



Camping la Bien Assise,

D231, 62340 Guînes, France

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GPS co-ordinates

Latitude: 50.8661

Longitude: 1.8572



Campsite Information

Camping la Bien Assise, Guînes

Camping la Bien Assise is a friendly and peaceful site set in the beautiful rolling Picardy countryside. The site is perched on the edge of Guînes forest and is located in the gently undulating orchard of an ancient château. This is a great location to explore the treasures of Picardy, just a short drive from the channel ports.

Arriving at Camping la Bien Assise

On arrival go to the Canvas reception, your Canvas couriers will be here to meet you between 16.00 and 20.00.

Early/Late Arrivals

Please note if you arrive before 16.00, your accommodation may not be ready. If you arrive between 20.00 and 22.00, you will find directions to your courier and/or accommodation at the Canvas reception. Arrivals after 22.00 cannot be admitted onto the campsite, you have full responsibility for finding alternative off-site accommodation. A Canvas courier will be available on site from 09.00 the following day. Please telephone the campsite if you know that you are going to be late.

Reception

The campsite reception is open from 09.00 to 22.00 in high season and 09.30 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 18.30 in low season. English is spoken here. The reception has a lot of tourist information and advice on things to do in the area.

Barrier

There is no barrier on site to limit entry or exit times but it is requested that you respect other holidaymakers and keep noise levels to a minimum between 22.30 and 07.30.

Safety Deposit Box

Personal valuables can be stored in a safety deposit box at reception, for a small charge.

Currency Exchange

Currency can be exchanged in the campsite reception. A commission is payable for this service.

Telephone

There are three card operated phones on site. Phone cards are on sale at reception, the shop and the bar.

Web/Email Access

This facility is available in the campsite reception. The internet access costs €5 for half an hour or €7 for 1 hour. There is also WiFi access available in the bar for €5 per hour.



Shopping

The on-site shop is located next to the bar. It stocks a small range of essentials, fresh bread and pastries. It is open from 08.00 to 10.00 and from 17.00 to 20.00. Times may vary in low season. It is advised to order bread and pastries the day before.

Washing and Toilet Facilities

Washing machines and tumble dryers, free hot showers, wash cubicles with hot water, baby room, baby baths and standard toilets.

Post

There is no post box on site, but letters can be left at the campsite reception. There is also a franking facility at reception. This service is often unreliable therefore it is advised to use the post office in Guînes.

Eating and Drinking

Bar: The bar is located next to the pool in the converted farmstead and has a small terrace which overlooks the children's playground. The bar is open from 18.00 to 00.00 in high season. In low season it opens at 18.00 until 22.00. You can also order food here, and eat it in the bar area until 21.30.

Takeaway: The takeaway is located next to the shop. A variety of popular dishes are available such as burgers, pizza and chips. You can get takeaway foods between 18.00 to 21.30 in low season. In high season it is open 18.00 to 22.00.

Restaurant: The cosy on-site restaurant, 'La Ferme Gourmande', is located in an ivy clad converted farmstead. The menu is varied and includes local specialities, it also caters for children. The restaurant is open from 18.00 to 23.00. It is recommended that you book a table in advance as it is popular with both guests and locals. Closed Sunday and Monday in low

season. Set menus range from €19 to €50, with a special regional menu at €24.50.

Entertainment

There is no organised entertainment on site.

Recreation

Swimming: There is one covered swimming pool, a partly covered children's pool and a waterslide with a separate plunge pool. The pool terrace is excellent for soaking up the sun. The pool is open every day from 10.00 until 18.00.

Tennis: There is a tennis court on site. It costs €5 to hire the court for an hour.

Table tennis: There are free table tennis facilities on site, you can borrow bats and balls from the Canvas Games Chest.

Mini Golf: This is available on site, it costs €2 per person. Clubs are available to hire from the campsite reception.

Games Room: The games room offers various electronic games and a pool table. It is open every evening between 18.00 and 23.00.

Bike hire: You can hire bikes from the campsite reception at a cost of €7 per half day. Bikes must be booked a day in advance. They are available from 08.30 and must be returned before 19.30.

Children's Playground: There is a variety of play equipment in the playground including swings, roundabout and a climbing frame.

There is also a TV in the bar and facilities for table tennis and boules.

