



Boulogne-sur-Mer



Boulogne-sur-Mer, a portside City of Art and History



Thanks to its sea-facing position opposite its eternal and well-loved rival, England, Boulogne-sur-Mer soon became a favourite spot for such military strategists as Julius Caesar and Napoleon Bonaparte, who left countless traces in their wake. This large port in North-West France has since been turned into the number one fishing port in France and a leading seafood transformation centre in Europe. The life-giving sea is paid tribute all year round through all sorts of events including the Fish Festival or the arrival of majestic sailing ships into the port.

A city of art and history

The fortified Town of Boulogne is steeped in history. Surrounded by 13th century ramparts affording sweeping views of the town and port, it reveals its past through the Castle which boasts a wealth of exceptional encyclopaedic collections, Notre-Dame Cathedral and crypt, the imperial palace and court of justice and its belfry – a Unesco World Heritage. For those of you who aren't scared of heights, the view from the top is well worth the long climb! You can then enjoy well-deserved refresh-

ments in one of the many brasseries near the city hall. In this district, each stone seems to tell a story, like the one on the Annonciades Library, formerly a convent and now an ideal place to come to research and read.

A bustling town centre

As you go down the Grande Rue towards the port, a fine-looking residence might well catch your eye. Its name? La Casa San Martin. It is here that the Argentine General José de San Martin breathed his last. The house of this hero, still adulated by the Argentineans, is worth visiting. Boulogne locals tend to meet up outside the Church of Saint-Nicolas – the sailors' protector – which overlooks place Dalton, a square brimming with restaurants. The brightly coloured market in Boulogne is also held here every Wednesday and Saturday morning and, a little further on, two pedestrianised streets have been laid out for strolling and shopping.

A maritime city

Where would Boulogne-sur-Mer be without its port? Fish is given pride of place in Boulogne, both on the

stalls of fresh fish unloaded from the little boats and at Nausicaà, the National Sea Centre home to 10,000 marine creatures. Where better to discover the world's or the region's wildlife? The Maison de la Beurière, nestling a few steps away from Nausicaà, goes back over the life of fishermen in the past. Nearby, the sand yachts zoom along the sand while sailing boats, which had dropped anchor in the marina, embark on new adventures, crossing paths with the large ferries sailing through the channel.

Contact :

Tourist Office
Parvis de Nausicaà quai de la Poste
62200 Boulogne-sur-Mer
Tel.: +33 (0)3 21 10 88 10
www.tourisme-boulognesurmer.com