



FERRY FORTNIGHT MAKE SAVINGS ON BOOKINGS

During Ferry Fortnight some operators are offering incentives for bookings made between March 5 and 19, for travel to the end of 2016 unless stated otherwise. See full details on the relevant websites and discoverferries.com.

● **Brittany Ferries** Two back-seat child car passengers travel free. Get a free inside four-berth cabin on all its routes to France (not Portsmouth-Cherbourg), for sailings up to May 30 (0330 159 7000; brittanyferries.com/kidsfreeplus).

● **DFDS** Six bottles of French wine free with return bookings made from Dover to France and Newcastle to Amsterdam routes for travel on selected dates throughout 2016 (0871 521 5522; dfds.co.uk/ferryfortnight).

● **Irish Ferries** Every car driver's first passenger travels free on all Irish Ferries 2016 sailings on the Irish Sea - a return saving of £60 (08717 300 400; irishferries.com).

● **P&O Ferries** On routes to France, Holland, Belgium and Northern



Ireland there is a variety of different offers, depending on the route. These include free club lounge entry for two, £20 meal

Full steam ahead: Ferry Fortnight is a good time to book

discount voucher, free additional passenger, free pet, £30 club cabin discount and priority disembarkation (0800 130 0030; poferries.com).

● **Stena Line** Take two friends or family for free, when you book a car and driver fare with Stena Line, either to Ireland or to Holland. Valid for travel up to June 30 2016 to Ireland, or December 31 2016 to Holland (08447 707 070; stenaline.co.uk/free).

Nick Trend

14220 Barbery, Calvados (0033 2 31 78 31 48; frenchfarmhouse.fr)

Château de La Mouchère

7 This grand 18th-century château lies deep in the time-forgotten hills of Normandy's Perche region, half a mile down its own leafy private lane and six miles south east of the village of Bellême.

Run by a very charming Anglo-French couple, both retired academics and enthusiastic dog owners - pets welcome! - it's large enough to host full-sized wedding receptions. Normally, though, its five b&b rooms are peaceful havens, with beautiful wooden floors, Tiffany lamps and abundant deco trimmings - except for a set of *Widens*, almost nothing dates from after the Second World War. Stroll through the orchards and across the lawns on a summer's evening, then step inside for an aperitif and - by arrangement - home-cooked dinner.

● **Rooms €90-€140, including breakfast; dinner, including wine, €30.**
La Mouchère, 61130 Saint-Cyr-la-Rosière, Eure (0033 2 33 83 02 99; lamouchere.com)

Le Vieux Château le Renouard

8 The name says it all; this château is seriously old, dating from the ninth century. It simply oozes history; Henry I of England stayed here; two kings of Scotland were born here; and the Balliol family lived here for seven centuries. Still sporting medieval frescoes and fireplaces, it has been restored to hold four palatial b&b rooms, complete with four-poster

Graceful: Hôtel Tanquerey de la Rochaisière, below

beds. Two, up in the turret, are accessed via a spiralling ancient stone staircase.

The friendly English owner prepares breakfast (and dinner, by arrangement) using fresh dairy produce from the surrounding Pays d'Auge - the little village of Camembert itself is just five miles east.

● **Rooms €165-€185, including breakfast; closed Jan and Feb.**
61120 Le Renouard, Eure (0033 2 33 12 88 16; levieuxchateaulerenouard.com)

Hôtel Tanquerey de la Rochaisière

9 A "hotel" in the very French sense of being a graceful private residence, this exquisite town house is tucked down a peaceful side-street less than 200yd from Coutances' Gothic cathedral (celebrated by Henry Adams as being "above mercy"). While its precise age

is uncertain, it has been beautifully restored by Gilles Houssier to evoke the spirit of the 17th century, with floors of ancient tiles or polished elm, a staircase of distinctive striped local stone, and Louis XIII furnishings.

One of the two guest rooms even has its own "cabinet of curiosities", with fine-art prints and cases of butterflies, while both share a sitting room, breakfast parlour and garden courtyard.

● **Rooms €110-€125, including breakfast.**
13 rue Saint-Martin, 50200 Coutances, Manche (0033 6 50 57 22 55; bandb-hotel-coutances.fr)

La Laiterie de Tocqueville

10 Despite its urban-sounding address, and setting in a former dairy factory, this is a quiet rural b&b, 15 miles east of Cherbourg's ferry port. Until 1978, 50 people worked here; now it has been repurposed to hold light, inviting guest rooms.

While much of the original brick and stone remains intact, playful touches include turning intricate old pipes into decorative features, using cardboard furniture in what was once the box room, and installing contemporary etched-glass panels - a blend of industry and modernity epitomised by the poster for Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*.

Breakfast is served in the sunny conservatory in summer, using the Val d'Isère butter once manufactured on site, but dinner isn't offered.

● **Rooms €72-€100, including breakfast.**
15 rue de la Gare, 50330 Tocqueville, Manche (0033 2 14 14 42 21; laiterie-tocqueville.com)



350 cows and serve their own butter and free-range eggs for breakfast.

Under-10s can even ride the Shetland ponies, while there are also pigmy goats, plus an outdoor playground, trampolines and a ping-pong table.

One luxurious room holds a four-poster bed, a bathroom with claw-foot tub and walk-in shower, and a full kitchen, while the other incorporates a mezzanine lounge area; both can accommodate families of four.

With the rolling hills and valleys of the Suisse Normande nearby, it is a perfect base for a longer stay, and also incorporates a self-catering gîte, let with up to five bedrooms.

● **Rooms €100-€140, including breakfast.**

The famous Lighthouse of Fécamp, above; the enchanting port of Honfleur, below left; La Ferme des Isle, far left