Canvas Active

Canvas Active is available at Camping la Bien Assise. Canvas customers have researched golf courses in the local area. For further details please see the activities booklet.

Disabled Facilities

This site meets the Canvas "Recommended for the Disabled" criteria.

Rules and Regulations

- 10km/ph speed limit on site.
- Please recycle all bottles in the bins provided.
- Noise on site should be kept to a minimum between 22.30 and 07.30.
- Swimming trunks are compulsory in the pool (no shorts).
- Children must be supervised by parents whilst in the pool area.
- No footwear is to be worn in the pool area.
- There will be no diving and no inflatables allowed in the pool.
- No suntan cream can be used while in the pool.



Local Information

Beaches

The nearest beach to site is seven miles west at Wissant. The beach is long and sandy and is sheltered between Cap Blanc Nez and Cap Gris Nez. It is great for walking or sunbathing, and is a favourite location for watersports. There are also great beaches at Sangatte and Blériot Plage where more watersports are available. Previous customers have recommended Hardelot Plage for its beautiful promenade. The Côte d'Opale offers many fine sandy beaches and large dunes. Le Touquet is an elegant Victorian seaside resort, one of the liveliest in the area, with a fine, long sandy beach and great facilities.

Shopping

Supermarkets: The nearest supermarket is Aldi in Guînes. It is open from 09.00 to 19.00 Monday to Saturday. There is a larger branch of Champion which is open 08.30 to 19.30 Monday to Thursday and Saturday, 08.30 to 20.00 on Fridays and 09.00 to 12.30 on Sundays. There is also a Lidl next door which is open from 08.30 to 19.00 Monday to Saturday. There is also a selection of large hypermarkets near Calais at Cité Europe.

Souvenirs: Calais, Boulogne and St Omer all have a good range of shops and have been recommended as good places to buy souvenirs.

Local Markets

Monday: Licques, Bethune, Outreau, Le Touquet, Audresselles and Samer.
Tuesday: Desvres, Lille, Wimereux and Etaples
Wednesday: Calais, Boulogne, Fiennes, Wissant, Anbleteuse and Audricq.
Thursday: Bethune, Le Touquet, Calais, Outreau, Marquise and Adres.
Friday: Guînes, Bethune, Etaples, Blériot Plage and Wimereux.
Saturday: Calais, Boulogne, Saint Omer, Le Touquet and Motreuil-sur-Mer.
Sunday: Lille and Hardelot.

Facilities

Petrol: There are two petrol stations in Guînes, but you will find fuel is cheaper at the Champion supermarket.

Chemist: There are three pharmacies in Guînes. The largest is on the main square and is open Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 19.00. open from 09.00 to 13.00 on Saturdays.

Bank: There are several banks located around the town square in Guînes, including a Crédit Agricole, where you will also find a cash dispenser and facilities for exchanging currency and travellers cheques.

Post Office: There is a post office at the main square in Guînes. It is open Monday to Friday from 08.30 - 12.00 and 14.00 - 17.00. It is also open on Saturdays 08.30 - 12.00.

Tourist Information: There is a tourist information office in Guînes on Rue Georges Clémenceau. There is also a very good, large tourist office in Calais, at 12 Boulevard Georges Clémenceau.

Distances

Calais ferry terminal: 24km (15 miles)
Boulogne: 30km (18 miles)
St Omer: 37km (23 miles)
Ostend: 106km (66 miles)

Local Transport

The nearest station to site is at Fréthun; there are great links from here to an array of towns and cities (including Paris). The station in Calais serves local destinations. The nearest bus station is in Guînes, where a local bus service will take you to Calais and Cité Europe.



Doctor

Dr Havet has a surgery in Guînes, on 16 Rue Joffre.
Tel: 03 21 35 20 57

Dentist

Dr Pié,
Avenue du Camp du Drap d'Or.
Guînes
Tel: 03 21 35 22 80.

Emergency Services

There is a two-digit phone number for emergency services:
Police 17
Fire 18
Ambulance 15

Eating and Drinking

You may like to try these bars and restaurants which have been recommended by Canvas customers and couriers in previous years.

Auberge des Trois Pays, Guînes. This restaurant offers traditional regional cuisine. Set menus vary from €12.50 to €30.

Les Dunes, Blériot Plage. A great location for a special meal out, serves delicious seafood dishes.

