

Romantic Short Break

Right opposite the English coast, Calais, the port town and merchant shipping hub, is also a seaside resort!

Here on the sea front, with its long sandy beach, Calais has come out and shown a new version of itself, personified by the Calais Dragon, a monumental creature which takes visitors for rides on its back. Hand in hand, the beach is the perfect spot to enjoy a romantic sunset!

DISCOVER:

- **The Dragon:** From its imposing height (10m) and length (25m), the Calais Dragon keeps watch over the town. Don't be misled by its impressive size; it can lie down, get up, rear up on its hind legs, and spread its wings! Constructed with steel and sculpted wood, it's a Dragon of the sea, the earth, wind and fire. Watch out too - the dragon breathes fires and spits water in various forms (jet, spray & mist).
- **The Lace & Fashion Museum:** Housed in a former collective lace factory, typical of the late 19th century. Don't miss the demonstration of the enormous Leavers machines during your visit, with commentary by former lace technicians or «tullistes», as they are called here.
- **The Fine Arts Museum:** Filled with collections of paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs from the 16th to the 21st century.
- **Lighthouse:** Climb up 271 steps to marvel at the magnificent panoramic view over the port, the sea and the town!
- **The Town Hall and clocktower:** Don't miss the panoramic view over the town and its surroundings from the top of the clocktower! This belfry is registered on UNESCO's World Heritage list, entitled «Belfries of Belgium and France»
- **Memorial Museum 39/45:** Calais paid a heavy price during the Second World War for its geographical position facing the English coast. The «Mako bunker» can be found in the Saint Pierre Park, across the road from the Six Burghers' statue. This long blockhouse, considered to be the largest in Europe, was built by the German Navy during the Occupation. It was an administrative and telephone communications center which coordinated the activities of coastal artillery forces aimed at England. Nowadays, the 21 exhibition rooms contain valuable collections of miscellaneous objects, uniforms, weapons, photos and documents, evidence of this somber period in Calais' history.



Good to know:

The tourist Board, situated at 12 boulevard Clemenceau can provide a Visit pass that includes entries or price reduction to the above-mentioned sites!

Enjoy a great gastronomy experience in Calais!

Relax in one of the many delicious restaurants. Traditional Brasserie style, Bistrot, gastronomic or café – there's plenty of choice. In this area mussels and chips are a firm favorite and so are all the great classics from French gastronomy.

DISCOVER:

- **L'Aquaraile:** Experience a double wow effect in this restaurant! With an amazing view overlooking the sandy beach of Calais and the English coast, great gastronomic cooking produced by locals (fish and sea food), and a fantastic selection of wine. Try this restaurant at sunset for a picture perfect moment!

- **L 'Histoire Ancienne:** This restaurant is what the French might call a 'bistronomique' restaurant: gastro standard dishes but in a laid-back atmosphere. Enjoy the unique and elegant art-deco surroundings.

- **Le Channel:** a very well-known restaurant in Calais. It has the reputation for serving excellent food since its opening. Facing the marina, Le channel offers a warm setting for tasty cuisine. Have a look through the glass doors to see into the secret of their 1200 references wine list!

- **Le Grand Bleu:** An exceptional restaurant facing the harbour. The chef is a 'locavore' who dices the best of traditional food with a modern twist!

And, if you have a sweet tooth, give your tastebud a treat by stepping in one of the numerous bakeries. Try the local specialty - the "Calais" - made of macaroon pastry, coffee buttercream and almonds! Bon appétit!



SHOPPING!

Calais area is perfect for shopping: lots of shops in the town to bring back local produce such as cheese and wine!

Why not buy directly from the producer at Aux Gout de la Ferme (1380 route de saint Omer 62100 CALAIS) or try the Calais markets for high quality local produces: every Saturday morning Place d'Armes or Place Crevecoeur.

TAKE A WALK!

Cap Blanc Nez: This is the viewpoint not to be missed – a full panoramic view over the Dover Straits and the White Cliffs of Dover. Breathe deeply and take it all in! The Cap Blanc Nez cliffs form part of the Two Caps site, a nature reserve certified Heritage Site of France. From the top of the cliff, the most northern vantage point in France, you can also observe with your own eyes the density of the maritime traffic in one of the busiest straits in the world!