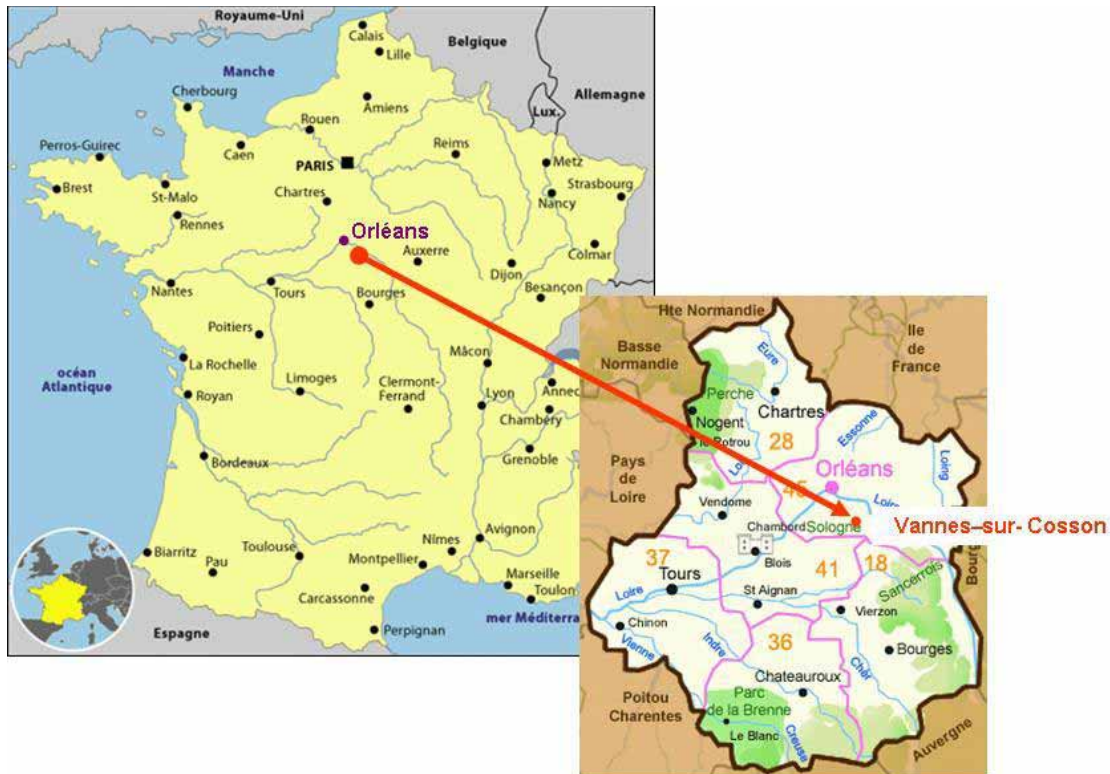




Vannes, au cœur de la Sologne, à moins de 2 heures de Paris / Right in the middle of Sologne, less than 2hrs from Paris



Vannes, c'est un petit village de 600 habitants situé au cœur de la Sologne, pays de mystère et de sorcellerie, à moins de 2H de Paris. Qui sait si, autour d'une bonne table, vous n'entendrez pas raconter l'inquiétante légende de la femme sans tête...

Vannes is a small village, 2hrs from the south of Paris, with a population of 600. It is situated right in the middle of the preserved Sologne Region – renowned for hunting (boar, deer, duck, pheasant, etc.) Sorcery and mystery are part of its rural history.



Un paysage typique de Sologne : Etangs et forêts, où il est commun de croiser cerfs, sangliers et autres gibiers...

A typical view of a Sologne landscape



Le « vieux relais, plus vieux bâtiment de Vannes, dont la construction date de 1515

Le Vieux Relais, our oldest building, which dates from 1515



Vannes a conservé son caractère authentique : vieilles maisons de briques et de colombages, au cœur de la forêt... Tout en étant en phase avec le 21^{ème} siècle, puisque 80% des Vannois sont connectés à l'ADSL haut débit !

Vannes has kept its authentic character: traditional red brick, half-timbered houses and cottages in the middle of the forest. Vannes is also 80% equipped with broadband network.