La Pleiade, Rue Jean Quéhen, Calais. This is a popular restaurant that serves local specialities, salads and grills at excellent value.

Au Vivier, Place Verdun, Wissant. This restaurant offers great views of the Channel. The speciality here is seafood dishes and generous portions are served. This is a restaurant for a special occasion and the prices reflect the great attention to detail.

La Pierre Café, Wissant. Recommended by previous customers for its simple food and child friendly service.

La Sirene, Cap Gris Nez. Serves excellent seafood and offers good views.

Activities

The forest of Guînes, next to site, is a great area to explore on bike or on foot. Lake Ardres is a beautiful, mile-long lake where you can windsurf, sail, fish, canoe or hire a pedalo.

The nearest golf club to site is the Saint Omer Golf. There is an 18-hole course (handicap certificate required); a 9-hole course and club hire are also available. Please see your Canvas activities booklet for details of more courses in the region.

Out and About

It is possible to take a guided tour around The Battlefields of Picardy where some of the fiercest battles were fought in World War I. You will be able

to see the cemeteries and memorials. In some locations the landscapes have been preserved or reconstructed.

Family Fun

Aqualud Water Park in Le Touquet is a great half-day out. Splash around and enjoy the water slides, toboggans, Jacuzzi and wave pools. If getting wet isn't on the agenda, then head for the Nausicaà sea centre in Boulogne, which aims to raise public awareness of the importance of the sea with thousands of species of sea life on display.

The whole family will enjoy a day out at the Bagatelle theme park in Berck with rides, attractions, shows and an animal park.

Nearby

St Joseph Village is located at the marshlands of Guînes and is a reconstructed traditional French village, with a working mill and traditional craftsmen. The town of Desvres is renowned throughout France for its attractive pottery; visit the factory or high street shops to buy a souvenir (located 17 miles from Guînes). Many tourists merely pass through Calais on the way elsewhere, but it does have some interesting features and is worth a look around. Most of the town was destroyed in the Second World War, however one building which did survive is the 13th century Tour du Guet, which was used as a watchtower until the 1800s. Definitely worth a visit is the 53m high lighthouse, which was built in 1848. You can climb up the 271 stairs for some amazing views of the channel and even Dover on a clear day (a small charge is payable). In front of the town hall is Rodin's famous statue, 'Les Bourgeois de Calais', created in 1895 to honour six local citizens.



Regional Information



Eating & Drinking – Regional Specialities

The region is best known for its hochepot, a thick Flemish soup. Try welsh rarebit and any of the freshly cured fish dishes, especially the herrings.

You can be sure your seafood will have been bought that day from one of the many fish markets. The local shellfish is superb. Choose from pink and grey shrimps, several varieties of crab or mussels. Make sure that you leave room to sample the mouth-watering local desserts.

Unlike anywhere else in France, this area is better known for its beer than its wine

Things to do and see

*A • an admission charge is payable for these attractions.

Family Fun

Aqualud • A water park with slides, wave pool, jacuzzi, and more. In Le Touquet. (Open daily *A)

Passion d'Aventure • This is a forest based adventure course in Guînes that has been recommended by previous customers. There are several tree top courses and the instructors speak good English. (*A)

Bagatelle Amusement Park • This is a popular, fun environment with imaginative rides set in attractive woods and hills. This "family park" has over 42 attractions, which include many "white knuckle" rides. The site includes a zoo, gentler rides for younger children and a choice of places to eat and drink. Your entry ticket gives almost unlimited access to the rides once inside the complex. Open from April to September from 10.30 to 18.30. Located at Bagatelle, Merlimont. Take Exit 25 from A16 autoroute South from Boulogne, then N940 (*A).

La Coupole Saint Omer • La Coupole is an underground city built by the German army in 1944 from which to launch its V2 rockets against London. It offers probing insights into both the history and science behind WWII. This museum is presented entirely in English and tells the story of how the longest sustained period of peace in the history of Western Europe came about. The visit is organised around two separate tours, throwing light on life under German occupation and also on the history of space technology. (*A).

Nausicaa • A large sea-life centre, displaying around 400 species of fish and interactive communication points which answer your questions about the sea. In Boulogne-sur-Mer (Open daily *A).

Parc Ornithologique du Marquenterre • Discover the wildlife as you walk through this internationally famous bird park. Allow three to four hours to do the 'green' route (the longest). Binoculars and a telescope are a must. In St-Quentin-en-Tourmont (Open daily).

