

spring 2023

P-O Life

Life in the Pyrénées-Orientales

N° 77
FREE / GRATUIT



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Pauilles

OUT *for*
THE DAY
....to the Tour
de Batère

P-O Life
Art in Céret

FOOD
and **DRINK**
Reader
Restaurant
Reviews

TEST *your*
FRENCH
AMÉLIOREZ
votre **ANGLAIS**

CONSTELLATIONS

13 mai –
26 novembre 2023



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Yayoi Kusama, Dots Obsession (Infinity Mirrored Room), 1998 (détail) Installation, peinture, miroirs, ballons, adhésifs, 280 x 600 x 600 cm
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Edito 



COUCOU LES AMIS

What a winter! Mild and bright, with temperatures soaring into the high 20s at times....and now, as spring arrives in the P-O with its usual flurry of wild and fragrant colour, I feel so privileged to be able to bring you another P-O Life.

Our thoughts must naturally stray to the tragic events around the world. Most of us who live or holiday here have more than enough of most things. On top of that, we can walk, swim and picnic along the coast, clamber around the mountains and waterfalls, enjoy wine tasting, and free festivals and events, pop over the border, ski, swim, sunbathe...It's free, it's safe. **WE'RE free, WE'RE safe! Worth taking a couple of minutes out of every sunny day to reflect on how lucky we are?**

Please support our advertisers wherever you can so we can continue to print. Paper prices have doubled and financing the mag really is an uphill struggle. We rely on and receive so much good will to keep us going, kind writers and photographers who provide us with great, free content, loyal readers who go out of their way to visit our advertisers. **We would be nothing without you.**

Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, **we wish you sunshine and a springtime of laughter and relaxation in this beautiful region.**



WHY DID THE FRENCH CHEF JUMP OFF THE PONT DU DIABLE IN CÉRET? COS HE LOST THE HUILE D'OLIVE!!

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We'd love to hear from you!

Tell us a P-O story. What do you love here? What do you hate here? Have you had a good experience? A bad one? A weird one? **Tell us about your favourite restaurant, a fascinating 'Did you Know' about the region, a favourite walk, drive or picnic spot... Maybe you have a French language booboo to pass on or a good French joke... or even better, a really bad one!** If you'd like to share it, we'd love to publish it.

Contact us on info@anglophone-direct.com

THINK SUNNY!

Kate

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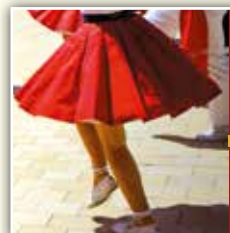
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A DRIVE, A WALK, A PICNIC... to the Tour de Batère

Spring is here and outdoor adventure is back on the menu... not that it is ever really off here in the P-O. Why not pack up a picnic to make Yogi Bear proud, and take a picturesque drive amidst stunning scenery, to the Tour de Batère, ancient lookout tower, whose sweeping 360 degree view must be one of the best in the P-O.



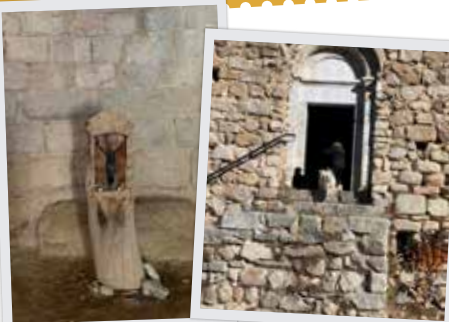
THE DRIVE

Start in Arles sur Tech, head up the Tech valley, and turn right to Corsavy following signs for Batère. Weave upwards on the D43, through sweet chestnut trees, beech, fir, and micocouliers. If the passengers in the back are feeling a bit green on these gently snakey roads, make a first stop at the 11th century Chapelle Sant Marti de Cortsavi just before Corsavy on the right.

Not a fan of dusty, ancient chapels? Take a right a little further on, at the entrance to the village and quickly arrive at a sports ground with great views, tables, shady picnic and bbq area; very pleasant just to sit awhile.



The Chapelle Sant Marti de Cortsavi is currently being restored (so far a 40 year task) and although a ruin on the inside, some religious icons still nestle inside wall alcoves, amongst the dust of the renovation.



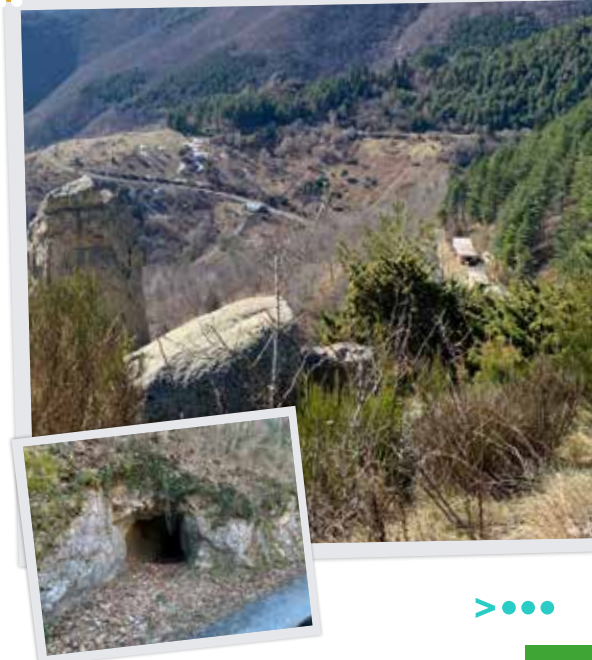
The roof is newly finished by P-O Life advertiser, ENTREPRISE BEAR (see p. 77)



Up through Corsavy, the ruined Tour de Corsavy is clearly visible beyond the village. This tour communicated with the Tour de Batère to warn of danger to the Têt valley.

Take a sharp right at the top of the village, direction Batère.

The road soon opens out onto magnificent scenery, the ruins of mines dotted around the landscape, where iron ore was once extracted. Some open cast, some with entrances to deep tunnels, all abandoned after centuries of exploitation.



OUT for THE DAY



Corsavy has an ancient 'lavoir' or wash house behind the mairie but if you continue on the road to Montferrer - not our route today - you will see another one, half a kilometre along the road. This one stands alone because it was for the use of people with tuberculosis.



THE WALK

From here, you have an easy 2.2 km walk to the Tour de la Batère (and 2.2 km back of course). The route is mainly flat and easy, with the tour visible from afar. The scenery is stunning throughout. A short, steep climb takes you up to the tour. It's nothing special to visit, but the views will take your breath away. First to see the sea gets a prize!



Continue towards Batère. This is rugged country. Drive slowly and safely, so the driver has a chance to admire the enormous views, and avoid deer, Pyrenean chamois, marmots and other wildlife wandering at liberty. At the Col de la Descarga, today's destination, there is plenty of parking. This is where your walk begins.



A DRIVE, A WALK, A PICNIC... *through mining country*



Laroca Immobilier

Property Experts for *Les Albères* and *La Côte Vermeille*

PRICE: 350 000 €

Ref 1555m



BANYULS SUR MER: Very pleasant house with sea view by the beach! Approx. 100 sqm, dining room with open-plan kitchen, living room with terrace, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage.

PRICE: 326 000 €

Ref 1552m



MONTESQUIEU DES ALBERES: Superbly renovated 105 sqm detached village house with garden in heart of Montesquieu des Albères. 3 bedrooms, 1 on ground floor, 2 terraces. Gorgeous interior and exterior, garden with pool possibility! **Very rare.**

PRICE: 399 000 €

Ref 1553m



BANYULS SUR MER: Detached villa of approx 112 sqm on 450 sqm of land. Garage, large utility room, living-room with fireplace, separate kitchen, 3 bedrooms. 2 separate apartments possible. **A must-see!**

PRICE: 839 000 €

Ref 1548m



LAROQUE DES ALBÈRES: Superb 210 sqm traditional detached 4 bedrooms house on 2691 sqm flat land with pool possibility and view over Alberes. Large terraces, Summer kitchen, high quality fittings, very spacious master bedroom suite. **Rare in Laroque!**

PRICE: 265 000 €

Ref 142T



CERBÈRE: Building plot of 1915 sqm in quiet area close to centre of village. South facing with mountains and sea view from the upper part of the land. Possibility to build 326 sqm.

PRICE: 450 000 €

Ref 1531m



LAROQUE DES ALBÈRES: Architect designed semi-detached villa on 545 sqm flat land with pool. 3 bedrooms, terrace, garage and parking space. Swimming pool with automatic salt treatment. **Calm and private.**

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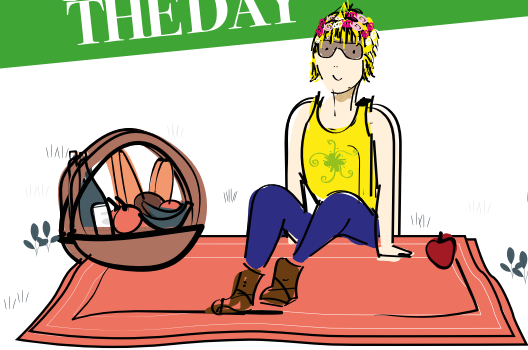


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OUT for THE DAY



A DRIVE, A WALK, A PICNIC... *through mining country*



WHO NEEDS A MOBILE PHONE? SAY IT WITH SMOKE!

The clever network of signal towers (**tours à signaux**) that you see on the high mountain tops around the region date back to the **13th century**. They were originally set up by the **Rois de Majorque** as a defence system to protect the Roussillon from invaders and to enable the passing of information around the region, using fire and smoke signals.

Using smoke during the day and bursts of fire at night, the signals were called 'farons' and the 'faraoner' was trained to send out precise details of approaching danger.

THE PICNIC

Just about anywhere! **The drive up to the col has plenty of places to pull in**, providing big rocks for table and chairs...or why not leave the work to someone else and **book a hearty lunch at the refuge!**

Sometimes, according to the weather forecast, the **Col de la Descarga** is closed, but whether by car or on foot, it's a very short journey when you follow the road round to the left, to the **Refuge de Batère**. **Open every day from 1st April to 5th November** this basic former miners' barracks offers Catalan style menu sourced locally (reservation recommended).....served up with stunning views.



We're coming back down the same we went up today but we really don't mind because the scenery is even better on the way down, really worth a second look. **Belle journée!**



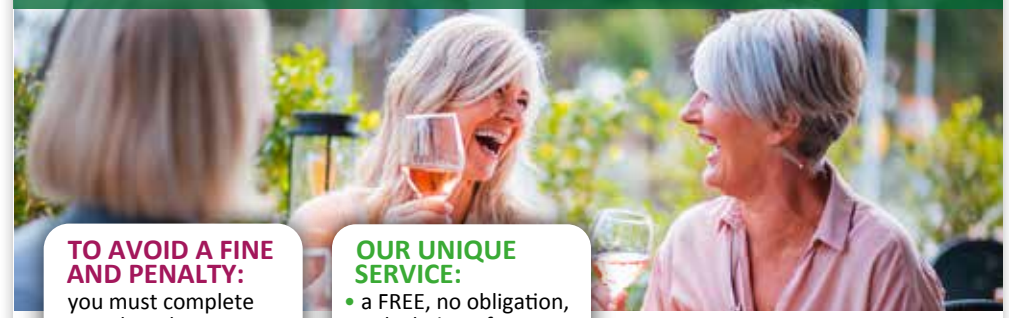
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THE MINING HISTORY OF THE P-O

Canigou, sacred mountain of the Catalans, was mined for around 3000 years.

