



D-DAY
NORMANDY
LAND OF LIBERTY



VISITORS' GUIDE OF THE D-DAY LANDING BEACHES AND THE BATTLE NORMANDY



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DESTINATION D-DAY

On June 6th 1944, and during the long summer which followed, men from the world over came to fight in Normandy to defeat Nazism and to re-establish Freedom.

Normandy will bear the scars of this moment in history for ever, and every year we remember and pay tribute to the veterans from America, Britain, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Norway, Poland, Australia, France and to their brothers in arms, to those many heroes who lost their lives here during that summer of 1944, and are at rest in the cemeteries to be found throughout the area. It is often forgotten that the people of Normandy also paid a heavy price in those terrible battles.

This edition is designed as a practical guide to help you plan your visit. It encourages you to discover, or rediscover the main memorial sites, the cemeteries, the key places and the museums of Destination D-Day 1944 Land of Liberty. These important places are today imbued with fundamental and universal values such as Reconciliation, Peace and Freedom. Each anniversary year is the occasion to pay tribute to the veterans who, once more, will come to attend the commemorative events and celebrations organised in Normandy.

Our hope is that your visit will present a special moment for you to share as a family with your children and your grandchildren.

Welcome to Normandy!

With the support of



Contents

Guide pages

4

THE ALLIES PREPARE FOR D-DAY after the disaster at Dieppe	4
UTAH BEACH Sainte-Mère-Église, Carentan-les-Marais	10
OMAHA BEACH Pointe du Hoc	20
GOLD BEACH Arromanches-les-Bains	28
JUNO BEACH Courseulles-sur-Mer	34
SWORD BEACH Pegasus Bridge	36
BAYEUX The first town to be liberated in mainland France	42
CHERBOURG-EN-COTENTIN The port of Cherbourg, a strategic objective	44
FROM SAINT-LÔ Capital of ruins to Avranches	46
CAEN Six weeks of fighting	50
FALAISE POCKET Chambois	56
NORMANDY WILL BEAR THE SCARS OF WAR for a long time	60

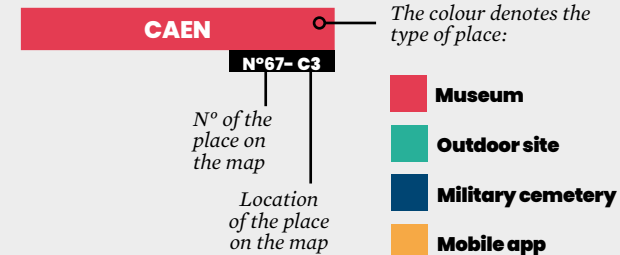
Practical pages

64

NORMANDY EXPERIENCES	64
EXCURSIONS Guided tours	66
INDEX Communes and military cemeteries	68
LIST OF MUSEUMS	69
MAP Museums, natural attractions and military cemeteries	70
LIBERATION ROUTE EUROPE	73

How to use this guide

To find places



To consult all the most recent information on the sites and museums covered by this edition, head to

www.normandy-dday.com



After the disaster at Dieppe, the Allies prepare for D-Day

The Dieppe Raid, on August 19th 1942, brought heavy losses for the troops involved, but at the same time yielded a large amount of information for the Allies' intelligence services. Jubilee – the codename given to the Dieppe Raid – was the first major reconnaissance expedition carried out by Allied troops, particularly Canadian, and was destined to test the German defences along the French coast. In human terms, it was a calamity. Furthermore, the failure of the operation was exploited by the Nazi propaganda machine to demonstrate the invincibility of the Atlantic Wall.

The idea of a landing on the French coast was an old one. "We will return" were the words of Winston Churchill in June 1940, when his troops escaped from Dunkirk and returned to English soil. Germany being the enemy to defeat as a priority, industrial production was diverted towards the war effort: barges, artillery, planes and so on.

These were manufactured on the other side of the Atlantic, and then stocked in different camps across southern England. Photographs of the Normandy coast were taken almost daily by planes and submarines. Much vital information (about German defences and/or the movement of troops) was also transmitted by resistance fighters risking their lives.

While the American and British were relentlessly manufacturing assault craft and Mulberry Harbour parts, from the spring of 1944, Allied planes started a systematic bombardment of road and rail infrastructure in northwest France.

The fateful day was fixed for the beginning of June – the 5th, or failing that the 6th or 7th – these days being ones that met crucial conditions, consisting of a dawn assault in the middle of a rising tide, following a night with a full moon for parachutists. The codename for this great landing operation was also chosen: Operation Overlord.

Dieppe

The Dieppe Raid,
19th August 1942



AUMALE-BLANGY/BRESLE

> V1 Rocket Launch Bases

The hiking trail, Offensive V1, leads walkers to the remnants of the 19 V1 rocket-launching bases built in the midst of the Bresle and Yères Valleys.

