

### A stone's throw away (walk, cycle, short car drive)

**La Vallée des Singes - the Monkey Park** - is 400 m away and is a must for adults and children alike. The park runs breeding and protection programmes for a range of endangered species, and the monkeys and apes are fantastic entertainment. There is also a petting zoo, children's play areas, picnic tables and cafes.  
<http://www.la-vallee-des-singes.fr/>

**Le Vieux Cormenier** is a charming interactive museum showing traditional life in rural France through animations and the eyes of a young French boy, Pierre (English headphones available) <http://www.lecormenier.com/>

**La labyrinthe vegetal – The Green Maze** – is a labyrinth created from sweetcorn (maize)! For visitors to literally 'lose themselves' in. There is also a go-kart track and refreshments kiosk. <http://www.tourisme-vienne.com/en/activite/284/labyrinthe-vegetal>

**La Parc de la Belle – The Belle Floral Garden** – is a park filled with flowers and set in 10 hectares of beautiful valleys on the banks of the river Belle.

**Chateau d'Epanvilliers – The castle of Epanvilliers** – an excellent example of an elegant yet rural castle from the time of the Sun King, Louis X1Vth

**La ferme des autruches – the Ostrich Farm** – spend some time with 150 ostriches and find out about the range of farm products created from these huge birds.  
[http://www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com/en/poitou-charentes/ferme-la-ferme-des-autruches-64706/contact\\_plan\\_acces](http://www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com/en/poitou-charentes/ferme-la-ferme-des-autruches-64706/contact_plan_acces)

**Abbaye Saint Sauveur de Charroux.** This stunning Benedictine abbey with its famous octagonal tower known as Charlemagne's tower is classified among the major historical Poitevin sites of the Middle Ages. Also worth visiting: the 16th century market hall (market Thursdays) and ancient houses. <http://www.monuments-nationaux.fr/>

**Civray, local market town** (market: Tuesdays (main) and Fridays) with distinctive XIIth century Romanesque church, paths along the River Charente and brand new (2015) pool complex (indoor and outdoor pools, sauna and steam room) <http://www.civraisien.fr/Eglise-St-Nicolas-de-Civray>

**Couhé, a small local market town** with the remains of a Cistercian abbey (Abbaye de Valence), ancient market building (Les Halles – small farmers market 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs and Sat) and beginning of one of the marked walking/cycling/riding routes for the Pays Civraisien (see walking section)

### Local Markets

Local markets including our very own 'on the doorstep' Mardi Marché located at the local goat farm and signposted from La Vallée des Singes – every Tuesday in July and August, 17.00 – 19.30.

<http://www.tourisme-vienne.com/fr/evenement/21679/romagne/marche-a-la-ferme>

Local markets (distances from La Roseaie):

- Chaunay: Monday (14km)

- *Civray: Tuesday & Friday (14km)*
- *Lezay: Tuesday (30km)*
- *Ruffec: Wednesday & Saturday (30km)*
- *Gencay: 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Thursday of the month*
- *Vivonne: Saturday (23km)*
- *Romagne: first Sunday of the month (2 km)*

Chauvigny (50 minutes) The Saturday market is one of the biggest in the Vienne

Rouillac (70 mins) 27<sup>th</sup> of each month – incredible market/fair – livestock, tractors, cars, fabric, machinery, furniture, food, wine tasting, cognac and pineau served from *chais*, braziers cooking moules et frites, cheeses, musicians, 8.30 am – 17.00 – this tradition goes back centuries

### River and lake swimming, water activities, seaside

Les Trois Fontaines Nature Park - Champagné-Saint-Hilaire (15 minutes) – woods, lakes, paddle boats, miniature golf, picnic and BBQ areas

St Macoux (25 minutes) the Marais outdoor recreation centre along the banks of the River Charante with water slide, supervised swimming, picnic and sunbathing areas, snack bar and cafe, fishing and children's play area, July - September

Vaux en Couhé (15 minutes) – river paddling and picnic area, fishing  
<http://www.tourisme-vienne.com/en/activite/352/plan-d-eau>

Gencay (25 minutes) Aire de Loisirs, lake swimming, fishing, walking paths and picnic areas. Also remains of chateau and large market

Payré, (25 minutes) Les Iles outdoor recreation centre – lakes and canals for boating, miniature golf, playground, go-carts, angling, relaxation areas.

Vivonne (30 minutes) watersports centre, swimming pools, leisure areas, park canoing, cinema (<http://kayak.vivonne.pagesperso-orange.fr/>)

Lusignan (35 minutes) fishing, canoeing, swimming and recreation on the banks of the River Vonne <http://www.tourisme-vienne.com/en/activite/183/base-de-loisirs-de-vauchiron>

Saint Martin L'Ars (35 minutes) outdoor recreation area, supervised swimming, fishing, restaurant, picnic areas and sports

The Pépinière Aquatic Centre – Buxerolles (55 minutes) – pools, water slides, wave pool, turkish baths, saunas, keep-fit, relaxation areas, bar  
<http://www.tourisme-vienne.com/en/activite/508/centre-aquatique-de-la-pepiniere>

Moussac-sur-Vienne (55 minutes), Canoe-kayak centre  
<http://www.tourisme-vienne.com/en/activite/414/base-de-canoe-kayak>