First by the Romans. They dug trenches and galleries at La Batère, and built long roads for easier access to and from Perpignan. The iron ore was transported in carts whose wheels were made with the very iron they mined.

The rest was used to forge arms for their vast empire.

When the Romans left, the industry continued in most of the villages of the Conflent: Fillols, Sahorre, Escaro, Baillastavy, Valmanya.....



FONT ESTRAMAR



Still Waters Run Deep in **Salses-le-Château**. Several divers have lost their lives trying to unravel the mystery of this underwater, seemingly bottomless cave next to a pretty lake. **Visible from the A9 motorway** as you head from **Narbonne towards Perpignan**, the **Font Estramar**, or **fontaine de Salses** lies at the foot of the **Corbières** in **Salses-le-Château**. **The submerged cave is the deepest explored diving cave in Europe** and its entrance passage amongst the deepest natural siphons in the world. **Explorations started in 1949** and well known underwater explorers such as **Jacques-Yves Cousteau** have tried without success to find the deep source of the cave. Formed over more than 5 million years, **its temperature remains a constant 17-18 °C throughout the year.**

Undoubtedly one of the most beautiful freshwater caves in Catalonia, **Font Estramar** is beautiful but deadly. **Go visit - but leave your diving gear at home!**

A DRIVE,
A WALK,
A PICNIC...
through mining country

Symbol of Catalan resistance during WW2, the village of Valmanya (Great valley in Latin) was totally destroyed by the Germans in August 1944, not long before the liberation, in reprisal against resistance fighters operating in the area.

Villagers who were unable to flee to the safety of the mountains were machine gunned. **Captain Julien PANCHOT**, later to be brutally tortured and killed, led resistance fighters who sheltered in the nearby mines of La Pinosa and set up the **Sainte Jeanne escape route for refugees**. Panchot himself and three others were taken, tortured and shot. Valmanya was razed to the ground. The tiny village was rebuilt. It is peaceful now but the ruins of the mines can still be seen in the valley.



In 1900, an 8km aerial ropeway was built to transport the ore from the mine at 1255 metres to Arles, and later, the arrival of the railway changed everything.

Forges were built, blacksmiths, metalworkers and skilled artisans moved into the villages, and the region thrived on the iron mined.

Batère finally closed when the stocks of minerals ran out in 1994 and the long aerial ropeway from Batère to Arles, with its huge steel buckets, was demolished in 1995. Today iron is imported into the region from elsewhere.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS THE GIFT OF A GARNET?

Mined in the Catalan mountains from around 1750, the garnet (le grenat) was believed to cure blood disorders, and excessive anger! Although these pretty stones are no longer mined in the region, small examples can still be found in the Fenouillèdes, Costabonne or the garrigues above Ille sur Tet. However, tempting as it might be, leave your spade at home! Whilst you could be picnicking on a fortune, it is illegal to dig for this little jewel!



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Thinking of selling a property in the Pyrénées Orientales? If so, please do get in touch with me. We may be based in the Vallespir, but we're expanding out quickly to the rest of the department because of the number of enquiries we're receiving.

We're looking for high-end properties because that's what I'm being asked for by potential buyers, especially the English-speakers, and we have a great network, throughout the PO, of partner agencies to help us sell them.

And as a bonus, I can offer you a free expert's report on the value of your home (supervised by my boss, graduate from the Institute de la Construction et de l'Habitat, Faculté de Droit de Montpellier) on presentation of this page of PO Life (you can keep it in the magazine though!).



Vous envisagez de vendre une propriété dans les Pyrénées Orientales ?

Alors, n'hésitez pas à me contacter. Nous sommes peut-être du Vallespir, mais notre activité s'étend rapidement au reste du département en raison du nombre de demandes que nous recevons.

Nous recherchons des propriétés haut de gamme, car c'est ce que me demandent les acheteurs potentiels, surtout les anglophones, et nous disposons d'un excellent réseau, dans toutes les PO, d'agences partenaires, pour nous aider à les vendre.

De plus, je peux vous offrir un rapport d'expert sur la valeur de votre maison (supervisé par mon patron, diplômé de l'Institut de la Construction et de l'Habitat, Faculté de Droit de Montpellier) sur présentation de cette page de PO Life (vous pouvez cependant la garder dans le magazine !).

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Introducing **Ian Stephens**, native English speaker living in Amélie
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P-O Life Collioure DEFENSIVE...

ENGLISH

With 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, visitors can be forgiven for falling a little in love with Collioure. **Overlooked by a royal castle, surrounded by steep and ancient terraces of sun-baked vineyards** sweeping down to the very edge of the town, it rarely fails to work its magic.

But when **Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban**, royal engineer to Louis XIV, visited Collioure in 1669, he suggested that it was not worth improving, even proposing razing it to the ground and starting again!

Famous for installing fortifications throughout France, he certainly had a hand in several of the forts and look out towers that surround Collioure today.

FRANÇAIS

Avec son enchevêtrement de rues et ruelles anciennes pavées et bordées de bougainvilliers et géraniums, ses maisons aux couleurs vives, sa jolie baie avec ses barques catalanes colorées, comment ne pas tomber un peu amoureux de Collioure? **Surplombée par un château royal, entourée d'anciennes et abruptes terrasses de vignobles ensoleillés**, il est difficile de ne pas succomber à sa magie!

Mais en 1669 **Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban**, ingénieur royal de Louis XIV en visite à Collioure, déclara que la ville ne valait pas la peine d'être améliorée et proposa même de la raser complètement et de la reconstruire!

Bien connu pour l'installation des fortifications dans toute la France, il a certainement contribué à la construction de plusieurs des forts et tours de guet qui entourent aujourd'hui Collioure



WATCH TOWERS

MADELOC AND MASSANE

These 14th century signal towers perched high above Collioure on ridges of the Albères used 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.



TOURS DE GUET

MADELOC ET MASSANE

Ces tours du XIV siècle dominant Collioure depuis les sommets des Albères utilisaient la fumée le jour et le feu la nuit pour signaler un danger. Les deux tours sont accessibles à pied. La Madeloc en voiture aussi, mais La Massane c'est une vraie randonnée!



FORTS

MIRADOU

Fort Miradou is now the **Centre National d'Entraînement Commando**, perfect for sea-training activities, and possibly the most beautiful garrison in France. Look out for commandos practicing manoeuvres out in the bay, an entertainment in itself! **No Visits**



MIRADOU

Le Fort Miradou est aujourd'hui le **Centre National d'Entraînement Commando**, parfait pour les activités d'entraînement en mer, et probablement la plus belle garnison militaire en France. Guettez les commandos qui s'entraînent aux manœuvres dans la baie, un vrai spectacle! **Pas de visite**



ST ELME

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 **privately owned museum with armaments collection**, or hire it for weddings and events, an amazing venue with spectacular views and beautiful gardens. www.fortsaintelme.fr/en/

CLOSED FOR RENOVATION



ST ELME

Stratégiquement positionné pour La Défense, avec vue sur la mer, la côte espagnole, le **Château Royal et la baie de Port-Vendres**, le **Fort St Elme est aujourd'hui privé et abrite un Musée qui présente une collection d'armements**. C'est un lieu unique avec des vues spectaculaires et de superbes jardins. Il peut être privatisé pour des mariages ou des événements.

www.fortsaintelme.fr/en/

FERMÉ POUR RENOVATION



DUGOMMIER

Built to protect Collioure and Port Vendres from invasion by sea, particularly from the British! The fort is currently being renovated by passionate volunteers to become an artistic centre. www.dugommier.com



DUGOMMIER

Le Fort Dugommier a été construit pour protéger Collioure et Port Vendres des invasions par la mer, notamment des Britanniques! Le Fort est actuellement en cours de rénovation par des bénévoles passionnés pour devenir un centre artistique. www.dugommier.com



ROND (TOUR DE L'ÉTOILE) & CARRÉ

These 18th century forts were built together to watch over the town from the north. Nicknamed '**les Hauteurs de la Justice**' public executions used to take place there. Linked by a covered path.



ROND (TOUR DE L'ÉTOILE) ET CARRÉ

Ces forts du XVIIIe siècle ont été construits ensemble pour surveiller la ville depuis le nord. Surnommés "**les Hauteurs de la Justice**", les exécutions publiques y avaient lieu. Ils sont reliés par un allée couvert.

Le fort Rond n'est qu'une grande tour circulaire. Le Carré est entouré d'un profond fossé creusé dans la roche. On y accède par un pont.



BATTERIE TAILLEFER

Built between 1883 and 1886, and restored by the commune, this former artillery defence **now houses workshops for a wood turner and a knife maker**.



BATTERIE TAILLEFER

Construite entre 1883 et 1886, et restaurée par la commune, cette ancienne défense d'artillerie abrite **aujourd'hui les ateliers d'un tourneur sur bois et d'un coutelier**.



OTHERS

CHÂTEAU ROYAL

The summer Palace of the Kings of Mallorca still stands after centuries of historical sieges, rebuilds and renovations. Ten thousand men including d'Artagnan and the King's musketeers occupied the hills overlooking the town, eventually forcing the Spanish foes to surrender from thirst, after the destruction of the castle's well.



BELL TOWER

Not a defense, but no article about Collioure would be complete without a mention of the iconic bell tower or 'clocher', originally a medieval lighthouse, demolished by Vauban in 1693 to strengthen fortifications, leaving Collioure without a church. A new church was completed in 1693, with the pink dome, added in 1810, today a symbol of Collioure, featured on every tourist's holiday photos.

LE CLOCHER

Pas exactement une défense, mais aucun article sur Collioure ne serait complet sans parler de l'emblématique clocher, ancien phare médiéval, démolé par Vauban en 1693 pour renforcer les fortifications, laissant Collioure sans église. Une nouvelle église a été construite en 1693, le dôme rose ajouté en 1810, aujourd'hui un symbole de Collioure, figurant sur les photos de tous les visiteurs.

AUTRES

CHÂTEAU ROYAL

Le palais d'été des rois de Majorque est toujours debout après des siècles de sièges historiques, de reconstruction et de rénovation. Dix mille hommes, dont d'Artagnan et les mousquetaires du roi, ont occupé les collines qui dominent la ville, obligeant finalement les ennemis espagnols à se rendre à cause de leur grande soif, après la destruction du puits du château.