Lille Zoo • This municipal zoo contains over 400 animals and over 100 different species. The zoo is open daily.

Picardy and Pas-de-Calais

This area of France is made up of three historical regions, Flanders, Artois and Picardy. This region is densely populated and highly industrialised, but also offers plenty for the family to explore, in the way of a great variety of amusement parks, wonderful beaches and interesting towns. Calais today, is relatively prosperous due mainly to its position as the main trans-channel ferry port. The spectacular Cote d'Opale stretches along the coast.

For sports enthusiasts Picardy has a myriad of choice. The coastline is ideal for water sports. There are signposted footpaths for ramblers, superb golf courses and horse-riding at many centres.



Places of Interest

Le Touquet • An elegant Victorian seaside resort with a cosmopolitan atmosphere. Known as Paris Plage, it has six miles of fine sandy beaches and a wide range of activities. Located south of Boulogne.

Hardelot • Hardelot Plage is a paradise for the sporting enthusiast and has a 10km long beach, a magnificent 18-hole golf course and a music festival during July and August.

La Baie de Somme • Surrounded by the headlands of Hourdel and St Quentin, the Baie de Somme is a unique and imposing area of 70km² interspersed with fairways and sandbanks. The Marquenterre beach to the north borders one of the most extensive sand dunes in northern Europe.

St Omer • Set on a hillside by the marshes that surround the River Aa, St Omer was founded by the Benedictine Bishop Omer in the 7th century. He brought with him two Flemish speaking monks; Bertin and Mommolin, and built the monastery which became known as St. Bertin's Abbey. Omer also built a chapel which, over time, became the beautiful cathedral. Finally becoming a part of France in 1677 the town was fortified by Louis XIV and some of these defences can still be seen. French rule also saw the construction of a fine Town Hall and the magnificent Hôtel Sandelin (now a museum).

Wissant • This up-market seaside resort is midway between Cap Blanc Nez and Cap Gris Nez on a vast fine sandy beach. It has endeavoured to preserve its typical fishing village character and local fishermen take great pride in their flotilla of Flobards (small pot bellied boats.) These boats are the object of a festival held every year in August.

Boulogne-sur-Mer • Most of the city was destroyed during the Second World War, but the upper city is surrounded by a 13th century wall. The upper town, Haute Ville, is worth a visit. It is filled with old buildings and cobbled streets which sit high above the lower town, Basse Ville. There are plenty of pleasant restaurants around the port area and good shops.

Amiens • Amiens is the capital of Picardy and is well known for its art and history. The cathedral is the most notable place to visit and is home to the

oldest wooden spire in France. The city itself is quite interesting with some excellent shopping and nice cafés and restaurants. A visit to the 'Hortillonnages', 300 hectares of gardens which are linked by 55km of canals has been highly recommended by previous customers.

Lille • Lille is France's northernmost city and the birthplace of Charles de Gaulle. It lies around 98km south east of Guînes and is easily accessible by motorway. The city boasts two fantastic art museums. The Palais des Beaux Arts on Place de la République has a stunning collection of 15th to 20th century paintings and exhibits of medieval sculpture and ceramics. The Musée d'Art Moderne du Nord is located just outside of the city and houses works from many artists including Picasso. The old town of Lille is very attractive and is filled with ornate Flemish style buildings. The city has a vibrant nightlife with many bars and restaurant to meet varying tastes and needs.

Ypres/Leper • Ypres lies in the plain of West Flanders in Belgium on the River Leper. Ypres was the principal town on the Western Front during World War I. The town was completely destroyed during the fighting and was subsequently rebuilt in its original style. Its notable structures include the magnificent Cloth Hall (originally 13th century), the Cathedral of St Martin (13th century) and the medieval ramparts. Another is the Menin Gate, a memorial to the British soldiers who died in World War I, where the ceremony of the "Last Post" is still practised every evening. There are 140 cemeteries in the area, mostly containing war graves.

Cassel • A hilltop village which lies south of Dunkerque. The village offers views over the verdant Flanders plain and was the headquarters of Maréchal Ferdinand Foch in 1914 and 1915.

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained within this guide, to the best of our knowledge, is both helpful and correct at time of going to press (March 2010). Canvas Holidays cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.