

Dear Your Name Here

Bienvenue à La Goupillère



It's a pleasure to welcome you to La Goupillère. We hope you will have a very pleasant and comfortable stay and that you use the house and grounds as if it were your own home.

There are a few things about living in a farmhouse in rural France that you may be unfamiliar with and this guide will hopefully apprise you of these, to help ensure that your holiday goes smoothly. The guide also contains information to help you get the most out of your stay with us and the surrounding area, emergency contacts and a page about driving in the French countryside. If there is anything else you would like to know, please just ask.

Please take a few minutes to look through the guide and familiarise all members of your party and particularly children with any aspects you see fit. Obviously, not all sections will be relevant to everyone but we hope you will find enough to make it useful to you.



Electricity

Power problems are unlikely but we know from our own experience of moving from London to the French countryside that we took for granted an unlimited and ultra-reliable power supply. We want you to be aware of this so that you don't unnecessarily worry if the power does go off.

Power in rural France is limited to 6 or 9 kilowatts. La Goupillière has a 9 kW supply which is more than adequate for normal family use but a large number of high power items switched on at the same time could trip a circuit. In particular, the cooker has a total rating of 8 kW so were this to be in full use at the same time as other high power appliances the load would probably be exceeded. We therefore ask you to be understanding in your concurrent use of appliances.

Storms are not uncommon and sometimes can cause a circuit to trip in the house or at a substation on the grid. A tripped circuit in the house distribution unit, located in the utility room, is easily rectified by flipping the appropriate switch - which one should be apparent. In the unlikely event a switch trips again immediately it is reset there may be a real fault and you should contact us.

If all power fails, the cause is likely to be beyond the house and will have affected all the properties around. If this occurs it is normally for a short period of time but it is possible that on re-connection one or more circuits within the house will trip (they are designed to be sensitive).

There are battery LED push-lights beside beds, a torch in the kitchen and emergency lights in some rooms which will come on if the power fails. These units are also a night-light and torch but do not remove it from the unit and do not unplug or switch it off or you will lose the benefit.

Water

The tap water at La Goupillière is mains water and is excellent to drink. It is unusual for houses here to have unlimited hot water as it is heated by a boiler and is therefore limited to the tank's capacity. This shouldn't be an issue in normal use but obviously very heavy concurrent use will exhaust the supply. It will reheat automatically.

Waste Water

La Goupillière is not on mains drainage. There is a "fosse toutes eaux" which relies on effective biological activity to function. It is important that no cosmetic, sanitary or baby items, including nappies, wipes and cotton wool, are flushed down the toilets and only the supplied French toilet paper is used. No solid items whatsoever should be flushed down loos or rinsed down sinks.

Use only fosse-friendly toilet and kitchen cleaners (as supplied). Excessive amounts of grease or fat must not be put down sinks but normal washing up is fine, either by hand or in the dishwasher.

Anti-bacterial substances or drain cleaners must not be used - if you get a blockage or any foul smells, let us know and we will address the situation using special fosse-friendly products. It's unlikely but you need to know!

Roof & Rain Water

Some roof water discharges directly from downpipes and is not routed into drains. It runs off naturally. Some discharges into "French Drains", underground soak-aways and it important that these are not blocked by e.g. shuttlecocks being hit on to the roof and getting into gutters. Some outside surfaces can become slippery when frozen or from algae at other times. This is normal so please take care.

Washing Machine, Tumble Dryer & Dishwasher

We aim to provide you with a home-from-home, not a characterless commercial establishment and want you to have all the facilities and amenities you enjoy at home. At the same time we try to keep our costs down so that we can offer you the lowest rates so will appreciate it if you use this equipment as you would at home i.e. with reasonably full loads. Use only the washing liquids we provide or a similar product if you buy more. It is harmful to the biology of the fosse for anti-bacterial additives to be used and never use bleach! The water is soft and the dishwasher doesn't need salt despite the red light saying it does, so please ignore it.

Consumer Electronics & Entertainment

La Goupillière has high quality equipment intended for adult use. If there is anything you don't understand please ask us and we will be happy to demonstrate. A selection of DVDs and books is provided but if these do not suit we have a large library at La Levrie for you to choose from.

We would prefer equipment to be used as it is but if you must attach e.g. games consoles this may only be done by an adult and only if they know what they are doing. We accept no responsibility for damage to your equipment or injury to persons caused by attaching your own devices and your attention is drawn to the section "Accidents & Damage" later in this guide. Any adjustments made to our equipment to accommodate games consoles or other attached devices must be undone prior to your departure and the equipment returned to its normal working state. Only you can know what was changed and as it can take ages to correct, if we have to have configuration changes rectified we will deduct any cost from your security deposit.

Internet

There is a full internet service, intended for wi-fi but should you be unable to connect this way there is an RJ45 cable available on request. It is provided for normal family use and must not be used for any activities which are illegal in France (which may be traced to us and consequently to you, the user!) If you have lost the wi-fi password it is C6949CA97FC2443F4F2FA6F332

The LiveBox is susceptible to damage from thunder or lightning. It is attached to a UPS but in the event of a storm it should be unplugged from the UPS (the white plug) and disconnected from the phone line. It should not be reconnected until the storm passes. When reconnected it will restart automatically after a few minutes. Ensure it is plugged into the same UPS socket and that the phone line is reconnected properly.

We've done all we can to safeguard the LiveBox. The UPS should protect it but ultimately it can only suffer storm damage if it is plugged in. Orange replace blown units free but it means a trip to their shop in Alençon and, whilst we will do our best, we cannot guarantee speedy replacement.

Central Heating & Wood Burner

The central heating for most of the house is under-floor. Please do not adjust any settings as they are complicated, with the exception of thermostatic valves on the conventional radiators in the master bedroom and mezzanine. Any problems, please ask us and we will make the adjustments.

The wood burner may take getting used to if you have not used one. Build up the fire slowly and it is important not to let it get too hot or run too cold. There is a gauge attached to the flue that should register in the middle during normal use. The stove is not intended to be used with its door open and indeed this can be dangerous because of fire hazard and carbon monoxide emissions.

Beds & Bedding

Bed linen is high quality Egyptian cotton and is professionally laundered to ensure sanitisation and cleanliness. Mattresses and pillows have protectors, also washed regularly. Bed linen is intended to last for one week; for stays of two or more weeks you will find additional sets in the wardrobes. If you would like more frequent changes this may be possible, at additional cost.

The making up of beds during your stay is not included in the rental price. Only the beds noted on your Booking Confirmation are made up, otherwise we would have to have “unused“ bed linen laundered to guarantee it unused. If you do need to use other beds please do not do so without bed linen; discuss it with us first and we will, within reason, arrange linen. Kindly note that only the beds in bedrooms are to be used for sleeping overnight and that on no account may anybody use the sofas or other furniture as improvised beds. Please do not wash sheets or duvet covers in the washing machine as it is cheaper to have them laundered professionally! Any accidents, please talk to us and we will sort things out with the minimum of inconvenience or discomfort.

The patchwork quilts are purely decorative and may only be used *over* a duvet as additional cover and not as bedding per se. They must not be removed from the bedrooms and, as they cannot be washed or dry cleaned, if they are soiled we will have to charge for their replacement... they are expensive.

Towels

We have provided you with ample towels. You are welcome to wash these as you wish but only with other white items please. Bath mats may be washed like towels. We will appreciate it if you could dry towels, or any washing for that matter, on the outside rotary dryer if possible, not only because of the cost of running the dryer but for your own comfort, to minimise humidity levels in the house. We dry our own towels outside and finish them off in our dryer to fluff them up.

Towels are provided for use in the house only, for normal human drying purposes! They are not for use outside, on the beach, whatever. You can buy beach towels very cheaply in supermarkets.

Housekeeping

If there are any cleaning issues upon your arrival please let us know immediately. The rental price does not include cleaning during or at the end of your stay but it may be possible to arrange this given adequate notice and at additional cost. We will really appreciate it if, before departure, you could strip duvet covers, sheets and pillow cases (but not protectors) and leave them folded in the kitchen. We often have tight turn-arounds and this saves us a lot of time!

Although we ensure the property is prepared to our required high standards prior to your arrival, in common with all such lets it should be left clean and tidy upon departure or an excess cleaning charge may be applied. If you are unable to respect this for any reason *please* tell us well before departure so we can make the necessary arrangements and agree a fee with you.

Household Waste & Recycling

There are no rubbish collections. Bins and bags are supplied in bathrooms and in the kitchen, where there are also bags for recyclable items. Please enter into the spirit of country life and take waste to a disposal point, the nearest being at Izé (turn right at the church then right again) and St Thomas, to the left of the Marie. Please remove all waste food, rubbish and recycling before or upon departure. The recycling bags are not recyclable or disposable! They are reusable.

Keys

A key for the front kitchen door was provided upon arrival. This is likely the door you will use most often. Other outside door keys are in the locks. Bathroom and toilet keys, also in the locks, are intended for short-term privacy. Bedroom keys are not provided in the locks (to prevent children locking themselves in) but can be found in the top drawer in the kitchen.

Supplies

In addition to your “welcome pack” there are supplies of most kitchen and bathroom basics. As La Goupillère is self-catering we do not provide these ongoing, so please replace anything you use like-for-like. Such things as kitchen roll, cling film, foil, toilet rolls, cleaning materials, etc. should be replaced when you run out or feel like topping up but please ensure that anything that will end up down drains is *fosse friendly*. If in any doubt please ask us!

We provide a starter quantity of the following - charcoal, barbeque lighter and cleaner, kindling wood and fire lighters. These are intended for use on your first few days and should be ample for at least one or two barbeques and a few fires in the wood-burner. Ongoing, you can readily buy what you need in supermarkets and bricos (DIY stores). Carrefour in Bais is open on Sunday mornings. We won't leave you in the lurch so rather than go without please ask us and we will be pleased to help. We will happily lend or give you what you need to tide you over, with the exception of charcoal, which we can supply at cost price (about 8 € a bag).

Our guests tell us they value having so much provided upon arrival so please “play fair” and don't unreasonably take supplies out of the house or take things home with you.

Herbs, Berries & Fruits

There are herbs around the patio and various fruits and berries which you may of course pick when ripe but do not eat any obviously wild things such as fungi.

Our Storage

The utility room is the only dry and warm area we have to store things. Rather than cut off a bit of the house, we use this as-is so please don't take anything we have not agreed.

The area behind the mezzanine bookcases is used as storage for special items, e.g. baby things. There is nothing you need that you do not already have and in any case all these items are purely for their intended purposes, not as improvised sun beds or paddling pools (it's happened!)

The two locked rooms marked as “Privé” (Private) contain potentially dangerous items. There is nothing in these rooms that you need or do not already have so please do not attempt to enter them. Likewise, the locked stone barn as it contains hazardous items and materials.

Your Own Storage

If you have bicycles, a car roof box, whatever and wish to store them safely please let us know and we will give you access to secure barn storage (at your own risk). Bikes must not be taken into the house but a pram or pushchair may be parked in the downstairs hallway subject to causing no damage.

Anything taken up and down stairs *must* be carried, including your luggage. The finish on the stairs chips easily and bumping e.g. wheeled luggage up or down will cause damage.

Safety & Prohibited Areas

We have tried to ensure that everything is safe but La Goupillière is an old farm so please take appropriate care, especially where children are concerned. Don't allow climbing on fences or barn structures or playing in areas obviously unsuitable for such activities. There are a couple of shallow internal steps so please familiarise all party members with these.

The round manhole covers in the back garden are the access to the fosse and if removed present an extreme danger. Whilst there is no reason an adult would attempt to remove these please give appropriate instruction to children who might investigate.

There are areas we cannot allow access, for your own safety - the chained-off areas, the stone barn and the bread oven. It can be very dangerous for children to climb on hay stacks or farm equipment and it should be obvious if there are any other areas that present a potential safety hazard e.g. rockeries, banks, fences, trees, etc. The areas behind the barns, behind the high panel fences must not be entered as they are potentially dangerous, which is why they are fenced off.

Most adjoining or nearby fields do not belong to us and should not be entered. As with any country area please be aware there may be barbed wire in fences around fields and footpaths.

There are smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The CO alarms are sealed-for-life so please don't tamper with them for any reason. If a CO alarm sounds, there is almost certainly a problem and, for your own safety, you must open nearby windows and doors, vacate the property and contact us. Whilst this is very unlikely, CO is colourless and odourless and can be lethal. Our fuel burning equipment is well maintained and regularly tested but we cannot legislate for what people put on the stove or how they use it. The CO alarms are there for your protection.

Smoke detectors are tested regularly and batteries changed before every season so you should not suffer false alarms. If you cause an alarm to go off accidentally it can be reset by pushing the "test" button in the centre (it flashes occasionally to show the unit is working). If a battery runs down prematurely the alarm will "beep" to tell you so. If this happens at night you can open the alarm unit by *gently* pulling down on the tab and then removing the battery by *gently* pushing the retaining clip away. please take extra care disconnecting it as the connections break easily.

Bicycles, Barbeques & Facilities

We take your safety very seriously but we cannot be responsible for every eventuality. You are welcome to use any of the facilities we provide but you do so at your own risk. Please ensure that the big barbeque is fully extinguished before you leave it unattended and do not leave a lit portable barbeque unattended in the covered barns at any time.

Security & Doors and Windows

This is a safe area with practically no crime but it is ultimately open to anyone who passes by and you should practice normal security measures, especially when the house is unoccupied. Lock vehicles overnight and ensure that doors and downstairs windows are locked shut at night and in your absence. The CCTV cameras are dummy to deter casual interest; there is no surveillance.

The weather can be unpredictable and change suddenly so please be careful about leaving doors and windows open, particularly the Velux windows upstairs and shut them if there is any chance of rain or snow. The Velux roof windows should be closed completely while you are away from the house or you may come back to find flooded floors. Storms can spring up from nowhere.

Animals

We keep sheep in the field behind La Goupillère. Please do not feed them as they are fat enough already and there are things that are dangerous for them to eat. We will be delighted to show children “feeding time” from a safe distance. Please do not go into the field with them – they are friendly but rather boisterous and can unintentionally bowl you over in a second. Some of them are very old and look so but rest assured they are all well looked after.

As a relatively uninhabited country area it should come as no surprise that there are many wild animals around and you are bound to see some of them. These range from deer, rabbits, hares, badgers, red squirrels, etc. to coypu, martens and foxes to other less appealing creatures such as voles, mice, field rats and grass snakes. None are inherently harmful and will run away from you if they can. If you walk in forests, make a bit of foot noise as you go and you’ll never see snakes.

You may sometimes see working dogs, almost always with their owners and of course people own dogs as pets. Treat these as you would any unknown dog at home.

This is hunting country. From September to February, especially if out walking, you may come across *la chasse*. The local hunters and their dogs are well behaved and the hunters respectful but occasionally there are groups from outside the area who do not always display such good manners. You find such groups in the forests all over France so it’s not a local issue. They may be larger groups and somehow stand out from the locals - maybe the way they are dressed, lots of vehicles, large packs of hunting dogs, noisy, whatever. They are not intimidating as such, so please do not worry but they are mentioned here so that you can be aware of their existence should you come across such groups when you are out and about. They will usually avoid you and pass by quickly but for your own peace of mind, keep small children and dogs close to you.

Birds of Prey

There are many birds of prey here and, unsurprisingly, they hunt and catch other birds, mice, small snakes, etc. You will inevitably see this and it could be distressing to young children who are unfamiliar with the countryside and have not experienced it before. Parents might want to prepare their kids by explaining how these magnificent birds live. They are everywhere.

Cobwebs, Flies & Insects

If you are used to country life you won’t need to read this! It is no different here to anywhere else in the French countryside and in fact we are less bothered by such things than most of Europe.

Pesticides are used sparingly and it is therefore a paradise for lovely insects like butterflies, bees and moths. Unfortunately their less attractive cousins thrive too so please be tolerant. There are anti-insect decals on windows and you may use insect spray if you want but please do not swat insects against the walls or furniture! Cobwebs can appear overnight but they are not “dirty” and the spiders are harmless. We don’t want to exaggerate what is normally not a problem but clearly the more doors and windows are left open the more insects you are likely to have in the house.

Wasps are not usually a problem but at a certain time of year they feed on fermenting fruit and can get drunk. They won’t normally bother you but be cautious around waste bins when you drop off your rubbish. Hornets, like big wasps, should be avoided. There aren’t many and they are not normally aggressive but their sting can be nasty. Don’t touch caterpillars, especially hairy ones. This is all just common sense but just to reiterate, insects here are no more prevalent or unpleasant than anywhere else!

Outdoor Games

We have provided a selection of garden games which you will find in the utility room. These are pentanque (boules), a wide sports net, badminton racquets and shuttlecocks, tennis racquets, tennis balls, adult swing-ball and a football goal. Please take care of these and bring them in after use so things don't get lost and please ensure that anything that does get lost is replaced, for the benefit of the next guests.

Please use these games only in the grounds of La Goupillère - they are not intended to be taken to the beach, etc. If you do want to take games away with you on outings the supermarkets sell "disposable" things very cheaply.

