

Notes on obtaining a Schengen entry stamp in Non Schengen Area passport when using Boulogne or Calais as Ports of Entry

Boulogne doesn't have a French Border Force Office (Police Aux Frontières or PAF) at present but Calais does at its new Car Ferry Terminal.

ARRIVING AT BOULOGNE SUR MER

Getting to Calais by train

The nearest railway station is Boulogne Tintelleries (15 to 20 min walk). Allow plenty of time to buy your ticket to Calais Ville from the rather unhelpful ticket machine and remember to stamp (composter) your ticket to validate it before boarding the train. If you forget, own up to the ticket controller as soon as you can and they may be very understanding and stamp it on board the train instead of giving you a fine. The journey takes about 40 minutes. There is another railway station in Boulogne which may offer a more convenient timetable.

Getting to Calais's new Car Ferry Terminal by bus

Find the bus stop outside the Calais Ville railway station for the free shuttle bus called "le Balladin". This runs every 22 minutes in the morning and every 11 minutes in the afternoon on a route between the town and the new Calais ferry terminal. The journey takes less than 20 minutes. The bus will stop just outside the ticket office (Billetterie), a large square golden building (toilets are available there if needed). We have found the bus drivers very helpful.

Finding the PAF office building

Leaving the golden building on your left, walk on across the roundabout and follow the road for about 300 metres leaving the UK Border control Building also on your left. You will arrive at a grey building on the right. Halfway along this building on the roadside is a door with a button to summon assistance. A PAF officer will come to the door and arrange for your passport to be stamped for entry into the Schengen area. It is also a good idea to show him the form you have completed for the Boulogne marina. We were not asked for our ship's papers but it may be worth taking them along.

NB: The Calais PAF will sometimes agree to come to the Calais marina if there are enough non-Schengen boats arriving there, so it is worth phoning Calais marina (+33 321 34 55 23) to check whether this is the case as it would shorten

your journey. Instead of going all the way to the Ferry Terminal on the free bus, get off at Place Léon Vincent and walk to Calais marina arriving at a pre-arranged time to meet the PAF.

ARRIVING AT CALAIS MARINA by yacht (or other means from Boulogne)

The PAF may come to Calais marina to stamp your passport. If not, walk from the Calais marina to take the free bus named “Le Balladin”. The bus stop you need is on Place Léon Vincent against the large Dutch looking house. Get off the bus at the end of the line, outside a large square golden building within the Car Ferry Terminal area. Then follow step 4 above.