

Self-catering

10 top villas in France

Le Clos des Jardins, Deux-Sèvres, Nouvelle Aquitaine

Escape to the sunny west of France, 100km inland from La Rochelle, where Le Clos des Jardins has two honey-stone cottages, each with two bedrooms. Surrounded by sunflower fields the farmstead is ideal for families, with ducks and hens to feed. Both cottages are decorated with natural colours and fabrics to set off original features such as stone walls and oak beams. Each has a private garden and they share the limestone swimming pool. There are bikes to borrow too.

The Lakehouse, Hossegor, Landes

Close to the golden sands of Aquitaine's west coast, the Lakehouse perches above Hossegor Lake and is only 25m from a beach. The house, with three bedrooms, has fresh, modern decor, and its sunny, west-facing terraces offer fabulous views over the lake and surrounding countryside.



The Beach House In Corsica

Villa Puisseguin, near Bordeaux

Surrounded by vineyards and only ten minutes from Saint-Émilion, Villa Puisseguin is the ideal place to sample some local wines. The outdoor dining space includes terraces and decking, and there is a saltwater infinity pool. Inside are five large bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, living room and library.

The Beach House, Corsica

On the southwest coast of Corsica, the Beach House overlooks the heavenly Capicciolo beach, with its pearl-white sand and turquoise water. It's ideal for three-generational family holidays: it sleeps ten in five bedrooms, with an immaculate kitchen and living area. What makes this place even more special are the outside spaces — as well as a pool, there is a shaded outdoor lounge.

Chez Claudia, Dordogne

Head to the Dordogne to explore quaint villages and vibrant markets. Close to the village of Calès, which is set in a meander of the famous river, this recently renovated property has three bedrooms, a pool area and a terrace for al fresco dining. Inside, there's an open-plan kitchen and dining area.

Villa Azkaine, French Basque Country

This six-bedroom villa near Biarritz has its own cinema room, a heated outdoor pool and large gardens. The property is set in the village of Ascain, 15 minutes from Saint-Jean de Luz, with its golden-sand beach. It has sweeping views of La Rhune, a sacred Pyrenean peak, the summit of which can be reached via a small-gauge rack railway.

Villa Bonheur, Côte d'Azur

Overlooking the bay of Saint-Tropez, with views of the sea, this modern villa has four bedrooms, a private pool, which can be heated for £150 a week, as well as an outdoor kitchen for al fresco dining. The village of Sainte-Maxime is a short walk away; take a boat taxi across the bay to Saint-Tropez.

Villa Toullou, Finistère, Brittany

Near the hamlet of Kervillo on Finistère's northern coast, Villa Toullou is 150m from a sandy beach, but also has its own indoor pool and hot tub. The newly built villa has four bedrooms and an open-plan kitchen, dining and living room. Outside, there's a smart enclosed garden and terrace.

Holiday home, Gonnevill-sur-Honfleur

Not far from Le Havre and Honfleur, this beautiful chalet-style villa has six bedrooms and five bathrooms, plus a large living room. Relax on the sun deck overlooking the large landscaped garden, or in the whirlpool or sauna, before heading to the coast for the beaches.

Mas de Sarlbou, Ardèche

Set in the gardens of a 400-year-old farmhouse, this four-bedroom modern eco-villa has rustic features such as handmade chestnut-wood sinks and wooden bedheads, as well as a well-equipped kitchen and a dining room that opens on to the garden. The area is perfect for embracing the great outdoors.



Villa Puisseguin in Bordeaux