Also, please use balls and shuttlecocks well away from the house. Apart from the risk of broken windows, anything getting into the gutters will find its way into the downpipes and could block the soakaways. For your own safety, do not go into the sheep field to retrieve things - ask us!

Nearby Walks & Rambling

In practice (but not in law), you are free to ramble pretty much wherever you want locally but you should of course respect the country code and not go into fields of crops and on no account go into fields containing animals. Many fields do not have fences or other boundaries but that doesn't mean they are public property. There is no such thing as liability, irrespective of how poorly a farmer's field is fenced - if you go in there and get squished by his cows, tough! For dog owners, please be aware that if your pooch gets into a field and worries the animals the farmer has every right to shoot it. There's no compensation culture here and irrespective of any "rights" you may have you will find it almost impossible to claim for negligence.

Melodramatics aside, there are plenty of beautiful and safe chemins, woodland and forests to explore, often highlighted by official yellow signs, so there is really no need to go "off piste".

This is a surprisingly hilly area but if you prefer flatter terrain there are many lakes you can walk around; the tow path of the Mayenne river and the old railway tracks, now converted into rambling and horse riding tracks. We have provided some brochures to show you where these are but a visit to the Tourist Offices in Villaines, Mayenne, Evron, Alençon or Le Mans is recommended.

Outings, Picnics, Fishing Trips, Etc.

In the utility room you will find a portable picnic table and camping chairs (the red ones), a cool box (there are ice packs in the freezer) and a backpack style picnic set*. Please don't take the garden furniture for picnics but you may use a parasol so long as it is returned. There is a light-weight parasol base in the utility room - please do not take the very heavy black bases.

*We cannot replace most of these things readily so please take care of them. Anything lost or broken will have to be paid for and, as we haven't time to check after every visit, please ensure all items are clean and returned to their places in the backpack, ready for use by subsequent guests. None of the items are disposable e.g. the "glasses" are strong but light polycarbonate, not cheap throw-away plastic. It's a nice pack but some guests prefer to just buy disposable paper and plastic stuff in the supermarket and chuck it away after their picnic! The choice is yours.

Please do not take off site anything that is meant for the house such as crockery, cutlery, glasses, utensils, pots and pans, etc. If you haven't brought camping stuff with you and the picnic pack isn't adequate, you can buy what you need cheaply in supermarkets.

Driving

We obviously wouldn't tell you how to drive, but the country roads are quiet and traffic-free and this can lull you into a sense of false security. Some locals drive too fast, albeit legally, and often use the whole road so please be aware of this. They're pretty good at moving over when they see an oncoming vehicle but keep your wits about you!

The priority-to-the-right system operates extensively, even in villages and can be very confusing if you're not used to it. The locals are – and practise it all the time.

It's not unusual to come across a cow, sheep or deer in the road, let alone rabbits, cats and other small animals. At dusk or night there could be all sorts of other creatures, small and large, e.g. badgers or wild boar, so take care.

Watch out for mud on the country roads. Although the farmers are supposed to clear it up it's inevitable that you will come across (often very) muddy roads in wet weather. Even if the weather has been dry for a while you can sometimes still get very muddy places because of springs or run-off from fields. Together with all the other "challenges" you don't want to be hitting the brakes just as you round that blind bend.

If you are behind a tractor, milk transporter or other large vehicle, best just follow it at their own speed. They won't be going far and, especially farm equipment, will usually pull over to let you pass when it's safe to do so. Keep to the speed limits - it may be a quiet rural area but the gendarmes have nothing better to do than act as unofficial tax collectors. They have a habit of blitzing an area, then you won't see one for months.

Unless you have no choice, do not cross a solid white line (on your side of the road) to overtake anything, no matter how slow moving and including bicycles. "Stop" signs mean stop – your wheels have to stop turning and watch out for sudden 30 kph zones which are becoming very common in villages and not just outside schools as they used to be.

The gendarmes sometimes set up blocks and stop all vehicles, sometimes blocking all roads out of a town at the same time, effectively sealing it off, to breathalyse drivers and also, separately, to check documents. They do not need a reason to do this. The latter is no big deal IF you have all your documents to hand, you have all the safety paraphernalia you are required to carry and your vehicle is completely legal. Just smile, be polite and pretend you don't speak any French. The chances are if they're happy with the initial check they will want you out of the way as quickly as possible but if you cross them, by cracking jokes, being unhelpful or rude or them finding something wrong with your vehicle you will have a long wait. The more you protest, the more they will find and they will delight in giving you a fine for every teeny transgression.

If you're caught breaching any traffic law there's an on-the-spot fine which, as a tourist, you will have to pay literally on-the-spot or be taken to a cashpoint to get the money. As a tourist you cannot have points put on your (UK) licence but for very serious offences your car can be seized.

Beware of newly repaired roads with signs saying "Gravillons", apparently invented by the windscreen replacement companies. Keep well away from other vehicles.

Many of the ditches beside roads are very deep and although the authorities do try to keep the verges cut it's sometimes impossible to see the ditches, so be wary pulling off the road.

Generally, though, driving here is a real pleasure, so don't be put off by the above. Enjoy!

Restaurants, Bars & Boulangeries

The boulangerie in Courcité is closed Mondays and the one in Izé is closed Tuesdays. There are exceptions though e.g. if a public holiday is on a closed day they may open then and close the next day instead. Go early on Sundays as they close shortly after lunch and may run out of bread.

The Bistro d'Izé (3km) is open Monday to Saturday from 08:00 to 19:00 and closed Sunday, except for the first Sunday of each month (Mass) 09:00 to 13:00. Children are welcome and there is a large covered conservatory at the rear. They offer a choice between the menu du jour at 12 € and an à la carte menu at € 22. They have regular themed meals and occasional concerts.

Trinity's Bar, Courcité (7km) is open lunch times and early evenings and 'til about 13:30 on Sunday. It's a nice "locals' bar" for a Sunday aperitif if you go for bread or cakes at the best boulangerie around. The proprietor, Christine, also does plat du jour on week-days.

La Gouline, in the centre of Villaines (12km) is ideal for sitting in the sun and watching the world go by, especially on market day, Monday. La Gouline sells croque-monsieur, flans, etc. but its attraction is you can take your own food (sandwiches bought in the boulangerie, home made meals, stuff from the market, whatever) and eat it there! This is where the local office and shop workers go for lunch, brought in themselves! The proprietor, Josie, will make you very welcome and especially so if you tell her you are staying with us.

Part of the pleasure of lunching out is finding "little gems" for yourselves but to help you on your way there is a list on the next page of many of the restaurants within a reasonable distance. They are all different but all offer a very good lunch for around 12 €. At lunchtime many include wine and cider in the price but others don't. Generally speaking, you get what you pay for, with fewer courses, extra for coffee or wine or higher prices reflected in the quality but do not assume "cheaper" means bad! The list is not comprehensive although we have tried to include all those within 20 minutes. The larger the place or the more touristy it is you will find more restaurants, e.g. the village of Saint-Ceneri-le-Gerei is very small but beautiful and has four.

Apart from the big supermarkets, practically all shops and businesses around here close between 12:00 & 14:00 (but not boulangeries). This is lunch time! So don't be tempted to wait until later for lunch or you'll be disappointed. The best places get busy so it's a good idea to phone and book by late morning on the day you want to eat or get there on the dot of 12. Restaurants in tourist or resort areas tend to be open all day though and you will find plenty in and around the larger towns of Mayenne, Alençon, Le Mans and Laval. If you're stuck, Au Refuge du Trappeur at Sillé Plage never seems to close and is open weekends and evenings too.

Evening meals and on Sundays and holidays can be more difficult to find and opening times erratic but there's La Sourderie (also does a great weekday menu du jour), la Hôtellerie de la Juhel in Villaines-la-Juhel and the Auberge St Roch at Averton. There's an excellent Chinese/Cambodian restaurant in Evron, Le Mekong, which is open Sundays and holidays and there are restaurants and bars in Sillé-le-Guillaume town as well as at the lake. All good but expect to pay more in the evenings and at weekends as the menu du jour is lunchtime only. If they haven't got any bookings some rural restaurants won't open in the evening but will open even if they have only a few. The restaurants marked ✂ on the list should be open most evenings and weekends.

If you want to push the boat out the best restaurants within 30 minutes are La Toque Des Coëvrons (Evron), Au Relais Du Gué De Selle (Mézangers), Le Bretagne (Sillé-le-Guillaume), Le Grand Hôtel (Mayenne), La Marjolaine (Moulay) and Beau Rivage (by the river at Moulay).

