

Boat cruise in La Rochelle, all the information you need to
organize your getaway



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By Floriane

Going boating is a must-do experience during your [stay in La Rochelle](#). You'll enjoy **unforgettable views** of the coastline, the mythical **Fort Boyard** and a **stopover** on one of the islands of the archipelago.

We give you all the **options** and advice you need to make the most of your maritime getaway.

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Where to take the boat in La Rochelle

You can take the ferries, embark on a cruise or hire a boat at the **Vieux-Port**, right in the center of La Rochelle, or at the **Port des Minimes** to the south.

Several **free parking lots** are available next to the Port des Minimes, so you can park your car easily in this area.

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Head for the islands!

Now that you know where to embark, you're probably wondering what you're going to see on your cruise through the waters of the Pertuis d'Antioche.

From La Rochelle, you can choose between the many surrounding islands: the **île de Ré** with its charming villages, the **île d'Aix**, a small unspoilt corner of paradise, or the **île d'Oléron** and its breathtaking beaches, not forgetting the famous Fort Boyard.

On your way back to La Rochelle, don't forget to take in the breathtaking view of the **Old Port and its historic towers**. It's a magnificent panorama, which we love even more at sunset.

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1. **L'Île de Ré:** A stopover on the Île de Ré is a must on any trip from La Rochelle. You can admire its picturesque villages, sandy beaches and famous Baleines lighthouse from the sea.
2. **L'Île d'Aix:** A small, peaceful island, accessible only by boat, offering a more intimate experience. It's the perfect place to escape the hustle and bustle and enjoy nature.
3. **Île d'Oléron:** The largest of the Charente islands and our favorite, known for its magnificent beaches, pine forests and salt marshes. Sailing around the island offers a unique perspective on its natural beauty.
4. **Fort Boyard:** This famous fort, located between Île d'Aix and Île d'Oléron, is a must-see during your stay in La Rochelle. As you sail by, you can admire this iconic structure up close.

Sailing further afield, you can discover **wild stretches of coastline**, with cliffs and beaches inaccessible by land.

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La Rochelle by boat all options

Catamaran cruise

From La Rochelle, you can choose an intimate cruise to **Île de Ré, Île d'Aix, Île d'Oléron**, and/or the legendary **Fort Boyard**.

These cruises are the perfect opportunity to learn more about this magnificent region, learn a few maneuvers and admire the region's most famous scenery at an affordable price (*around €25 per person*).

[All about cruises in La Rochelle](#)

Boat rental

Ideally, of course, you should hire a **private boat**, so you can explore the **La Rochelle area** at your own pace and get within reasonable distance of **Fort Boyard**.

Don't panic if you're new to sailing: you can rent a boat **with or without a license** and with or without a skipper. You're bound to find a formula to suit your needs.

To rent your boat, we recommend that you use the [Samboat](#) platform. Quite simply, they have the most comprehensive range of boat rentals, and their site is very easy to use.

You enter your location, then your dates, then you can filter by boat type (motorboats, houseboats, small boats...), with or without a license, with or without a skipper: in short, you're spoilt for choice, from €129.

[All you need to know about yacht charter](#)

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Ferry

From La Rochelle, another very good option is to take a **ferry** in high season to [Boyardville](#) (on the east coast of the Ile d'Oléron) or the [Ile de Ré](#) in around 50 minutes. Boats operate between April and early November, with 1 daily departure in high season.

Bicycles are allowed on these sea routes. It's the ideal way to explore these 2 islands using the many cycle paths.

Find all the information you need about boat times and prices on the [company's website](#). (*approx. €18.50 per person*)

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Our advice

- Opt for a **late-morning** excursion to escape the crowds, or a **late-day** excursion to take advantage of the ideal light for your photos.
- Don't forget your **windbreaker**, because it's always cooler at sea. If you want to take some cool photos, it's time to get out **your sailors!**
- Avoid excursions in bad weather for a more pleasant experience. On the coast, the weather changes according to the tides, so don't panic if it's overcast in the morning, the sun may return during the day.

We hope you enjoy your stay in La Rochelle ! If this article has helped you find your dream beach, leave us **5 stars** below to encourage us.

If you're planning a stay on the island, you can also read our other articles on organizing your vacation in Charente-Maritime :

- [What to Do on Île d'Oléron? Our Complete Guide](#)
- [Our ideas for family activities on the Île d'Oléron](#)
- [The most beautiful beaches on the island of Oléron](#)
- [What to do in Rochefort with children](#)
- [What to do in La Rochelle Our ideas for visiting the city](#)
- [Where to sleep on the island of Oléron? Our favorite accommodations](#)

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Don't hesitate to drop us a **line** below, to let us know if you're planning this trip, to ask any questions you may have, here or on [Instagram](#), we'll be delighted to get back to you.

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