

Feast of Tabernacles 2017

Church of God, a Worldwide Association

Calais, France



The Festival site

We hope the following information will be helpful as you consider attending the Feast of Tabernacles in France this year. The festival site is located a stone's throw from the beach on the outskirts of the city of Calais in the far north of France. Closer to London than to Paris, the site is only 40 miles from the Belgian border and 20 miles from the coast of Great Britain. On a clear day, one can stand on top of the nearby cliffs of Cap Blanc-Nez and see the white cliffs of Dover. This unique place will inspire your imagination as you learn about its rich history and culture. Imagine witnessing Julius Cesar launch his invasions of Great Britain from here in 53 and 54 B.C. Ponder the motivation of Napoleon Bonaparte as he gathered his Grande Armée of 200,000 men along this coastline and planned to invade England. Imagine the extensive efforts of the German army to anticipate the Allied invasion during World War II. Now let's get back to reality...

The VVF Blériot-Plage will be our all-inclusive site. As you can see from the photo below, the site resembles a miniature village and is composed of separated accommodations of various sizes. The main building which houses the hall for services and the restaurant is located in the center of the site, only a short walk from the accommodations.

The region has a wide variety of natural wonders and historic sites. Hike up the Cap Blanc-Nez for a splendid view of the English Channel from a height of over 400 feet. Spend an afternoon in the seaside town of Boulogne-sur-Mer which was first established as a Roman military camp in the 2nd century A.D. The ramparts visible today retrace the camp's rectangular, fortified enclosure. A column now stands to mark the rallying point of Napoleon's Grande Armée in 1805. Cross the Belgian border into West Flanders to discover the history of Trappist brewing. Six of the eleven Trappist breweries in the world are in Belgium. Tour a huge German bunker built during WW2 to house a V2 rocket factory.



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Making Your Travel Plans

We understand that making your travel plans can be one of the most challenging tasks in international travel. It can also have a big impact on your pocketbook. We advise against booking any non-refundable itineraries prior to being accepted to attend in the registration process. The following information and services are provided to help you in your planning. Further details and instructions about these services will be communicated in the months following registration.

Arrival shuttle service

Shuttle from CDG – We will charter a private bus from Charles de Gaulle (CDG) airport, Terminal 2 to the Feast site on Wednesday, Oct. 4. The estimated travel time by bus is 3 to 3 ½ hours. This option is only available to those who will be able to board the coach by **3:00 PM**. Before planning on using this service, please be sure your travel plans will allow you to arrive at the bus on time. This one-way service is available for €35 per person (aged 2 years and older).

Shuttle from Calais - A private shuttle bus will run at multiple times from the Calais train station to the Feast site on the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 4. The Feast site is only 15 minutes from the Calais train station (pricing and times TBD).

Departure shuttle service

Shuttle to CDG – We will charter a private bus which will depart from the Feast site at around 5:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 13. Expected arrival at CDG airport is **9:00 AM**. If considering this option, please be sure your flight's departure time is no earlier than 11:00 AM. This one-way service is available for €35 per person (aged 2 years and older).

Shuttle to Calais – A private shuttle bus will run at multiple times from the Feast site to Calais on the morning of Friday, Oct. 13 for those departing from Calais by train (pricing and times TBD).

Other options

You could also consider flying to London prior to the Feast and taking the Eurostar (Chunnel) train from London (St. Pancras) to the Calais-Fréthun train station. Estimated cost for the 1 hour, train ride is anywhere from \$50 to \$85 for non-refundable tickets booked well in advance (www.eurostar.com). Shuttle service will be available from Calais-Fréthun train station to the Feast site if there is sufficient demand. Otherwise, you have the option of a 15 minute taxi ride.

Reminder about passports and visas

American and Canadian citizens need a valid passport for travel to France, but no visa is currently required if the visit is less than 90 days. For citizens of the EU, a national ID card is all that is required. Visitors from countries other than those mentioned above should check online or with a French consulate to learn if they need a visa.

Lodging

This site is not a hotel; one cannot arrive and get a room during the Feast without booking through COGWA.

All of the accommodations were completely renovated in 2016. They are very basic by North American standards. Each unit is furnished with a TV, a kitchenette, a bathroom (shower and sink), water closet (toilet), and a terrace with garden furniture. Rooms vary in size, and larger accommodations will be set aside for larger families. Bedding and bath towels will be supplied at the beginning of the Feast and changed once during your stay. (Soap and washcloths are not supplied.) Extra linen and towel changes will be available for a small charge. Maid service is not automatically provided but is also available for a small charge. It is not possible to arrive earlier than Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 4. All guests must check out by 12 noon on Oct. 13.

Electricity:

The electrical current in France is 200-220 volts, 50 cycles. This will burn out North American appliances if no transformer is used. (In the past, several visitors attending the Feast in France have had “bad hair days” due to short-lived but supercharged curling irons!) Note that a transformer is not the same thing as an adapter. An adapter is the plug that



allows the appliance to be connected to the wall outlet. The sockets in France generally have two thin cylindrical prongs rather than the rectangular flat-type found in North America. A transformer is a separate item (a small box) that actually modifies the electrical current. Several companies market travel sets that include both a transformer and several European adapters. Such sets usually cost about \$25 and are available at luggage shops or department stores.

