in Collioure, his work displayed in the town.

Steep and ancient terraces of sunbaked vineyards sweep down to the very edge of the town. They are **mostly worked entirely by hand**. Follow the 'Route de Vins' for a delightful drive, stunning views and wine tasting possibilities for every palette and pocket; **small appellation, big wine**.



The bright and varied colours of many of the houses in coastal Catalan fishing villages began with the fishermen using up paint left over from decorating their colourful Catalan 'barques'. In fact, over the border in Cadaquès, Dalí actually asked the fishermen to clean their brushes on his door after painting their boats.





> Notre-Dame-des-Anges



> © Ted Hiscok

**Notre-Dame-des-Anges**, our Lady of Angels, with its emblematic pink bell tower stands firm against the onslaught of winter storms and summer crowds and is probably the most well-known round-towered church in Europe. Originally a medieval lighthouse, the bell tower or 'clocher' stands on a small outcrop of rock next to the beach. In 1693 Vauban, Louis XIV's chief military engineer, had it demolished to strengthen fortifications, and the villagers were left without a church.

A new church was completed in 1693, attached to the belltower, Catalan Baroque in style, the main altar was hand carved by **Catalan sculptor Josep Sunyer** and covered in gold leaf. The pink dome, added in 1810, has become a symbol of Collioure, featured on every tourist's holiday photos.

Across the bay, its walls also plunging into the sea, is the impressive **Château Royal**, summer Palace of the Kings of Mallorca. **King James the Builder built the Château** at the same time as his royal palace in Perpignan. In 1399, after centuries of historical sieges, rebuilds and renovations, the castle became a men's prison and disciplinary camp for Spanish refugees living in atrocious conditions on the beaches of Argelès-sur-Mer, Saint-Cyprien and Le Barcarès, after fleeing the Spanish Civil War. Today, festivals, markets and exhibitions are held within its ancient walls. Wander through history for just 4 euros (free for U12), [check out secret underground passageways, dungeon and stunning views from the ramparts.](#)

> Château Royal



### ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL

Adventure, friendship, intrigue, betrayal... Alexandre Dumas's stories of the Three Musketeers has charmed and enthralled literature lovers for many years - but did you know that d'Artagnan was based on the real musketeer, Charles Ogier de Batz de Castlemore, Nicknamed D'Artagnan, he was amongst the King's musketeers protecting Louis XIII in 1642 when he lay siege to Collioure and the Château Royal, and occupied the hills overlooking the town.

And according to Dumas, our dashing hero was also a bit of a wine connoisseur as the book describes how the musketeers 'were engaged in enjoying a demi-john of Collioure wine'

Back in medieval times, Collioure's reputation revolved around the salting of anchovies, sardines and tuna. Salting is a hard way of making a living and now only two salting houses remain. Established in 1870, **you can't miss Maison Roque** as you come into Collioure on the main road. Fascinating to visit, do take a tour and sample free tastings. Once you see the skill involved in preparing and arranging the anchovies in their jars, **you will appreciate these fiddly little fish even more!**



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## around and about ... in COLLIOURE

**Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban**, royal engineer to Louis XIV, was famous for installing fortifications throughout France. In 1669 he visited Collioure and wrote that it was not worth improving, even suggesting razing it to the ground and starting again!

Surrounded by forts and look out towers, **Forts Miradou, St Elme, Dugommier, Carre and Rond** all overlook the town.

**Fort Miradou** is now the Centre National d'Entrainement Commando, possibly the most beautiful garrison in France, and you may see commandos practicing manoeuvres out in the bay, an entertainment in itself!



**Fort St Elme** was originally a XIV century watch tower, the object of many a border skirmish. It was sold at auction in August 1913, and occupied by the Kriegsmarine, the German navy, between 1942 and 1944. Strategically positioned for defence, with clear views of the sea, the Spanish coast, the **Château Royal** and the natural harbour of **Port Vendres**, it is now a museum with armaments collection, nooks and crannies to explore, and organised fun for the kids. It has spectacular views from the tower, and beautiful gardens.



**Fort Dugommier**, situated **near Fort St. Elme** on the col between Port Vendres and Collioure was named after a famous French General, and **built to protect Collioure and Port Vendres from invasion by sea**. Particularly from the British! It is now being renovated by volunteers to become an art and science research centre.

Two 14th century beacons of **Madeloc** and **Massane** perch high above on ridges of the Albères. These signal towers would use smoke by day and fire by night to signal approaching danger. You can walk to both. **Madeloc is accessible by car, but Massane presents more of a walking challenge.**

**Le Moulin de Collioure** is an an easy uphill climb from behind the **Museum of Modern Art**, bringing you to a lovely park with terraces of olive trees and a cactus garden. The windmill, the oldest in the department, has been restored and converted from a cereal to an olive mill. It is used today for crushing olives and producing olive oil, which you can buy on site. **Take water and a hat if you're intending to continue the climb up to the Fort Saint Elme - and buy your olive oil on the way back!**





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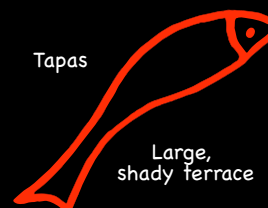
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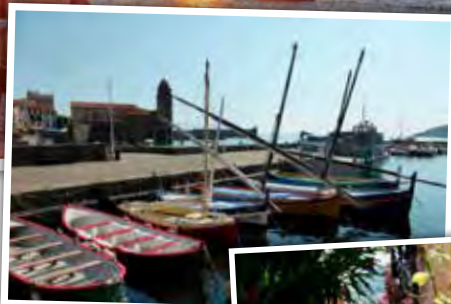
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# around and about ... in COLLIOURE



Looking for a perfect picnic place? There are sooooo many ..... but **L'Ermitage de Notre Dame de Consolation**, a pleasant 30 minute walk from the town centre, is a little bit special - a quiet haven of perfection and reflection, if a little tired in areas. Huge plane trees shade old stone buildings, limes, chestnuts, and poplars create a haven of cooling green. In the chapel at its centre, crocodiles guard marble plaques and icons from centuries of fishermen and sailors, **given in thanks to our Lady of Notre Dame, patron saint of fishermen, for safe return from storms and tempests**. Stay the night. There are rooms for rent, and weddings, concerts, festivals and celebration take place in the grounds. Drinks and simple food can be bought. Behind the Hermitage a simple rocky path climbs up a stream bed to a balcony where the spring rises in the centre of an ancient balustrade, set into the dense tree lined hillside.



With **cafés and restaurants** good, bad and ugly, artists' studios, craft shops, street stands selling every flavour of ice-cream you could dream of, pretty beaches, quirky boutiques and busy market on Wednesday and Sunday mornings, this picture-postcard town can get very crowded in high season. But some might say that part of its charm is the colourful and cosmopolitan, hustle and bustle of different nationalities milling around or sitting on the café trottoirs watching the world go by!

Try out our advertisers – from breakfast on the beach at **Derriere Le Clocher** to delicious fresh fish straight out of the sea at **Can Pla, L'Amphitryon and Le Jardin de Collioure** (and snails too, if that's your thing!). Not forgetting the recently-opened, small and intimate **L'Ambroisie** for wholesome, home-made, local fare.

> La Consolation Picnic area  
by Ted Hiscok >>

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## LES FÊTES SAINT VINCENT

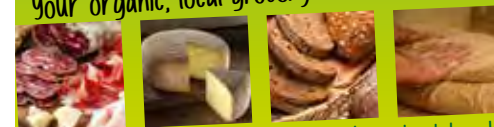
14TH – 18TH AUGUST

First celebrated in 1701, on the day when the relics of **St. Vincent, patron saint of Collioure**, were returned to the village, don't miss these four days of music, dancing, bodegas, processions on land and sea, fireworks display, and various nautical games, such as the 'ronde du clocher' (swimming around the port and bay). (See Tourist Office for details)

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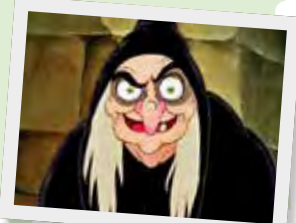


## OUT for THE DAY

### DID YOU KNOW

## WITCH BEACH?

**Want to become a witch?** According to a Catalan tradition, all you need to do is take off all your clothes on the beach, roll over in the sand seven times, draw three circles, roll around again, and mutter witch-like prayers and incantations throughout the process. **Best done on a deserted beach maybe.**



### DID YOU KNOW

## VIA DOMITIA

**The Via Domitia was the first of the vast road networks in Gaul (France) built by the Romans, to link Italy and Spain. Arriving in Roussillon, it split up into two routes, the coastal route, passing through Elne, Saint-Cyprien, Argelès, Collioure, Port-Vendres and Banyuls and the inland route passing through Montescot, Le Boulou, Les Cluses and Le Perthus (Pannissars). Much is now abandoned or integrated into the modern road system but there are still ruins and remains all along the route, such as at Panissars, (turn right after entering Le Perthus and follow signs for Bellegarde) where you can also see the Via Domitia hewn out of the rock.**

## around and about ... in COLLIOURE



### 'YOU DANCED!

Son of an Irish father and Catalan mother, graduate of the Dublin School of Medicine, **Don Esteban Maturin y Domanova** was raised by his godfather at the family estate in south Catalonia. When he met Jack Aubrey, a British navy officer and captain of the HMS Sophie, he signed on as ship's doctor, under the shorter name of **Stephen Maturin**. So began a lasting friendship and long service in the British navy.

Much of the action takes place off the coast of the Pyrénées-Orientales. On one occasion, Aubrey and Maturin flee French pursuers over the border into Spain near Le Perthus, Aubrey disguised in a bearskin! He even has a go at Catalan dance, the sardane. "You danced!" says Jack in amazement.

Of course, those of you who enjoy classic books and film will have recognised Dr. Maturin, Master and Commander Aubrey, the HMS Sophie and their adventures as great fiction from the pen of Patrick O'Brian (1914-2000). Author of Master and Commander and the 20 Aubrey-Maturin novels set during the Napoleonic wars, he lived in Collioure from 1949 from where he wrote many of his sea stories.

Look out for the guide "In the footsteps of Patrick O'Brian" on sale (5€) at the Maison de la Presse and the Maison du Fauvisme in Collioure or visit a reconstruction of his writing space in the Médiathèque Antonio Machado set up by Association 'Les Amis de Patrick O'Brian'.

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# Restaurant REVIEWS



We love publishing your reviews. They're honest (mostly!) objective, (we hope) unrelated to advertising (bien sûr!) and cover a wide range of tastes, prices, and places. You might not always agree, the chef might be having a bad day, your standards might be higher....or lower – but they give you an idea of what's available.

