



*EuroGA fly-in to Carcassonne - France 6 - 9 May 2016*



*A guide to the EuroGA 2016 spring fly-in*



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### *Introduction*

Carcassonne, France has been chosen for the spring 2016, EuroGA fly-in.

Carcassonne is a city of two cities. The medieval fortified city, taken straight out of a fairytale book, know simple as “La Cité”, and a more modern city just across the L’Aude river, known as La Ville Basse.



La Cité, sitting on a rocky hilltop and bursting with zigzag battlements, stone walls and witch’s hat turrets, from afar the fortified city of Carcassonne looks like something out of a children’s storybook. Its most people’s perfect idea of a medieval castle, and

it’s undoubtedly an impressive sight and one of the Languedoc’s biggest tourist draws.

La Cité a UNESCO world heritage site, has restaurants and shops, as well as two hotels, all in an enchanting & romantic environment. While access to La Cité and most of its grounds is free there is a small Château at the centre where you can pay to visit and climb part of the ramparts. A night time walk around the walls, when all the tourists have left, is an essential part of any visit to Carcassonne.

La Ville Basse, is a modern city, with shopping and restaurants for all tastes. There are open air markets including one on Saturdays.

There are opportunities for boat trips along the Canal du Midi, another UNESCO world heritage site, as well as plenty of opportunities for walking.

With average daily highs in May ranging from 19C to 24C, Carcassonne is expected to be a wonderful destination for this year’s spring EuroGA fly-in.



The tourist office produce a guide containing all the information needed to plan your visit. You can download it from [here](http://www.tourism-carcassonne.co.uk/files/ot-carcassonne/files/brochures/pdf/guidepratiqueang2014.pdf).

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### *La Cité*

Carcassonne's rampart-ringed fortress is one of the Languedoc's most recognisable landmarks.

Built on a steep spur of rock, it's been used as a defensive stronghold for nigh on 2000 years. The fortified town is encircled by two sets of battlements and 52 stone towers, topped by distinctive 'witch's hat' roofs (added by the architect Viollet-le-Duc during 19th-century restorations). The main gateway of Porte Narbonnaise leads into the citadel's interior, a maze of cobbled lanes and courtyards, now mostly lined by shops and restaurants.



The hill on which La Cité stands has been fortified many times across the centuries – by Gauls, Romans, Visigoths, Moors, Franks and Cathars, to name a few. Following the annexation of Roussillon in 1659, the castle's usefulness as a frontier fortress declined and it slowly crumbled into disrepair, but it was saved from destruction by Viollet-le-Duc, who left his mark on many of France's medieval landmarks, including Notre Dame in Paris and Vézelay in Burgundy.

The castle is laid out in a concentric design, with the double wall and defensive towers designed to resist attack from siege engines. A drawbridge can still be seen in the main gate of Porte Narbonnaise, which would have been raised during times of trouble. The castle's second gate, Porte Aude, was partially destroyed in 1816, and no longer has its drawbridge.



In between the walls, an interior space known as Les Lices runs for just over 1km around the castle. Though designed as a defensive space to delay would-be attackers, during the medieval era the city's poorest residents would have built a shanty-town of houses and workshops here, which were cleared out during Viollet-le-Duc's restorations. It's now the best place to escape the tourist crush and properly appreciate the castle's martial architecture.

While access to the medieval city and its streets and ground is free, to enter the Château Comtal, a keep built for the Viscounts of Carcassonne during the 12th century at the very centre of the medieval city, you have to pay a fee. Admission includes access to the keep's rooms and a section of the battlements, with fabulous views over the surrounding countryside and the distant Pyrenees. Guided tours in several languages are available in summer.



The tourist office runs regular 1¼-hour guided walking tours (adult/child €6/5) of the old city in English, French and Spanish, as well as atmospheric after-dark tours.

A tourist map of the medieval city can be downloaded from [here](http://www.tourism-carcassonne.co.uk/files/ot-carcassonne/files/brochures/pdf/plan_touristique_anglais.pdf).



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### *La Ville Basse*

La Ville Basse, is the modern city of Carcassonne packed full of restaurants, cafés and of course shops. There is a popular market for clothing on boulevard Barbès. Nearby, rue Georges Clémenceau and rue de Verdun are the major streets for shopping with a lots of retailers, bookshops with rare books, shoes of course and cosmetics and perfumes. At Place Carnot, the market has a wonderful selection of local delicacies.

There are plenty of local wines to be bought in the shops in La Ville Basse, or at the market at Place Carnot.



### *Markets*

There is a flower, fruit & vegetable market every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday at Place Carnot.

The old indoor market in the centre of Bastide Saint Louis sell local produce daily, except Sundays.

There is a clothes market every Saturday morning at Square Gambetta and Bd Jean

Jaurès, and a second hand clothes market at Bd Camille Pelletan.

There is a local producers market every Sunday morning at Place de la Barbacane.

### *Walking & Cycling*

For those wishing to engage in some walking or cycling activities, the tourist office produces a guide to walking and cycling trails, both around the two cities and in the local area.

You can download the guide from [here](#).

[http://www.tourism-carcassonne.co.uk/files/ot-carcassonne/files/brochures/pdf/version\\_gb.pdf](http://www.tourism-carcassonne.co.uk/files/ot-carcassonne/files/brochures/pdf/version_gb.pdf)



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### *Canal Du Midi*

Canal Du Midi is Carcassonne's second UNESCO world heritage site. There are lots of different cruises available on the canal, which range from an hour or two to multi day cruises. Some choices are available here

[http://www.carcassonne-navigationcroisiere.com/anglais/croisiere\\_cite.php?id\\_croisiere=1&id\\_langue=1#](http://www.carcassonne-navigationcroisiere.com/anglais/croisiere_cite.php?id_croisiere=1&id_langue=1#)

<http://www.bateau-cocagne-canal-carcassonne.fr/cite.html>



### *Wine Tasting*

There are various vineyards in the region offering wine tasting and tours. O'Veineyards is just a few km north of Carcassonne offering tours, tasting, food and accommodation.

<https://ovineyards.com/>





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### *Pilot Information*

**ICAO designator :** LFMK

**Operating, Customs & Immigration hours (UTC):** MON-FRI: 0700-1730, SAT-SUN and HOL: 0700-1700

**Fuel Available:** Avgas & JetA1

**Runway:** 2050mtr asphalt

**Link to AIP:** [http://www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/asp/redirect\\_AIPFRANCE.asp?langue=uk](http://www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/asp/redirect_AIPFRANCE.asp?langue=uk)

### *Backup plans*

For those coming from too far away, or needing guaranteed travel arrangements, RyanAir fly to Carcassonne from the following locations:

Brussels, Belgium

Dublin, Ireland

Porto, Portugal

East Midlands, UK

Glasgow, UK

London Stansted, UK

Manchester, UK

### *Taxis*

Carcassonne Taxis Tel: +33(0)4 68 71 50 50