

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](#)

KEY TO RATINGS

Almost all these places are very welcoming and pleasant. The number of thumbs up is proportional to the enthusiasm of rider feedback, rather than to price or conventional hotel stars. All allow bike storage.



Exceptional place to stay: widely recommended ; a memorable experience



Special place to stay: highly recommended by multiple groups



Nice place to stay: complimentary report/s



Pleasant/acceptable accommodation: recommended, no negatives



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.

NEWHAVEN



[South Downs youth hostel](#) – simple but great value in newly refurbished former farmhouse 3 miles from ferry (but check meal serving times when booking – they finish early and you can self-cater)



[Premier Inn](#) “friendly”. Lots of good reports



[Newhaven House](#) B+B “good value, comfortable”

[Newhaven eating options](#)

DIEPPE



[Villa des capucins](#) “Lovely secluded residence very close to the dock. Quiet and comfortable with cute apartments with beds on a mezzanine. Nice breakfast and lots of advice on where to eat.”



[Le Clos Robinson](#) – right on the route, 2 miles from ferry, reasonably priced



[Egg Dieppe hotel](#) “Basic, but clean and good value”; “comfortable”

Mile 23 ST
MARTIN
L'HORTIER



[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



[Hotel Les Airelles](#) “Good value; excellent restaurant”. “Food fantastic” “Friendly proprietor”

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



[Le Cygne hotel](#) “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.



[Hotel Normandie](#) “nice friendly atmosphere; don’t recommend for breakfast”

Mile 55
ST GERMER DE
FLY



[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”



Over 90% rate
as “excellent”

Jean's large nude paintings, which adorn this house, are highly distinctive in style. [Here's are examples](#)

Not sure if still
open – info
needed

Mile 71
FRESNEAUX-
MONTCHEVREUIL



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

Near Mile 75
FLEURY



Le Clos B&B (2 miles off route in *Fay les Etangs*) – in *Sawdays Guide*, “superb meal” “Phillippe & Chantal great hosts” “Incredibly welcoming”. Many riders praise this place highly



Gite Mi Do (1 mile off route in *Tourly*) – Friendly self-catering; “fine bar/restaurant” in Fleury



Le Clos de Vignes B&B (3 miles off route: *le Grand Allere*) – “Well worth the detour. Superb luxury with pool and Jacuzzi for the same price as a Campanile! Excellent food.”

Mile 80
MARINES



Manoir Breancon (2 miles east at *Breancon*) – “ a beautiful 17th century manor house” with great reviews. Pretty spectacular place to stay, as long as you don’t mind dining in a local restaurant a couple of miles away. Very cycle friendly and takes up to 14 cyclists.

Mile 89 CERGY
PONTOISE



I’ve had very mixed reports about staying in Cergy, an unattractive suburb: don’t go there for charm! Some riders have found it awful, others a useful and acceptable stopping off point. [Here are two experiences](#) of people who found the Etap there and thought it was OK – good value. Here’s [an account](#) from someone who found a hotel in a part of Cergy that’s actually scenic!

Mile 93
BOISEMONT



La Ferme Rose Last chance before Paris for a charming B&B! Claire, the English owner of this rustic farmhouse, will welcome you and tailor your stay to your needs. You can join her for a home-cooked 4-course meal in the farm kitchen, or if you prefer, get her to buy you food in advance for you to cook yourself! Small groups/couples will enjoy its charm, but it’s also well suited for larger groups: it takes up to 15, and there are lots of spacious areas to sit around. Claire also runs ***Le Point de Jour***, at Meulan, on the same website, 4 miles off route, also takes up to 15. (If you go here, cycle via Seraincourt, not D28 which is busy, and follow Seine to rejoin route next day) *Closed August*

Mile 101
VILLENNES SUR
SEINE



Campanile “Excellent – clean, spacious, fantastic food, great value”. I’ve had mainly glowing reports about this place, though a 2020 rider found it rather characterless . Potential good location for second night in France (Be warned that the half mile from the route to the hotel involves a sharp hill. To get there go up steep alley opposite church and some way further on, to the left. Best value food in Villennes is at hotel)

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.

Mile 104
ST GERMAIN
EN LAYE

TIP: If you're on your long second day out of Dieppe, consider stopping here before the strenuous hill of Route des Princesses



Relais & Chateaux Hotel Cazaudehore - La Forestière, relatively pricey but "... very charming and French! - A lovely little enclave" Caution: restaurant "one of the best in the area, with prices to match!" Might get breakfast included if you bargain.



Campanile St Germain (actually more in Chambourcy than St Germain) a short distance to the right along main road after stables. "Nice, newly restored in quiet area". Ask for ground floor room to store bikes.

Mile 110
NOISY LE ROI



Charmilles des cordeliers. A converted convent. "This place is amazing. The couple running it are lovely. We were served dinner at specially prepared table in the garden, unforgettable."

Mile 115
LE CHESNAY



Ibis: Standard but accommodating. Will store bikes on upstairs terrace. Good bakery for breakfast next door.



Mercure: Standard, good service; bikes stored in rooms. V modern, "excellent breakfast"

Mile 116
VERSAILLES



Huttopia is a pleasant campsite with pool and cafe, where you could rent a chalet even if you are not camping. It's in a good situation for visiting the palace of Versailles and for visiting Paris without having to pay high hotel prices – the RER fast train into the city is close by. See also comments in camping section (mixed reviews)

PARIS

Convenient for
Eurostar



All Seasons Gare de l'Est Chateau Landon "Very convenient for Gare du Nord. Clean bright comfortable rooms, free bike storage". Pricey



Grand Hotel de Paris at Gare de l'Est.

Warning: **Hotel du Nord Pari-Velo** does **not** store bikes (July 2011) despite being advertised as doing so on CTC discussion boards

In Montmartre
– district full of
character



Relais Montmartre "Lovely hotel – a little pricey but worth every penny". Air conditioned; secure courtyard for bikes



Mecure Montmartre "Good hotel, happy to store our bikes"

In charming
Marais district

Hotel Jeanne d'Arc previously recommended here, but warning: they have new owners and don't store bikes any more



MIJE - one of the few genuinely cheap ways to stay in Paris – advertised as for young people, this place is "youth hostel like but clean, really well placed and let us lock our bikes in the luggage room"

Near Eiffel
Tower



Mercure Tour Eiffel, "very good value if booked well in advance and safe Bike storage in a secure underground car park".

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 and chalets (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 manoeuvring 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 Maillot metro. Warning: if you cycle at dusk or after dark, you're likely to pass prostitutes on Allee de Longchamp