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Tautavel Tower (LA TORRE DEL FAR)

VIA OLD QUARRY

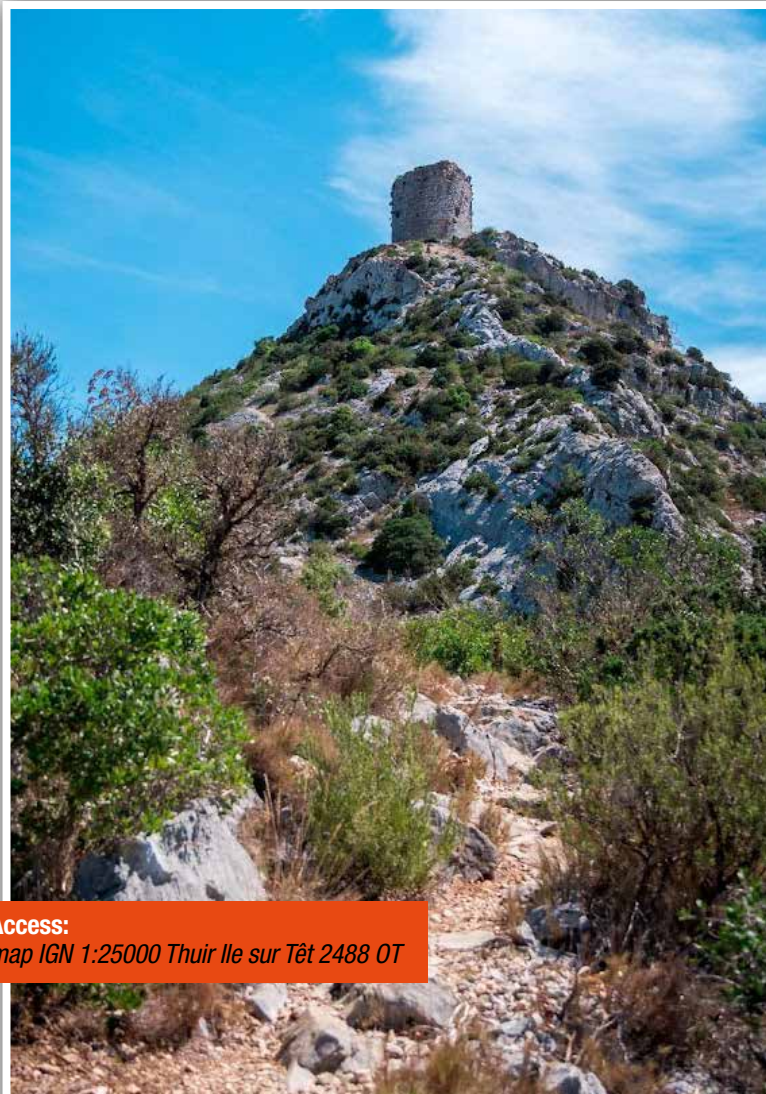
Another walk, another tower

The well marked route to the tower from the village of Tautavel is a return trip of 3 hours, using the same route up and down. This 4 hour, 8 km walk, with approximately 450 metres of ascent offers an alternative for a day when you would like a bit longer walk and have more time. Yellow waymarking on some of the route. Red/yellow on the route down.

Walking boots essential and poles helpful on loose stones. Route should be avoided in high winds. Best on a cooler day or with some cloud as there is no shade from the sun. Medium category, with care needed on some scree.



Access:
map IGN 1:25000 Thuir Ile sur Têt 2488 OT



Track goes through Cyprus trees and you are soon looking down on the village. About 15 minutes from start the track bends sharp left and passes through a rocky gap with some of the vestige walls of the chateau on right. At this point there is a junction of paths. To the left is the main footpath signed to the tower, which continues upwards and you will arrive here on the route down.

START

From Perpignan follow signs for Airport, take D117 Foix direction. Continue through Casa de Pène and Estagel. Soon after Estagel, take turning on right (D 61 then D9) to Tautavel. Parking available in the village centre (signed) with overflow parking just after the Cave cooperative - turn right off D9 at far end of village.



If you wish to visit the ruins of the chateau they are up the rocky outcrop to the right, so you can take a look now or on the way down from the tower.

Straight on/slightly right is another unmarked footpath – our route takes this one. > ● ● ●

THE WALK

Take path between Credit Agricole and Cave Cooperative, up steps to front of Tautavel museum of prehistory. Continue upwards on the road bending right to cross the open air theatre. After the theatre take road left, which soon becomes a shaded, stony track signed to La Torre del Far (Tautavel tower) and Le Chateau.

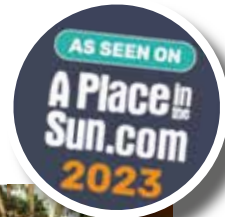


OUT ^{for} THE DAY

via Tautavel Tower (LA TORRE DEL FAR) OLD QUARRY



LEGGETT
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The signal towers... Madeloc, Massane, del Far, Força Réal

Both the Madeloc and Massane towers monitored enemy activity up and down the coastline, and deep into the Roussillon plains. They transmitted news of imminent danger throughout the Vallespir, to the Château Royal in Collioure and across the Roussillon plain. The plain also received warnings from the Torre del Far in Tautavel which in its turn informed the Salanque. The tour at Força Réal covered the west of the plain. These 4 towers surrounded the Roussillon plain, and were well placed to forewarn the population of threats.

The route across the quarry continues for approximately 2 km. There are high cliffs and deep hollows formed by the old workings.



In the centre of the site, pass the local shooting club (club de Tir) on your left and continue slightly uphill. Pass some old buildings and eventually the road becomes tarmac.



The footpath bends left, then rises after a while, passing to the left of an outcrop of rock, then crossing behind it. Continue to rise gradually and emerge, after 15 -20 minutes, at a waymarked post on a double track – part of the old quarry workings.

Turn right and follow this double track downhill then across the quarry.



EXCLUSIVE
Historic House

Claira €242,000
Ref: A17836 - Winemaker's townhouse with courtyard.

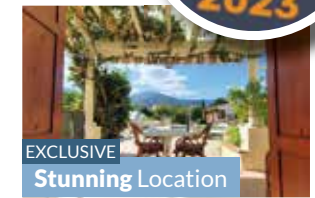
Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: D CLIMATE CLASS: B



EXCLUSIVE
Hidden Gem

Finestret €195,000
Ref: A16530 - 3-bedroom village house with terrace and garage.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: F CLIMATE CLASS: C



EXCLUSIVE
Stunning Location

Sorède €1,195,000
Ref: A15955 - 2 Detached villas with heated pool.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: C CLIMATE CLASS: A



Sorède €299,000
Ref: A16828 - 3-bedroom house with pool, 20min to coast.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: D CLIMATE CLASS: A



Castelnou €895,000
Ref: A19037 - 5-bedroom house, pool, garden and outbuildings.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: C CLIMATE CLASS: A



Fuilla €649,000
Ref: A18461 - Magnificent 10-bedroom riverside property.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: F CLIMATE CLASS: C



EXCLUSIVE
Mountain Views

Molitg-les-Bains €99,000
Ref: A16269 - 2-bedroom house with south-facing terrace.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: D CLIMATE CLASS: B



Le Boulou €470,000
Ref: A16984 - Beautiful 4-bedroom house with gardens.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: C CLIMATE CLASS: A



EXCLUSIVE
Village House

Corneilla-de-Conflent €170,000
Ref: A18616 - 6-bedroom house with garden.

Agency fees paid by seller.
ENERGY CLASS: F CLIMATE CLASS: F



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Information on the risks to which these properties are exposed is available on the Geohazards website: www.georisques.gouv.fr

via **Tautavel Tower** (LA TORRE DEL FAR)
OLD QUARRY

After about 400m, passing quarried areas on the left and right, reach a bend in the road and look out for a pile of stones/cairn on left. Turn left here up a double track towards a quarried area which you passed on your left on the tarmac road. **The track bends right and follows the edge of the quarry uphill.** Gradually make your way to the crest leading towards the tower. Yellow waymarking appears once more along the crest.



The route to the tower finally rises steeply up in front of you. Take care on the narrow, winding scree path which takes you to the top. **Before the final crest, note the path going straight on – this is the way down to Tautavel (red and yellow way marking).** But **to take in the wonderful views from, and to visit, the tower, continue upwards for a few minutes to the crest, turn right and arrive at the tower.**

In good weather you will be rewarded by a 360° panorama taking in coast, le Canigou, les Corbieres with Cathar castles of Queribus and Peyrepetuse and much more! **A table d'orientation helps to identify the scene.**



The path goes up and down along the crest. **As you near the outcrop crowned by Torre del Far, the path from Casa de Pène joins from the right.**



At 17m high with walls that are 2.5m thick, the tower was used from the 11th century to send signals of fire by night and smoke by day in case of invasion from the north. Possibly rebuilt in the 14th century it has stood the test of time and you can enter the door to see the vaulted interior. There were originally a ground floor and 2 upper floors reached by wooden ladders and trap doors. Under the floor is a water cistern.



After exploring the tower and taking in the views, **retrace your steps down to join the red/yellow waymarked route back to Tautavel.** The path is clearly marked but requires some care in the early part of the descent.

In Tautavel there are fascinating buildings with ceramic frontages, places to eat and drink, a Cave selling the excellent local wine and the Museum of Prehistory with its fascinating record of Tautavel man (450,000 years old) found in 1969 in the Caune d'Arago above the Verdoube river in the nearby Gorge de Gouleyrous. The museum has audio commentary available in many languages.

A great day out in a beautiful area.

DID YOU KNOW

JUST ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Built by Vauban, and standing guard over both north and south Catalonia, the massive 17th Century Fort de Bellegarde, once Spanish, now French has walls of sixty-two metres high, and six metres thick, a well sixty-three metres deep, the deepest in Europe, and views to take your breath away. Unspoiled, made safe but not restored, wander round the ramparts or visit the chapel, barracks, small museum... **Just head for Le Perthus and turn right.** **Open daily from June to September but check in advance on 04 68 54 27 5**



So Very Vallespir....
Come and join us!



DON'T MISS.....
The Cherry Festival & Céret de Bandas

.... **THE FÊTE DE LA CERISE** (20 and 21 May 2023), a colourful weekend of stone spitting, **music, dancing and entertainment in the streets**. Look out for the parade of the giants, brass bands, sardanes, **(traditional Catalan circle dance), and inventive recipes involving cherries served up in the local restaurants**. And of course, the **weekly market**, held every **Saturday morning** beneath the hundred-year-old plane trees is surely one of the best in the area, its smells and sounds drawing locals and tourists alike as accordion or jazz mingles in the warm southern air with artisan made cheese and honey, local fruit and wine, olives and olive oil.....**and the café trottoirs overflow with people watchers.**



Join Maëva and Alex
Whether you're a certified Céretan or a know-nothing newbie, the guided tours in English are a great way to (re)discover the magic of this pretty cobbled town. Join Maëva and Alex around town...in English, and find out about the art and heritage of this «Mecca of Cubism».

Check them out at the market....
or buy direct...

ALEXANDRE ARNAUDIES
DOMAINE 3A
Wine, cherries, almonds, grapes...
Buy direct at... 5 rue de la Tuilerie, Céret
06 50 09 76 82 / alexandre.arnaudies@orange.fr

UN CAFÉ CÉRET – MAURIN CAROD
Quality roasted coffee and coffee shop.
Buy direct at... 3 avenue Clémenceau, Céret
06 30 94 06 92 <https://uncafeceret.fr>

TERRASSOUS - ALBE CHASSAGNAC
Join the wine makers, taste the wines. A simple tasting visit, a walk or bike ride through the vines, a pruning workshop? The possibilities are endless!
Buy direct at...Céret, Fourques, Terrats, Thuir (Boutiques)
04 68 53 02 50 www.terrassous.com/

CAN GALY – PHILIPPE GALY
Cherries, apricots, market gardening...
Buy direct at.. 31 rue des évadés de France, Céret
06 10 83 35 00 / cangaly.ceret@gmail.com

LES VIGNERONS DU VALLESPIR - G. MARCEROU
Founded in 1949, this **winemaking cooperative** offers tastings and sale of local wines from many of the region's winemakers.
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www.lesjardinsdepaille.com

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06 29 56 40 36 - www.inextremis-aventura.fr
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04 13 33 10 00 - www.aquacanyon.fr

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Le Boulou 04 68 87 50 95
Céret 04 68 87 00 53
E.mail : contact@vallespir-tourisme.com
Check us out on www.vallespir-tourisme.fr

Festivals and TRADITIONS

BANK HOLIDAYS

The many bank holidays in April and May are a joy to schoolchildren - and teachers! Often extended into a long weekend if the holiday falls on a Tuesday or a Thursday, many businesses will 'faire le pont' and take the Monday or the Friday off as well. (Major chains unlikely to do this)

10th April:
Easter Monday (Pâques).

