

*le boat*

Who's on board?

# AQUITAINE

Region guide



8

Maximum speed allowed on canals in km/h

6

Maximum speed allowed on River Baïse in km/h

3

Maximum speed allowed inside marinas/ports in km/h



Pass oncoming boats on the right-hand side

## LE MAS D'AGENAI

Canal de Garonne		Approx time		Number of locks	
Castets-en-Dorthe	2 hr	6 hr 40 min	3	8	
Fontet	1 hr 15 min		1		
Meilhan-sur-Garonne	2 hr		3		
Le Grande Route (for Marmande)	1 h 25 min		1		
Le Mas-d'Agenais	2 h 40 min	3 hr 15 min	3	3	
Damazan	35 min		0		
Buzet-sur-Baise	2 hr 50 min	5 hr 15 min	3	7	
Sérignac-sur-Garonne	2 h 20 min		4		
Agen	1 h 20 min	9 hr 50 min	0	15	
Sauveterre-St-Denis	2 hr 20 min		3		
Golfech	30 min		0		
Valence-d'Agen	50 min		2		
Pommevic (for Auvillar)	2 hr 30 min		3		
Moissac	2 hr 30 min		7		
Castelsarrasin	3 hr 25 min	3 hr 25 min	8	8	
Montech	2 hr 25 min	7 hr 55 min	1	10	
Grisolles	2 hr 10 min		3		
St-Jory	3 hr 20 min		6		
Toulouse					

Baïse		Approx time		No. of locks	
Valence-sur-Baïse	2 hr 10 min	7 hr 10 min	4	14	
Condom	2 hr		3		
Moncrabeau	3 hr		7		
Nérac	1 hr 45 min	4 hr	4	8	
Lavardac	30 min		1		
Vianne	1 hr 45 min		3		
Buzet-sur-Baïse					

Canal de Montech		Approx time		Number of locks	
Montech		3 hr 15 min	3 hr 15 min	9	9
Montauban					

Times are an approximation only and are calculated on the basis of an average speed of 7.5km/h and an average time of 12 minutes to pass through a lock. Your speed, the flow of the water and the time it takes to go through locks will all affect your progress.







## CASTETS-EN-DORTHE

From St. Louis church on the village square, you can walk to the esplanade overlooking the valley and the junction between the Canal and the River Garonne. The village has another religious building, St. Romain church, located on the east of the village, which dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The 16<sup>th</sup> Château of Hamel was declared a historic monument in 1963 but is now a private property. It can be visited only by appointment by calling the owners (+33 6 64 33 79 74).

**Recommended restaurant:** L'Écluse 52, next to the port.

**Amenities:** Grocery store. You can order bread and croissants for the next morning at the port office.



Hire boats are not allowed past Castets Lock on to the River Garonne where a permit is necessary to navigate.

Château of Hamel, Castets-en-Dorthe

## FONTET

The Museum of Craft and Monuments will astonish you with the achievements of the artist Gérard Gergerès, made with patience and perfection... and wooden matches. Admire the Reims Cathedral, which is made of 350,000 matches and is featured in the Guinness Book of Records.

## MEILHAN-SUR-GARONNE

Built on the top of a limestone promontory, this village offers breath taking views over the Garonne valley. The Esplanade du Tertre looks out as far as the Canal du Midi and the Garonne plain. Due to its unique strategic position, this site was an impenetrable fortress and now its charming, winding alleyways are a delight to wonder around – discover the recently restored Tersac wash house and the nearby chapel. The Maison Labeau farm (+33 6 80 15 17 76) offers tastings of its pear and plum brandy.

**Recommended restaurant:** Le Font d'Uzas, 20 min from the moorings.

**Amenities:** grocery store, bakery, butcher.

**Market:** Tue (am) & Fri (am) from Jun to Sep.

## MARMANDE

Moor at the pontoon of La Grande Route and cycle the 6km to "the tomato capital", Marmande, home of the famous Agen Plum. Visit the 16th century Marmande cloister, its garden is one of France's listed 'Jardins remarquable', planted in a classical French style. Wander the Chemin de Ronde behind the church and you'll discover some remains of Marmande's medieval fortifications. To cool off, you have the choice between the beach on the riverbank or 'Aquaval', a small water park with a wave pool, childrens' pool and slide.

**Recommended restaurant:** L'Atlantide, in the centre of town.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops and restaurants.

