Choosing an EV charging stop after crossing the Channel

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Cars waiting at Dover ferry terminal, 29 July 2023. Photo: habiloid, “Ferry Terminal, Port of Dover”, Geograph / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0.
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By Daniel Eschenlohr, Transparent Laden / Anesda Nord (Prepared for Wheels Alive on 17 November 2026)

After arriving in France by ferry or through the Channel Tunnel, the next charging stop can be one of several nearby options. Drivers need to check whether a compatible connector is reported free, how to reach it and what a session will cost. Transparent Laden uses colour-coded price outlines to make the first comparison easier.

The app separates price from availability. A marker's fill shows the status reported by the charging operator. Its outline compares the displayed price per kWh among available chargers in the visible area that can be started through the app and have a comparable price. Dark green marks the lowest of those prices, with yellow and red showing higher prices. A grey outline means a price comparison is unavailable.

Calais offers a practical example. At 16:39 CET on 17 November, our production data showed available CCS connectors at IONITY Coquelles, Avenue Charles de Gaulle 2099, and at the ibis site, 40 Rue Greuze in Calais. The displayed app prices for the compared connector profiles were €0.61/kWh for 350 kW CCS at Coquelles and €0.70/kWh for CCS at ibis Calais. Other connector profiles at the same location may have a different tariff. The latest operator status messages for the free connectors were timestamped 14:23 and 14:25 UTC that day. These readings illustrate a comparison at one point in time. Drivers should check the current status and prices before setting off.

The accompanying Calais map is a dated editorial illustration. The circles show the app's displayed kWh prices for those two locations. The original Android image supplied separately uses an example near Uber Platz in Berlin, captured on 15 November. It shows how the fill, price outline and numbers appear together in the app.

The total session estimate matters too. Before starting a charge, drivers can check the tariff breakdown, including any applicable start, time or idle charges. Parking and access conditions also need checking. A lower kWh rate can come with other charges or a detour that changes which stop suits a particular journey.

UK drivers already have several ways to charge in France. Octopus Electroverse, for example, provides European charging access, price information and operator-reported availability. Its published map guide describes pin colours by charging speed, with the price in the location details. Transparent Laden puts the relative kWh-price comparison into the outlines of available charging markers in the current map view.

The comparison uses Transparent Laden's own app tariffs. A driver's existing charging card, subscription or the operator's direct payment option may quote a different price at the same charger. Those prices are worth checking before choosing how to pay.

We drive electric ourselves and developed Transparent Laden for Android and iPhone to make charging costs easier to understand. The Android map can be browsed as a guest. Starting a charge through the app requires an account, an active subscription and a payment method. The regular subscription is €2.99 per month, cancellable monthly, and charging is billed separately. Current introductory terms and the price breakdown are on the pricing page.

For a first trip across the Channel, keeping a suitable backup stop in mind can make the journey easier. Compare the connector, reported status, session estimate and access before leaving for the charger, then check the actual station and connector again on arrival.

