

# Maison Numero Neuf



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## *The town - La Souterraine*

A vibrant and bustling medieval market town with around 6,000 inhabitants, La Souterraine is dominated by the twelfth century church situated in the main square and underneath a crypt with Gallo-roman remains.

In addition there are a number of archaeological sites in the area and originally the town was a rest for pilgrims and some parts of the old town remain including the massive portal of Saint-Jean.

La Souterraine has plenty of interesting shops, cafes and restaurants. There are markets every Thursday and Saturday, and fairs on the 12th and 27th of each month.

There is also a swimming pool.



## *The region - The Creuse*

The Creuse is 5,565 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of approximately 130,000, making it one of the least populated of all the departments in France.

Lying between Paris and Toulouse, West of the Massif Central, with an average altitude of 300m, the main town is Guéret with 15,000 inhabitants. Aubusson is the sub prefecture with around 5,000 inhabitants.

Not so many years ago only the French themselves knew of the existence of the area, others merely passing through en route to the South and to Spain.

Time has stood still in Creuse so if you are looking for peace and quiet, together with unspoilt countryside, wonderful wildlife, superb scenery, with rolling mountains and deep rivers and lakes full of fish, then you need look no further.

## *The Lakes - L'Etang de la Chaume*

Situated at Azerable, just outside La Souterraine, this is a rare example of a lake which lies entirely on sand. This, along with the streams which continuously bubble through it, make the water very clean. A marked path leads around the lake and into the surrounding area (around a 3 ½ hour walk).



The lake has a beach with children's playground and a petanque area. There are proficiency courses in sailing and pedalo hire (during July and August).

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The fishing season runs from May to November. Day or half day permits are available for traditional fishing (sport fishing for carp is also possible).

On the northern bank of the lake is a bird watching centre open to the public all year round. There are 127 species which either nest there or migrate via the lake, and a wide variety of water plants which are protected.

## *The Lakes - L'Etang de la Cazine*

Situated at Noth, just outside La Souterraine, the lake has two beaches, both of which are monitored. A footpath leads from the lake to the woods at Le Fot and back to La Souterraine, which makes for a beautiful walk with views of the valley of La Cazine, the chateau at La Fot, the arboretum and the neighbouring lakes and hills.



The stables at La Cazine offer horse and pony rides or treks where an instructor also gives individual or group tuition.

The domaine at Noth also organises mountain biking and ultra light flying. La Cazine has a brand new café, and fishing is possible day and night.

## *The Lakes - L'Etang du Chiex*

Situated at the northern entrance to the town of La Souterraine, the lake offers numerous activities for all age groups including swimming, beach games and fishing.

There are marked paths around the lake that can also be explored on horseback. Alternatively you can also hire a pony and trap during high season.

