

Where to stay to...

# BREAK THE JOURNEY

Whether you're going by ferry, train or plane, we have a great selection of hotels to make the trip more relaxing



## TAKE THE FERRY:

### ◀ LE LANDEMER, Urville-Nacqueville

You can't get much closer to the sea than at the newly refurbished Le Landemer, which is perched at the end of a beautiful beach on the Cotentin Peninsula, only ten kilometres from Cherbourg. The refit was carried out to mark the hotel's 150th anniversary, and its heritage as a bolthole for such luminaries as Claude Monet, Édith Piaf and Boris Vian. Its ten bedrooms all have a sea view, with the four superior rooms housed in the *longère* to the side, each with a sea terrace and a private garden at the back. The restaurant is in the conservatory, and also enjoys spectacular views.

Tel: (Fr) 2 33 04 05 10

[www.le-landemer.com](http://www.le-landemer.com)

Doubles from €85, breakfast €15.50.

### HÔTEL VENT D'OUEST, Le Havre

In the heart of the Normandy port of Le Havre, among Auguste Perret's now Unesco-listed post-war architecture, the Hôtel Vent d'Ouest lives up to its maritime connections, and many of the 35 rooms have seaside and seafaring themes. There are also three apartments with kitchens, living areas and bedrooms. The spa has a steam room and Spa Nuxe treatments. There is no restaurant at the hotel, but lunch or dinner can be brought to your room or served in the lounge for an additional €35 (including breakfast).

Tel: (Fr) 2 35 42 50 69

[www.ventdouest.fr](http://www.ventdouest.fr)

Doubles from €100, breakfast when booked separately from other meals €15. ➡➡

PHOTOGRAPHS: BAPTISTE ALMODOVAR/LE LANDEMER



### ▲ HÔTEL LE NOUVEAU MONDE, Saint-Malo

This 83-room, four-star hotel on the seafront brings the style of a cruise liner to dry land. The nautical theme, complete with wallpaper, lanterns and beautiful colonial-style furniture, really makes you feel part of a seafaring adventure. Many rooms have balconies overlooking the beach – the perfect place to play ship's captain.

Tel: (Fr) 2 99 40 75 14  
[www.hotel-le-nouveau-monde.com](http://www.hotel-le-nouveau-monde.com)  
 Doubles from €119, breakfast €19.

### HÔTEL PARTICULIER POPPA, Bayeux

Only 25 minutes from Caen, this stylish hotel in the centre of Bayeux is set in a former mansion house. It has just four bedrooms, all spacious and elegant, with high ceilings and marble fireplaces, and two also have fabulous views of the cathedral. The largest was once the ballroom, and has a beautiful parquet floor and enormous bathroom decorated in black, white and gold. Inside the mansion's central courtyard, guests can relax and admire the fruit trees and the kitchen garden.

Tel: (Fr) 2 31 22 41 90  
[www.hotel-poppa.com](http://www.hotel-poppa.com)  
 Doubles from €95 including breakfast.

### ▼ DOMAINE SAINT-CLAIR, Étretat

Just 40 minutes north along the coast from Le Havre, Étretat is famous for its white cliffs, which became a favourite subject of artists Claude Monet and Gustave Courbet (see feature on page 42), while the area was the 'see and be seen' destination of the belle époque. This hotel celebrates these connections by naming each room after a personality, including Marcel Proust and the dancer Isadora Duncan. The hotel also has a heated outdoor pool and a spa. The restaurant uses local produce as well as vegetables from its garden.

Tel: (Fr) 2 35 27 08 23  
[www.chateauxhotels.com](http://www.chateauxhotels.com)  
 Doubles from €120, breakfast €14.



### HÔTEL ATLANTIC, Wimereux

For a breath of fresh sea air, you can't do better than the Hôtel Atlantic, which is – contrary to what its name suggests – a stone's throw from the Channel. Set on the seafront at Wimereux, 25 minutes down the coast from Calais, its 18 boutique rooms each have a sea view and some have a terrace. There are two restaurants; a bistro-style eatery offering quick, simple meals, and a more gastronomic affair with a menu that is 90 per cent sea food. The hotel also has a wellness centre, which offers massages and other treatments.

Tel: (Fr) 3 21 32 41 01  
[www.atlantic-delpierre.com](http://www.atlantic-delpierre.com)  
 Doubles from €147, breakfast €15.50.

