

Surfing in Hossegor, France



Highlights

Wannabe surfers and those with a bit of experience will love these weekend or week-long breaks in France's surf mecca - Hossegor. Lessons from friendly, qualified instructors, funky comfy accommodation and the use of mountain bikes and canoes are all included in the price.

Great weather, great surfing conditions, and great scenery - France's south Atlantic coast is a surfer's paradise. It stretches for 160 miles, but it's Hossegor, host to the annual WCT surf championship, that is the jewel in France's surfing crown. Sandy beaches bordered by pine forests make this area naturally stunning, and although the place is renowned across Europe for its surfing, the town itself has remained relatively low-key. Imagine a smaller, more upmarket version of Newquay and you'll be on the right tracks.

'Dude'. 'Bail-out'. 'A-Frame'. Surfers have their own lingo, and by the end of a week-long or a weekend break here, you should certainly have the basics. If you don't manage to master the language though, with expert tuition from qualified instructors you should certainly be skilled on the board. Aside from lessons and surf rental, you can also use the centre's mountain bikes to cycle through pine forests and explore the area. Or have a go in one of their canoes on the l'Etang Blanc lake.

Is it for me?

Novice, occasional dabbler or a bit of a pro - it doesn't matter how experienced - or inexperienced a surfer you are as you'll get lessons to suit you and your level of experience. If you're a bit of a privacy seeker it might not be right up your street, as unless you're travelling in a group of four, or in a couple, you'll probably be sharing a room. That said, most surfer types are pretty laid-back friendly souls so sharing space with new people should be looked on as a bonus. Last but not least, you'll need to be over 18.

Accommodation

In true surfer style, the accommodation here is pretty funky. Expect bright, modern furnishings, and unique décor. Each room has its own private bathroom, and while rooms have space to sleep four, the team generally tries to keep the number down to three people sharing at a time - just so you each get a bit more space. If you're holidaying in a couple, there's the Bungalow - a cosy space designed for two.

Food-wise, you'll get tasty continental breakfasts made with local, organic ingredients. And if you're on the week-long break you'll also get dinner on your first evening. In terms of other meals, you're free to use the BBQ and the kitchen in the communal room, but if you'd rather let someone else do the work you can get takeaway lunch and evening meals at the lodge, or sample the local restaurants close by.

Itinerary

Book the weekend break and you'll spend your time out on the waves with two days surf rental and two surfing lessons from qualified and experienced instructors. The week-long option, meanwhile, comes with six days surf rental and five surfing lessons.

You'll also have the chance to use the facilities at the surf lodge. These include canoe and mountain bike hire, use of the spa and hammam, outdoor hammocks and BBQ. You'll also have access to the communal room that's

Prices from

169 GBP (2 nights) per person

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kitted out with a pool table, kitchen and TV and video.

Details

Getting there

The nearest airport is Biarritz and the nearest train station, Tyrosse. Transfers can be arranged to pick you up from either.

Price includes

Weekend breaks include – two surf lessons, two nights organic bed and breakfast in a shared room, two days surf rental, welcome drink, dinner on the day of your arrival, transfers if required.

Week-long breaks include – five surf lessons with qualified and experienced instructors, six nights accommodation, organic breakfasts, welcome drink, six days surf rental, souvenir photo, transfers if required.

Weekend packages from 195 Euros per person.

Week-long packages from 455 Euros per person.

When is best

Weekend packages run April to June and September to November. Week-long packages run from April to November.

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed