



Tour Information



The Hundred Years War – The Battles of Agincourt and Crecy





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Different rules apply to Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania. If you visit these countries, visits to other EU countries do not count towards the 90-day total.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

French consulate: PO Box 57, 6A Cromwell Place, London SW7 2EW; Tel (020) 7838 2000/1. Information Service: Tel (0891) 887 733, Fax: (020) 7838 2046. Opening hours: 0900-1130 (and 1600-1630 for visa collection only) Mon-Fri (except British and French national holidays).

Travel Arrangements

The quickest and most convenient way to get to this area of France is by modern, executive coach and Eurotunnel.

Departure from London Victoria will be at 08.00 with a further pick up made at Maidstone Services in good time for a scheduled Eurotunnel departure of 11.20. The Eurotunnel crossing operates up to 4 times per hour and takes just 35 minutes to Calais. The driving time from Calais to Montreuil is approximately 1 hour.

Pick up points

Victoria Coach Station, 164 Buckingham Palace Road SW1W 9TP (please look out for "Travel Eds" on the display screen for details of the departure bay). Victoria station (on the Victoria, District and Circle lines) is 300m from the coach station or Maidstone Services (meet in front of building entrance).



Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Border Control

You may have to show your return ticket and money.

At border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket.
- show you have enough money for your stay.
- use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.



Accommodation

Best Western Hermitage, Montreuil

Set in a grand 19th century building in the heart of the historic centre of Montreuil, the four-star Best Western Hermitage is a stylish and atmospheric place to stay. Facilities here include a gym, spa (extra cost), terrace, bar and restaurant, opened by the Michelin-star Chef Alexandre Gauthier. The hotel has 57 comfortable bedrooms with all modern amenities including TV, telephone, safe and hairdryer.

For more information visit the hotel's website:

<https://www.hermitage-montreuil.com/en/>



Food

Herring, rabbit, potatoes, chicons (endives) and beer form the basis of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais cuisine. Seafood is very popular – *coquilles Saint-Jacques*, eel, sole, turbot, cod, and of course, *moules frites* will be on menus. You will also find many Flemish inspired dishes here, such as *waterzooï* (stew made with fish or chicken, vegetables, potatoes and herbs), *potjevleesch* (meat, onions and herbs prepared as a jelly or terrine), *Hochepot à la Flamande* (stew made with pig's feet and ears, beef brisket and tail, lamb shoulder, calf's liver, vegetables and potatoes), and *Carbonade Flamande* (sweet-sour beef and onion stew made with beer). Dishes cooked in beer are also popular, such as rabbit with plums and beer, *coq à la bière*, or *couquebaques* (beer crêpes).

Tarts are the most popular dessert – *tarte aux fruits* (apple, rhubarb, plums) or *tarte au sucre* (garnished with a cassonade sugar, cream and egg mixture). Other traditional sweets of the region include *Gauffres fourées* (two wafers filled with cassonade, reputedly General de Gaulle's favourite), *spéculoos* (cinnamon & spices biscuits) and *cramique* (brioche bread).

Coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *café au lait* (or *crème*) is requested.

Almost all restaurants offer two types of meals: *a la carte* (extensive choice for each course, generally

more expensive) and *le menu* (a set meal at a fixed price). The bill (*l'addition*) will not be presented until it is asked for, even if clients sit and talk for half an hour after finishing their meal. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.

Generally speaking, mealtimes in France are strictly observed. Lunch is as a rule served from noon to 1330, dinner usually from 2000-2130, but the larger the city, the later the dining hour.



Drink

In contrast to the rest of France, where wine is favoured, beer is by far the most popular alcoholic beverage in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais. Hops and barley are grown in the area, and the beer produced tends to be strong and flavoursome. There are plenty of small artisanal brasseries, as well as international and national firms producing over 100 different types of beer. Well known are the *Jenlain*, *3 Monts*, *La Goulade*, and the *Ch'ti*.

Juniper berries are used to produce two of the local *eau-de-vie*, *Genièvre*, or Jenever (made by distilling cereals and adding the berries) and *Chuchemourette* (cassis and juniper berries liqueur).

For a non-alcoholic drink try the excellent artisanal lemonades produced according to traditional recipes.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner – with wine included at a local restaurant on two nights

Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



Destination

The Hundred Years' War (1337–1453) was a series of conflicts during the Late Middle Ages between the kingdoms of England and France. It centred primarily on competing claims to the French crown by the English House of Plantagenet and the French House of Valois and was one of the most notable conflicts of the Middle Ages, in which five generations of kings from two rival dynasties fought for the throne of the largest kingdom in Western Europe. The war left an indelible mark on European history, with both sides producing innovations in military technology, strategy, and tactics, that permanently changed warfare.

Details of places of interest included in your tour:

Montreuil

The charming walled town of Montreuil's origins lie in Roman times when the sea ran up the estuary of the Canche as far as Montreuil. The first ramparts were built in the 9th Century by the Count of Ponthieu and in the 10th Century Montreuil rose to importance as the main seaport of the Capétiens. Like Arras, Montreuil was famous for its cloth industry from the 11th to the 13th centuries. The eight churches drew pilgrims from far and wide thanks to the relics of saints they held. The population grew to over 10,000 people and the royal castle of which only two towers remain today, was built in 1186, a charter having been granted by Philip Auguste. As the estuary silted up, the port fell silent and when finally, the English took possession of the town, Montreuil emerged from the Hundred Years' War in ruins. It was to suffer further when it was plundered by Henry VIII of England and Charles V of Spain who laid siege but were rebuffed by the medieval walls. It fared less well in another siege in 1537 and finally succumbed to the plague in 1596. The 11th century Abbey of Saint-Saulve was built on the site of an even older monastery dedicated to Saint Walloy, founded by the Breton monks in the 10th century. Only the nave remains, the Imperialists having sacked the place in 1537, destroying the courtyard and the transept. The Abbey is significant for the successful blend of Romanesque and gothic architecture which form one of the most beautiful ensembles of northern France.

