

ALLIANCE Schlumberger – Bordeaux Reunion 2019

31st May – 3rd June

12th January 2019

Dear ALLIANCE Schlumberger Members.

Welcome to the program for the 2019 Reunion to be held in Bordeaux, France, at the beginning of June. At that time the weather is warm though being near the ocean it can rain occasionally.

Bordeaux is a beautiful city that has come to life since 2000. Formerly it was a relative backwater in France but since then much work has been done on the historical buildings of the city together with substantial new buildings and infrastructure. The latest and most important being the LGV line that opened direct to Paris in 2017, taking just 2 hrs to cover the 500kms.



We have booked the Mercure Centre Ville Bordeaux Hotel for the Reunion, It is 20 years old and has been undergoing refurbishment since August. It is due to be completed by March 2019. The shopping areas and a multitude of bars and restaurants are in easy walking distance while the other areas of interest further afield can be easily accessed by taking the modern tram only 300ms away. The hotel is just 10 kms from Bordeaux Airport (BOD) at Merignac. On **Day 1** our welcome dinner will be held there on the evening of arrival.

Each day the program looks at a different facet of life in this region. On **Day 2** we will have guided tours of Bordeaux in the morning ending with lunch in a restaurant in a superb location right on the river Garonne. After the AGM in the afternoon we travel to Saint Emilion for our Reunion GALA Dinner which will be held in Chateau Saint George, a highly rated wine producer.

On **Day 3** we will return to Saint Emilion for a guided tour of the town, lunch in another well rated restaurant beside the river Garonne then wine tasting in a Left Bank Chateau which has been making fine wines for centuries. After that we visit the ruined Chateau Langoiran which was important during the 100 years war between England and France.

Day 4 (for those that choose not to play golf) the focus changes away from Bordeaux to Archacon and Le Bassin d'Arcachon next to the Atlantic Ocean. There will be the option to take Pinasses (or launches) for tours around the Bassin, or walk along the promenade, or beach of Arcachon, or shop in the streets behind. Arcachon is a chic resort and there are some very attractive shops. We end by visiting Le Dune du Pyla, the highest in Europe. The views from it are superb.

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PROGRAM

Friday	Day 1	31st May 2019	
Hotel		Mercure, Bordeaux Centre Ville	
Welcome Desk	15:00	Set-up in the Foyer	
Social Gathering	19:00	Cash Bar at the Mercure	
Welcome Dinner	20:00	Welcome Dinner at the Mercure	
Saturday	Day 2	1st June 2019	
Breakfast	07:00		
Bordeaux Tours		Choice of two, either :	
Morning	09:00	a. Guided tour by bus of Bordeaux followed by a visit to Cite du Vin	
	09:00	or b. Guided walking tour through historic bordeaux with stop for mid morning coffee	
	11:45	At this time both tours meet and visit at Le Miroir.	
	12:15	Bus to restaurant for lunch	
Lunch	12:30	Lunch at Café du Port, restaurant on the right bank of the Gironde river.	
	14:15	Bus returns to hotel stopping in Bordeaux for those who wish to see more of Bordeaux.	
AGM	14:45 - 17:15	AGM	
Gala Dinner	18:00	Bus to Chateau St. George	
	19:00	Champagne Cocktails	
	19:30	Gala Dinner	
	21:00	DJ Dimitri starts	
	when full	The First Bus returns to Hotel	
Sunday	Day 3	2nd June 2019	
Breakfast	07:00		
Morning	09:00	Bus to St. Emilion	
		(a) Guided Tour of St. Emilion	
	12:15	Bus	
Lunch		Lunch at Maison du Fleuve	
Afternoon	14:30	Bus	
	15:00	(b)Wine tasting at Chateau Smith Haut Lafite	
	16:00	Bus	
	16:30	(c) Chateau Langoiran	
	17:30	Bus to Hotel	
Evening	FREE TO :	Explore Bordeaux's many fine restaurants or bistros for dinner.	
Monday	Day 4	3rd June 2019	
Breakfast	07:00		
Golfers	09:00 - 13:00	Golf at BORDEAUX PESSAC (234/646 Fr rating) 14 km and 23 mins by taxi from hotel & 8 km, 11 mins from the airport. 18 (+ 9 holes): 6,040m: par 72 . Cost 55€ [https://en.leadingcourses.com/europe+france+nouvelle-aquitaine/golf-international-de-pessac/]	
Arcachon			
Option (a) Pinasses	08:45	Bus to Arcachon	
	09:45	Board Pinasses for tour of and (if requested) swim in le Bassin Arcachon	
	12:45	Bus to restaurant	
Option(b) Oysters	09:00	Bus to Arcachon	
	10:00	Degustation des Huitres, Oyster tasting at an Oyster Village	
	11:00	Explore the Arcachon promenade, beach or the shopping street behind the beach.	
Lunch	13:00	Groups a & b meet for lunch at Restaurant Chez Pierre (by the promenade).	
Afternoon	14:30	Bus to the car park at the Dune du Pyla	
	15:00	Climb the Dune du Pyla (via wooden stairs) or walk under the pine trees in the area	
	17:00	Bus returns to Hotel Mercure	

