## **ACCOMMODATION GUIDE – NEWHAVEN/DIEPPE TO PARIS**

## on **Donald Hirsch's cycle route**

# HOTELS/B&Bs, with user-based ratings

### (CAMPSITES LISTED ON LAST TWO PAGES OF THIS GUIDE)

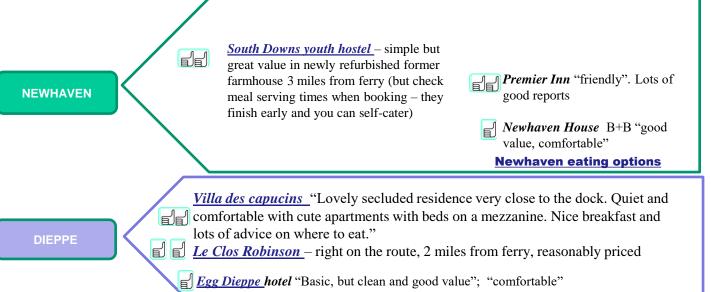
Ratings based on reports from riders. Things can change: please send comments to keep this up to date.

### FOR SUGGESTED COMBINATIONS OF STOPPING PLACES, SEE ITINERARIES

<b>KEY TO RATINGS</b>	Exceptional place to stay: widely recommended ; a memorable experience
Almost all these places are very	Special place to stay: highly recommended by multiple groups
welcoming and pleasant. The number of thumbs up is	Nice place to stay: complimentary report/s
proportional to the enthusiasm of	Pleasant/acceptable accommodation:
rider feedback , rather than to price or conventional hotel stars. All	recommended, no negatives
allow bike storage.	Adequate: worth considering for location/price but mixed reports

My ratings system gives particular weight to places with "character" and not just convenience, though I don't include places that are inconvenient eg in terms of having to go too far off-route. I don't give more than two thumbs up to B&Bs, however charming, that don't do dinner, since eating on site with the family is such a boon after a long cycle ride, and there are plenty offering this. These are my prejudices - so read the quotes from other riders to get a flavour and to match your own tastes and requirements!

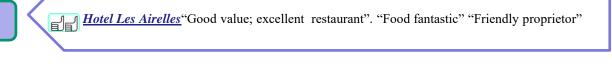
Note: dinner at a nice B and B can be one of the highlights of the trip, but PLEASE let owners know if you will arrive late or your plans change. Bear in mind that these are not hotel restaurants but people's homes.





Manoir d'Aulage – really welcoming, comfortable country house – "great value". "Wonderful dinner" "Best B&B I've ever stayed at". Run by friendly Belgian couple, Francoise and Serge

Mile 24 NEUFCHATEL EN BRAY



Mile 35 FORGES LES EAUX *Hotel la Paix* "helpful, cycle friendly". "amazing four-course meal"; "Good value"
*Forges Hotel*— a spa hotel, with some good deals if booked in advance
*Sofhotel* "excellent, friendly service, set dinner excellent value". Good for large groups. One group found bedding uncomfortable, but praised the friendliness.
*Le clos du Quesnay* Is about 4km off route but "really friendly and welcoming with excellent food" – visit their website to see what makes it special and a bit different...
*Chambres du Lac* very cycle friendly and welcoming, a mile outside town and an alternative to staying in Forges

Mile 49 GOURNAY E

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<u>Le Cygne hotel</u> "Brilliant, welcoming, helpful and friendly ". In town centre. Consistently high recommendation from many groups. Le Cygne is commended as a lovely old fashioned French hotel in a charming town: the antidote to modern identikit hotels in identikit places – and with really friendly owners. Unlike many two-star French hotels, the rooms are really comfortable, all with en-suite. <u>Hotel Normandie</u> "nice friendly atmosphere; don't recommend for breakfast"

