

# ARCACHON BAY

*A world apart*



# HERE THE SEA STARTS... HERE THE SEASON DOESN'T MATTER:

JUST AS THE TIDE BRINGS NEW LIFE, TIME TRANSFORMS AND RENEWS  
THE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES  
OF THE ARCACHON BAY.



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# OUR MUST-SEES



*Dune of Pilat*  
LA TESTE DE BUCH

Climb the Dune from the reception area to fully and safely enjoy the experience while preserving the environment. At the top of the dune, a unique view over the Banc d'Arguin National Nature Reserve and the peninsula of Cap Ferret awaits you.



*The Stilt Huts*  
BIRD ISLAND  
LA TESTE DE BUCH

Rebuilt identically to the original huts from 1883, the one with the red shutters was recently inaugurated in June 2024! Unique in France, the two Cabanes Tchanquées watch over the waters of the Bay. Take a boat trip or sea kayak to see them up close.



*The Peninsula*  
CAP FERRET

With the smell of the native pine trees, vastness of the ocean and views from the Lighthouse, the magic of the Bay is alive at the Peninsula of Cap Ferret! Leave the car and travel on foot, by bike or... by miniature train. Children love it.



*Oyster Farming*  
PORTS AND VILLAGES

There are so many authentic places to visit and meet the Bay's passionate fishermen and oyster farmers. It's a real invitation to taste oysters with your feet in the water! No trip is complete without a stop at the museum – head to the Maison de l'Huître (The Oyster House) in Gujan-Mestras.



*The Ornithological Reserve*  
LE TEICH

Walk between the reeds, marshes and meadows to discover the migratory and resident birds that rest there. Each day is unique – the species present vary according to the months and tide times.



*The Winter Town*  
ARCACHON

Stroll through and take in the architectural details of the 19th century homes, characteristic of the town's history and often hidden by the flourishing flora.

*Come and open yourself up  
to discover a world apart.*



**Enjoy**  
*the peace  
of the woods*

# January

*the month of reflection  
(and not resolutions!)*



## New year, new look

*After the holidays, it's time  
for the winter sales !*

Whether in the boutiques of Arcachon and Andernos, or the decor shops dotting the Peninsula, let yourself be tempted by unique pieces that will transform you and your home!



## Get started without making waves

Let's go aqua walking - a wellness session at sea and in the open air! Each step allows you to be massaged naturally by the sea.



## Watch the wild geese fly by

In the early morning mists, set off in authentic sea kayaks inspired by traditional Inuit craft to catch a glimpse of the Brant geese! They come all the way from Siberia to spend the winter on the Bay - their favourite haven.

## Even under the clouds...

Activities that will make you forget the bad weather.



*Cozy  
accommodation*  
**TO LOOK AFTER  
YOURSELF**

# Love and mimosas in February



## Unleash your inner adventurer

Grab your friends to go geocaching in search of mysterious locals who know Arès, Biganos, Andernos, Gujan-Mestras, Le Teich, Mios and La Teste de Buch like the back of their hand. Check out the epic treasure hunt by *Tèrra Aventura!*

## We celebrate World Wetlands Day

Revel with around 50 events throughout the month to honour the natural treasures of the Bay.

## Peaceful walks a moment out of time

Head to the salt meadows, former evaporation ponds or fish farming ponds, for an idyllic stroll in search of migratory birds in the Certes and Graveyron Estate or salt meadows of La Teste de Buch and Arès-Lège.





## From the trails to the beach

The forests of the Bay are the perfect playground to try out a «Fat Bike». Thanks to its wide tires and electric assistance, this bike pushes the limits of traditional mountain biking, seamlessly taking you from sandy beaches to forest trails.



## Butter, sugar, and chocolate

After a lovely walk in the fresh sea air, scented with the delightful aroma of pine trees, it's time to indulge in the ultimate Candlemas classic: the crêpe!



## The beautiful Byzantine

Step inside the charming Church of Our Lady of the Passes in Moulleau, which dates back to 1863, and discover the statue of “The Virgin of Advent” - one of the rare depictions of the pregnant Virgin Mary.