## LA TABLE DU COIN

Argelès Port....**with Roz and Alain**

There are so many average restaurants on Argelès port in summer so **this one is worth seeking out for its delicious food and friendly service.** Standing a little bit back from the main line of restaurants, food is inventive, fresh, home made and beautifully presented with great house wines which say a lot about a restaurant. **Highly recommend.**



58/59 Esplanade du Nouveau Monde  
Port-Argelès  
04 68 55 46 54

## 66 SUR VINS

Maureillas....**with Matthew**

**Wonderful service and clearly a very talented chef in the kitchen.**

Perfectly cooked Duck and an outstanding Escalope of Veal with Morels sauce, interesting starters (sliced thin Tina and Yuzo Sorbet or poached and fried coated eggs on top of wonderful Asparagus and tomato reduction with citrus sauce), some superb deserts (Chèvre ice cream topped in honey and chives on a pine nut crumble was particularly new for me and was outstanding). **Formule available at 29€ and 36€ for 3 courses or à la carte.**



10 Place de la République,  
Maureillas-Las-Illas  
04 68 81 66 69

## LES CAPELLANS Centre Commercial

Saint Cyprien Port....**with Kate**

A little out of Saint Cyprien centre, so more relaxed and less crowded, and safe for the kids to run around, if you fancy sitting on the dock in the bay, (watching the tide roll away). There are several laid back café restaurants, parking is free and easy, (though less so in August ) and there are some great takeaway shops if you want to eat on the beach (pizza, a variety of splendid cooked fish and meat dishes, roast chicken....). The fruit and veg shop and butcher are my personal go-to for high quality, and the excellent fresh fish shop usually has a large paella or similar



dish bubbling, or order your plateau de fruits de mer to take home or eat there at the oyster bar.

**A dynamic little quayside shopping centre which is easily overlooked and could do with our support.**

Centre Commercial des Capellans  
66750 Saint-Cyprien



## NEW DELHI

Perpignan....**with Laura**

As a spice-loving vegetarian, choice can sometimes feel a little limited in the P-O but if Indian's your bag, look no further... Soooooo good! You can eat in the charming, cosy restaurant, or take away- I've done both, regularly!

We always start with poppadums and dips (the lime chilly is HOT), followed by the vegetarian méli-mélo, a mouth-watering selection of somosa, pakora and bhaji, 7€.

For mains, everything's so good, it's best to share- that way you get a taste of everything. I can thoroughly recommend the biryani, the palak panir and the dahl! Unless you haven't eaten in a week, share a rice, there's loads!

My French partner isn't into hot (!) so he has his without chilli. On my first visit, I was a little jaded by previous experiences of French-Indian restaurants so asked for "very hot"... mistake, nearly blew my head off! Now I ask for medium and it's perfect!!



18 Avenue Général de Gaulle, Perpignan  
04 68 34 89 38



Do you know a restaurant you would like to recommend?  
we'd love to hear from you.  
(Connaissez-vous un restaurant que vous voudriez recommander?  
On serait ravi de vous entendre)  
send your comments to us at [info@anglophone-direct.com](mailto:info@anglophone-direct.com).  
(no restaurant owners please!! :-)







**SUMMER IS HERE** – and we have loads of great restaurant suggestions for you to try.

**So what's on the menu?** How about breakfast on the beach, in the mountains, pieds-dans-l'eau or under the stars? Choose from Catalan, Indian, Italian, traditional French, vegan..... and even Michelin-starred cuisine! Quick snack or Full Monty! Eat in or take out. The freshest of fresh fish, oysters, classic Moules/Frites, Paella...

**We try to eat in as many as we can** – it's a hard job, but somebody has to do it – and so far have enjoyed some fabulous home-made, local and seasonal food. So, please go forth and support our advertisers. Without them, we would not exist! **BON APPÉTIT!**

# Ideas for EATING In...



## ...ARGELES PORT

**L'Améthyste** .....04 68 81 07 49  
Local and fresh fish..... <http://restaurantlamethyste.com>  
**La Table du Coin** .....04 68 55 46 54  
Open mid-February to mid-December ..... f: La Table Du Coin  
**La Table de Valmy** .....04 68 95 95 25  
Open 7/7 for lunch and dinner ..... f: La Table de Valmy

## ...ARLES-SUR-TECH

**Els Simiots** .....04 68 36 45 24 / 07 86 60 66 82  
Bistrot/Resto/Wine Bar ..... f: Els-Simiots

## ...BANYULS-SUR-MER

**La Vieille Cave** .....04 68 88 39 86  
Restaurant-Pizzeria ..... [www.restaurant-vieille-cave.com](http://www.restaurant-vieille-cave.com)  
**Le Fanal**, Banyuls-sur-Mer .....04 68 98 65 88  
..... [www.pascal-borrell.com](http://www.pascal-borrell.com)

## ...CÉRET

**Bella Pizza** .....04 68 87 70 26  
Open every day except Sunday lunch-time and Thursdays  
**Le Jardin** .....04 11 64 41 12  
[www.lejardin-restaurant-ceret.fr](http://www.lejardin-restaurant-ceret.fr) ..... f: Le-Jardin-Restaurant  
**Quattrocento**, .....04 68 87 15 60  
[www.lequattrocento.net](http://www.lequattrocento.net) ..... Open 7/7 all year round

## ...COLLIOURE

**Can Pla**, .....04-68-82-10-00  
Open Feb to Mid-Nov..... [www.restaurant-can-pla-collioire.com](http://www.restaurant-can-pla-collioire.com)  
**Derrière le Clocher** - Beach Club.....04 48 89 08 72  
Breakfast, open noon to late ..... f: DerriereLeClocher  
**L'Ambroisie** .....04 68 09 79 07  
Home-made, seasonal and local fare. f: Restaurant-Lambroisie  
**L'Amphytrion** .....04 68 82 36 00  
Fresh fish, fish platters and Paella... f: Restaurant L'Amphytrion  
**Le Bistrot à la Mer**, route de Collioure .....04 68 81 14 73  
[www.grandhoteldugolfe.com](http://www.grandhoteldugolfe.com) ..... f: grandhoteldugolfe  
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**Au Remp'Arts** .....04 68 22 31 95  
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## ...ILLE-SUR-TET

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GAA and rugby coverage, WIFI .... [www.cafedesartistes66.com](http://www.cafedesartistes66.com)

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**Caparica** .....09 51 61 39 84  
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## ...MAUREILLAS

**Auberge du Chêne** .....04 68 55 26 23 / 06 70 70 95 58  
..... Closed Tuesday (and Monday from September)

## ...MONT LOUIS

**Le Dagobert** .....04 68 04 14 32  
Bookings recommended f: Restaurant-Le-Dagobert-A-Mont-Louis

## ...PALAU-DEL-VIDRE

**Resto du Camping Le Haras** .....04 68 22 14 50  
Bar, Tapas, etc ..... [www.camping-le-haras.com](http://www.camping-le-haras.com)

## ...PERPIGNAN

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**Lou Grilladou** .....04 68 34 86 81  
..... Closed Sat lunch-time, all day Sun and Mon eves  
**New Delhi** .....04 68 34 89 38  
..... f: new.delhi.perpignan

## ...PORT- VENDRES

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**Le Côte Vermeille** ....04 68 82 05 71 / Grill: 04 68 88 85 05  
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**Le Portofino** .....09 51 58 89 55  
Open all year ..... [www.leportofino-restaurant.fr](http://www.leportofino-restaurant.fr)  
**Jardin Catalan** .....04 68 21 36 64  
Wine tasting ..... Open all year

**Ulo Pizza**, near Lidl .....04 68 95 45 62  
Take away/eat in, TV rugby & football ..... [f:ulopizza.stcyp](mailto:f:ulopizza.stcyp)

## ...SAINT GENIS-DES-FONTAINES

**L'Auberge des Albères** .....04 68 89 88 38  
Open all year ..... [www.restaurant-auberge-alberes.fr](http://www.restaurant-auberge-alberes.fr)

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Opposite Caves Byrrh ..... f: bellacosa.thuir  
**Moana Nui** .....04 68 64 19 72  
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**Joséphine Glaces/Café** .....04 30 19 77 40  
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**La Salamandre** .....04 68 89 26 67  
Bookings preferred ..... <http://restaurant-salamandre.com>

## ...VILLELONGUE-DELS-MONTS

**Bar Cordoba** .....04 68 88 57 37  
TV sports coverage, cocktails ..... f: Cordoba café  
**L'Axurit** .....04 68 89 89 28  
Home-made stir fries, pizzas etc. Take away/Eat in..... f: L'Axurit  
**Le Soixante Six** .....04 68 68 08 31  
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**FOOD  
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## DID YOU KNOW

### OPEN DOOR TO THE P-O

On a plateau of the Corbières, near Salses, with panoramic views of sea and lagoon, visible from the A9 motorway and the N9, stands the “Porta dels Països Catalans”, or ‘Gate of the Catalan Countries’, giant arc of four open doors, its uprights symbolising the four bars of the Catalan flag. Created by sculptor Emili Armengol, this gateway to north Catalonia was a symbolic border between Languedoc and Roussillon, a first and last landmark for visitors arriving or departing the Pyrenees-Orientales. The Languedoc, Roussillon, and Midi-Pyrénées’ have combined to become l’Occitanie, but this eye catcher still lets you know that you have arrived in Catalan Country!



## DID YOU KNOW

### MARCA HISPANICA PYRAMID



We’ve all passed it on the way from Spain into France and wondered what it was! Built in 1976 from stones excavated from the building of the motorway, the pyramidal monument overlooking the motorway at the old French/Spanish border point is a purely decorative sculpture created by Ricardo Bofill, and dedicated to Catalonia. The architect was given the brief that the mountain had suffered enough when the motorway was built, and he should build something to restore the region’s dignity!



### A PAIN IN SPAIN

Many P-O residents have added the Catalan Flag and the mention ‘Pays Catalan’ to the classic 66 licence plate. However, whilst the gendarmerie on the French side tolerate these plate modifications, over the border the Spanish Guardia Civil confirm that motorists are liable to a fine of 80€ for ‘foreign vehicles that do not comply to a specific norm’ and may well stop you and ask you to remove the sticker.



## DID YOU KNOW

### LA STATUE DU PETIT TAMBOUR

Have you seen the statue of the Little Drummer Boy in Le Boulou? This statue, by sculptor Gérard Vié, represents the first child to die for his motherland on November 1st, 1794, during the battle of Le Boulou (30 April-1 May 1794) a French victory in the eastern Pyrenees against the Spanish.



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## SOME *catalan* Traditions

### CORREFOCS OR 'FIRE RUNS'

will make any festival go with a bang as '**colles de diables**' (groups of 'devils') dance amongst the crowds waving sparklers, firecrackers, and roman candles, spitting fire into the crowd.



