

*Dear Citroen EuroPass*

*Believe it or not, although I took 5500 photos, none were of my Citroen C3. I still hope you enjoy the below photos of Aveyron (left) and Honfleur (right).*

*Next time I'll make sure I get some photos of the Citroen!*

*I have a few suggestions and comments:*

- 1. Practice right-hand driving somewhere quiet before heading into a city. I've owned European cars and driven on the right in New Caledonia for ten days and cycled extensively in Europe, but still found it useful to drive around the pick-up location a few times, then the quiet streets nearby, before heading into Toulouse. Just a quarter of an hour or so of driving on the right around some empty blocks gets you relaxed and comfortable.*
- 2. Every time I got into the car, I said aloud to myself "I'm driving on the right, and I'm veering right each time I head into a roundabout, and I'll go anti-clockwise around it." Although I didn't make any mistakes on this trip, I do remember that once, cycling in France 30 years ago, I started off for a few seconds one misty morning on the wrong side of the road. Fortunately I was out in the countryside on deserted roads and quickly came to my senses. But I do still remember that "Oh sh\*\*" moment of realisation – it's an easy mistake and one you don't ever want to make.*
- 3. In the village where we were based, in Tarn et Garonne, most country roads were little more than narrow tar-sealed "driveways", as I already knew from cycling. Our narrow little Citroen C3 was great for that and we certainly wouldn't have wanted a bigger car. At harvest time the French farmers in their combine harvesters expect everybody to scatter before them, and there were two occasions when we would have had to back up for miles in a larger vehicle. So smallest is best!*
- 4. The region where we were was hilly, like Dunedin, and manual gears were great for engine braking. For people who are strongly right-handed like me, changing gear with the right hand is actually more natural than with the left, it's not even a consideration.*
- 5. Finally, the radio in the Citroen was absolutely superb, at least for my favourite station, France Musique (<https://www.francemusique.fr/>).*

*Paul – Citroen C3, August-September 2016*