Mile 55 ST GERMER DE FLY

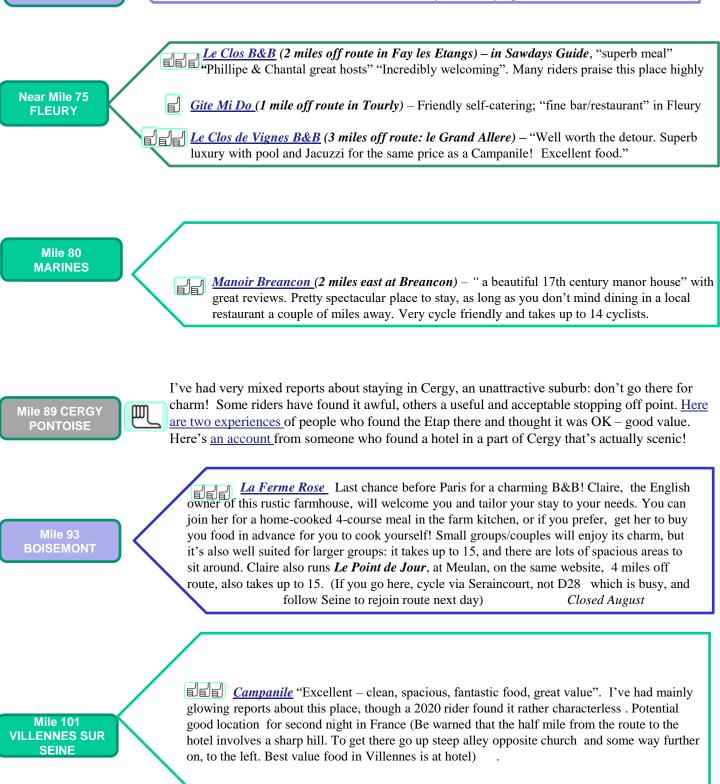
Not sure if still open – info needed

*Chambres de l'Abbaye B&B* A place of great character, home to an artist and his wife. "Rustic, rural charm". "We had a super evening with Chloe and her husband, a super home-made breakfast and a tour of Jean's studio." "The most generous and lovely hosts and the most delicious dinner"

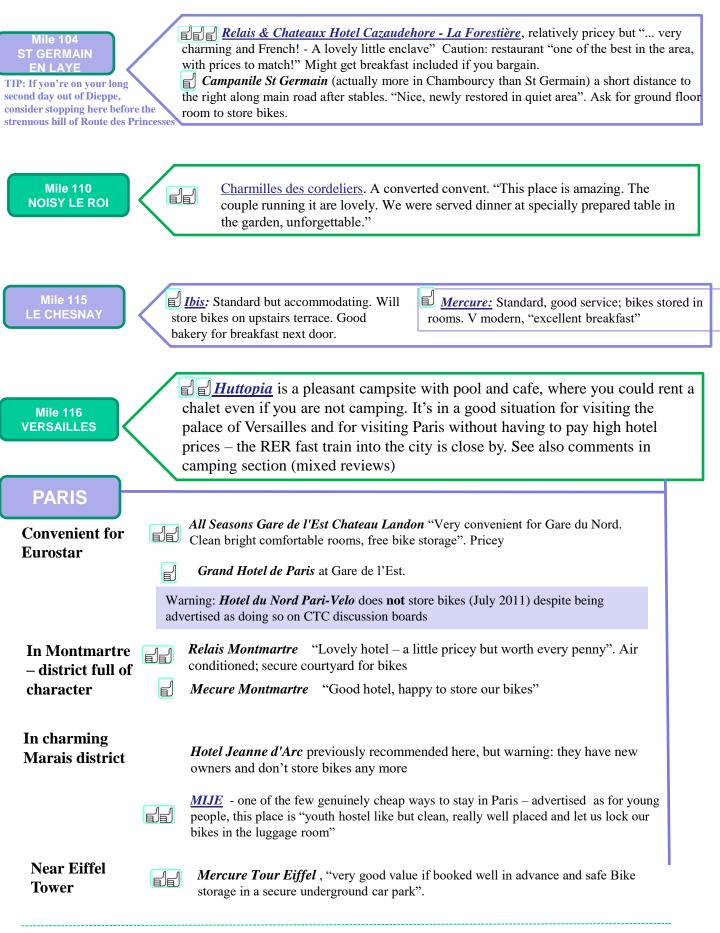


Jean's large nude paintings, which adorn this house, are highly distinctive in style. <u>Here's are</u> <u>example</u>s Mile 71 FRESNEAUX-MONTCHEVREUIL

**Domaine de Montchevreuil (2 miles off route)** – "Spectacular grounds and accommodation in ramshackle chateau: really worth staying"



**TIP:** Villennes has a commuter train into Paris, running every 30 minutes. One group wanting a day out in Paris, without the expense of staying there, spent two nights here and did a day trip in.



OR try www.airbnb.co.uk for a different way of staying cheaply and comfortably in a capital city

#### EUROSTAR AND BIKE STORAGE IN PARIS (AS OF EARLY 2024 THIS NOT VALID BECAUSE EUROSTAR STILL HASN'T RESTORED ASSEMBLED BIKE CARRIAGE AFTER PANDEMIC

All the above hotels do store bikes. But another possibility is to book your bike as baggage onto Eurostar when you arrive in Paris, then to enjoy the city without having to store your bike at hotel (but leave your paniers there). Eurostar will guarantee to get the bike to St Pancras within 24 hours and will keep it for up to about 2 days. Your bike will be waiting at St Pancras when you arrive!