All buses meet for lunch at Maison du Fleuve at 13:00. However busses making visits (a) (b) & (c) will rotate according to attached schedule due to Chateau Smith Haut Lafite which can only accommodate a maximum of 50 people at a time for wine tasting.

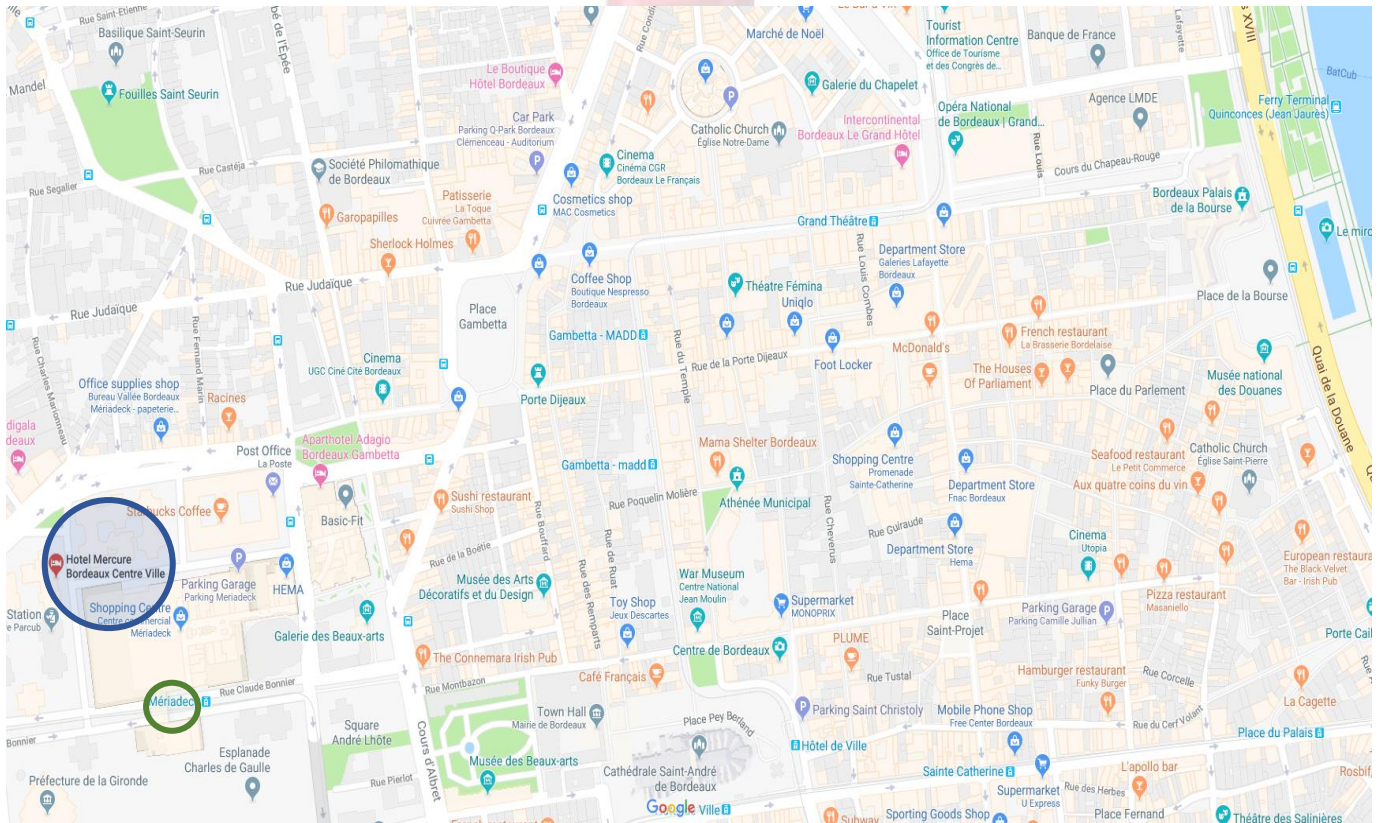
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Day 1 - Mercure Centre-Ville Hotel Bordeaux

