

————— Surf Guide, July '24 —————

SURFING IN BRITTANY

————— by boardshortz.nl —————



Photo by Jop Hermans

An introduction to surfing in Brittany

In Brittany, you'll discover surfers' paradise with crystal clear water, raw rock formations, and bays for shelter. Brittany is always good for the smallest swells. **Surfing is virtually guaranteed here.**

As for the weather; Yes, it's raining sometimes. But as the locals say: It only rains on fools.

Brittany is a beautiful part of France, and it's also one of the best places in Europe for surfing. In this surf guide, we'll go over all the things you need to know about surfing in Brittany so that you can enjoy yourself when you visit.

It's a great region for everyone.



Photo by Jop Hermans

Foreword

This guide is crafted with a deep love for the waves and natural beauty of Brittany. It is supported by the incredible surf photographer Jop Hermans, as well as surf coaches in Brittany, Jord Fortmann (Côte et Rêve) and Wilco van Berkel (Ti Tulipe).

This surfguide leverages insights from numerous surf books, countless visits to Brittany, and valuable online resources such as Surfline.

Hopefully you enjoy it as much as we crafted it.

Team Boardshortz.nl

BON PLAISIR

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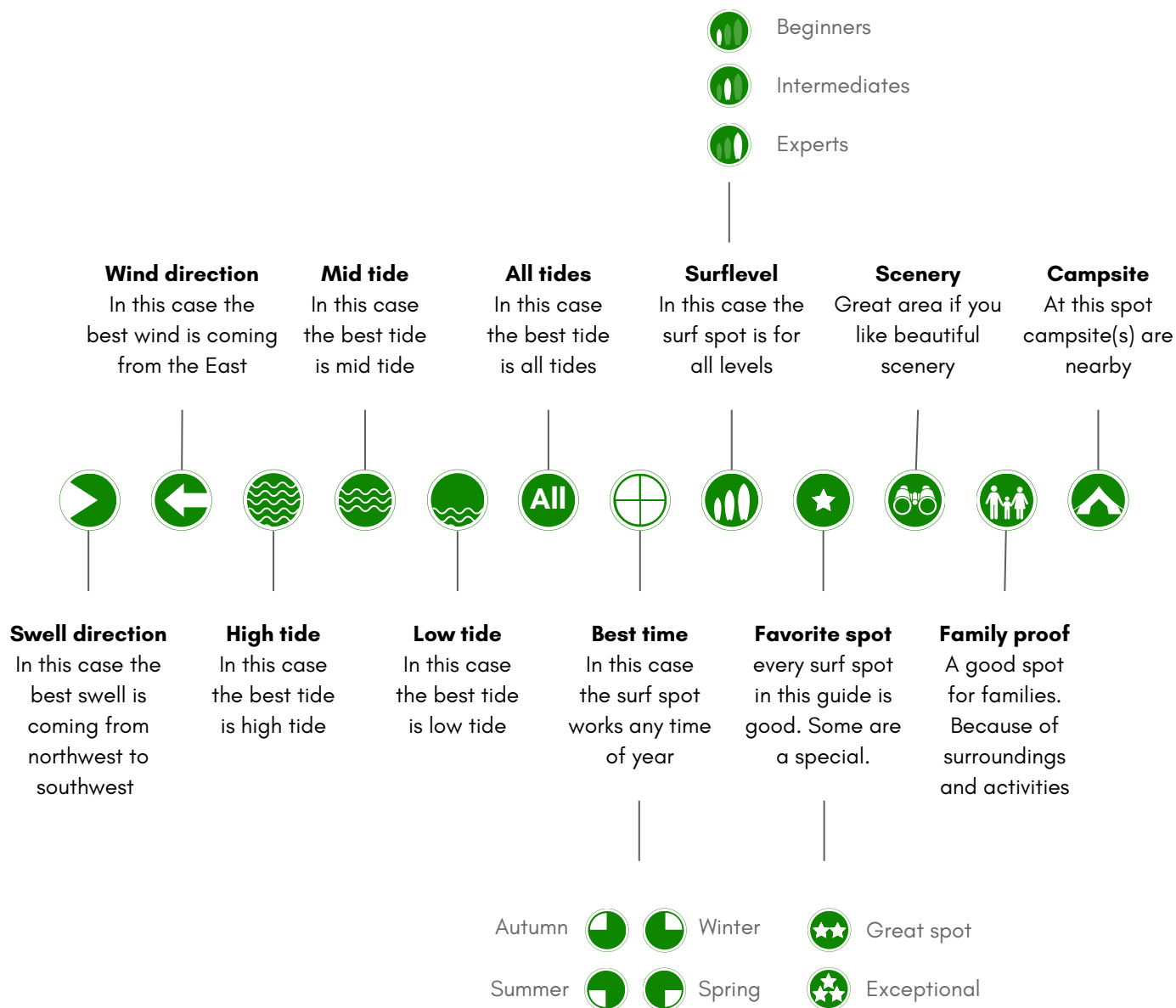
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WHERE TO STAY



