



ACT LIKE A LOCAL

In the past few years, you've probably heard of Calais in a negative way because of the refugee crisis. Calais has largely been depicted as unwelcoming, and even a dangerous place. But you're reading these lines, which means that you're curious enough (or lost? Or completely crazy about weird places? Are you a weirdo yourself? What's wrong with you?) and ready to discover what Calais truly is: a town full of unexpected beauty, generosity, hopeful youth, funny people, poetry and creativity (and also seagulls, masses of seagulls!).

A TALE OF TWO CITIES
Calais, being the product of two cities reunited in 1885, is basically divided into two parts and has two different town centres, each with its own identity and atmosphere.

> **Calais-Nord:** ferry boats & vibrant social life
Calais-Nord is the maritime part of the city. After World War II it was entirely rebuilt on what remained of an old fishermen's town, with its winding narrow streets and paved squares. Since it was rebuilt in a more functional way, its charms now lie in the vibrant bars and restaurants (around n°60), which rock with the movements of the harbour nearby (n°50) on the road to the beach.

> **Calais-Saint-Pierre:** architectural diversity & industrial wastelands
The Saint-Pierre neighbourhood is the former industrial centre, once famous for its lace factories and currently struggling to reinvent itself. However, this part of town offers a few cool cultural attractions (n°5, n°22, n°35) and numerous industrial and commercial wastelands (n°11), waiting for "rebirth projects". Don't forget to look upwards and admire the astonishing (sometimes funny or weird) architectural diversity while strolling along the boulevards (around n°8, n°10, n°12).

ICE CREAM VANS: AN ETERNAL DILEMMA
On sunny days, pairs of iconic ice cream vans await you on the seafront (n°35), selling very cheap ice creams in such generous portions that it will quickly drain all your money. But you'll find yourself facing a difficult choice: from which one should I buy the ice cream that I want so badly? Diego, the yellow van? Or Siegler, the blue one? This has been a topic of conversation (that can turn nasty!) among locals for years. The battle is still going on. Take part in it.

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER
A typical day inside a Calaisian's mind:
Now: "I'm bored. I want to leave this place!"
Later: "I'm drunk. Calais, will you marry me?"

10:00: "The heavy grey sky is bringing me down"
22:00: "The dreamy Channel (n°29) is making me high"

Reality: "So many empty shops and abandoned lace factories"
Imagination: "So many places for art and creativity!"

LOCAL DICTIONARY

Three tips for your basic conversations with locals:

Don't expect to hear "ca va?", the French "how are you?". It'll sound a lot more like "co va?". Yes, in Calais, we pronounce the [a] like an [o]. That's our very own way of despising the oh so posh French language. However, as a non-local, please don't try to imitate our accent. It'll seem very snobbish. Yep.

If somebody calls you "Fiu!" (probably quite loudly), don't be offended or feel uncomfortable. Yes, he really means you - no matter your gender, age, look, social status, blood type. "Fiu" is a generic word used to call out to just about anyone, be it a friend you want to hug or an enemy you're trying to destabilize.

Whether you're amazed, frightened, disgusted or in disagreement, we have one word that you can use in any of those situations: "MIN!" (ask around to know how it's pronounced). Be sure to shout so everyone around you knows that you're expressing a strong feeling. That is 100% local.

1 **CLOCKS**
(Tuesday-Sunday 10:00-12:00 & 14:00-17:30 - Belfry admission price 5€) Step into our majestic Town Hall and it'll feel like walking along the corridors of Hogwarts, the wizard school (although the paper work is not done around Serge Gainsbourg (even though in big piles of crumpled weight). A little further on, if you climb the grand staircase, you'll find elegant, fancy ceremonial rooms. For a breathtaking 360° panoramic view of the city, enter the Belfry from the ground floor.

2 **REBELLION (LIES)**
There are twelve casts of Auguste Rodin's Six Bourgeois statue in the world. But the original has been located, since 1895, where the events took place; or a story so deeply rooted in our cultural history that no one dared questioning it (see "75 minutes of history"). What if all the faces belong to the burghers' sacrifice, only prevented by the goodwill of an empathetic Queen, was just a rumour? A rumour invented by a journalist, Jean Froissard, who had a crush on the Queen and wanted to give her an important role? What if the King just wanted the six burghers to ask for forgiveness in the name of the city without any blood being spilled? At least, that's what some scholars now seem to be suggesting... Don't listen to them!

3 **SARAH, 18, ROMANTIC ATHLETE PERFECT DAY**
"I really enjoy sitting on the benches around the fountain in the Parc Saint Pierre. It's a very peaceful place to look at the people who bring life to Calais: families, teenagers, elderly people, tourists... It's a spot where I take a break from the hassles of everyday life" (Bonus: if you're wondering why the hell there's a peacock on the cover of this map, the answer is nearby...)

4 **OUR HOUSE**
Between numbers 97 and 103 in the rue du 11 novembre, you'll see the most beautiful terraced houses in town, with their ornaments, balconies, bow-windows and bright colours. Hidden behind the trees of the park, these houses probably belonged to magnates of the lace industry during its most prosperous period. If you take a walk on the streets surrounding the park, you'll find other examples of beautiful architecture.

5 **MAX, 27, PRINCE OF BICYCLE RED VELVET SEAT**
(Every day from 14:00) "Is the weather shitty? Are you feeling depressed or weary? Head to the Alhambra cinema, where Max will happily advise you on the best way to get over it. The films are carefully - and tastefully - selected, and always screened in their original version. Tickets are cheap (compared to the franchise cinema located outside town): 7,50€. The place is cosy, you can literally sit on their very comfy seats. Since in Calais culture and solidarity go hand in hand, you can also pay for "suspended tickets", offered to people who can't afford to buy one themselves."

6 **FASHION**
(Every day except Tuesday 10:00-18:00 / 17:00 during the winter season - admission price 7€) The Cr e de la Dentelle et de la Mode, on the site of the 19th century Boulart lace factory, combines part of the restored factory with an extension building. The front of the museum is covered with holes arranged in patterns, reproducing Jacquard's punch-cards, used to manufacture lace with complex motifs (check out Jacquard's story at n°12). Step inside to discover the history of lace. In France, it all began in 1809, when the first tulle loom was smuggled from England to Calais, and consequently launched its history in fashion. Bonus feature: the wonderfully colourful patio.