(Friday 31st May)

Located on the west side of the centre of Bordeaux, 1.5 kms from the Gironde River, 800 metres from the actual centre & 300 meters to the Bordeaux Tram  which covers the city



Welcome Desk

The Welcome Desk will be in the Foyer and manned from 15:00. There ALLIANCE Members will be issued with name badges and other information. Members must always wear their name badges during the reunion. It helps the venues we visit to ensure that they are dealing with ALLIANCE Members and for members to introduce themselves.

Having experienced difficulties in moving large numbers of our members through breakfast entry points we have requested the Mercure Hotel to allow free passage to Members who show their ALLIANCE membership tag. The Hotel is also opening an extension to the breakfast area, however with the size of our party we request that all members try to arrive early, say by 7.30 am to ensure all have enough time to get their full breakfasts and have time to chat before the coaches leave.

The Hotel does have its own carpark next door, but places are limited. However, it is part of a much larger multi-storey car park with plenty of room.

It will be the start of the holiday season and with the annual Bordeaux Wine Festival taking place later in June Members must book early to ensure that their room will be available.

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Welcome Drinks and Reunion Dinner

The Reunion Dinner will be held in a private room in the Hotel at 8pm, prior to that Members will gather to meet at the cash bar from 7pm, or earlier for those feeling thirsty.

Day 2 Bordeaux

(Saturday 1st June 2019)

The City of Bordeaux is a World Heritage Site and has been a major port for centuries built on trading wine and slaves. Many fine buildings were built on the resulting wealth none more so than **La Bourse**. Built in the 18th century it became the city's symbol.



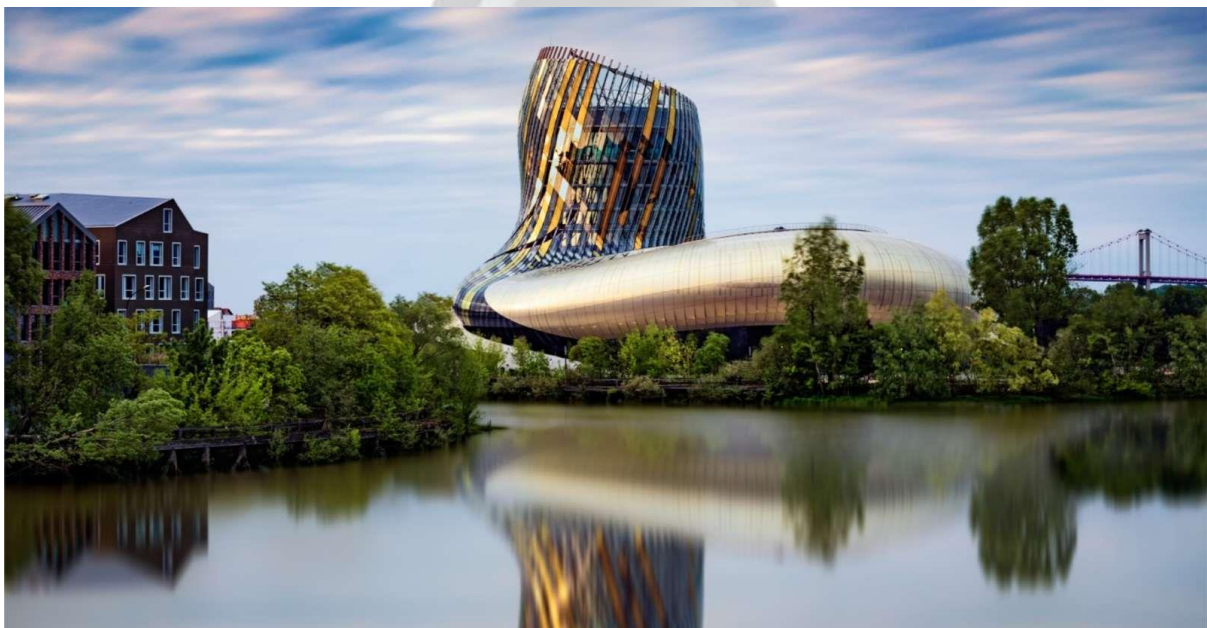
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La Bourse reflected in 2cms of water on the granite slab that forms Le Miroir