## The (Michelin) stars of the Bay

Indulge in a Michelin star gastronomic experience:

**Le Skiff Club\*\* at the 5-star Ha(a)ïtza Hotel**  
with Chef Stéphane Carrade

**Le Patio\*** with Chef Thierry Renou

**Nacre \*** with Chefs Adeline Lesage  
and Marc-Antoine Lepage



Find  
ALL RESTAURANTS ON  
THE « BASSIN D'ARCACHON » APP  
(available on the App Store & Google Play)

*From the North to the South of the Bay, extraordinary culinary talents are everywhere.*



### *The artists' haven*

Immerse yourself in local art by visiting The Blue Cabin (*Cabane Bleue aux Artistes*) on the port of Audenge or the Arts Cabin (*Cabane des Arts*) in Lanton. Here, painters, sculptors and craftsmen exhibit their creations throughout the year. A vibrant tribute to the art of the Bay – 100% local!

THE ARTISTS' BLUE  
CABIN IN AUDENGE

# March

*and off you go!*



## Robes, tannins and exquisite pairings

Did you know that the Arcachon Bay was formerly surrounded by vineyards, from La Teste de Buch to Arès? The tawny sand terrain was ideal for producing Clairet wine! Whether it's a wine workshop or a special encounter with our wine experts, anything is possible.



## Travel back in time

The strategic position of the Arcachon Bay led to the construction of numerous bunkers by the German army. Explore them on land (in La Teste de Buch, Arcachon, Lège-Cap Ferret, Gujan-Mestras) or dive into the submerged bunkers near the Dune of Pilat – a unique 6-hectare site of concrete reefs now bursting with rich marine life.



## Live through the rhythm of the tides

Step into the boots of a fisherman or an oyster farmer for the duration of a tide. →

## En route to the Kids Festival *Bazar des Mômes*



*List of*  
AUTHORISED  
FISHERMEN AND  
OYSTER FARMERS

# Smile, it's April

## *The Dance of the bees*

From flower to hive, dive into the secrets of honey with a passionate beekeeper in Mios or Marcheprime. A sweet up close and personal experience with the bees awaits!

## *Walk to the beat of the wings*

Take a stroll with your family through the «Green Gold» of the Arcachon Bay, the protected natural areas where wild birds can be observed within binocular range, without disturbing them during nesting or migration periods.

## *Shed your winter coat*

What better way to pamper yourself from head to toe than with beauty products smelling of the Bay!

## *Get on your high horse*

Grab your friends or family and explore the beautiful Bay on horseback! The riding schools will take you all the way to the beach and the forest.

## *It's time for the mane event*

Grace and power come together before your eyes at the racetrack in La Teste de Buch. With your binoculars in hand, you've already spotted your favourite. Meet the trainers and jockeys up close thanks to the guided tours.

## *Shell you indulge?*

For Easter, our pastry chefs and chocolatiers put their spin on the Bay's treasures: chocolate seashells! Come taste the delicious creations from our local artisans!

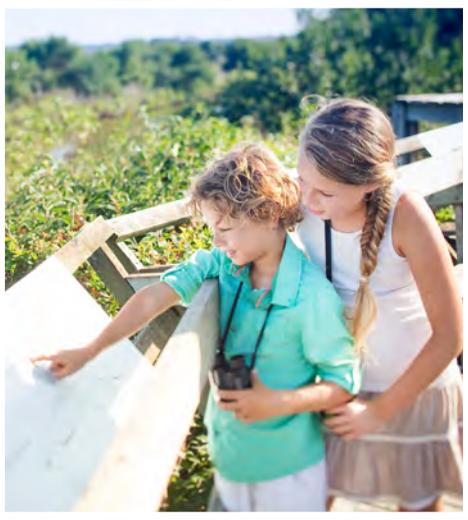


## **Arcachon Boat Show**

*10 years strong!*



Raymond



### Swap your car for a bicycle

Take advantage of the vast network of cycling routes —over 320 km! For the trip back, take your bike on the boat and cross the Arcachon Bay by sea shuttle.