PHOTOGRAPHS: JEAN-CHARLES VALIENNE, CHÂTEAUX & HÔTELS COLLECTION

### ► MANOIR DE BEAUCRON, Brucheville

Set in the heart of the Cotentin and Bessin regional park, 40 minutes south of Cherbourg, this 16th-century manor house is an ideal hideaway for birdwatchers, with all four of its rooms being named after birds. Reached via an elegant, spiral stone staircase, the rooms are decorated in tasteful tones of beige and raspberry. Anne-Laure Guerche, the helpful host, treats her guests to a delicious breakfast of fresh bread and croissants, fruit juice, home-made jam and rice pudding. The Manoir is within easy reach of the D-Day beaches, Mont-Saint-Michel and Bayeux.

Tel: (Fr) 2 33 42 40 25  
[www.manoirdebeaucron.com](http://www.manoirdebeaucron.com)  
 Doubles from €88 including breakfast.

### CHÂTEAU DE MONTREUIL, Montreuil-sur-Mer

Just a 50-minute dash south of Calais, the heavenly village of Montreuil-sur-Mer, whose cobbled streets inspired Victor Hugo to write *Les Misérables*, makes a great overnight stop or indeed a weekend in its own right. The Château de Montreuil is a charming ten-room hotel based in a manor house that was once the country retreat of the Wooster/Rothschild family. If you can book room 1, you'll be rewarded with a four-poster bed and an enormous bathroom with a copper ceiling. The excellent restaurant serves locally sourced seafood and other regional delicacies.

Tel: (Fr) 3 21 81 53 04  
[www.chateaudemontreuil.com](http://www.chateaudemontreuil.com)  
 Doubles from €220, breakfast from €19.

### HÔTEL FRANCE & CHATEAUBRIAND, Saint-Malo

Set just inside the walls of Saint-Malo, this charming 19th-century hotel has a striped awning and *tricolore* flags fluttering above its own bistro, plus 80 spacious rooms. Some are more recently decorated than others, but 20 offer sea views over the town's impressive fortifications. The hotel makes a perfect base for exploring this historic port.

Tel: (Fr) 2 99 56 66 52  
[www.hotel-chateaubriand-st-malo.com](http://www.hotel-chateaubriand-st-malo.com)  
 Doubles from €85, breakfast €12.



### ▼ UNE PARTIE DE CAMPAGNE, Bois-Guilbert

This vegetarian B&B is 50 minutes from Dieppe and offers a rustic welcome among cider orchards and grazing pastures. Its two rooms are beautifully decorated in neutral tones and are the ideal place to switch off from the world (there's no TV). Evening meals are simple *table d'hôte* affairs with home-made vegetarian meals, while breakfast comprises home-made bread, pastries and yoghurt, and organic apple juice.

Tel: (Fr) 2 35 79 83 71  
[www.chambresdhoties-normandie.fr](http://www.chambresdhoties-normandie.fr)  
 B&B doubles €65, evening meal €20pp.



### ▼ OCEANIA, Saint-Malo

The ultra-modern four-star Oceania enjoys a fantastic beachside location and is just a few minutes' walk from the town centre, but with so many mod cons you may not be able to tear yourself away. The achingly cool rooms are decorated in clean lines, crisp whites and cool greys, and boast plasma screen TVs and Nespresso machines; some even have a whirlpool bath. Elsewhere in the hotel, you can indulge in a massage, relax in the hot tub, or sip cocktails.

Tel: (Fr) 2 99 56 84 84  
[www.oceaniahotels.co.uk](http://www.oceaniahotels.co.uk)  
 Doubles from €95, breakfast €11. ➔



▼ **BRUCE CASTLE, Brix**

Though this neo-classical mansion 14 kilometres south of Cherbourg is linked to the kings of Scotland, on account of it being built on their ancestral land, Bruce Castle is a French treat. The house is packed with antiques gathered together by its friendly hosts, the Fontanets. The three spacious bedrooms boast chandeliers, gilt-framed portraits and oriental rugs, along with enormous bathrooms. Breakfast is served in the dining room, where the table is laid with white porcelain and silver cutlery.

Tel: (Fr) 2 33 41 99 62

[www.sawdays.co.uk](http://www.sawdays.co.uk)

Doubles from €110 including breakfast.