Restaurants & Eating Places

🌟 Michelin Guide Restaurants (mainly traditional French cooking)

🎵 Music or other entertainments sometimes

▲ Also takeaway

Le Bistrot d'Izé	3 km	Izé	4 Rue du Maine	02 43 37 93 19	Restaurant, bar, café 🎵
Trinity's	8 km	Courcéité	6 Place Eglise	02 43 03 26 14	Restaurant, bar, café 🎵
Le Rochard	8 km	Bais	3 Place de l'Eglise	02 43 26 20 76	Restaurant, bar, café
Le Lion d'Or	8 km	Bais	5 Place de l'Eglise	02 43 37 90 05	Restaurant, bar, café ▲
Auberge St Roch	12 km	Averton	Place de l'Eglise	02 43 04 23 90	Restaurant, bar, café ▲
La Forge	12 km	Saint Georges Sur Erve	1 Rue Lavoir	02 43 01 64 33	Restaurant, bar, café
L'Homme Vert	12 km	Saint Pierre Sur Orthre	Rue Msrgr Grandin	02 43 66 15 73	Restaurant, bar, café 🎵
Le Saint Georges	13 km	Villaines-La-Juhel	2 Rue de Mayenne	02 43 03 38 22	Restaurant
La Hôtellerie de la Juhel	13 km	Villaines-La-Juhel	27 Rue Jules Doitteau	02 43 03 22 24	Restaurant, bar, café
La Gouline	13 km	Villaines-La-Juhel	4 Place Neuve	02 43 03 32 51	Bar, café, snacks
Bar du Stade	13 km	Villaines-La-Juhel	13 Rue Gervaiseau	02 43 03 20 56	Bar, café, snacks, presse
Le P'tit Creux	13 km	Villaines-La-Juhel	Place des Halles	02 43 11 28 23	Sandwiches, kebab ▲
La Sourderie	15 km	Villaines-La-Juhel	Route d'Javron	06 73 84 57 45	Restaurant
Le Mekong	17 km	Evron	7 Place de l'Ancienne Mairie	02 43 69 05 84	Chinese, Indo-chinese ▲
Creperie La Hulotte	17 km	Evron	38 Rue de la Fontain	02 43 01 66 45	Crêperie
Le Peppino	17 km	Evron	1 Place de l'Ancienne Mairie	02 43 01 92 56	Restaurant, pizzeria ▲
Le Pilori	17 km	Evron	13 Place du Pilori	02 43 68 86 32	Restaurant, bar, café
Hôtel de la Gare	17 km	Evron	13 Rue de la Paix	02 43 01 60 29	Restaurant, bar, café
La Toque des Coëvrons	17 km	Evron	4 Rue des Pres	02 43 01 62 16	Traditional French Food 🌟
Bar de la Terrasse	17 km	Evron	2 Place de la Basilique	02 43 01 60 89	Café, bar, brasserie
Café des Jardiniers	17 km	Evron	14 Place de la Basilique	02 43 01 68 23	Café, bar, brasserie 🎵
Au Relais du Gué de Selle	17 km	Mézangers	Route de Mayenne	02 43 91 20 03	Traditional French Food 🌟
Au Refuge du Trappeur	18 km	Sillé Plage	Sillé Plage	02 43 20 17 48	Restaurant, bar, café, pizzeria 🎵
Restaurant Le Bretagne	19 km	Sillé-le-Guillaume	1 Place de la Crix d'Or	02 43 20 10 10	Traditional French Food 🌟
Hôtel de Paris	19 km	Sillé-le-Guillaume	12 Place de la Gare	02 43 20 11 38	Traditional French Food 🌟
La Cella	19 km	Jublains	23 Rue Temple	02 43 04 30 36	Restaurant, pizzeria ▲
La Chaumière	20 km	La Chapelle-au-Ribou	12 Place de l'Eglise	02 43 00 75 50	Restaurant, bar, café
Restaurant Beaujour	22 km	Sainte-Suzanne	4-6 Rue de la Liberation	02 43 01 40 31	Restaurant
Pêché de Gourmandise	22 km	Sainte-Suzanne	1 Place Hubert II de Beaumont	02 43 58 63 68	Restaurant, bar, café
La Halle Médiévale	22 km	Sainte-Suzanne	7 Place Hubert II de Beaumont	02 43 90 98 57	Crêperie, galettes, restaurant
L'Escarade	24 km	Javron-les-Chapelles	19 Rue des Domains	02 43 30 13 53	Restaurant
La Cave à Bière	27 km	Saint-Léonard-des-Bois	Le Bourg	02 43 34 65 83	Restaurant, bar (speciality beers)
L'Éveil Des Sens	28 km	Mayenne	429 Boulevard Paul Lintier	02 43 30 42 17	Traditional French Food 🌟
Le Grand Hôtel	28 km	Mayenne	2 Rue Ambroise de Loré	02 43 00 96 00	Traditional French Food 🌟
L'Étoile	30 km	Saint-Cyr-en-Pail	7 Rue Armorique	02 43 03 00 91	Restaurant
La Beau Rivage	31 km	Moulay	Route de Sainte-Baudelle	02 43 00 49 13	Restaurant (riverside with terrace) 🌟
La Marjolaine	33 km	Moulay	Le Bas Mont	02 43 00 48 42	Traditional French Food 🌟
La Forge	33 km	Fontaine-Daniel	Le Bourg	02 43 00 34 85	Traditional French Food 🌟
Le Relais des Avaloirs	33 km	Boulay les Ifs	Le Bourg	02 43 00 93 87	Restaurant
Restaurant Du Midi	33 km	Domfront-en-Champagne	33 Rue du Mans	02 43 20 52 04	Traditional French Food 🌟
Many fine restaurants	43 km	Bagnolles-de-l'Orne			Lovely spa town. Lake, casino, golf
Many restaurants of all sorts	c 50 km	Alençon, Laval & Le Mans			The nearest large cosmopolitan towns

Open Markets

All these are within easy reach. Even the furthest are less than an hour and all these towns are a delight to visit anyway. Many markets operate only in the mornings and where a town has more than one they may be in different locations (/). We cannot guarantee the days are correct so please use this list as a guide only. If you are going to pick just one, make it Alençon on Thursday (behind the cathedral) or Le Mans on Sunday ("Jacobins" in front of the cathedral).

Villaines-la-Juhel	13km	Monday (quite small but local)
Evron	16km	Thursday
Sillé-le-Guillaume	18km	Wednesday
Javron-les-Chapelles	24km	Friday
Mayenne	28km	Monday, Saturday
Pre-en-Pail	29km	Saturday
Fresnay-sur-Sarthe	30km	Saturday
Lassay-les-Châteaux	35km	Wednesday
Ambrières-les-Vallées	37km	Every day
Beaumont-sur-Sarthe	40km	Tuesday
Alençon	41km	Thursday, Saturday
Bagnoles-de-l'Orne	43km	Tuesday, Saturday / Wednesday, Friday
La Ferté-Macé	45km	Thursday
Laval (Centre)	50km	Tuesday, Saturday
Le Mans	50km	Wednesday, Friday, Sunday (and other days other areas)

Bric-à-brac, Flea Markets, Brocantes & Vide Greniers

Far too many to list here! These are great fun, particularly on a nice day. If you are interested it's best to buy a guide book from any Presse or supermarket. For anything more than a few Euros it's worth trying to barter but to be honest some things are so cheap it's not worth the breath. But do be careful - some people have a ridiculously high opinion of what their junk is worth. From time to time there are much more upmarket events and we'll try to tell you about these.

Nearest Supermarkets

We use ☺ and if you want variety and quality you won't go wrong if you do too.

Carrefour, Bais ☺	Nearest. High quality. Open all day 'til 20:00 and Sunday 'til 12:30.
Super U, Villaines ☺	Biggest range. High quality. Open all day until 19:00 closed Sun.
Leader Price, Villaines	Cheapest? Closes some lunchtimes. Open 'til 19:00 closed Sun.
Aldi & Lidl, Evron	You'll know these. If you want them they're here.
NOZ, Evron ☺	Ask us! Open all day 'til 19:30 closed Sun. Great for wine.
Coccimarket, Villaines	High quality but can be expensive. Open 'til 20:00 and Sun am.

Small independent shops often offer something extra and are not necessarily expensive. Market stalls often have great produce but are not necessarily cheap and do not compete with each other.

If you want the giant hypermarchés, they are outside the larger towns of Alençon, Le Mans and Laval so ask us for directions. Although legendary, they have little to offer tourists that the local supermarkets don't. So just spend your money locally please!

