



**9** Maison d'hotes Hotel Verhaegen, Ghent



**3** Hotel du Mail, Angers

## France

### 3 Angers

5h 5m, £89 return

Angers is full of surprises. It is home to Carré Cointreau (the Cointreau museum; visits by appointment only), the stunning 14th-century *Apocalypse* tapestry (housed at Château d'Angers), and the *Chant du Monde* (a vivid tapestry capturing scenes from modern life at the Musée Jean Lurçat et de la Tapisserie Contemporaine). It's a charming town with plenty to fill a weekend break. There's also the Musée des Beaux-Arts with works by Monet and de Lassus ([musees.angers.fr](http://musees.angers.fr)).

**Where to stay** Hotel du Mail ([en.hoteldumail.fr](http://en.hoteldumail.fr)) is a boutique hotel with double rooms from €71. Mercure Angers ([booking.com](http://booking.com)) is central and modern, next to the botanical garden, with doubles from £62.

### 6 Bordeaux

6h 30m, £109

Wine tastings are organised by the tourist board on guided walking tours of Bordeaux, and those who are more serious can sign up for wine courses at the École du Vin ([bordeaux.com/ecole-du-vin](http://bordeaux.com/ecole-du-vin)). The city has had a recent facelift, with much of the centre pedestrianised, and is easy to get around by tram. It has a cathedral dating from 1096. There's also the Musée des Beaux-Arts ([musba-bordeaux.fr/en](http://musba-bordeaux.fr/en)), plus the cutting edge CAPC Musée d'art Contemporain ([cape-bordeaux.fr](http://cape-bordeaux.fr)).

**Where to stay** Le Boutique Hôtel ([hotelbordeauxcentre.com](http://hotelbordeauxcentre.com), [i-escape.com](http://i-escape.com)) has Philippe Starck furniture and cosy rooms from €186;

cool new hotel with reasonable rates and a minimalist yet arty style; doubles from £69

Matelote ([hotel-matelote.be](http://hotel-matelote.be)) is central with doubles from about €120.

### 9 Ghent

3h 4m, £69

Most people head to Bruges for its quaint canals and ancient stone buildings, but quirky Ghent has its fair share and benefits from having far fewer tourists. Its most famous attraction can be found in a side-chapel of St Baafskathedraal: *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, a 15th-century, multi-panelled painting by Jan van Eyck and his brother Hubrecht depicting the sacrifice of Christ. There are also design museums, art galleries, beer halls and café-lined squares.

**Where to stay** Maison d'hotes Hotel Verhaegen ([i-escape.com](http://i-escape.com)) is an 18th-century mansion that's been converted into a cool five-room mini-hotel with antiques and modern art; doubles are from €195. Hotel Harmony (