1st May:
May Day (Fête du Travail)

8th May:
WW2 Victory Day
(Fête de la Victoire 1945)

18th May:
Ascension (L'Ascension)

29th May:
Whit Sunday (Pentecôte)



Procession de la Sanch Friday 7th April (Good Friday) Perpignan

Some walk bare-foot, others are on their knees! Impressive, atmospheric, just a little frightening, the long black and red hooded and robed figures of the Procession de la Sanch march slowly through the streets of Perpignan to the solemn beat of black veiled tambourines. The brotherhood of "La Sanch" (the blood) was founded in 1416 by Vincent Ferrier at the church of St Jaques in Perpignan, its origin to assist and accompany the condemned to their execution. The death penalty has long since been abolished, but the Sanch lives on in Perpignan. Night processions also take place in Collioure and Arles-sur-Tech (21h 00)

Les Reginas Sunday 9th April (Easter Sunday) Ille-sur-Têt

A moving spectacle for believers and non believers alike
Ille sur Têt announces life and the beginnings of spring with this age old Illois custom, the solemn meeting of statues, and a 130 strong choir, accompanied by 40 musicians.



The Festival of Sant Jordi On or around April 23rd

"A rose for love and a book forever."

A day to read, honour and offer books and roses to friends and loved ones.



Fete du Muguet et du Travail May 1st

Happy Springtime!

According to French tradition, give those you love a little bouquet of Lily-of-the-Valley (Muguet), to wish them happiness and good luck in celebration of the arrival of spring. (Muguet also describes the medical condition, thrush!!)

This date is also the Fête du Travail, or Labour Day, historically a day of parades, protests and parties for workers to demonstrate or celebrate battles and causes fought and won in years gone by.

Fête de la Musique Wednesday 21st June

If Music be the Food of Love...

This annual festival celebrates music in all forms and is open to anyone, professional and amateur, and all music genres. If you are in France on this day it will be hard to avoid the vibrant sounds of salsa, string quartets and steel bands playing on street corners, jazz, rock, roll, and blues, garage folk, heavy metal, accordionists wandering among the crowds.....



Fête de la Saint Jean Saturday 24th June

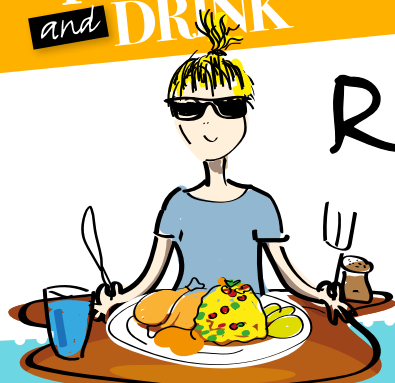
Celebrating love and friendship between all Catalans

Important annual event in the Catalan calendar, and the longest day of the year, this date is linked with ancient practices and white magic. On this eve, Catalonia is set alight as relay runners bring burning torches down from the Canigou to light fires that have been prepared in towns and villages all over the region.



Restaurant REVIEWS

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER
SPRING 2023



TRALALA! SPRING IS IN THE AIR AND WE HAVE A FABULOUS SELECTION OF REVIEWS SENT IN BY YOU!

We love publishing them, we really do. They're honest and 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.

L'ESCOLA

Joch...with Val

My sewing club had a great meal here. **Newly reopened under the management of an enthusiastic young couple bringing an African twist to locally sourced food.** A choice of hibiscus or ginger cocktails to start followed by huge portions of couscous and a choice of home made desserts, wine and coffee cost me **€25 including local wine. Deserves to succeed.**



16 Carrer de l'Escola, Joch
Tel: 06 80 13 35 33

MARTINE FAIT SA CUISINE

Perpignan...with Susan

We visited Martine today, **a group of 8, and we all absolutely loved the place.** The decor is spot on, really just like your grandma's dining room! The welcome was perfect too, so **nice to see Martine cooking behind the counter.** Short menu which is perfect, all options looked great and my porcelet au sauce Byrrh was delicious and so filling that I didn't have room for pudding. **A really special experience and will definitely take visitors when I get a chance.**



16 Rue de l'Horloge, Perpignan
Tel: 06 51 44 15 88

AU BUREAU

Cabestany...with Karen

Delicious lunch at this Pub Brasserie near Perpignan. Supposed to be «London style». I will try the fish & chips next time. I had Mac & cheese and hubby had spicy burger & fries, which were perfection and I am afraid I ate most of his. The mac was great and then for dessert, we split a crème brûlée in puff pastry. Yum! **Highly recommend.**

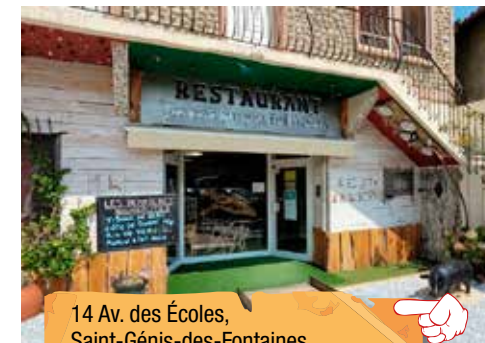


Rue James Watt, Cabestany
Tel: 04 68 34 23 31

Y' EN AURA PAS POUR TOUT LE MONDE

St G enis des Fontaines...with Catherine

Everybody deserves a treat now and then. **Laurence worked with wood before opening a restaurant so lots of attractive wood deco.** Menu original and high quality, with the delightful **Laurence in the kitchen and S ebastien front of house.** Several pork specialities, veal, fish, sometimes wild boar... We had 'sangria sp eciale   la m ure', 2 starters to share of crispy pan con tomato and caviar d'Aquitaine, excellent meat dishes and desserts of 64% chocolate mousse with thyme ice cream, whipped cream meringue and blueberry coulis, coffee and local wine for 55 euros per person. **Felt it was very reasonable considering the quality.**



14 Av. des  coles,
Saint-G enis-des-Fontaines
Tel: 09 85 10 51 49

RESTAURANT MENGEM

Port Vendres...with Harbeer

Seating with an elevated view of the harbour. Nice servers, food was excellent although service took longer than it should. Perfect fish. Loved the 'poire belle Helene'. **With the pricing it is one of the best values.**



3 Rue Jules Pams, Port-Vendres
Tel: 04 68 09 79 07

LE QUAI

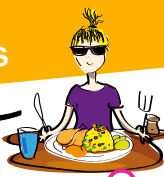
Port Vendres...with Christina

Bar-Tapas-Restaurant with view over port. Excellent cooking, reasonable price, generous quantity. **Lamb shoulder (cooked in the oven for 7 hours)** served with home made potatoes, vegetables, and a vegetable squash. Extra!



2 Quai Pierre Forgas, Port-Vendres
Tel: 04 30 82 40 49

Restaurant REVIEWS



QUELQUES QUICKIES

TRANSIT

Figueres (Spain)...with Jan

Good reviews from our food-loving members but from outside appearances it's never floated our boat, situated as it is on a main road next to a petrol station, lorry park and carwash facility. **How wrong were we. Great meal there today and in very pleasant stylish surroundings.** Tip, if you don't have a reservation then get there before 1pm as it was heaving at about 1.10!



Avinguda de Vilallonga, 65, Figueres
Tel: +34 972 67 46 89

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 ravis de vous entendre.

Send your comments to us at
info@anglophone-direct.com

(NO RESTAURANT OWNERS PLEASE!!)

EL CAPILLO

Collioure....with Harbeer
Loved it. Sophisticated dishes. We felt as if we were treated like friends. Chef owner team.
FB: [elcapillo.restaurant](https://www.facebook.com/elcapillo.restaurant)

EL MIRADOR

Girona airport...with Maria
Very pleasant bar-restaurant, convenient for eating before or after a flight. Even our picky granddaughter found something edible!
www.miradoraeroport.com

CAN BOIX

Vilamari (Spain) ...with Gail
Excellent restaurant, slightly more upmarket Catalan cuisine. Family run, great service and lovely spot with countryside views. Check it out!
www.canboixvilamari.com

L'ASSIETTE CATALANE

Perpignan...
With Toni
Charming host, good family Catalane cuisine - nothing fancy - but for a 3-course meal with wine we paid just 16 euros each!
www.assiettecatalane.com

RESTAURANT TORTUGA

La Jonquera...with Maria
We go when shopping. Much smaller and quieter than the truck stops. The €14.50 menu is good and includes drinks. Obviously not for a gourmet meal but very acceptable.
Poligono Industrial Campa, La Jonquera

LA QUÊTE,

Argeles village...with Harbeer
A solid experience overall. Service good and the dishes were tasty. We split up an entree/plat and an entree/dessert. Can recommend and would return.
FB: [La Quête](https://www.facebook.com/La-Quete)

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SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Can't you just feel it?

Restaurants are sprucing up their 'trottoirs' and terraces, putting up their parasols, brushing up their barbecues and planchas, sharpening their choppers.....**Open air eating is back on the menu**....not that it's ever really off here in the P-O. The following restaurants support this magazine and help us to stay free. Please support them when you can. **Bon app.**

...ARGELES

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READER'S WARNING



1 Driving through my home village - St Genis des Fontaines – a white fiat 500 followed as I turned off the main road and entered the cul de sac where I live.
As I started my turning manoeuvre the Fiat appeared quickly and parked immediately behind me making my reverse turn more difficult- but not impossible. As I parked, the Fiat drew alongside me and the angry young man told me I had hit him. Basically, it was a “let’s not involve insurance companies. I have a cousin who can repair my car. Give me xx euros and we’ll say no more” scam.

2 Driving through Saint Cyprien past parked cars, I heard something that sounded like a stone hitting 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 IF THIS HAPPENS TO YOU

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| Va t'en! | Va te faire voir! |
| Fous le camp! | Dégage! |
| Fiche le camp! | Va au diable! |
| Tire-toi! | File! |
| | Laisse-moi tranquille |
| | Fous moi la paix |

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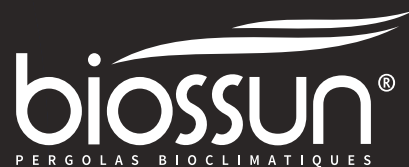


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Spring/Summer 2023 by Robbie Shaw

This covers **the summer schedules period until 28 October.**

As I write this in February, some flights may already be out of date, so don't forget to constantly monitor the airline websites yourself.



Sacred mountain or not, our Canigou has seen its fair share of tragedy.

In **October 1961** a Douglas Dakota IV operated by Derby Aviation, the forerunner of British Midland Airways, crashed into the side of Canigou, killing all 31 passengers, pilot, co-pilot and stewardess. The flight departed Gatwick, destination Perpignan.

A rescue team arriving from the chalet at Courtalets found debris and bodies scattered up to a 100 m radius around the crash site, still burning, and described by one eyewitness as 'apocalyptic'.

