



City of La Rochelle in France

Throughout history, La Rochelle shows its uniqueness. It was from La Rochelle that the great expeditions set out and the city distinguished itself through its diplomatic role. La Rochelle's reputation was affirmed by the end of the 19th century with the opening of one of the first deep-water ports. Since 1930 it has played host to biggest ships, thanks to its deep-water jetty.

In the seventies, before anyone else was talking about the quality of urban life, La Rochelle was expanding its green spaces, protecting its coastline and controlling air, water and noise pollution.

It founded the first protected urban area in France, its pedestrian precinct and its famous "yellow bicycles".

La Rochelle is the pilot city for testing and using electric vehicles. Also instituting in 1997 the first ever "Day without cars". With a new and expanding multidisciplinary university, a highly successful commercial port, the high speed train (TGV and AGV) and the extension of the airport, La Rochelle is geared for the future.

The city, known for its specialised activities in the fields of economy, sailing (the largest marina in Europe) and tourism, is the third most visited city in France.