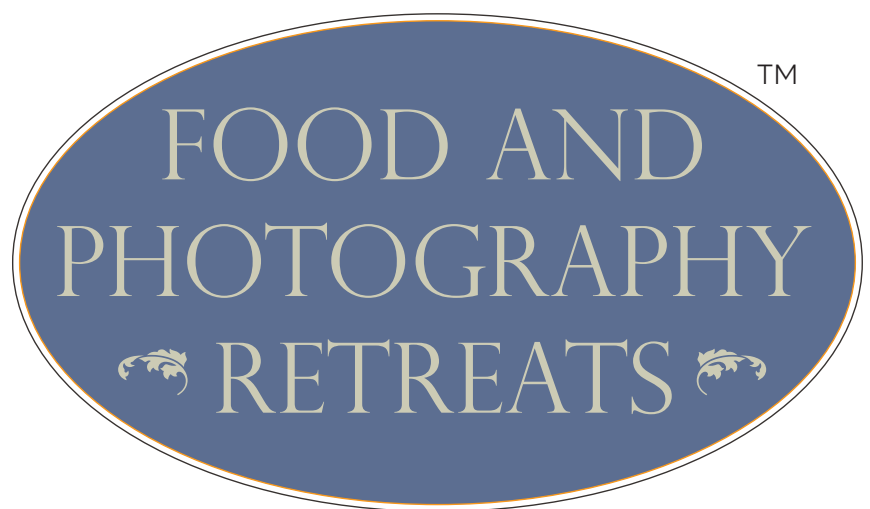


SUMMER

Chez-nous



2025

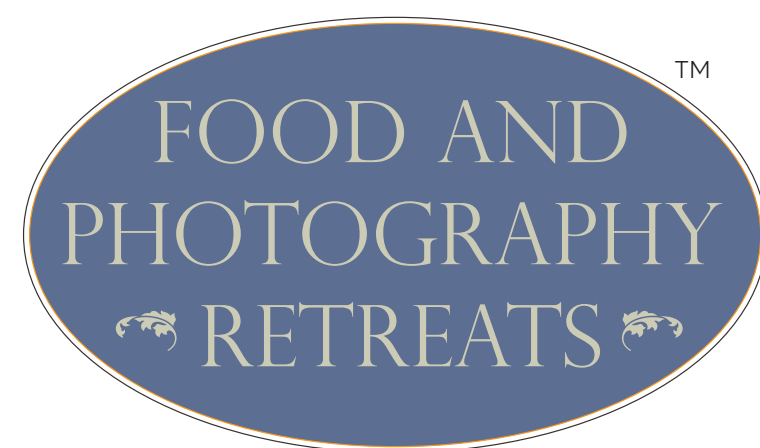


with the Benvies



Chez-nous

PHOTOGRAPHY RETREATS FOR
TWO FRIENDS OR COUPLES.



with the Benvies

Chez-nous

A NEW SORT OF RETREAT WITH THE BENVIES

The full Retreat experience, but with just two of you,
at our place in rural France.

Spring, summer, autumn and winter.

The same care.

The same great food.

The same helpful tuition.

Your own space.

Your own schedule.

Your own photographic focus.

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SAINT SEINE

nightingale

golden oriole

hoopoe

RIVER CRESSONE

nightingale

bee eater roost

hoopoe

golden oriole

red backed shrike

turtle dove

our meadow

nightingale

melodious warbler

wood lark

Charlotte & Niall

turtle dove

blackcap

woodchat shrike

Once you're here...

WHEN IT COMES TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY part of your holiday, it's an *à la carte* menu. If you want to shoot from dawn to dusk, we'll do that. Or just **at** dawn and dusk, if you prefer. We can fill all day, every day for you but maybe you'd prefer to spend some time exploring our library of photography (and cookery) books. Or getting some lessons from Niall. Or just walking the quiet lanes through the traditional *bocage* landscape that surrounds our house and meadow. If you or your travelling companion are more interested in food than photography, Charlotte will spend time sharing her award-winning chocolate-making skills, as well as her patisserie secrets, and visit markets and local producers with you.

We have two hides (blinds) one of which is on eye-level with a drinking pool, attracting birds during a dry spell. The meadow is alive with insects, including several species of grasshopper and cricket, marbled white, commas, gatekeepers and other butterflies. In August, wasp spiders and one or two preying mantids appear. We can visit the riparian woodland of the nearby Loire to find a different range of species and landscapes - and even explore sections of it by canoe. Bee eaters nest in its banks and hunt above our garden - sometimes up to 50 at a time.

