

Where is Taizé?

The village of Taizé is in Burgundy, France. You won't find it on most maps - it's too small. If you want to *Google Earth* it, the grid reference is N46.51355 E4.67708. The nearest town is Cluny, while the nearest large town is Macon.

How are we getting there?

Nuneaton Coaches run a regular shuttle service to Taizé from Birmingham and London. For a small fee, they also do local pickups. We will probably ask them to pick us up from Great Bowden Primary School, Gunnsbrook Close, Great Bowden, Market Harborough after lunch time on Saturday 15th July. We shall confirm details of the pickup time and location closer to the day. Please make use of the box below to make a note of the details when they are confirmed.

Pick up date	Saturday 16 th July
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Pick up time	Around 12 noon
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Pick up point	tbc
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The Journey to Taizé

The journey is quite a long one; taking around 18 hrs, so please do be prepared! You will need some food, or money for food. You will also need some warm waterproof clothing if you plan on going out on the deck of the ferry. Some people bring games to play on the coach, music players, and those annoying blow up neck supports.

Night time on the coach

As people are often quite excited about the trip it is not uncommon for there to be quite a lot of noise on the coach throughout the overnight trip. We would of course encourage everyone from our group to respect other people's need for sleep, though as not everyone on the coach will be with our party we do suggest earplugs!

Arriving in Taizé

The coach should arrive in Taizé around 9am on Sunday 17th July. Brother Paolo will probably meet us soon after that and direct us to our tent site. We can then pitch our tents while it's still cool before having lunch together. This is only an option for those who have brought a tent or are sharing with someone who has.

It is therefore vital that all under 18s bring or share a tent in order to ensure that they camp with the rest of the group.

Any over 18s who choose not to bring or share a tent will need to wait for the 3pm welcome before they are given accommodation.

The Welcome

The welcoming of new arrivals is done by young people who are staying in Taizé for longer than a week. They will tell us about the community and ask us which groups we want to join in. If we don't yet have one, we will also be given a plot number for our tents, and those not staying in tents will be given their accommodation.

Accommodation

Living conditions are simple. Under 18s must bring a tent or share with someone who has. Over 18s can stay in dormitories with bunk beds and dormitory tents if they wish, or bring a tent (see above). You must bring a sleeping bag and airbed. There are wash blocks with warm(ish) showers.

Food

The food is also simple, but wholesome. There is a vegetarian option at all meals. If you need a special medical diet, please indicate this on the booking form. You will also need to contact the infirmary at El Abiodh on arrival to make arrangements (if it is your first time we can help you find it!)

The church and prayer together

The worship in Taizé is special and memorable. It has a quiet, gentle feel and is very simple, involving singing songs based on one or two lines of scripture. These songs are repeated several times, and sung quite meditatively. They are sung in most European languages, including Latin, Spanish, French, English and Russian, as well as some Far Eastern languages.

There are also one or two readings, and a period of silence. The silence is at the heart of the common prayer and is one of the things people most value in the context of their hectic and noisy lives.

If you wish to receive daily communion you can do so at the end of Morning Prayer. It is also possible to receive blessed bread. There is very often an Anglican Eucharist in the crypt or village church on Saturday evenings.

Every day, the evening prayer continues into a vigil for those who wish to remain quietly to sing and pray. At this time, the brothers of the community stand around the sides of the church to listen to people who want to share a question, a difficulty or something preoccupying them.

The church is also open outside of normal service times, day and night, for personal prayer and is much used.

Because of our different origins and backgrounds, national or otherwise, we can be offended by different things. For some people it can be disconcerting to see bare shoulders or legs in a place of prayer. So please pack clothes for church which cover your shoulders and at least part of your legs!

Meetings

Each week there is a programme of meetings with young people from all over the world. Please participate in those meetings. For the meetings to run smoothly each group that comes is asked to produce some people who are willing to act as a contact person for their discussion group. Please consider this. We also always need some of our group to volunteer to do work as their main option. If you want advice in choosing which group to go into, ask one of the leaders.

Informal meeting times and night

As well as the scheduled meeting times, there are lots of opportunities to get together. 'Oyak', a non-profit store and cafe, sells snacks, drinks and everyday necessities. You can buy a limited amount of alcohol there, (one glass of wine or beer per person per opening). Alcohol is not allowed anywhere else in Taizé.

Quiet is essential at night round the tents and dormitories, so those who wish to sleep can do so. If you are in partying mood you can use Oyak until 11.30 pm each night. There is normally something going on there – singing, dancing, and dodgy renditions of 'Stairway to Heaven' on battered guitars. Please do not make noise in other areas at night. This makes it possible for everyone to get the amount of rest they need.

Clothes

Bring something for all weathers! At night it is very cold, so bring some warm clothes and a good waterproof for wet days (when it rains in Taizé, it rains). It can get very hot in the summer (but not always) so bring T-shirts, shorts, etc. but not beach wear. Remember, you will need something to cover your shoulders and legs for church.

Other facilities

There are plenty of cardphones, and phone cards are available both at Oyak and the community's shop. The shop sells postcards, books, music, pottery etc. made at Taizé.

Returning

We shall arrive back on Monday 25th July . **It could be as early as 5.30 am.** Please arrange transport home from the drop-off point.

Things to pack

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare tent pegs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mallet | <input type="checkbox"/> Torch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airbed | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cold weather clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm weather clothes – not 'beach' style |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun cream |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wash kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Flip flops for shower* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towel | <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable footwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport | <input type="checkbox"/> EU Health card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pen | <input type="checkbox"/> Notepad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera* | <input type="checkbox"/> Light for tent* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small bag to carry bits around in* | |

Items marked *are useful, the rest are essential

We strongly advise you not to bring your mobile phones. Phone cards can be bought in Taizé.
Any valuable items (e.g. MP3 players etc) that you may wish to bring for the journey should be locked away in La Morada for the week, things have been stolen from people's tents.

unofficial The ^ Pilgrim's Guide to Taizé

