

La Ruelmain holiday guide

the cottages



markets

websites

the gardens

places to see

things to do

shopping

random useful facts



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What's in the cottages?

All the cottages have:

- ◇ in the living-room—sofas or easy chairs, dining table, wood-burning stove.
- ◇ in the kitchen—good range of cooking equipment: saucepans, colander, cafetiere, teapot, egg cups, sharp knives, chopping boards, etc. Kitchen basics such as salt, pepper, tea, sugar, oil and vinegar. Cleaning stuff, kitchen towels, etc.
- ◇ gas oven, electric fridge.
- ◇ free access to laundry facilities
- ◇ shower (in Hibiscus fitted over a small bath).
- ◇ constant hot water, gas, electricity, and summer firewood included in price.
- ◇ bed linen: single duvets and pillows; all sheets, towels, tea towels, bathmat, included in price.
- ◇ wandering leads and plug adaptors for your appliances.
- ◇ private garden / patio with furniture and barbecue.
- ◇ own parking.
- ◇ free use of cot, high chair, and baby bath—just ask; stairgates
- ◇ **Wi-Fi:** Hibiscus is in range for our Wi-Fi, and House and Barn guests are welcome to come over to our house to use it.



The valley view from below Hibiscus

The gardens

We are enthusiastic gardeners and each cottage has its own garden with good places to sit. The butterflies are wonderful (Camberwell beauties in 2009), there are lizards, and you can just sit back and watch and listen to birds of all kinds. The Barn's pride and joy is a little vine-covered terrace which looks onto a small lawn surrounded by trees and shrubs. Hibiscus has a courtyard garden crammed with plants (the hibiscus, of course, and stunning hydrangeas) and in addition you can spill over into our garden. The House patio looks down to grass and fruit trees with the valley as backdrop. We are always grateful if guests water any pots they think need attention!

The river is just half a mile to the north across the fields along farm tracks.

Useful random information

Rubbish: put rubbish in bags into the communal bin on the road. Collection early Monday. Yellow bin is for **recycling**—cans, plastic bottles, cardboard food packaging and tetrapacs. Public bins all over the place for glass and newspapers.

Medical: nearest A & E is at Redon hospital.

For a doctor try the *maison medicale* at La Roche Bernard. Phone in the morning—**02 99 90 61 25**—for an appointment for the same day. We see Dr Moser, who speaks some English. Be prepared to pay as you go. Dire emergencies, phone **18** (for paramedics/firemen) or **112**. There is a dentist, Dr Belot, attached to the maison medicale. **02 99 90 63 95**

Cash machines: Credit Agricole at St Dolay. Several at La Roche and Redon.

Public telephones: St Cry, St Dolay. Telephone cards easily available, especially at tabacs. Mobile coverage at Ruelmain is now pretty good but give us as a contact number if you wish: 00 33 (0) 2 99 90 13 47.

Local maps: We are at the edge of Michelin local map no. 308, Finistère-Morbihan, on the south side of the Vilaine between Le Grippé and le Val, E of La Roche.

You can borrow from a large collection of local maps, waymarked walks, posh guidebooks etc (kept in the laundry room).

BBC: You can get Radio 4 reasonably well on Long Wave 198.

Internet access: Hibiscus guests can use our WiFi, and people in the other cottages are welcome to come over and use it in our house. There is internet access at La Roche and at St Dolay—details in the cottages.

Motoring matters:

Petrol stations:

Beware: UK credit and debit cards don't always work in automatic fuel pumps ('24/7'). Manned petrol stations other than at supermarkets are few and far between, and often close for lunch. Supermarket fuel is the cheapest around.

Nearest fuel is at the Carrefour at La Roche, card operated (UK cards), 24/7. Next nearest is the Esso station west of the old bridge at La Roche (manned) or Intermarché at Aucfer (manned in the morning).