It gets hot in July and August, but we've created a number of shaded seating areas around the garden and meadow where you can work on pictures, read or just recover from another large lunch, until the sun drops lower in the sky. Be ready to head out at a minute's notice though; when a hay mower starts up we can be sure of photographing white storks and cattle egrets as they come to feed on the rodents and crickets disturbed by the mower. After dinner, we can stay out to enjoy the Milky Way. When the nightingales and crickets are singing, the meadow is a lovely place to be.

So, the choices are yours. We will have a chat on Zoom before your visit so that we can create a programme and discuss menus, just as you want them- to make a Retreat to remember.

You take the pictures, we take care of the rest

WITH MANY YEARS OF HOSTING EXPERIENCE BEHIND US, we've become pretty adept at ensuring everyone is happy and has what they need. But for us, there is no better venue to extend our particular brand of hospitality than in our charming wee home and secluded meadow here in rural Nièvre.

When you stay with us, you have the use of the top floor of our house - about 50 sq. m- which comprises a bedroom with two single beds that can be fixed together or kept separate, each with a double duvet, two electric fans, a lounge and a shower room with toilet. A wall and curtains separate the bedroom from the lounge. There is a 55" Sony OLED screen to which you can connect your laptop to view your photos. Of course, you're welcome to come downstairs and be with us while we get things ready for dinner, or take a drink out into the garden. In summer, we normally eat outside often joined by French or Dutch friends, some down from Paris, others who live in Saint-Seine year-round. We think it makes conversation more interesting and wide-ranging.

You are also welcome to use our Scandinavian-themed 15 sq. m log cabin in garden as a place to study, relax or process, out of the house. Les Saumais is your home-from-home- except that we take care of things for you so you can concentrate on the important business of relaxing and creating. It's hard to do one without the other.

You needn't worry about driving either; Niall will take you to all the locations you want to visit as well picking you up from Le Creusot TGV and returning you there at the end of your Retreat.

HOSPITALITY

We're surprisingly easy to reach

BY TRAIN

London St Pancras Eurostar to Paris: **2 hours 15 minutes.**

Bruxelles-Midi to Paris: **1 hour 30 minutes.**

Amsterdam Central to Paris: **3 hours 10 minutes.**

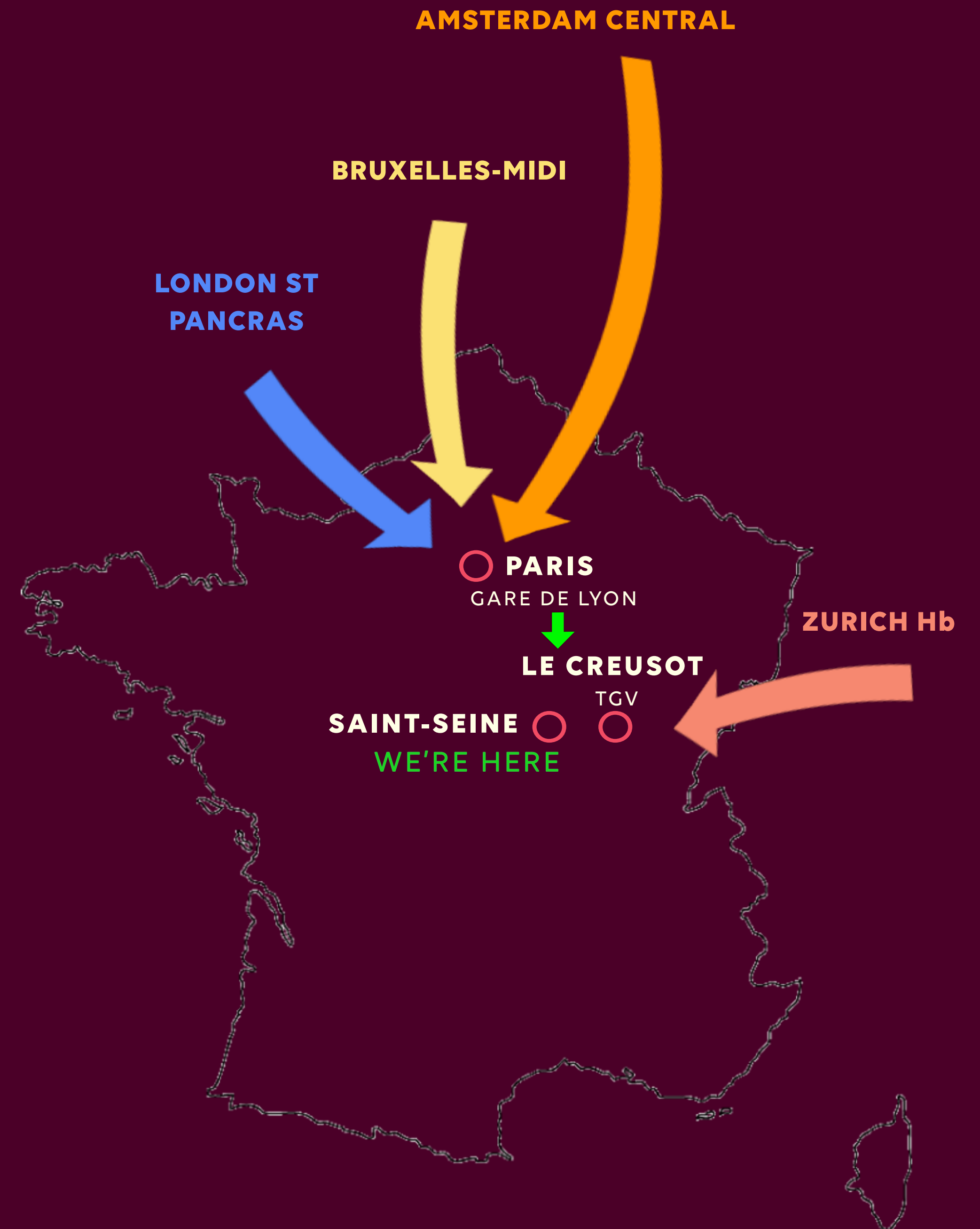
Zurich Hb to Le Creusot: 5 hours 39 minutes