SYMBOLS USED FOR THE SURFSPOTS

Each surf spot is unique in offering optimal waves for surfing. The quality of the waves depends on various factors, including wind direction, swell direction, swell height, swell period, bottom type, tide, and others. In this guide, we provide the best swell direction, wind direction, and tide for each surf spot to ensure the best rideable, clean waves. Based on this you can use surfline.com or windguru.cz to check if the surf conditions will be favourable.



WEATHER & SURF IN FRANCE

Impact of the weather

France's extensive coastline offers a variety of surfing experiences, heavily influenced by the diverse weather conditions across its regions.

Here's an overview on how the weather impacts surfing in France, from the temperate waters of the southwest to the powerful swells of the Bay of Biscay, Brittany and Normandy.

Understanding swells

Swells are critical to surfing, representing the energy traveling across the ocean from distant storms. They are formed by wind energy transferred to the water, creating waves that can travel thousands of miles. Swells vary in size and power, influenced by wind speed, duration, and the distance the wind travels over the water (fetch).

For Brittany, the **west swell** is paramount. Generated by Atlantic storms, these swells travel up the coast and bring the necessary energy for high-quality waves.

Wind plays a crucial role in shaping wave quality. For optimal surfing, consistent offshore winds are essential. In Brittany you can find a lot of surf spots with **wind protection**.

Best seasons for Brittany

Autumn and Spring are the prime seasons for surfing in Brittany. Because Brittany is very exposed to any swell, summer gets it's waves too.

Autumn Swells



Autumn

From October to December, autumn swells are common. The combination of moderate temperatures and consistent waves makes this season ideal for surfing.

Winter Swells

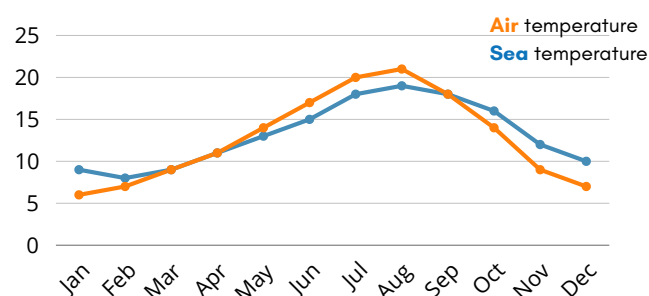


Winter

Winter, from January to March, brings even larger swells. Although the water temperature drops, dedicated surfers find the waves during this period to be worth the cold.

Weather statistics for Brittany

And to help you decide what clothes (and wetsuit) to bring, here are the average air and sea temperatures by month for **La Palue**.



HOW TO READ THE SURF FORECAST

Interpretation of surf forecasts

Various online tools and apps are available for reading swell charts. These tools aggregate data from multiple sources to provide accurate forecasts. Sources you could choose are Windguru, Surfline, Windy, Surf-forecast.com. We prefer Windguru.

Understanding the information on a swell chart is crucial. Surfers need to know how to interpret wave height, period, and direction to make informed decisions about when and where to surf.

When checking the forecast for a surf spot, consider these key points to determine if it's a good day for surfing:

1. Wind Speed: Look for light blue or white colors, indicating little to no wind.
2. Wind Direction: Offshore wind (from the south east) is ideal, especially on light wind days.
3. Wave Height: Aim for waves between 1 and 1.5 meters high.
4. Wave Period: Optimal periods are from 10 to 14 seconds.
5. Wave Direction: Waves from the west are perfect for Brittany (in general).
6. Tide: Mid-tide to high tide is usually best in Brittany, especially when waves are smaller.

By monitoring these conditions on Windguru, you'll soon master when to catch the best waves.