Public holidays 2010:

Friday 1 January	New Year's Day
Monday 5 April	Easter Monday
Saturday 1 May	Labour Day (Fête du Travail)
Saturday 8 May	VE Day
Thursday 13 May	Ascension Day
Monday 24 May	Whit Monday
Wednesday 14 July	Bastille Day
Sunday 15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday 1 November	All Saints' Day
Thursday 11 Nov	Armistice Day
Saturday 25 Dec	Christmas Day

Day-to-day shopping

The nearest shops are at **St Dolay**, about 2 miles away, which has a boulangerie (delicious), small Vival supermarket, butcher/grocery, paper shop, occasional post office, pharmacy, a friendly bar-restaurant and a couple of bars. The food shops are open on Sunday mornings, when there is also often a shellfish stall in autumn.



St Dolay's wonderful boulangerie

La Roche, 8 miles away is larger, with a terrific market on Thursdays. There are several good places to eat, two fishmongers, three butchers, three supermarkets and a good range of small shops.

Redon has all the main services and shops, including a large Le Clerc at St Nicolas de Redon. Main market day is Monday. As well as the town centre supermarkets there are an outstanding boulangerie and an Intermarché at **Aucfer**, on the way to La Ruelmain.

Beware: most shops still close for a long lunch, though **Shoppi** at La Roche stays open (*journée continué*), and **Carrefour** is *journée continué* Thursday to Saturday.

Sunday morning opening: St Dolay, La Roche town centre, Aucfer Intermarché.

A bread van calls at La Ruelmain every day except Sunday, usually in the afternoon. A fish van calls on Fridays, and a good butcher also calls on Saturdays. They announce themselves with a loud toot of the horn.

If you are a **markets** junkie, you'll be in heaven. Fish is the thing round here, or down at *Guerande* sea salt in all its varieties. Look out too for local honey and vegetables, a cheese maker who produces a good goats' tomme, and in high season lots of fun tourist-attracting craft stalls. Info on which days, where, in the cottages

Tourist information



La Ruelmain lies at the edge of three departments, Morbihan, Ille et Vilaine, and Loire Atlantique, so, French logic being what it is, you have to go to different places to gather details of things to do. There are many leaflets etc in the cottages, but to find out for yourself:

For **Morbihan**, **La Roche Bernard** has an excellent information office in the old town. There is often an English-speaker in attendance, and they have many leaflets etc in English. The municipal camping, by the old port, advertises cycle (*VTT*.. *vélo tout terrain*) hire.

Redon's Ille et Vilaine information office, just north of the railway in the public events space, is the best we have found. A very good range of free or paid-for guides to point you to cycle and canoe hire, pony trekking, etc. Their website is easy to use and informative (starred below).

There is an efficient local information office for **Loire Atlantique** at **Missillac**, about 5 miles away, which is manned April to September, often by English-speaking leisure and tourism students. For the Brière regional park, there is the information office at **La Chapelle des Marais**.

The coast and beaches

Sandy beaches, wild rocky coves or pretty little ports are all within easy reach of La Ruelmain. It takes about 20 minutes to get to the coast at Penestin and the Mine d'Or, a very beautiful and well known beach, from where there is a fine cliff-top walk to the Point de Bile with its mussel beds. Slightly further away are the elegant Edwardian resort of La Baule, and the fishing ports of La Turballe and Le Croisic. The Golfe du Morbihan is one of the famous littorals of France where you can spend days exploring.



Websites:

Most web searches just bring up directories of hotels etc. Here is a selection which offer impartial information (the first two especially)

www.infobretagne.com/cantondelaroche-bernard.htm

<http://www.tourisme-pays-redon.com/>*

<http://www.cc-pays-la-roche-bernard.fr/> (not just tourist info)

<http://www.parc-naturel-briere.fr/>*

<http://www.morbihan.com>

http://www.randobreizh.org/VeloroutesVoiesVertesBretagne_index.php (for cycle information)

<http://canal.nantes.brest.free.fr/index.htm>

... and don't forget Wikipedia—good on the Vilaine valley.

(*with English translations)

For cyclists and walkers

We have a big collection of large scale maps for walkers, and are gradually amassing information on waymarked paths from surrounding communes. There are miles and miles of lovely countryside to go at.