Descriptive signs present visitors with helpful explanations on each of the sites. Those at Guerville (Poteau de Montauban) and Campneuseville (hamlet of Beaulieu) still retain their launch catapults and a V1 flying bomb. To add depth to your visit, download the mobile app (featuring photos, videos, first-hand accounts, etc.) for free (via [LENGENDR](#) on the App Store or Google Play). Guided tours are also available on request.

Free

CONTACTS

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20 Rue de Barbentane
76340 BLANGY-SUR-BRESLE
+33(0)2 35 17 61 09
tourisme@ccabb.fr
www.vlhistoireetpatrimoine.fr
 OTAumaleBlangy

www.tourisme-aumale-blangy.fr



BÉNERVILLE-SUR-MER

N°03 – C3

> Mont Canisy gun batteries

At an altitude of 110 m, Mont Canisy dominates the Bay of the Seine and the port of Le Havre. This strategic position caused it to be used first as a French Naval artillery battery in 1940, then as a German battery, composed of six French 155mm guns housed in silos. On June 6th 1944 two British cruisers, the *Warspite* and the *Ramillies*, together with Allied planes, were tasked with neutralising the gun batteries on the Côte fleurie, including the one at Mont Canisy. The Germans abandoned it without a fight during the night of 21st to 22nd August 1944.

Interpretative panels explain how these military structures functioned. A large network of underground tunnels (250 m long, 15 m below ground) is presented by a team of volunteers who organise guided tours by prior arrangement.

Free

CONTACTS

Office de tourisme
32 bis avenue Michel d'Ornano
14910 BLONVILLE-SUR-MER
+33 (0)2 31 14 40 00
amcinfos@wanadoo.fr

www.mont-canisy.org



ARDOVAL

N°02 – E2

> Le Val Ygot

In the Eawy forest at Val-Ygot the launch base for V1^s built in 1943 on an 8 acre site includes 13 buildings (hangars, workshops and the launch ramp). This memorial place from The Second World War is open all year and freely accessible.

Explanatory panels give essential information to visitors. Guided tours are also available upon request.

Free

CONTACTS

Association ASSVYA
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valygot@gmail.com

facebook.com/Assvya



DIEPPE

N°04 - E2

➤ Memorial of the 19th August 1942

At dawn on August 19th 1942 an Allied armada headed towards Dieppe as part of Operation Jubilee, a raid on a huge scale. It involved nearly 6000 men, mainly Canadian, over a quarter of whom would lose their lives. The Jubilee Association and the town of Dieppe have been paying tribute to these men since 2002 at the Memorial of August 19th 1942. Visits here take an hour and a half and include a 40 minute long film from the INA archives, and a collection of documents, photos, uniforms and weapons. At the end of your visit you may also buy a cartoon about the raid at the Memorial shop.

The Memorial is situated in the old municipal theatre of Dieppe, built in 1826 by the town of Dieppe for the Duchess of Berry.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Mémorial du 19 Août 1942

Place Camille Saint-Saëns - 76200 DIEPPE

www.dieppe-operationjubilee-19aout1942.fr



FÉCAMP

N°05 - D2

➤ The Blockhouses of Cape Fagnet

Built on the orders of the German army, the blockhouses of Cape Fagnet formed part of the famous Atlantic Wall erected from 1942. A visit of these reinforced concrete constructions gives a better understanding of the role of this important watch post. It is also a chance to look at the question of the economic collaboration involved in this military edifice.

The second part of the circuit allows you to follow a narrow hiking trail through the woods to reach the German military health centre bunker dug into the rock. Arm yourself with walking shoes and warm clothes.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Maison du patrimoine

10 rue des Forts

76400 FÉCAMP

+33 (0)2 35 10 60 96

patrimoine@ville-fecamp.fr

www.ville-fecamp.fr



FORGES-LES-EAUX

N°06 - E2

➤ Normandy Resistance Museum

40 km/25 miles from Rouen, 50km/30 miles from Beauvais and 80km/50 miles from Amiens, the Resistance and Deportation museum at Forges-les-Eaux offers a retrospective of the dark years of the Second World War through documents, uniforms and sundry objects displayed on two floors. France and its empire in the war, the Allies, military operations; Germany and Nazism, collaboration; Deportation and the Resistance, from De Gaulle's call to arms of June 18th 1940 through to the Liberation.