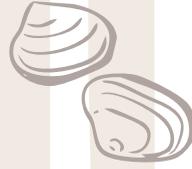




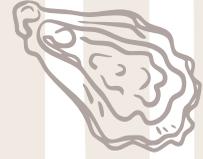
CAVIAR



CEPS



CLAMS



OYSTERS



HONEY



DUNES BLANCHES



ARBUTUS FRUIT



ABATILLES AND  
SOURCE DES PINS  
MINERAL WATER



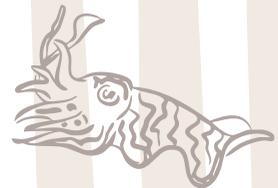
BEER



SEA ASPARAGUS



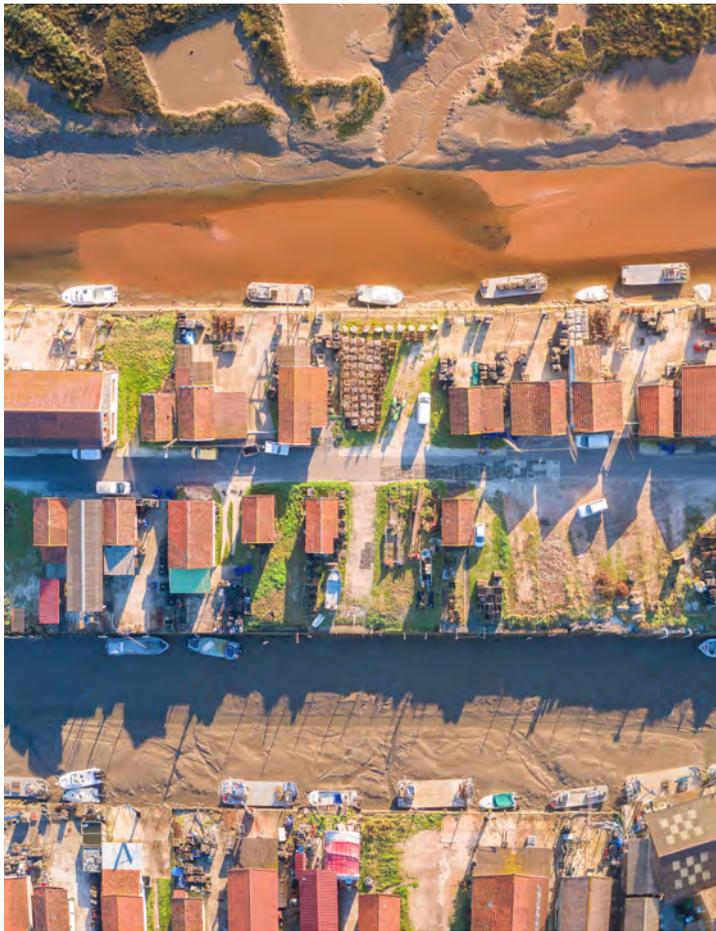
SOLE FISH



CUTTLEFISH

# LOCAL FLAVOURS

Taste our region's flavours from land and sea with lavish and authentic products made even better with the passion our producers put into their craft.



**30 ports and oyster villages:**  
*The pearls of the Bay*



**Entreprises du Patrimoine Vivant**  
 (EPV label, recognition of excellence):

- Caviar sturgeon farm in Le Teich
- Dubourdiou Shipyard in Gujan-Mestras
- Raba Shipyard in La Teste de Buch
- Bonnin Shipyard in La Teste de Buch

**6<sup>th</sup>**  
*natural marine park*

**80 km**  
*from the Cap Ferret tip  
 to the Dune of Pilat*

**320 km**  
*of cycling routes*

**2 million**  
*visitors per year  
 to the Dune of Pilat*

**18,000 ha**  
*surface area of water  
 at high tide*

**140,000**  
*residents living across  
 12 municipalities*

**13**  
*sites acquired by the  
 Conservatoire du littoral  
 (member of the World  
 Conservation Union)*

**850 km<sup>2</sup>**  
*of forest*

**76 km**  
*of beaches including 40 km  
 of ocean beaches*

**7,000 tonnes**  
*of oysters produced per year*

**56 km<sup>2</sup>**  
*Size of Cazaux Lake  
 - the 2nd largest body  
 of water in France*

# In



## *En route to Saint-James*

A circuit guides you to the different stages of the coastal route to Santiago de Compostela: the forest track, the port of Biganos (so colourful!), the Port des Tuiles, the port of Audenge...



## *The backdrop for your memories*

Surrounded by the pine trees, enjoy fun activities for old and young. From the amusement parks in Gujan-Mestras, Mios, and Lège-Cap Ferret, to the zoo in La Teste de Buch – there is something for everyone!