We offer bikes for pottering round the lanes or for exploring further afield, and if you want to plan longer bike rides or walks (to reach the canal, say) we can transport you and your bikes, or meet you and drive you back to your own car so you can plan a linear route. We also have a bike rack which you are welcome to borrow. There is a small charge for use of bikes or for lifts, which goes into our bike fund. A collection of walks and bike rides is in preparation.

For canal enthusiasts

Redon is a canal junction between the Canal de Nantes à Brest, and the Vilaine, the southern extension of the Ille et Rance canal. The towpaths are cyclable pretty much everywhere, and pass through a surprising variety of scenery. The nearest point of the Nantes to Brest canal is about 5 miles from La Ruelmain. North-west of Redon the Oust section of the Nantes to Brest passes through terrific walking country.



How to get here

Distance from Channel ports

St Malo . . . allow 2 hours; Caen and Cherbourg . . . allow 3/4 hours; Le Havre allow 4-5.

Coming by rail?

Nearest station is Redon (18 km). Good connections to St Malo and Paris, changing at Rennes.

By Air ?

Nearest airport are Rennes and Nantes (both about 50kms).

Driving directions

From the channel ports except Roscoff: the only place you are likely to get lost is on the Rennes

ring road. Take the northern (it becomes the western after a bit) ring road, signed for St Brieuç, Lorient and Vannes, and stay on it until you pick up the signs for Rennes airport at St Jacques. Follow the airport signs onto the N117, which is the Redon road. Don't whatever you do follow signs for Rennes centre.

Sat-Nav users: La Ruelmain can be spelled La Ruellemain or La Ruelmin. If your device won't recognise it, go for St Dolay and pick up the D176 from the main road to join our directions.

To La Ruelmain from Redon

- When you get to Redon, you can either follow *Centre Ville*, and then Vannes, signs to end up on the D775 to the south of the town, or follow Vannes signs round the western edge to join the D775 at a big roundabout.
- Stay on the D775 for a bit. You go along a stretch with a concrete central barrier and shortly after the barrier ends take a slip road to the D114, signed for Rieux, St Dolay and La Roche Bernard; keep your eyes peeled as it's easy to miss the slip road.
- Go through Rieux (with its sharp left hand bend in the middle), and over the Vilaine at a swing bridge (pont de Cran).
- 1.3 miles from the bridge turn right onto the D 176 for Ste Anne. ***See below**.
- After about half a mile the D176 bends round to the right at a junction with a traffic island; stay with it.
- Just over 2 miles from the traffic island you see Ruelmain mentioned for the first time, at a long stone house called Maison Neuve. **EITHER** you can turn right here, signed for La Ruelmain and Noe Vallio, and turn left at the T-junction at the bottom, after which La Ruelmain is the next place you come to, after about half a mile.

OR

- keep going for another half-mile until the road drops down into a dip at a left-hand bend with a road signposted for Ruelmain going off to the right; the house at the junction is called Bel Air. Follow the signs to La Ruelmain.
- As you come down into La Ruelmain the Barn faces you with the La Ruelmain sign in its hedge. Follow the road round to the right then turn left to the front of the Barn and the parking is next to it.

To La Ruelmain from the N165-E60 at La Roche Bernard

- Leave the N165-E60 at junction 16.
- Follow sign for Nivillac (D34) at roundabout (if you've come from the east) or at roundabouts on either side of the main road (if you've come from the west). Go very slow, and almost immediately after the roundabout(s) take a sharp left turn signed C3 to Nivillac and St Cry (down the side of a creamy white house which is directly on the road on the left).
- Follow this road until shortly after a 50 kph speed limit cancellation you join the D176 which comes in from the left (in effect you go straight across a crossroads).
- Follow this road, through a hamlet called Le Rosier, for 2.5 miles. At a hamlet called Ville Neuve take a road to the left signposted, among other things, Bringuin and Baragan. Follow this road, ignoring turnings to the left, round a sharp right hand bend, down a hill and up again and you come to Bringuin which has a house with square tower ahead and to the right; follow the road round to the left past a house with a pale blue gate (there is often big farm machinery parked on the left). Then down a hill and you see the Vilaine on your left. You are now on the nearest road to the river, and you simply stick with it until you get to La Ruelmain, where the name sign and the barn are ahead of you as you come down the hill.

