

Rural tourism in France

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Most of France is "rural", in the sense of land that is lightly (not sparsely) inhabited, areas characterised by their small towns and villages and by agriculture. In a word, most of France is countryside.



Holidaymakers looking for somewhere to chill out and relax in the peace and quiet of rural France thus have a huge and very varied area to choose from. Those for whom the main aim of a rural break is to relax in the shade of a tree or beside a pool, and do nothing for a week or two, have virtually the whole of France to choose from.

Those wanting a bit more than that, i.e. to have a quiet rural base from which to explore interesting countryside, interesting walks and wildlife, or interesting heritage or attractions nearby, need to be a bit more choosy.



There are plenty of parts of rural France that are very peaceful but not terribly interesting. There are lots of villages in France that are very attractive in their own right, but surrounded in all directions by little else but fields.

Generally speaking, the French countryside - as indeed countryside anywhere - is more interesting in hillier parts. This is all the more so in France insofar as the hillier parts of France are also the areas where the historic rural heritage has survived most strongly. Generally speaking, and with some exceptions, notably rural Brittany, this means France south of the Loire and west of the Seine.



Types of farms in France



B&B Farm Stays

You'll find comfort and charm on these B&B farmstays, with friendly owners waiting to welcome you. Enjoy the farm and the countryside and start the day with a hearty regional breakfast.

Cooking Classes

There is no better place to learn how to cook than on a farmstay! Not only can learn regional recipes of dishes you may never even have eaten before never mind cooked, but you can also better understand the value of fresh ingredients straight from the farm.

You'll find it an interesting and rewarding experience and enjoy the local food so much that you'll want to recreate some of the recipes at home.



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Farm Glamping

Glamping is ideal who love the great outdoors but are too chic for camping! Glamping comes in many forms; you'll find tents, pods, traditional gypsy caravans and yurts to name but a few, and you'll also find quality and comfort while still being close to nature.



Horseback Riding

Stay on a farm or dude ranch and get out into the great outdoors on horseback. You can expect these farm stays and dude ranches will have lessons and can cater for all levels of ability.

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Vineyard Hotels

You'll generally find vineyard hotel stays a notch above regular farm stays in terms of comfort and quality. But this of course is not the main attraction, wine is. Anyone with more than a passing interest in wine will absolutely appreciate the craft and care that goes into its production.

Most of the vineyard hotels on farmstay planet have small, boutique wineries and naturally you'll be welcome to sample the wine and learn about the processes involved in making the best wine, from grape to bottle.

Organic Farms

You'll find the peace and tranquility of nature along with good, wholesome healthy food, straight from the farm. And of course you can expect comfortable accommodation and friendly service.

