

# Camping les Bords de Vienne



Recommended by  
Sally Treganowan



Site entrance



Pitches overlooking the river

A tiny paradise of a campsite is hidden off the normal tourist route in the Loire Valley at L'île Bouchard, straddling the banks of the beautiful River Vienne.

This three-star site used to be run by the commune but has now been taken over by Monsieur and Madame Coureau, an extremely friendly and helpful couple who keep it immaculately. The emplacements are unusually large, some have trees for shade and, also very unusually, the river is not fenced off allowing direct access for swimming, sunbathing or walking/cycling along the riverbank.

The toilet/shower block is large and clean, the wash-basins are in lockable cubicles and there is use of a washing machine. On site, a small café makes a useful addition. Free Wi-Fi access is an added bonus. The adjoining field is sometimes used for hot air balloon lift-offs, which makes an interesting spectacle.

Within 100 yards of the campsite entrance is a large Hyper-U supermarket. Opposite, beside a little bar, is a superb independent *boulangerie*, which sells a fabulous selection of breads, tartlets, and gateaux that we found quite irresistible.

The actual town of L'île Bouchard straddles the wide river banks of the Vienne forming an island, which can be reached via two bridges. From the campsite, the first square is on the island where there are two restaurants – the Auberge de L'île, which has a pretty terrace to the rear overlooking the river, and the cheaper Auberge du Pavillion Bleu. Off the island to the south are two brasseries, a butcher, and another *boulangerie*. To the north, which comprises pretty cobbled streets, another bar can be found and a tabac/presse, which sells, amongst other things, English newspapers.

Good tourist attractions can be reached easily either by



Above from the top:  
Reception and café  
Shower block  
View from the site



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## AT A GLANCE

■ COUNTRY:	France
■ COUNTY/REGION:	Indre-et-Loire/Centre
■ LOCATION:	L'île Bouchard, 23 miles SW of Tours
■ LAT, LONG:	47°7'17"N, 0°25'42"E
■ NAME OF SITE:	Camping les Bords de Vienne
■ ADDRESS:	4B Allé du Camping, 37220 L'île Bouchard
■ TELEPHONE:	02 47 95 23 59
■ FAX:	02 47 98 45 29
■ E-MAIL:	info@campingbordsdevienne.com
■ WEB SITE:	www.campingbordsdevienne.com
■ OPEN:	March to November

■ Charges (2010): Motorcaravan + 2 adults, €11.50 to €16 (£10.95 to £15.25). Electricity (16A), €3.50 (£3.15).

■ Nearest public transport: Bus from site entrance.

■ Nearest pub/restaurant: In town.

■ Summary: An ideal site for a relaxing break and for discovering the Loire Valley.

■ Directions: From north or south, on N10 at Ste Maure-de-Touraine, or on A10 at junction 25, take D760 towards Chinon. At the entrance to L'île Bouchard, the campsite entrance is on the left immediately after the Hyper-U supermarket.

*Although every effort is made to ensure accuracy, readers are advised to check important details in advance with site owners/managers. Currency conversions (where given) are based on the tourist exchange rate at the time of writing and are subject to fluctuation.*

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bus (which stops outside the campsite on a regular basis) or by car, scooter, or bicycle. The famous chateaux towns of Chinon, Azay le Rideau, and Richeleau are all only about ten miles away, with Saumur and Tours a little further, the countryside all around being swathed in acres of vineyards offering wine tasting.

The highlight of our stay was to discover the Musée de Maurice Dufresne hidden away deep in the countryside near Azay le Rideau. Here lies a unique museum housing over three thousand old machines. It took us over three hours to wander around the one hundred rooms housing a collection of incredibly rare tractors, planes, gliders, looms, weapons, toys, locomotives, carriages, turbines, and a working water wheel. Even a mobile guillotine! Something for everyone. A gift shop and bar/restaurant are at one's disposal: alternatively, one can picnic in the park surrounded by even more tractors and trains, all awaiting restoration.

In summary, Camping les Bords de Vienne is one of the most quiet, relaxing and well-run campsites we have ever visited with plenty of attractions nearby should the mood take you. It is also one of the cheapest we have come across in the Loire Valley.