

PORT-
VENDRES,
FRANCE

YORKTOWN,
VIRGINIA

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Sunday, July 14 is Bastille Day! It is also

SOIRÉE EN BLANC! Our venue has limited seating, so sign up now and plan for a little French fun, including a wine tasting. Email debratscg@gmail.com to make your reservation or if you have a question. See you there!

President's Corner

Bonjour!!! Bastille Day (July 14, 2024) is more than just a commemoration of the past; it is a celebration of our collective resilience and our unwavering commitment to democracy and human rights. Let us use this occasion to reaffirm our dedication to these principles and to work towards a future where everyone can enjoy the fruits of liberty and justice.

In the spirit of this celebration, we are delighted to host our annual "Soirée en Blanc." This elegant event, characterized by its all-white dress code, symbolizes the purity and unity of our community.

The "Soirée en Blanc" will take place on the evening of Bastille Day, Please join us in this festive occasion, to share in the laughter, music, and togetherness with our Sister City Port-Vendres.

Debra Paulus, President
Sister Cities Yorktown

Sister Cities has been very active with the French Teachers and Students this Year and are very excited about the program and where we are headed.

The Sister Cities Student Initiative aims to foster international friendship and cultural exchange. One meaningful way to support this mission is by purchasing French books for students. This initiative can help students improve their language skills, understand French culture, and build a connection with their sister city. In conjunction with Chelsea Rowe at Tabb High Scholl Sister Cities delivered materials to the Students on April 11, 2024. This program will be implemented to the other area High Schools in the future.

Sister Cities also in conjunction with the York Foundation for Public Education awarded \$3000 in scholarships to 3 French students from the area High Schools. We attended the Awards ceremony on May 30, 2024 and presented the winners the news .

Culture and Recreation

Summer on the Mediterranean Sea

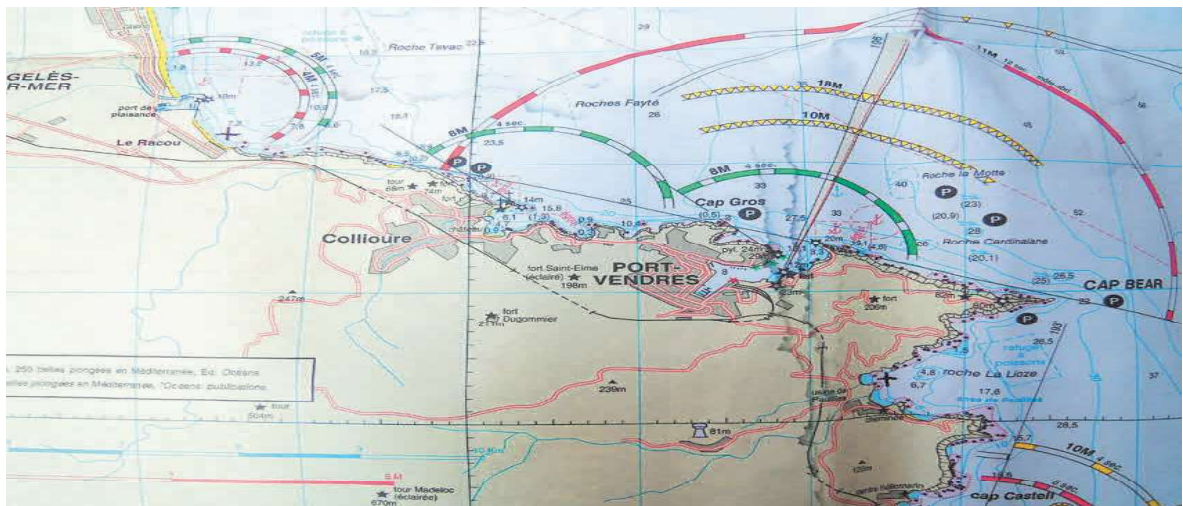
(by Deborah Marquardt)

Yorktown and its Sister City of Port-Vendres, France, have much in common. Not only do they share important history as a result of the American War for Independence, they are both situated on water.

The website “Sail Méditerranée” (<https://www.sailmediterranee.com/port-vendres-marina/>) offers this maritime history of Port-Vendres:

“Port-Vendres is a typical Mediterranean fishing port, situated near the Spanish border on the Cote Vermeille in southwest France. Port-Vendres is renowned for its numerous fish and sea food restaurants.

Port-Vendres, a very old natural port that accommodates commercial, fishing, and leisure vessels, lies 1.3 miles WNW of Cap Bear and provides good shelter from sea and swell.



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Culture and Recreation (continued)

Port-Vendres is one of the few deep-water ports in this part of the French Mediterranean coast. It takes freighters and cruise ships, as well as large and small fishing boats which may be seen with their daily catch.