Wind

Wind speed

Wind direction

Waves

Wave height

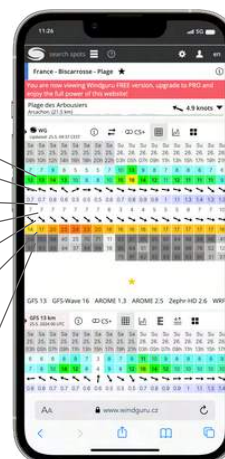
Wave period

Wave direction

Weather

Air temperature

Clouds in percentage



Check the surf spots on the following pages and learn the optimal times to surf.

WETSUIT GUIDE

by SRFACE

Wetsuit for France?

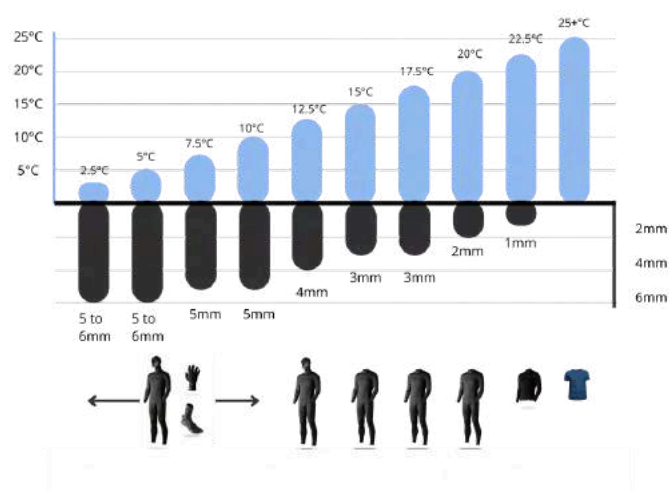
To maximize your time in the water, it's crucial to know the water temperatures you'll encounter, and what wetsuit to wear allowing you to make the most of your surfing sessions.

Southwest and western France (Basque Country and Les Landes) enjoy beautifully warm summers, with water temperatures reaching up to 22°C and occasionally even more. Wetsuits are then only needed in the mornings. But in winter, the temperature of the waters can drop to 12°C, therefore you'll need a thick wetsuit and boots and gloves.

Water temperatures in **Brittany and Normandy** are colder than in the south. Summer water temperatures only reach 16°C to 18°C, so a 3/2mm wetsuit is ideal. Winter is cold, with water temperatures dropping to 10°C in January and average air temperatures around 8°C. To maximize your time in the water, a 5/ mm wetsuit with gloves, boots, and a hood is essential.

Another advantage of wetsuits: wetsuits make lying on a surfboard more comfortable and may even guard against bumps and bruises.

Wetsuit vs watertemperature



Wetsuit Discount

SRFACE creates one of the best and affordable wetsuits in the market. Check the [website](#) and the discount by using the QR- and discount code.

Voucher

10% DISCOUNT

For a SRFACE wetsuit of your choice

Use the code **BDSZ1023** on SRFACE's website



SCAN ME

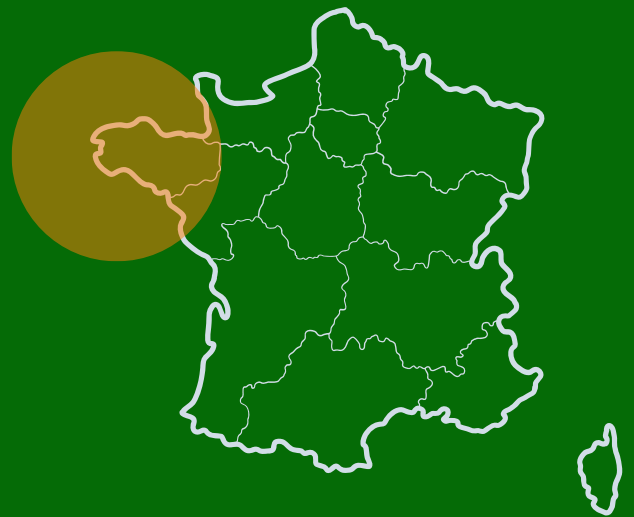
THE SURF SPOTS IN BRITTANY



Surfer: Jord Fortmann

OVERVIEW OF THE SURF SPOTS IN BRITTANY

Brittany boasts a diverse array of surf spots, featuring beach breaks, point breaks, and reef breaks suitable for all levels of surfers. We've selected the best surf spots for you.