**Market:** Tue, Thu and Sat (am)

**Covered market:** Tue to Sat (am) - Place du Marché

Marmande Beach



Damazan

## LE MAS-D'AGENAI

One of the oldest villages of the Lot-et-Garonne, Le Mas d'Agenais' most impressive site is Rembrandt's 'Christ en Croix', painted in 1631 and now on display in the Romanesque St. Vincent church.

**Recommended restaurant:** Béa Rég'Halle restaurant (open from Tuesday to Sunday) and Bistrot de la Halle restaurant (open every day during the season).

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops

**Market:** Thu (am)

## DAMAZAN

Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the walled town of Damazan still has pretty half-timbered facades and traces of its ramparts and towers remain, as well as the former washhouse. 1.5km away from the moorings is the 'Lac du Moulineau' where swimming is permitted and supervised in July-August (free admission). It has a snack bar, picnic area, mini-golf and volleyball. A section of the lake is reserved for fishing (license required).

**Recommended restaurant:** La Pénia – on the outskirts of the town centre.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops, many restaurants.

**Market:** Thu (am) & Tue evenings during summer.

## BUZET-SUR-BAÏSE

This small hamlet is famed for its wine-making, thanks to its Cave des Vignerons. Established in the 1950s, a visit will teach you everything you need to know about the wines of Buzet, with a tour of the winemaking vats, bottling room and of course – wine tasting. Book your visit in advance (+33 5 53 84 17 16). You can also visit the neo-Gothic church of Notre-Dame de Buzet. Buzet-sur-Baise is also an important crossroads between the Canal de Garonne, Baïse, Garonne and Lot.

**Recommended restaurant:** Auberge du Goujon qui Frétille, a short walk from the port.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops.

**Market:** Fri (am)



Buzet-sur-Baïse



The Vineyards of Buzet



## AGEN

Historic Agen is renowned for its prunes... and rugby team. Along the riverbanks, the old medieval district or along its elegant boulevards, you will see evidence of 2000 years of history; the St. Caprais cathedral, Notre-Dame du Chapelet Tower, the Jacobins church, and not forgetting Agen's famous canal bridge – the second longest canal bridge in France with 4 locks and 23 stone arches. Don't miss a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts to see works by Goya and Monet. Explore the charming Beauville Street with its half-timbered houses, the restaurants and arcades of Cornières Street and the shops of the République Boulevard. 6km away from Agen, the Walibi attraction park will delight the whole family from thrill rides to quieter family rides.

**Recommended restaurant:** Brasserie de la Gare.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops.

**Market:** Wed and Sun (am) – Place du Pin.

**Covered market:** Tue to Sun (7am-1pm & 4pm-7:30pm)

## SAUVETERRE-ST-DENIS

This stop is for chocolate lovers. Moor at St-Jean-de-Thurac, cross the bridge and walk to the small village of Sauveterre-St-Denis (2km away). The chocolate master Philippe Jarasson invites you to discover his original creations in his store 'L'Attrape-Rêves'. Try the famous 'Promesses du Pape' (prunes stuffed with almond paste and coated in white chocolate). He also offers workshops (book by calling +33 5 53 47 60 90 or [attrape.reves@orange.fr](mailto:attrape.reves@orange.fr))

Valence-d'Agen



## VALENCE-D'AGEN

Stroll around Valence-d'Agen's pretty streets and see the unusually round, ancient wash houses, fountains, a stone and brick built market, an art gallery and dovecotes. By contrast, the two modern towers you pass before you get here belong to Golfech's nuclear power station, one of the largest employers in the region. You can visit it (free of charge and by reservation +33 5 34 39 88 70) if you'd like to learn how nuclear power is produced.

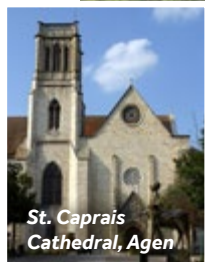
**Recommended restaurant:** L'Entracte.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops and plenty of restaurants.

**Market:** Tue (am)



Walibi Attraction  
Park, Agen



St. Caprais  
Cathedral, Agen

Moissac Abbey



## MOISSAC

If you stop over in Moissac, don't miss the visit of the ancient Benedictine abbey church, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has a remarkable cloister with 76 carved capitals overlooking a courtyard and a church which has a most intricately decorated fresco above its entrance. Stroll along Jean Moura street, where there are many creative craftsmen, including glass and lace makers.