Meals:

Since your lodging includes full board, three meals will be provided in the restaurant. Breakfast will be served buffet-style, while lunch and dinner will be served family-style at the table. French custom is not to serve a table until everyone has arrived and it is full. So please plan to be on time for lunch and dinner.

Meal schedule:

Meal service will begin with dinner on Oct. 4.

Breakfast: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Lunch: 12:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

Services available:

Free parking is available. There is a coin-operated laundry facility. Wi-Fi Internet access is available in the common areas. On-site recreational facilities include basketball, soccer, ping-pong, a *pétanque* court (we'll show you how to play *pétanque*—you'll love it!), and a children's playground. Bike rentals are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Financial information

Costs:

The prices include a small fee to help offset Festival expenses. These prices are for full board, including wine with lunch and dinner, starting from the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 4, through the morning of Friday, Oct. 13.

Per adult single occupancy:	€50
Per adult double occupancy:	€40
Per child aged 11-15:	€170
Per child aged 4-10:	€120
Per child aged 2-3:	€20
Per child aged 0-1:	free



Making Your Payment:

Once you are accepted for transfer to this Feast site, we will provide you with the necessary details for making your payment as well as deadlines associated with securing your stay.

Exchanging money at the Feast:

The currency now used in France is the euro. Exchange rates are very good this year. At the time this form was prepared, €1 was worth approximately US\$1.06.

Banking hours in small towns and villages of France are typically 9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 5 p.m. We recommend that you change at least a small amount of money before you leave on your trip, to ensure you will have some local currency when you arrive. An ATM card with which to withdraw euros from French ATMs is the easiest means of changing money in country. Your home bank account is debited in your home currency, and there is a small exchange fee.

It is always a good idea to have at least two different means of procuring euros in case there is a problem with an ATM machine or with your card. We recommend bringing some cash for emergencies. Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in France; American Express is accepted in very limited locations; Discover card is unknown and not accepted.

Feast registration

Registration will open on April 16.

Acceptance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Since we accept transfers from around the globe, we use registration order on the following website to determine order of acceptance. Those we are unable to accept will be informed that they have been placed on a waiting list.

If you are a U.S. resident, you must first register online at the COGWA Feast website: <http://feast.cogwa.org/>. One you have registered there, you will be directed to <https://cogwa.wufoo.com/forms/2017-france-fot/> to complete your registration.

Members living outside the US can register directly at <https://cogwa.wufoo.com/forms/2017-france-fot/>.

Those who are accepted to transfer will receive a letter of confirmation within a few weeks of registration. The confirmation letter will contain details and deadlines regarding making payment. For more information, you may contact the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, French Department at 972-521-7777, or Daniel Harper at daniel.harper@cogwa.org.

Projected program and activities

	Wed Oct. 4	Thu. Oct. 5	Fri. Oct. 6	Sabbath Oct. 7	Sun. Oct. 8	Mon. Oct. 9	Tues. Oct. 10	Wed Oct. 11	Thu. Oct. 12
Morning			Service	Service	Service	Service	Service	Service	Service
Afternoon		Service	Family Day	Service	Excursion	Excursion	Excursion		Service
Evening	Service 9 p.m.			Talent Show					Au Revoir evening

Church services and translation:

You do not need to understand French to attend this site. Approximately half of the services will be held in French, the other half in English. In each case, simultaneous translation will be provided via FM radio transmission. **Those wishing to make use of the translation service will need to provide their own FM radios, batteries (please bring spares), and earphones. We will not be able to provide these items at the site.** Such items are usually less expensive and easier to purchase in the United States and Canada than they are in France. The first service will be held on Oct. 4 at 9 p.m.

Excursions:



Pedestrian street in Boulogne-sur-Mer

Some afternoons during the Feast, coach excursions will be offered for a per-person price. The proposed list of excursions is below along with the approximate per-person price (exact information is still pending). When registering to attend, please indicate to us in advance which excursions interest you. Payment for excursions will be made at the Feast site.

1. Boulognes-sur-Mer – (cost about €15) – This ancient Roman city brings in more fresh fish per year than any other port in all of Europe. It is also a major port of trade and travel, specializing in links to Great Britain. Though it is a little rough around the edges, this city is attractive and bustling, especially in its upper district. Napoleon chose this city as a base for a planned invasion of England which never took place.

2. Bruges – (cost about €25) – Located in northern Flanders, Bruges became a trade capital of the region in the 12th Century. The riches from this trade activity paved the way for the history filled downtown that is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Churches, city monuments, and private homes are built around numerous canals for which the city is

nicknamed the Venice of the North. Bruges is famous for being the cradle of Flemish painting and for the fabrication of intricate lace of superb quality.

3. La Coupole – (cost about €20) – Beneath an immense concrete dome lies the earliest known precursor to modern underground missile silos still in existence. The dome and the underground galleries beneath it were built by the forces of Nazi Germany between 1943 and 1944 to serve as a launch base for V-2 rockets directed against London and southern England. The site now hosts a highly-rated history museum and planetarium complete with an IMAX-style theater. The facility was designed to store a large stockpile of V-2's, warheads and fuel and was intended to launch V-2s on an industrial scale. Due to heavy bombing and the Allied invasion, the complex never entered service.



La Coupole - fortified WW2 bunker