



Le Portel-Plage





Le Portel-Plage, *naturally welcoming*

Can you hear the cheerful racket emanating from Le Portel beach? Children are running on the sand, eating ice cream and enjoying the wide array of activities – often free – on offer. The most striking views can be found in the Parc de la Falaise, which is just perfect for strolling and having fun. While the kids prance about in the playground, adults can dive head first into the Océane swimming pool. Fishing for prawns with your family is almost a tradition here!

Bracing fresh air

The beach is every child's favourite playground, and they just love getting wet windsurfing, kayaking or going for a ride in a buoy towed by a motorboat. On a walk along the shore, you come across fishermen unloading their flobart, a typical fishing boat that washes up on the sand, or mussel pickers gathered at the Fort de l'Heurt, the coast's largest natural mussel site – and a familiar one to those in-the-know!

Fancy a walk?

To take in some views, head to the Parc de la Falaise. These 27 hectares of greenery are split in two halves: at

the top, the park is laid out for all to enjoy, with mini golf, sledging, ponies and sheep to stroke. Below, the land is a protected wildlife site, home to migratory birds that flock to the pond. What's great is that the beach and the park can also welcome people with reduced mobility thanks to the "cross-country" wheelchairs on loan from the town and the French Disabled Association.

For walking fans, the Douaniers footpath is a good introduction to the coastal landscape. Set off from the foot of the Fort d'Alprech for an hour-and-a-half's walk during which you can make your way down to Ningles beach, a small sheltered creek between Le Portel-Plage and Equihen-Plage.

A protected maritime heritage

A one-time fishermen's village that still harbours a few traditional little cottages, Le Portel-Plage keeps its traditions alive. Folk costumes are on display at the town hall and are brought out on the first Sunday in July when the local inhabitants parade in traditional attire for the Blessing of the Sea.

You can also find out about its history through fortified stones, as the site is lucky enough to have three forts:

l'Heurt, built at the time of Napoleon – of which all that remains is a wall; Alprech, half buried and dating back to the First Republic; and le Mont de Coupes, which also harks back to the 19th century.

A culture of friendliness

Whether or not you're a regular to the resort, there's always a good reason to get to grips with the local customs. Concerts, open-air cafés in the Parc de la Falaise, the Mussels and Welsh (traditional cheese-on-toast!) Festivals, fireworks and the carnival rock the town's squares and beach. We're always in the mood to party here!

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