Maison d'Argent

Region: France **Sleeps:** 8

Overview

Stay in a beautiful house by the banks of a small river close to the historic market town of Argenton-sur-Creuse. You are only half an hour from Parc naturel régional de la Brenne, a national park said to be one of France's best kept secrets, as well as the landscapes known as the '*Vallée des peintres*'.

With an impressive château towering above and the peaceful river a few steps away, the setting of Maison d'Argent is quite idyllic. The origins of the estate date back to the 12th century and the natural surroundings are gorgeous. Step into your historic home and appreciate its rich character with wood-beamed ceilings, wonderfully tiled floors and classic furnishings alongside modern additions including the stylish contemporary kitchen.

Once a miller's house, open the elegant windows and gaze out to towards the river and woodland – the south-western exposure also means the living spaces are filled with light. The salon is refined yet cosy whilst four double bedrooms have been designed with calming décor, traditional furnishings and lovely bedding, all with modern en suite bathrooms.

Embrace your natural surroundings as you relax by the river. If you feel like holidaying with friends or family, you may also wish to consider neighbouring Moulin d'Argent (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/loire-valley/moulin-dargent/), a former working watermill. Both houses have access to a canoe and barge for further exploring as well as a pétanque set and some bikes. The estate is home to a spa for a little indulgence on holiday - you can really kick back and relax.

Argenton-sur-Creuse is only 7km by car with its restaurants, shops, cafes and bustling Saturday morning









market. Admire charming old townhouses as you stroll along the Creuse River and admire the 19th century mills that once brought the town great wealth.

Visit the historic town of Châteauroux with its vibrant city park and one of France's largest oak forests, then be enchanted by two of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*', medieval Saint-Benoît-du-Sault and Gargilesse-Dampierre where George Sands once lived. Appreciate many wonderful works of art at Espace Monet Rollinat and Hôtel Lepinat in an area known as the 'valley of the painters'.

Bird-watchers, keen cyclists, walkers and nature enthusiasts will adore the Parc naturel régional de la Brenne with its landscapes of marshes, marked trails and diverse flora and fauna with over 260 species of birds recorded. L'Étang de Bellebouche is the national park's largest lake and the perfect spot for bird-watching, fishing, kayaking, relaxing on sandy shores and even swimming in the height of the French summer.

Facilities

Villa • Walking/Hiking Paths • Cycling • Tennis Nearby • Historical Sites • Golf Nearby • Fishing • Canoeing/Kayaking • Horse Riding • Maid Service Available • Ideal for Teens • All Bedrooms En-Suite • Parking Space • Heritage Collection • Wi-Fi/Internet • Rural Location • Washing Machine • Coffee Machine • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Spa/Massage • Laptop Friendly Workspace • Children's bikes • Bicycles Provided • Outdoor Games • Heating • Ruins • Kid-friendly museum • Kid-friendly excursions • Water excursions/Boat trips • Playground nearby • Bikes • Boules/Petanque

Interior & Grounds

Maison Interiors (350m2)

Main Floor (main entrance via steps)

- Living room
- Open-plan kitchen and dining room
- Bedroom with double bed and private bathroom

Upstairs

- 3 x bedrooms with double bed and private bathroom

Outside Grounds

- Terrace area
- Grounds/garden bordering the river's edge (shared with Moulin d'Argent (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/loire-valley/moulin-dargent/))
- Access to estate's canoe and barge (shared with Moulin d'Argent)
- Pétanque set (shared with Moulin d'Argent)
- 2 x adult bikes and 2 x children bikes (shared with Moulin d'Argent)

Other Facilities (shared with Moulin d'Argent (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/loire-valley/moulin-dargent/)**)**

- Spa
- Elliptical trainer









Location & Local Information

Less than half an hour south of Châteauroux, the capital of the Indre department in central France, Maison d'Argent sits near the banks of the Bouzanne river next to neighbouring Moulin d'Argent (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/loire-valley/moulin-dargent/) (ideal if you are two families or friends hoping to travel together yet stay in separate houses). Both houses are surrounded by beautiful shared grounds with riverside access in two different areas – they also both have use of a shared canoe, barge, bikes and pétanque set.

Fly into Bourges, Limoges or Poitiers or the nearest train station is Argenton-sur-Creuse with arrivals from Paris (it's a 2 hours 30 minutes train ride from Gare Austerlitz). If taking the ferry from the UK, Caen Ouistreham/St-Malo/Le Havre are all around a 4 to 5-hour drive away or it is approximately six hours from Calais. Both houses are located just off a country road leading to a small rural village and towards Argenton-sur-Creuse.

Argenton-sur-Creuse (7km) is a small historic town by the banks of the River Creuse, home to several cafes, restaurants and shops as well as a Saturday morning market. It is especially lovely to stroll by the river and admire pretty houses lining the water's edge. The town has a rich heritage in flour, leather and shirt production, industries that brought much wealth in the 1800s. Pass watermills as you explore and learn all about the history of shirt-making at the French-speaking Le Musée de la Chemiserie et de l'Elégance Masculine.