## *Between river and forest*

Start your day by discovering the unique port of Biganos, nestled in the heart of the forest. Wander through the flower-lined alleys and admire the arraying colours of the cabins along the Leyre. Then, set off on a canoe ride along the river.



## *Namasté, Bay*

Connect your body, breath and mind in a yoga class on the beach. There's nothing like the sand under your feet and the sound of the waves for a mindfulness session to restore your balance, concentration and poise.

# May,

*Anything is possible!*

## Immersion in local life

The markets of the Bay bring the towns and villages to life all year round! If you're looking for:

*Fresh and new*

Check out **the market in the heart of Andernos**

*Eco-friendly*

with a **zero-waste goal**

**le P'tit Mercat in Le Teich**

*The largest*

**the market in La Teste de Buch**



*Schedule*  
FOR THE MARKETS  
IN THE BAY

**Find all the markets in our municipalities**  
– every day is market day!



## *Caviar,* our black pearl

At the Sturgeon Farm (*l'Esturgeonnière*) in Le Teich or the *Moulin de la Cassadotte* in Biganos, discover the expertise of our passionate farmers. Immerse yourself in the art of caviar maturing and flavour thanks to tours and culinary workshops.

## *The writers'* beach

Around thirty renowned authors invite you to meet them in Arcachon.

## *Time to* tee-off

For a relaxing sporting experience, nothing is more refreshing than a round of golf under the pine trees in Gujan-Mestras, La Teste de Buch, Lanton...



# June

*the crème de la crème,  
just before summer*



## *Rally your troops and make it happen*

Reimagine your next seminar!  
Choose the Bay to broaden  
horizons and spark new ideas.

- Easy access by train
- Seafront Palais des Congrès
- Unique team-building activities: shucking oysters in a flash, *pinasse* boat trophy challenge...



Alcohol abuse is dangerous for your health.

## *Aye, aye Captain*

Whether you are a novice or an expert, the sailing and nautical clubs of the Bay and the Cazaux Lake invite you to set sail. Choose your boat: optimist, catamaran, dinghy, or even a group boat – there is something for each and every sailor!



*Plan*  
YOUR NEXT  
SEMINAR

## *At the water's edge the true life*

Head to one of the many oyster huts to meet passionate farmers. Here, the joy of connection blends with the delight of tasting. Following our tradition, oysters from the Bay are best enjoyed with a glass of white wine, whelks, shrimp, and perhaps even a bit of pâté!



ON THE WATER,  
IN THE TREES,  
AT SUNSET,  
ON THE SAND,  
IN THE TOWN,  
EACH SHOW IS UNIQUE  
AND FULL OF SURPRISES!

*The last weekend  
before saying "I DO"*

# ARCACHON BAY

## AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 KM, *the ultimate « To Do List » !*

- ✓ Visit the dune... of **Pilat**
- ✓ See the **stilt houses** that are so dear to us
- ✓ Admire the charm of Moorish architecture at the **Algerian Chapel**
- ✓ Say goodbye to the Noosa sandbank and hello to **Pereire !**
- ✓ Embrace your wild side in **Saint-Brice-Les Quinconces**
- ✓ Keep your eyes peeled for birds dancing at the **Ornithological Reserve in Le Teich**
- ✓ Walk and kayak along the **Leyre River** – our own Amazon
- ✓ Paddle your way to adventure on a scenic **canoe ride**
- ✓ Take in the mansions inspired by Scotland and Louisiana in the **Winter Town**
- ✓ Stand tall with the lighthouses – **Phare de Nauset at 14 m and Phare du Cap Ferret at 57 m**
- ✓ Explore the **Forêt d'Exception®** -it's warmer than the Boreal Forest
- ✓ Find our heart (not the Voh one!) in **Le Truc Vert**
- ✓ Why go to Canada when you can experience Lake Cazaux right here
- ✓ Okay, so it's not Hawaiï, but surf's up on **the ocean beaches!**

*A world apart, so close to you...*



*Discover the new video*  
FROM ARCACHON BAY



# August

*summer in  
full swing*

## **Cheers to new flavours**

Cool down in the summer heat by discovering local craft beers. You can even take a tour of the breweries in La Teste de Buch.



Alcohol abuse is dangerous for your health.