THE SURF SPOTS IN NORTH BRITTANY

PART 1/2

Spot: near Cap Frehel

Cap Frehel

Driving up from Sables d'Or towards Cap Fréhel's multi-coloured cliffs reveals several surf options. The spot of La Fosse at Pléhérel beach is quite consistent, but La Grève d'En Bas is much better as long as it's not low tide. It handles southern winds well, though southwest winds can make it messy. Near beautiful town of Saint Malo. Many places to stay (and camp) nearby.

When to go: Suitable for intermediate and advanced surfers, performing best with solid western swell and southern winds. Mid tide best.



Perros-Guirec (Trestraou)

Perros-Guirec has two spots. The smaller bay, Pors Nevez, in the east corner of town, is a beach break with some rocks and boulders, works from medium N-NW swell. Just west of Pors Nevez is **Plage de Trestraou**, a little more northeast-facing beach break, therefore protected in west winds, works from medium N-NW swell (2M+). Both beaches can be crowded in summer. The surf is crowded on weekends. Barrels can be found here.

When to go: Perros-Guirec/Trestraou is good on decent western swells and southern. Suitable for intermediate and advanced surfers. All tides.



THE SURF SPOTS IN NORTH BRITTANY

PART 2/2

Spot: Unknown

Pors Ar Villec

'Porza' Porza is the most consistent surf spot in the relaxed area of Locquirec. It offers fast, hollow waves over a sandy reef during a northwest swell (2.5M+), or clean longboard-friendly waves with a southern wind. It's always crowded and has rocks that appear even at high tide. Many places to stay (and camp) nearby.

When to go: Suitable for intermediate and advanced surfers, performing best with solid western swell and southerly winds. Mid tide and high tide best.



Boutrouilles (Kerlouan)

This spot features good higher tide beach breaks, thanks to patches of reef that hold the sand. Popular with bodyboarders, it has good wedges among the granite rocks. It can get crowded in high summer. Beach is very nice as well with easy parking.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with western swell and easterly winds. All tides good. But mid to high best like Dossen.



Plage du Dossen

A long sandy beach exposed to the wind, suitable for sailing or kiting. It's less sloppy at lower tides and has various peaks perfect for longboarding and beginners. Shortboarders can find more challenging waves at Île de Sieck. Starts working at less than 1 meter.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with western swell and easterly winds. All tides good. But mid to high best.



THE SURF SPOTS NEAR BREST

Spot: near Brest

Plage de Porsmilin

Plage de Porsmilin features a left-hand reef break which can become crowded due to its limited space. And because it's close to Brest. When swell hits 2.5M+ more a bodyboard wave.

The area is beautifully surrounded by green hills and offers a small bay setting.

There are more parking options at **Plage de Portez**, and both bays have coastal trails nearby.

When to go: Suitable for intermediate and advanced surfers, performing best with southwestern swell (from 1.5M) and northern winds. Mid and high tide.



Le Petit Minou

A hollow beach break, rocky in the southern part known as 'Les Moules'. It offers fun walls and punchy lips with southwest to northwest swells and a north offshore wind. Best at low tide.

Often crowded on weekends due to its proximity to Brest. So better to avoid the weekends.

When to go: Suitable for intermediate and advanced surfers, performing best with southwestern swell (from 1M) and northerly winds. Low and mid tide.



THE SURF SPOTS ON CROZON PENINSULA

Spot: La Palue

La Plage de Pen-Hat

La Plage de Pen-Hat is the most consistent spot near **Camaret-sur-Mer**, with strong rips at either side of the bay. It needs small to medium W swell but picks up a bit less than La Palue to the south. It is best at low to mid tide.

When to go: Suitable for intermediate and advanced surfers, performing best with western swell and eastern winds. All tides.



Kerloc'h

Kerloch is known for its large crescent-shaped bay, which spreads out crowds due to its size. The beach is particularly visible from the road (D8) and is a popular spot, especially when the swell is medium-sized W-NW. A good summer spot for beginners.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with north eastern winds and strong west swells. Mid to high tide.



Goulien

Goulien is a beach protected from South West winds. At low tide, it offers the opportunity to walk down the beach. Accessible from the D8, the beach has northern and southern parts, providing a long stretch of sandy shoreline. It's also very near **Pointe de Dinan**. A great campsite is near the surfspot.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with south eastern winds and west swells. All tides.