Vannes, idéalement situé au cœur du Val de Loire / In the heart of Loire Valley

- 2hrs from the south of **Paris**
- 33kms from **Orléans**, the nearest regional city
- 15 kms from **Sully sur Loire** and its medieval castle and the banks of the Loire River now part of the Unesco Patrimony and the last authentic, wild river in Europe.
- Less the 1hr from the renowned royal castle of **Chambord** and its 365 chimneys. The castle is also the most visited monument in France.
- 1hr from the city of **Blois** and its magnificent royal castle which dominates the city. The town also witnessed the war between Catherine de Medicis and her son Louis XIII...
- 1h30 from **Chenonceau**, a very impressive castle and ... a gift from a French King to his Mistress..
- 45 minutes from **Valençay**, where the King of Spain was jailed by Napoleon.
- 1 hr from **Sancerre**, which has a worldwide reputation for the quality of its wines, red, white or rose. Also, for it's goat cheese completely compatible with the regions wines.





Vannes, un village dynamique soucieux de sa qualité de vie

En mars 2008, un nouveau conseil municipal a été élu, qui a porté à sa tête Jean-Claude Galliard. Cette nouvelle équipe de 15 personnes est à l'image du village : Vannois de souche et nouveaux venus, hommes et femmes, jeunes et vieux, de catégories socioprofessionnelles diverses.

In March 2008, a new village council was elected. The Mayor is Jean Claude Galliard. The new team totals 15 people who well represent the general population of Vannes – a judicious mix of young and seniors, from different professional horizons



Ces 10 dernières années, Vannes a changé, s'est développé et s'est adapté naturellement pour faire face aux nouveaux besoins de sa population. C'est ainsi qu'une partie des lignes électriques du cœur de village ont été enterrées, que la route principale a été sécurisée et embellie, que la place du village a été aménagée. En 2007, Vannes a connu sa révolution numérique, puisque l'Internet à haut-débit a été mis à la disposition de la population. Gageons que, dans les années qui viennent, Vannes continuera dans la voie indispensable de la modernisation

Over the last 10 years, Vannes has changed in order to adapt to the modern needs of its population. The village center's electrical lines are now underground. The main road has been upgraded re security and the village square has been renovated. At last, Vannes was equipped for the Broadband network in 2007.

Le caractère rural de Vannes a quasiment disparu, puisqu'on ne compte en 2008 plus qu'une seule ferme en activité. La structure de la population s'en est trouvée modifiée : Vannes est aujourd'hui un village de la « grande banlieue » d'Orléans (200.000 habitants), où se côtoient retraités, jeunes ménages travaillant hors village recherchant une qualité de vie, et citadins possédant une villégiature de campagne.

The agricultural nature of Vannes has almost disappeared – only one farm left in 2008. The population is now comprised of retired seniors, young and older couples who commute for work to the nearby city of Orleans (pop 200.000) and its suburbs. So a nice mix of authentic rurals and 'imported' professionals` for whom *quality of life* is essential.

Malgré les difficultés, le commerce local reste vivant. Notamment, un salon de coiffure et un café-tabac-restaurant se sont implantés ces dernières années. On ne compte pas moins de 22 entreprises, commerçants ou artisans à Vannes, preuve du dynamisme de notre village. Pourtant, l'emblématique Vieux Relais, qui assurait depuis 1515 la fonction d'auberge-restaurant a fermé ses portes, incapable de se conformer aux nouvelles normes européennes.

Locally, we have a hairdresser, a cafe-tabac-restaurant (a mix of pub, newsagents – with cigarettes, scratch cards and meals lunch-type), a butcher, and a restaurant for the evening meal : *Le Cheval*



Blanc (the white horse). Also, the all-important *Boulangerie (baker's shop)* for the daily fresh bread and croissants.

We also have the former restaurant *Le Vieux Relais*, now closed because of impossibility to conform to EEC standards, which dates from 1515. This is probably the oldest building in the village.



Un tissu associatif qui connaît un renouveau / A dynamic associative network

Le tissu associatif reste dynamique, même s'il est clair que l'engagement associatif pour l'animation locale est concurrencée par notre civilisation des loisirs, à Vannes comme ailleurs.

La plupart de nos associations sont fédérées au sein de l'ASL (Association Sports et Loisirs), où l'on trouve les activités suivantes : danse, gymnastique, dessin, préservation du patrimoine, tennis, football, encadrement des jeunes pendant les vacances, activités pour les seniors, chorale, gestion de la bibliothèque municipale, aide scolaire, aide aux plus démunis, etc.

