

Like a local

VISITING SAINT JEAN DE MONTS IS GREAT, BUT VISITING AS A LOCAL IS EVEN BETTER!

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS THE MONTOIS LIKE TO DO – CAN YOU SEE THEM – OR MAYBE TRY THEM OUT FOR YOURSELF.

☒ TO DO ☒ DONE

At the beach

- ☐ ☐ Collect shells and driftwood to make a holiday souvenir
- ☐ ☐ Try and spot Ile d'Yeu and Ile de Noirmoutier
- ☐ ☐ Try out some water sports (surfing, longe côte, (sea walking), catamaran ...)
- ☐ ☐ Treat yourself to a sweet snack on Avenue de la Mer
- ☐ ☐ Stroll along the pier and meet the fishermen
- ☐ ☐ Fish for shrimps and clams at low tide
- ☐ ☐ Watch the sunset reflected on the sea

At the table

- ☐ ☐ For your apéritif, try some 'préfou à l'ail' (local garlic bread), 'boucots', 'rillettes de la mer' or 'gralaie de moquettes' (moquette beans on buttered toast)
- ☐ ☐ For lunch, try cooking some of the fresh clams you caught that morning, with garlic and cream
- ☐ ☐ At any time, try a flan maraîchin (local dessert)
- ☐ ☐ For a snack, try 'gâche' (local brioche) with salted caramel

Other ideas for walks

In the forest

- ☐ ☐ Enjoying the fresh air
- ☐ ☐ Have a picnic in the forest with family or friends
- ☐ ☐ Try to spot deer, a squirrel or a rabbit
- ☐ ☐ Build a den
- ☐ ☐ Run down the slopes

In the marshes

- ☐ ☐ Find some reeds and rushes
- ☐ ☐ Let yourself be amazed by, and then try and capture, the colours of the marsh
- ☐ ☐ Cycle along the winding paths of the marshes

Bonus

- ☐ ☐ Spot a 'bourrine' (typical Vendéen peasant cottage)
- ☐ ☐ Learn a word in Maraîchin, the local dialect!
- ☒ Orienteering Courses: look for all the hidden markers with the help of a map
- ☒ The spirit of Adventure: a family walk with fun challenges to complete.



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A DAY OUT IN SAINT JEAN DE MONTS



WALKING



PAYS DE
SAINT JEAN
DE MONTS
—
VENDÉE Océan

The sky's the limit

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1 THE SEA BIRDS

In 1963, the Martel brothers, who were local sculptors, were commissioned to create this statue by Jean Minelien, who was one of the main developers of the seafront apartment buildings. The statue was primarily the work of Jan Martel as Joël was sick at the time. This sculpture, facing towards the ocean, is symbolic of the creation and subsequent success of this seaside resort.

2 DEVALLON DISTRICT

A new district, called the Devallon, was built just after World War I. The land belonged to Louis Pouvreau, also known as 'mille tripes' (1000 bellies) due to his size and who also cultivated asparagus which was renowned in the area. Today you can stroll amongst the houses and villas with their old-fashioned charm and style, as if they were stuck in the 1920s. The gardens were some of the first ever used for sunbathing, a practice that developed at the same time as sea swimming.

3 THE CHURCH OF SAINT JEAN BAPTISTE

The church was first built in the 12th century but over the years has been renovated and changed many times. It is on the site of a chapel which was dedicated to Saint Jean the Baptist, and it is from this we get the name St. Jean de Monts. During the Vendée wars, the church was partially destroyed by the opposing powers and what was left was used as animal enclosures until 1798. Due to the many renovations and changes, the architectural style is quite odd. Inside there is a magnificent altar canopy, a pulpit and the only real treasure of the parish – a silver and gold monstrance dating from 1440, which was donated by passengers who were saved from an English shipwreck.

4 COVERED MARKETS AND SHOPS IN THE TOWN CENTRE

Come and see the shopping area offering numerous shops and the local farmers' market.

5 THE AVENUE DE LA MER

In 1867, a road linked the centre of the town to the sea primarily to help those staying in the town to reach the beach easily. This road is now one of the main streets of the town and over the years a walk down this road at the height of the season has become something not to be missed. You will discover all sorts of shops, games and treats.



6 LA BAIGNEUSE

Inaugurated in December 1999, this statue is the work of Henry Murail, a sculptor from Challans. This statue with its generous feminine curves, symbolises the economic growth of this seaside resort and how it has opened out to the world.

7 THE HÔTEL DE LA PLAGE

This was St Jean de Monts' first hotel by the seaside, built back in 1910. As a great art lover, the hotelier provided accommodation for artists in exchange for a few paintings which were then used to completely cover the dining room walls.

8 THE ESPLANADE DE LA MER

A lovely 3-kilometre walk in the fresh air with exceptional views.

9 THE PIER

Inaugurated in 1967, the pier was built with many tons of ekki, also known as 'red ironwood'. It is 400 metres long and is a great place to stroll and watch the sea but also a great place for fishing. For a little extra: try a night-time walk where you'll get the impression that you're walking on water.

10 THE MARINA AND RAINBOW APARTMENT BUILDINGS

At the beginning of the 1970s, Guy Merlin, a Parisian property developer, launched a building project called 'toes in the water'. These seafront buildings are really symbolic of holidays possible for all.

11 THE DUNE TRAIL

A walk in the fresh air accompanied by the scents of the dunes, just a few steps away from the beach and the ocean.

12 THE GOLF LAKE

A pleasant walk around the lake.

13 THE BELVEDERE

From above the trees, you have superb views over the ocean.

J PLAYGROUNDS

