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# Press Release



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## **The world's first and only full critique of the 42 beaches of Languedoc-Roussillon in southern France - Europe's new 'boom' tourist destination**

Greg Taylor, one of the partners behind Languedoc's biggest information website, spent 6 hot and sweaty days this May driving down 250 kilometres of coast, camera and clipboard in hand, tracking down every beach along what amounts of half of France's Mediterranean coast.

The result forms the 'Languedoc Beach Report' section of the [Creme-de-Languedoc.com](http://Creme-de-Languedoc.com) website (the world's largest English-language website covering the Languedoc region - with sections on sightseeing, activities, history, weather, travel, geography, cuisine, wine, city guides and books & magazines). The report reviews and photographs of 42 Languedoc beaches, scoring each from 'Bad' to 'Excellent', and listing 'sand quality', 'setting', the accessibility of restaurants, bars, toilets and showers, the distance from parking and whether the beach offers a nudist 'end'. Facilities for children are also noted.

The 'Languedoc Beaches' section was conceived to help visitors to Languedoc, as well as residents, sort out the wheat from the chaff. Just because a beach is on the Med doesn't mean it's going to be a nice place to spend the day. And with holidays as precious as ever, the report aims to make sure that no one wastes valuable time looking for that perfect beach.

### **Avoid the famous 'town' beaches**

The 'town beaches' - huge stretches of sand 10-15 minutes drive away from Languedoc's biggest coastal cities, Montpellier, Béziers, Narbonne and Perpignan, scored badly. They are the most obvious beaches to visit, the best publicised and the most popular amongst city-dwellers. But they suffer from over-commercialisation, with their row upon row of cheap and nasty concrete holiday homes, tacky postcard shops and ice cream stalls, and tightly-packed crowds of bathers in the summer months.

### **Three of the best**

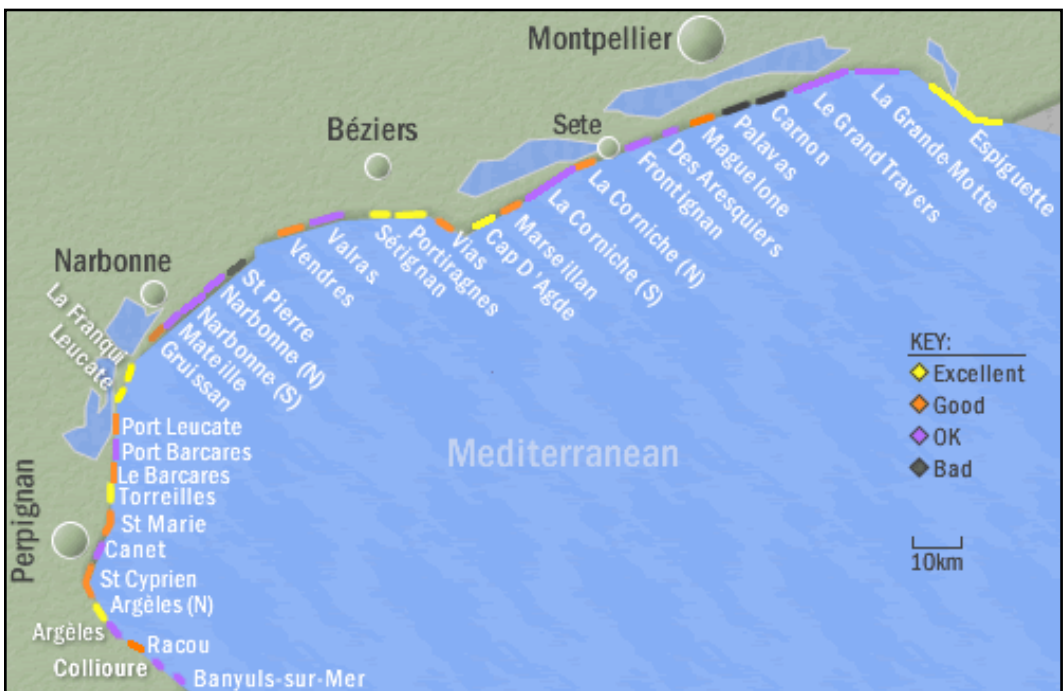
At the other end of the scale, Languedoc has some superbly beautiful beaches on offer, if you only know where to go. 'Espiguette', for example, is often not even marked on maps. Yet it is one of the longest beaches in France, stretching from the marina at the Grau du Roi all the way into neighbouring Provence. It is completely wild, a sandy landscape of dunes and cacti bordered by beautiful clear waters. It's slightly more difficult to find and drive to, and the walk from the car park to the beach can be a long one (depending on how far down you walk), but its size guarantees everyone their own space, and its remoteness makes for a far more pleasant and relaxing beach experience.

**'Leucate Plage'** just below the city of Narbonne, is also an excellent bet. Gone are the cheap and nasty pink holiday apartments, and instead fir-covered hills rise along this stretch of the coast, dotted with attractive tiled-roofed villas. The village has the feel of an Australian or Californian beach town, with surf shops and nice restaurants. It's relaxed and pretty here, and the beach is enormous, with fine sand and plenty of toilets and showers. Clamber around the rocks at the beach's end, and you reach a much thinner beach walled in by steep rocks, which offers a more intimate and secluded atmosphere.

**'Argelès Plage'** is, like the 'town' beaches, very famous. It's often cited as one of the best beaches in France. But there's an important catch. Creme-de-Languedoc's team discovered that the beach is in two halves, with the southern, more commercial end not that pleasant a place to spend the day. Again, games arcades and garish bouncy castles spoil the atmosphere. Instead, head north up the beach, beyond the hubbub, and the beach becomes more quiet and remote. From here, the view of the Pyrenees mountains (still snow-capped in May) is impressive. The beach is huge and deep, with fine sand a beautiful and lush park of pine trees and grass separating the beach from the holiday homes and camp sites behind.

The full 'Beaches of Languedoc' report, covering 42 beaches, is published on the Creme-de-Languedoc.com website at:

[www.creme-de-languedoc.com/beaches.htm](http://www.creme-de-languedoc.com/beaches.htm)



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