7 **STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN**
Discover our very own Canal Saint-Martin, the romantic canal in north-east Paris with its iconic iron footbridge as shown in the movie Am lie. Well, you're in Paris, but you're not! It's a copy, and a rusty red footbridge. Quite a few couples from Calais told us that they have spent their most romantic moments on top of it, looking north towards the magnificent Notre-Dame church and the lighthouse.

8 **FOREVER YOUNG**
(Wednesday 14:00-17:00 / Saturday 10:00-12:00 & 14:00-18:00 / Sunday 14:00-18:00) The Meccano Lab is a secret playground hidden behind the doors of one of the most prestigious buildings in the street. It's basically a toy workshop where you can pretend to be a mechanical engineer, and it's free! Meccano is known worldwide for its system of interchangeable pieces that extend the limits of your imagination, and the main Meccano factory is located in Calais! Go there, try out new construction kits that aren't yet on the market, and become the creative genius child that you've always been (or go back to being a child - it's never too late).

9 **DOWNTOWN**
(Every day 8:00-10:00 / 2:00 in the summer) The Calice is a beautiful caf  in the purest retro French style. Perfect for cold winter days, enjoying a hot cup of cocoa curled up in one of their comfy seats, or on a sunny summer day with a refreshing beer in the pretty back garden - one of the best in Calais. The Calice is also the only place in this part of town where you can get a late night dinner till 2:00!

10 **DREAMS NEVER END**
(Monday-Friday) Behind the blue doors of the former art school (yes, it's open, just turn the handle), you'll find ANIMA, a hive buzzing with artists, socially-engaged dreamers and IT innovators. On the second floor, the right-hand door leads to "Le Lieu Commun", a coworking space by a group of friendly local activists with lots of ideas about how to make Calais an inspiring place to live in. From autumn 2018: a lively animal garden where you'll stumble upon bantam chickens and tiny donkeys!

11 **LET'S GO TO THE MALL**
(Monday-Saturday) The shopping centre Calais Coeur de Vie was built in the early 2000's to revitalise the town centre. Was it a success? Well, go and see for yourself. Recently, new projects have tried to give the place a second chance: there is a language school (want to learn Mandarin?), a gallery dedicated to exhibitions about Calais, and a pretty good local arts and crafts shop called "Comptoir de Pilot", where you'll be able to buy special souvenirs totally made in Calais.

12 **HARDER, BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER**
Forget Alan Turing, Steve Jobs and Bill Gates: you're looking at the statue of Jacquard, inventor of the first programmable machine that inspired today's computer work. Jacquard concentrated on his meticulous work, in the jumble of his shop, but he'll probably be more than happy to give you a - more or less accurate - lecture about pretty much anything you want to know. Patrice loves talking to people for hours (opening hours depend on Patrice's mood).

13 **HIT THE ROAD JACK!**
Calais is like a puzzle. This is due to its history of a 19th century guinguette (well, a nightclub) inspired by London dance halls. The street parallel is called the rue des Soupirants, which literally means Sutors' Street; let's say it's where newly-formed couples came to flirt (or more) after a crazy night of dancing and drinking. The last one is the rue du Bout des Digues (Seafront End Street) a truly poetic ode to new romantic wishes opening up on the horizon!"

14 **GHOSTBUSTERS**
You'll be impressed by the beauty of this gorgeous Italian-style theatre, but don't be fooled: a ghost haunts the Grand Th atre. Indeed, it was built on top of the former Saint-Pierre-l s-Calais cemetery, where cadu Hamelin checked out her story at n°85) was buried in 1815. It is said that she has since been haunting the building, complaining about her lost love, frightening employees and artists.

15 **CANDY SHOP**
(Monday-Saturday 10:00-20:30) Yes, there's always a good reason to go to a sex shop. But, honestly, you have ever heard of a sex shop owned by a punk who plays the guitar in a metal band with a bagpipe? You thought it was cold in Calais? Well it isn't in the Babylon - there's nothing like human warmth!

16 **BORN TO BE ALIVE**
(Monday-Saturday 9:30-12:00 & 14:15-19:00) Welcome to the kingdom of useless kitsch! Most likely the weirdest shop around. There are two separate entrances to the Id es'n's store. The first one, located on the boulevard Lafayette, will lead you to a classic world of disparate housewives and husbands looking for the perfect (and cheapest) home decoration. Pass the second entrance, on the discreet rue Charost and you'll find all you need for a crazy nonsensical party with your friends and neighbours, the most unexpected materials to celebrate life wildly for no reason. Our favourite item? An official limbo bar. Yes, it does exist.

17 **DAY'N'ITE**
Epinitu is a 24/7 shop, useful for adventurous emergencies, like an unexpected late night booze call. Curiously, it's located at the opposite end of town from the bars and pubs! Of course, for a drink at 3am can also be satisfied here. Bonus: you can ask for delivery by calling +336.15.51.30.22.

18 **BACK IN THE USSR**
Look up at the sculpted front of this impressive building, do with the promotion of decent, hard work as a path to freedom and happiness remind you of a place and time when the hammer & sickle were trendier than today? It's the Labour Hall, used for union meetings. The building also houses a covered market and a magnificent auditorium in the purest Art Deco style, access to which is, very sadly, strictly forbidden for safety reasons. What if it could become a huge concert hall? Let's keep on dreaming.

19 **DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART**
Place Cr vecoeur was the heart of the former independent town of Saint-Pierre-l s-Calais (see "Act like a local"). The big building to the left of the church used to be the town hall. Even though this square has lost its vibrancy and its central place in the city, people from Calais are still very attached to it. The market, on Thursday and Saturday mornings, is a tradition in daily urban life and an opportunity for people to get together and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the square. You'll still find a few very nice spots in the vicinity, but if you imagine for a second this Square surrounded by caf s, pubs and pavement seating areas, you'll realize its amazing potential. You might've been wondering what "place Cr vecoeur" translates into. Well here's the answer: it literally means "Heartbreak Square". Since the origin of that name is too down-to-earth, we'll let you imagine a story of your own.