Sources

Transparent Laden map guide
https://transparent-laden.de/?lang=en#preisvergleich

IONITY Coquelles
https://transparent-laden.de/charge-point/37640?lang=en

ibis Calais
https://transparent-laden.de/charge-point/36199?lang=en

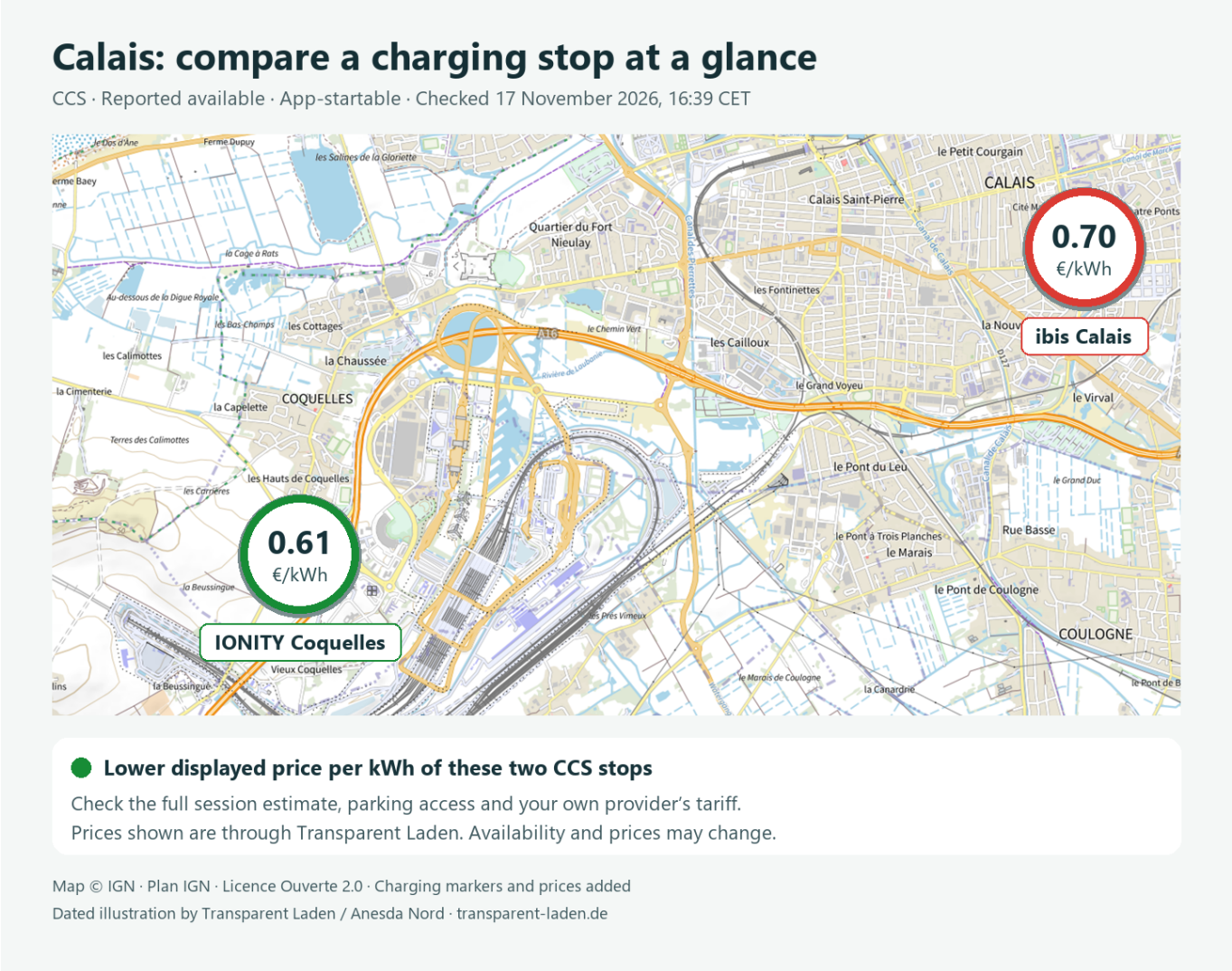
Pricing and current subscription terms
https://transparent-laden.de/preise?lang=en

Octopus Electroverse map guide
https://electroverse.com/community/electroverse-features/charging-location-pins-on-octopus-electroverse-map

Octopus Electroverse European charging FAQ
https://electroverse.com/faqs

Image captions and credits

Calais illustration



Two CCS sites reported available at the 17 November 2026, 16:39 CET check, with different displayed Transparent Laden kWh prices. Map © IGN, Plan IGN, Licence Ouverte 2.0. Charging markers and prices added by Transparent Laden / Anesda Nord. Prices and availability may change.
Coquelles price shown for the 350 kW CCS profile.

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Original Android app image


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Berghain | Panorama
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Search stations (name, city, ope…
7 visible
METRO
Berlin-Friedrichshain
~31.36 €
AC · 22 kW
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2/2 availa
~27.93 €
AC · 11 kW
57 ct/kWh
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Uber Platz
Uber Eats Music Hall
Berliner Mauer
Available & startable
Occupied / faulted
External / not startable
Price outline: cheap → expensive
In map view · grey: no comparison
Group outline: expensive left · cheap right
Mühlenstraße
Compare prices without an account
Subscriptions
Map
Scan
Charge
Sign in

Transparent Laden guest map near Uber Platz, Berlin, captured on 15 November 2026. The fill shows charging status and the outlines compare displayed kWh prices. Original app screenshot supplied by Daniel Eschenlohr / Transparent Laden / Anesda Nord.
Map data: Google. Transparent Laden Android guest map near Uber Platz, Berlin, captured on 15 November 2026. App screenshot: Daniel Eschenlohr / Transparent Laden / Anesda Nord.

Kim adds:

I asked Daniel, author of the feature, about the difference between Transparent Laden's system and that provided by some UK power suppliers, in terms of helping UK drivers arriving on the continent.
He has replied:
You're right that UK drivers can already use services such as Octopus Electroverse in France. It shows prices and live availability where the operator provides them. Its published map guide uses pin colours to distinguish charging speeds, with the price in the location details.

The difference in Transparent Laden is what you can compare at a glance. The fill of a marker shows whether a charger is reported free. Its outline compares the displayed price per kWh among free chargers in the area on screen that can be started through our app and have a comparable price. Dark green marks the lowest of those prices. Drivers can then open a station to check the full session estimate, including any applicable start, time or idle charges. This compares our app tariffs at different chargers. A driver's existing charging pass or the operator's direct tariff may give a different price at the same charger.

I checked the two Calais-area examples again today. IONITY Coquelles and the ibis site on Rue Greuze both reported available CCS connectors, and Coquelles showed the lower price per kWh in our app at that check. That makes a practical example of choosing a backup after crossing the Channel. The status and prices can change, so it's worth checking again before setting off. On Android the map is available as a guest. Starting a charge through our app requires a subscription, and charging is billed separately.

Our map guide: https://transparent-laden.de/?lang=en#preisvergleich
Electroverse's map guide: https://electroverse.com/community/electroverse-features/-charging-location-pins-on-octopus-electroverse-map