### LES JEUDIS DE PERPIGNAN

Not to be missed, **Thursday nights on the streets of Perpignan** in July and August are a flamboyant melange of music, street theatre, jugglers, acrobats, flamenco, salsa, jazz..... **It's live, it's full of sound and colour... AND IT'S FREE!**

### CASTELLS (CATALAN FOR CASTLES)

**Castellers** (castle-makers), wearing traditional Catalan costume, climb onto each others shoulders to create a human tower, sometimes up to eight or nine storeys high and **topped off with a brave child, the cherry on the cake!**



### GÉGANTS (GIANTS)

**These enormous painted papier-mâché figures,** (with a very hot person inside) **usually represent important people from the history of the region** and can be seen at festivals, often in couples, dancing in the streets with cap-grossos (little 'big-heads')



### 31ST AUGUST - 15TH SEPTEMBER

**Festival International du Photojournalisme**



Professional and amateur photographers from the four corners of the globe meet up for the prestigious "VISA Pour l'Image" festival. It's all free - and a great chance to see inside some of the oldest buildings of Perpignan!

Look out too for simultaneous "Off" (fringe) series of exhibitions in various shops and cafes dotted around the centre of Perpignan.

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Laroque-des-Albères



Villa approx. 143 m2 with swimming pool, 3 bedrooms, terrace; cottage. for rent. Ref. L502 379.000 € FAI

Laroque-des-Albères



### Sole Agent

Stone house approx. 120 m², 3 bedrooms, terrace + cottage for rent.

DPE:NC Ref. L520 389.000 € FAI



### Sole Agent

Villa approx. 102 m², 2 bedrooms, terrace + apartment for rent.

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Argeles-sur-Mer



Villa approx. 135 m² with view, 3 bedrooms, terrace and large plot of land approx. 9500 m2. DPE : D  
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Laroque-des-Albères

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## My Life in The P-O



So... P-O LIFE IT IS. I HAVE THE NAME, I'VE DOUBLED THE SIZE TO 8 PAGES SO IT LOOKS A BIT MORE LIKE A PROPER MAGAZINE, I HAVE OVER 100 MEMBERS ON THE WEBSITE FORUM (HYSTERICAL GIGGLE) - AND THE ONLY WAY IS UP!

JULY 2007

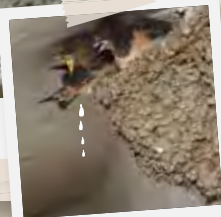
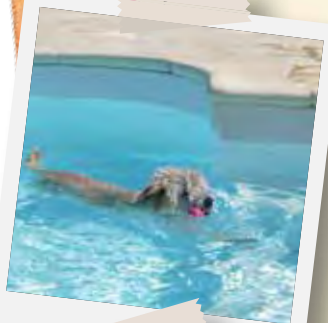
Well, we **FINALLY GOT OUR POOL!** It's used daily by **BISOU** who particularly enjoys shaking next to very dry people. She picks her victims with care and always goes for visitors when available!

Putting the final touches to P-O Life at the moment, **WITH A FABULOUS NEW DESIGNER** who totally understands my lay-out requirements. "*Donc, c'est quirky que vous voulez?*" she said, reaching for the English-French dictionary. "**I CAN DO QUIRKY.**" **AND SHE CAN!**

So here I am. From French teacher in England to English magazine editor in France! **I AM ONE LUCKY LADY!**

A swallow family has made its nest in our porch, and it has been fascinating to watch them be born, grow and prepare to leave the nest. One little chap is stuck in the nest with his bottom facing the wrong way - very useful if you need the loo but a bit of a conversation stopper with the rest of the family!

July is about to slip away into August and the weather is like a dream! **PAGNOL'S SOUVENIR D'ENFANCE AND SAGAN'S BONJOUR TRISTESSE.**



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# P-O Life

My Life in the P-O

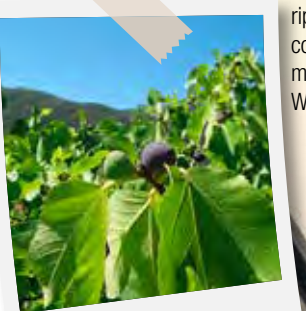
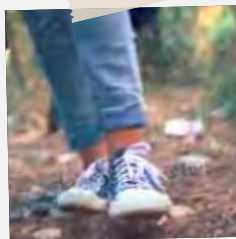


AUGUST 2007

The new P-O LIFE is out on the streets and I'm already planning the next. **IT'S NOT WORK - IT'S A PASSION.** At 8 pages, it's still a bit 'school-magaziney' but my dream is to get it up to 32!! My biggest problem so far is funding the print and design which still costs more than I make from advertising. No surprise there though. I'm a total failure at selling adverts and feel obliged to buy whatever they're selling!

**IT'S L'ASSOMPTION, 15TH AUGUST.** Bals, fetes and fireworks are planned throughout France - and it is absolutely wazzing it down! We decided to miss out on the **ANNUAL MAUREILLAS 'RALLYE PEDESTRE'**, so totally missed getting soaked to the skin and miserable on a fifteen kilometre organised walk and quiz up to Las Illas **QUELLE DOMMAGE.**

**THE FIGS ARE TURNING FROM VELVET GREEN TO DARK PURPLE,** the grapes are nearly ready for harvesting, and the olives are ripening on the trees. And did you know that the word mushroom comes from the French 'mousseron' meaning growing on moist moss....and is a great vegetable to take to a party with you. Why? **BECAUSE HE'S A FUNGI TO BE WITH!!**



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SEPTEMBER 2007

OUR BUILDERS TURNED UP TODAY out of the blue AFTER DISAPPEARING FOR 6 WEEKS WITHOUT A PEEP, leaving us to complain angrily to anyone who'd listen. "No problem" we said "THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING BACK" "WOULD YOU LIKE A COFFEE?" DOH!

My dear old Dad is here. He may not be a spring chicken any more but he can party with the best of 'em! WE CELEBRATED HIS BIRTHDAY WITH FISH SOUP IN ROSAS, BOLS DE PICOLAT IN FIGUERAS, TEQUILA SUNRISE ON ARGELES PORT..... LOVE YOU POP.

The forum on the new web site (still called Anglophone-Direct cos I don't know how to change the web address name) is attracting quite a lot of attention - but for all the wrong reasons. People keep arguing with each other, then blaming me for not taking their side! I hate confrontation. Stop it! Just be nice.

WUVU (HOSE TO GO FISHING IN THE CREEK AT ARGELES for his 'Wednesday-off-school' time. Perched on the rocks overlooking the shimmering 'grand bleu' the gentle whoosh of the waves breaking on the beach, WATCHING MY SON AND HUSBAND GIGGLING, heads together in unspoken conspiracy, tanned, happy and healthy, REMINDED ME WHY I AM HERE - not that I ever forget.



\*ALL ACTIVITIES ACCOMPANIED BY A FULLY QUALIFIED ENGLISH-SPEAKING INSTRUCTOR



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Go ON, DARE YOU!



**WEAR OUT THE LITTLE ONES!**

Pedal karting track, giant trampoline, climbing wall, zip wires, tightrope walking.....

Snack bar with cold drinks, ice cream, pancakes, sandwiches and salads or enjoy a picnic by the river in the dedicated picnic area.

# Go ON... DARE YOU

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**KAP'OUPA KAP**  
(CAPABLE OU PAS (CAPABLE)  
IS BEST TRANSLATED BY  
'I DARE YOU' ....  
So Go ON - DARE YOU!



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# ORANGES AND CORGES

IT'S THE BELLS OF  
SAINT GEORGE!

The first English carillon in France

Have you ever  
thought of bell  
ringing as a pastime?

This year, St. George's Church  
in **Vernet-Les-Bains**  
received ten new bells.

They are the first change-ringing bells in France, and  
were **cast by John Taylor & Co at their foundry in Loughborough.**



The 'Entente Cordiale' monument next to the mairie is the only one of its kind in France. Two white marble statues representing France and Britain perch upon the Canigou granite base, sculpted by Roussillon sculptor Gustave Violet. Proposed in 1912, it was originally to be built in honour of the wealthy British visitors who frequented the fashionable spa Ox drawn carts began dragging granite from the bed of the River St-Vincent but the outbreak of WW1 brought the project to an end. In 1920, the decision was made to continue the monument, dedicated both to the Entente Cordiale and to the memory of so many killed during the war.



The church, which was built in the early 20th century by the English, was **funded with contributions from famous author Rudyard Kipling and the daughter of Queen Victoria, Princess Beatrice** among others. It has a tower but no bells were ever installed.



It is particularly appropriate that **these English bells should be installed in Vernet les Bains** which has long had a strong English connection. The village has the only monument to the Franco-British Entente Cordiale and it is hoped that this new project will continue this fine tradition.

**Jeff Ladd** and **Michael Strutt** will be happy to give lessons to those, young and old, wishing to learn this interesting activity. Interested? **Please send your contact details to [jeff.ladd@me.com](mailto:jeff.ladd@me.com).**



Several years ago a well-known English bell ringer, **Jeff Ladd**, had the idea of fundraising to install a set of bells. With the help and cooperation of the **commune of Vernet-les-Bains** and the Fondation du Patrimoine, a project was launched to manufacture the bells and bring them over to France.

The particularity of English bell ringing is that **the bells are controlled with ropes pulled by ringers**, and the ringers can change the order of the bells at each pull of the rope because the bells are mounted on a wheel. The very harmonious sound that this produces can be heard in English villages every weekend. **On feast days and Sundays it will now be heard for the first time in France in Vernet les Bains.**

**The official blessing and inauguration of the bells will take place on Sunday, September 29th.** That weekend, there will be a Fête des Cloches, Morris dancing, bell ringing, period costume, fish and chips and a garden party. **Everyone is welcome.**

Quelle est la différence entre un  
**clocher** et la **lettre A**?  
La lettre A, c'est la voyelle,  
et le clocher, c'est là qu'on sonne  
(la consonne)  
(une voyelle - vowel / une consonne - consonant)





## AVIGNON

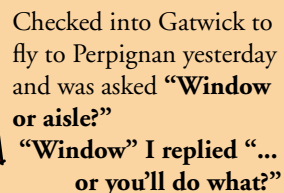
A bit too far north for P-O readers perhaps, this small airport offers brief summer only programme. Early in March 2019 Flybe was acquired by a consortium comprising Virgin Atlantic and Stobart Air. At the time of writing, flights listed are expected to operate, but possibly under a new identity of Vfly or Connect Air.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	1	FLYBE till 31 Aug
SOUTHAMPTON	1	FLYBE till 31 Aug

## BEZIERS

Like Carcassonne, Ryanair has a free run at this small airport.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BRISTOL	3	RYANAIR
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR
LUTON	3	RYANAIR
MANCHESTER	2-3	RYANAIR
STANSTED	3	RYANAIR



## CARCASSONNE

Ryanair remains the sole operator here. Glasgow flights no longer operate as Ryanair has closed its base there to operate more flights from Edinburgh.



FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
EAST MIDLANDS	2	RYANAIR
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR
MANCHESTER	2	RYANAIR
STANSTED	7	RYANAIR
CORK	2	RYANAIR
DUBLIN	3-4	RYANAIR

## MONTPELLIER

Overall there is an increase in capacity. They also operate to Montpellier from Luton, but only till 3 August. British Airways are introducing flights from Heathrow which will operate four times weekly, but only for seven weeks, commencing 11 July using A319s.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
DUBLIN	2	AER LINGUS till 13 Sep
GATWICK	10-13	EASYJET
HEATHROW	4	BRITISH AWYS from 11 July
LUTON	4	EASYJET till 3 AUG

## NIMES

Ryanair is the sole operator for P-0 readers.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
LUTON	3	RYANAIR
STANSTED	4	RYANAIR

**PERPIGNAN**

The airport has been trying hard for a Gatwick service but Gatwick's single runway is just so busy that there is no availability of slots at the right times.

If you are looking at the websites and find the fares to P.O. are very high look at the rugby fixture list. Often changing just a few days can reduce the fare.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	2	RYANAIR
DUBLIN	5	AER LINGUS till 29 Sep.
SOUTHAMPTON	1	FLYBE till 7 Sep.
STANSTED	5	RYANAIR

**TOULOUSE / BLAGNAC**

There tends to be more flights to Toulouse from UK regional airport in the winter due to skiing opportunities, with Andorra not too far away. British Airways have increased their Heathrow service.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BRISTOL	7	EASYJET
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR
GATWICK	16-18	EASYJET
HEATHROW	27	BRITISH AIRWAYS
LUTON	4-6	EASYJET
MANCHESTER	5	FLYBE
STANSTED	7	RYANAIR
DUBLIN	4-7	AER FLINGUS

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## SPAIN

### BARCELONA / EL PRAT



As always a huge variety of flights to Barcelona, most of which run all year round, but with seasonal increases. For those unfamiliar, take care on the Barcelona ring-road, one wrong turn could be very time consuming. Vueling have ceased their Cardiff service but added flights to Birmingham and Manchester, EasyJet continue service from Manchester. Norwegian have dropped their service from both Edinburgh and Manchester, whilst Ryanair have added flights from Cardiff and Luton.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BELFAST	5	EASYJET
BIRMINGHAM	7	RYANAIR
	7	VUELING
BRISTOL	14	EASYJET
CARDIFF	2	RYANAIR
EAST MIDLANDS	7	RYANAIR
EDINBURGH	7	RYANAIR
GATWICK	42	EASYJET
	13	NORWEGIAN
	50	VUELING
GLASGOW PRESTWICK	6	RYANAIR
HEATHROW	57	BRITISH AIRWAYS
LIVERPOOL	11-12	RYANAIR
	6-7	LUTON
	21	EASYJET
	7	RYANAIR
MANCHESTER	7	EASYJET
	5	JET2
	14	RYANAIR
	7	VUELING
NEWCASTLE	5-6	EASYJET
SOUTHEND	4	EASYJET
STANSTED	28	RYANAIR
CORK	4-5	AER LINGUS
DUBLIN	14	AER LINGUS
	18	RYANAIR

## GIRONA

There has been a big increase in flights to Girona. Ryanair's spat with the airport seems to be over and several routes have been reinstated. It seems as though Leeds based Jet2 have introduced a whole raft of flights. In 2019 these flights mostly finish at the end of October.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BELFAST	2	JET2
		till 23 Sep
	2	RYANAIR
BIRMINGHAM	2	JET2
	3	RYANAIR
	2	TUI till 21 Sep
BOURNEMOUTH	4	RYANAIR
BRISTOL	5	RYANAIR
	1	TUI till 17 Sep
EAST MIDLANDS	2	JET2
	2	RYANAIR
EDINBURGH	1-2	JET2 till 18 Oct
	2	RYANAIR
GATWICK	2	TUI till 21 Sep
GLASGOW INT'L	1-2	JET2 till 20 Oct
GLASGOW PRESTWICK	2	RYANAIR
LEEDS BRADFORD	2-3	JET2
	2	RYANAIR
LIVERPOOL	2	RYANAIR
LUTON	3	RYANAIR
MANCHESTER	3-4	JET2
	3	RYANAIR
	2	TUI till 28 Sep
NEWCASTLE	2	JET2
	2	RYANAIR
STANSTED	2-3	JET2
	6	RYANAIR
CORK	2	RYANAIR
DUBLIN	2-3	RYANAIR
KNOCK	2	RYANAIR

Please note that these are the average number of flights per week, and will be variable in the shoulder and peak seasons. If you think I have missed any then please contact us at P-0.

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## DID YOU KNOW

## THE CATALAN DONKEY

Impossible around here to miss the donkey sticker on the back of some cars and the bull stickers on others! The donkey is in fact the symbol of Catalonia, North and South, whilst the bull is the unofficial national symbol of Spain. The whole thing actually goes back to the Osborne sherry company who put up large black silhouetted images of a bull in semi-profile to advertise their sherry on sites near to major roads throughout Spain. When a law was passed in the 1990s prohibiting such advertising, the bull was already nationally famous, so it was agreed that the bulls would remain, but the name Osborne would be removed. Car stickers and T shirts of the Osborne bull were already all over Spain – a symbol of Spanish pride – so the Catalonians 'hit back' by producing their own unofficial national symbol – el burro – a symbol of Catalanian pride!



## DID YOU KNOW

## EARLY CROWD CONTROL

In the first organized, non violent attempt to control society in medieval Europe, the church chose the small town of Toulouges for the signing of the 'Truce of God' (Treuga Dei) in 1027, which set aside certain days of the year when violence was not allowed. An initial ban on fighting on Sundays and holy days, was laid down. Hmm, I think it might take a little bit more than that today!



> SANTA MARIA DE TOULOUGES

## DID YOU KNOW

## A LIZARD'S TALE

Did you know that the tail of the gecko, most common lizard in our region, is crucial to its movement as it uses it as a "fifth leg" to prevent it from slipping and to rotate in a fall so that it lands on its feet? It can also stick upside down or even cling to smooth vertical surfaces such as windows thanks to the sticky pads on its toes. Clever chaps.



## Grotte de Fontrabieuse

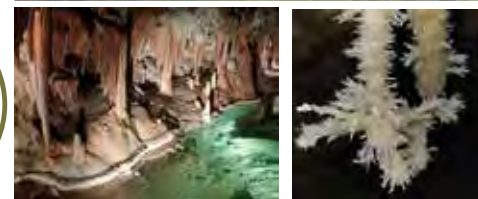
Travel back in time and discover the breathtaking, natural beauty underground.

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- Bar
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\*Cannot be used with other offers



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## GROTTEs des CANALETTES

Another world awaits you underground...

**DAILY from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> August**  
On the hour from 11.00 am to 6.00 pm

**Don't miss Les Secrets de la Terre**  
our superb Son et Lumière 3D Show!  
**FREE with your daytime entrance ticket.**

**MEET AT THE ENTRANCE 40 MINUTES BEFOREHAND**

**10% off an adult entry on presentation of P-O Life\***

*Je suis, votre guide!*

\*Cannot be used with other offers  
IDEES-GO / © Photos : Sud de France - Yves Cavaillé

Tél. : 04 68 05 20 20 • 06 32 36 30 60 • [www.grottescanalettes.com](http://www.grottescanalettes.com)  
Km 200 route de Vernet-les-Bains • 66500 VILLEFRANCHE-DE-CONFLENT



If you love music in atmospheric venues, why not head up to the cooler air of the Conflent this summer?

Every year, the Conflent comes alive with the Sound of Music as pretty villages and Romanesque churches become the stage for one of the most prestigious chamber music festivals in the world: the Pablo Casals Festival.

A refugee from the Franco regime, the renowned cellist and conductor settled in Prades, and created the Pablo Casals Festival in 1950.

*"a necessary thing, like a debt that I had towards the town that adopted me"*

Since then, it has inspired concerts by some of the world's greatest musicians.

Pablo Casals himself participated up to the age of 90.

Student concerts held in the last week of the festival present a great opportunity to visit the charming villages of the Conflent and to listen to the stars of tomorrow performing in the small churches packed full of Baroque art and proud parents.



abbey of Saint-Michel de Cuxà

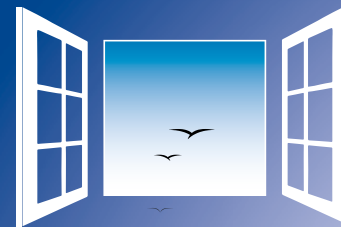


Auditorium Grottes-des-Canalettes

THE THEME OF THIS 67TH FESTIVAL.  
*Rêves en liberté*  
(Dreams Let Loose)

This year's inspiring venues include the Palais des Rois de Majorque in Perpignan, the Forteresse de Salses, the Musée d'Art Moderne de Céret, the caves of the Grottes des Grandes Canalettes, and the beautiful abbey of Saint-Michel de Cuxà. Arrive early and stroll around the picturesque villages of the Conflent before entering the cool churches.

FESTIVAL  
PABLO  
CASALS  
P R A D E S



FESTIVAL PABLO CASALS  
L'UNIVERS DE LA MUSIQUE DE CHAMBRE

*Rêves en liberté*

25TH JULY – 13TH AUGUST 2019  
ABBAYE SAINT MICHEL DE CUXA | PRADES  
04 68 96 33 07 | prades-festival-casals.com



FRIDAY 26TH JULY

21h | Abbaye Saint Michel de Cuxa

« QUAND LE RÊVE DEVIENT RÉALITÉ »  
avec la participation de Jean-Loup Chrétien

MOZART - BRUCH - BEETHOVEN - BARTÓK - GRIEG

CHECK OUT A PACKED PROGRAMME at <http://prades-festival-casals.com>



### bank holidays festivities and fireworks throughout France

14TH JULY

#### Fête de la Bastille (Fête Nationale)

Symbol of the absolute power of the monarchy of Louis XVI, the day of the storming of the Bastille was declared a French national holiday in 1880, a celebration of the birth of the Republic.



15TH AUGUST

#### Assomption

Commemorating the departure of Mary from this life and the assumption of her body into heaven.

