



**DREAM YACHT**  
WORLDWIDE

# Base Guide

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO ENJOY YOUR NEXT DREAM DESTINATION



THE ATLANTIC | LA ROCHELLE

## BASE ADDRESS

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La Rochelle Office

18 rue de la Trinquette Z.A Les Minimes

17000 La Rochelle, France

GPS POSITION: 46.148020, -1.160148

OPENING HOURS: 8am – 6pm

## BASE MAP

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## BASE CONTACTS

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If you need support while on your charter, contact the base immediately using the contact details in this guide. Please contact your booking agent for all requests prior to your charter.

### **BASE MANAGER & CUSTOMER SERVICE:**

Base Manager: Lorry Andre

Phone: +33 7 86 26 41 26

## BASE FACILITIES

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electricity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luggage storage             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restaurant                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toilets     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bar                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Showers     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supermarket / Grocery store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ATM                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pool          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post Office                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wi-Fi       |   |

## BASE INFORMATION

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### **LICENSE**

Sailing license required:  Yes  No (good sailing experience required)

### **PAYMENT**

The base can accept:  Visa  MasterCard  Amex  Cash

### **EMBARKATION TIME**

Embarkation is between 8am and 3pm.

### **YACHT BRIEFING**

The chart and technical briefing take approximately one hour. All briefings are conducted on the chartered yacht and will take 40-90 minutes, depending on yacht size and crew experience

The team will give a detailed walk-through of your yacht's technical equipment, information about safe and accurate navigation, including the yacht's navigational instruments, as well as



mooring, anchorage and itinerary help. The safety briefing introduces the safety equipment and your yacht's general inventory.

## **STOP OVERS**

The marina is free for stopovers during your charter. You must stay in the marina on your last night.

## **DISEMBARKATION TIME**

Disembarkation is at 8am.

Return to the base before 5pm on the last night of your charter.

The team will inspect your yacht's equipment and a general visual check of its interior and exterior. A diver will check its hull, keel, rudder(s) propeller(s) and /or bow thruster. General inspection will take approximately one hour.

## **BAGGAGE**

Please only take soft bags and not suitcases, as they would be too cumbersome onboard.

## **CAR PARK**

The parking at Port des Minimes, La Rochelle, has 900 places and is free, but not supervised. Contact the base if you want more information about secure parking.

## **BASE AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

- Base emergency telephone number: +33 6 23 13 52 48
- Marina emergency telephone number: +33 6 23 13 52 48
- Coastguard emergency telephone number: +33 5 46 45 41 87
- VHF marina channel: 09
- VHF emergency channel: 16



## HOW TO GET THERE?

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### ACCESS BY PLANE

Fly from the US to Paris or other European cities. You can get a connecting flight to the regional airport La Rochelle – Île de Ré Airport (LRH), which receives several direct flights a day from Paris, Portugal, the UK, Belgium and Switzerland. See the [airport website](#) for more information

### TRANSFERS FROM THE AIRPORT TO OUR BASE

If you need organized transfer from the airport, please contact our base manager. Major car rental companies operate from the airport, please refer to airport website for info, working hours and contacts. Taxis are regularly available in front of the airport buildings.

### ACCESS BY ROAD

- From Paris: Approximately 500 km and a 5-hour drive, via A10 by Orléans, Poitiers, Niort
- From Bordeaux: Approximately 200 km and a 2-hour drive, via A10
- From Nantes: Approximately 150 km and 2-hour drive, via A83

### ACCESS BY TRAIN

- From Paris: Up to 16 departures per day and just three hours by direct TGV Montparnasse - La Rochelle
- From Bordeaux: Several TER or Corail and 2 to 3 hours to La Rochelle
- From Nantes: Several trains Nantes - La Rochelle



## PROVISIONING & RECOMMENDATIONS

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### BASE PROVISIONING SERVICE

This base provides a provisioning service:  Yes  No

### LOCAL SUPERMARKET

Carrefour City  
33 Rue de la Scierie  
17000 La Rochelle

| Day               | Time        |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Monday - Saturday | 8.30am-8pm  |
| Sunday            | 9am-12.30pm |

Carrefour Market Aytre  
Rue Nicolas Gargot  
17440 Aytre

| Day               | Time        |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Monday - Saturday | 8.30am-8pm  |
| Sunday            | 9am-12.30pm |

Opening hours may differ during public holidays and are subject to change without notice.

### FUEL AND WATER

Fuel and water are conveniently located at the marina with 24 hour fuel self-service available.

### HOTEL SUGGESTIONS:

- [Hotel Mercure La Rochelle Vieux-Port Sud](#)
- [Ibis La Rochelle Centre Historique Hotel](#)
- [Novotel la Rochelle Centre Hotel](#)

### RESTAURANT SUGGESTIONS:

- [Le Restaurant Christopher Coutanceau](#)
- [Le P'tit Nicolas](#)
- [Bar André](#)

## AREA GUIDE

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### LOCAL AREA INTRODUCTION

Enjoy a memorable vacation sailing the Atlantic Ocean and Charente-Maritime's 280 miles of sandy coastline on France's southwest coast. This beautiful region of France boasts many sunshine hours and 100 idyllic beaches, making it popular with locals and visitors.