Parc de Saint-Cyr (1 hour) – lake swimming and water sports, golf, restaurant and snack bars, bird reserve, fishing, picnic areas [www.parcdesaintcyr.com](http://www.parcdesaintcyr.com)

La Roche Posay thermal spa town and resort (1 hour 20 minutes)

<http://www.spasourcelarocheposay.fr/>

### Days out at the seaside

2 hours by car to: La Rochelle and its surrounding islands (Ile de Re, Île d'Oléron). Also fantastic beaches at Royan and St Palais-sur-mer

### Towns and cities

Poitiers (40 minutes) is a designated city of art and history with stunning medieval churches and architecture, great shopping and restaurants, a daily market (the largest is Saturday morning - 100 stalls) and of course Futuroscope (see theme parks)

<http://uk.poitiers-tourism.com/>

Angoulême (1 hour) - strip-cartoon centre of the world, medieval ramparted town, beautiful cafes and galleries, river cruises to Cognac, vintage car racing in September, daily food market in Place des Halles, 7.30 – 12.30

Chavigny (50 mins), ancient town, cobbled streets and old buildings. Chateau des Aigles and Geants du Ciel, a breathtaking open air show of falconry in the grounds of the castle <http://www.geantsduciel.com/>. Market on Tues, Thurs (food only). The Saturday market is one of the biggest in the Vienne, Also canoe club <http://chauvigny.wix.com/cvck>

Confolens – 45 mins – beautiful medieval town with famous bridges, lovely picnic and play areas along the rivers Vienne and Goire, international music and dance festival in mid-August (<http://www.festivaldeconfolens.com/>). Wed and Sat morns – amazing market and also fair on 12<sup>th</sup> of every month

Saintes (1 hour 40 mins near Royan – by sea), Roman capital of Aquitaine, Roman remains, city of culture, cathedral, excellent shopping, market Tues-Sun in Les Halles

Parthenay (1 hour 20), Picturesque medieval fortified town Wed market has livestock

### Museums and History

Oradour-sur-Glane (1 hour 15 minutes), the village where over 600 inhabitants were brutally killed by the retreating Nazi army in a single afternoon – nothing has been changed since that day and it is France's most poignant memorial of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war.

<http://www.oradour.info/>

Roc aux Sorciers (1 hour 15 minutes) – prehistoric cave paintings from 15000 years ago located in Angles-sur-l'Anglin, one of "the prettiest villages of France". English tours available by advance booking. <http://www.roc-aux-sorciers.com/> Also Sat and Sun bustling market. Canoeing – <http://www.canoecolo.fr/>

Musée du Macaron, Montmorillon (1 hour), The macaroon museum dedicated to telling the story of this world-famous almond biscuit through the interactive media of sight, sound, taste and smell. Montmorillon is also known as La Cité de l'Écrit, a book lover's paradise.

Chateau-Larcher (30 minutes), charming village dominated by its medieval chateau and church. Various historical events including a medieval fair in September.

Musee du Vitrail, Curzay sur Vonne (50 minutes) – The stained glass museum

Abbaye de Saint-Savin sur-Gartempe (1 hour) a world heritage site and one of the most remarkable examples of Romanesque art in the Poitou-Charente area

<http://www.abbaye-saint-savin.fr/>

### **Theme parks and animal parks**

Futuroscope (40 minutes, also bus from La Vallée des Singes) – the Vienne's biggest tourist attraction and the only one of its kind in Europe, this is a moving image-themed amusement park with 4D giant films, interactive visits, rides, parades, stunning evening show and more.

Defi Planet (45 minutes) – a theme park celebrating the earth with villages and animals from around the world, magical forests and a series of challenges.

La planete des Crocodiles (45 minutes) – be transported to a tropical world of live crocodiles and turtles all housed under a huge greenhouse. <http://www.planete-crocodiles.com/>

L'ile aux Serpents – Snake world (1 hour 10 minutes) <http://www.ileauxserpents.com/>

Puy de Fou (2 hours) - a magnificent historically themed park which is one of France's top family attractions and deservedly so.

### **Walking, cycling, horse riding and sports**

[www.randonnees-vienne.com](http://www.randonnees-vienne.com) For information on walking, cycling, horse riding and canoeing in the Vienne.

Randonnees du Pays Civraisien are a series of marked walking-cycling-riding routes – (we have copies of these maps and more information)

<http://www.payscivraisien.fr/offre-touristique/randonnees>

We can advise on walking and cycling routes from our doorstep.

We also have a selection of bikes which you are welcome to borrow (please bring safety equipment such as helmets), an indoor area where you can store and fix bikes, and we have an arrangement with a local cycle hire company if you wish to hire bikes for the duration of your stay with us.

Horse riding at Villenon (25 minutes). Prices start at 15 euros for an hour's ride.

Velo-Rail – cycle in a unique vehicle which takes up to 5 people on a 17 km rail line in the area around the medieval town of Chauvigny

Fun forest, close to Poitiers (45 minutes) – adventures for all the family high up in the forest [www.funforest.fr](http://www.funforest.fr)

Marais Poitevin (1 hour 20 minutes), also known as 'the green Venice' – a series of canals and marshland area in the Vendee (en route to La Rochelle) where it is possible to hire bikes or boats to explore the area; activities such as fishing and painting are also available