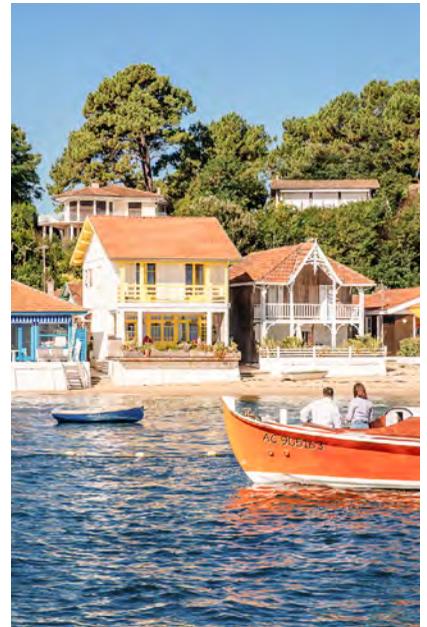
## **Where summer comes alive**

Have you heard of the Moulleau district in Arcachon?

Fashion and decor shops, art galleries, bars, and restaurants draw visitors from all over the Bay. Andernos is also a perfect spot for shopping, even in the evening – have a drink with a view of the horizon, or stroll along the pier with an ice cream in hand.

## **Sail off into the horizon**

Hop aboard traditional boats (pinasse, chaland, galupe, etc.) for a day-long adventure on the water or a few-hour cruise through the Leyre Delta.



*Scan*  
TO BOOK



## One Bay, many tunes

Whatever your musical taste (jazz, classical, pop...), you're sure to find something you love! Every year, music festivals return all around the Bay.

## A secret that can't be kept

The Arcachon Bay is home to many beaches, including some of the most secret ones: Triangle de Pereire in Arès, Jane de Boy in Lège-Cap Ferret, Quinconces in Andernos, Suzette in Lanton, and the Pointe de l'Aiguillon...



Don't miss  
THE BIGGEST  
SUMMER EVENTS

## Time to celebrate! South-Western style

All summer long, the sea and oyster festivals follow one after the other! Each one has its own character, atmosphere and entertainment. Celebrate nature and rural charm in true South-Western style – whether you're dancing to the sound of live music or gazing at stunning fireworks.



TELL ME HOW  
YOU CAMP

*I'll tell you who you are*



# Take the test!

## What type of traveller are you?

### 1/ Who are you going with?

-  **With family:** Oysters by the water while the kids build sandcastles.
-  **Doesn't matter:** With your good vibes, you know you'll meet people along the way.
-  **With friends:** Like in the famous movie "Les Petits Mouchoirs" shot in Cap Ferret, you'll make unforgettable memories.

### 2/ Describe yourself in one word:

-  **Musing:** Where are we going again? I'm not into planning!
-  **Chill:** Life is about the beach and massages, no stress here.
-  **Motivated:** Ready to explore and learn at every moment, even on vacation!

### 3/ What is your travel mantra?

-  **Travelling is about growing.** Finding meaning while exploring.
-  **Being on vacation** is having nothing to do and all the time to do it.
-  **Capturing a moment** is giving yourself the chance to relive those emotions later (and of course you will tag @bassindarcachon)!

## Results

### If you picked mostly

#### **You're the Curious Traveller!**

*You love taking an interest in local culture, connecting with the locals, and travelling at a slower pace— we have something new for you!* →

### If you picked mostly

#### **You're the Relaxed Traveller!**

*Taking a few weeks to unwind after the stress of work life. Every month, find new ideas in this magazine or online!*

### If you picked mostly

#### **You're the Adventurous Traveller!**

*There are must-do experiences you definitely don't want to miss—discover them in this magazine or online!*

LOOKING TO GIVE YOUR VACATION MEANING?

*Do you want to get off the beaten path, live like a local, and turn your trip  
into an enriching adventure?*

Live the experience and leave  
*a positive mark*  
on the places you visit!



BASSIN-ARCACHON.COM

OPENS THE DOORS TO A COMMITTED  
ARCACHON BAY:

For the environment

Participate in actions that protect our unique part of the world.

*Join us!*

All it takes is a gift of your time to make meaningful connections, create a sense of purpose, and gain a deeper understanding of the Arcachon Bay.

*Surf's up!*  
**Catch the perfect wave**

In September, the swell starts rolling in—textbook waves for epic surf sessions. For those looking to try wakeboarding, head to Lakecity in Mios for an unforgettable ride!