In 2006 Le Miroir was built opposite the Bourse and started to draw increasing numbers of visitors to the city. Since then Bordeaux has undergone significant redevelopment with refurbishment of older buildings, a 4.5 km promenade along the riverbank quays on the Gironde River and new buildings, the most spectacular being **La Cité du Vin**.



La Cité du Vin

There are two options, both start with guided bus tours round key landmarks of the City's history. The first, **Option (a)** after the bus tour of the city stops at **La Cité du Vin**. It provides a unique cultural experience where wine comes to life in a building of stunning architecture. La Cité du Vin gives a different view of wine across, the world, the ages, cultures and all civilisations.

The second, **Option(b)** group returns to the city centre, stops for a coffee and then takes a guided walk through what was the pre 18th century walled city. They will see: the Grand Théâtre, the Cathedrale Saint Andre & Place Pey Berland, the Saint Pierre district, the Porte Cailhau and end at the Place de la Bourse. Parties **a** and **b** will meet for group photos at Le Miroir which is made from polished granite and is remarkable for the quality and sheer size of the mirror effect.

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Lunch will be taken at Le Café du Port, with two courses, wine and coffee. It is on the opposite side of the Garonne on the 'Right Bank' just by the 'Le Pont de Pierre' right on the river's edge. The buses that take members to the restaurant will return them to the hotel for the AGM and drop off those in the city who would prefer to explore further.

ALLIANCE Schlumberger 2019 AGM

The AGM will be held at 2.45 pm in a meeting room in the Hotel. As we have some distance to travel to the venue of the GALA Dinner, we will need to ensure business is completed by 5.15 pm.

ALLIANCE Schlumberger 2019 GALA Dinner

The 2019 GALA Dinner will be held at '*Chateau Saint Georges-Montagne, Saint Emilion*'. This top-rated wine producing Chateau has a 94% rating as a wedding venue and a 5star rating from trip advisor. The red wine at the Dinner will be **Chateau Saint Georges 2012**.



The bus leaves the Hotel at 6 pm and with the Chateau is 50 kms away, we arrive at 7pm.

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GALA Dinner Program

Champagne Cocktails, 1 glass and 6 Canapes ‘

Followed by Dinner:

Menu

Scallop tartar on cream with Merlot Flower

Heart of ‘Pointe a L’Os braised on embers with cepes sauce (Roti de Boeuf)

and assorted vegetables

Fine Cheese

Meli melo plats with red fruits

Coffee

Red Wine : Chateau Saint Georges 2012

White Wine: (Chef’s Selection) Graves / Entre Deux Mers

Sparkling Mineral Water

DJ Dimitri will start towards the end of the main course

Day 3 Sunday

(June 2nd 2019)

Bordeaux wine region

The Gironde cuts through the centre of the Bordeaux wine region. The character of wines from each bank is different. The Right Bank wines are generally lighter (Saint-Emilion, Blaye) and have a greater proportion of Merlot. Those from the Left Bank (Médoc, Graves) have more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend (cépage) and are stronger and more tannic. The most famous and expensive wines are made on the left bank. On Day 3 we will take guided visits to both banks and sample fine wines from a renowned Chateau on the Left Bank. We will visit the town of St. Emilion and visit a ruined Chateau built in the 13th Century.

Saint Emilion



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Visit the ancient village of Saint Emilion

Saint Emilion is the heart of Bordeaux wines from the 'Right Bank'. The vineyards in this area trace their history back to the Romans. Saint Emilion was founded by a Benedictine Monk Emilian who created a large cave. Later monks further expanded it to form a large network of caves, catacombs and the church we will visit. Our Buses Park at the top. **Take care on the way down** into the town. It is on steep, unevenly paved medieval streets.

