

Joining Instructions

Directions from Calais to Lassay Les Chateaux (Approx 5 hours)

The best way is via toll motorway (approx £10). From Calais follow the signs to Paris and then Boulogne on the Autoroute A16. Remain on the A16 to Abbeville. On approaching Abbeville take the A29 towards Rouen. Before you get to Rouen continue on the A29 to Le Harve and then to Caen. This will take you over two very spectacular toll bridges. Take the Caen ring road and follow signs to Alencon and Le Mans. Continue to Lassay below.

Directions from Caen to Lassay Les Chateaux (approx 1 hour)

From the port of Ouistreham follow signs to Caen on the D514. Take the Caen ring road following signs to Alencon and Le Mans. Join the N158 sign posted to Alencon and Le Mans. At Falaise take the D909 to Bagnoles de L'Orne. Continue on the D909 until you come to Fromental and take the D19 to Bagnoles de L'Orne and La Ferte-Mace. When you arrive at La Ferte-Mace take the D916 to Bagnoles de L'Orne (watch carefully for the signs to Bagnoles). Continue on the D916 bypassing Bagnoles and following signs to Lassay, Mayenne and Alencon. Remain on the D916 until you arrive at Couterne. Continue straight on to Lassay on the D34.

Directions from Lassay Les Chateaux to La Refoulerie

As you enter Lassay from Bagnoles follow the signs to Mayenne. You will turn left at the first junction in Lassay and then the second right to Mayenne on the D34. Shortly after leaving Lassay on the D34 you will come to a large roundabout. Go straight over the roundabout and about 200 yards look out for the signpost to Couberie and Le Horps. Take a left here. Drive through the village of Couberie (just a few houses) past the church on the left. Just as you leave the village you will see a small road/driveway on the right and a small sign to La Refoulerie. Drive to the end of this driveway and you will see the cottage on the right hand side (highlighted below). You can drive over the grass into the property. If there has been a lot of rain please take care to stay on hard tracks in the grass so that you do not get stuck in the mud. Please do not park on the grass as this is owned by our neighbour.



Please visit our main WEB site <http://www.holidayhomes.me.uk/france.htm> for lots more information.

Emergency Contacts

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone/Email</i>
Our French Property La Refoulerie	La Refoulerie Bourg Couberie 53110 Lassay Les Chateaux France	
Joyce or William White Uxbridge, United Kingdom	16 Dean Close Uxbridge Middlesex UB10 9LB	Tel: +44 1895 258 254 Mobile: +44 796 8775 241 Mobile: +44 777 0755 639
Local Representative Janet Foxon	107 Place Saint Martin, Montreuil Poulay, 53640 France	Mobile: + 33 981 448 130
2nd neighbour (Maconnerie Generale) Francis Landemaine Nadine – wife Fanny 21, Chloe 18	La Refoulerie Bourg Couberie 53110 Lassay Les Chateaux France	Tel: +33 243 047 320
First neighbour Madame Richard (Christiane)	Christiane only visits now and again.	

Keys

If you are departing from the UK, the keys will normally be supplied directly to you before you leave. If you are arriving from other locations the keys to be left in a safe place, normally a key safe to the left of the front door. The code to the key safe will be supplied before you leave.

Prior to your arrival we will arrange for the house to be opened up, the electricity and gas turned on and the hot water for a few hours just to get things going for you. Here are a few things you will need to know about the house.

- Electricity and hot water:**

You will find the fuse box next to the kitchen cupboard (on LHS) above the fridge. The important one to know about is the hot water switch, which has 3 settings, found on the extreme RHS. Top is off, middle is constant and bottom is booster. Providing the switch is left in the middle position the booster will automatically turn on between 11:30pm and 7:30am. Unless there is a problem this switch should remain in the middle throughout your stay especially since electricity is very expensive during the day between 7:30am until 11:30pm. Electric heaters also use up lots of electricity so unless you need them please remember to switch them off. On arrival please check

the hot water is working as it may take some time to heat up. The ON/OFF switch for electricity is inside the kitchen cupboard above the fridge.

- **Cooker Gas:**
The gas cylinder for the cooker is contained in the cupboard directly under the sink. If there is no gas at the cooker, please check the cylinder and ensure the valve is turned on. If the cylinder is empty please contact Jan but it is unlikely this will happen during your stay.
- **Fridge:**
The fridge should already be switched on but do check this on your arrival. When using electrical appliances (kettle, heaters specifically) be aware that in France, fuses can tend to trip more easily than in the UK. Switching off one of the appliances in use will rectify this. The large fridge found in the hallway by the bathroom also works and can be used, however it's better suited for drinks and dairies but not fruit and vegetables as it gets very cold.
- **TV/Video/DVD/Radio:**
A brand new 40 inch in the lounge with BluRay/DVD player. It will only be able to receive French channels. UK DVDs do work in these appliances so please feel free to bring some of your own along but please do not let the children play with these appliances as they are used by other guests and guests arriving after you will not be able to use them if they have been broken. We may have some of our own DVDs available for your use. Please note we cannot be held responsible if you damage your own equipment in our appliances e.g. videos, DVDs etc. Please use any electrical appliance with care.