Fuel is always cheaper at supermarkets. Super U is lowest locally. Ensure you have a reserve if travelling as self-service card-only is common and not all UK cards are accepted at all outlets.

Local Events

Throughout the summer there are many charming local events, fêtes, vide greniers, a country music festival, markets, feasts and concerts. We encourage you to seek these out! We will try to let you know what's going on during your stay and you will likely find publicity notices in shop windows and bars or in the local weekly paper, Le Courrier.

In addition to the local village life there are ongoing spectacles in Le Mans, Sainte Suzanne and others and regular markets a short drive away. The market in the centre of Alençon on Thursday (especially) and Saturday mornings is excellent and there are plenty of lovely restaurants for lunch afterwards. Then there's Noz... everybody has to go to Noz at least once - ask us for details.

You will find a good selection of tourism brochures in the house. We try to keep these up to date but you are best advised to visit the tourist offices yourselves as they have loads of information and maps and most staff speak English. But of course you only have to ask us and we will be delighted to point you in the right direction.

Fishing

Fishing is a very popular pastime and there are many public fishing venues around, both lakes and rivers. Many villages have special "fishing days" or competitions when the lake or dammed-up river are stocked with thousands of fish and the sportsmen fish them out again. These days are enjoyable for all, not just fishermen and they usually feature bars, lunches, snacks and fun for the children such as being driven around in a trailer attached to a quad bike!

For casual fishers the lakes are probably the most accessible. There are many near La Goupillère but please note that a fishing permit is required. These are inexpensive and readily available. If you would like to participate you can buy day-passes (or longer) at many tabacs, cafés, etc. If you do go want to fishing there are specially designed lightweight folding chairs in the picnic box.

There are rules concerning where you can or can't fish, irrespective of whether the land is public or privately owned so best check before you cast your line but generally speaking if there are other anglers there, it's fine for anyone with a permit to do so. Usually, fish caught are returned to the water - it's the sport that counts not the eating but some places allow a certain number to be taken home and throughout the summer there are fishing days and competitions in rivers and lakes where the waters are stocked specially and you can enjoy any fish you catch at home.

Cycling

It's quite hilly locally but that doesn't put off the very many people who enjoy this sport. If you fancy the cycling but don't want to overdo it there are plenty places that are pretty flat - disused railway lines converted into cycle and horse riding tracks, river tow-paths, lakeside walks, etc. You can hire bikes from many of these and there is also a hire shop in Villaines-la-Juhel. Ask us for details.

Swimming

The sandy man-made beach, "Sillé Plage", at the large lake near Sillé-le-Guillaume is great for kids (and adults!) to swim. It is safe, has lots of other facilities, inexpensive or free activities, bars and restaurants and wonderful lakeside and forest walks. It does get a bit crowded (by the locals) in summer but there is good reason for that. There are excellent public swimming pools in Villaines-la-Juhel and Evron. And the coast is not too far away if you fancy the seaside.

Guests of Your Own

You may have your friends or family members visit you at La Goupillière, or you may meet new friends whilst you are on holiday. So long as they are all known to you personally and they are few in number, you are welcome to entertain them but they must comply with the conditions we have agreed with you and you will be responsible for the behaviour of everyone in their party and any damage or loss arising.

Sorry, but no unbooked animals are permitted in the house or grounds and nobody may stay overnight without our prior agreement, for which we may make a charge. Keys must not be given to anyone not specifically named on the Booking Confirmation and your guests must not be left alone in the house. Any variation to this must be agreed by us in advance.

Vehicles

We believe the hangars to be safe and free from defects that could result in damage to vehicles parked in them and recommend you park your vehicles under this cover but we do not accept any responsibility for any situation arising. Only the vehicles of those persons named on the Booking Confirmation may be left on the premises overnight unless agreed by us in advance.

Garden hoses are intended only for essential watering of animals and plants, so please don't wash your vehicles. There are plenty of car-washes around, both pressure washers and automatic spinning brush ones and everybody uses these. In summer there may be hosepipe bans or restrictions, policed by helicopter and *we* can be fined heavily for infringement. If it wasn't us, we'll expect reimbursement!

Weather

It's pretty much the same here as Southern England, just a little more extreme - a bit hotter in summer and a bit colder in winter but there are a couple of differences in our experience. There can be spectacular electrical storms in summer, with lots of forked lightning and thunder and these storms often roll around the valley for ages, or you may just see them in the distance. There's normally no physical damage caused by the storms but they can trip out the electricity or blow the LiveBox, both of which are covered elsewhere. We have experienced both electrical disruption and the effects of lightning hitting the telephone wires somewhere, which is why we ask you to completely disconnect the LiveBox. It's also sensible not to use any highly rated appliances during such storms and unplug any of your own equipment from wall sockets.

In winter or early spring there may be quite thick snow. The roads are usually cleared quickly, albeit roughly, as the milk tankers need access to the dairy farms but do take extra care if you venture out as there are quite steep hills with bends and deep ditches in both directions.

Gardening & Maintenance

Gardening is unavoidable in summer, especially grass cutting. It is impractical for us to give you advance notice but if it's inconvenient please say so to whoever comes to do it. The grass is just that, grass! It is not intended to be a bowling green or beautifully manicured lawn and although it will be kept as tidy as possible the reality is there will sometimes be loose cuttings. These dry out and disappear in the wind but at the rate grass grows here it's impossible to collect and store it all.

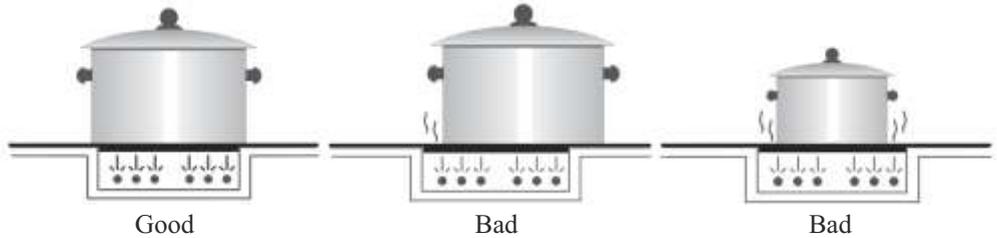
We try to avoid maintenance when the property is occupied and will only arrange it if the situation is urgent, you require something to be fixed or if it will benefit you.

Faure Cooker

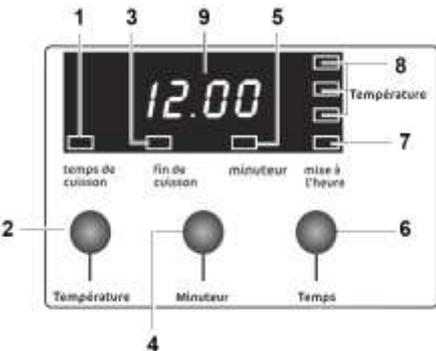


- 1 Hob front left
- 2 Hob rear left
- 3 Hob rear right
- 4 Hob front right
- 5 Programmer
- 6 Oven control
- 7 "On" light
- 8 Temperature & time

If the power drops out the clock resets to 12:00. If you cannot reset it tell us and we will set it.