La Palue

La Palue is the most popular summer spot on the Crozon Peninsula, possibly even in Brittany. It is extremely exposed, so even the slightest W-NW swell brings rideable waves. Beautiful scenery and friendly atmosphere.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with eastern winds and small to medium west swells. All tides, but best with the push of the tide.



THE SURF SPOTS IN SOUTH BRITTANY

Spot: near Audierne

Plage du Ris

Le Ris is a beach close to Douarnenez. Except for northern winds, it's well protected from strong winds in any other direction and needs a solid W-NW swell to work. The wave is long, easy, and weak, making it ideal for longboarders and SUPs. Safe beach for kids to learn. Great view on Douarnenez. Including campsite (Huttopia).

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with south eastern winds and strong west swells. Mid to high tide.



Baie des Trépassés

The big bay between Pointe du Raz and Pointe du Van is known for its cold water and clean beach. It offers a backdrop of rocky cliffs and several peaks to choose from (right, middle and left of the bay). Fun when small, powerful when bigger. Exposed to wind, but shelter can be found in the utmost corners. Surfschool at the beach.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with eastern winds and any west swells. Mid to high tide.



Saint Tugen

When you see Saint-Tugen in pictures, it appears tropical and warm. The water is crystal clear, with fine white sand making it even bluer. The beach has lumps of seaweed, and it's a fun drive through the small streets of medieval town Saint-Tugen. It offers beach breaks with rocks and boulders, powerful waves, and a thumping shore break with high tide. No amenities around.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with north eastern winds and west swells (1M+). Mid to high tide. Not low.



Penhors

Penhors is a well-known surf spot in South Brittany with restaurants, bars, and a surf school at the location. The waves are mellow, and you will find various spots to catch your wave. At mid tide you can paddel out via the little harbour.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with north eastern winds and west swells (1M+). Mid to high tide. Not low.



THE SURF SPOTS NEAR LA TORCHE

Spot: near La Torche

Tronoen

Tronoen is a quieter spot further north from La Torche. Especially during the week. Tronoen is between La Torche and Penhors and known for its consistent waves. The waves here are suitable for SUP and windsurf contests, making it a versatile spot for various water sports.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with eastern winds and west swells, even less than 1 meter. Mid to high tide.



Pors Carn

Pors Carn is located at the southern end of Pointe de la Torche. It is a safer spot for beginners and kids compared to La Torche. It offers beach breaks with rocks and boulders and is well-suited for those looking for less intense waves.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with south eastern winds (but still good with south western winds) and west swells. Mid to high tide.



La Torche

La Torche is one of Brittany's most well-known surfing spots, due to its exposed position and length. It offers easy access and protection from the headland, which makes it popular for surf contests. Waves break cleanly along the rocky headland and continue towards the beach. Crowded in the weekends.

When to go: Suitable for all surfers, performing best with eastern winds and west swells. Mid to high tide.



QUIBERON IN SOUTH BRITTANY

Spot: Côte Sauvage

Quiberon

Quiberon is located on a 14-kilometer peninsula in South Brittany, France, it's known for its excellent waves. The highlight is La Côte Sauvage (wild coast) on the southwest, with popular spots like Port Bara. Beginners can enjoy Port Blanc. Quiberon offers a delightful beach break with slightly warmer waters than the rest of Brittany..

When to go: Quiberon suits all surf levels and is best on low to mid tides and Eastern winds.



Scan me



and go to the webpage
about Brittany

LEARNING TO SURF

A person with dark hair, seen from behind, is wearing a red long-sleeved wetsuit top with a grey patch on the back and black wetsuit pants. They are holding a large, bright red surfboard vertically. To their right, another person with curly hair, wearing a red shirt, is pointing their right hand towards the ocean. The background shows a bright, sunny day over the ocean with white-capped waves. The overall scene is a teaching or learning moment in surfing.

SURF SCHOOLS IN BRITTANY

In France There are numerous places where you can take surf lessons and start your journey towards becoming a (better) surfer.

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced surfer, France is an excellent place to learn.

The best place to start is with an instructor from a surf school. The prices range from €30 per hour for beginner lessons to €200 for more advanced sessions.

