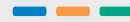




SEIGNOSSE



TOWN TWINNING
BOOKLET

PRÉSENTATION

3 620

hectares of total land size

72

protected hectares

6 km

of beaches
(or 3,72 Miles)

2

schools

1

wildilfe park

2

ponds

72 %

of forest

“Le Bourg”

Historic town center

LOCATION

Seignosse is a French town located in les Landes province in the Southwest of France. The town is 45 min drive from the well-known Biarritz city.



ACCESO

✈️ **BIARRITZ**

Aeropuerto y estación de tren.
A 45 min por A 63

✈️ **BORDEAUX**

Burdeos aeropuerto y estación de tren.
A 2:00 por A 63

✈️ **TOULOUSE**

Toulouse aeropuerto y estación de tren. A
3:00 por A 64

4.000

year-round residents

40.000

residents over the summer period

“L’Océan”

The seaside resort town
and its residential neighborhoods.



ENVIRONNEMENT

Seignosse has a large variety of landscapes: seashore, sand dunes, coastal lakes, sea lake, pine forest of Le landais plateau, bourg, hamlets and landais airials....

THE OCEAN

A pioneer in the growth of surfing in France, Seignosse is the place where you can discover four mythical "spots" namely Estagnots, Bourdaines, Le Penon and Les Casernes. The 6 popular sand beaches have lifeguards from May to September. Among them, two beaches have been awarded "Blue flag status", which aims to reward towns engaged in sustainable tourism.



THE SAND DUNE

There is a 6 km long sand dune along the seashore of Seignosse. This sand dune was created artificially during the 19th century in order to protect the young growing forest and the village. Today, it is a protected area managed both by the National Forest Office (the « Office National des Forêts ») and by the town itself. Every year, many initiatives are organized to maintain, protect, and stabilize the sand dune.

THE FOREST

The forest area is spread all over the town territory. It is composed of 90% of maritime pines and of 10% of oak trees and cork oaks. It is one the richest forest in cork oaks in the region. Mainly private, this forest is nonetheless open and accessible to all. This is a production forest: every year, several dozen hectares are cut down and replanted.



THE 'ETANG NOIR' NATURE RESERVE

It is 52 hectares of protected wetlands, and it is one of the most visited natural sites of les Landes region.

The reserve is composed of a lake surrounded by a swampy forest which shelters a rich fauna and flora.



THE DOWNTOWN AND THE SEASIDE NEIGHBORHOODS

Two thirds of the dwellings are located in the heart of downtown, where one can find many public services such as schools, nurseries, or local grocery shops.

Residential neighborhoods line the coastline on the ocean side, as does the seaside resort of Le Penon, which comes alive all summer long.



The people of Seignosse : who are we?

« Seignosse is a French town on a human scale, neither too big nor too small, where life is good. Its privileged geographical situation, on the edge of the ocean, close to the Pyrenees, surrounded by lakes and pine forests, offers an incomparable gentle way of life.

Seignosse is proud of its natural environment which is conducive to personal and family development. Its proximity to larger towns such as Bayonne and Biarritz allows for numerous exchanges with our Basque neighbors.

Numerous shops, sports facilities, schools, and associations make our town dynamic, friendly, open and welcoming.

The population of Seignosse is made up of all generations, young and old, working and retired, with in recent years an influx of different nationalities that gives our village an international flavour. The people of Seignosse are generally friendly, like to party and meet new people and are keen on many sports. Adishatz*, as we say here!

Which means * «Farewell» in Gascon.

CULTURE, HERITAGE & TRADITIONS

A STRONG IDENTITY, A RICH HERITAGE

The natural heritage of Seignosse is protected. The wetlands and shores of the Étang Blanc and the Étang Noir are classified as Landes lakes in order to preserve their shore links. The sand dunes north of the town are classified as a Natura 2000 site.

Lastly, 72 hectares of the area near the Casernes beach are protected by the "Conservatoire du Littoral", a public institution without any equivalent in Europe, whose mission is to acquire parcels of land on the coastline to make them into restored sites, developed with respect for the natural balance.



"Les Landes" identity of Seignosse is everywhere. In the typical architecture of the houses in the town, the fronton, and the wall on the left where you can play the local pelota. In its gastronomy: duck (foie gras, confit or magret), local fresh vegetable market, oysters, traditional "landais" cake named pastis landais, tourtière... In its traditions: stilt-walkers' dances inspired by the shepherds of yesteryear, pelota games, village festivals, fishing, and hunting.

It is also the surfing culture, marked by a state of mind of freedom, harmony and respect for nature, openness to different cultures and by an acute awareness of the consequences of climate change and pollution on the ocean.



Seignosse's identity is there: at the crossroads of the Landes culture, the ocean and the forest, a deep attachment to its rurality and the village spirit.