#### School holidays



MONDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2019

### I SWEAR....

In the 12th century, Catalans already had a well developed sense of identity and pride, shown by this ancient Catalan oath of allegiance made to the king.

*We..... who are as good as you swear to you, who are no better than we, to accept you as our king and sovereign lord, provided you observe all our liberties and laws; but if not, not.*



### SINATRA & FRIENDS IN AMÉLIE-LES-BAINS

Forget New York, New York... it's Amélie, Amélie when Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. hit the P-O on 20th July at 21h00! The concert features the original cast of the West End show 'Rat Pack Live from Las Vegas' which ran in London for over 10 years with three of the world's best interpreters of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Junior, plus backing singers and a nine-piece band. Don't miss this chance to hear your all-time favourites Ratpack favourites. TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR FROM THE OFFICE DE TOURISME IN AMELIE LES BAINS [www.amefrance.com](http://www.amefrance.com)

# MUSIC in the VILLAGES

## Dancing in the streets

### VILLELONGUE

The annual **Villelongue Music Festival** in the beautiful Albères foothills promotes the heritage, culture and music of the region.

From classical, jazz and contemporary to salsa, world music and concerts for kids, performances take place in venues and spaces throughout the village of Villelongue dels Monts; the amphitheatre, in vineyards, mills, gardens, orchards, churches..... Look out too for MUSICAL WALKS and APÉRITIFS around the beautiful countryside and don't miss the MUSICAL FIREWORK FINALE!

**TOO MANY HIGHLIGHTS TO MENTION BUT DON'T MISS.....**

**THURS 8TH FROM 21H00**

#### SOIRÉE ANDY EMLER

A colourful splash of poetic jazz with the **Andy Emler Trio** joined by 4 clarinetists

**SAT 10TH FROM 21H00**

**QUATUOR VOCE** (World renowned string quartet) followed by CABARET CONTEMPORAIN (piano, guitar, cellos, drums. Hypnotising electronic music)

**CHECK OUT THE EXCITING PROGRAMME**  
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06 64 44 03 20



### AMELIE-LES-BAINS

**Thursday 8th From 4.30pm**

The festival takes over the village + grand bal (free) at the **Espace le Château**

**Friday 9th**

**FROM THE ANDES TO THE LAND OF FIRE, CHILI**

Dinner & show

**Saturday 10th**

**THE CROSSING OF CULTURES**

Grand spectacle with all the groups

**Sunday 11th**

**CLOSING GALA**

Parade of the Nations and closing Gala

**FULL PROGRAMME**

[www.festivaldamelielesbains66.com](http://www.festivaldamelielesbains66.com)

Amélie-les-Bains

**5 > 11**  
**août**  
**2019**





# It's Summer AND OUT COME THE THIEVES!

**Barcelona** is beautiful, many P-O visitors start their holiday from the busy El Prat airport...**but like any big city, it's a hotspot for street crime.**

Unfortunately, Spanish law classes any theft worth **less than €400 as a 'falta'**, a misdemeanour, rather than a 'delito' or crime, resulting in such a very small fine if caught, the same each time, that it is no deterrent!

## DO NOT

- stop if you are flagged down by a stranger
- stop to give directions, answer queries....
- have maps on display inside the car clearly identifying you as a tourist
- assume that any 'official' approaching you is genuine.
- carry more than the bare minimum around with you. Leave passports, money, credit cards locked in your hotel. Take photocopies if you have to. Use a money belt.
- stop (unless driving is dangerous) for a flat tyre until you find somewhere safe (eg a police station!)

## DO

- Keep the car locked even when you are inside
- be vigilant if approached by a motor cyclist
- Avoid stopping at deserted rest areas on the motorways
- keep your bag/wallet completely out of sight
- Familiarise yourself with your travel insurance policy (ie do you need to make a police report for it to be valid?)
- Try not to look too much like a tourist!!!! (No knotted hankies around the head please...)

If, after all that, you are still pick pocketed, it is now possible to make a complaint online by visiting <http://web.gencat.cat>. Click on EN for the English site, then PROCEDURES, then WHAT TO DO IF.

## OUR THANKS TO READERS FOR SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES

### SPAIN

(but it can happen anywhere)

"In Barcelona airport **we were distracted for no longer than 20 seconds** as we picked up our keys in the hire car compound. In that time some of our smaller cases including my wife's handbag were stolen. Not a nice start to a holiday."

"In Las Ramblas our son **had his tobacco pouch in his back pocket**. A pick-pocket lifted it thinking it was a wallet. Realising his mistake **he handed it back to him!**"

"As we were walking in Barcelona, a thief cut through the straps of my handbag with large scissors"

"Some friends stopped for a drink at a motorway services near Girona. When they set off again, they discovered they had a puncture. **A helpful chap stopped and helped them change the wheel**. He also helped himself to their money, credit cards and passports."

"**Barcelona** is such a stunningly beautiful city I regret having to pass on this warning. Friends (a young couple – the man tall and well built – not obvious choice for victims) report that within a five day break in Barcelona last week **they were targeted no fewer than 3 times by trios of street robbers**. They had been warned to carry nothing of value but this did not stop the gangs blatantly approaching and – for example – **simply going through the man's pockets as he had his hands full carrying a baby and stroller up metro escalator**."

"**My 19 year old daughter was a victim of a purse snatcher** on a recent visit to Barça. She had been careful all day but got her purse out to pay for some fruit and had it snatched from her hand. Be careful out there!"

"A friend was travelling to the P-O from Barcelona in a hire car. Just outside Barcelona at some traffic lights, (looking at a map and looking very tourist like) **some motorbikes/scooters pulled up parallel and managed to slash/puncture their tyre**. They pulled off the road, pulled out their luggage from the boot to find the spare, and were stripped of all their belongings at knifepoint! **Apparently they target hire cars and also women travelling with children.**"



## AND CLOSER TO HOME...

"A man approached us for money in **Carrefour car park**, while we were eating sandwiches in the car. We had our windows open and he **stuck his head inside the car**. He was quite intimidating and we tried to ignore him but he would not go away so we gave him a few euros. **Keep your windows up.**"

"**'Vol à la carte routière'** or 'Road map' **supermarket thefts is one of the popular scams going round at the moment**, targeting shoppers outside supermarkets. Usually **working as a pair**, they approach as you unload your shopping into your boot, waving a large road map in your face, pretending to ask directions. As your vision is obscured by the map, the accomplice is looking in your car for your bag, wallet or any valuables."

"Driving through Saint Cyprien past parked cars, I heard something, probably a stone thrown, hit the car. I was then flashed, flagged down and stopped by a driver with a broken wing mirror, claiming to have been hit by my car. He demanded payment to cover the damage and avoid an insurance claim, loss of no claims bonus etc. He was very intimidating. I took out my phone, saying I was going to call the police, and he disappeared."



### SOME USEFUL VOCABULARY

**Help! - Socorro!**  
**Mugge - Atracador**  
**Pickpocket - Carterista**  
**Robber - Ladrón**  
**I was robbed - Me robaron**  
**I was mugged - Me atracaron**  
**My wallet/bag/luggage was stolen - Me robaron mi /cartera/bolso/ equipaje**  
**I was attacked - Fui atacado**  
**I would like to report - Quisiera denunciar**  
**A police report - Una denuncia**

### If this happens to you...

....**Take a photo** of the other driver AND his licence plate if you have a photo phone  
 ....**Ring 17** and talk to the Gendarmes - he will usually be gone by the time you take your phone out.

### SOME USEFUL VOCABULARY

**Help! Au secours!**  
**I was attacked - j'ai été agressé**  
**I've been scammed/conned - J'ai été arnaqué/escroqué**  
**My wallet/handbag/luggage has been stolen - On m'a volé mon porte-feuille/sac à main/ baggage**





## STINGERS & BITERS



The barbecue is lit, the wine is poured, the mood is mellow.... but uninvited guests may sometimes be waiting in the wings to spoil your day, even through the Deet and citronella mists.

“THE WARBLERS” TAKE A LOOK AT STINGERS AND BITERS TO AVOID THIS SUMMER!

### IN THE AIR...

#### > TIGER MOSQUITO (MOUSTIQUE TIGRE)

These unpleasant little devils, **identifiable by their black and white markings** are different from the common mozzie in that they fly and attack during the day as well as night, and **their stinger is able to pierce clothing!** Keep yourself covered up or sprayed with repellent (available at all supermarkets and pharmacies). **More scarce at the coast, where there is less vegetation and stagnant water to breed in.**



#### > HORSEFLY (TAON BRUANT)

Found mainly in wooded areas during hot, humid weather, **anything warm blooded is dinner** as far as these gals are concerned – the boys only suck nectar, not blood. They're not that big; you don't hear them coming and don't feel them land. They flatten themselves on you, keep a tight grip, don't fly away when you bat at them, and are surprisingly hard to squash after you've picked them off. **Their bite itches like hell.**



#### > SOCIAL WASP (GUÊPE COMMUNE)

**Anti-social might be a better name**, as out of all the wasps, these are the real baddies, deserving of ASBOs. **They will defend their nests** (as bees will defend their hives) **aggressively...**



and did you know that when a wasp or bee stings, a pheromone is released, attracting all the rest to wade in!

(NB: There are other much bigger – and often scarier-looking – wasps in the PO, but they are solitary, not aggressive and not interested in us or our food. So there's no need to swat them!)

#### > HORNET (FRELO)

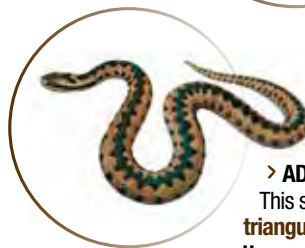
**It's big** – especially the queen of the European species, which can measure **up to 35mm**. They usually mind their own business and are far less bothersome than social wasps above. **But if angered, they can sting any number of times.**



#### > THE ASIAN HORNET (FRELO ASIATIQUE)

**Orange face and legs**, they are more interested in attacking bees than us, and can destroy a whole hive, but they will still sting in defence or if angered.

### ON LAND...



#### > ADDER (VIPERE ASPIC)

This snake is **distinctive by the triangular shape of its head, zigzag pattern on its back and vertical pupils** (if you get close enough to look into its eyes!). Up to 50-60cm long, they like wooded and rough, stony ground. **Their bite and venom are painful**, causing skin to swell and turn blue around the site itself. If bruising appears elsewhere on the body within 6 – 8 hours, advice is to get to a hospital for an anti-venom injection.

