

U3A Belper GOLDEN GAPPERS Travel Group
6-Day, 5-Night Trip to the Opal Coast in Northern France
Sunday 8th August to Friday 13th August 2021

Staying at the 3* Moulin aux Draps Hotel in the village of Desvres, 1/2 hr from Boulogne
£535 p/p for twin share accommodation (£610 p/p for single occupancy of a room,
& £460 p/p for one room which sleeps 3).

This covers

Full Board

Luxury coach travel from Belper or convenient pick-up places and back,
driver and coach for the whole of the trip.

Ferry or Tunnel crossing,

Excursions including Desvres Ceramic Museum & Workshop,

Eperleques Bunker (Blockhaus Eperleques),

Natur Pom Apple Orchard guided visit,

Escape Room (surprise!),

Guided Dune Walk etc.,

Evening Entertainment,

Wine & Cheese Quiz and Tasting :

full-time animateur or animatrice (French/English speaking guide to help either improve your language skill
or interpret into English)

Not included—

Driver and Guide tips and some other entrance fees we may incur.

Drinks from the Bar—honesty box in operation—that's how friendly it is!

We shall be welcomed to a homely French Hotel in the Opal Coast Area of Northern France. A few of us stayed there last December to do a bit of pre-Christmas preparation, and loved it so much that we enquired about having a 'tailor-made' break there in the Summer. Cogo have bought this Hotel as part of their main business of organising interesting educational holidays for Colleges and Schools. But it is available for other bookings in the school holidays, hence our enquiry. As the U3A has a similar outlook on visits, they have come up with the following offer.

We shall stay at the MOULIN AUX DRAPS. The Hotel was a Linen Mill originally, and is surrounded by fields, farms and forest. It is 3*, no posh spas, but a warm welcome, great food, clean and comfortable accommodation. It is well situated for visiting many places of interest and an imaginative programme of activities—including outings, experiences, walks, and relaxation. The food was delicious and abundant. The chef used to have a restaurant and apparently looks forward to catering for adults as a change from students! We were tempted to eat too much for pleasure rather than hunger! I have already asked for the Cheese and Wine tasting to be at lunchtime instead of after dinner when we are full up! There is 1/2 carafe of wine for each of us at dinner, packed lunches on most days including our return home journey. However, on the day we visit the Pottery and Boulogne we return to the hotel for a buffet lunch. Breakfast was tasty and varied.

I wanted to put a photograph onto this flyer, but decided to give you the website address instead—www.hotel-moulinauxdraps.com—it has a lovely picture gallery of the hotel and area.

Our suggested itinerary is as follows—but this can be tweaked nearer the time to suit other ideas that we may have. Please note that this is not in full detail— I have more should you want it now, but it will be circulated in due course.

SUNDAY : Leave Belper at 8am : 2pm Crossing : Arrive Hotel 5pm

MONDAY : In the morning, visit the Desvres Pottery, lunch in Hotel, Visit Boulogne in the afternoon with animateur—French practice while taking Town Trail? Evening entertainment and Escape Room fun activity?

TUESDAY : Full day excursion to Blockhaus Eperleques—WW2 experience ; then Natur Pom, the Apple Orchard, a local rural industry ; a walk on the Dunes for spectacular views even of Dover, bird life and defensive buildings from WW2.

WEDNESDAY ; Rest Day—there is a lovely terrace at the hotel overlooking the countryside, or a walk route signposted from the Hotel entrance through the local woods and countryside. Golf and Cycling are available, too.

THURSDAY : Day out with the animateur to a Goat Cheese Farm or a Local Bakery Demonstration in French with a goody bag to take away of croissant and pain au chocolat each! Then Cheese and Wine Tasting at the Hotel with a light lunch. After lunch, we can visit the Etaples War Cemetery before going to Le Touquet for shopping and a walk along the beautiful Promenade.

FRIDAY : Check out, pick up a picnic, visit the Auchan Supermarket for your weekend shopping and arrive back in Belper at approximately 6pm

If you are interested in this trip, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can work out the room allocation, especially if you need a single one. When I get an idea of the numbers, I will get back to you and give details about payment. The deposit will be only **£50**, payable to VOYAGER SCHOOL TRAVEL, which of course is fully covered by the usual insurances which this company has in place. We are aiming for approximately 25 passengers, but we could go higher if not too many people want single occupancy rooms! My contact details are:

Maureen Sanders, email sanders.gisborne@gmail.com, or tel 01332 557669.