

# Boulogne-sur-Mer, Hauts-de-France, France

Where medieval ramparts crown France's largest fishing port — step off the ship and into cobbled streets, an extraordinary aquarium, and cliff-top views across the Channel to England.

Docked (Quai de l'Europe)

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

Euro (€)

French

## MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive: \_\_\_\_\_ All aboard: \_\_\_\_\_

Excursion: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Alongside at Quai de l'Europe; ~2 km from town center

**Best For:** History, seafood, family (Nausicaá), coastal walks

**Walk to Center:** ~25 min on foot; shuttle buses available from quay

**Don't Miss:** Nausicaá Sea Centre, Haute Ville ramparts, Basilique Notre-Dame dome

Getting around: Taxi €7–€10 · Rideshare Uber

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- Cap Blanc-Nez & Cap Gris-Nez** — Two dramatic chalk headlands on the Opal Coast with sweeping views across the English Channel — on clear days you can see the White Cliffs of Dover.
  - Nausicaá National Sea Centre** — One of Europe's largest aquariums, with immersive exhibits covering the open ocean, tropical reefs, and polar seas.
- Haute Ville Ramparts & Basilique Notre-Dame** — Walk the full circuit of 13th-century ramparts for panoramic views over the port and Channel, then step inside the Basilique with its 101-metre dome...
  - Fish Market & Seafood Lunch** — Boulogne is France's largest fishing port.
  - Château-Musée & Belfry** — The 13th-century castle houses eclectic collections from Egyptian antiquities to local fine art.

## BEST WALKS

- Waterfront to Old Town Loop** 4-5 km · 1.5-2 hrs · Moderate (uphill to Haute Ville) — Walk the quays past the fish market, ascend to the Haute Ville ramparts, circle the full 1.5-km fortification walk, detour into the Basilique Notre-Dame, then descend...
- Beach & Nausicaá Stroll** 2 km · 45 min · Easy (flat) — Head south along the promenade from the port to Boulogne's main sandy beach, passing Nausicaá on the way.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

**CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

|     | Mon | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Apr |     | 55°  | 43° | 10d  |
| Jun |     | 66°  | 55° | 10d  |
| Aug |     | 69°  | 60° | 14d  |
| Sep |     | 66°  | 56° | 11d  |
| Oct |     | 60°  | 52° | 15d  |

**DAYLIGHT & MONEY**

Apr 6:59AM–8:48PM · Jun 5:40AM–10:08PM · Aug 6:41AM–9:13PM · Sep 7:29AM–8:06PM · Oct 8:16AM–7:00PM

Euro (€)

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear comfortable shoes. The Haute Ville is uphill on cobblestones — sandals or flip-flops will make the climb miserable.
- Eat seafood. Boulogne is France's #1 fishing port — the moules-frites and fresh sole here are the real thing, not tourist-grade.
- Check the shuttle. Some ships provide a quay-to-town shuttle (paid). Otherwise it's a pleasant 25-min flat walk along the waterfront.
- Pack a layer. The Opal Coast earns its name — sea mist and wind are common even in summer. A light waterproof is worth bringing.
- Cards widely accepted in restaurants and attractions, but carry some euros for the fish market stalls and smaller cafés.
- Plan time carefully. Nausicaá alone takes 2-3 hours. Cap Blanc-Nez needs a taxi or tour. Combining both in one day is tight — pick one focus.

# Boulogne-sur-Mer, Hauts-de-France, France — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- |                                         |                                                                     |                                          |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Boulogne-sur-Mer Castle-Museum | Medieval castle housing art, history, and ethnographic collections. | <b>2</b> Éphémère Garden                 | A beautiful, temporary seasonal garden display.                   |
| <b>3</b> Crypt of Our Lady Basilica     | Europe's largest crypt, beneath Our Lady Basilica.                  | <b>4</b> École-Musée de Boulogne-sur-Mer | Recreated 1900s classroom museum, showing historical school life. |
| <b>5</b> House of Beurière              | Traditional fisherman's house showcasing local life.                | <b>6</b> Casa San Martín                 | House where Argentine General San Martín lived in exile.          |
| <b>P</b> Cruise port / terminal         |                                                                     |                                          |                                                                   |