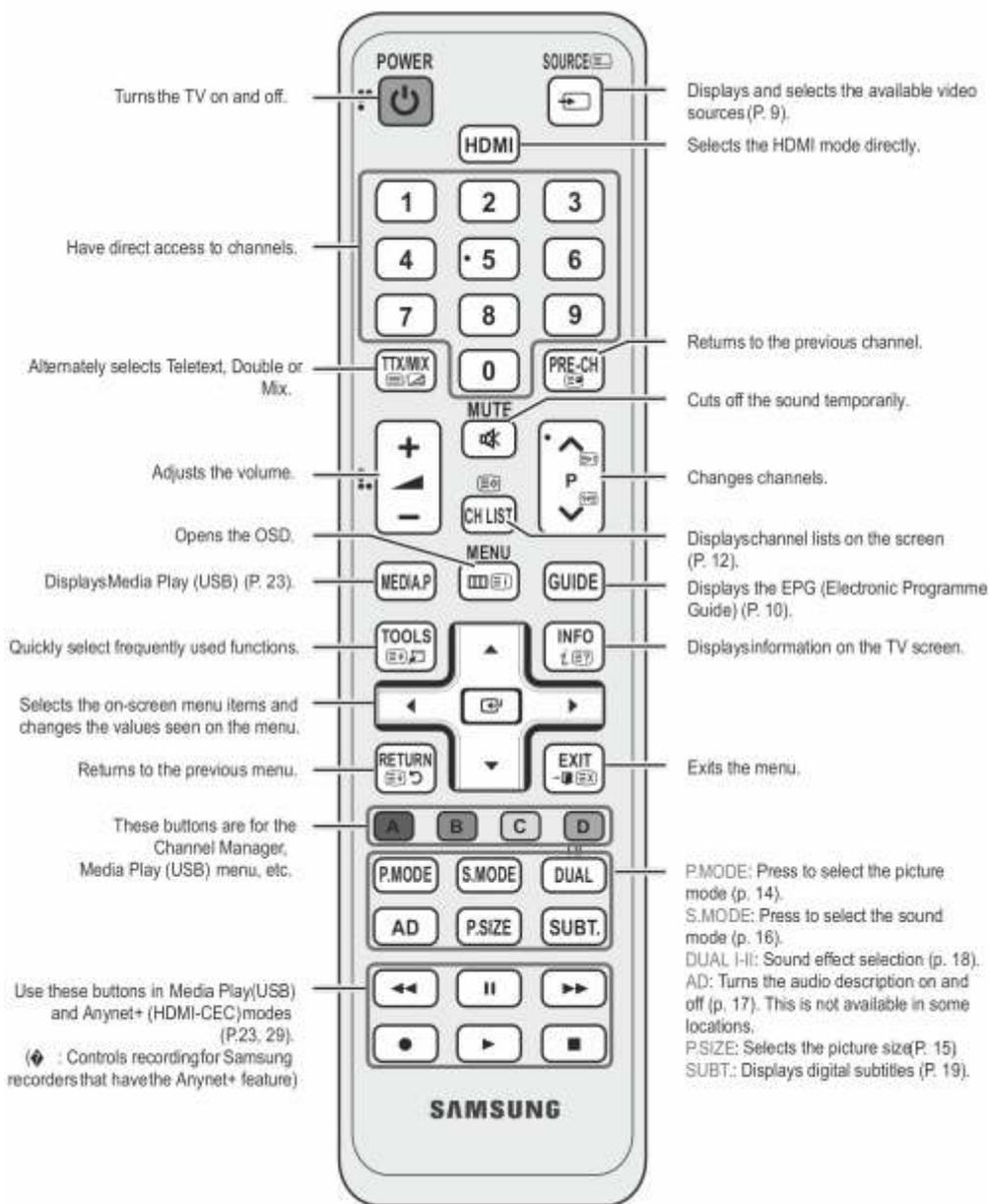


- 0 Off
- Oven light
- Traditional cooking
- Broil and rotisserie
- Convection cooking
- Traditional grilling
- Turbo cooking grill
- Cook using bottom element only



- 1. "Cooking time" indicator
- 2. Press to display the oven temperature
- 3. "End of cooking" indicator
- 4. Press to display temp selected or current time
- 5. "Timer" indicator
- 6. Press to select time (*temps is time in French!*)
- 7. "Time setting" indicator
- 8. "Temperature" indicators
- 9. Display

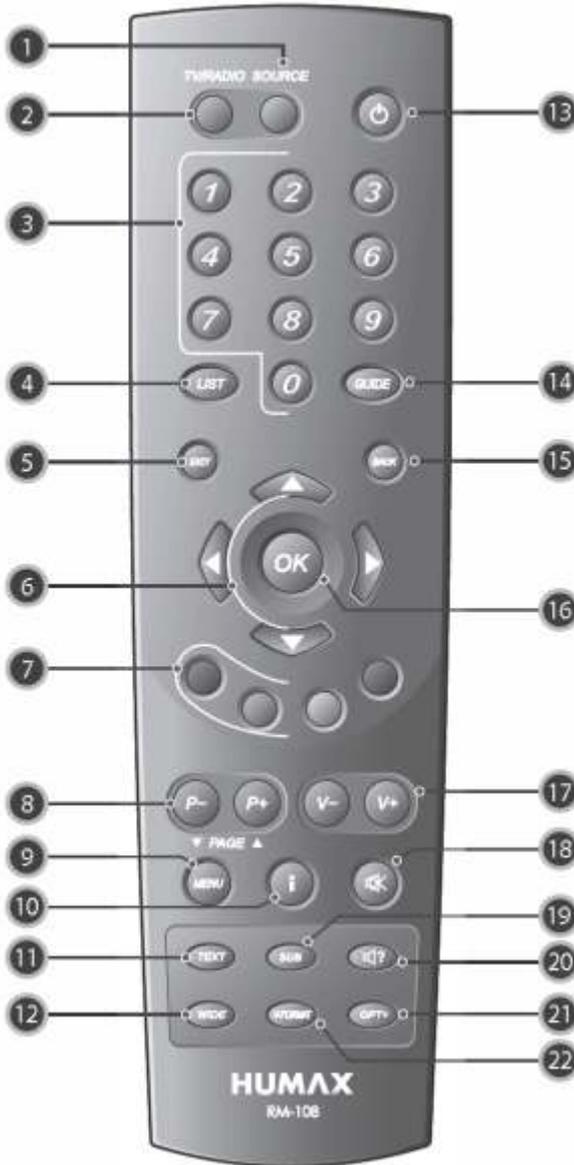
Samsung TV



If you lose or damage any remote controls, although we will of course try, it is unlikely we will be able to replace them during your stay as we have to get them from the UK.

Please ensure they are all accounted for and left on the coffee table before you depart.

Humax Satellite Receiver



1. SOURCE
Controls the output of TV SCART.
2. TV/RADIO
Switches between TV and radio modes.
3. NUMERIC(0-9) BUTTONS
Enters a channel number or menu option number.
4. LIST
Displays the channel list.
5. EXIT
Exits all On-Screen Display (OSD) screens.
6. ARROW BUTTONS
Navigates through the menu options.
7. COLOUR BUTTONS(R/G/Y/B)
Select the colour keys for interactive applications.
8. P-/P+ or PAGE/PAGE
Changes the channel or page.
9. MENU
Displays the main menu.
10. i (INFORMATION)
Displays the channel and programme information.
11. TEXT
Enters digital text service.
12. WIDE
Sets the display format.
13. STANDBY
Switches between operation and standby modes.
14. GUIDE
Displays the programme guide.
15. BACK
Closes and returns to the previous menu and screen.
16. OK
Selects a menu or confirms the selected operation.
17. V-/V+
Adjusts the audio volume.
18. MUTE
Mutes or un-mutes the audio temporarily.
19. SUB
Displays the subtitle language list.
20. AUDIO
Displays the audio list.
21. OPT+
Displays the channels attributes while watching a programme.
22. V-FORMAT
Changes the resolution of video.

Please let us know if the batteries of any remote control expire and we will replace them.

By default, the satellite system is set up to receive only UK free-to-air TV and radio channels from FreeSat. You must not retune the receiver or reposition the dish! With ample prior notice it is possible for us to tune the receiver to other language programmes that are available from the same satellite. Some viewing restrictions will apply so please discuss the implications with us.

Accidents & Damage In The Property

We accept there will be the odd broken glass, etc. so please tell us of accidents at an appropriate time but straight away if they impact upon your holiday, so that we can rectify them quickly.

Fair wear and tear or breakdown will not be considered as damage so long as things have been used in accordance with normal practice and not in a manner proscribed elsewhere. If anything is damaged or lost, please tell us so we can agree an amicable resolution and quickly arrange repair or replacement. Damage to equipment caused by attaching your own devices, reconfiguring or relocating it is not “breakdown” and we may not be able to arrange for repair during your stay.

Of course, “accidents happen” and although we are tolerant of this, material damage or soiling caused by inappropriate use or modification/relocation of items or lack of reasonable care will be charged at the repair or cleaning cost if possible or replacement cost if this is impracticable.

Accidentally Taking Our Property Away

An inventory is taken before and after each booking. Nobody has ever stolen anything from us but occasionally things are taken inadvertently. If this happens, you must tell us immediately you find out so we are aware it was unintentional as we have zero tolerance in respect of theft.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in the house or, for fire-safety reasons, in any other structure. It is permitted in the open air outside, away from the house, e.g. the patio, garden or courtyard, but not on the periphery of the house, i.e. in doorways, through windows, etc. The "smoking" of electronic cigarettes or vaporisers is not permitted in the house. As this is unambiguous, in the event of evidence it has been ignored we will deduct the cost of rectifying the situation from your security deposit and will ultimately seek from you the full cost of remedy if this is insufficient.

Charging Batteries For E-Cigarettes Or Other Devices (Inc Phones, Computers, Etc.)

There can be safety issues with lithium-ion batteries and/or chargers. They can cause fires so, for your own safety and to avoid risk to the property, only charge devices if the charger and battery were supplied by the manufacturer with the device. As with all devices, you should only charge batteries when you are present. Do not go out leaving batteries or any devices charging.