**HÔTEL LE BRITTANY & SPA, Roscoff**

Set on the small Sainte-Barbe peninsula overlooking the Île de Batz, this 17th-century former granite merchant's house was rebuilt stone by stone in 1974. As if its position wasn't relaxing enough – in full view of fishing boats going out to sea – the 23-room hotel boasts a state-of-the-art spa. Here, the therapies use seaweed collected from a Unesco-listed world biosphere reserve for their high concentrations of minerals and vitamins. For nutrition of the gastronomic kind, take a table at the one-Michelin-star restaurant, The Yachtsman, and savour chef Loïc Le Bail's delicious seafood menus.

Tel: (Fr) 2 98 69 70 78

[www.hotel-brittany.com](http://www.hotel-brittany.com)

Doubles from €155, breakfast €23.



▲ **Manoir de la Fieffe, Cherbourg**

It's hard to believe that the tranquil Manoir de la Fieffe B&B is less than 15 minutes from the ferry terminal, but what better place to relax before continuing your journey in France? The four spacious bedrooms are decorated in neutral tones, with objets d'art and fascinating finds from around the world. Outside, Emmanuel de La Fonchais, one of the two hosts, is making the most of his experience as a rare-plant nursery owner to create his own botanical garden.

Tel: (Fr) 2 33 20 81 45

[www.sawdays.co.uk](http://www.sawdays.co.uk)

Doubles from €100 including breakfast.

► **HÔTEL CHEZ JANIE, Roscoff**

This fun and friendly hotel perches on Roscoff's harbour front and has just 16 rooms. As the former meeting place for the Onion Johnnies (the bicycle-pushing, beret-wearing onion sellers) before they set sail for England, the hotel is proud of its Breton heritage. The whole place is decorated in a lively blend of red, orange, grey and white, with Breton sayings painted on the walls. Guests also have access to the Hôtel le Brittany's spa.

Tel: (Fr) 2 98 61 24 25

[www.chezjanie.fr](http://www.chezjanie.fr)

Doubles from €69 including breakfast.



**HÔTEL DE LA MATELOTE, Boulogne-sur-Mer**

The four-star Matelote is another great place to stay on the Opal Coast, and its one-Michelin-star restaurant attracts foodies. The chef, Tony Lestienne, is the great-great-grandson of Clémence Lestienne, Boulogne's bearded lady, who was as well known for her gingerbread as her whiskers (yes, really). The hotel itself has 35 comfortable rooms, as well as an excellent relaxation suite, with a swimming pool, hot tub, hammam and sauna, and is right opposite Boulogne's main attraction – its superb Nausicaâ aquarium.

Tel: (Fr) 3 21 30 33 33

[www.la-matelote.com](http://www.la-matelote.com)

Doubles from €105, breakfast from €15.50.

**HÔTEL AUX TAMARIS, Roscoff**

The pretty port of Roscoff is classed as one of Brittany's *Petites Cités de Caractère* and makes a great starting point for a holiday in the region. At its heart, the Hôtel aux Tamaris – which is more *chambre d'hôte* than hotel – has four serene rooms, all with a seaside theme. Each room has its own character,

featuring neutral tones, livened up with Celtic tartans and delicately painted wall murals. Guests can make the most of a relaxing thalassotherapy session at a nearby spa and feel the benefits of a seaside stay.

Tel: (Fr) 2 98 61 22 99

[www.hotel-aux-tamaris.com](http://www.hotel-aux-tamaris.com)

Doubles from €61, breakfast from €7.

▼ **CHÂTEAU LA CHENEVIÈRE, Port-en-Bessin**

Dating from the 18th century, the five-star Château la Chenevière offers 29 spacious and individually styled rooms, many with fireplaces. Set in 12 hectares of parkland just inland from the Normandy coast, the hotel has a pretty walled garden, a heated outdoor pool (set next to a beautiful glasshouse) and a tennis court. Its vegetable garden supplies the restaurant, which is in keeping with the hotel's environmental policy which also sees it actively saving water, recycling and bee-keeping. Just 30 minutes from Caen ferry port, it is close to Bayeux and the D-Day beaches.