20 **QUENTIN, 26, DIDGERIDOO APPRENTICE SMALL THINGS**
(Opening hours? We never know...) "Only eight seats - a few more when the sun is shining - are available in L'Alternative caf . Even though the choice of beers is also limited, the landlady is as kind as her place is small. The family portraits hanging on the wall tell stories about the city, the harbour and the market. A small street tucked away in the Minck (the fishermen's neighbourhood near n°46) was named after one of the landlady's ancestors. You'll have to ask her if you want to find out which one!"

21 **HATE STREET DIALOGUE**
The name of this tiny, attractive street (with one of the most beautifully flowered houses in town at house n°3) refers to the first man who flew across the English Channel, in a hot-air balloon. It was on 7 January 1785, and the man's name was Jean-Pierre Blanchard... or was it Blanchart? Please, street signs on the wall, on a pole and on the ground: MAKE UP YOUR MINDS!

22 **MUSCLE MUSEUM**
(Open several weekends during the year. Check at Labours house registration - address: 168 boulevard de F golle) This family is locally known as a tribe of artists and creative people. On some weekends, their house, a former laundry, turns into an ephemeral art gallery, La Blanchisserie - the perfect place to discover local artists!

23 **PAPA - AN AMOUR ROLLIN' STONE**
Patrice - the owner of La Trompe d'Europe - is the only brass and woodwind instrument repairman you'll find for miles. He's also the keeper of numerous stories, secrets and legends about Calais. You'll find him concentrating on his meticulous work, in the jumble of his shop, but he'll probably be more than happy to give you a - more or less accurate - lecture about pretty much anything you want to know. Patrice loves talking to people for hours (opening hours depend on Patrice's mood).

24 **REMI, 27, ASPHALT WANDERER PAGAN POETRY**
"I especially love these streets. Nothing much to see there, just original names you won't find in any other town. Rue du Vauhall refers to the existence of a 19th century guinguette (well, a nightclub) inspired by London dance halls. The street parallel is called the rue des Soupirants, which literally means Sutors' Street; let's say it's where newly-formed couples came to flirt (or more) after a crazy night of dancing and drinking. The last one is the rue du Bout des Digues (Seafront End Street) a truly poetic ode to new romantic wishes opening up on the horizon!"

25 **BICYCLE RACE**
(Monday-Saturday 10:00-12:00 & 15:00-18:30 - closed on Monday mornings) Suddenly need to get out of the city? Want to feel the wild wind of the coast tangle your hair while exploring the surrounding natural areas? Go to Opale V lo Services to rent a bike (6 /half day, 11 /full day). Their bikes are pretty good, maintained with love by a passionate staff. You should also know that a member of the USE-IT Calais team works here and regularly organizes thematic bicycle trips in and around the city.

26 **FLASHBACK**
(Monday-Saturday 10:00-21:00, closed on Wednesday mornings) Follow us through a weird space-time rift and into La Choupe, where geometrically designed walls bring back a dusty seventies atmosphere. Listen to old disco hits, have some fun at the pool table, the table football or the dartboard, and mingle with cheerful regulars (play card games with them). This is the perfect spot for a late afternoon or evening starter beer in the middle of your Calais explorations. A warning for tall people: watch out for the sticky fly ribbons hanging from the ceiling.

27 **L'AMAMOUR**
(Every day - 11:00-15:00 & 17:30-23:00) According to many, this is by far the best kebab house in town. Its name, Che Anamour, is a reminder of a great poetic and mysterious song by the famous French singer Serge Gainsbourg (even though it's probably just the owners' family name). Anyway, these well-named owners are very kind and you'll feel like part of the family in their small restaurant. Definitely a must-eat!

28 **MIND GAMES**
(Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-12:00 & 14:00-19:00, open till midnight on Friday nights) The name clearly announces it, La Caverne du Jeu is a civilized cave for board game geeks, manga addicts, Warhammer junkies. Whether you're stuck in this neighbourhood waiting for the rain to stop, or just need an entertaining break, grab something you'd like to try from their fun stash and take a seat. If you're truly into games, don't miss the Friday night late openings!

29 **HERE COMES THE SUN**
(Tuesday-Saturday & special openings on Sundays) What was known for a long time as the slaughterhouse is now Le Channel, a cultural centre that stages all sorts of performing arts. The shows are very often fully booked, but you still have a chance of getting tickets if you wait at the front desk just before the performance. You can also choose to wander aimlessly about in the area, or sit and enjoy the sun in a colourful sun lounger. Le Bistrot is a perfect place for a break (beers and healthy lunch made of local products). Its bohemian atmosphere will surround you with warmth, especially if you sprawl on one of the sofas around the central fireplace. Pretty busy on show nights.

30 **ARTHUR, 25, KIND OF FRIENDLY GUY LIFT ME UP**
"As if the place wasn't poetic enough, it needed a Belved re. This is nothing other than a former water tower, surrounded by a beautiful, artistic metal structure. The word "belved re" comes from the Italian "beautiful view", which is what will amaze you once you climb up there. (For safety reasons - especially because of the violent winds that often blow here - ask at the Le Channel reception desk (n°29) before going up the belved re!)"

31 **TAKE ME OUT**
(Lunchtimes Tuesday to Sunday / Evening meal Friday & Saturday) Les Grandes Tables du Channel describe their cuisine as "everyday life and unusual", which sums it up perfectly. For a relatively small sum (starting at 18 /dish or 17,50  for a menu), you can order a sophisticated meal cooked with local ingredients. You'll be able to impress your long-term lover or anonymous crush without breaking the bank.

32 **STAND ON THE WORD**
Four lodges overlook the path to the Belved re. In 2006, Calais residents were asked to think of words associated with their town, which were then printed on car number-plates. 6.500 of these astonishing and unusual words now cover the Pavillon des Lettres, a creative artistic workshop. Look up and lose yourself in the midst of all this literary architecture!