The small city of Châteauroux is worth a visit on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday morning when the vibrant market takes place. In the summer it's fantastic to visit the city park just north of Châteauroux with fitness trails, a play area and a recreational lake for summer swimming, canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and more. Just outside the city, look out for wonderful nature trails through the magnificent Châteauroux forest, one of the country's largest oak forests (many Bordeaux wine barrels are made from Châteauroux oak).

Venturing south, Saint-Benoît-du-Sault (27km) is such a picturesque village with medieval houses, half-timbered buildings and old lanes – it's classified as one of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*'. Gargilesse-Dampierre (20km) is another '*Plus Beau Village*' in a riverside setting with historic houses, an impressive château and the former home of George Sands where she wrote much of her work.

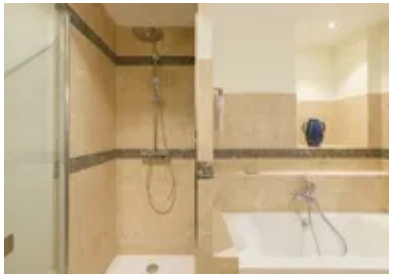
Outdoor lovers will appreciate being only half an hour from the superb Parc naturel régional de la Brenne with its varied landscapes of marshes and fields. Start off at Maison du Parc in Rosnay (34km) to pick up maps, then start exploring the scenery by walking or cycling following kilometres of marked trails. Look out for summer swimming and a children's play area at Étang de Bellebouche. This incredible area is ideal for outdoor explorers of every age as well as wildlife enthusiasts and bird-watchers.

Meanwhile, learn how the beautiful landscapes of this region inspired so many artists – heading south is Espace Monet Rollinat (40km), an art museum and gallery in Fresselines, an area known as the 'valley of the painters'. Furthermore, don't miss the wonderful exhibitions at the art museum, Hôtel Lepinat (37km).









Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	**Limoges Airport (108km)**
Nearest Airport 2	**Bourges Airport (95km)**
Nearest Airport 3	**Poitiers-Biard Airport (114km)**
Nearest City	**Châteauroux (24km)**
Nearest Ferry Port	**Ouistreham/Saint-Malo (408km/444km)**
Nearest Golf	**Golf Club Val de l'Indre (29km)**
Nearest Restaurant	**Argenton-sur-Creuse (7km)**
Nearest Supermarket	**Intermarché SUPER Saint-Marcel (7km)**
Nearest Tennis	**Tennis Club Val de Creuse (8.5km)**
Nearest Town	**Argenton-sur-Creuse (7km)**
Nearest Train Station	**Argenton-sur-Creuse (7km)**
Nearest Village	**Small rural village (2km)**

What we love

- Once the miller's house, such effort has been made to preserve the character and charm of this beautiful home
- It's position by the banks of the river is idyllic – you can borrow the estate's canoe to explore your surroundings
- We love the blend of classic furnishings, elegant décor and 21st century features
- Shop at the Saturday morning market in Argenton-sur-Creuse before strolling along the river admiring historic houses by the water's edge
- The Parc naturel régional de la Brenne is said to be one of France's best kept secrets – it's an absolute paradise for nature lovers, bird-watchers, keen cyclists and walkers
- Heading south, visit the two highly regarded art museums in the 'Valley of the painters'

What you should know...

- On the water's edge, children will need to be supervised very carefully at all times during their stay at this beautiful house.
- For guests wishing to holiday with friends/family yet stay in separate houses, consider Moulin d'Argent (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/loire-valley/moulin-dargent/) next door. The picture with the sheep shows the *moulin* next to the sheep and the Maison d'Argent to the right.
- Moulin d'Argent (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/loire-valley/moulin-dargent/) and Maison d'Argent share the grounds surrounding the two properties with riverside access. Both properties share use of a canoe, barge, bikes and pétanque set.
- Please note that published rates are only valid for the current year. Any bookings for subsequent years will be on request only and correct rates will be confirmed at the time of booking.
- Please note that your booking will only be confirmed once we have checked availability with the owner or their property manager.

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** €1500 charged to client's credit card by Oliver's Travels as a pre-authorisation at least 2 weeks prior to arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.

- **Arrival time:** 4.00 p.m.

- **Departure time:** 11.00 a.m. (free late checkout on Sundays)

- **Energy costs included?:** Yes.

- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes.

- **Pets welcome?:** Not allowed.

- **Other Ts and Cs:** Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are not allowed. The grounds, riverside access, a canoe, a barge, bikes and a pétanque set are all shared with neighbouring Maison d'Argent. Please note that published rates are only valid for the current year. Any bookings for subsequent years will be on request only and correct rates will be confirmed at the time of booking. Please note that your booking will only be confirmed once we have checked availability with the owner or their property manager.

- **Changeover day:** Everyday except Sunday.

- **End of stay cleaning:** Standard changeover clean included in the price. Guests are required to leave the accommodation clean, tidy and in the same condition as on their arrival. Any extra cleaning, laundry, maintenance and/or rubbish disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.

- **Smoking Allowed?:** Not allowed.

- **Minimum stay:** 2 nights.

- **Tax:** Please note that to pay French Visitors Tourist Tax the property manager will provide a secure online payment link in advance, and guests are required to settle the amount directly through this link prior to or during their stay. The exact amount will be confirmed before arrival.