Testimonial from a new resident called Elsa : *"It is no surprise that we had a wonderful first summer with many outings and activities. But the rest of the year is no less interesting! The cultural programme is rich and diversified: shows, concerts, young audiences. We take part in them with friends or with the children, all year round!"*



A YEAR-ROUND CULTURAL LIFE

All year round, Seignosse's life is marked by a number of cultural events organized by the town. Carnival, Easter Egg Hunt, Seignosse Festivals, Local typical Casetas festival, Big Family Day, Christmas Market, association forum... Festive, family, and cultural, these events bring together all generations.

Every year, the town organizes its own music festival, "Summer hunger" (A play on words "faim" meaning "end" in French) to mark the end of the summer season. It is also a partner in many festivals and events: Little festival (electronic music, street art and board sports, 12,000 festivalgoers over 4 days), "Lire sur la Vague" festival (children's literature and comics), American Crazy Cars (vintage cars rally)...

Culture is highlighted with a diverse cultural season, which offers a monthly performance: concert, theater, reading-show, stand-up, dance, etc. Urban art also has its place, with artists who regularly come to create frescoes on a dedicated wall. Artists are welcomed in residence several times a year to create shows that they then perform to school children..

In terms of infrastructure, Seignosse is home to a dynamic library, the largest concert hall in the department (Le Tube-Les Bourdaines), a local radio station "Côte SUD FM" and the Labégorre Foundation, a museum space which showcases the work of Aquitaine painter Serge Labégorre.



COMMUNITY AND SPORTS LIFE

A DYNAMIC NETWORK OF ASSOCIATIONS

More than forty clubs and associations are the heartbeat of Seignosse. Sport, culture, solidarity, creative leisure activities, well-being... they offer a wide range of activities for all tastes and ages, allow the social integration of the population, encourage solidarity and conviviality, and contribute to the quality of life of the town. In addition to organizing their own events, the associations are part of the life of the town by organizing meals or holding "bodegas" during some municipal events. They contribute to strengthening the local identity and the town's influence. The municipality actively supports this network of associations and encourages them in their activities.

The Youth Department, through its various actions, supports young people aged 11 to 25 in their development, their autonomy, and their relationship with citizenship. Youth projects, the town Youth Council, collective actions, information systems, etc. may be included in future twinning projects.



"The Mimosa, Seignosse's association, has been active for 45 years looking after senior citizens. It aims to break the isolation of some, to meet during festive moments, to offer outdoor activities (bowl game such as petanque, french bowls), to participate in workshops led by professionals related to well-being and new technologies' knowledge, as well as cultural outings."

Ghislaine



A SPORTS CITY

In Seignosse, sport is part of our lifestyle!

It is of course one of the pioneer towns in the development of surfing in France and Europe, with famous spots such as the Estagnots beach and its long and powerful waves. 15 surf schools and a surf club with over 400 members teach this sport. In summer, you can swim in water between 19° and 23° and you can also practice kitesurfing, stand-up paddle, aquatic walking...

The town is home to an 18-hole golf course, ranked in the top 50 European courses, a breeding ground for promising players and a training ground for professionals. Designed by the American architect Robert von Hagge in 1989, it is regularly ranked among the most beautiful golf courses in Europe. The sports association plays in the second national division and is among the best in France.

The town facilities include a large sports and cultural center with a dojo (judo, karate, capoeira, yoga, tai chi), a left-hand wall, 5 tennis courts, a competition soccer pitch, a bowling green, a fronton, 2 skateparks (where BMX is also practiced), a city stadium, playgrounds and a french skittles pitch.

35 km of cycle paths link the town to the ocean and allow you to reach the neighboring towns (Capbreton, Hossegor, etc.). The "Vélodyssée", the Eurovélo N°1 linking Norway to Portugal, passes through Seignosse. It's a very pleasant cycle route to the Basque country to the south, or to the Pilat Dune and the Arcachon Basin to the north. The Seignosse cycloclub uses it regularly.

The forest is an ideal setting for outdoor activities. With 40 km of marked trails, various activities are possible: mountain biking, trail running, walking or horse riding.

The town hosts numerous competitions throughout the year: surfing competitions, the Swimrun biathlon (swimming and running race), surfcasting (fishing on the beach), crossfit, golf tournament, Pala d'Or as well as «health sport» events initiated by associations such as Octobre Rose (breast cancer prevention) and Défi Day (support for adults and children undergoing treatment for cancer).

"To me, Seignosse is a huge playground for sportsmen and women of all levels and ages." Nicolas

ECONOMY AND ATTRACTIVENESS

A BOOMING TOWN

With the arrival of new people, attracted by the flourishing living environment that the town offers, Seignosse has experienced a constant demographic increase in recent years.

To accompany these changes, in a context of preserving its living environment and considering climate change, the local town council is working, in consultation with its citizens, on several large-scale projects, brought together in the «Seignosse the future» program:

- major construction-extension of a school, which will bring together the two Seignosse school groups on the same site
- renovation of the Penon ocean side resort
- reorganization of the downtown center
- reorganization of the Bourdaines district, landscaping works on the dune and the avenue near the beach.