33 **THE BOOK I READ**
(Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-19:00) The Librairie du Channel is the only bookstore in Calais. Is that a good or a bad thing? Honestly, it's such a lovely place, and browsing along its narrow bookshelves is such a pleasant activity that we don't feel the need for another one. The three lovely women who run the place will be more than happy to advise you, share thoughts on their latest readings and listen to yours. Bonus: there is a - very tiny - English book section.

34 **WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS**
Citizens working together to create collaborative housing communities represent an increasing trend in the urban world. Les "maisons castors" (beaver houses), inspired by a 1920's Swedish innovation, are rooted in that idea. The history of these semi-detached houses is that of blue collar workers in the 1950s who, unable to afford a house of their own, purchased a field and beavered away to call it home.

35 **BEACH SIDE**
The beach neighbourhood is going to be completely transformed during the next few years, so be prepared to bump into excavators, cement mixer trucks and guys with shovels. Parkings and cars will make themselves more discreet, and a gigantic boardwalk will make traditional beach strolling more majestic than ever. Also, a giant sea dragon is gonna call Calais-Beach home as soon as 2019... WHAT? A GIANT SEA DRAGON? Yes. A good reason for you to come back.

36 **SKY AND SAND**
Drinking on the beach is a rite of passage. You haven't seen Calais until you've watched the sunrise on the sea after spending the night singing and dancing on the sand with a bunch of friends and a guitar... You might even get invited to a beach hut party if you're lucky. And if you're bold enough, go for a night-time dip. The saying is: it's only cold at the beginning! Stick around in the morning to watch the to-ing and fro-ing of families arriving and taking all their beach gear out of their beach huts, while you enjoy sunbathing and eating ice cream as a hangover cure.

37 **SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT**
There was a time when every teenager had to choose his side: "skater" or "k ke". What's the meaning of "k ke"? Locally, it refers to everyone who's not a skater (low-cut jeans, Vans shoes, oversized T-shirt, skateboard in one hand, beer in the other, and a bunch of groupies staring at you while you're doing stunts). Is the battle between skaters and k kes still going on in the skatepark? Go and check it out!

38 **PAULINE, 30, LOUD FORTUNE TELLER EXODUS**
"Banksy and Calais share a history. In September 2015, when Dismaland - his "anti-amusement park" in Somerset - was dismantled, Banksy sent the equipment and wood to build shelters for the 7000 refugees stranded in the so-called Calais-Jungle. One morning in December 2015, four Banksy graffiti appeared. Two of them are located near the ex-township called "The Jungle": the first one is Steve Jobs with a bundle and a Mac, reminding us that Jobs' father became a refugee in the US after fleeing Syria. The second one is a simple, cynical phrase written under a bridge "Maybe this whole situation will just sort itself out". The third graffiti, in the town centre, was my favourite (it was covered up and, in my opinion, the most powerful). Banksy's work was based on Gainsbourg's Ball of the Medusa in this version, the boat supposed to bring home is a ferry, inadvertently sailing along. The last one is still here, on the side of the lifeguards station. A child is looking towards England with a vulture sitting on his telescope."

39 **MAXIME, 28, LOCAL MINSTREL LOVE AT THE PIER**
"You'll have to stroll between fishing rods to reach the town's closest point to the English coast. On your way, you'll run into families strolling, romantic-lovers and dishevelled tourists. At the foot of the small lighthouse, with all your senses awakened by the wind and the sound of the waves crashing against the pier, you'll feel like you're on a ferry boat going back to the harbour or sailing away."

40 **FLY AWAY**
Since 1974, La Friterie des Nations has brought joy, grease and satisfaction to locals whose diet is based on fries. Watch out, we have a Hitchcock situation in our town: is it a magic ancient recipe that gives the fries the power to be harmless to humans while transforming seagulls into oversized hostile birds? And it doesn't help that no one takes any notice of the warning signs on the beach: "Please don't feed the seagulls!" Good to know: locals used to order their fries and eat them in the car, in what was a big car park facing the sea. Now the car park has gone forever, but transformation of the beach area is still going on, and in the end the friterie will be back where it was before (in a brand new setting). In the meantime, you'll find it near n°37.

41 **SUGAR BABY LOVE**
(Every day 12:00-22:00) Must do: don't miss the incredible Belnigien Tunisien (Tunisian donut), another Calais-Beach speciality. The owner is so nice that when the queue is too long, he sometimes offers tea or small oriental pastries to the restless customers. For the sake of public health, be aware that these belnigens are not recommended for diabetics. They are basically made of flour, eggs and sugar. A LOT of sugar. If it's not here, find it near n°37.

42 **WALK IN THE PARK**
A brand new park has changed the landscape of the area. It is located near Fort Risban - the oldest fortification in town, which was built by English invaders in the 14th century in order to block the provision of food supplies (so crucial) during the siege of Calais. Nowadays, you'll find a green outdoor theatre at the foot of the rampart, several panoramic viewpoints of the harbour and the city, and fake dunes in between, where you'll find some good spots to hide at sunset with your holiday crush. For whatever activity you decide on together.

43 **AWAY IN INDIA**
(Tuesday-Sunday 11:00-14:00 & 18:00-23:30) If you like exquisite Indian food and decor, you'll enjoy this restaurant. The Punjab is run by lovely hosts who will offer you tea if you're as charming with them as they are with their guests. You can also ask for take away if you ever want to bring spicy food to the nearby beach (because you're a little snobbish and French fries are too uncool for you).

44 **GREASED LIGHTNING**
Just a car park you say? Imagine you've just passed your driving test and your parents let you borrow their car. After picking up your boyfriend/girlfriend, the Parking de Bl rier is where you head for a discreet snogging session, hidden in the dark behind the steam-covered windows. We just wanted to share this spot with you because, you know, it's part of our life as teenagers in Calais.

45 **LOUP BLASTER, 36 ARTIST WITHOUT BORDERS SUN MOON STARS**
"I love to spend time there, where the dunes begin in the middle of cabins and blockhaus runs. I often do my daily run from my house to there, where I like to sing out to the wind after a stretching session. The panoramic view towards the sea and the town in the distance is so gorgeous!"