Even before it became an important harbour of the Kingdom of Majorca during the 13th century, Port-Vendres had been known since the 6th century BC by Greek navigators as "Portus veneris" (the port of Venus). There has always been an important shipping activity in this natural shelter."



Port-Vendres also is a terrific spot for water sports and excursions. Some highlights:

Scuba Diving (Vocabulary: Plongée)

Centre d'Activité Plongée Port-Vendres (<https://www.plongee66.com/en>) is an accredited SSI scuba diving center open to all divers, from beginners to experienced. It is one of several diving opportunities in the area. Located in the heart of the Gulf of Lions Marine National Park, diving is a remarkable way to discover marine life in rocky covers and explore World War II shipwrecks. Instruction and diving equipment is provided.

Bare Boating

With its beautiful please port, Port-Vendres is the perfect place to rent a boat, power or sail, for exploring the magical Mediterranean. Boats are available with or without a skipper.

https://www.clickandboat.com/en/boat-rental/france/port-vendres?cmp=boat&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_lang=en&utm_campaign=21341267950&utm_adgroup=159847394821&utm_device=c&utm_loc_interest=9050028&gad_source=1

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Culture and Recreation (continued)

Tour Boats

For the less adventurous, there are still boating options. The AQUA VISTA has a glass bottom to view the wondrous marine life.

<https://www.tourism-mediterraneanpyrenees.com/kapmer-aquavista/port-vendres/asclar066fs00099>

Boat Shuttles

Various tourist boats leave frequently from the Port de Plaisance (Vocabulary: Pleasure Port) in Port-Vendres. Visitors can hop over to Collioure, Banyuls or Argeles, jump off to shop or eat and pick up a return later in the day. Tickets are available port-side.

Catamaran Sailing

Board the NAVIVOILE for a variety of opportunities: whale and dolphin watching; barbecue and swim cruises; coast sightseeing and sunset cruises.

<https://navivoile.com/en/>

Swimming & Fishing (Of Course!)

Port-Vendres has a long history as a fishing port. There are plenty of places to toss a line. Small cove beaches make swimming and sunning an inviting delight.

Seasonal Fireworks (Vocabulary: Feaux d'Artifice)

Port-Vendres is known for its magnificent waterfront fireworks display on Bastille Day, July 14. The town fills with visitors for the show.

Taste of Salt

After a long day in the sun and surf, a great place to cool down to taste the sea is the oyster bar, Les Poissonneries de la côte Catalane. Sit back and order a dozen with a bottle of chilled champagne.

Vive la France!

Upcoming Events and Activities

July 14: Bastille Day and Soirée en Blanc

(Email debratscg@gmail.com to sign up or for questions)

October 5: Wine Festival fundraiser on York River riverfront

October 19: Yorktown Day and Victory Market

Past Events and Activities

February 20, 2024: Annual general membership meeting was held at the Hornsby House in Yorktown village. New officers were elected, and wonderful hors d'oeuvres were highlights.

April 11: Tabb High School French Student Initiative Meeting

April 20: French Market fundraiser at the York River riverfront

May 5: Blues, Brews and BBQ fundraiser at the York River riverfront

May 30: Presentation of Scholarships to York High School, Tabb High School and Grafton High School

Sister Cities Needs You

We have new officers, some changeover in members at large, and an ambitious agenda and need volunteers. Need volunteers for the Wine festival and Yorktown Day in October. We will need support from the SCY membership. Sign up now!

Membership

Sister Cities Yorktown (SCY) membership is open to anyone residing in or working in Yorktown or York County, or anyone with a sustained interest in Sister Cities Yorktown.

Benefits - Participation in “member only” socials and small events (e.g., wine tastings, cooking lessons, history lectures, etc.); first priority for exchange trips; receipt of SCY newsletters and information on local “things French”.

Annual dues - \$25 per individual; \$40 per family. Dues for French language teachers in York County are \$12.50. Membership for high school students in York County is free. While you can join at any time of the year, dues are not prorated. SCY receives no funding from government sources, so donations are always welcome and appreciated. SCY is a 501(c)(3) organization, so all dues payments and donations are tax deductible. Applications are available on our website at www.sistercitiesyorktown.org.

Please mail your check to: Sister Cities Yorktown, P.O. Box 735, Yorktown, VA 23692.

NOTE: Membership dues may only be paid by credit card at February’s Annual Meeting. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact one of our board members or email us at contact@sistercitiesyorktown.org.



Leadership—Board of Directors

Debra Paulus	President:
Jim Stoecker	Vice President:
Royce Hart	Treasurer
Margaret Mack-Yaroch	Secretary
Tony Alford	Board Member
Terry Mock	Board Member
Randy Tabor	Board Member
Tommy West	Board Member
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