Lunch at 'Maison du Fleuve'

This superb restaurant is situated on a deck over the Garonne river. There will be 2 courses with coffee and wine



Visit Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte, a Grand Cru Classe de Graves estate on the more prestigious 'Left Bank'. This Chateau is one of the oldest estates in Bordeaux and one of the most avant-gard. On our visit there we will taste two of their wines. They can only manage a maximum of 50 people at a time, so we must cycle these visits. As a result, each of our buses will visit each of the 3 locations separately save for Saint Emilion where there will be two at the same time.

Visit ruined Chateau Langoiran

Chateau Langoiran was one of the most eminent castles in Aquitaine built at the end of the 13th century. The Seignory of Langoiran was one of the most powerful of Aquitaine and was heavily involved in the struggles between the King of England and the King of France in the 100 years war.

Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion

Besides the limitation of a maximum of 50 per tasting session Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte can only take a maximum of 150 in one day so late bookers will have their tasting experience at the nearby Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion. This Chateau started in 1840 with the original name of La Rivette. In 1874, the estate began calling itself Chateau Haut Brion Larrivet by the new owner, Ernest Laurent. He subsequent owner Thomas Conseil changed the name of the chateau in 1949 due to a lawsuit filed by the owners of the prestigious Chateau Haut Brion. For those who make this visit the grounds of the Chateau Larrivet are worth a visit alone.

The following bus schedule allows all to arrive for lunch at the same time. It is predicated on 50 per bus.

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Program for the 3 to 4 buses that may be needed.

				If >150 members
Time	BUS 1	BUS 2	BUS 3	BUS 4
09:00				
09:15	B U S Hotel Mercure to:	B U S Hotel Mercure to:	B U S Mercure Hotel to:	B U S Mercure Hotel to:
09:30			Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte	Chateau Langoiran
09:45			Tasting	VISIT
10:00	St. Emilion	St. Emilion		
10:15	VISIT	VISIT	B U S Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte to:	B U S Chateau Langoiran to:
10:30			Chateau Langoiran	Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion
10:45			VISIT	Tasting
11:00				
11:15				
11:30				
11:45				
12:00	B U S St. Emilion to :	B U S St. Emilion to :	B U S Chateau Langoiran to:	B U S Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion to:
12:15				
12:30				
12:45				
13:00	Maison du Fleuve	Maison du Fleuve	Maison du Fleuve	Maison du Fleuve
13:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30				
13:45				
14:00	B U S Maison du Fleuve to:	B U S Maison du Fleuve to:	B U S Maison du Fleuve to:	B U S Maison du Fleuve to:
14:15				
14:30				
14:45				
15:00	Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte	Chateau Langoiran	St. Emilion	St. Emilion
15:15	Tasting	VISIT	VISIT	VISIT
15:30				
15:45				
16:00				
16:15	B U S Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte to:	B U S Ch. Langoiran to:		
16:30	Chateau Langoiran	Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte		
16:45	VISIT	Tasting		
17:00				
17:15				
17:30				
17:45	B U S to Hotel Mercure	B U S to Hotel Mercure	B U S to Hotel Mercure	B U S to Hotel Mercure
18:00				

Evening Day 3

There no programmed events for the evening of Sunday 2nd June to give Members the opportunity to sample restaurants they will have seen while in town or from prior research on the internet. As an aid there are several noted later with this document.

Day 4

(Monday June 3rd)

GOLF OR ARCACHON

GOLF

The **BORDEAUX PESSAC** golf course is 234/646 rated course in France. It is 14 km/23 mins by taxi from hotel & just 8 km/11 mins from the airport. It is an 18-hole course 6,040ms and Par 72.

[\[https://en.leadingcourses.com/europe+france+nouvelle-aquitaine/golf-international-de-pessac/\]](https://en.leadingcourses.com/europe+france+nouvelle-aquitaine/golf-international-de-pessac/)

ARCACHON There are two options for this visit

Those who elect to go to Arcachon will travel by bus. It takes one hour. Bordeaux lies just to the north of a bay, Le Bassin d'Arcachon, which is formed by a huge sand spit that ends just beyond Cap Ferret opposite Arcachon. This huge tidal bay covers 150 sq. kms at high tide and just 40 sq. kms at low tide. Consequently a huge volume of water passes twice a day through a channel just 3 kms. wide. In the middle of the Bassin is 'L'Ile aux Oiseaux' a nature reserve.