#### > YELLOW SCORPION (SCORPION LANGUEDOCIEN)

Uncommon, **but if you are unlucky enough to get stung on the toe, your toe will swell up and** – so we understand – turn blue! **But don't panic – you're not going to die.**



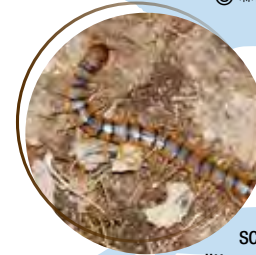
(NB: The PO also has the BLACK SCORPION (SCORPION NOIR À QUEUE JAUNE) but its sting is not venomous. They lurk in dark, damp places in old buildings and if disturbed will try to scurry away.)

#### > BEES (ABEILLES)

Many species are solitary and can sting but don't. **Honeybees are the most common and will sting in defence but usually mind their own business.** If one investigates your brightly coloured T-shirt, it thinks you might be a flower, not a potential victim! **Leave it alone and it will soon buzz off.** Close up, honeybees can be striped, but not as brightly as wasps.



© FRITZ GELLER-GRIMM



#### > MEGARIAN BANDED CENTIPEDE (SCOLOPENDRE)

**It's big, fast and aggressive**, grows up to 20cm long, and scuttles out from under leaf

litter and flat stones at night. It will attack and consume almost any creature... smaller than itself. Phew. But stand on one in bare feet at your peril. **Its defensive bite won't kill you, but the pain will be severe for about 15 minutes.** It's another rarity though.

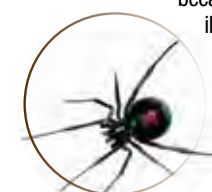
#### > TICK (TIQUE)

**April is the worst month for ticks**, but they're still around in the summer. This one looks flat because it hasn't fed yet. They love long grass – crawling up stems and waiting for a victim to brush past. But they also sometimes drop out of trees when they sense a warm body below. **Although their bite isn't usually painful or itchy, some ticks transmit dangerous diseases to humans and dogs.**



#### > BLACK WIDOW SPIDER (L'ARAINÉE VEUVE NOIRE)

This small spider **lives in dark places in caves**, under bushes and stones. **Hairy, black, with little red spots**, and **highly venomous, but not deadly.** Nevertheless, medical advice is to get to a doctor if you are bitten, because you will be in pain and feel ill for three or four days. It's rare, however – **a little more common in Corsica and Provence than in the P-O.**





## AT THE SEASIDE...

© F. DUKARNE



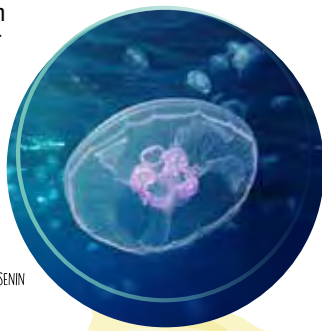
### > SEA URCHIN (L'OURSIN)

These invertebrate "sea hedgehogs" are impossible to mistake for anything else and are usually found in rocky areas. Some bigger species bury themselves deep in the sand, however. **Those spines will break off into your sole if you step on one barefoot.**

The pain is said to be bearable (like having walked on splinters). **Advice seems to consist of soaking your foot in water as hot as you can tolerate for 30-90 minutes.** Spines can be removed with tweezers. Prevention is best. Wear sandals if you're only paddling. **And don't try to pick one up with bare hands.**

### > MOON JELLYFISH (LA MEDUSE)

Not all jellyfish sting, but **this common species does have filaments under its bell that irritate skin, causing a burning sensation.** Again, the main danger here is that a swimmer might panic and risk drowning. Although reputedly less painful than a Vive fish sting, it will be very unpleasant for at least ten minutes. Anyone with sensitive skin may suffer for several hours. **For jellyfish stings the recommendation is to soak the affected area in alkaline water or vinegar.**



© A. VASENIN

### > WEEVER FISH (LA VIVE)

Its English name makes it sound innocuous, while the French Vive reflects **the level of pain inflicted by its poisonous dorsal spine: Intense.** They like to partially bury themselves in sand, often near beaches, leaving just their eyes and the tip of the first dorsal fin exposed. **They're not deliberately out to get you but don't appreciate being stood upon and will punish you severely.** The acute pain is said to last around 20 minutes. Although the venom itself isn't considered lethal, there's a danger the agony could cause drowning. **Anti-inflammatory tablets should help and heat is said to reduce the agony of Vive venom.** It's best to soak your stung foot in water as hot as you can bear without scalding (with a little bleach added as disinfectant).



© H. HILLEWAERT

**IF STUNG BY ANYTHING IN THE SEA, GET OUT OF THE WATER ASAP!**

**WARNING:** We can't vouch for any of these suggested treatments. Some people – especially children – may react more severely than others to stings and bites. If in doubt or if the wound shows signs of infection, seek medical advice.



Lesley McLaren is one of "The Warblers" – a group of natural history enthusiasts in the PO.

www.mediterraneanpyrenees.com  
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Repeat quickly three times!

Six slips chics

# Test your FRENCH

See Page 89 for answers

## 1 S pour Simple!

Match up the words, all beginning with S with their definitions.  
(Why not try to work them out first just from the definitions?)

- |                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| secouer 1      | a venir à l'aide                      |
| sans-abri 2    | b leapfrog                            |
| soûl 3         | c bonbon au bout d'un bâton           |
| sucette 4      | d transpirer                          |
| sanglier 5     | e remuer dans tous les sens           |
| suppositoire 6 | f avoir trop bu d'alcool              |
| saute-mouton 7 | g porc sauvage                        |
| sain 8         | h que l'on introduit dans le derrière |
| secourir 9     | i pas malade                          |
| suer 10        | j qui n'a pas de logement             |

Words that sound alike but are completely different.

CENT — one hundred  
SANG — blood  
SANS — without



Combien d'oeufs y a-t-il dans une omelette ?  
**TROIS!**  
(o m E l E t t E)

## Blague Bête

Un mec rentre dans un bar:  
Je voudrais une *blindervermouasckousariraspi* à la menthe.  
Et le barman répond:  
Une *blindervermouasckousariraspi* à la quoi ?



## 2 Can you match up these French proverbs with their English equivalents?

- |  |    |   |   |
|--|----|---|---|
| On n'apprend pas à un vieux singe à faire des grimaces         | 1  | a | Don't count your chickens before they hatch.                        |
| C'est la poule qui chante qui a fait l'oeuf                    | 2  | b | The guilty dog barks the loudest.                                   |
| Il ne faut pas vendre la peau de l'ours avant de l'avoir tué   | 3  | c | Experience always wins the day.                                     |
| C'est la goutte d'eau qui fait déborder le vase                | 4  | d | It's the straw that breaks the camel's back                         |
| L'habit ne fait pas le moine                                   | 5  | e | You can't teach an old dog new tricks.                              |
| La bave du crapaud n'atteint pas la blanche colombe            | 6  | f | Every cloud has a silver lining                                     |
| Un bouillon de chou fait perdre au médecin cinq sous           | 7  | g | An apple a day keeps the doctor away                                |
| Après la pluie, le beau temps                                  | 8  | h | Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. |
| Le monde appartient à ceux qui se lèvent tôt                   | 9  | i | The early bird catches the worm                                     |
| C'est dans les vieux pots qu'on fait les meilleures confitures | 10 | j | Don't judge a book by its cover.                                    |

## 3 Use the vocab below to fill in the blanks of this amusing little story

Un monsieur 1 un singe dans la 2.  
Il va voir un 3 qui lui 4 de l'emmener au 5.  
Le lendemain, le gendarme les voit revenir 6:  
"Je vous avais 7 de l'emmener au zoo!"  
"Oui, il a 8 aimé, mais aujourd'hui on va au 9

a ensemble b zoo c bien d conseille e dit  
f cinéma g gendarme h trouve i rue

## Useful Expression

Et patati et patata  
And so on, bla, bla, bla...

## C'est la vérité!

Un homme, en train de lire le journal, dit à son épouse :  
"Savais-tu que les femmes utilisent 30.000 mots par jour et les hommes 15.000 ?"

La femme lui répond :  
"Ca, c'est facile à expliquer, c'est parce qu'il faut toujours répéter deux fois la même chose aux hommes"  
L'homme se retourne vers elle et dit :  
Quoi ?  
(en train de — in the middle (of doing something)  
son épouse — his wife L'homme se retourne — the man turns to her... Quoi ? - what?)



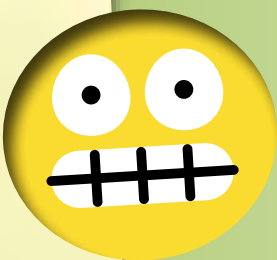


## Test your FRENCH

4

A few more of those familiar words and expressions, which are not quite rude, but probably best to avoid in polite company to be on the safe side!! Can you find their meanings in English?

- |                               |    |   |                             |
|-------------------------------|----|---|-----------------------------|
| Fais pas un caca nerveux!     | 1  | a | He's talking bullsh-t!      |
| Il pète plus haut que son cul | 2  | b | I'm worried                 |
| Quel bourrin                  | 3  | c | She's two faced             |
| J'ai les boules               | 4  | d | Be careful!                 |
| Elle est faux cul             | 5  | e | What an oaf!                |
| Il raconte des conneries      | 6  | f | He works full on/flat out   |
| C'est de l'arnaque            | 7  | g | He thinks a lot of himself! |
| Fais gaffe!                   | 8  | h | There's going to be trouble |
| Il est au taquet              | 9  | i | It's a con                  |
| Ca va chauffer                | 10 | j | Don't make a scene          |



### Bodily functions!

(You never know when you might need them!)

Roter (rott-ay)- to burp  
"Excusez-moi, j'ai roté!"

Peter (pett-ay)  
Oups! J'ai péti involontairement!

Baver (bav-ay) to dribble  
"Attention! Vous bavez!"

Cracher (crash-ay) - to spit  
"Eloignez-vous! (keep away)  
Il crache quand il parle!"

Éternuer - (ay-ten-you-ay) to sneeze  
« Ah...ah... ah... je vais éternuer! »

Avoir les hoquets (ockays) - to have hiccoughs  
« Ah non! J'ai les hoquets! »

Hey diddle diddle, here's a little riddle!

*Je commence la nuit,  
Je finis le matin,  
et j'apparais 2 fois dans l'année.  
Qui suis-je ?*

La lettre N

5

And talking of bodily functions, can you match up these useful phrases which all involve body parts?

