

# Feast of Tabernacles 2019

## Church of God, a Worldwide Association

### Montagnac, France

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#### **The Festival site**

The Festival site for France this year will be located just outside the town of Montagnac in the Languedoc-Roussillon region, in the south of France. The hilltop town is half an hour's drive from Montpellier, the department capital.

The Feast site itself will offer full-board accommodations in a relaxing, family-style vacation village exclusively reserved for our group. We are expecting up to 150 brethren in attendance from France, Belgium, Switzerland, the United States and other parts of the world. Services will be held alternately in French and English with simultaneous translation offered via FM radio and headsets that attendees must bring with them.



#### **Address:**

VVF Villages "Le Clos des Cigales - Montagnac"  
Bessilles Les Vignes  
34530 Montagnac, France

#### **Telephone:**

Phone (international): +33 4 67 24 07 28  
Phone (within France): 0467240728

#### **Making Your Travel Plans?**

We advise against booking any non-refundable itineraries prior to being accepted to attend. The following information is provided to help you in your planning. Further details about these services will be communicated in the months following registration.

#### ***Arrival and departure shuttle service***

We will charter a private bus from Montpellier airport (MPL) to the Feast site on Sunday, Oct. 13. The shuttle will also stop at the Montpellier train station to pick up passengers arriving by train. The estimated travel time by bus is 1 hour. We will arrange for one or two shuttle departure times that afternoon, as needed. To take the shuttle, you must be able to board the coach by **6:00 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 €30 per person (aged 2 years and older).

We will also charter a private bus which will depart from the Feast site for Montpellier at around 5:30 a.m. on Tues, Oct. 22. Expected arrival times at Montpellier train station and airport are **6:30 a.m.** and **7:00 a.m.**, respectively. If considering this option, please be sure your flight's departure time is no earlier than 9:00 AM. This one-way service is available for €30 per person (aged 2 years and older). For more information on Montpellier airport, see <https://montpellier-airport.com/>.

#### ***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.**

The accommodations were recently renovated. 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. Daily maid service is not included but is also available for a small charge. It is not possible to arrive earlier than Sunday afternoon, Oct. 13. All guests must check out by 12 noon on Oct. 22.

### 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.

### 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, tennis, 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.





## 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. 13.

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

Lunch: 12:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:30 p.m.



## 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 Sunday, Oct. 13, through the morning of Tues, Oct. 22.

|                             |      |                      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Per adult single occupancy: | €665 | Per child aged 4-11: | €450 |
| Per adult double occupancy: | €555 | Per child aged 2-3:  | €343 |
| Per child aged 12-15:       | €502 | 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. At this time in early 2019, €1 was worth approximately US\$1.13.

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 14.

Please complete your registration according to the instructions found on the COGWA Feast website: <http://feast.cogwa.org/>. Acceptance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Since we accept transfers from around the globe, we use registration order to determine order of acceptance. Those we are unable to accept will be informed that they have been placed on a waiting list. Those who are initially accepted to transfer will receive a letter of confirmation within a few days 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](mailto:daniel.harper@cogwa.org).

## Projected program and activities

|           | Sun.<br>Oct. 13   | Mon.<br>Oct. 14 | Tues.<br>Oct. 15 | Wed.<br>Oct. 16 | Thurs.<br>Oct. 17 | Fri.<br>Oct. 18 | Sabbath<br>Oct. 19 | Sun.<br>Oct. 20 | Mon.<br>Oct. 21      |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Morning   |                   |                 | Service          | Service         | Service           | Service         | Service            | Service         | Service              |
| Afternoon |                   | Service         | Excursion        | Excursion       | Excursion         | Family Day      | Service            | Excursion       | Service              |
| Evening   | Service<br>9 p.m. |                 |                  |                 |                   |                 | Talent<br>Show     |                 | Au Revoir<br>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. 13 at 9 p.m.

### Excursions:

Some afternoons during the Feast, coach excursions will be offered for a per-person price. Payment for excursions will be made at the Feast site.

Excursions will be planned to points of interest in the area including nearby Pezenas, a town unspoiled by modern development, with narrow streets to explore as well as some grand 17th century houses and a historic town square. The town is especially proud of its association with the 17<sup>th</sup> century French playwright Moliere, who brought his troupe to the town on several occasions.



*Shops of the historic district of Pezenas*



*Ramparts of Aigues-Mortes*

Another nearby site of interest we plan to visit is the village of Loupian. The village developed near the site of a first century Roman villa, west of Sète. The town contains several streets of attractive ancient houses to explore, and some notable highlights, while the nearby roman villa contains exceptional mosaics. Numerous different styles and designs can be seen in the mosaics which have been given the classification of Historic Monument.

We will also be sure to make a stop in the historic section of Montagnac on one of our excursions. Pricing and excursion details will be communicated in the coming months.



*Restored 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman Villa at Loupian*