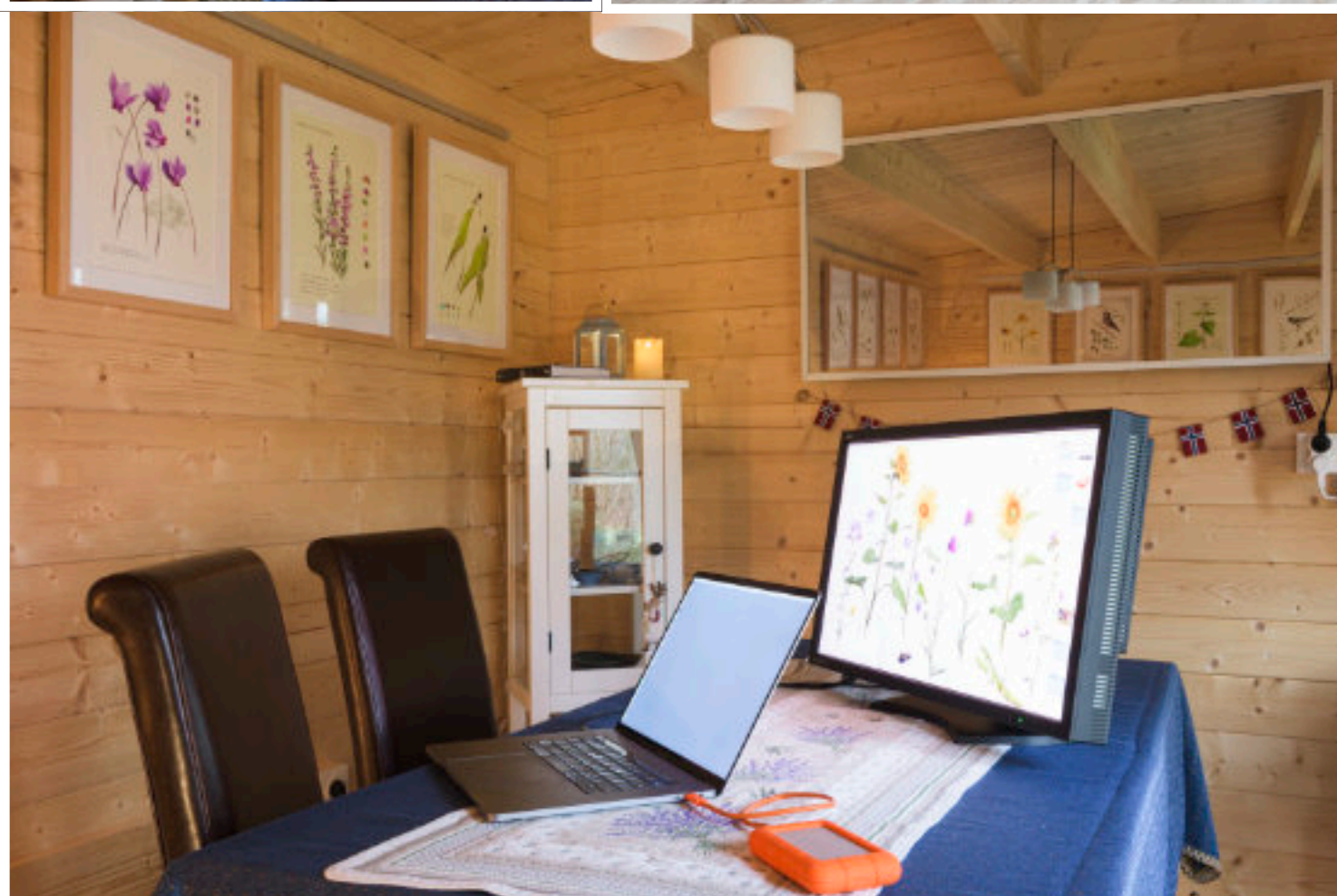
Paris Gare de Lyon - Le Creusot TGV: **1 hour 20 minutes**