Laundry

The laundry facilities are provided for washing your fabric clothing and items we have supplied such as towels and bath mats. You must not wash or tumble dry e.g. trainers (despite there being a setting for these), bulky or sandy beach towels, any pet bedding or anything that would not normally be laundered in domestic equipment. Waste water discharges into the “fosse toutes eaux”, covered elsewhere, so any solid material such as sand or pet fur is ultimately problematic.

For sound reasons, we don't launder bed linen in the equipment provided; it all goes to a professional laundry. If you have bed linen from a previous leg of your holiday or other bulky items, for the same sound reasons, which we are happy to explain, you must not launder these in our equipment. If you have such things that need to be laundered please discuss it with us and we will provide a satisfactory solution, e.g. we can take it to the laundry for you (it's cheap and they iron it!) or, should you need to launder anything other than clothing or towels, there is a laundrette in Villaines-la-Juhel which has commercial equipment connected to mains drainage.

Emergencies & Accidents To Persons

The nearest A&E is in Mayenne, 28 km, 25 mins away (see map below). If you have an accident needing assistance or are taken seriously ill try to contact us or key 112 on your mobile phone. The appropriate emergency service will be dispatched but obviously you will have to tell them where you are and the reason for your call. French Pharmacies, not doctors, are the first point of call for minor medical matters. All French pharmacists are highly trained so you can be confident the person serving you will have relevant knowledge and is not just a shop assistant. Ambulances are not the same as in the UK so don't phone direct for one!

Apart from emergencies, most medical facilities require you to have an appointment.



Emergency Back-up Power (UPS - Uninterruptible Power Supply)

This unit, on the right of the TV in the lounge, will provide power for the lamp attached to it during a power cut and should protect the Orange LiveBox and other AV equipment in the event of a storm. If you are unfamiliar with these, be aware it is not just an extension lead or surge protector and is by definition uninterruptible. It will still deliver mains power even if the household supply is cut off, a circuit breaker trips or it is unplugged. That is what it is intended to do.

Do not attach your own equipment to this unit, plug in anything else or relocate it: just leave it plugged in where it is. It is intended only to protect the AV equipment and provide emergency lighting in the lounge. The lamp will operate for a few hours but the less being powered, the longer the battery will last. This will normally be enough to see you through a power cut but if you leave the attached equipment on, this time will be reduced so turn it off as soon as you can. There is an alarm signalling loss of mains power which you should not hear upstairs, so if there is a power cut at night resulting in a circuit tripping you will not know until you wake up. If you leave the lamp or other attached equipment on and there is a power cut to the UPS they will eventually drain its battery so you will lose the benefit. It will recharge automatically.

Babies and Small Children

La Goupillère is designed for adults and older children and, although we have done what we can to ensure a safe environment, it is not “child proof” so please take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of your offspring. The hot water is *very* hot unless mixed with cold so take particular care when bathing baby and do not allow children to use basins, the bath or showers unattended.

Please don't think we're being patronising but the fact is that nature in Continental Europe is a little different from the UK. Of course, children love to explore and we don't think there is much around that could be harmful but there is a lot of natural terrain nearby so keep an eye on them. We do have creatures that aren't common in the UK and we recommend that young children are not left alone to play where they can pick up insects or wild animal droppings unnoticed. Just like anywhere else there are some caterpillars, particularly hairy ones, or other insects that should not be touched, however attractive they are. Just common sense but “better safe than sorry”.

Children, or anybody else for that matter must not climb fences or gates and especially those separating the sheep field from the garden. Sheep are generally timid and gentle creatures but they are also very heavy and strong. If they think they are going to be fed they are quite capable of running over towards a youngster sitting on top of a fence... you don't want that. This advice applies to sheep or cows wherever you come across them and, as you will find out, there are lots.

If you are unfamiliar with French society please be aware that there is a very different approach to “Health & Safety”. You will likely see things that would probably be banned in the UK or at least frowned upon. Whether you let your kids join in or not is of course entirely up to you. Just think Britain 40 years ago... Ah, it was such fun then!

You must absolutely not put any baby things down loos - wet wipes, nappies, Q-tips, whatever. We make no apologies for stressing this. It is vitally important.

We are committed to providing clean, hygienic and undamaged accommodation to you and subsequent guests and trust that if you have babies or youngsters in your party you will make suitable arrangements to protect soft furnishings from soiling.

Child Gates

Upon your request, we can provide a proprietary child gate between the lounge and downstairs hallway *or* kitchen. Should you wish to use this, we cannot guarantee it to be foolproof and its failure to contain your child will not be accepted as a fault on our part. It is your judgement alone as to whether it is suitable and, in any case, we strongly recommend that you do not leave small children alone in any part of the house and do not rely solely on the gate to contain them.

The gate is not intended to be portable and there are small parts that could easily be lost. Please do not relocate it yourself as the loss of only one part will render it unuseable.

WARNING : If you have opted to use this gate be aware there is a bar across the bottom at floor level. It is in the nature of the design and is an unavoidable trip hazard.

The gate at the top of the stairs is only to check small children from accidentally stumbling down the stairs. This gate should not be used to contain them there.

Neither gate will prevent a deliberate attempt to circumvent them or support weights beyond their design limitations.

Pet Dogs

If we have agreed your pet dog we have taken it on trust that it is well behaved and our conditions are respected but there are a couple of things we would like to point out.

The enclosed area around the patio and behind the house is planted with herbs for human consumption and dogs must be actively prevented from using it for toilet, including just “lifting a leg”. This applies to any area containing edible items e.g. strawberries in the rockeries.

The grounds are not fully fenced and are not suitable for dogs to be left to their own devices. Your pet must be supervised at all times and prevented from going into areas containing farm animals or crops. Normal barbed wire or electric fences are designed to keep cattle and sheep in, not to keep dogs out and farmers have the right to shoot dogs they find worrying their animals. Even if no physical contact is made, cattle and sheep may abort their young if stressed. Please don't be alarmed - just be aware. There are plenty of forests and lakes where dogs can run free.

This may be a quiet country area but other people do live here! Mothers take their young children for walks, people take their dogs out and folk just pass by, whether on their bikes or just out for a stroll. Cars, large vehicles and tractors pass, often (too) quickly. You know your pet's tendencies so please ensure they are not put in a position to be harmed themselves or harm others.

Dogs are not allowed upstairs. They must not be allowed directly on any furniture and you must provide your own suitable protection to prevent them from coming into direct contact with our furniture, bedding and rugs. We do not recognise “accidental” damage in the case of pets and you are liable for all damage or soiling, however caused.

You will need to make an appointment with the vet before you take your dog back to the UK. You can arrange this yourself or we will be pleased to do so for you given adequate notice. If your pet requires veterinary attention during your stay, phone the clinic before taking it in as there is not always a vet in attendance.

Pet Gates

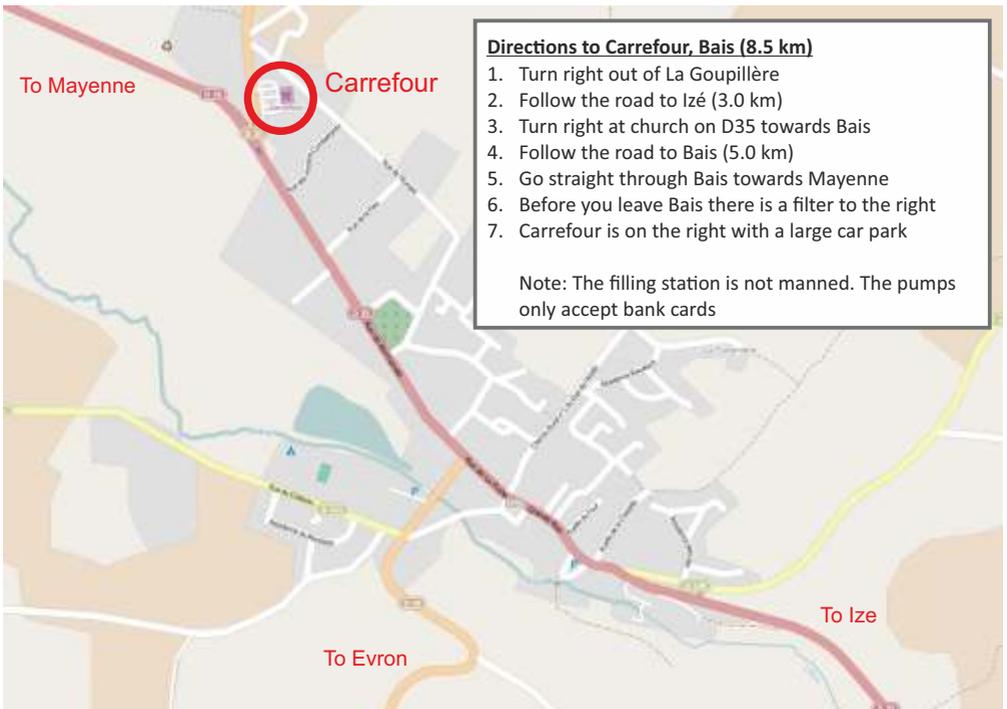
Upon your request, we can provide a proprietary pet gate between the lounge and the kitchen/diner. Should you wish to use this, we cannot guarantee it to be foolproof and its failure to contain your pet will not be accepted as a fault on our part. It is your judgement alone as to whether it is suitable and, in any case, we strongly recommend that you do not leave pets unaccompanied in any part of the house and do not rely solely on the gate to contain them.