*The D176:

Go to 'How to find us' on our website, www.ruelmain.co.uk. The D176 road runs from la Veille Ville and Le Broussais at the eastern edge of the map through to Ste Anne and St Cry, and the map pin is pretty accurately positioned for La Ruelmain. The D176 is the key to finding your way. If you get lost, follow the signs for Ste Anne and set out anew from there with the chapel on your left; you go up a hill with pines on your left and then down into the dip where Bel Air and the road to Ruelmain are on your left.

Or phone us and we'll come and find you at whatever hour of day or night.

Our house

If you go carry straight on towards the river after coming down the road from Bel Air this row of houses is on your left. We are in the house with the cross over the window. You get to it by turning off before the stone barn on the left, then turning down the side of the barn with Hibiscus in front of you.





BOOKING CONDITIONS, 2010

1. The properties known as 'the House', 'the Barn', and 'Hibiscus Cottage' at La Ruelmain are offered for holiday rental subject to confirmation by the Owners, Charles and Daffodil Marriage, to the Client.
2. To reserve any property separately, or two or three together, the Client should complete the on-line booking form and make payment of £100 deposit representing a £50 caution deposit and £50 towards the rental. If the booking is within 6 weeks of the start date, the full rental + £50 is due on reservation. The Owners will send a confirmation invoice and statement which is formal acceptance of the booking.
3. The balance of the rent is payable in euros upon arrival, at the exchange rate at the date of the booking confirmation, which will be included in the statement.
4. Charges for fuel, pet cleaning, extra linen, and use of bicycles to be paid in euros before departure.
5. The caution deposit of £50 serves as security against damage to the properties or its contents. However, the sum reserved by this clause shall not limit the Client's liability to the Owners. The Owners will account to the Client for this deposit and refund any balance due within two weeks of the end of the rental period. ***see condition 9**
6. **Cancellation:** the Owners will retain the £50 security deposit to cover administration. The rental element of the deposit is returnable 1) if cancellation is more than 12 weeks before the start of the booking or 2) if later than that the Owners can find a replacement booking. **The Client is strongly recommended to arrange a comprehensive travel insurance policy including cancellation cover, and to have full cover for the party's personal belongings, public liability, etc., since these are not covered by the Owners' insurance.**
7. The rental period runs from 3 p.m. on the first day until 10 a.m. on the last day unless agreed otherwise.
8. The maximum number to reside in the properties must not exceed 4 (House), 2 (Barn), and 2+ baby (Hibiscus) unless the Owners have given written permission.
9. The Client agrees to be a considerate tenant and to take good care of the property/ies and to leave it / them **in the condition in which they found them**. Although a final clean is included in our prices the Owners reserve the right to make a retention from the security deposit to cover additional cleaning costs if the Client leaves the property/ies in an unacceptable condition. The Client also agrees not to act in any way which would cause disturbance to those resident in neighbouring properties.
10. The Client shall report to the Owners without delay any defects in the property/ies, any breakdown in the equipment or appliances in the properties, so that arrangements for repair or replacement can be made promptly.
11. The Owners shall not be liable to the Client:
for any temporary defect or stoppage in the supply of public services to the properties;
for any temporary defect or stoppage of any equipment or appliance.
for any loss damage or injury which is the result of adverse weather conditions, riot, war, strikes, the Client's misuse of equipment or appliances, or other matters beyond the control of the Owners.
for any loss, damage, or inconvenience caused to or suffered by the Client if the properties be destroyed or substantially damaged before the start of the rental period, in which event the Owners shall refund to the Client all sums paid in respect of the rental period.
12. The Owners' liability to the Client shall not exceed the amount paid to the Owners for the rental period.

This contract shall be governed by English Law in every particular including formation and interpretation and shall be deemed to have been made in England. Any proceedings arising from or in connection with this contract shall be brought to any court of competent jurisdiction in England.