A VIBRANT ECONOMY

With a population that multiplies ten-fold in the summer, the economy is of course focused on tourism and leisure. The tourist resort is classified and has a capacity of 36,000 beds, which makes it a leading destination on the Landes coast. The accommodation on offer is very diversified: hotels, Bed and Breakfast, campsites, holiday villages, rentals accommodation and surfcamps

All types of clientele come together: families during the school holidays, seniors and students in the off-seasons, surfers, golfers, and outdoor sports enthusiasts all year round.

The Seignosse Tourist Office, one of the most dynamic structures in the department, welcomes and informs the public all year round. It promotes the town and leads the tourist service providers who are committed to quality and eco-responsible brands.

The town offers a wide choice of restaurants: friendly Spanish tapas, beach huts, restaurants, and fine dining with a Michelin-starred establishment. There are two markets, one weekly downtown, the other seasonal in Le Penon, which attracts nearly 200 stallholders from July to September. A coworking space allows locals and holidaymakers to remote work.

Two business areas are home to numerous craftsmen in traditional sectors (carpenters, tilers, mechanics, garage owners, etc.) as well as a whole new generation of artists, creators and craftsmen specializing in cutlery, furniture creation, design or the manufacture of local food products (chocolate makers, brewers, biscuit makers, etc.). A festival dedicated to arts and crafts takes place every year in the Tube concert hall.

OUR TWINNING PROJECT

The survey of the population, launched by the Town council in November 2022, unanimously demonstrated a real interest in the town of Seignosse initiating and launching this twinning for and with the population of Seigno, hence the creation of this Committee.

“We are a group of women and men volunteers from Seignosse, of all generations, who wish to develop links of friendship and exchange with the population of another European town.

We present here 3 reasons why we wish to twin.”

The Twinning Steering Committee is :

The mayor Pierre Pecastaings and the elected representatives in charge of twinning, Martine,

Maud and Marc, surrounded by: Audrey, Christelle, Sylvie, Michel, Ghislaine, Amélie, Marc, Nicolas, José, Gérard.



EXCHANGE, MEET, DISCOVER EACH OTHER

Over the decades, Seignosse has grown and enriched with new persons, all attracted by nature, sports activities (surfing, golf...) and quality of life. In Seignosse, there is a relaxed, welcoming, and open-minded atmosphere.

The population largely responded in favour of twinning, putting forward their interest in meeting and exchanging with citizens of another country, and discovering a new culture, new traditions, and sharing our cultural heritage and our living environment.

CREATING LINKS AND COMMON PROJECTS

This twinning will help us to strengthen links with a town and a new country. It will allow us to create strong links between young people, schools, and volunteer host families, and to create sports events (tennis, surfing, golf, cycling, soccer, etc.), as well as community events.

We will be happy to show our beautiful region, its environment and share its gentle way of life. At the same time, we will be delighted to discover other cultures and traditions.

A NEW VISIBILITY FOR OUR TWO TOWNS

Finding its twin, means building a strong and lasting partnership. Thus, our similarities and complementarities will create a new common space, a ground for multiform exchanges, a rich soil for projects of all types. This will be an opportunity for each of the two town councils to gain visibility and to rely on each other in order to develop our attractiveness. Actors in various sectors such as tourism, entrepreneurship and craftsmanship can only benefit from such an international boost provided by their respective local councils.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Sir or Madam,

In 2022, the town of Seignosse has launched an active twinning process. Why?

Because we are convinced of the need to share our heritage, natural, economic, and cultural resources and to discover in return a new territory, its population, its landscapes and its traditions.

This initiative is the fruit of the will of the elected local representatives and is shared by a large part of the population, which is consulted at each stage of the process and is now involved in a representative steering committee.

Through these few pages, you have been able to discover the assets of our town, our openness towards others, as well as the passion that drives us and pushes us to share them with you.

I hope that this presentation will convince you of our sincerity and of the pleasure we will have in meeting you and exchanging ideas during a warm and friendly moment, so vital to our regional traditions and our Gascon temperament..

Pierre Pecastaings, Alcalde de Seignosse



“Seignosse is unique for its natural environment which allows everyone to recharge their batteries. A well-being that we seek first of all individually or with our loved ones. I wanted to get involved in the twinning project because for me it is also important to build a collective well-being, thanks to moments of exchange and meetings. With twinning, we will be able to create links beyond our horizons and give a social dimension to this gentle way of life.”

Caroline

“For me, a twinning is a double opportunity: To discover new places through their landscapes, cultures, customs, and ways of life... but also to allow those who will be lucky enough to be part of it to be ambassadors of our region, in order to allow our twinning partners to discover in their turn our richness and our traditions.”

Gérard


PICTURES



KEEP IN TOUCH

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