For more information about Montreuil, please visit:
<https://www.informationfrance.com/montreuil-sur-mer/>

Chateau d'Olhain

Preserved in its original plans with its baille or poultry yard, as an authentic example of a fortified castle in the plains of the Northern Europe. The castle is located in the middle of a lake which reflects its towers and curtain walls. It was also a major stronghold for the Artois in medieval times and testimony to the power of the Olhain family, first mentioned from the 12th century. The castle existed in at least the early 13th century, but the present structure is largely the work of Jean de Nielles, who married Marie d'Olhain at the end of the 15th century. During World War I and World War II, the castle was requisitioned first by French troops, then Canadian and British soldiers. For more information about Chateau d'Olhain, please visit:

<http://www.chateau-olhain.com/index.html>

Agincourt Battlefield

The Battle of Agincourt, known locally as Azincourt, was an English victory in the Hundred Years' War. It took place on 25 October 1415 (Saint Crispin's Day) near Azincourt, in northern France. The unexpected English victory against the numerically superior French army boosted English morale and prestige, crippled France and started a new period of English dominance in the war. The "Azincourt 1415" centre located just 1km from the battlefield site, also houses a memorial dedicated to the fighters who fell on October 25, 1415. Research carried out has identified 531 names of men killed in fight on October 25, 1415.

For more information about Agincourt Battlefield, please visit:

<http://azincourt1415.com/azincourt-1415-le-moyen-age-en-7-vallees>

Crecy Battlefield

The battle, fought between King Edward III of England and Philippe VI of France during the early stages of the Hundred Years War, on 26 August 1345, and involved tens of thousands of soldiers. It ended with a major English victory and the French army crippled. Historians have often pointed to it as being one of the most important battles of the medieval period, noted especially for the use of the longbow within it.

For more information about Crecy Battlefield, please visit:

<https://www.medievalists.net/2015/09/new-location-for-the-battle-of-crecy-discovered/>

Boulogne-Sur-Mer

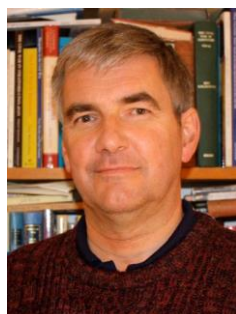
Boulogne-sur-Mer is the largest fishing port in France and so the emphasis, as you would expect, is very much on seafood and all things connected with the sea. Apart from the stalls along the edge of the port, there is also Capécure, the commercial port where the fish is auctioned, frozen, salted, smoked and generally processed. Boulogne with its cobbled square and vibrant market, its superb seafood restaurants and bistros has always had great appeal. The ‘Centre Ville’ of Boulogne is a bustling mixture of shops, restaurants and cafés, bisected by pedestrian streets and with the cobbled square surveyed by the ancient Church of St Nicolas, protector of sailors, the oldest church in Boulogne. Parts of the choir date from the 13th century whilst the façade was restored in the 18th Century. At the top of the town, lies the ‘old town’, the administrative and religious centre of the town, dominated by the belfry and dome of the Cathedral. In the crypt of the Cathedral, you can still see the stone cannon balls employed by Henry VIII when he besieged and captured Boulogne. Vast ramparts built at the beginning of the 13th century on the foundations off the Gallo-Roman walls, with four gateways, surround this part of town. From the walkways there is an amazing view of the old port and the main town. In a corner is the 13th century Château, with its moats filled with water and waterlilies, modified in the 16th and 18th centuries. Boulogne also has a Natural History Museum. At the City Library in the Annunziates, you can visit the gardens and cloisters whilst the Maison de La Beurière chronicles the life of fishermen in days gone by.

For more information about Boulogne-Sur-Mer, please visit:

<https://www.informationfrance.com/boulogne-sur-mer/>

Your lecturer / guide

Julian, read history at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and has worked at historical sites both in Britain and overseas and is now a trustee of the Battlefields Trust and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has a very infectious enthusiasm for history and has published numerous books on castles and battles.



Enjoy two lectures during your tour:

‘The Hundred Years War’

‘Weapons and Warfare in the late Middle Ages’

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

The Basics

Climate – The weather in Montrouil at this time of year is likely to be similar to the UK in spring – unpredictable and the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – French.

Religion – Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Victory in Europe day (08 May); Ascension day; Whit Sunday; Whit Monday; National day (14 Jul); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Armistice day (11 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Department stores are open 0900-1830 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1200-1430. Some food shops (particularly bakers) are open Sunday mornings, in which case they will probably close Monday. Many shops close all day or half-day Monday. Please note that most museums are closed on Mondays.

Clothes & shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract. The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside office hours please, telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

Consular services Paris

16 rue d'Anjou

75008 Paris

France

Tel: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00

Fax: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 27

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00.

Travel Editions

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