FRANCE BEZIERS

Like Carcassonne, **Ryanair** has a free run at this small airport. Rather strangely the **Luton** service stops at the end of March, restarting in June. **Shannon** is a new destination.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BRISTOL	2-3	RYANAIR 26 March-25 Oct
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR 27 March-26 Oct
LUTON	2	RYANAIR 29 March-28 Oct
MANCHESTER	3	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct
SHANNON	2	RYANAIR 27 March-27 Oct
STANSTED	3	RYANAIR 28 March-28 Oct

The official verdict was 'navigational error, not possible to determine for lack of sufficient evidence'. Both captain and copilot had many hours of experience and had both landed at Perpignan several times. Another solid theory suggests that iron ore mines deep within Canigou, created a magnetic field known to disrupt compasses.

The President of the Board of Trade stated "... Since 1949 there have been at least nine crashes on or near Mt Canigou".

- > **December 1950**, Air Maroc Douglas DC-3 (three deaths)
- > **February 1953**, Noratlas (six deaths)
- > **March 1955**, Douglas C-47 (five deaths)
- > **July 1957**, Noratlas (ten deaths)
- > **September 1958**, French Air Force Broussard (five deaths)
- > **October 1961**, Derby Aviation Douglas Dakota IV 3 (34 deaths)
- > **January 1963**, French Air Force Constellation (12 deaths)
- > **September 1963**, Airmautic Viking (40 deaths)
- > **June 1967**, Air Ferry Douglas DC-4 (88 deaths)

Don't cancel your Perpignan flights or visit your doctor for valium, navigating instruments have vastly improved today!

CARCASSONNE



Ryanair remains the sole operator here.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
EAST MIDLANDS	2	RYANAIR 1 June-26 Oct
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR 27 March-26 Oct
MANCHESTER	3-4	RYANAIR 26 March-27 Oct
STANSTED	7	RYANAIR 26 March-28 Oct
CORK	2	RYANAIR 28 March-28 Oct
DUBLIN	4	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct

MONTPELLIER

EasyJet operate from both **Gatwick** and **Luton**. The latter only for a short period. The **British Airways** flight from **Heathrow** which operated only in 2018 appears not to be operating again this year.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
GATWICK	13	EASYJET 26 March-28 Oct
LUTON	3	EASYJET 27 June-2 Sep

NIMES



Ryanair is the sole operator for P-O readers. **Luton** has been dropped, but **Dublin** and **Edinburgh** are now served along with **Stansted**.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
DUBLIN	2	RYANAIR 1 May-26 Oct
EDINBURGH	2	RYANAIR 29 March-28 Oct
STANSTED	2	RYANAIR 29 March-28 Oct

PERPIGNAN

Aer Lingus flights from **Dublin** restart, and the good news – no more 0600 departures, now at a better time, though fares have risen significantly. Good news for Yorkshire lass Kate, **Ryanair** have listed **twice-weekly flights to Perpignan from Leeds Bradford**.

If you are looking at the websites and find the fares to P.O. are very high look at the rugby fixture list and that could explain it. Often changing just a few days can reduce the fare, and car hire prices. Also fares are generally cheaper midweek, especially in the summer months – or ridiculously expensive in school mid-term.



FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	2	RYANAIR 1 June-26 Oct
DUBLIN	3	AER LINGUS 3 May-30 Sep
LEEDS BRADFORD	2	RYANAIR 1 June-26 Oct
STANSTED	5	RYANAIR 26 March-26 Oct

TOULOUSE / BLAGNAC

Ryanair have added service to **Birmingham** whilst **Manchester** will be introduced by **Jet2**

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BIRMINGHAM	2	RYANAIR 28 March-28 Oct
BRISTOL	7	EASYJET 26 March-28 Oct
EDINBURGH	3	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct
GATWICK	4-6	EASYJET 26 March-28 Oct
HEATHROW	28	BRITISH AWYS 26 Mar-28 Oct
STANSTED	10	RYANAIR 26 March-28 Oct
DUBLIN	3	AER LINGUS 26 March-28 Oct
	3	RYANAIR 27 March-27 Oct



SPAIN

BARCELONA / EL PRAT

As always, a huge variety of flights to **Barcelona**, most of which run all year round, but with seasonal increases. Quite a few changes. **Ryanair** now operate flights from **Luton** and **Newcastle**, though **Prestwick** has been dropped. There are now four operators on the Manchester route. **easyJet** have dropped the **Newcastle** and **Southend** service but added **Manchester**. This summer **Vueling** are no longer offering flights from **Belfast City**, **Cardiff**, **Cork** and **Newcastle**. **Glasgow** has lost the **Jet2** service but gained **easyJet**. **Jet2** have added **Birmingham**.

For those unfamiliar, take care on the Barcelona ring-road, one wrong turn could be very time consuming.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BELFAST INT'L	3-5	EASYJET 27 March-27 Oct
BIRMINGHAM	2	JET2 26 March-29 Oct
	6	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct
	7	VUELING 26 March-28 Oct
BRISTOL	10-14	EASYJET 26 March-28 Oct
	5	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct
EAST MIDLANDS	7	RYANAIR 26 March-28 Oct
EDINBURGH	9	RYANAIR 26 March-28 Oct
	4	VUELING 26 March-27 Oct
GATWICK	24-33	EASYJET 26 March-28 Oct
	53	VUELING 26 March-28 Oct
GLASGOW INT'L	2	EASYJET 26 March-28 Oct
HEATHROW	49	BRITISH AWYS 26 Mar-28 Oct
LEEDS BRADFORD	2-4	JET2 27 March-30 Oct
LIVERPOOL	3-7	EASYJET 26 March-27 Oct
	5	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct
LUTON	12-14	EASYJET 26 March-28 Oct
	5	RYANAIR 26 March-27 Oct

MANCHESTER	4-5	JET2 26 March-31 Oct
	6-7	EASYJET 26 March-28 Oct
	10	RYANAIR 26 March-28 Oct
	10	VUELING 26 March-28 Oct
NEWCASTLE	2	RYANAIR 26 March-26 Oct
STANSTED	28	RYANAIR 26 March-28 Oct
DUBLIN	14	AER LINGUS 26 March-28 Oct
	19	RYANAIR 26 March-28 Oct
	11	VUELING 26 March-28 Oct

GIRONA



In the last couple of years there had been a big increase in flights to **Girona**. **Ryanair** have added **Belfast**, **Birmingham**, **East Midlands**, **Manchester** and **Shannon**. **Jet2** who suddenly found the airport two years ago once again have a whole raft of flights. They have re-introduced **Glasgow**.

FROM	NUMBER OF WEEKLY FLIGHTS	AIRLINE
BELFAST	1-2	RYANAIR 31 March-27 Oct
BIRMINGHAM	2	JET2 1 May-27 Oct
	2	RYANAIR 3 June-28 Oct
BOURNEMOUTH	2-5	RYANAIR 31 March-28 Oct
BRISTOL	1	JET2 27 May-30 Oct
	4-6	RYANAIR 27 March-28 Oct
CORK	2-4	RYANAIR 26 March-27 Oct
DUBLIN	2-6	RYANAIR 27 March-27 Oct
EAST MIDLANDS	1	JET2 27 May-28 Oct
	2	RYANAIR 26 March-22 Oct
GLASGOW	1	JET2 28 May-24 Sep
KNOCK	2	RYANAIR 1 June-26 Oct
LEEDS BRADFORD	2	JET2 From 30 April-29 Oct
	4	RYANAIR 2 June-26 Oct
MANCHESTER	2-4	JET2 1 May-30 Oct
	2	RYANAIR 1 June-26 Oct
NEWCASTLE	1	JET2 7 May-29 Oct
SHANNON	2	RYANAIR 1 June-26 Oct
STANSTED	2	JET2 1 May-30 Oct
	7	RYANAIR 26 March-28 Oct



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Perpignan

WORLD CAPITAL OF "CURVITECTURE"?

BY HENRY SHAFTOE

Unlike many cities, Perpignan was booming between the two world wars (maybe from the combined benefits of a successfully growing wine trade and people getting out of Spain while the civil war raged), with the result that many new houses were built in the areas just outside the historic town centre core during the 1920s and 30s.

This happened to be the period when "Art Deco" was all the rage, so many of these houses were designed and built in this style.

Art Deco aimed to clear away the clutter and fussiness of previous design styles. As a result, many art deco buildings incorporated graceful curves as part of their "streamlining" effect.



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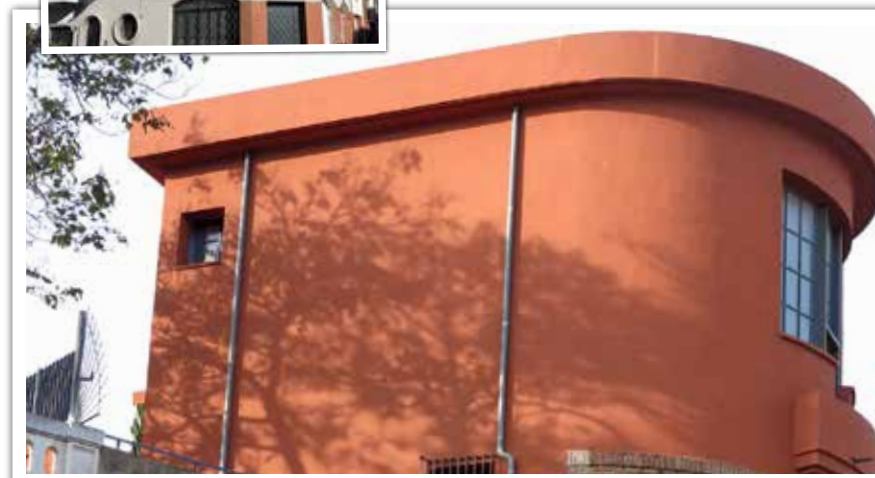
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This "curvitecture" is very evident in Perpignan; in fact I would argue that **Perpignan is a world leader in Art Deco "Curvitecture"** (Challenged only by Miami, USA and perhaps Royan and Vichy in France).

Straight lines are much easier for architects and builders (there are many fine "straight" art deco buildings in Perpignan too), but there is something warm and sensuous about curves. After all – you don't find many straight lines in the natural environment!

With the widespread adoption by architects of Computer Aided Design (CAD) over the last couple of decades, "curvitecture" has been at the root of some spectacularly popular new buildings (Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and





you can witness a unique richness of delightfully curvy buildings without having to take a long-haul flight to Florida!

Although 'curvitecture' flourished between the two world wars, Perpignan also has good examples of the use of curves before and after. A stroll down and around Boulevard Wilson reveals some curvaceous facades from the "Art Nouveau" period, starting in the 19th century, as well as some sinuous apartment blocks from the 1940s.

Going way back in time: the iconic "Castillet" gatehouse has few straight lines in its mellow red



Santiago Calatrava's Foundation Vuitton in Paris are just two examples) and, of course Antoni Gaudi's landmark buildings in Barcelona (which pre-dated Art Deco) demonstrate the massive public appeal of "curvitecture".

Rue Georges Rives (parallel and directly to the south of traffic-clogged Boulevard Felix Mercader) is arguably one of the most beautiful residential streets in Perpignan and a living museum of Art Deco building styles.

