

LA ROCHELLE - JUNE 4-6, 2010

Hotel **Mercure**, Quai Louis Prunier, 17000 La Rochelle, France

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, June 04, 2010

Golf, Tennis and Sailing will be organised to take place depending on demand, see separate Sports Booking Form

Arrival of guests; registration at ALLIANCE Schlumberger desk in the hotel lobby from 16:00.

Dinner

19:30 In the hotel dining room.

Cost: 28 €/person

Please note that for all meals on this programme, beverages are included.

Ronde de Nuit

This is a two-hours slow walk through old La Rochelle with a guide and several stops for small shows retracing the history of the town. In French only.

21:30 Start from the St Nicolas Tower, a short walk (6 min) from the hotel.

Cost: 16 €/person

SATURDAY, June 05, 2010

Visit of Brouage and Rochefort and lunch.

09:00 Participants meet in the hotel lobby before boarding the coaches.

09:15 Coaches leave for visit of Brouage, a fortified village where Samuel Champlain (explorer and founder of Quebec City) was born and Marie Mancini (Louis XIV's first love) was banished into exile by Mazarin.

Visit of Rochefort Corderie Royale where l'Hermione, the frigate used by La Fayette to go and assist the American insurgents, is being reconstructed.

Lunch at the foot of the "Pont Transbordeur" (Transporter Bridge) built in 1900 and the last one of this type in France.

After lunch return by coaches to the hotel.

Cost: 56 €/person

Alliance General Meeting

15:30 – 17:30 meeting at the hotel.

During that time, spouses and non AGM participants can visit the Aquarium, just by the hotel.

Alliance Aperitif on board the France 1 ship (offered by Alliance)

18:30 Short walk (5 min) to this decommissioned meteorological ship moored close to the hotel.

19:30 Transport from the France 1 to the restaurant is by a 5-minutes electric-boat ride.

Alliance Dinner at André Restaurant

20:00 Dinner at André Restaurant, a "must" in La Rochelle.

After dinner return to the hotel by electric boat or walking. The latter is recommended and takes 15 to 20 minutes; but it can take much more in view of the many bars and cafés on the way!

Cost: 58 €/person

SUNDAY, June 06, 2009

Ile de Ré Tour and lunch

09:00 Participants meet in the hotel lobby before boarding the coaches.

09:15 Coaches leave. After the bridge to the Island of Ré (Isle of Rhé in english !) we pass through villages, oyster farms, vineyards and beaches. We then reach St Martin, the island capital, a citadel fortified by Vauban.

Lunch at the "les Gollandières" restaurant. (from about 12:30 to 14:30)

Continuing the visit of the island with the village of Ars and its black-and-white steeple, dominating a salt-producing area and a Nature Reserve as well as being a well-known beacon for navigators. Stop at the "Phare des Baleines" (the whales lighthouse).

Visit of an oyster farm with an explanation of the life of an oyster, and finishing, of course, with some serious tasting for the aficionados.

Return by coaches to the hotel at 18:00

Cost: 62 €/person

HOW TO GET THERE

By car

From Paris (470 km away), head south on the A10 highway, take exit 33 then the N11 heading towards La Rochelle.

From Bordeaux (180 km away), head north on the A10 highway then the A837 highway heading towards La Rochelle.

Once in La Rochelle, follow the signs for "Gare SNCF" (railway station), turn left in front of the railway station if you come from Bordeaux or right if you come from Paris, then left at the first roundabout, and straight to the hotel, ignoring the no-way sign. There is a small sign allowing access to the hotel. The access to the hotel is clear from the map.

The hotel is located on Quai Louis Prunier, opposite the southern side of the La Rochelle basin.

There is plenty of free outside parking in an enclosed area within the hotel grounds.

By air

The La Rochelle/Ile de Ré airport is 6 km away from the hotel (Sorry, no shuttle from the hotel)

Many airlines operate from La Rochelle:

- Aer Arann: Cork.
- Airlinair: Lyon.
- EasyJet: London-Gatwick, Bristol.
- Flybe: Southampton, Birmingham, Manchester.
- Jet2: Edinburgh, Leeds.
- Ryanair: London-Stansted, Dublin, Charleroi, Oslo.
- Transavia: Rotterdam.

By train

The railways station is within walking distance of the hotel, but taxis accept to take people if they ask nicely! We can also organize a mini-bus if various people arrive by train at the same time.

From Paris-Gare Montparnasse, by TGV, many direct trains are available.

From Roissy Airport, by TGV, with connection in Poitiers, if no train is available at the time you arrive then you will have to go to Paris-Gare Montparnasse by the RER B.

Tentative timetable is given below

Date	PARIS MONTPARNASSE			ROISSY CDG - LA ROCHELLE				
	LA ROCHELLE			VIA POITIERS				
	Leaves	Arrives	Lasts	Leaves	Arrives	Leaves	Arrives	Lasts
04/06/2010	07:15	10:19	03:04	07:39	10:11	10:50	12:21	04:42
	09:05	12:17	03:12	09:12	11:31	12:15	13:43	04:31
	10:45	13:38	02:53	13:37	16:10	16:45	18:18	04:41
	14:15	17:26	03:11	16:37	19:02	19:58	21:29	04:52
	16:50	20:07	03:17	19:11	21:22	21:56	23:26	04:15
	18:20	21:24	03:04					
	20:20	23:30	03:10					
	21:15	00:27	03:12					
Date	LA ROCHELLE			LA ROCHELLE - ROISSY CDG				
	PARIS MONTPARNASSE			VIA POITIERS				
	Leaves	Arrives	Lasts	Leaves	Arrives	Leaves	Arrives	Lasts
06/06/2010	10:50	14:00	03:10	07:23	08:46	09:36	12:09	04:46
	12:21	15:50	03:29	10:50	12:17	12:51	15:21	04:31
	14:41	17:40	02:59	14:41	16:04	16:14	18:41	04:00
	16:42	20:05	03:23	16:42	18:13	18:33	21:12	04:30
	17:43	21:20	03:37					
	19:22	22:20	02:58					
	21:05	00:15	03:10					
07/06/2010	05:37	08:50	03:13	07:35	09:15	09:36	12:09	04:34
	07:23	10:35	03:12	10:50	12:17	12:51	15:21	04:31
	10:50	14:00	03:10	14:41	16:04	16:14	18:41	04:00
	12:21	15:50	03:29	16:20	17:58	18:33	21:12	04:52
	14:41	17:40	02:59					
	16:59	20:20	03:21					
	18:22	21:40	03:18					

LA ROCHELLE MAP



In green, path from hotel to St Nicolas tower. In red, path from hotel to France 1 ship.

Red star: the hotel. Blue star: The André restaurant. Violet star: railways station.

SATURDAY TOUR



SUNDAY TOUR