Le Creusot TGV (where we collect you) to Saint-Seine (home), **1 hour 10 minutes drive.**

BY PLANE

Come from most countries of the world to Paris Charles de Galle. Take a *Vers Paris*, *RER B Paris* train from Terminal 2 to Gard du Nord, a taxi rank taxi across Paris to Gare de Lyon, then join your TGV service to Le Creusot TGV.





Questions, answered

This all sounds great but one-to-one service like this never comes cheap. So, how much for a week, "Chez-vous"?

Per person, GBP 2300, regardless of the season.

And that includes everything you mention here?

Yes, except your travel from home to Le Creusot and back, and alcohol.

I like the sound of these holidays, but to be honest, I'm not much of a photographer. I'd like to learn though, but is this ok for beginners?

Yes. We have the time to figure out what you want to learn and which teaching method suits you best. During a 30 year career, Niall has had lots of practice at teaching to all skill levels and is famously open about how he creates his own work.

Where can I learn about availability?

From our website, mail shots and here. Or just call us.

Is there wifi?

Yes, we have super-fast fibre optic broadband

I don't have much faith in our rail services these days. Can I just drive to you instead?

Yes, of course. The journey from Calais (avoiding Paris) takes about 9 hours. From Cambrai, about 6.

Can you take more than two guests at a time?

For Chez-nous Retreats, we take only two guests. But for our others, we can take up to 10.

I have quite specific dietary needs. Is that going to be a problem?

Charlotte has wide experience of producing delicious food for those with allergies and intolerances. Just tell us beforehand

SUMMER

Chez-nous



AVAILABILITY

(See calendars, following)

Price: **GBP 2300 per person all-inclusive** (but excluding travel between Le Creusot TGV and your home and alcoholic drinks).

AVAILABILITY

Chez-nous Retreats run from Saturday to Saturday, starting 17:00 hrs and ending at 09:00 hrs

JUNE 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

JULY 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

AVAILABILITY

Chez-nous Retreats run from Saturday to Saturday, starting 17:00 hrs and ending at 09:00 hrs

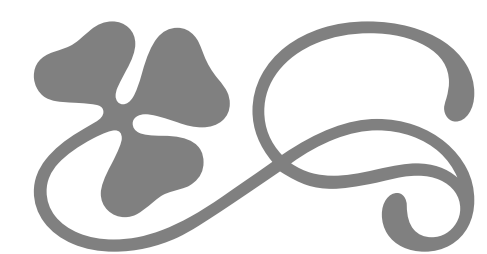
AUGUST 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

GALLERY



SUMMER

Around Les Saumais







COSMOS BIPINNATUS



*These are the colours of cosmos
growing at Moulin de Garriaux,
France.*

















A white cow is grazing in a field of tall grass at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the scene. In the background, there are rolling hills and a few buildings, possibly a farm. Another cow is lying down in the distance to the left.

E-mail us at info@niallbenvie.eu to arrange a Zoom meeting so we can discuss what we can do for you.

Charlotte and Niall Benvie
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