Discover La Rochelle, once one of the most important ports in France for merchants using trade routes to the east and west. The old port is flanked by two impressive towers, all that remains of the old ramparts. Climb to the top of the Tower of the Chaîne or Tour Saint Nicolas or enjoy tasting freshly prepared oysters.

You do not need a sailing license to sail here, but good sailing experience is recommended and preferred, or you can hire a skipper.

### TOP THINGS TO DO IN LA ROCHELLE:

1. Explore Île de Ré

With so many things to do in La Rochelle, we'd recommend climbing to the top of the Lighthouse of Île de Ré (Phare des Baleines) for an amazing view of the Bay of Biscay and the Atlantic Ocean. Be prepared for jelly legs as you head up the spiral staircase and its hundreds of steps to the top. Don't miss lunch at Saint-Martin-de-Ré and a tour of the walled city and citadel.

2. Discover La Rochelle

During the evenings of your La Rochelle sailing vacation, enjoy dinner at the many restaurants that line the old port after a tour of the Lantern Tower, Chain Tower and Saint Nicolas Tower. Learn about the complex history of the region in the Middle Ages.

3. The nature reserve of Île d'Yeu

The island boasts over 700 species of wild plants, many of which flower year-round. The coast, moors and wooded area are protected, with its dunes and rocky coast noted for their biodiversity.

4. Visit Île d'Oléron

One of our favorite things to do in La Rochelle is touring the oyster capital at Le Château d'Oléron with its multi-colored huts, relaxing at the fine beaches of Vert-Bois and La Rémigeasse, or heading to the seaside resort of Le Grand-Village-Plage.

5. Go bird-spotting at Île d'Aix

With just 200 residents, this small island offers the chance to find a secluded spot. It offers the perfect shelter for seabirds and is home to hundreds of species.

6. Head out to Fort Boyard

During your yacht charter in La Rochelle, sail around this Napoleonic fort, built in the 1800s and a popular backdrop for movies and TV shows. This fortification is impressive to see and was home to 250 soldiers during military engagements with the British. It became a military prison before falling into disrepair.

**CURRENCY:** Euro (EUR)

**VOLTAGE:** 220V

**DIALING CODE:** +33

## **CUSTOMS CLEARANCE**

US citizens must have a passport issued within the past 10 years that is valid for a minimum of six months at entry and valid for an additional three months beyond the planned date of departure. Visas are not required for stays of less than 90 days.

Talk to us to make sure you have the correct documents before you travel.

## **INTERNET**

There is free Wi-Fi at our marina and internet access is available via cafes and Wi-Fi hotspots, but you may need to pay. Cell phones can work depending on zones but don't forget the roaming fees!

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- Respect your surroundings and leave only footprints in the sand
- Only use the engine or genset when needed (fill up your tanks for the water maker at the docks when you can)
- Recycle your garbage in the correct containers at the marina
- Respect regulations around marine reserves and private islands where disembarking is not permitted

## **REGULATIONS**

Please check the local maritime regulations.



## SAILING CONDITIONS

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### SAILING AREA

Charente-Maritime runs from the Gironde estuary north of Bordeaux to La Rochelle, where you can find our base in Marina Minimes. The cruising ground includes the Pertuis d'Antioche Strait, a popular Roman trading route and has changed hands between the British and French several times. The strait runs between Île de Ré and Île d'Oléron.

Explore pretty little coves that are ideal for swimming, as well as typical fishing villages and charming ports. The Charentais archipelago is very popular with boaters because of short leg navigation and the many opportunities to explore.

The small island of Île de Ré needs to be on your itinerary. It is renowned for its sweeping sandy beaches, charming villages, colorful streets of hollyhocks, famed salt production and bike rides with impressive views. The star-shaped old walled city of the island's main port, Saint-Martin-de-Ré, is UNESCO-protected. You can get a good view from the bell tower not far from the centre.

Nearby you can see Île d'Oléron, the country's second largest island after Corsica. Spend time exploring its notable vineyards, fishing villages, fine sand beaches and pine forests. Make sure you don't miss the return of the fishing boats and visit the oyster ports.

From here you can explore Fort Boyard, Napoleon Bonaparte's oval-shaped fortification and scene of a popular TV show. You can also moor at the port of Rochefort to explore the life-size replica of Hermione, the famous frigate of General Lafayette.

To get away from it all, sail to the more remote Île-d'Aix, one of the 15 Ponant Islands. Relax without the noise of cars and enjoy many beaches, coastal paths and hidden bays where you will be almost alone.

### WEATHER

The best time to visit La Rochelle is between May and October, when you will enjoy the best temperatures. Summers are sunny, dry and hot (between 77°F and 86°F) and there can be a strong wind in the afternoon. Temperatures in spring and fall are mild (around 68°F) and the weather is sunny with a little rain.

## **TEMPERATURE**

Climate in La Rochelle, France:

- Summer high: The July high is around 72°F
- Winter low: The January low is 34°F

## **WIND SYSTEMS**

The sailing conditions in La Rochelle include northerly prevailing winds in summer, becoming southwesterly when there is low pressure coming in from the Atlantic Ocean.

## **LOCAL FORECAST**

You can find weather forecasts on the [Windguru](#) for La Rochelle.