But the whole area from here to the ramparts of the Palais des Rois de Majorque is a treasure trove of curvy delights. Add to that a number of curvacious buildings around the Boulevard Jean Bourrat and some lovely examples in the "Vernet" districts to the north of the river and



brickwork. And of course "starchitect" Jean Nouvel's contemporary Grenat auditorium at the Theatre de l'Archipel is as curvy as you can get!

The people at Perpignan Town Hall seem to be missing a trick by not promoting this glorious manifestation of Perpignan's heritage. Maybe the Council could produce a self-guided tour leaflet of some key art deco buildings.

In the meantime you can enjoy these relatively undiscovered gems yourselves, just by wandering around the streets and squares off the main Boulevards of Mercador, Briand, Anatole France, Wilson and Bourrat, before the tour operators find out and the coachloads jam the streets! Or why not explore Perpignan on the little train?



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The CURIOUS CASE of a CÉRET PAVEMENT

PART III

by Peter Spencer



When P-O Life reader Peter Spencer discovered a piece of pavement art adjacent to the Mairie and the old tourist office in Céret, he did a little digging and unearthed some interesting details about artists who were drawn to Céret and the Pyrénées-Orientales. Many of them instigated some of the greatest art movements of our time.

Of the 32 names, he already knew of seven or eight, mainly by seeing their names on street signs. Representing music, painting, sculpture, cinema, and the written word, predominately French/Spanish Catalans (but amazingly not one woman apart from the statue), their common denominator is their link to Céret and the Pyrénées-Orientales.

Check out P-O Life Mags 74 and 75 for Parts 1 & 2

Chaim Soutine

A major player in the expressionist movement, **Belarussian-born** Soutine created expressive landscapes, still lifes, and portraits, with sweeping brushstrokes that distorted reality. He took inspiration from classicists such as Rembrandt and Courbet and formed a bridge between traditional approaches and the newly developing abstract expressionism..



André Masson



Wounded in the violence and chaos of World War I, Masson often portrayed uncertainty and questioned human

existence. Initially interested in cubism, he later turned to surrealism and experimented with both 'automatic' drawing and altered states of consciousness. He lived in Spain during the Retirada and was condemned as a degenerate by the Nazis during WW2

Maurice Loutreuil

Known as a **peintre maudit** (accursed painter), an artiste who is in 'constant torment due to frustrations with art, other people, or the world in general', **French Impressionist & Modern painter** Loutreuil came to Céret, plunged in depression after splitting with his then lover, painter Suzanne Dinkespillier.



Josep Maragall i Noble

Maragall i Noble lived for many years in Céret, having also extensively travelled in France, Italy and the USA. As well as being a self-taught artist, he was a translator and translated the autobiography of Saint Teresa de Lisieux.

Appelles Fenosa



Modernist, evolutionist, anarchist, Fenosa refused military service in Spain and moved to be among artistic circles in Paris. Friends with Max Jacob, Jules Supervielle and Picasso, who encouraged his sculpting.

Pau Gargallo

Artistically trained in Barcelona, Gargallo created 3D forms from flat metal plates, paper or cardboard. He incorporated cubist ideology into his pieces, showing only half a face, or just one eye. He also created more traditional sculptures in bronze and marble.

Marc Chagall

An early modernist, Chagall tried his hand at many different media; painting, drawing, stained glass, ceramics, tapestries and more. His unique style reflected his Eastern European and Jewish heritage.



Andre Lhote

More than just a cubist painter, Lhote was an art teacher and author. Trained in wood-carving by his father, he painted in his spare time, inspired by Gauguin and Cézanne.

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THE nature OF CANET LAGOON PART I

With
Lesley McLaren



Along the coast between Canet-en-Roussillon and Saint-Cyprien, you will find the best walking, and picturesque fishermen's "village" with ancient huts that have been refurbished with traditional materials, including reeds that are abundant here.

The pretty étang on the outskirts of Canet has been fished by man for centuries. While a few fishermen continue the tradition, these days it mainly attracts tourists, dog walkers and birdwatchers. It's a protected Natura 2000 site, and the combination of coastal lagoon, Mediterranean salt steppes and temporary ponds provides an important haven for wildlife – especially birds.



Impossible to walk all the way round, but you can also access it from Saint-Nazaire and Alénia. This inland approach can provide a rewarding contrast of wildlife species. Interesting year-round but spring can be best, when fish are spawning and birds are returning to Europe from Africa.



The first written record of the lagoon dates back to 1265, when Guillem, lord of Canet, handed it to his people, and the first fishing rights were granted.

FLORA

Reeds (*le roseau commun*) predominate the shores of the lagoon and glasswort (*la salicorne*) covers much of the marshland.

Small-flowered tongue-orchid (*la sérapias à petites fleurs*), sea spurge (*l'euphorbe du littoral*) and water-purslane (*le pourpier des marais*) can apparently also be found here.



Glasswort turns pink in winter



Looking north from Alénia Digue



Lesley McLaren is one of "The Warblers" – a group of natural history enthusiasts in the PO. Photos by "The Warblers" unless otherwise stated. www.mediterraneanpyrenees.com · Twitter @66warblers



FAUNA

Despite fishermen's complaints that fish stocks are severely depleted these days, clearly some fish are surviving. One cold, windy April day, I witnessed an amazing spectacle of thousands of **grey mullet** preparing to spawn in the **Agouille de la Mar**. Most were facing upstream, packed together like ... erm, sardines, though not quite touching one another. The shoal stretched like a huge shadow as far as I could see downstream.



Grey mullet (le mullet à grosse tête)

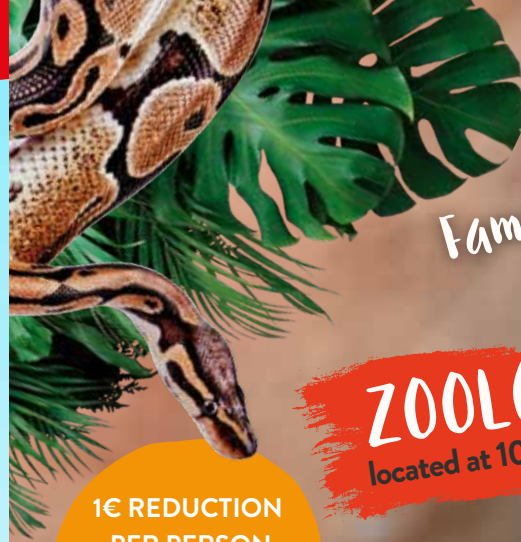


Unlike mullet, **spawning carp (la carpe)** get up very close and personal.



All of which make easy pickings for **ospreys (les balbuzards pêcheurs)** on migration. These raptors feed exclusively on fish, and – unusually – one even stayed around the lagoon this last winter.

Among non-fish-eating species, **other impressive raptors to look out for** passing through in spring include: **Black Kite (les milans noirs)** and **Short-toed Snake Eagles (les circaètes Jean-le-Blanc)**.



Family nature outing

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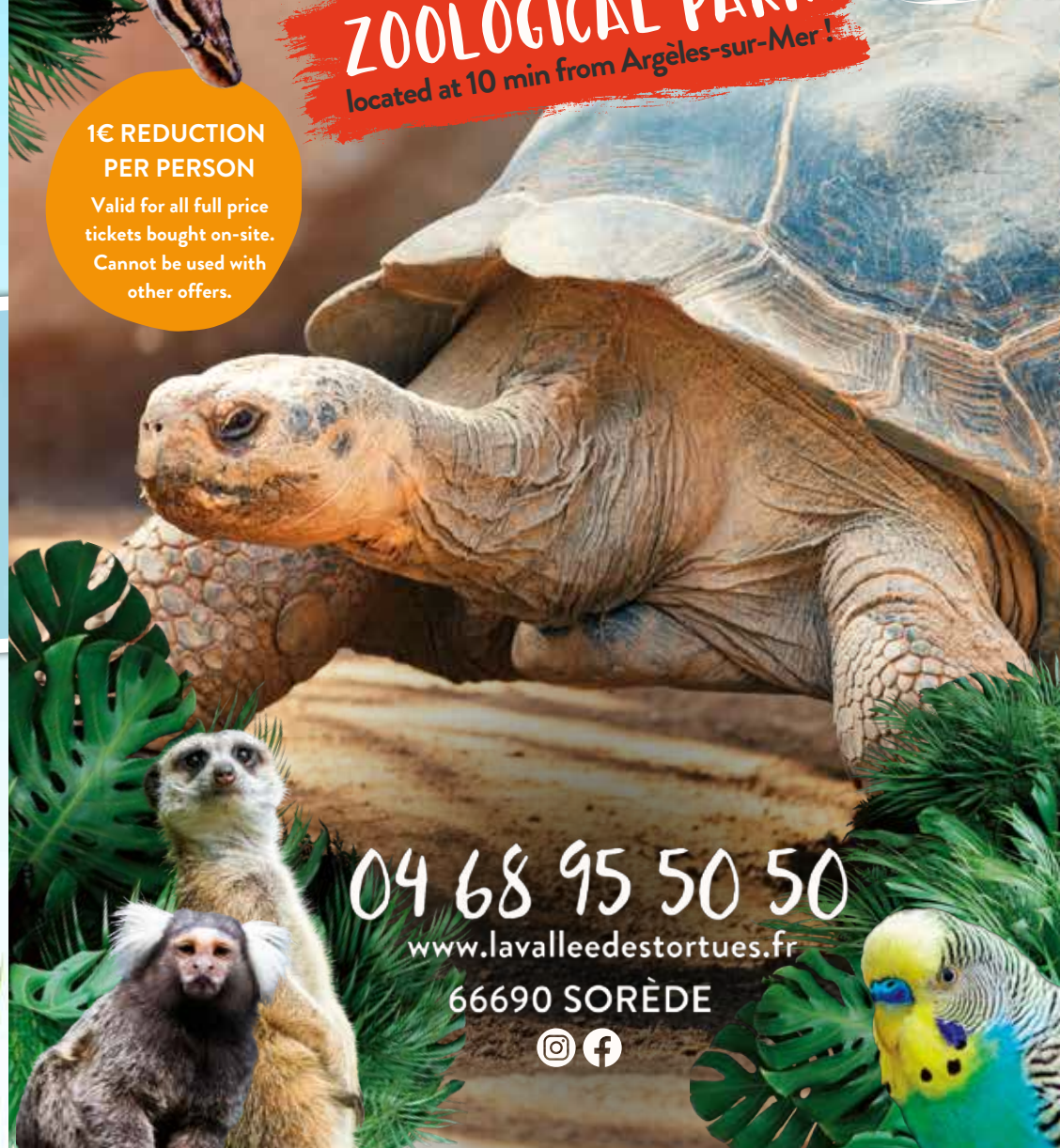
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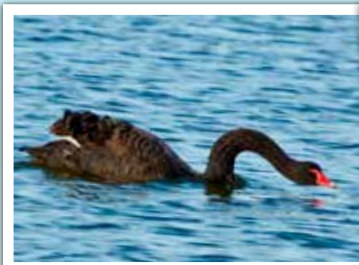
P-O NATURALLY



It's an important wintering ground for some species of duck, as well as **coot** (les foulques macroules) and **flamingos** (les flamants roses).