Tel: (Fr) 2 31 51 25 25

[www.lacheneviere.com](http://www.lacheneviere.com)

Doubles from €220, breakfast buffet €25. ➔



PHOTOGRAPHS: PHILIPPE BEUF

TAKE THE PLANE:



▲▼ **Pullman Paris Roissy CDG Airport**

Those with an early or late flight at Charles de Gaulle airport can now check into a new Pullman Paris Roissy, which has 305 sizeable rooms, a swimming pool and fitness room. The stylish bar offers unusual French cocktails, while the restaurant serves dishes made with locally sourced produce.

Tel: (Fr) 8 71 70 29 469

[www.pullmanhotels.com](http://www.pullmanhotels.com)

Doubles from £116 with breakfast.



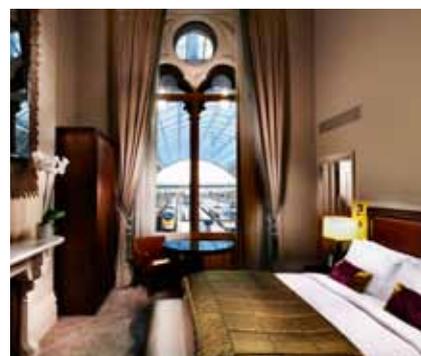
## TAKE THE TRAIN:



### ROUGH LUXE, Saint Pancras

Less than five minutes' walk from the Eurostar terminal is the wonderfully off-beat Rough Luxe hotel. Its unusual, deliberately unfinished decor has the feel of a Parisian garret, and was inspired by the layers and layers of wallpaper that were found when the owner, French architect and designer Rabih Hage, began to refurbish it in 2008 – each layer telling a different story of the 19th-century building's history. While the rooms are small, they are no less enchanting, and with a fantastic breakfast spread and friendly hosts, it makes a great crash pad before you head off on the train.

Tel: 0207 837 5338  
[www.roughluxe.co.uk](http://www.roughluxe.co.uk)  
 Doubles from £144.



### ▲ GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL, London

Just across the road from the Eurostar terminal entrance proudly stands a hotel that evokes an earlier era of railway travel – the Great Northern. This curved, Grade II listed building was one of the world's first great railway hotels when it opened in 1854, but later fell into disuse. Following a £40 million refurbishment, it was re-launched in 2013 as a luxury 91-room hotel lying within the Western Concourse of King's Cross station.

Guests wanting to truly embrace the railway theme can stay in one of the Couchette rooms which, with their snugly fitting beds, are a modern twist on the old sleeper train carriages. I, however, stayed in a larger, high-ceilinged Cubitt room – named after the original architect, Lewis Cubitt.

The muted olive green and cream colours, and comfortable leather and walnut furniture create a relaxing effect, while the large sash windows allow in plenty of light. I could see passengers

making their way into the Eurostar terminal across the busy Pancras Road, but all was quiet behind the double-glazed windows. If you're feeling peckish before dinner, each floor has a walk-in pantry, where you can help yourself to drinks and snacks, and read the newspapers.

That evening, the ground-floor GNH bar, with its mirrored ceiling and crystal chandeliers, was really buzzy, but I had a drink in the more intimate, art-lined Snug Bar on the first floor. It leads to the restaurant – called Plum and Spilt Milk after the colours in the dining cars of the Flying Scotsman train – where the emphasis is on modern British classics.

After a peaceful night's sleep, I took breakfast at a civilised hour before ambling over to the Eurostar terminal, just two minutes away, suitably set up for my trip to Paris and beyond.

**Simon Reynolds**

Tel: 0203 388 0808  
[www.gnhlondon.com](http://www.gnhlondon.com)  
 Doubles from £249 including breakfast.

### ▲ ST PANCRAS RENAISSANCE HOTEL, London

If you're looking for a stylish stay close to the Eurostar terminal, you can't get any closer than the superb Renaissance St Pancras; indeed some rooms even overlook the railway platforms. The original hotel, designed by George Gilbert Scott, opened in 1873, when it impressed guests with such high-tech amenities as flushing toilets. Nowadays, after a ten-year restoration, the wow factor comes through high-speed internet, flat-screen TVs, pillow top mattresses, bathrooms and 24-hour room service. The former booking office is now a stunning bar and restaurant and with the hotel's spa, fitness room and swimming pool on offer the only hitch might be that with so much to enjoy, you end up missing your train.

Tel: 0207 841 3540  
[www.marriott.co.uk](http://www.marriott.co.uk)  
 Doubles from £250,  
 breakfast from £18. 📍