The gate is not intended to be portable and there are small parts that could easily be lost. Please do not relocate it yourself as the loss of only one part will render it unusable.

WARNING : If you have opted to use this gate be aware there is a bar across the bottom at floor level. It is in the nature of the design and is an unavoidable trip hazard.

The wood gate at the top of the stairs is intended only to check small children from accidentally stumbling down the stairs. Pets are not allowed upstairs and this gate is not to be used to contain them there. It may of course be used to ultimately prevent them from going upstairs but should not be the first line of prevention.

Neither gate will prevent a deliberate attempt to circumvent them or support weights beyond their design limitations.



Directions to Carrefour, Bais (8.5 km)

1. Turn right out of La Goupillière
2. Follow the road to Izé (3.0 km)
3. Turn right at church on D35 towards Bais
4. Follow the road to Bais (5.0 km)
5. Go straight through Bais towards Mayenne
6. Before you leave Bais there is a filter to the right
7. Carrefour is on the right with a large car park

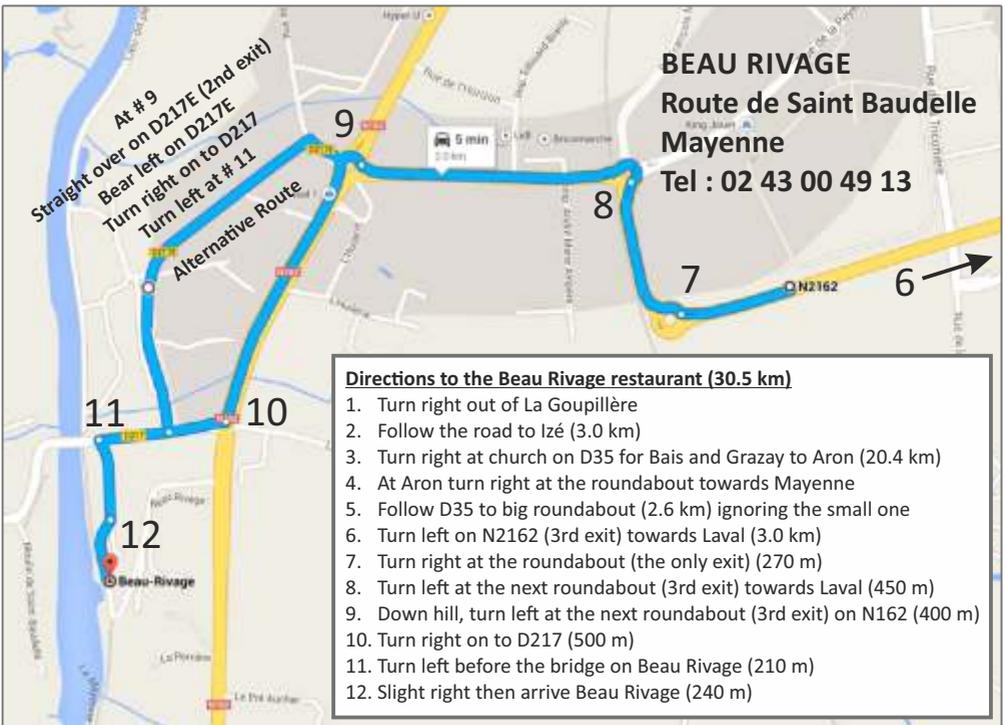
Note: The filling station is not manned. The pumps only accept bank cards

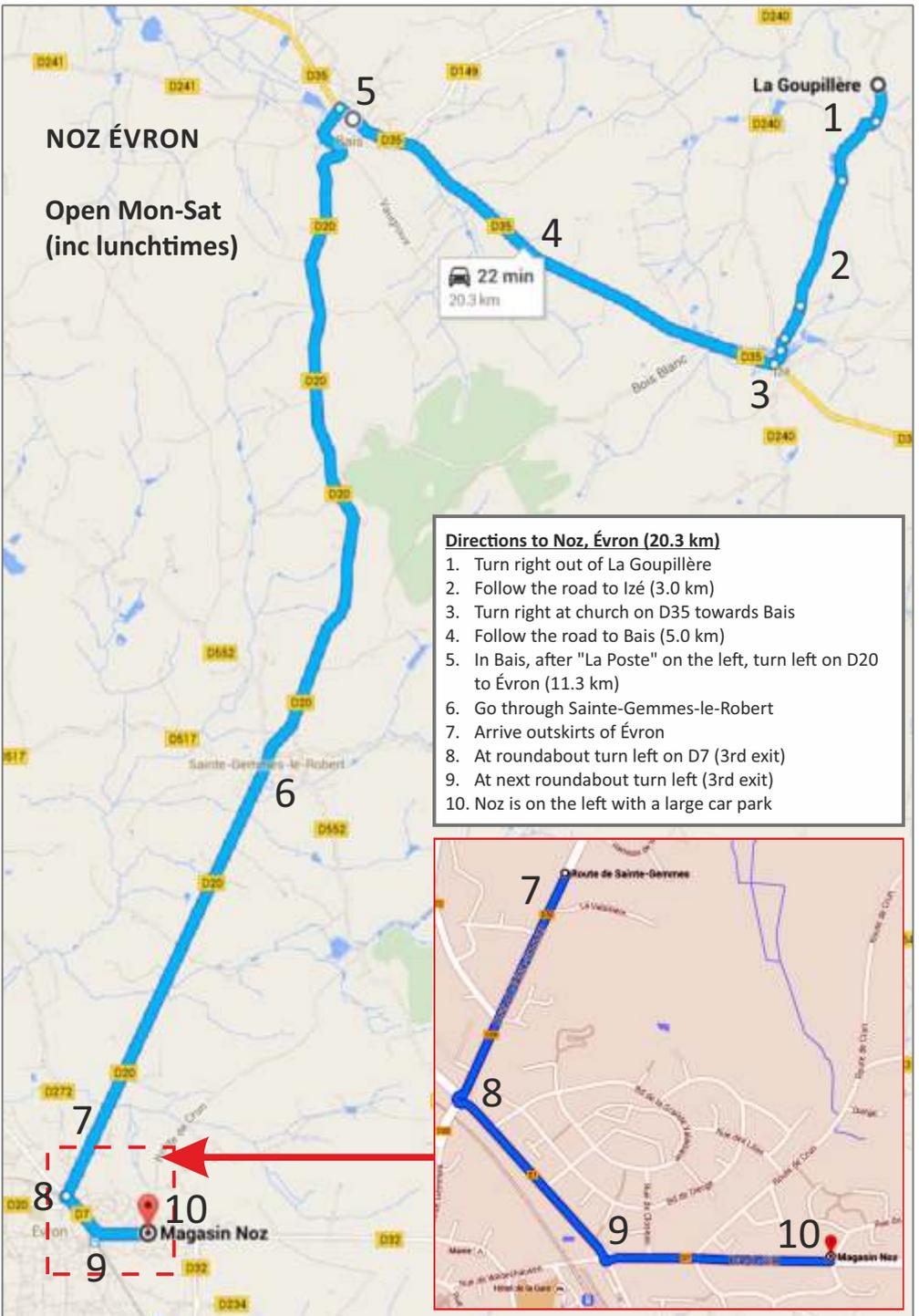


Directions to Super U, Villaines-la-Juhel (13.1 km)

1. Turn left out of La Goupillière
2. Follow the road to St Thomas de Courcieriers (3.4 km)
3. Turn left past the church and go straight ahead
4. Turn right at the Mairie/Agrial towards Courcité
5. Follow the road to Courcité (4.0 km)
6. Go straight through Courcité to Villaines-la-Juhel (4.3)
7. At the roundabout go straight. Super U is on the right

Note: The filling station is not manned Mon - Thu lunchtimes. The pumps only accept bank cards





Directions to NOZ