# September

*back to school?  
or making summer last...*

## Cadences Festival

Cultural comeback ahead! Let yourself be surprised by dance performances on Arcachon Beach and all around the Bay.

## All hands on deck

Go back to the basics for a DIY weekend and immerse yourself in traditional crafts – could there be a better way to break the daily grind of work, commute, repeat?

## Sit and savour, wherever you are

For your land or sea adventures, treat yourself by picking up a gourmet basket or a platter of Arcachon Cap Ferret oysters, and enjoy it on the deck of a boat with a view of the *Cabanes Tchanquées* (the stilt huts) or on the sand.



*Awaken*  
THE ARTIST OR CHEF  
IN YOU!



Alcohol abuse is dangerous for your health.

## Along the Leyre River

September weather means enjoying the extended summer in Le Teich, Biganos, or Mios with a canoe ride on the Leyre. Stop by a pristine beach to enjoy a picnic, all while respecting this delicate environment, home to remarkable wildlife and flora.



## On the beach, just like in the mountains

Grab your walking poles and embark on an energising hike with a coach! From wild beaches and natural sites to the charming streets of oyster villages, every step is an opportunity to stay active while discovering the treasures of the Bay.



## From hook to plate

In September, we catch *cassérons* (young cuttlefish) and cook them fresh, straight from the fish market - with peppers, garlic, a squeeze of lemon, chorizo, or a dash of Espelette pepper.



# October

*fully prepared  
and never short of ideas*

## **Gone with the wind**

Autumn is in full swing, and the warm tones colouring the Bay shores make one thing clear: it's time to hit the water! If you are lucky, you may spot... a *loup* - a traditional Arcachon boat.

## **The show must go on**

Theatre, comedy, music, dance... The towns around the Bay put together amazing programs for you to enjoy.



*Discover*  
OUR THEATRES

## **Land of horizons**

Put on a comfy pair of shoes and follow a guide on a walk through the National Reserve of the Salt Meadows or the Certes and Graveyron Estate in Lanton and Audenge. A beautiful 7 km route connects the 7 ports of Gujan-Mestras, between the Bay and the salt marshes.

## **Harvest time**

Autumn rains on warm ground make mushrooms grow.

To know where to look, recognise what is edible, and learn the best picking techniques, join a nature guide (in Arès, Le Teich, Gujan-Mestras...).



## **Wheels and thrills**

The skateparks of La Teste de Buch, Andernos, and Gujan-Mestras nestled under the pine trees, or the one at Pereire Beach in Arcachon, are perfect spots to roll and experience the Indian summer the Californian way. Head to Mios or Audenge for a family-friendly ride at the pump track.