- |                              |    |   |                                      |
|------------------------------|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| Je donne ma langue au chat   | 1  | a | Yeah, right (disbelief)              |
| Il est resté bouche-bée      | 2  | b | Get out on the wrong side of the bed |
| Avoir le bras long           | 3  | c | To put your foot in it               |
| Prendre ses jambes à son cou | 4  | d | To have lots of influence            |
| Mettre le pied dans le plat  | 5  | e | Up yours!                            |
| Se lever du pied gauche      | 6  | f | To leave quickly                     |
| Motus et bouche cousue       | 7  | g | Mum's the word                       |
| C'est le pied                | 8  | h | I give up                            |
| Mon œil !                    | 9  | i | It's great                           |
| Faire un bras d'honneur      | 10 | j | he was speechless                    |

### Useful Expression

Figure-toi  
Guess what? Imagine that



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### DID YOU KNOW

## LA BOURSE OU LA VIE.

Up to nine 'trabucayres', (ex soldiers turned bandit), could hide in the big hollow oak tree (chêne) that used to stand on the crossroads of the turn-off to Maureillas on the N9 coming out of Le Boulou to Le Perthus. Armed with "trabucs" (muskets), they would come down from their hideout in Las Illas and attack passing coaches, taking prisoners and demanding ransoms. There are some fantastic walks in that area in the tracks of the Trabucayres.

Why not try the Auberge du Chêne Bar-Resto that is named after the massive oak tree? With delicious starters to share and plats combinés from just 15,00€, this is authentic Mediterranean cuisine in a rustic setting. See their ad in the Food and Drink section.



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## Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

See Page 89 for answers

### Tongue twister (virelangue)

Répétez trois fois  
I slit the sheet,  
the sheet I slit,  
and on the slitted  
sheet I sit

You have  
to smile!

What do you  
call an alligator  
wearing a vest?  
An **investigator**!

### 1 B is for Bobby!

Trouvez la définition des mots suivants qui commencent  
tous avec la lettre B

- |          |    |   |   |
|----------|----|---|---|
| bruise   | 1  | a | house on ground level                     |
| bite     | 2  | b | game crossing off numbers                 |
| bitter   | 3  | c | dark mark on skin                         |
| bingo    | 4  | d | flying mammal                             |
| blush    | 5  | e | cut with teeth                            |
| badger   | 6  | f | soft, wet ground                          |
| bungalow | 7  | g | musical instrument traditionally Scottish |
| bagpipes | 8  | h | nocturnal mammal with black stripes.      |
| bat      | 9  | i | become red in face                        |
| bog      | 10 | j | sharp, sour taste                         |

### 2 Complétez les idiomes

- |                           |   |   |                        |
|---------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| You can't judge a book... | 1 | a | ...not as I do         |
| Beggars...                | 2 | b | ...can't be choosers.  |
| Do as I say...            | 3 | c | ...with fire           |
| Two heads...              | 4 | d | ...by its cover.       |
| Fight fire...             | 5 | e | ...are better than one |

Voici les bonnes traductions  
pour vous aider.

- > Faites ce que je dis, pas ce que je fais
- > Combattre le feu avec le feu
- > Deux avis valent mieux qu'un
- > A cheval donné, on ne regarde pas la bride
- > L'habit ne fait pas le moine

IN EACH  
P-O LIFE,  
WE GIVE  
YOU A  
MISSION.

Votre Mission.... si toutefois vous l'acceptez, est de glisser  
tout doucement cette phrase dans votre conversation au  
moins une fois par jour pendant une semaine! Chiche!

'Lovely jubbly' (meaning 'lovely, great, fantastic')  
Del Boy Trotter, Only Fools and Horses

## NEW WORDS IN THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY (OED).

**Me time** – Time devoted to doing what you want instead of what someone else wants you to do  
Eg I need some me time

**To binge-watch** – to watch multiple episodes of a television program in rapid succession, typically  
by means of DVDs or digital streaming.

Eg I'm going to binge-watch this whole season of Game of Thrones

### 3 ON, OFF, UP or DOWN ?

- 1 Blow ..... Faire exploser)
- 2 Take ..... (Décoller)
- 3 Spot ..... (Tomber pile)
- 4 Get ..... (descendez)
- 5 Set ..... (partir)
- 6 Hold ..... (Ne quittez pas)
- 7 Throw ..... (Vomir)
- 8 Break ..... (tomber en panne)

### 4 Remplissez les blancs avec une couleur pour compléter les expressions suivantes.

1. .... lie -> un petit mensonge
2. to catch ..... handed -> attraper en  
flagrant délit
3. once in a ..... moon -> une fois toutes  
les 36 du mois
4. .... herring -> une diversion
5. tickled .....> heureux
6. .... tape -> la paperasse
7. .... area -> ambigu

### Language Tip

WAIT est toujours suivi de FOR devant un complément.  
I'm waiting for the train.  
We're waiting for the sun to come out

### Some really bad jokes

Why was 6 afraid of 7?  
Because 7, 8, 9  
(7 ate 9)

How do you get two whales  
in a car?  
Start in England and  
drive west

(Whales – baleines Wales – le pays de Galles)



What is brown, hairy  
and wears sunglasses?  
A coconut on holiday.

## VARY YOUR LANGUAGE

Dont just say NON, say ....

Uh-uh  
nope  
nay  
no way  
no way, José  
negative  
out of the question  
no siree  
not on your life  
not on your nelly

not for all the tea in  
China  
not in a million years  
under no circumstances  
not likely  
pigs might fly  
not a cat (in hell)'s  
chance  
fat chance  
no fear



# Tried and TASTED

Summertime is the perfect time for moules and boules... accompanied by chilled craft ales from our exciting local brewers.



WITH TONY GOODMAN

## Moules, Boules and Biere

### THE MOULES...

The simplest is to de-beard and rinse the moules in plenty of cold water to give them a chance to freshen up before dinner.

### EVERYONE HAS THEIR FAVOURITE WAY TO COOK MOULES.

Put 500g per person in a large pan with good white wine, don't drown them and a tiny knob of butter. Throw chopped parsley and onion or garlic over them as they open. Discard any that fail to do so. Stir once or twice very gently as they cook. Add a few celery leaves at the very end and perhaps a grind of fresh pepper. **Never add salt.** Serve with crusty bread and accompany with one or two of the beers below.



### THE BOULES.....

### GET YOUR BOULES OUT!

Pétanque actually comes from the term 'pès tancats' or 'pieds tanqués', Marseilles dialect meaning literally 'feet anchored' as the feet must remain close together within quite a small circle. It can be played standing still or even from a wheelchair.

When a player loses 13 to 0, 'il est fanny', and has to kiss the bottom of a girl called Fanny. Since it is quite rare to find an obliging fanny on the boules pitch, there is usually a substitute available in the form of a picture, or sculpture, to ensure that Fanny's bottom is readily available. If your name is Fanny, my advice would be to avoid a stroll around the petanque pitches!

Or just go and enjoy!



### AND THE BEER...

### BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEER HOLDER

Craft beer fever is sweeping the globe, the number of artisanal brasseries in France has tripled in a few short years. Young skilful brewers are discovering P-O's cool, crisp, sweet water is the perfect ingredient. There are too many great ales to mention them all, so here are just a few that caught my eye. Visit the breweries or find most available at speciality outlets such as Le Jardin Catalan in Saint Cyprien.

### ALZINA BRASSERIE (Bouletenere)

A genuine boutique brewery, your Tuesday tour and tasting will be among pipes, stainless steel tanks and barley bags. Jean-Fabien learnt his trade from an English craft brewer so he speaks your language. [www.biere-alzina.com](http://www.biere-alzina.com)



### Blanche 5%

A totally beguiling ale. Brewed with orange blossoms yet not overly floral. A hard to describe slight cardamom or coriander linger. Toothsome full bodied yet light. Lovely pale tawny colour. Perfect for a mountain of moules or try it with a luscious tagine or a vegetable dahl. Chilled but not too icy.

### BRASSERIE BLAOLANC (Maureillas)

Christophe Ledan uses traditional brewing methods to create four quite different beers.

<https://www.facebook.com/blaoblank/>

### Blaoblanc Wit biere. 5.3%

A classic unfiltered wheat beer. Nice bite of hops. Slightly floral. Cloudy without being heavy or heady. Love it. Available in speciality outlets or why not take a drive down to Maureillas and drop in.



### LE TRAQUENARD BREWERY (Prats-de-Mollo)

### Blonde 6%

Prats-des-Mollo is becoming something of a hotspot for artisanal ales and this Nordic style blonde beer is a perfect example. Crisp initial bite, not too sharp. As well as moules a great selection for fritto misto.



[www.traquenard.ch](http://www.traquenard.ch)

### BRASSERIE LA FERME TA GUEULE (Millas)

### Speakeasy Blonde IPA 6.5%

Barley malt. Unfiltered, slightly cloudy with plenty of bite. Best fresh, don't let sit too long in the larder if you need an excuse. Moules of course but this lad will take on all comers.

<https://lftg.fr/>



### L'ART DE LA JOIE (Vingrau)

### La Brave Blonde 6.5%

A refreshing very handy traditional malt ale. Slightly cloudy, gentle hops plenty of body. Moules of course or perhaps a post moules hard local Tome. Definitely one to watch out for.

[www.facebook.com/brasseriartdelajoie/](http://www.facebook.com/brasseriartdelajoie/)



Comments or questions?  
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[wineclub66@gmail.com](mailto:wineclub66@gmail.com)



# A worldly tale told of MOTHY CHAMBERS

BY KATE BARNWELL



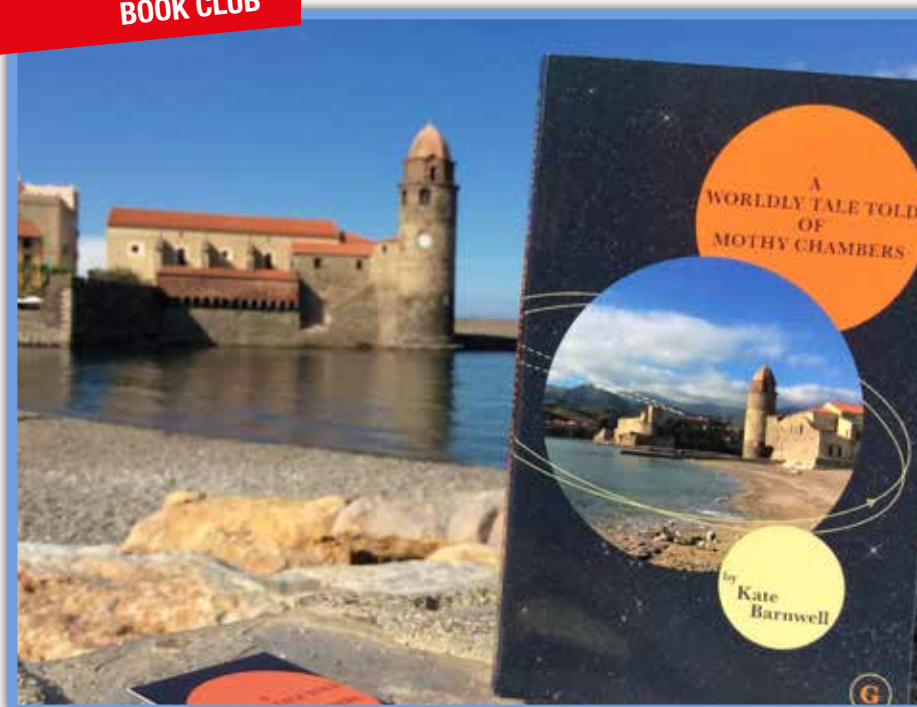
What alignment of the planets brought about the meeting of two souls - Mothy Chambers and the mesmeric Bette? Set between England and Collioure in the South of France. Extraordinary lives cross time.

