



GEAY

Geay is situated between Thouars and Bressuire. The 349 inhabitants of the commune are known as Geayais and Geayaises.

A VOIR / MUST SEE

- The church was originally a priory belonging to the abbey of St Laon of Thouars. The nave was rebuilt in 1757. The vault of the nave was restored in 1860 and the bell tower was added in 1848. The choir has been listed as a historical building since 2003. The 1999 storm damaged the inside wall coverings and revealed two series of very colourful 15th century painted murals. The church is dedicated to St Maixent.
(Photo wikimedia commons: Addio79)



GENNETON

The inhabitants of Genneton are the Gennetonnais and the Gennetonnaises. There are 345 of them. Genneton is 5km North West of Cersay which is the largest village in the surrounding area. Genneton is situated at 108 metres above sea level and the rivers Layon and Soire cross the commune. The name of the commune is of Roman origins. Genneton comes from '*ginestetum*' meaning '*covered with broom*'. The name was deformed over the ages and became Ginesstum and then Genneton.

A VOIR / MUST SEE

- St Hilaire Church
- The Château de Maumusson and the château of Beaurepaire.
- There was a benedictine priory at Saint-Nicolas.
- Maumusson Pond (a large pond/lake which has been made because of the clay soil which holds water and is one of the reasons that people first settled in an area where they could have reserves of water)
- La Couarde and Beaurepaire woods

GERMOND ROUVRE

Germond Rouvre is situated between Champdeniers and Niort. The inhabitants of the commune are the Germon-Roburiens and the Germon-Roburiennes. The population of Germond Rouvre is growing - there were 880 inhabitants in 1999 and 1186 in 2009.

In 1003, the Count of Poitou left the land of Germundum to the monks of St-Cyprien de Poitiers. They were asked to build a fortified town. Rouvre was given to the abbey of Saint Maixent in the Xvth century. The two villages only became one in 1972.

A VOIR / MUST SEE

- St Médard Church at Germond dates from the 12th and the 15th century. The building belongs to the commune. The church is on the road to Compostella
- St-Aubin Chapel in Rouvre was rebuilt in the 19th century with stones from the manor house in Rouvre which had been demolished

Other things to see

- The tumulus des Mothes, the château du Luc (1830), Repéroux manor with its round tower. The 15th century pigeon loft, the wash-houses, the old town hall (former priory)
- The Chemin Chevaleret is a marked-out pedestrian and cycling circuit. There are also two other walking circuits. There is a drama festival in April and the Market of the two villages every second Friday in the month, from May to October



House in Germond Rouvre



Germond Rouvre. Photos from www.germond-rouvre.fr

More A-Z of the Communes of Deux-Sèvres next month...