

Northern highlights



Home to a wide variety of coastal, city and country C&I options, northern France's appeal is wide. *By Ben Lerwill*

City

Locations don't come much more plum than Strasbourg. The riverside city, which is the official seat of the European Parliament, is located on the France-Germany border at a spot close to four international airports and at the junction of two high-speed rail lines.

Unsurprisingly, there are several business-minded hotels in the city, with the 150-room Sofitel Strasbourg being one of the most notable. It has 11 meeting spaces, the largest of which accommodates up to 180 delegates, and is close to both the cathedral and the photogenic timber buildings of the Petite France neighbourhood.

For a stylish reminder of the city's 21st-century architecture, meanwhile, the sleek Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art can host up to 300 for drinks receptions. It is situated on the banks of the River Ill.



Top draws (clockwise from top) Petite France Strasbourg; Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art; Mont Saint-Michel; Hôtel les Bains de Cabourg

Coast

The Normandy coastline has a number of fairly obvious selling points, not least the fact that it's so readily accessible from the UK. It continues to offer plenty for event organisers too, with recent openings including the four-star Hôtel les Bains de Cabourg. Situated near Caen, the 165-room property was unveiled in 2013 as a thalassotherapy (seawater treatments) and spa hotel, with meeting rooms for up to 150 and reception space for as many as 350.

Further along the coast in Deauville, meanwhile, the high-end Hôtel du Golf Barrière is currently undergoing renovations with plans to reopen its doors in April. Its 178 rooms and nine meeting spaces, the largest of which can take 200, are complemented by a 27-hole golf course.

But if it's postcard memories you're after, a visit to the remarkable island commune of Mont Saint-Michel represents coastal Normandy's top visitor draw. Les Terrasses Poulard is a panoramic restaurant at the top of the mount, with capacity for up to 200 diners.