#### CLICK HERE FOR EUROSTAR'S HELPFUL INFO ON BIKES

Doing things this way costs £25 per bike. Or if you want to keep your bike with you, or if you aren't staying the night in Paris, and want to ensure your bike is in London when you arrive, you could choose to pay £5 extra per bike to book it onto the same train as you travel on.

WARNING: AT GARE DU NORD, THE PLACE YOU DROP YOUR BIKES IS A LONG WAY FROM THE STATION ENTRANCE, ON LEFT OF STATION (FOLLOW SIGNS TO GEOPARTS/SERNAM ALONGSIDE PLATFORM 2) – SO LEAVE PLENTY OF TIME!

# CAMPSITES:



Camping is an under-used but very pleasant if basic way of doing the trip. It cuts the cost doubly if you cook for yourself, saving on accommodation and meals.

Thanks to Paul Tero for many of the following suggestions (in 2012). He says of the campsites listed in France:

"None of the campsites require booking if you are on bikes, even the one in Paris - they say they can always find a patch of grass for you to pitch a tent." The exception might be Huttopia in Versailles, which can get booked up.

Prices are typically only about 10 Euros for 2, or closer to 20 closer to Paris.

•On the UK side: To catch morning ferry from Newhaven, **Brighton** campsite at Sheepcote Valley very pleasant if rather pricey for a campsite; **Buckle Holiday Park** more basic but cheaper and only ten minutes from ferry, creating minimum stress in catching it

•Dieppe: Camp Vitamin "Excellent: just south of the town, 2m off route at St Aubin, to the west of start of Av Verte

• MILE 12 Camping d'Orival, 885 Rue d'Orival, Les Grandes Ventes: 5km up a big hill from the Avenue Verte along the D1B or D22 near St Vaast d'Equiqueville. Friendly, quiet and clean campsite, mostly French static caravans. Good showers and facilities and a friendly cafe/bar/restaurant in July and August. Table football and basketball.

• MILE 22 Camping Sainte-Claire, Neufchatel-en-Bray: just off the Avenue Verte before **Neufchatel** "very good with on-site restaurant"

• MILE 59 La Belle Etoile, 29 Rue Paul Dubois, Le Coudray St Germer: a few hundred metres from the route, right turn just before the shop. I've been getting really good reports about this place, which although simple and only officially rated one star, is commended for its friendly owners, peaceful pleasant camping spots, clean facilities and good hot showers. Only 7 euros per person per night for a pitch. Handy shop nearby. One energetic group left their tents here, cycled to Paris and stayed in a hotel, and returned to camp at the same place on the way back.

• MILE 72 Camping Moulin de la Noue, 320 Rue Fresne, **Senots**: about 3km off the route between Bachivillers and Fleury. Very friendly, quiet, pretty and clean. All French static caravans. "No reception building, but lots of helpful and friendly kids, who directed us to the houses on the opposite side of the road, where the friendly caretaker greeted us. Fresneaux-Montchevreuil has a friendly local cafe and tiny shop which opens at 5pm. Fresneaux and Senots and all the villages and countryside around here are stunning."

• MILE 100 The two campsites in **Triel sur Seine** are pretty basic. The second one you come to, Ile du Roi, is less scruffy, and people have found it okay, with "nice owner"; the tents are a bit further from the commuter railway line, which in the other one, Les Quatre Arpents, is very close and could keep you awake if all that cycling doesn't put you out like a light.

• MILE 118 Versailles - *Huttopia*: some have found this a great place to stay with good facilities, also with fixed tents andchalets (book ahead). However, some have found it to have very high prices for camping (vary by season), and one group was put off by large mobile homes maneouvring about like lorries. The ground isn't great for tents.

PARIS – BOIS DE BOULOGNE Campsite a few hundred meters up from the Hippodrome on the Seine (you can get there by following the riverside path from the aqueduct crossing: about 1km). "Hard ground, so bring a camping mat". "Very busy and professional campsite with several multilingual receptionists, supermarket, restaurant/bar, laundry, even a few computers with internet access. Mostly mobile homes and vans from all over Europe. Full for cars, but space for tents in a couple crowded open areas. Great facilities and atmosphere and surprisingly quiet most nights (once your brain filters out the road). Sometimes felt more like a hotel than a campsite, though with lots of nightly insects." Shuttle bus to Porte Mailot metro. Warning: if you cycle at dusk or after dark, you're likely to pass prostitutes on Allee de Longchamp