TOURIST INFO

TOURIST OFFICE  **COMING TO CALAIS AND GOING ELSEWHERE**
 May - August: Mon-Sat 10:00-18:00 / Sun: 10:00-17:00
 September - April: Mon-Sat: 10:00-18:00 / Closed on Sundays
 (more information at www.calais-cotedepoule.com)

WHERE TO SLEEP  **A**
 The cheapest and friendliest accommodation option in town is the only youth hostel (25€/night). For equipped travellers during summer, there are also two nice campsites. Otherwise, Calais has plenty of hotels - use the internet or go directly to the tourist office. And of course, there's always the free and cool option of couchsurfing!

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
BIKE - Calais is small enough to bike or walk around. We advise you to rent bikes from Opale Vélo Services (n°25), they're pretty good, and the staff are very friendly. Another option is the local urban bike service called "Vélin" (1€ a day, the first half hour of use is free - www.velin.fr). Warning: some bikes can be in bad condition, so check its state first.

BUSES
 However, if you're tired, hungover or just plain lazy, a small bus called "La Baladin" will take you around for free! (main stops near n°57, n°83, n°5 and n°11). It runs every 10 mins between 7:30 and 19:00 (except on Sundays). On a larger scale, the local bus network is also pretty good, tickets cost 120€ (info at the tourist office or at www.stoc.calais-cote-de-pas.fr).

BOAT
 "La Majest'in" cruises along the canal, serving as a tour boat as well as public transport, although it's more of the latter since there isn't a lot to see after the third stop (Lace Museum, n°6) except for polluting factories and bushy roads. Still, it can be a peaceful (we mean very peaceful, and very slow too) break from your exploring.

GOING TO ENGLAND BY TRAIN
 The Eurostar (high speed train) is direct from Calais-Frethun to London and takes 1h, but tickets are expensive. You can also take the shuttle (Eurotunnel) with a car (take the A16 motorway towards Boulogne-sur-Mer and follow "Tunnel sous la Manche").

BY FERRY
 Two companies run ferries between Calais and Dover (n°48). P&O and DFDS. Both are suitable if you have a vehicle (even a bike), but only P&O allows foot passengers. A round trip costs between 10 and 40€ (info and booking at www.pferries.com / www.dfdsaways.co.uk or directly at the boarding desk).

CHANGING CURRENCY 
 Don't forget to change your money before your trip to England. You can do so at the bureau de change near the watchtower (n°61). Mon-Fri 8:45-13:00, 13:30-18:00 / Sat 9:00-12:30, 14:00-17:00

WHERE NEXT?



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100% Homemade

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46 DIRTY OLD TOWN
 Make a detour towards the Place du Minck, the centre of the historical fishermen neighbourhood, where you'll (literally) smell the atmosphere of wild sailors and fish poachers, with its Souveurs monument (a tribute to lifeboat rescuers who died at sea), seafood restaurants, harbour cranes and warehouses. The fishermen are back! Watch them unload crates of fresh seafood straight to the fish market stalls. There's nowhere else locals would go to buy mussels.

47 LOUISE, 26. GOURMET ECOLOGIST HEART OF GOLD
 (Tuesday-Saturday 8:00-20:30 / Sunday 8:00-14:00) "Welcome to a local monument in the Café du Minck locals talk loudly and openly about anything and everything. The landlords, Lolo & Mimi, will be pleased to pour you a glass of invigorating mulled wine on a cold winter day, or one of the refreshing local beers. The decoration is overlaid with fishing artefacts, references to the history of the neighbourhood, as well as testimonies of the city history. A must-see!"

48 LONDON CALLING
 Feeling what it means to cross a border is part of the Calais experience. This is where pedestrians born in the luckiest part of the world are free to board ferries to reach the United Kingdom, and there the dreams of a better future for others get trapped in a dead end. Feel free to think about it.

49 LIFE ON MARS
 (Every day 10:00-12:00 & 14:00-17:00 / Admission price: 4,50€) The lighthouse was built on a corner of the former fortification wall, which explains the incongruity of it being in town and on a hill. It replaced the watchtower-lighthouse (n°61) in 1848 and is now open to visitors. If you're willing to climb its 27 steps, you'll be rewarded with a panoramic view of Calais from the highest point in town (58m). You might even run into a ghost - there has been talk of paranormal activity going on; footsteps when no one is supposed to be there, handprints on a damp step in the morning, the smell of a woman's perfume always in the air...

50 SITTING ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY
 Welcome to a remnant of the medieval harbour that could hold up to 100 boats. It is now used by about 20-odd amateur fishermen who set sail whenever the tide is kind enough to lift their crafts off the ground. Every 15th August a water joust is held during which locals gather to watch their Mayor fall - or perhaps not - into the water. With its poetic name, the Bassin du Paradis ("Heaven's Dock") is one of the most picturesque sites in town, a beautiful sample of the beauty of the city reborn after the bombings of World War II.

51 SAIL AWAY
 (Tuesday-Sunday 11:30-14:30 & 17:30-20:00) Lost and isolated between Calais-Nord and the beach, the Youth Club is a perfect spot to watch the sunset when it's too windy and cold outside. The bar is on the first floor, overlooking the marina. On the horizon, you can see the heights of the Cap Blanc Nez cliffs. This bar is also known for its regular concerts featuring local rock stars.

52 UNDER THE SEA
 What is this strange sculpture located at the edge of Calais-Nord, on the way towards the beach? Is it even supposed to represent something real? Well, it's a mermaid. Like the famous one in Copenhagen. But here, it's as if she was stranded there in a pretty bad state after going through a violent thunderstorm on her way across the North Sea. Now she's here, standing in the middle of the harbour of Calais, completely devastated and so topsy-turvy that passers-by can't even recognize she's a mermaid...

53 COMING OF AGE
 (Tuesday-Sunday 17:00-10:00 / 2:00 on Friday & Saturday) This pub was once known for its crazy weekend parties. Teenagers used to gather at Le Singe en hiver to drink, forget about their bad grades, and dance like hell on the pool table, hoping to bump into their secret crush. As time has passed and teenagers have - supposedly - become mature young adults, it is now a more relax-and-drink kind of bar, with comfy sofas and a large choice of beers. For a quiet drink with your mates or for mingling with the friendly regulars of this local institution.

54 THE GAMES YOU PLAY
 (Wednesday-Sunday 16:00-2:00) Drinking, playing, a street-art decorated patio (& blankets), what else do you need? Whether you're in the mood for a quiet game of Uno or want to play table football or try standing-up Jenga (a real challenge with a beer in one hand), you'll surely find what suits you at the Miami Bar. But the regulars will tell you that the one game you need to be good at is beer pong: on crowded nights you'll see up to ten tables set up! Take part in a tournament and you might go home a beer pong champion (your face will be on the bar's wall of fame and you'll have to come back to defend the title), with a board game and new friends.

55 D.A.N.C.E.
 (Opening nights from Thursday to Saturday / Admission price: 10€) The Bangok - latest arrival in Calais' nightlife - is the only club clearly dedicated to mainstream house and techno. Go there if you ever want to get disoriented with hard rockin' BPM. Tip: don't go there if you have epilepsy.

56 I BET YOU LOOK GOOD ON THE DANCEFLOOR
 (Opening nights from Friday to Saturday) It's 2am, the bars are closing, you're properly pissed and your pockets are empty, but you still have it in you to shake it on the dance floor. Don't think (or you'll change your mind), just head for La Suite, a free nightclub (just don't pee on the bouncer's car and you'll get in). Recruit every tipsy person you meet on the way and try not to sober up, or you might not enjoy the sweaty people dancing to last summer's hits, rubbing against you as you make your way along the bar to the small dance floor. The randomness of the music and population make for a perfectly unpredictable and (or beginning) to a hectic night: possibilities include hooking up with a stranger in the toilet and having a philosophical conversation on the terrace with someone wearing leopard printed clothes.

57 TASTE IT
 (Every day 12:00-22:00 / 23:00 on Saturday) For many locals, there is no doubt at all: Chez Clauda makes the best fries in town. If you dare, try a ciacielle with your fries. The local sausage legend is that no one knows what they mix inside it... if not, fries with habanilla sauce to eat on a bench in front of the fountain; Calais perfection.

58 RED RED WINE
 (Every day 10:00-00:00) Whether you just want to sit in the sun with a nice glass of vin rouge or try their delicious food while sitting in a comfy armchair, L'Ardoise is the right place for you! Make sure that you've become completely French: order some Camembert bismarck. Still have room for more? Ask for a café gourmand (coffee served with a selection of miniature desserts).

59 READY FOR THE WEEKEND
 (Every day 15:00-2:00) This friendly and lively bar has the largest choice of "drugs" beers in the entire region! Pop Rock is perfect to chill out in the afternoon on the sunny terrace with a saucisson and an Anosteké, perfect for a crazy evening - especially when there's a football game - with a bunch of friends and a Kasteel Rougel! The bar also regularly hosts cool concerts - check out at www.popsrockbar.fr. Tip: the beats start on Thursdays with their happy hour from 18:30 to 22:30.

60 MIDNIGHT CITY
 Even though the geographical centre of the city is located at City Hall (n°1), the Place d'Armes is largely considered to be the true beating heart of Calais, known and visited for its numerous bars, shops and restaurants. Despite becoming busy very early twice a week with the market (on Wednesday and Saturday mornings), the square is a spot mainly appropriated by night owls, cheerful groups of friends wandering between the bars, slomping between the kitsch coloured fountains or taking insane selfies with the statue of the cute (but weird) old giant couple named Charles & Yvonne (who are they? Answer is at n°65). With all these lights, bars and the casino nearby, it could almost feel like experiencing a - cheap - version of a local Las Vegas.

61 ALL ALONG THE WATCHTOWER
 Oldest remains of the pre-World War II historic Calais, the Tour du Guet was built in about 800 AD by Charlemagne's army to protect the city from foreign invaders. Since then it has also served as a telegraph post (it had the honour of announcing Napoleon's death in 1821) and later as a lighthouse. The Calais flag flies at the top of the Tower, do you know why? Because Calais is one of the only five towns authorized by King Louis XIV to have its own flag!

62 ONE MORE BRIDGE TO CROSS
 (Every day 11:00-15:00 / 00:00 on Saturday / Closed on Wednesday evening) Hey veggie friends! If there's a restaurant in town where you'll be sure to find meat-free happiness, it's the London Bridge. For everyone else, there's a large choice of pizzas and traditional dishes at affordable prices.

63 EVERYTHING NOW
 (Tuesday - Saturday 8:30-12:00 / 14:00-18:30) Welcome to the Quincailleerie, the Magic Michel's hardware shop. Need something urgent? Any tinned food, object or random gear? First of all, ask Magic Michel politely. Then, wait patiently while he disappears into his mysterious and legendary stockroom. Finally, welcome him back with a huge grin when he returns after several long minutes of unbearable suspense with your desired object. At Magic Michel's, every material dream becomes reality.

64 LAST OF THE ENGLISH ROSES
 This Jardin Tudor is a natural testimony of Calais's English roots. It contains 95 varieties of roses, specially created for the garden by an English nurseryman. Take a fragrant walk, surrounded by the smell of roses, through shades of blue, green and pink. Designed for a peaceful break in the middle of the day!

65 SHE'S A LADY
 Notre-Dame, a legacy of the English takeover of Calais (14th to 16th century), is the only English Tudor-style church on the European continent. Take a closer look at the walls: the unevenly coloured bricks stand as evidence of the destruction endured during World War II, and the reconstruction that followed. If you step into the church, don't miss the beautiful 17th-century-style chapel at the back, a secret hidden gem! The church is also known for the wedding of our national war hero Charles de Gaulle and Yvonne Vendroux, the daughter of a once-famous local biscuit manufacturer. Both are forever cast in bronze at Place d'Armes (n°60), you won't miss them.