If there is a storm, please unplug all electrical appliances especially the TV and delicate appliances as these will blow usually beyond repair. Do not be alarmed this is quite normal in France.

- **Fireplace:**
If you decide to light the woodburner (usually only in the autumn) please observe all fire regulations and advice, especially if there are children in your party. It's advisable to leave a window ajar to allow ventilation. If you have requested wood we would normally have your supply placed in the kitchen around the chimney - in case you run out further supplies can be found in the shed outside or just outside the shed (this generally applies to only winter lets).
- **Heating:**
If it is cold it is advisable to heat up the bedrooms an hour prior to going to bed. The heaters are very effective and heat up very quickly. If it's very cold overnight you may want to leave the heating on for a little longer on a very low setting to keep the room warm but please do not leave the electric heaters on all day or night as electricity in France is rather expensive. If you close all the shutters at night you will find the house is kept much warmer. Please ensure you switch off all radiators when not required and also unplug at the end of your stay. The lounge/kitchen radiator controls can be found on the top RH corner (under a small plastic covering).
- **Refuse:**
Please **do not** leave any uneaten food or rubbish behind in the house or on the grounds when you leave. It would be appreciated if you could put your rubbish in plastic bags (you may find a supply in the kitchen) and deposit these in the large green refuse bins found on the **roadside as you drive around in France**. In fact there is one on the **LHS** road in Couberie just before the church or one

on the **RHS** of the road just before you turn into the road going into Lassay Les Châteaux. We may have to make a charge if you do not remove the refuse as this delays the cleaning process for the next guests.

- **Shopping:**

There are lots of small local shops found in Lassay Les Châteaux which you may have passed on your way to La Refoulerie. Remember shops close at 12 Noon everyday and usually open again around 2pm/3pm. All shops are usually closed all day on Sunday except for the bakery. Large supermarkets can be found just outside Lassay on the road to Bagnoles de L'Orne and a very large one found at Ferte Mace called Leclare some kilometres outside Bagnoles 20km - from Lassay approx 20 minute drive. Sometimes on a Monday night there is a mobile takeaway Pizza that is really good. They usually park in the square just outside the town hall (La Mairie) in Lassay. You may like to try this out if you don't want to cook but remember the French eat early and we think they may close up shop around 9pm.

- **Places to visit:**

Whatever you do you must venture out and visit Bagnoles de L'Orne which is a gorgeous tourist centre/spa town and comes highly recommended for all sorts of activities including, swimming pool, tennis courts, restaurants, a Casino, cinema, lovely church on the hill and lots of hotels, a natural lake surrounded by forests and its own Chateaux open to visitors. You can go horse riding, hunting, cycling or just walking and after a meal it's a great idea to finish the evening off with a leisurely walk around the lake which is lit after dark and looks spectacular. The scenery in this area is just terrific and there's heaps of fresh air and wild life to enjoy all year round.

- **Locks:**

Please ensure all windows, doors and shutters are locked whenever you leave the house. There is a key to each external door. Keys can be found for each door on top of each top door hinge. Please replace these keys to their original location when you leave the house. Any lost keys will incur a charge.

- **Some tips about France:**

For those of you who have never been to France before and don't know the customs. For example:

Most places are closed on a Sunday. It is very difficult to get petrol on a Sunday and sometimes they will only take cash, especially at the very small petrol stations. Please remember to fill up to cover the whole weekend, so it's best to fill up on Saturday to be sure.

Most shops close around 12:00 for lunch everyday and on a Saturday some shops may close from 12:00 for the rest of the weekend so be sure you have enough provisions to last you.

France has many more Bank Holidays than in the UK and they don't always coincide with ours. In fact they probably don't so it's good to check when they have a public holiday as it may not always be on a Monday. You could check with the local grocery store Huit-A-Huit. The lady in there is always full of information. If you want more information about the local area go to Bagnoles de L'Orne and the information office (which you will pass just as you enter the town) is full of up-to-date information that you can pick up so it's worth paying them a visit.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE LEAVING THE HOUSE

- Unplug all electrical appliances from wall sockets especially TV and TV aerial unless you have been told that there is a changeover on your leaving.
- Lock all doors, windows and shutters.
- Clear fridge free of ALL food switch off and leave door open
- Ensure no taps are running or dripping.
- Leave all internal door keys (after locking) above hinge on each door.
- Leave all internal doors open. The attic door (in the upstairs master bedroom) is permanently locked so please do not try to open it.
- Return the main door keys to the agreed location as previously arranged with Housekeeper or to where you found them on your arrival. If they were supplied in the UK, please bring them back.
- Remove all food/rubbish from the premises and leave as found.
- Ensure all fire embers have been swept away and removed from the premises. A fire should not be lit the night before departure - please observe all fire regulations/advice.
- Please remember to return all furniture where originally found if you have moved them around the cottage.
- We would be most grateful if you would write any comments/suggestions you have on your return. I will send you a feedback form to complete.

Thank you so much.

We hope you enjoy your time at La Refoulerie.

Best wishes

Joyce and William White