Ces associations organisent des événements fréquents, qui permettent à tous de se retrouver :

- *Marché de Noël*
- *Journées du patrimoine*
- *Randonnées pédestres*
- *Concerts de la chorale*
- *Feu d'artifice et bal populaire pour la fête nationale du 14 juillet*
- *Fête de la musique du 21 juin*
- *Téléthon*
- *Fête des commerçants*
- *Tournois sportifs (tennis, foot...)*

...

Un renouveau de la vie municipale et des activités festives se fait jour parmi de nouveaux arrivants : d'autres générations arrivent pour regarder devant et construire le Vannes du XXI^e siècle, forcément différent de celui du siècle passé. Conjugée à ces volontés, la prise de conscience générale de l'importance du patrimoine et du développement durable va permettre de redonner à Vannes une forme de « virginité originelle », celle d'avant les lignes électriques et téléphoniques, celle d'avant les crépis recouvrant les briquettes et les colombages, celle d'avant l'asphalte recouvrant les pavés de pierre...

Vannes, comme l'avenir, est plein de promesses !!!

Our associative network is dynamic. The umbrella association is the ASL (Leisure and Sports). Including dance, gym, painting, preservation of the patrimony, tennis (we have a tennis court), football, junior activities during school hols, seniors with the *club age d'or* = translates club of the golden age group!, choir, library, student school support group, help for the needy etc.

These groups organize the following activities:

- Xmas – patrimony booth
- Walking trips
- Choir concerts
- Fireworks on 14 July (national holiday) and Musical day on June 21.
- Fundraising for cystic fibrosis, a national cause each yr. Local fund raising events are organized.
- Local shops and companies have their day also where different festive activities are organized and chance to win local products.
- Local fishing and sports activities take place during the summer months
- An outdoor meal in the village center every summer where everyone brings something to eat and the organizers (different every year) take care of the wine...



Des chambres d'hotes pour accueillir nos visiteurs / A large choice of B&B's for our guests

We also have a good choice of B&B's ("*chambres d'hotes*") usually in local ex-farmhouses and also some independent houses ("*gites ruraux*") that can be rented. In the village itself, we have the former presbytery that has been separated into 2 independent houses, one bigger than the other.

Most of the B&B's or independent houses are in the tourist guide www.gites-de-france-loiret.com.

The `new locals` are very motivated to help revive those parts of Vannes that need to be so. We all are very conscious of how lucky we are to live in such a preserved environment.



Les écoles de Vannes / Organisation of Schools

Vannes being a small village, we coordinate schooling with 3 other nearby villages (bus service between the 4 villages), and mixed schools :

1. PreSchool = Maternelle. The children go to **Isdes** (6km from Vannes)
2. The 6-8yr olds go to **Villemurlin** (8km) = Primary School
3. 9-11yr olds stay in **Vannes** = Primary School
4. 12-14yr olds go to **Tigy** (6km)= Primary with a lap over to Secondary
5. 15+, the students go to **Orleans**, the nearest big town, where they sit for the leaving certificate equivalency = baccalaureate. So Irish equivalent of Secondary.

The local school teacher is very motivated for our twinning project. Her classes go to London every 2 years, visits filmed and full participation.

The 9-11 year olds here have started learning English and correspondents/exchanges with Ballyporeen wld be exciting for them. Obviously, the same applies to our secondary school pupils. We could surely consider student exchange visits monitored by students in each village.

As of level 3, outside school activities are organized. Our countryside location allows for cycling trips, tennis court in village, local swimming pools (Sully s/Loire and Chateauneuf s/Loire).

- The Loire River is only 15 kms from Vannes so canoe outings easy to organize.
- Also, our area – being a hunting region - is renewed for numerous « *étang* » (ponds) ; l'« *étang Etang du puits* » is a leisure area where swimming, boating and fishing are available
- Chambord Castle – the first of the French Royal Castles – is 1hr from Vannes – probably not for primary schoolers but surely of interest for secondary schoolers and +!
- Nearby for school children of all ages, we have the castles of **Meung sur Loire** (dungeons « decorated » period-style - equipped with skeletons and appropriate music – and the garden-side for the ladies and the gory side for the men), **St Brisson** (canons on view), **La Ferté St Aubin** (mix of castle and manor house with visit of whole including kitchens and gardens), etc.



Meung-sur-Loire



Saint-Brisson



La Ferté-Saint-Aubin