**Recommended restaurant:** Le Florentin.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops.

**Market:** Sat and Sun (am)

Cacor Aqueduct



### CACOR AQUEDUCT

South of Moissac, you'll pass over the 350 meters-long aqueduct of Cacor, made of pink brick and white stone, passing high over the Tarn River.

## CASTELSARRASIN

After going to the harbourmaster's office, which also houses the Tourist Office, stroll into the city centre to admire some beautiful buildings such as St. Sauveur church. You're also 4km away from the Bamboo Park, a place that invites you to meditate, under the shade of age-old trees, amid bamboo and bonsai.

**Recommended restaurant:** L'Auberge du Moulin.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops. Supermarket (Intermarché) close to the moorings at PK58.

**Market:** Mon and Sat (am)

Auvillar



## AUVILLAR

Shortly after Valence-d'Agen is the small village of Pommévac. Moor here to go to Auvillar, classified among "the most beautiful villages of France". (5km south of the Canal – the slope is steep to get there). Auvillar is worth the detour for its circular, covered market and its impressive viewpoint over the Garonne valley.

**Amenities:** grocery store.







Place Nationale Square, Montauban

## MONTAUBAN

Montech boat lift is out of order, but a project is underway to put it back into service, until then you'll have to negotiate the flight of five locks. You can take the Canal de Montech (10km long), if you wish to discover Montauban city. Montauban is renowned for its exceptional heritage and is adorned with architectural gems such as its Place Nationale square, cathedral, 14<sup>th</sup> century bridge, private mansions and Ingres Museum. You could enjoy the magic of the view on a hot air balloon ride (Les Ballons de Bas Quercy – +33 6 86 92 39 61 – christian.bonis@neuf.fr).

**Recommended restaurant:** L'Estanquet.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops.

**Covered market:** Tue to Sun (am) – Place Nationale.

## TOULOUSE

Toulouse, the 'Pink City', is an unmissable stopover in the heart of South-West of France, whether you plan to cruise there on your boat or stay a few nights before returning home. The city has some architectural jewels such as Bernuy or Assézat mansions, as well as magnificent religious buildings like St. Sernin basilica, Jacobins church and its cloister, or St. Étienne cathedral. Enjoy coffee on the Capitole Square with its magnificent brick facades, then walk towards the river banks to admire the Pont-Neuf bridge (the oldest in the city). Toulouse is also rich in museums: Augustins, Paul Dupuy, St. Raymond, Georges-Labit and the History Museum.

**Recommended restaurant:** Aux Pieds sous la Table.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops and a good shopping stop.



Toulouse

## VIANNE

This superb English bastide, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, is surrounded by a high wall, while four gates watch over the entrances to the city. Google 'Albret Tourisme audioguide' to download a fascinating audio city tour. Vianne is also known for its master glassmakers; visit the Musée du Verre Soufflé for some fine examples and blown glass demonstrations.

**Recommended restaurant:** L'Atypik

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops. At La Ferme de Puymartin (2km from the mooring): you'll find a farm shop (poultry, preserves, confits, etc.)

**Night market:** every Fri evening in summer.



Glass blowing, Vianne



Vianne



Tree top adventure course at Lavardac

## LAVARDAC

Golf lovers can enjoy a round at Golf d'Albret (4km from the mooring) or, for something more relaxing, you can have a massage (or manicure or pedicure), at the 'Beauté du Geste' in the grounds of the golf course. 5km south of the moorings (PK41), Cap Cauderoue Leisure Park offers activities for the entire family such as tree climbing, paintball, archery, canoeing, and horse and pony rides.

**Recommended restaurant:** La Chaumière d'Albret.

**Amenities:** All the necessary shops.

**Market:** Wed (am)





## NÉRAC

Nérac is often considered as the most beautiful river ports in France. Cross the stone bridge and discover the magnificent old town with its narrow streets. Google 'Albret Tourisme audioguide' to download an audio city tour. Visit what remains of the royal residence of the Lords of the Albret area (castle and museum). Purchase foie gras, cassoulet and pâté at Maison du Canard or sweet treats at the chocolate factory. When the temperatures rise, go to Lud-O Park Roman baths, located 1km from the moorings and enjoy its pools, waterfalls and slides.

**Recommended restaurant:** Au Vert Galant - by the moorings. Plus they do excellent ice cream!

**Amenities:** Bakeries, butchers, grocery stores (Carrefour and Les Quatres Saisons), many cafes and restaurants.

**Market:** Thu and Sat (am) & Tue evenings in summer.

### GARENNE PARK

We'd recommend you to continue navigating south of Nérac where you'll find the magnificent Garenne Park, the king's former hunting ground. On the opposite side, you'll see a 16th century pavilion which was once used by the ladies to undress before bathing in the river.