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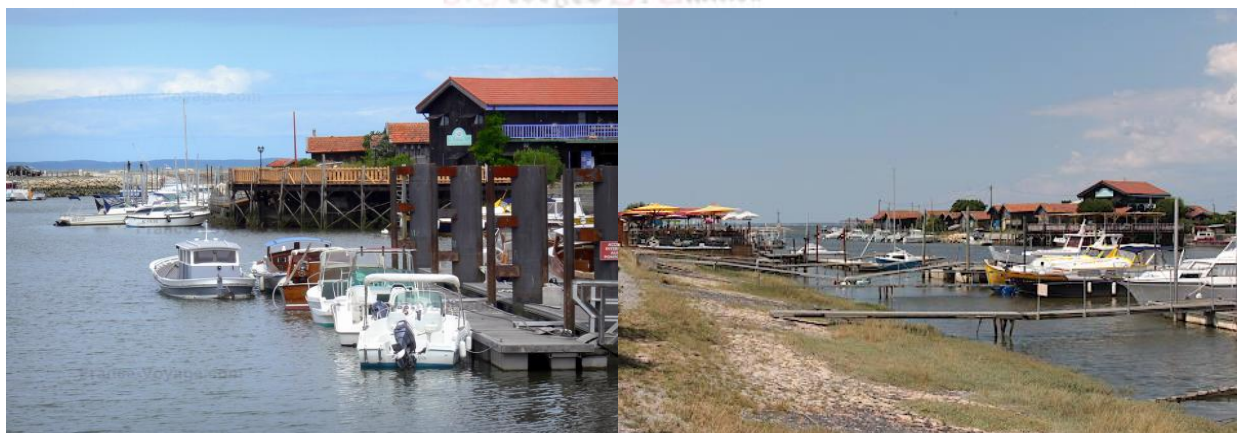
Option a: Take a Pinasse around the Bassin d’Arcachon

Those who elect Option a, will leave early by bus at 8.45 am and on arrival board the Pinasse(s) for a 3-hour trip around Le Bassin d’Arcachon. The tour of the Bassin will visit the bird sanctuary at 'L'Isle aux Oiseaux', see the Oyster Fisherman's stilt houses, visit the Oyster beds, stop on a sandbank to walk or even swim then finally head to the mouth of the 'Bassin' by Cap Ferret before returning to Arcachon for Lunch at 13:00. Each Pinasse has a captain and a maximum of 15 passengers. As the cost of each Pinasse is 585€ for 3 hrs, we need to ensure that we have 15 members who choose this option before we can book the Pinasse(s).



Option b: Degustation des Huitres and Arcachon visit

This group also travels by bus to Arcachon where they will spend the first hours visiting an oyster village. Gujon-Mestras is a town with 7 oyster ports and the capital of oyster farming of Arcachon. Larros is the leading port with quaint cabins, shipyards, traditional boats and oyster shells everywhere. The guides will cover the history of the area and its activities today before going to taste oysters at an oyster bar on the creek.



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Arcachon Ville

After one hour the bus will then carry the group to the promenade at Arcachon. It is a beautiful Victorian seaside town with elegant buildings, good shops on the street behind the beach, a long promenade and as the photograph shows an excellent beach to walk on or even swim from.



After a couple of hours exploring these possibilities both groups **a and b meet for lunch** at Chez Pierre a famous sea-food restaurant on the beach which can be seen at the end of the promenade by the middle pier.

Café de la Plage-Restaurant Chez Pierre

Chez Pierre is given a 9/10 rating by the 'thefork' and Michelin calls it an '*Institution Arcachonnaise*'. The food and service are excellent as is the location on the promenade.



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Day 4 Afternoon

After lunch we take the bus to arrive at 3 pm at the Dune du Pyla, the highest dune in Europe. There are fibreglass steps built into the rear of the dune near the car park. The climb takes from 15 to 30 minutes depending on your fitness. The views over the Cap Ferret Peninsula and the Atlantic Ocean are superb and worth carrying a camera for. If it appears to be too much the car park is under pine trees and there are cafes and souvenir shops to relax and browse in.



The buses leave the Dune du Pyla at 5 pm to return to the Hotel.

I hope you found this interesting.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

John Pease