**"I never fully understood where I fitted in or what to do with what I had."**

What alignment of the planets brought about the meeting of two souls - Mothy Chambers, a 16-year-old struggling with adolescent uncertainties and Bette, a mesmeric young woman, settled in the unique southern French town of Collioure? He, sent direct from English boarding school to France by an indifferent family; she, the recently arrived new wife of his host.

Back in England, Mothy reflects on the enchantment of Bette and wonders if the sudden disappearance of his oldest friend is the key to the purpose of his own ordinary life.

**"It is always a bit bemusing when you are so involved in a book to find that, of course, the characters are from the author's mind and not in fact real!"**



## A FEW WORDS FROM THE AUTHOR

There is definitely a magic spirit in Collioure and I have been excited to include this unique destination in my writing, alongside the contrast of life and lifestyle in England. As well as atmosphere, characters are also important to me; to follow someone makes reading an adventure and a pleasure. We should experience new worlds, new ways of thinking, similarities and differences, I hope this unusual narrative will interest those who love to get lost in words.

## WHERE TO BUY

Via the author  
[www.katebarnwell.com](http://www.katebarnwell.com)

From the publisher  
[www.grosvenorartistmanagement.com](http://www.grosvenorartistmanagement.com)

Via Amazon  
(Price dependent on supplier)

Publisher:  
[www.grosvenorartistmanagement.com](http://www.grosvenorartistmanagement.com)

## AND FROM HER PUBLISHER

Super young writer.....Set partly in Collioure it is an evocative and mysterious book that has received a lot of critical acclaim with many readers begging Kate to write more about the characters!.....It's an excellent short read and will be of huge interest to those who know and love Collioure town.

## REVIEWS

"I was caught up in the spell of this book.....Barnwell has a gift of language which captures the reader and transports them out of their present and into the lives of the characters. This is a book for travellers, for those who love language, enjoy a bit of mystery and even, heartbreak."

Evelyn Dunphy

"A tantalising book and a wonderful read; evocative with an arresting and often beautiful turn of phrase. You will feel after reading it that you have actually been living in the south of France - you can feel it and smell it. I couldn't put it down."

Do try it!"

Richard Sumner



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**Ille-sur-Têt Route de Prades**  
Lizzie's Kitchen, 10h to 12 noon  
Third Wednesday of the month

**and at our Book Exchange at**  
**Laroque des Albères**, Café des Artistes  
10h30 to 12 noon Third Monday of the month

[www.csf-suddefrance.webs.com](http://www.csf-suddefrance.webs.com) | [www.csf-forum.org](http://www.csf-forum.org)



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[illegible]





## Things You might NEED TO KNOW



### NOW IT'S 80, NOW IT'S NOT!

Confused? Well, whether a département speed limit is 80km/h or 90km/h is now up to the département itself.

Following the nationwide speed limit reduction back in July 2018, motorists across France have been struggling to change their habits to remain within the law. Now, less than 1 year later, Premier Ministre, Edouard Philippe has approved a decision that will allow prefects and département presidents to set this authorised speed limit themselves - or not! So far, some departments have and some department haven't. Our advice if you driving through France is to err on the side of caution until you see clear speed signs. Here in the P-O, the region will undertake a series of road improvements, installing partitions where appropriate to allow drivers to return to 90km/h.

### KEEPING UP WITH THE NEIGHBOURS

Would you like to know what your neighbours paid for their property?

In April, French land registry records were opened up to the public, enabling you to access other people's property sale price on-line. The 'Demande de Valeur Foncière' app (<https://app.dvf.etalab.gouv.fr/>) or DVF, goes back five years and lists sale price, date of sale, size of property, number of bedrooms, land area and plot (cadastre) number for houses, apartments, land and any building that has changed hands. It doesn't name seller or buyer.

Go to the interactive map of France, click on the department, of your choice, and enter details in the column on the left. If there has been a sale over the past 5 years it will be coloured blue.

In the future, the database will be updated twice a year.



### BUYING A SECOND-HAND CAR IN FRANCE?



The free government site HistoVec (<https://histovec.interieur.gouv.fr>) has been launched by road safety authority Sécurité Routière to reduce risk when buying a second-hand car.

It tracks the history of vehicles on the road, noting past insurance claims, ownership changes, thefts,

information recorded during contrôles techniques, declared accidents.....

Recent studies show that a large percentage of second hand cars have some element of fraud involved, whether intended or not. HistoVec aims to provide potential buyers, through the seller, with reliable information to make an informed decision on a used vehicle.

### PEACE OF MIND FOR HOME OWNERS



If you're going away over the next few months and leaving the house empty, it's worth visiting <http://www.pyrenees-orientales.gouv.fr>, and searching for the section Operation-tranquillite-vacances.

Along with advice on keeping your property safe during your absence, there is a downloadable pdf form (OTV 2015 - format: PDF) to fill in and take to your local gendarmerie, with contact details of a local key holder or yourself.

They will then carry out regular checks on your property in your absence. In case of the worst, do check your insurance policy - most French companies will not pay out unless you have receipts, photos, keep valuables in a safe... even though there may often be no indication of this on your policy.

### ATCHOOOOO



If you think you've caught one of those 'summer colds', you may actually be suffering from a nasty attack of hay fever!

The RNSA (Réseau National de Surveillance Aérobiologique) is the French aerobiology network in charge of the analysis of the content of the air in biological particles.

Last year, it put much of France on red alert or 'very high risk' for high pollen levels, explaining that conditions were particularly good (or bad!) for the production and dispersal of grass pollen. This year is looking even worse, adding olive tree and oak tree pollen into the mix here in the south of France!

Find out more about the pollen count in France at [www.polleninfo.org](http://www.polleninfo.org)



### ON THE ROAD THIS SUMMER?



'Le chassé-croisé des juilletistes et des aoûtistes'

describes the traffic chaos on the roads of France late July/early August as the whole world and his wife heads off to or home from their hols, and the end of both months when the hols are over.

A chassé-croisé is actually a dance step where dancers criss cross and change partners.

This crossover of the "juilletistes and aoûtistes" sees millions of people moving across France.

This year, traffic monitor Bison Fute issues one of its rare 'black alerts' for traffic jams on the 3rd and 10th of August with red warning on most Saturdays throughout July and August. **Stay Safe!**

### LANGUAGE EXERCISES ANSWERS

#### TEST your FRENCH

- ① 1e 2j 3f 4c 5g 6h 7b 8i 9a 10d
- ② 1e 2b 3a 4d 5 j 6h 7g 8f 9i 10c
- ③ 1h 2i 3g 4d 5b 6a 7e 8c 9f
- ④ 1j 2g 3e 4b 5c 6a 7i 8d 9f 10h
- ⑤ 1h 2j 3d 4f 5c 6b 7g 8i 9a 10 e

#### AMÉLIOREZ votre ANGLAIS

- ① 1c 2e 3j 4b 5i 6h 7a 8g 9d 10f
- ② 1d 2b 3a 4e 5c
- ③ 1 up 2 off 3 on 4 down/off 5 off 6 on 7 up 8 down
- ④ 1 white 2 red 3 blue 4 red 5 pink 6 red 7 grey





## Emergency numbers

**SAMU (medical emergency) 15**

**POLICE emergency 17**

**Fire service emergency 18**

**European emergency line 112**

SOS Doctor 24/24	08 20 20 41 42
Emergency vet	04 68 83 35 85
Anti-poison centre	04 91 75 25 25
Perpignan Hospital	04 68 61 66 33
CPAM (English spk serv)	0811 36 36 46
Cancer Support France	04 68 69 01 37

Directory enquiries	118 008
International directory enquiries	118 700
International Mastercard	08 00 90 13 87
Local weather forecast	08 36 68 02 66
GDF (gas problems)	08 10 43 30 66
EDF (electricity problems)	05 56 17 40 70

You can use the **European emergency number 112** in any EU country from any telephone. You do not need a card or money to ring this number from a pay phone. 112 may also be used from a mobile to connect you with all emergency services.

## Useful Vocabulary

**Help > *Au secours!***

**It's an emergency > *C'est un cas d'urgence***

**I need an ambulance > *J'ai besoin d'une ambulance***

**I've had an accident > *J'ai eu un accident***

**The house/car is on fire > *La maison/voiture a pris feu***

**My husband has had a heart attack/stroke > *Mon mari fait une crise cardiaque/a souffert un AVC (accident vasculaire cérébral – pronounced ai vai cai)***

**My child is choking > *Mon enfant s'étouffe.***

**I'm bleeding (a lot) > *Je saigne (beaucoup).***

**I'm diabetic, I need insulin > *Je suis diabétique, j'ai besoin d'insuline.***

**My wife is having the baby, her water has broken > *Ma femme accouche, le bébé arrive, la poche des eaux a percé.***

### P-O SMALL ADS

Contact Fiona on  
fiona@anglophone-direct.com

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Contact Maggie Kennedy for rates, availability and reservations.

Tel: +33 (0)4 68 64 97 54 / E-mail: kevinmaggie@orange.fr

For more photos: <http://www.ownersdirect/accommodation/p8029794>



#### Apartment to Let

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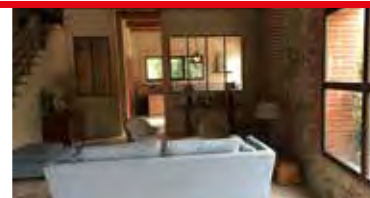
#### Gîte to Rent

##### PALAU-DEL-VIDRE

Superb, brand new gîte hidden away in the middle of the countryside on a lush farming estate.

Just 7 km from the sea and the mountains. Only 20 km (approx 15 minutes) from Perpignan airport. Fully renovated with taste and oozing character. This spacious, well-equipped gîte is ideal for groups of friends or family (can accommodate up to 8 people comfortably). Get away from it all in this tranquil setting.

Telephone Hélène on 06 80 65 95 17 to find out more



#### Penthouse for Sale

##### ST CYPRIEN PLAGE

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