

PRESENTATION
Ornithology



The Teich
Bird Reserve

Wild birds at close quarters



A renowned birding site

A unique setting

Specially-tailored visitor facilities

Practical information

Contact

A renowned birding site

The Teich Bird Reserve is a protected nature reserve that is managed to facilitate the observation of wild birds by birding enthusiasts. The sheer variety of species present on the 100 or so hectare reserve makes it an outstanding place for birdwatching.

No fewer than 329 **different bird species** have been recorded here over the last 45 years!

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Above and beyond the number of different birds seen here, the reserve is also an important site for specific species. For example, le Teich is a site of **national importance** for the Curlew, the Common Redshank and the Little Stint (in other words, 1% of the total average national population may be found here on a regular basis). It's of **international importance** for the Eurasian Spoonbill, the Avocet and the Black-tailed Godwit (playing host to over 1% of the total world population).

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The reserve is also famous for sightings of **rarities** from the Americas (Buff-Breasted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper) and Asia (Red-Necked Stint, Sociable Lapwing, Yellow-Browed Warbler).

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With both the reserve's own employees and visitors keeping an almost constant look-out for birds on a daily basis, **new sightings** can be flagged up quickly and shared with others. Data from the fortnightly bird counts carried out by the reserve's team are available to the general public via the website and are also registered in a regional database, **Faune-Aquitaine.org**.



A unique setting

A patchwork of different habitats...

The diversity of birdlife living in the reserve stems directly from the diversity of the habitats that compose it. The presence of wooded areas, marshland and areas of water in close proximity allow visitors the chance to see **a huge range of different species in the space of just a day**, from four species of woodpecker to about 20 different waders!

...at the heart of the Arcachon Basin

There's no off-season for birdwatching at the Teich Bird Reserve! Whether during spring or autumn migration or the winter-time, there are often **spectacular concentrations** of birds to be seen. This is because the reserve is located at the heart of a habitat boasting a unique ecological niche – the Arcachon Basin, currently **one of the four biggest wintering sites for waterfowl and waders in France**.

Teal, Tufted Duck, Wigeon, Gadwall, Black-Necked Grebe, Curlew, Spotted Redshank and Greenshank have all become regular winter visitors to the reserve! In fact, the reserve is now recognized as being of international importance for some of these species (the **Avocet** and the **Pintail**) and of national importance for others (**Shoveler** and **Bar-Tailed Godwit**).



Specially-tailored visitor facilities

The birds have all they need during their stop-over at the reserve, whether their stay is short or long. Equally, anyone who enjoys getting great views of wild birds will be spoilt for choice! The reserve's team aims to ensure that the reserve is managed in such a way as to create optimal conditions for both birds and visitors – and that encounters between the two, likewise, take place in the **best possible conditions**.

- ↘ Hides are sited along six kilometres of pathways enabling visitors to birdwatch in comfort **whatever the weather**.
- ↘ These hides, along with four raised viewing stations, offer **excellent views of the reserve's birds**. Certain more timid species (Spoonbill, Water Rail, Spotted Crake, White-spotted Bluethroat...) may be admired without fear of scaring them off.
- ↘ The visitor trail passes through or alongside the reserve's key habitats. As long as you stay alert and remain quiet, you're sure to see at least some birds during your visit, **even if you are a complete novice** when it comes to the natural world!



Practical information

Public opening

The Teich Bird Reserve is open **every day of the year** except for Christmas Day. Bird-lovers can also benefit from special offers and extended opening times thanks to **three passes** ("8 days", "3 day/long weekend" and "annual")

Getting here

Teich SNCF railway station is a **15 minutes walk** from the reserve entrance. There are around 35 departures daily from the station. It's also possible to connect with **high-speed train services** at Arcachon, Fature-Biganos and Bordeaux.

The reserve is also linked to a **network of cycle paths**, making it easy to travel to the reserve safely by bike from all the towns of the Arcachon Basin area.

There are also **hiking trails** and a small beach near to the reserve.

Accommodation

A wide range of accommodation options are available in Le Teich. There are also plenty of shops and restaurants.

The Résidence Les Rives Marines hotel is ideally-located, just **400m** from the entrance to the Bird Reserve.



For more information

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LA MAISON DE LA NATURE
DU BASSIN D'ARCACHON