66 HYPERREAL
 Calais might not be known for its art galleries, but it does have the smallest one in the world! Knock on the door, and if Agathe Verschaffel - the artist - is there she'll have a chat with you and let you take a look at her hyper-realistic paintings.

67 SOUL KITCHEN
 (Tuesday-Saturday 12:00-14:00 & 19:00-22:00 / Sunday 12:00-14:00) L'Atelier Gourmand is a spot for gastronomically creative people and Instagram foodies. Choose from the list of ingredients offered by Colette and Fred to create your own dish. You'll eat a custom-made stylish greasy meal for 10 euros. Choose carefully, the owners are not responsible for the final taste of your composition!

68 CLEMENT, 26. MESSY SUPERTRAMP UNDER THE BRIDGE
 "Looking for a place to chill out? You'll have three levels to choose from in the Jardin Vauban! To access my personal favourite, on the lower level, go towards the river and through the bushes. You'll find yourself under the bridge leading to the gravel. It's a very discreet but charming spot, with small fish and ducks in the water. Bonus: you'll be protected from the wind, which is not negligible in Calais."

69 BYE BYE MACADAM
 Wanna get high? Feel like walking in the clouds, above the stale daily city life? Enter the Citadél through the gate and climb the small abandoned stairs on your left. You'll walk along the Citadél ramparts, built in the 16th century to protect Calais from English conquerors. This promenade offers stunning views in every direction, at any time of day. Below you, you will see sports addicts training in the grounds (and perhaps teenagers discreetly making out in the stands). A complete panoramic view towards the horizon reveals the skyline of the city and surrounding landscapes in the background.

70 ENJOY THE SILENCE
 This is one of the most charming and peaceful neighbourhoods in Calais-Nord. The red-brick apartment blocks around the square are graceful. It's like a warm oasis of fancy architecture. It's also a bohemian place where you'll cross paths with teachers, intellectuals or young creatives walking their dog or jogging towards the citadél.

71 IN DA CLUB
 (Opening nights from Thursday to Sunday / Admission price: 10€) On Saturday nights, all the miniskirts and testosterone-filled skinny jeans queue here. Spend your last tender and follow them into the 555, a local institution for young people running wild. Be careful: with the combination of flashing strobes and vodka Redbull you might end up dancing in the cage...

72 GOD ONLY KNOWS
 Welcome to Escalles, a charming village. Follow the signs towards the beach to gaze at the beauty of the Cap-Blanc-Nez cliff from below: make sure you try out the theory of relativity! Finding out the fragile beauty of our smallness in this crazy world: isn't that what road trips and travels are all about?

73 FAMILY AFFAIR
 (Every day 9:00-2:00) The Family Pub is a nice pub for a friends' night out. Order a delicious burger, or just a beer - they serve the local Grizzly Beer! If you're intimate enough with your friends, or very thirsty, try the Kriek flambee (a flaming shot poured into a giant cherry-flavoured beer). More alcohol you say? The kiss cool - a mint flavoured shot - guarantees a perfect combination of fresh breath and tipsiness.

74 JULIA, 27. ALWAYS HERE AND ELSEWHERE DON'T STOP ME NOW
 (Monday - Saturday 22:00-5:00) "As a karaoke bar, the K-VO is one of the most eclectic places in town, where Queen and Britney Spears exist side-by-side with the standards of French popular music. The repertoire also includes a techno version of "California dreamin'". One night, I was struck by an elegant octogenarian's interpretation of the Jean Ferrat song "C'est beau la vie" (Life is beautiful). Tip: the place is small, don't ring the bell with a too big group of people if you want the landlady Marie-Hélène to let you in!"

75 FLAT BEAT
 (Tuesday-Saturday 14:00-10:00 / 2:00 on Friday & Saturday) Behind its art-deco front, dead fish have been transformed into noisy vinyls. What used to be a fish shop is now the Growing Bar, a place for music lovers to spend all their money. You'll find all types of music for sale, but at night the store becomes a techno-lovers hangout. You're welcome to enjoy carefully selected sets with local techno fans in an intimate environment, a good way to start or to finish your night in Calais-Nord.

76 BEAT IT
 (Monday-Saturday 18:00-22:00) It's like an everyday pop-up bar, open from late afternoon until late evening, regularly hosting concerts and exhibitions featuring local artists. The decoration is made of Jacquard cards, invented by the man standing at n°12, an original reminder of the city's lace industry heritage. There's no place like La Betterave to slide into a pleasantly artistic atmosphere at the end of the day. Great place, great people, great music, go for it (rinoceros strictly forbidden).

77 BACK IN BLACK
 (Tuesday-Saturday 18:00-10:00 / Till 2:00 on Friday & Saturday) Major metal scene in Calais, and a good beer sanctuary, packed with underground friendly misfits in a punk-gothic-hard-post-glam-rock atmosphere. La Crypte is a weekly pilgrimage for a bunch of regulars who'll be more than happy to introduce you to their pagan church. You'll also meet Sylvain, the landlady, who, as legend has it, hasn't changed his haircut in ten years.

78 L.E.S. ARTISTES
 (Tuesday-Sunday 13:00-18:00 / Admission price: 4€) In the permanent collection of the Musée des Beaux Arts de Calais, you'll find a lot of Rodin's work, including studies and variations on the Six Burghers (the famous sculpture located at n°2). A giant butcher's bone stands in the middle of them. On the first floor, you'll go through a mirror with an Alice in Wonderland-like themed contemporary art exhibition. Don't miss the magic chair floating in the air every summer, the museum puts on a temporary exhibition with an unexpected theme during which the ground floor is completely transformed (some of the past exhibitions were dedicated to kiss through Art, maritime transport or extraordinary machines). Check out the Facebook page for guided tours at nightfall, intimate concerts, and crazy performances.

79 SPICE UP YOUR LIFE
 (Monday-Saturday 12:00-14:00 / Friday 19:00-22:00) Eager for a spicy tajine? La Route des épices is the place to go! It's cheap and tasty and servings are generous. At lunchtime, you'll get two courses and a glass of beer for 12,50€. The owner will be pleased to include a very small cup of very good tea as part of the bargain. Last but not least, if you're a vegetarian, the chef will make you a meat-free course.

