

Le camping Orléans

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What to do in St-François? ¹

Founded in 1679, the village of St-François is situated at the eastern tip of Orleans Island and offers breathtaking views on the St-Lawrence River. On the north shore, your eyes are drawn by Mount Ste-Anne and Cape Tourmente. On the south strands, you can take a walk and admire nearby Madame and Ruau islands. Take a few more minutes to gaze at the paintings done on the boulders by a local artist and let the cargos and liners impress you as they go right by you. At the end of the nearby dock, you'll feel you can touch them!

You can't stay in St-François without a stop at the «boutique» *À l'ombre du vent*. Located on the northern part of the village, the artists will welcome you in their century old house, in which the shop shelters magnificent pieces : popular art such as island bird or animal sculptures, textile creations, weaving and knitting. You will be charmed for sure!

À l'ombre du vent, 173, chemin Royal, (418-829-1103).

Depending on the season, watch the fruit and vegetable booths by the road. A few minutes away from the campground, on the north side, you can get all you want of farm products, fresh from the fields. What's better for an outdoor meal back on your campsite? On your left hand side, turn on the *Argentenay* route and find many self-picking strawberry fields. An activity that cannot be ignored!

Mechanical problem? Solve it at the Garage Dallaire a little bit further. General mechanics and more. **Garage Dallaire**, 637, route d'Argentenay, (418-829-3234).

One feature of St-François is its very high observation tower, back on the *Chemin Royal*. Sixty feet from the ground, you'll be marvelled by the beauty of the surrounding mountains and islands, by the view on the river that seems to draw you right to the Atlantic, and mostly by the particular geometry and colours of the fields and land of *Île d'Orléans*. At the foot of the tower, the car stop includes a snack bar.

¹ This list is indicative only and the opening hours may vary.

The heart of the village includes two governmental historical sites : the old school, at the left of the church, where you will find the *Brûlerie de l'île d'Orléans* for a good coffee, and the church itself dating back to 1734. Even if the 1988 fire destroyed part of the religious patrimony, a visit to the church is still a must.

La Brûlerie de l'île d'Orléans, 339, chemin Royal.

While you're there, take a couple of steps to your right and visit the old presbytery. That is where you'll meet the talented sculptor Marc Côté with his exposition of « unique and original pieces to be discovered, tamed and enjoyed ». And the garden is an enchantment by itself.

Galerie & Jardin de sculptures sur pierre, Marc Côté. 341, chemin Royal, (418-829-3614).

On the left of the church, the Lemelin road brings you to *Camp Saint-François*. This summer camp, a few minutes from the campground, offers to youngsters a varied activity program, be it for one day or for longer periods. It provides camping for the parents and day camp for the kids. A memorable experience for both parties and a joyous reunion at the end of the day !

Camp Saint-François, 383, rue Lemelin, (418-829-2453).

On the left of the entrance to the Lemelin road, the centre *Le Sillon* regroups « boutiques » not to be missed. The bookshop *Note à la page* offers new and used books, collection comics, and a large choice of books pertaining to *Île d'Orléans*. You can even rent DVDs there and the appropriate reader if you need it. Ideal on a rainy afternoon.

Librairie Note à la page, 337, chemin Royal, (418-829-0530).

Just beside it, the shop *Fontaine-Negrin* will seduce lovers of art : the uncommon Raku ceramics with its original pieces and its wood baking. You can watch the artists at work in this shop opened to all.

Fontaine-Negrin, 337, chemin Royal, suite 210, (418-829-1453).

On your way back to the campground, discover the *Brocante*'s treasures. Located in the gardens in the back of the house, this shop with a particular charm offers « a great variety of antiques and collection pieces ».

La Brocante, 360, chemin Royal, (418-829-2881).

From the campground going west, *La Seigneurie de l'Île d'Orléans* invites you to “arouse your senses”. Walk through four hectares of lavender and Japanese or fruit gardens. Visit the magnificent vineyard and try local products. You'll be delighted!

La Seigneurie de l'Île d'Orléans, 400, chemin Royal, (418-829-0476).

A little bit further on, the restaurant *Resto du Sud* keeps one of its 32 interior tables for you. In a « family and countryside atmosphere », take a look at the Montmagny archipelago while enjoying family cooking : breakfast, patinas, pizzas, and more.

Resto du Sud, 413, chemin Royal, (418-829-0009).

Is the coming evening a romantic one? Two minutes away from the campground is the *Auberge Chaumonot*, with its dining hall offering a view on the river, or just watch for the full moon ...

Auberge Chaumonot, 425, chemin Royal, (418-829-2735).

Your journey will be complete with a visit to Caroline Daigle, a jeweler. Apart from magnificent paintings, she has unique pieces such as brooches, fibulas, bracelets, rings, etc. You'll be fascinated!

Caroline Daigle joaillière, 435-A, chemin Royal, (418-829-0799).

Quite evidently, your stay at our campground has to be longer than expected!