

# Cap Gris Nez, Marquenterre & Oye Plage, France

“Autumn Migration”, Flowers & Butterflies

Sept. 14-16

**The Itinerary & Habitat?** Early morning ferry from Dover to Calais, firstly visiting the famous scenic headland of Cap Gris Nez, with bushes, fields, woods & cliff tops offering superb views across the Channel. Then driving down to the Somme Estuary for 2-night stay, visiting the famous Marquenterre reserve and hides overlooking the various lagoons, with surrounding conifer woods, heathland, sand dunes & extensive mudflats. Returning north of Calais to visit Le Platier D’Oye, an excellent reserve for shorebirds before catching early evening ferry back to Dover.

**The Birds?** Warblers, chats, flycatchers, pipits, wagtails all pass through Cap Gris Nez, whilst raptors could be moving, including Common & Honey Buzzard, Hobby & Osprey. Terns, especially Arctic as well as Common, gulls including Mediterranean & Yellow-legged, and early Skuas possibly including Long-tailed Skua. At Marquenterre, the car park areas holds Crested Tit & Short-toed Treecreeper, whilst mid September sees peak passage for waders – Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwit, Green & Wood Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Little Stint & Curlew Sandpiper. Rarities are annual, with Red-necked Phalarope, Temminct’s Stint & Broad-billed Sandpiper all observed in previous autumns. Larger waterbirds feature heavily, with White Stork, Little, Cattle & Great White Egrets, Spoonbill & Night Heron all possible. From the watch point high above the reserve, raptors may be migrating, including Hobby, Sparrowhawk, Marsh Harrier & Peregrine, along with Merlin, Honey Buzzard & Goshawk. Autumn flowers and butterflies may well also feature! At Oye Plage further searching for waders, gulls & terns inc. Black Tern, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit & Ruff. Well over 120 species can be expected over the three days.

**The Accommodation?** Based at the *Auberge da la Dune*, a delightful, small friendly hotel situated just 3 km. from the Marquenterre reserve, offering en-suite accommodation and a wide range of local produce to cater for all tastes.

**Cost:** £375

Deposit: £100

B/L due: Jul. 14

**Included in the cost:** Return ferry Dover/Calais, 2 nts. accn. & b/fast at *Auberge da la Dune*, full transportation & full guidance throughout.

**Not included in the cost:** evening dinners [approx. €24-40 per person per night depending on the menu chosen/a la carte] lunches & entrance to Marquenterre reserve [@ €9.50].

**NB:** For guests travelling from further afield who wish to “overnight” in/around Dover, I can thoroughly recommend *the Premier Travel Inn* [Marine Court, Marine Parade, Dover CT16 1LW Tel: 01304 218260/240465] situated some 500 metres from the ferry terminal.