

ENJOY FRANCE TOURS



Personalised private travel with Michèle Clark Nickler

Le Télégramme - 31 August 2017

Paul Géli

Tourism – *Penn Sardin Guide comes from Africa

Originally from Botswana, Michèle fell in love with Douarnenez 5 years ago. In 2013 she opened her own tourist agency, Enjoy France Tours with the goal of sharing this region of France with Africans and English speaking tourists. This is a portrait of an (original) guide, like you've never seen before!

Small text next to photo

Originally from Africa and now an adopted "Penn Sardin", Michèle Nickler promotes Douarnenez abroad. With her agency Enjoy France Tours, she has even created a business!

This guide knows the commune of Penn Sardin like her pocket, and she's not even originally from here. Michèle Nickler is a British citizen, born in Zambia and has lived in South Africa and Botswana. However, in 2013, she decided to settle here after falling in love at first sight with Douarnenez and its region.

"The first time that I came here with my husband, Ris Beach and the sumptuous landscapes straight away reminded me of Cape Town (South Africa). I adored the town and its centre. It was totally obvious that I had to live here! In fact, I believe that it was not us that chose Douarnenez, but Douarnenez that chose us." she said.

Two years later she opened Enjoy France Tours, a local tour company.

"I want to share this beautiful part of France (South Finistère) with everyone in Africa and all English speaking people. There are so many things to see and do."

Visa pour un rêve Visa for a dream

For the past two years this small business offers organised holidays in Brittany with guided visits in English and French and personalised holidays. Visa for a dream (visa pour un rêve) is Enjoy France Tours' registered slogan.

Among the services offered, Michèle Nickler has four essential tours which can be infinitively tailor-made.

"I propose dozens of activities, outdoor and indoor, the client chooses which they would like to do."

My preferences as a guide? *"It is probably boats, hiking or an outdoor activity. But it is fantastic here, to go to the market or even just a bar are the things which we don't do in Africa, and if we do, it's very different!"*

A high quality service

The travel/tours that Michele sells, individually or in a group are fully inclusive (excluding airfares to France.)

"I always explain "All you need to do is arrive, you will have nothing to do but relax and enjoy yourself. I will be there to organise everything."

Inevitably with such a service, the entrepreneur aims mainly at rather high-end customers in well off positions.

Your visa for a dream 

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Next week a week-long tour is scheduled on the **GR34. The itinerary includes four days of hiking between Douarnenez and La Pointe du Raz. With of course, several activities like relaxing at Natural sea water spa Thalasso, sailing or others, according to what has been chosen by the client.

Future projects

She confided that though the launch of the business was rather slow, she is pleased to say now *"This year summer has been very busy! I have not stopped! And I still have several tours to complete before the end of 2018."*

In 2018 she is looking to expand *"I would like to employ two people next year: a guide and a secretary. I am also looking at offering a private collection service from Paris to here as certain people prefer to be accompanied."*

And, Brittany, is it very popular in Africa? *"It is less known there, but it is absolutely magnificent here, everyone will love it! The English also love our Breton Coast!"*

Even though the tourist office offers a few visits and advice in several languages, there is so far no similar service in the douarneniste region.

Michèle caters for foreigners and promotes the Finistère to an international public.

"I know what they are looking for, and I know what Brittany has to offer. This is a huge advantage.

I also have a travel/tour for the French to go to Botswana! I was a guide before even in Africa!"

Contact details

Further information and reservations on

www.enjoyfrancetours.com or 06 98 19 08 55 email michele@enjoyfrancetours.com

*Penn Sardin (Breton), pronounced penn sar dinn ("head of sardine"), is the name given to the population of Douarnenez since at least the eighteenth century. By extension it will also become that of the headdress of the women of this fishing port whose importance in the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century will be made thanks to the small blue fish

**GR34 is our coastal footpath based on the former coastguards' beat in the 17th and 18th centuries where tea, tobacco, wine and spirits were regularly whisked across the Channel by smugglers to avoid England's high import duties. It is called Le Sentier des Douaniers in French.

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