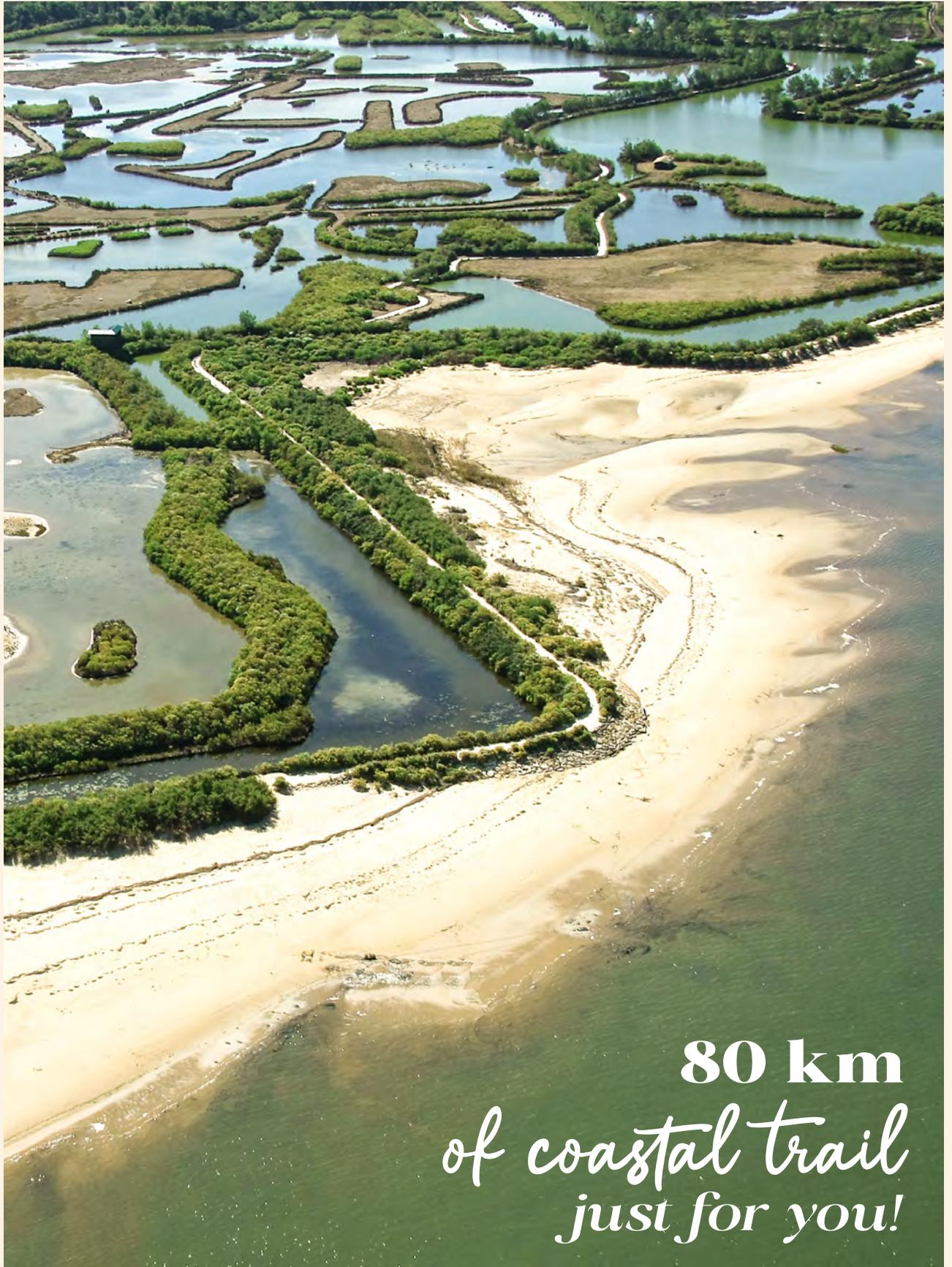
*The best spots  
for a dreamy view*

**La Pointe aux Chevaux**  
Tropical exotic vibes

**The Sainte Cécile Observatory**  
Built in 1863 by Paul Régnauld, with  
assistance from a certain Gustave  
Eiffel (sound familiar?)

**The Corniche Stairs**  
The iconic Cap Ferret Point  
on full display





**80 km**  
*of coastal trail*  
*just for you!*

# November

*cool breezes  
& warm pleasures*



## Rub shoulders with the stars

At the theatre festival  
«Les Scènes d'Olivier Marchal»  
in La Teste de Buch.

## Pull out all the stops

Invite a private chef to your home and enjoy a personalised dining experience like no other.

Let them treat the family to a menu full of flavours. It may be autumn, but inside the atmosphere quickly warms up!



## Learn about the pearl of the Bay

Head to the Maison de l'Huître, the oyster museum located at the port of Larros. Free the pearl of the Bay in the escape games on Tuesday and Friday nights!



**STAY IN ACCOMMODATION**

*rich in history*



# December

*A wave of presents  
mittens optional*

## *The best gift*

It's not under the tree! It's with your family at home, lovingly decorated by all who come together.



## *Cabanes en fête*

This is THE festive and gourmet winter event not to be missed in Andernos.



## *Catch the wind*

Even outside of peak season, you can practice kitesurfing. Just check the tide times and wind direction, then pick one of the many local spots.



## *Mulled wine, carousels and ice rinks*

It's a bit of a tradition during the holiday season to head to the beautiful seaside and oyster ports for a stroll among the salty sea air.

*Why not have a carousel ride... or two? The kids will brighten up! Then it's off to warm up with a delicious waffle – our little ritual at the Christmas markets!*





Come see how  
*the Winter Town*  
lives up to its name



The Arcachon  
Bay is here!

  
**BASSIN**  
D'ARCACHON  
a world apart

*Adventures await...*  
**more than 320 km  
of cycling routes!**

[BASSIN-ARCACHON.COM/BASSIN-A-VELO](https://BASSIN-ARCACHON.COM/BASSIN-A-VELO)

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