Depending on the time of year, some other birds you might see:



Black Swan
(le cygne noir)



Little Egret
(l'aigrette garzette)



Red-crested Pochard
(la nette rousse)



Mute Swan
(le cygne tubercule)



White Stork
(la cigogne blanche)



Grey Heron
(le heron cendré)

COMING UP IN PART 2: Like everywhere else, the lagoon is increasingly at risk due to climate change, but five years ago a vicious invader came in from the sea and now threatens not only the fishermen's livelihoods but the eco-system itself.

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FEMMES FORMIDABLES DE LA RÉSISTANCE

PART III

Joséphine, Francine and Odette Sabaté

Pierre Sabaté fought for France in WW1. He was badly injured and imprisoned in a POW camp.

He died in 1931 in the Conflent village of Joch, his birthplace, having never fully recovered from his injuries. He left behind his wife **Joséphine**, and two daughters, **Francine** and **Odette**. Before he died, he is reported to have said:

“At least my children will never go to war....”



In the winter of '39 came the **Retirada**. Spanish refugees poured over the border. From their small grocery shop in Perpignan, **the 3 courageous ladies, staunch communists**, joined the fight against fascism, giving help and shelter to Spanish republicans fleeing Franco, and later to escapees, and downed English pilots.

In 1943, **Joséphine, Francine and Odette were all arrested by the 'special section' of the Vichy police**. Imprisoned in Perpignan, **Odette managed to escape** but **Joséphine and Francine were handed over to the Germans** and deported to **Ravensbrück**.



Joséphine was designated for the **convoy of 'sacrifices'** in **March 1945**, and **Francine died a month later** as **Soviet troops liberated the camp**. She was just 25 years old.



Francine Sabaté

At 18 years old, **Odette joined the resistance**, and fought in secret with the Communist Party until the liberation.



Odette Sabaté

She was **arrested by the Gestapo in 1944**, tortured and imprisoned in **Fort Montluc in Lyon** and **liberated by the FFI** (Forces françaises de l'intérieur).

She **settled in Ria**, and passed away in 2020.

Do you know of a femme formidable, past or present, who deserves a mention in our FEMMES FORMIDABLES SERIES? Write to us at info@anglophone-direct.com

BONKERS BANKERS: A TRUE STORY

Conversation overheard by my husband this morning in our local bank in Céret between an English gentleman (with very good French) and the banker.

- Can you explain to me what this 40 euros is on my statement please?
- Oui Monsieur, that is des frais de compte inactif - a charge for not using your banque account.
- So if I have money in my account and don't use it, I must pay the bank for storing/investing my money?
- Oui, Monsieur, c'est ça.
- And how do I avoid paying these charges?
- Ah. C'est facile Monsieur. You just have to sign up for some pay-for bank services (insurance, etc).

Honestly! You couldn't MAKE it up!! **BANKERS!**



Test your FRENCH

Tongue Twister

Répétez trois fois
**Foie frit froid
et fruits frais frits**

See Page 75 for answers



J is for Janvier

Match up the words, all beginning with J, with their definitions.

Why not try to work them out first just from the definitions?)

- | | | | |
|-----------|----|---|--|
| jambe | 1 | a | Petit jardin |
| jacinthe | 2 | b | Femelle du cheval |
| javel | 3 | c | Baguette pour mesurer |
| journée | 4 | d | Temps entre le lever et coucher du soleil |
| jeuner | 5 | e | Plante à bulbe |
| jardinet | 6 | f | Petite pièce plate, le plus souvent ronde |
| jument | 7 | g | Fleur jaune de printemps |
| jeton | 8 | h | Solution concentrée qu'on utilise comme désinfectant |
| jonquille | 9 | i | Se priver de nourriture |
| jaugé | 10 | j | Cuisse, genou, cheville... |

Words that mostly sound the same but have completely different meanings

- le sel > salt
- la selle > saddle
- celle > the one
- les selles > stools (poo)
- scellé > sealed

Useful Expression
Les hauts et les bas
(lez-oh-ay-lay-bah)
highs and lows

Oh là là!

Used to express emotions, both positive and negative, this classic French exclamation is probably used more by foreigners than the French themselves!

If you particularly like the expression, you might want to **add a few extra 'là's and say**

"Oh là là là là là là" for a greater affect. Try it. It's really quite fun to roll out.



Vouloir – to wish or to want

Vouloir is one of the most common irregular French verbs, with loads of useful phrases too. Can you work out what's what?

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|---------------------------|
| Sans le vouloir | 1 | a | I would have liked (to).. |
| J'aurais voulu | 2 | b | Suit yourself |
| Je voulais te/vous dire | 3 | c | If you don't mind |
| Je veux que tu fasses ... | 4 | d | No hard feelings |
| Je veux bien | 5 | e | Don't hold it against me |
| Je ne t'en veux pas | 6 | f | Yes please ! |
| Comme tu veux/vous voulez | 7 | g | How would I know ? |
| Si vous le voulez bien | 8 | h | I wanted to tell you |
| Comment veux tu/voulez-vous que je sache? | 9 | i | Unintentionally |
| Ne m'en veux pas | 10 | j | I want you to do/make.. |

Bad joke (but enjoy 'cos there are worse to come)

Question:
Est-ce qu'une poule peut parler anglais?

Réponse:
Yes chicken!



INCREDIBLY BAD JOKE

Un client dans un restaurant voit des petits objets noirs dans sa soupe et il appelle le serveur.
"Ces petits trucs dans ma soupe" demande-t-il "Ce sont des corps étrangers?"
"Non Monsieur" répond le serveur.
"Ils vivent ici".
(truc - **thingy** étrangers - **foreign**)

Can the jokes get any worse? They most certainly can... (blame Laura for this one)

Que dit les bons cochons au méchant cochon?
NOUS SOMMES DES JAMBONS, TU ES UN SALE AMI

jambons > ham, gens bons > nice guys,
sale ami > bad friend, salami

OTHER WAYS TO SAY 'THINGY' IN FRENCH

- chose
- truc
- bazzar
- machin
- engin
- bidule



Just for fun!

More of these literal translations of popular French idioms. Can you work out their English equivalents...and the French original!

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| Let's have a fat morning | 1 | a | It's very expensive |
| We didn't raise pigs together | 2 | b | Once bitten, twice shy |
| What a wet chicken! | 3 | c | Easy |
| It walks | 4 | d | Well done! |
| He's breaking my feet | 5 | e | Let's have a lie in |
| A burned cat is afraid of cold water | 6 | f | He's driving me mad |
| Fingers in the nose | 7 | g | It works |
| Nothing to polish | 8 | h | I don't give a damn |
| Hat! | 9 | i | What a softie! |
| It costs the skin of the arse | 10 | j | Show some respect. I'm not your mate |



Remplissez les blancs

Quand le bus arrive dans le **1** de Perpignan, une superbe **2** en mini jupe est la **3** dans la queue, et monte **4** (direction l'Espagne) en montrant deux belles **5**. Assise sur un **6** pas loin de l'**7** du bus, une femme **8** dit à son mari: Tu ne trouves pas cela **9** comment les hommes regardent les **10** de cette fille qui monte dans le bus?

Le mari répond : "Quel bus ?"

- a dedans - b première - c cuisses - d arrêt - e honteux - f centre - g fesses - h blonde - i indignée - j banc

Useful Expression
faire mouche - to hit the target
Youpi! J'ai fait mouche!

Wobbly word

Méduser to astound/stun (coming from une méduse - jelly fish)
Eg **Il nous a médusé avec la mauvaise nouvelle**

Being polite!

Vous (te) serait-il possible de + infinitive
Could you possibly.... ?

Eg **Vous serait-il possible de me rembourser (would it be possible to give me a refund?)**

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DID YOU KNOW

TO ROME. WITH BELLS ON

Did you know that church bells ring out everyday throughout France - apart from Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday? Every single church bell throughout France stops ringing on this day in remembrance of the death of Christ. If you're used to hearing the village bells chime out, their silence is deafening. Children commenting on the silence, in the days before Playstation, Smartphones and Ipad, were told that the Bells had flown to Rome to see the pope, before returning to their towers on Friday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.



LANGUAGE



Tongue twister (virelangue)

Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

See Page 75 for answers

Repeat quickly x 3

Six sleek swans swam swiftly southwards



R is for Right

Trouvez les définitions des mots suivants, qui commencent tous avec la lettre R.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| rehearsal | 1 | a | clothes that are old and torn |
| rainbow | 2 | b | ordinary |
| raspberry | 3 | c | curved bone in chest |
| rib | 4 | d | more than it's worth |
| roar | 5 | e | poisonous snake with rattle in tail |
| rags | 6 | f | practise for a performance |
| rattlesnake | 7 | g | loud, deep sound |
| rip-off | 8 | h | small soft red fruit |
| run-of-the-mill | 9 | i | at the back |
| rear | 10 | j | arc of colour in the sky |

How do you make cheese?

Caerphilly (carefully)



Some Very British Idioms! Can you find their equivalent in French?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|---|---------------------------|
| Don't get your knickers in a twist | 1 | a | J'étais étonné |
| I'm skint | 2 | b | Il est un peu fou |
| It's brass monkeys out there | 3 | c | À quoi pensez-vous? |
| I was gobsmacked | 4 | d | Excellent, le meilleur |
| Best thing since sliced bread | 5 | e | J'ai envie de faire pipi |
| Sod that for a lark | 6 | f | Arrête de râler |
| I need to spend a penny | 7 | g | Ne t'énerve pas |
| Stop whinging | 8 | h | Ras le bol de ce truc |
| A penny for your thoughts | 9 | i | Il fait très froid dehors |
| He's a picnic short of a sandwich | 10 | j | Je suis fauché |

What do you call a moose wearing a mask?
ANONYMOOSE

Expression Utile
Warts and all -
y compris les défauts
eg I love you warts and all



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Fabregue, 15 Avenue Louis Prat, Prades.
10h15 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



LANGUAGE

Améliorez votre ANGLAIS

LANGUAGE TIP



Attention ! Ces mots ne changent jamais dans le pluriel en anglais
eg furniture - **meubles**, rubbish - **déchets**, ordures, homework - **devoirs**, pasta - **pâtes**

PLURIEL OU PAS PLURIEL?

- 1 I would like more **information/informations**
- 2 He has many **talent/talents**
- 3 He gives good **advice/advices**
- 4 You have a lot of **equipment/equipments**
- 5 He is wearing his trouser/trousers under his **boxers/boxer**
- 6 How many **people/peoples** are going?
- 7 There is too much **traffic/traffics** on the road today

I got into a fight with 1 3 5 7 and 9.
The odds were against me
(odd - impair odds - chances)



Trouvez la définition de ces mots d'argot anglais...

(les réponses sont ci-dessous mais ne trichez pas.... Je vous surveille !)

- | | | | |
|---------|----|---|------------------------|
| dodgy | 1 | a | erreur |
| Ta! | 2 | b | un petit gâteau |
| bikkie | 3 | c | livre (sterling) |
| cock-up | 4 | d | rien |
| bangers | 5 | e | fou |
| zilch | 6 | f | merci |
| yobbo | 7 | g | saucisses |
| tiddly | 8 | h | voyou |
| quid | 9 | i | un peu saoul, pompette |
| barmy | 10 | j | louche, suspect |

'ELLO DARLIN'

Un Français ne dirait jamais 'cheri' à un étranger.
Un Anglais si!
En effet, nous avons beaucoup de termes affectueux souvent utilisés entre parfaits inconnus pour remplacer Madame ou Monsieur.
En voilà quelques-uns

- Darling
- Pet
- Dearie
- Hen
- Son
- Flower
- Sweetheart
- Love/ luv/ my lovely
- Chuck
- Petal
- Chuck

Very Bad Joke

What did the buffalo say when his son left for college?
Bison

What do you call a sad cup of coffee?
Depresso.

