

Dhamma Mahi
France Vipassana Centre
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Dhamma Mahi, meaning ‘Ground of Dhamma’, is 165 km south of Paris in beautiful rolling countryside consisting of mixed woods and meadows. It is two hours from the airports in Paris by car, and can also be reached by bus or rail from Paris in three hours. The site which was purchased in 1988 was previously a holiday camp for children.

The climate is moderate. The gleaming white, solid brick buildings and the spacious walking areas are well protected on two sides by woods, and an orchard of fruit trees has been planted to partly screen the front of the site. The total land is 60 acres including the approaching road frontage.

The main building covers 1,150 sq m and is in the shape of a ‘H’ with two symmetrical wings allowing good segregation of men and women. Each wing has several twin bedrooms and a partitioned dormitory. The central part of the building has four dining rooms, a large kitchen and two meditation halls, the main of which can hold 85 meditators. In addition 30 meditation cells have been built on the site.

Current accommodation allows for up to 100 meditators. Development is in progress to increase capacity to 120 students and 30 servers. The next project is to build a new Dhamma Hall freeing up the two current halls as Dining Rooms. This is planned to be completed by Summer 2006.

Following the purchase of a neighbouring farm in 1993, the total land area increased to about 40 hectares. The farm buildings serve as Main Office and servers accommodation. Currently this area is under development to enhance the facilities and provide better accommodation. Two courses are held each month mainly in English and French with some held in English and Khmer for the Cambodian community. Long courses are also held, with the first 30-day course having taken place in 2004.