Our top pick for surf schools and surf coaches in Brittany:

Near Brest

Sweet Spot Surf School (4.7 rating from 5)

Website: <https://www.sweetspotsurf.com/>

At Crozon

Surf School Moby Dick (4.9 rating from 5)

Website: <https://mobydick.fr/>

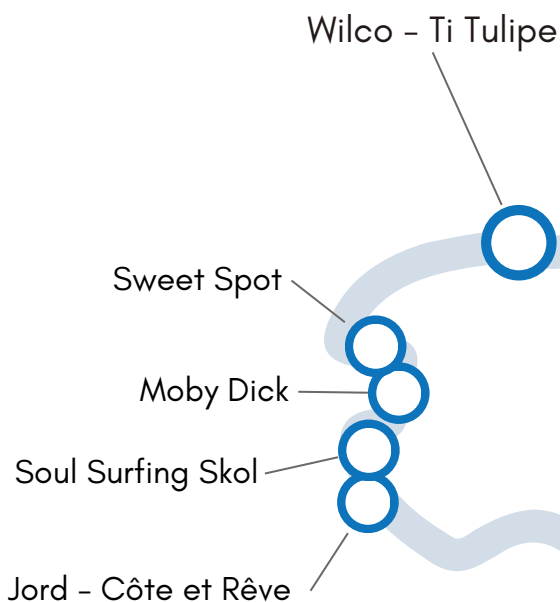
Mobile surf school around La Torche

Soul Surfing Skol (4.9 rating from 5)

Website: <https://soulsurfingskol.com/>

Surf coaches to stay and progress

- Jord Fortmann from coteetreve.com
- Wilco Berkel from titulipe.com



WHERE TO STAY IN BRITTANY?



Côte et Rêve

WHERE TO STAY?

Here are some fantastic accommodation tips to help you make the most of your stay in Brittany. We've selected a variety of campsites, gîtes, and a holiday house, all situated near the best beaches and in beautiful, natural settings.





Côte et Rêve

Côte et Rêve is ideal for those who appreciate quality and a more intimate experience. Whether you're planning a family getaway, a tailored surftrip with friends, or a solo adventure to connect with fellow surfers. Choose 'La Petit Maison' for 2-3 people or 'La Maison' for 4, both with kitchens and bathrooms. Budget options available.

Enjoy the flexibility of choosing between an all-inclusive stay at "Chez Jord & Marine" or a self-sufficient option that suits your style.

Côte et Rêve promises relaxation, adventure, and the beauty of Brittany's stunning coastline.

Surf coaching & guiding

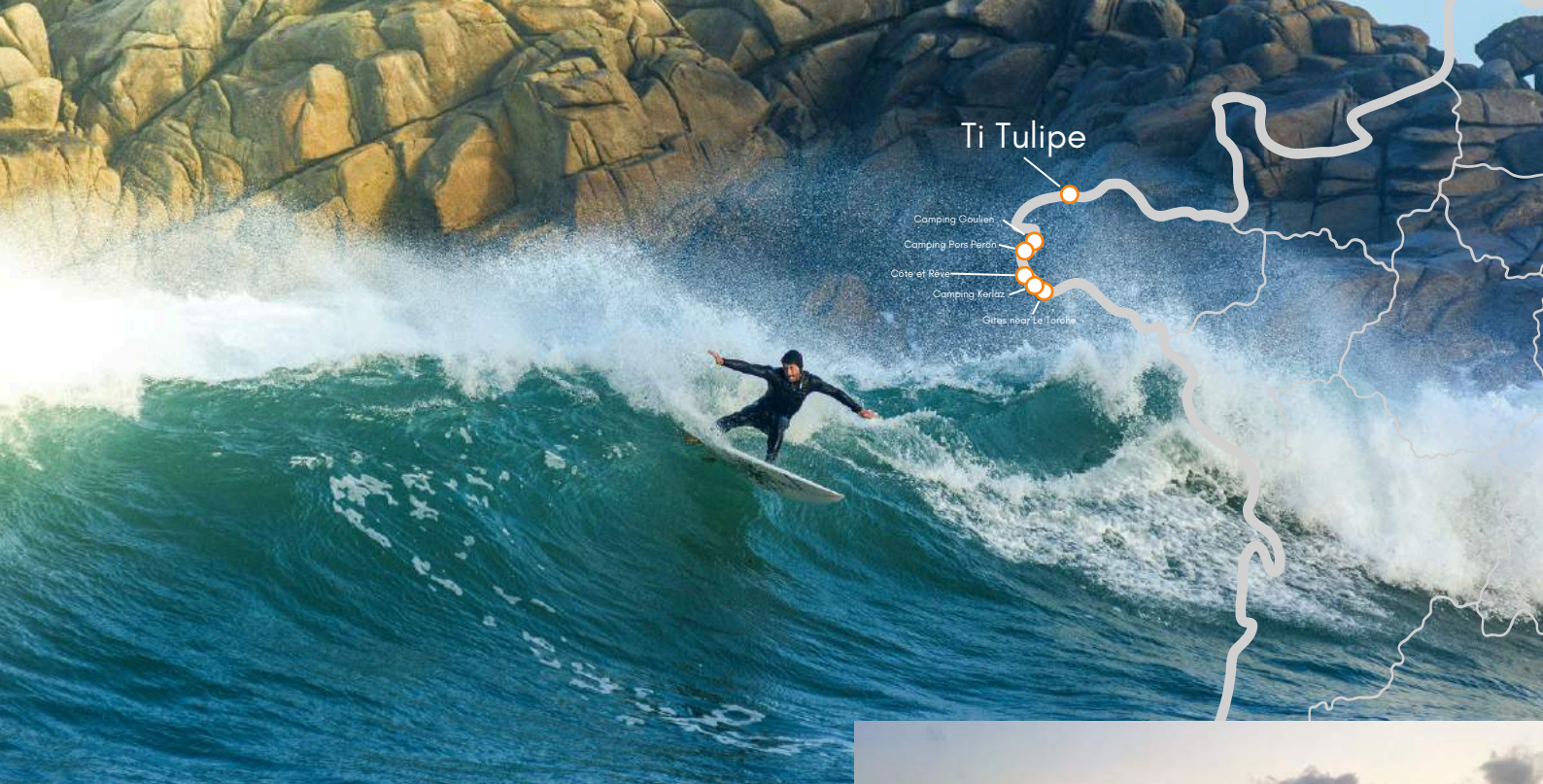
And If you want, Jord will guide you to the best surfspots for your level so you will be at the right place at the right time. And best of all, Jord's coaching is all about a back-to-basics, hands-on approach in the water, focusing on essential surfing skills, fostering genuine connection with the surf spot, and enhancing the pure joy of surfing for open-minded enthusiasts for each surf level.

