

Press release
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This summer, enjoy a French Grand Site Experience !

GRAND SITE



This year for the summer holidays, the Grands Sites de France Network invites visitors to "live and feel" through unique experiences the finest French territories and landscapes that make up the Grand Sites de France.

The theme of this summer season reflects the aims of the [tourism framework document of the Grand Sites de France](#), published in June by the Network. Emblematic places with an extremely high profile and an outstanding attraction, the focus of the Grand Sites de France is primarily to keep the spirit of each particular place alive, whilst at the same time respecting the principles of sustainable development. They promote responsible tourism based on the discovery of the landscape and an intimate experience of the place.

That's why this summer, during the day or at night, by boat or by electric bike, with music or simply the sound of the waves, children and adults can take the time to discover these exceptional and fragile sites and live unique experiences. Create plenty of cherished memories and **wake up your senses...**

LANGUEDOC ROUSSILLON



> Gard Camargue 
Discover the landscape

The Gard Carmargue Grand Site de France has had a new site house since the summer of 2014. This new public reception area is dedicated to the Carmargue landscapes. You will be invited to look at and understand the territory from a new angle, thanks to an exhibition charting the role of humankind in creating the landscapes of the Gard Camargue. www.camarguegardoise.com

> Cirque de Navacelles

Time to explore

On the back of a donkey or a horse, in daylight or in moonlight, explore the marked trails and discover the Cirque de Navacelles at your leisure. You will be amazed by the beautiful scenery and the combination of minerals and vegetation in these wild and protected spaces. www.causseetlamas.com / www.cavalquinta.fr / www.cirquenavacelles.fr



> Gorges du Gardon

Upside down heritage

Brainstorm to solve a challenge: the local heritage just suffered an "earthquake". Work with a tour leader to see history replaced in the correct order by discovering the remains of human occupation still present in the vallon de l'Ermitage and through brief mimes and details of clothing from each time period. www.gorgesdugardon.fr

> Massif du Canigó



Get around easily

To discover the mining heritage of Batère to Rapaloum, you need to pedal, but thanks to electric mountain bikes this is an easy task. At an altitude of 1470 m in the Haut-Vallespir, the refuge of Batère is a day's walk from the Canigó peak. Formerly housing for miners, it is still steeped in history and surrounded by the remains of the old iron ore mines. www.gite-refuge-batere.com / www.canigo-grandsite.fr



> Saint-Guilhem-le-Desert- Gorges de l'Hérault

Pottery and an initiation of the senses

In the potters village of St Jean de Fos, enjoy a lively and interactive experience in an authentic nineteenth century workshop. This summer's introductory workshops in pottery for adults and children enable you to feel the clay in your fingers, understand pastes, do some modelling and to learn the basics of throwing a pot. www.argileum.fr / www.saintguilhem-valleherault.fr



BRITANNY



> Cape Erquy-Cap Frehel

The wonders of the sea

Discover all kinds of algae in the company of an expert, then come back to the kitchen with your harvest for preparation and tasting. Tips, tricks and ideas are all on the program!

A mussel farmer's life

In the time of one tide, learn a profession unlike any other: mussel farming. Surrounded by mussels and aboard an amphibious boat, discover mussel culture and observe the tasks of a professional. Back at the workshop, a visit to the sorting lines and a tasting await you.

www.grandsite-capserquyfrehel.com

AQUITAINE

> The Dune of Pilat

New perspectives in a different light

Between ocean and forest, the Dune of Pilat is a natural monument in motion. At dusk, watch a magical and ephemeral show where colours change from moment to moment in the company of a guide.

www.ladunedupilat.com.



AUVERGNE



> Puy de Dôme



Starry, starry nights

On the program for these clear and starry nights: a gourmet walk at dusk combining discovery of the countryside and local produce, a story telling during a moonlit stroll in a volcanic landscape, the sacred dimension and the mythical events of the Puy de Dôme site, and an evening's stargazing. What better way to spend one's evening than with your head in the clouds ...

www.puydedome.fr

> Puy Mary – Cantal volcano



A little volcanic music

Whistle, lithophone or phonolith? Create a musical instrument from volcanic stones and plants and shape a magic musical stone that rings out sound and rhythm to your steps on the summits of the Cantal volcano.

www.puymary.fr



POITOU-CHARENTES AND THE PAYS DE LA LOIRE



> Marais Poitevin



Storytelling walk along water

Go on a night walk in the swamp, following a trail marked by the magical glow of candlelight and led by four talented regional storytellers.



The small world of the night

A playful and sensory journey for young and old to observe wildlife awaking at nightfall. In the arboretum, hedgehogs, owls, bats and birds of prey put on a detailed show that will capture everyone's attention. Observing and listening, stories and anecdotes, an orienteering game to the light of flares: all the senses are stirred in this gentle natural environment.

www.parc-marais-poitevin.fr

RHONE ALPES



> Aven d'Orgnac



Theatre under the stars

This Grand Site de France, located between the Ardèche gorges and the Cèze valley, invites the Athome Company to play Molière's "Tartuffe", not in the cave, but in the terraced gardens. A different way to enjoy the Grand Site under the stars...

www.orgnac-theatre.com / www.orgnac.com

> Ardeche Gorges

Stories of the gorges

At Vallon d'Arc, at the entrance of the National Nature Reserve, set off on a walk at dusk to discover local history, the use of local plants and the formation of the gorges.



Wildlife awaits you

Go on an evening hike to discover the lower valley of the Ardèche and to observe birds (herons, egrets, kingfishers...) and maybe even some beavers. After the meal, the bats begin their dusk ball.
www.gorgesdelardeche.fr

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTES D'AZUR



> Domaine du Rayol

Feet in the water

Step into the water and discover the treasures of the beach and the Mediterranean coast. On the program: a five senses game to soak up the atmosphere of the place, a marine treasure hunt to learn about the foreshore and the seagrass meadows as well as the survival strategies of seafront plants.

Surprising encounters on the marine trail

Safely discover the underwater flora and fauna of the Baie du Figuier. Starting from the beach with mask, fins and snorkel, be amazed by the richness of the seabed. You may come across oysters, rainbow wrasse, starfish, anemones, octopus... www.domainedurayol.org

About the Grand Sites de France Network:

The Grand Sites de France Network provides national recognition for some of our most emblematic heritage sites that have been awarded, or are in the process of applying for, the Grand Site de France label by the Ministry of Sustainable Development. Its tasks and duties are based on the principles of sustainable development: to offer restored and preserved landscapes to visitors, to promote responsible tourism and generate positive benefits for the territories.

www.grandsitedefrance.com

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