

REVE DE PROVENCE - USEFUL INFORMATION

Owners – Kathy and Larry Church

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If you have any travel related questions please call us or send a message to revedeprovence@yahoo.com

Our web site is www.revedeprovence.net

Property Location

2 Rue de Penitants

Pierrelatte, France 26700

Pierrelatte has a nice web site with many sections translated into English.

www.office-tourisme-pierrelatte.com

Property Managers

Jim and Yolaine Herbert. They live a 3 minute walk from our house.

Jim and Yolaine both speak French and English.

You can call Jim at home to answer questions, help with problems, etc.

Unless there is an emergency please do not call between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.

Home phone: (dialing from the States: 011 33 4 75 96 43 46)

(dialing from within France : 0 4 75 96 43 46)

Cell phone: (dialing from the States : 011 33 6 19 87 57 03)

(dialing from within France 0 6 19 87 57 03)

Email: jimherbert48@yahoo.com

Arrival and Orientation

Please email Jim a week before arrival to confirm your arrival day and time.

Please call or email (see info above) Jim the day before your arrive to re-confirm your time of arrival. He will meet you at the house upon arrival, give you the keys, show you how everything works in the house, and answer any questions you might have. He will also give you an orientation tour of the village so you will know how to find the grocery store, bakery, restaurants, pubs, cafes, shops, etc.

Cell Phone operation

It is recommended that you bring or rent a cell phone.

Many people have problems with cell phone operation in Europe, so please make sure to contact your cell phone service provider and make sure that both your phone and phone service work in France. Also make sure you know how to place a call.

If you bring a phone, in most cases, you will have to dial as though you are in your home country. If you rent a phone, in most cases, you will have to dial as though you are in Europe.

High Speed Train tips (TGV)

The TGV is a great way to get from Paris to Provence. If you are not familiar with train travel the following links provide some invaluable information and advise that will help you avoid problems.

http://bonjourlafrance.net/france-trains/stations/paris_airport_charles_de_gaulle_tgv.htm

<http://www.provence-hideaway.com/126.html>

Car Rental and Driving

Driving in France is easy (except for Paris!).

If you plan on driving through the countryside we recommend you rent a GPS.

If you bring a GPS make sure that it has maps of France

It is also recommended that you purchase a detailed French highway map.

The main auto routes are fast, well maintained, and have safe rest areas with good restaurants. Most auto routes are toll roads, and most will accept credit cards for tolls. However some do not accept credit cards, so make sure to carry plenty of Euros. www.viamichilin.com is a good site to plan your routes. This site also calculates the tolls for you.

Most cars in Europe are manual transmission. If you do not know how to drive a manual transmission make sure to reserve a car in advance and specify an automatic transmission.

Ask your insurance company if you need any additional coverage offered by the rental car company.

If you have not driven in Europe before it is recommended you become familiar with the road signs. Traffic and parking violations are expensive.

Parking

You can park anywhere in Pierrelatte that common sense dictates.

One exception is parking spaces with blue marking. You are not allowed to park in blue-marked spots in Pierrelatte Thursday night thru Friday afternoon. During this time they are reserved for the Friday morning Market. If you park in these spaces during this time you will get towed!! Also, do not park in front of the church on Thursday night (the parking spaces are marked white, but your car will be towed, as it's a site for part of the market).

Credit Cards

Notify your credit card company you will be traveling in France before you depart. American Express cards are not widely accepted, so bring Visa or Master Card if possible.

Currency

Get some Euros before you depart, we normally get them thru our bank.

Your credit card will work at most local ATMs for cash withdrawal.

Don't forget your PIN number.

Store Hours

FOOD Stores – France does not have food stores that are open 24 hours a day 7 days a week!! Very few food stores are open on Sundays.

Restaurants – Most restaurants in smaller cities, like Pierrelatte, are closed after lunch serving, around 2:00 pm until when open for dinner, around 7:00 pm.

Normal business days are: Tuesday through Saturday. There are many holidays that food stores are closed.

Normal business hours are: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, and often smaller stores and banks close from noon to 2-3PM.

Safety

In case of emergency give Jim the property manager a call on his home phone shown above.

The stairs are steep, use the handrail, watch children.

Hot water gets very hot quickly.

Front door must be locked from inside when you are inside, carry a key at all times. A fire extinguisher is under the kitchen sink.

In case of emergency call 112.

Air Conditioner

There are air conditioners with remote controls on the middle floor and top floor.

There is a fan located by the washing machine that can be used for the downstairs bedroom.

Ground floor bathroom

To change the tub water to shower turn the center knob. Don't forget the water gets very hot in a hurry!

Towels and soap are located in the small cabinet near the toilet.

A hair dryer and curling iron are on the metal shelf near the sink.

Be careful getting in and out of the tub. The tiles are slippery.

Top floor bathroom

The toilet is a mechanical type and is loud. To flush push the white button. It will not flush immediately, it will first fill with water then make a loud noise, this is normal. Do not put anything in the toilet other than toilet paper.

Stove and Range

There is an operation manual in the top left drawer near the stove.

Trash

Trash bags are located under the kitchen sink.

HOUSEHOLD TRASH should be put out the front door for pickup on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday late afternoon. Any type of trash bag can be used.

If you put the trash out at night hang it on the hook in the wall near the front door.

GLASS can be taken to depositories by the parking lot next to Champ de Mars or near the clock tower.

PAPER, PLASTIC AND METAL must be put in yellow trash bags (located under kitchen sink) and put outside for Wednesday morning pick up.

Washing Clothes

The washing machine is located in the storage room on the ground floor. There is an instruction manual located near the machine.

Washing tablets are located in a box titled "lessive". Put one tablet in the center of the pull out drawer in the washing machine.

Drying Laundry

There is a drying rack folded up near the washing machine. There is a reed basket with cloths pins located near the washing machine. Laundry can be dried on the terrace.

Internet Connection

There is WiFi connection in the house.

Jim, the property manager, will give you the passwords and help you get set up.

TV

There is a flat screen TV with EU channels and a few US channels . There is a large selection of American DVD's for your use. Feel free to bring your own DVD's.

AC Power

AC power in France is 240v/50 Hz. Make sure any electrical devices you bring can accommodate this voltage. Also the power socket is different from the U.S. so make sure to bring European power adapters.

Tour Services

Jim (the property manager) and his wife Yolaine, are available for tour services.

Jim has lived in Pierrelatte for more than ten years and is fluent in French.

Yolaine has lived in France her entire life and speaks excellent English.

They are both well-versed in the rich and colorful history of the region. Yolaine in particular, having lived in the south of France for over 30 years, knows the region intimately, and is an endless source of knowledge about all things French – the cuisine, the wine, the customs, the geography, etc.

They offer tours that can be customized to your desire.

Let Jim know what you are interested in and he will propose a tour. He can be contacted at jimherbert48@yahoo.com

Each tour is a one day visit, generally beginning at 9 AM when you depart from Pierrelatte, and ending around 6 PM upon return to Pierrelatte. Services include transportation (up to 5 adults).

Transportation and all road tolls are included, as well as parking costs. Not included are meals and entrance fees to sites and museums. They will be happy to dine with you if you prefer – it's your decision. They also like to picnic – it's more scenic, and a lot cheaper! They have comfortable folding chairs (camp chairs) and a table for picnicking. The fee is 195€ per day.

If you do decide to book a tour, please let him know in advance.

Revised Aug, 2011