80 LOSE YOURSELF
 (Opened every night except on Wednesday) The Klub - another free-entrance nightclub - is located in a gloomy basement, below the Pirate bar (you can't miss the pirate in front). If you like dancing to old-fashioned 80's hits, if zouk has no secrets for you and you like illuminated dance floors, you might just have some late-night fun here!

81 BIG CHEESE
 (Every day 10:00-10:00) Imagine propellers attached to a big rubber ring, swaying a bunch of people about on their way to England. That was the Hovercraft: a very impressive kind of boat and a funny means of transport that was a must-see attraction for generations of locals. Now that the ways of crossing the sea have become more modern and the Hovercraft has gone, a reminder of those times is the name of this very popular pub where you can enjoy a drink and wash it down with beer. You have fifteen types of Welsh - a melted-cheese based dish that will fill you up for sure.

82 THE END
 On sunny days, lying down on the large lawns of Parc Richeleu is a must. The park is also known for hosting a second patriotic statue of Charles de Gaulle (the first one at n°60) mingling with Winston Churchill (even though it is known that they were not very good friends...), in front of which you'll be able to cross 3D arches that represent the reconstruction of France after the disastrous World War II. There is another - more secret - story told in this park. Somewhere lost in the middle of the bushes, you'll find a decrepit monument honouring the memory of Lady Hamilton, a famous English figure of the 18th century. Born and brought up in a poor working class family, she climbed up the social scale, using her charms, until she reached the aristocracy. Unfortunately, after having been disinherited by the lawful family of Lord Nelson, her last lover, she ended her life completely ruined, in huge debt and sordid alcoholism in Calais. The legend says her shabby drunk still haunts the theatre (n°14) which was built above the cemetery she was buried in.

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-  SEE
-  CHILL
-  EAT
-  GO OUT
-  SHOP
-  ARTS & CULTURE
-  TOURIST OFFICE
-  TRAIN STATION
-  FERRY BOARDING
-  YOUTH HOSTEL
-  SUPERMARKET
-  CHANGE
-  FRENCH FRIES
-  KISSING SPOT



5 MINUTES WALK

84 KOKOMO
 Start a peaceful walk from here to meditate about trans-Channel historical hate... Whether we like it or not, we do share a lot with our neighbours! When you're standing facing the sea, on your left is the entrance of Sangatte, and Sangatte is actually just the other end of the Channel Tunnel... We all know they copied.

85 HEROES AND VILLAINS
 Welcome to Sangatte, a village that was once famous for the harsh resistance of its citizens against the setting up of an industrial mussel farm that was threatening the natural beauty of their cherished beach. Thanks to them, the beach - wilder and much less frequented than its big sister Calais - is still there for you to enjoy.

86 SURFIN USA
 Do you like wind? Do you like surfing? Do you like windsurfing? La Descenderie is the perfect spot for it. If you're more the type to lie back and check out the brave and courageous wave fighters, you'll also feel at home there.

87 GOOD VIBRATIONS
 The Cap-Blanc-Nez is a gorgeous immaculate cliff, jutting out into the sea, marking the boundary between the North Sea and the English Channel. Pleasant footsteps will lead you up to the edge of the cliff, where viewpoints are set on top of abandoned blockhouses from World War II. Your brain will either be totally washed out from the force of the wind, or, during peaceful nights, overwhelmed by the way ferris lights shimmer among the stars.

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5 MINUTES OF HISTORY

ANCIENT TIMES: little is known about this period, except that Julius Caesar used the territory of Calais for several attempts at conquering England, in what seems to be the start of a never-ending complicated relationship between the city and its neighbour across the sea.

1346: Calais was besieged by the army of Edward III King of England. Jean de Vienne, a French knight, negotiated with the enraged King in an attempt to prevent him from slaughtering the people resisting. The King, determined to inflict a durable humiliation on the city, demanded the sacrifice of six local public figures, who would be brought to him barefoot to be hanged. These six "six Burghers" - whose lives were finally spared - are the personalities featured in Rodin's famous statue "Les Six Bourgeois" (n°2).

1558: after two centuries of English occupation, the Duc de Guise won Calais back on behalf of the French crown. This was considered to be a dramatic loss by the new English Queen Mary Tudor, who on her deathbed, as legend has it, stated "When I am dead, and my body is opened, you shall find Calais written on my heart".

1595-1598: for three short years, Calais was actually Spanish. Yes, that's the "What The F***" part of our history. The reason for this is Calais' closeness to the Netherlands, a country under Spanish rule at the time.

1885: two cities, Calais and Saint-Pierre-lès-Calais, merged to form the city of Calais as we know it today. A majestic new Town Hall (n°1) was built in "Le Sahara", the no man's land located between the two.

1945: occupied by Nazi troops since 1940, Calais was liberated by Allied Forces in February 1945. However, 75% of the city was destroyed by bombings. That put an end to historic Calais, and the city entered a new era of reconstruction in a more modern style.

1994: Calais hosted HM Queen Elizabeth II and the French President Mitterrand for the inauguration of the Channel Tunnel, referred to as "the project of the century" at the time. This event was seen as a kind of renaissance for the city, with important cultural activities organised around town and marked the very beginning of "Le Channel" (n°29), which even today maintains its status as a "cultural pioneer".

2000: on May 7th, the non-professional Calais football team (CRUFC) reached the final of the French National Cup. In the course of this historical night, the streets of Calais were invaded by crazy displays of chauvinism. Unfortunately, the local team lost against the First Division club, Nantes, but a very persistent - and local - rumour says that the referee was bribed.

2016: the "Refugee crisis" peaked when an gigantic township grew up on the outskirts of the city. Up to 10 000 courageous displaced people (from Afghanistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Iraq...) were stuck at the border in Calais, waiting for their dream of a better future in England to come true. As a tribute to their fallen hopes and a cry against the inhumanity of our times, the world famous and mysterious street artist Banksy hit the streets of Calais with four works of art. Only one of them can be seen in the town centre near the beach (n°38).

2018: the first USE-IT map of Calais is published!



5 MINUTES WALK

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