Phrase Utile
To talk the hind leg off a donkey
Etre très bavard

LEGGETT

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Growing old IN FRANCE Part Two

(See part one
in the winter
mag or on our
website)

Residential establishments for the elderly are called **EPHADS** (pronounced eh-pad), an abbreviation of 'établissement d'hébergement pour personnes âgées dépendantes'.

The application form is standardised for all establishments and can be completed via the online platform, **ViaTrajectoire**

The application form contains administrative and financial details but also **requires a medical summary from your doctor (médecin traitant)**.

There are a **huge number of EPHADS** across the Pyrénées-Orientales, ranging in price, size, services offered, and level of care provided.



www.trajectoire-ehpad.com



Many of the smaller EPHADS feel much more homely but are staffed by nurses, who cannot make medical decisions.

If the person concerned requires significant medical care, you should therefore check how many doctors the EPHAD has and how often they are on site.

This also includes any specialists such as speech & language therapists (orthophonistes), occupational therapists (ergothérapeutes), physiotherapists (kinés) etc.



For serious medical conditions, it may be better to consider a **unité de soins de longue durée (USLD)**. These are like residential hospitals and have a permanent staff of doctors.

There are 2 USLD in the Pyrénées-Orientales, one in Perpignan (La Miséricorde) and one in Prades (USLD du Centre Hospitalier).



END-OF-LIFE CARE

Writing a will and registering it with a notaire is important for the management of your estate after your death, but the document is not opened until well after the funeral so it's important to communicate your end-of-life wishes in another way.

In France, anyone over the age of 18 can write their wishes for end-of-life care in an official document known as *directives anticipées*.

The French government has created two models that you can use as a starting point; **model A for people suffering from a terminal illness or who feel they are approaching end-of-life, model B for those in good health**. You can also create your own document, if you prefer.

The document covers things like resuscitation, life support, sedation and you can name someone as a person of confidence, who will make decisions on your behalf if you are no longer able to do so for yourself.

If you would like the presence of a religious or spiritual advisor as part of your end-of-life care, you should also include that in your directives.

Directives should be shared with loved ones, but also your doctor. If you have created an online health portal (**dossier médical partagé**), you should also upload the document there too.

The former '**Dossier Médical Partagé**' (DMP), confidential central medical record sharing your info between you and your medical professionals, is no more. Instead, since February 2023, it has been replaced by '**Mon espace santé**' (monespacesante.fr). A mobile app is also available. This new, allegedly secure service stores your medical history, x-rays, blood tests, medical and hospitalisation reports and allows access to all medical services, with your permission.

Use of your 'espace santé' is intended 'only for those who wish to use it', but it comes nevertheless with an opt-out rule. A profile is automatically created for all in the French health system and it is then up to you to activate it or not.

If you are supporting an ageing loved one, you may find it useful to read our article on the legal and administrative process following a death in France. (Check out our website at www.anglophone-direct.com)

THE MAKING OF Lighthouse

by Mike Pratt



I first visited Port-Vendres in 2008. It had everything I wanted for regular visits to the Mediterranean area so by 2009 I had bought an apartment there. Fifteen years later, one divorce, second marriage and swapping a family apartment for a studio overlooking the harbour, Port Vendres is still our holiday haven.

On many occasions we've walked to the jetty to swim and sit on the beach and the trip is never complete without walking along to the lighthouse. It is such an unusual structure that it has always held some fascination for me. Lately, I've looked at it and thought 'if only I could make a model of this'!

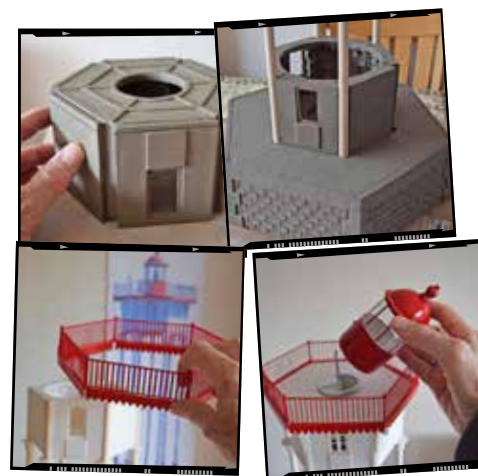
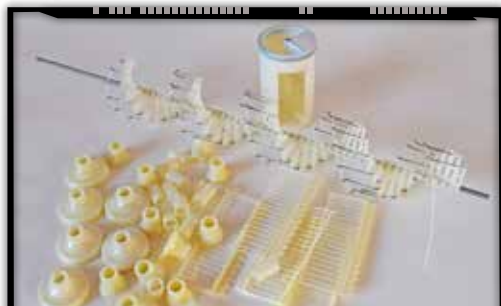
At the beginning of 2022 I started back at a pottery class, and realised I could use this material to achieve my goal.

My first model was completed in Spring 2022. Coincidentally, the town itself commissioned a much larger model around the same time to stand at the entrance of the village.

However, **as I proudly showed my model lighthouse off, people wanted to know where the spiral steps were.**

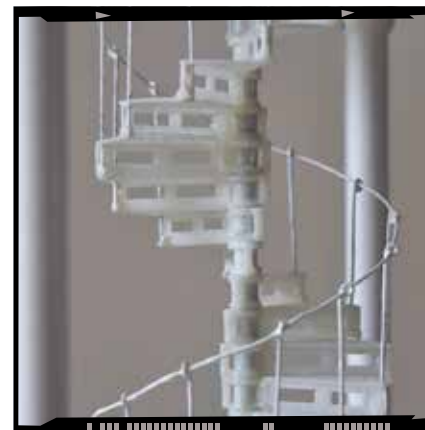
If you're not familiar with the lighthouse, the steps, after considerable damage over the years, have been removed as rendered useless since the automation of the lantern. **"How on earth can you make such tiny steps out of clay?"** I answered.

Andy Walter, friend and owner of a 3D printer said he could easily make the steps for me. **"What about the various support brackets (difficult to do in clay) and the top rails?"** I asked. **"And how about an electrical light inside?"** None of it was a problem. Finally, we considered making three models, one for each of us and one to sell to recover our costs'.



And so our partnership was formed, despite living 160 miles apart meaning that progress was slow. **Andy has engineering and computer skills and patience in abundance.** He set about designing the various shapes, all done to scale, and producing them via his printer; **65 steps for each model, each carefully glued together around a hollow metal tube that would contain the wiring for the light.**

Then 50 small lengths of wire to form the handrail around the spiral staircase. Very detailed work indeed!



I set about making the base and keeper's house out of clay, allowing for shrinkage when the clay dries and gets fired and making sure the holes line up in the right place for the 6 vertical columns (out of wood).

All the various pieces were painted and then we had to work out the best way of putting it together before the electrical wires could be connected to the control panel.

It's amazing to think that the real Port-Vendres lighthouse has been standing since 1886. Sadly, it has taken a battering from the sun, wind and sea over the years.



We would like to imagine that one day in the past, with a fresh coat of paint, the lighthouse may have looked very much like one of our models, complete with the spiral steps and even the weather vane, as shown in design documents of 1890!





Things You Might NEED To KNOW



DO YOU OWN A HOME IN FRANCE?

If so, you are now subject to a new requirement to declare ownership of the property by filling in a 'Déclaration d'occupation' on line, or you will be liable to a fine.

The aim is to allow the taxman/woman to decide whether he/she can squeeze a few extra euros out of you for second home tax or other laws that you probably won't know about until you receive the bill, now that the 'taxe d'habitation' is no more.

To comply, visit your own on-line tax account at Impôts Gouv, in the section 'Biens immobiliers'. Correct any info that is wrong by clicking on 'Nouvelle situation' or just click on 'Aucun Changement' if all info is correct. Newly bought or sold properties may not show up yet.



LEGAL AID

Hopefully, you'll never need it, but there is a legal aid (Aide Juridictionnelle) system in place for all European residents of France as long as you can prove that you earn less than 1393 Euros per month.

To download the appropriate form to check if you are eligible, visit www.formulaires.modernisation.gouv.fr and search for Cerfa 12467 01 "Demande d'Aide Juridictionnelle" which you can fill in yourself or with a lawyer. The usual documents are required to accompany the form - passport, proof of residence etc as well as your last tax declaration if you have one.



FLYING TO OR FROM TOULOUSE AIRPORT?

If you get the aerobus from the station or back & pay on bus you must have 2 bank cards if there are 2 people travelling. Only 1 ticket can be issued per card otherwise you need to go to counter to purchase tickets.



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P-O PUZZLE

ACROSS

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- 7- GIRART
- 10-CASAL
- 12- SÈGRE
- 13-TWELVE
- 14-CALÇOTADA
- 15- LADDER
- 17- SENYERA
- 18- EVOL

DOWN

- 1- BUNYETE
- 2- TROUILLAS
- 4- PETERSEN
- 5- CAUDIÈSDECONFLENT
- 6- MAQUISARD
- 8- FRELON
- 9- AIGUAT
- 10- CORREFOCS
- 11- VIVIER
- 13- TAUTAVEL
- 16- INFOX

ANSWERS P-O LIFE 76



LANGUAGE EXERCISES ANSWERS

TEST your FRENCH

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

RECEIVED A CARTE VITALE TEXTO?

IGNORE, IGNORE, IGNORE!

It's those naughty scammers trying to get their hands on your dosh.

YOUR CARTE VITALE DOES NOT HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE

A typical baddy texto goes like this.....

Assurance maladie: Votre Carte Vitale arrive à expiration, veuillez remplir le formulaire de renouvellement sous 24h via: vitalessms.com

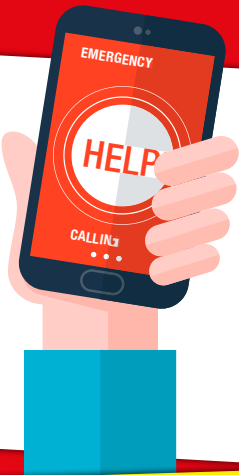


AMÉLIOREZ your ANGLAIS

- 1 1f 2j 3h 4c 5g 6a 7e 8d 9b 10i
- 2 1g 2j 3i 4a 5d 6h 7e 8f 9c 10b
- 3 1 information 2 talent 3 advice 4 equipment 5 trousers/boxers 6 people 7 traffic
- 4 1j 2f 3b 4a 5g 6d 7h 8i 9c 10e



EMERGENCY numbers



15 SAMU
(medical emergency)

112 European
emergency line

17 POLICE
emergency

114 Emergency number
for the deaf and hard
of hearing by SMS

18 Fire service
emergency

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.

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Emergency vet	04 68 83 35 85
Perpignan Hospital	04 68 61 66 33
CPAM (English spk serv)	09 74 75 36 46
Cancer Support France	04 68 69 01 37
MDPH (Departmental House of Disabled People)	04 68 39 99 00

Directory enquiries	118 008
International Mastercard	08 00 90 13 87
Local weather forecast	08 99 71 02 66
Electrical emergency	09 72 67 50 66
Gas emergency	08 00 47 33 33

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,
l'eau du bébé arrive, la poche
des eaux a percé.**

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