## MONCRABEAU

This village on a hill – is known to be the capital of the liars. The "Stone of Truth" fixed above the liars' chair, pay homage to all those who have come here, since 1748, to tell stories mingled with truth, humour and lies in the hope of being crowned King of the Liars. The Liars Festival takes place every first Sunday in August. Google 'Albret Tourisme audioguide' to download an audio city tour.

**Market:** Fri (am)

## CONDOM

Discover the upper city with its majestic St. Pierre cathedral and its gothic cloister. In the cathedral square stands the statue of the Gascony's famous hero, D'Artagnan and his three musketeers. Don't forget to taste the local brandy, Armagnac, while you're here. The Maison Ryst-Dupeyron offers visits of the cellars and tasting of this divine nectar. And if you follow the towpath (1.5km away) from the mooring towards Gauge lock, there's a swimming pool if you fancy a splash.



Mousquetaires statue,  
Condom

### Recommended restaurant:

Le Continental (by the moorings).

**Amenities:** bakery (200m from the mooring).

Head to the upper town for: butchers, grocery stores, many cafes and restaurants.

**Market:** Wed (am) – around the cathedral & Sun (am) - Boulevard St. Jacques, near the port.

**Covered market:** Sat (am) – upper town.



Flaran Abbey

### FLARAN ABBEY

Before reaching Valence-sur-Baise, the river passes close to Flaran Abbey. Moor before the bridge and go visit one of the best preserved abbeys in the south-west of France. Founded in 1151, this Cistercian abbey, a key step on the roads to Santiago de Compostela, tells a remarkable architectural story from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It also houses the exceptional Simonov art collection, including those of Picasso, Monet, Courbet, etc.

# LOCKS

Most of the locks of this region are electric and user-operated, except for the lock linking the Canal de Garonne and the Baise River and the last double-lock of the Baise River which are operated by lock keeper. Set a crew member ashore before the lock so they can walk to the controls. Only enter the lock when a single green traffic light is showing. The crew member should always stay next to the control panel while the lock is in operation, ready to push the red stop button in case of emergencies. Please refer to the onboard Boat and Navigation Manual for more information about how to operate and pass through locks.

# OPENING TIMES

Locks are open and passable seven days a week at the following times:

MONTH	CANAL DU GARONNE*	BAÏSE RIVER	CANAL DE MONTECH
April	9am – 12:30pm & 1:30pm – 6pm	9am – 6pm	9am – 6pm
May to September	9am – 12:30pm & 1:30pm – 7pm	9am – 7pm	9:30am – 6:45pm
October	9am – 12:30pm & 1:30pm – 6pm	9am – 7pm	9am – 6pm

\*Locks are closed on 1st May.

# MOORING

On the Canal de Garonne, moorings are plentiful and you are free to moor anywhere where you can safely access the bank, using mooring pins provided on board. Although please refer to your waterways map for exact locations. Exceptions are: if there is a sign indicating to the contrary, if you are on a bend or if you are less than 50m from a structure such as a lock or a bridge. You are advised to only moor in ports or private marinas on the Baise River as most banks are private. Most towns and villages have mooring bollards or rings to tie up to, for a charge of between €10–€20 per night. Usually they'll have water refill points and electric hook-up facilities (not available on all boats). Do not moor at waiting pontoons on either side of a lock (unless you are waiting for the lock).

# WATER

You will need to fill up your water tank once or twice during the course of a week. Water points are available at all Le Boat bases en-route, for free. Otherwise, there are several ports/marinas that will allow you to fill your tank for a charge of €2–€5. In some marinas, you'll need to purchase tokens from the port office.



Contact Cruise World on 09 917 4440 | 0800 500 732  
info@cruiseworld.co.nz | www.cruiseworld.co.nz

**Disclaimer:** We have endeavoured to ensure that all the information in this Guide is correct at time of printing. However, opening times and prices are subject to change. Attractions, restaurants, locks and even stretches of the canal can close without notice. Le Boat is happy to recommend all of the attractions and eating establishments featured within this Guide. However, they are not owned or managed by Le Boat and, as such, we cannot guarantee the quality of your experience at any particular time. If anything in this guide is not correct, we'd love to hear from you at [guides@leboat.com](mailto:guides@leboat.com) so that we can revise future editions.

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