Where is it?

Address: 17t Rue du Roi Gradlon, 29780 Plouhinec.

Website: www.coteetreve.com





Ti Tulipe

Experience modern, comfortable vacation cottages and camping in Brittany with Dutch owners. Ti Tulipe, just 15 minutes from the coast in Finistère's lush countryside, offers a perfect base to explore Northern Brittany's surf potential.

Enjoy a peaceful nature retreat. The cottages have been fully renovated for 2024.

Ti Tulipe is perfect for surf enthusiasts, learn to surf with the whole family, or enjoy serene nature walks, cycling, and horseback riding.

Surf guiding

Wilco has years of experience in this regio and will guide you to the best surf spots for your skill level, ensuring you're always in the right place at the right time.

Where is it?

Address: lieu dit Keroignant, 29420 Plouvorn

Website: www.titulipe.com





Camping Pors Peron



A (very) lovely small campsite within walking distance of a beach reminiscent of Ibiza. Cozy and beautiful. Occasionally, there are waves. For true surf spots like Baie de Trepasses, you need to drive a short distance. Swimming pool included!

Where is it?

Address:

487 Hent Pors Piron, 29790 Beuzec-Cap-Sizun

Website:

www.campingporsperon.com

Camping La Plage de Goulien



A 3-star campsite in South Finistere is located very close to the expansive fine sandy beach, Plage de Goulien. Surfers can catch the waves near the beaches of La Palud and Lostmarch. Great camping for families.

Where is it?

Address:

29160 Crozon

Website:

www.camping-crozon-laplagedegoulien.com



Camping Kerlaz



Camping Kerlaz is located Between La Torche and Penhors, near the village of Tréguennec. It has a much quieter surf spot than La Torche nearby.

It's a pleasant small campsite with an attached surf school. And there's a swimming pool!

Where is it?

Address:

5 Rue du Bourg, 29720 Tréguennec

Website:

www.kerlaz.com

Les coquilles la Torche



Experience this charming holiday house, celebrated for its prime location and modern amenities. Just a short walk to a beautiful beach of La Torche. A serene setting, stylish furnishings, and spacious wooden patio. Perfect for surfers and nature lovers, with warm hospitality from the friendly host.

Where is it?

Address:

Kerlorch, 29760 Penmarc'h

Website:

bit.ly/coquilleslatorche

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