Designed with education always in mind the museum is particularly oriented towards older schoolchildren and students.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Normandy Resistance Museum

Rue du Maréchal Leclerc

76440 FORGES-LES-EAUX

+33 (0)2 35 90 64 07

(pour le téléphone nous contacter entre 14h et 18h)

museedelaresistance@free.fr

[f museeforgesleseaux](https://www.facebook.com/museeforgesleseaux)

www.normandyresistancemuseum.com



HONFLEUR

N°07 - D3

➤ The Station Blockhouse

One of the last vestiges of The Second World War in Honfleur stands close to the Carnot Basin. Thanks to efforts of the town council and the Honfleur 1939 - 1945 Association, since 2014 it has become a place of commemoration where memories can be shared. In a blockhouse of 3,500 square feet you will find more than 50 period uniforms, documents and photographs, a 45 minute film with eye witness accounts of the Liberation, and a tribute to the three FFI (resistance) police officers arrested here and shot on August 24th 1944.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Blockhaus de la Gare

Bassin Carnot

14600 HONFLEUR

+33 (0)7 83 25 76 12

honfleur1939-1945@orange.fr

www.blockhausdelagare.fr



LE TRÉPORT

N°08 - E1

➤ Kahl Burg

In the midst of the chalk cliffs of the Alabaster Coast and just a few kilometres from the site of the Dieppe landings, Kahl-Bürg is situated 60 metres above sea level, about 20 metres below the ground, and is 270 metres long. Of about thirty rooms, you can visit three observation posts, a battle position still armed with its 75 mm gun, as well as a German army command post. (245 and 348 ID).

The place is imbued with the suffering of the prisoners, mainly Ukrainian women, who built it. Its architecture of vaulted brick corridors is unique in the Atlantic Wall.

Free

CONTACTS

Le Kahl Burg

Rue du 08 mai 1945

76470 LE TRÉPORT

Contact auprès de l'office de Tourisme

du Tréport au +33(0)2 35 86 05 69

www.kahl-burg.fr



MANNEVILLE-SUR-RISLE

N°09 - D3

➤ The Resistance and Deportation Museum

Inaugurated in 1979, the Resistance and Deportation museum displays documents and objects relating to this period of France's history in the department of the Eure. The museum particularly features the activities of the most active resistance network in Upper Normandy, the Maquis Surcouf. It is based in a 17th chapel, listed as a Historic Monument.

Free

CONTACTS

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation

Mairie de MANNEVILLE-SUR-RISLE

+33 (0)2 32 56 94 86

musee/manneville@gmail.com



PALUEL

N°10 - D2

› The Alabaster Memorial

This is a place steeped in history, its strategic position making it a key element in the Atlantic Wall. The networks of bunkers assured the defence of the seafront and the estuary of Veulettes sur Mer by the army of occupation, as well as being a state-of-the-art air defence. The path is therefore punctuated by bunkers, which are visible through the old trenches which have been partially rebuilt, three of which have been converted into interpretative areas on the following themes: "The history of the German military base at Paluel", "The Atlantic Wall and life under occupation for the local populace", "The place of memory". Signs translated into English and German.

With a stunning view of the Durdent estuary, the beach of Veulettes sur Mer and the cliffs of the Catelier, Pont Rouge offers you a unique heritage tour combining an exploration of biodiversity and relics of the Second World War.

Free

CONTACTS

Office de tourisme
+33(0)2 35 97 00 63

www.cote-albatre-tourisme.fr



ST-JOUIN-BRUNEVAL

N°11 - D2

› The Bruneval Memorial

During the night of February 27th to 28th 1942, Operation Biting, also known as the Bruneval raid, was a success: a British commando detachment succeeded in getting hold of the main parts of a German radar (whose technology was then unknown to the Allies) whilst making out that it had been destroyed. Situated on the site of the German defences which secured the access to the beach, the Bruneval Memorial was unveiled by Kenneth Holden, one of the last surviving veterans of the raid. A project of the Bruneval 42 association it was designed by the architect Bruno Saas and built by the town of Saint-Jouin-Bruneval.

Free

CONTACTS

Mémorial de Bruneval
Chemin André Haraux
76280 SAINT-JOUIN-BRUNEVAL
Mairie de Saint-Jouin-Bruneval
+33(0)2 35 13 10 10
contact@bruneval42.com

www.bruneval42.com

CHAMPIGNY-LA-FUTELAYE

N°12 - E4

› German military cemetery

This German military cemetery contains the graves of German soldiers who died in the departments of Eure, Orne, Seine-Maritime, Eure-et-Loir, and in the former department of Seine-et-Oise. 19836 German soldiers rest here in 17 differently sized squares of lawn. It was inaugurated on September 12th 1964.



HAUTOT-SUR-MER

N°13 - E2

› Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Allied combatants who died on the beaches of Dieppe during The Second World War are interred in this cemetery maintained by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. About thirty British soldiers were buried here in 1940. After the raid of August 19th 1942 the Germans buried the Canadian and English casualties here. The cemetery was made permanent in 1949 with 957 graves of soldiers from Canada, the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Poland and a sole Indian. All of the gravestones are arranged back to back in symmetrical rows.



Sainte-Mère-Église

Carentan

The parachutists of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions were tasked with capturing Sainte-Mère-Église and securing the bridgehead at Utah Beach

Utah Beach

Sainte-Mère-Église, Carentan-les-Marais

Chronologically, there were three definable phases to the operation on June 6th 1944: the air landings (which were centred on Utah Beach in the west and Sword Beach in the east), the air and naval bombardments of the Atlantic Wall, and the seaborne landings on the five beaches (Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword) and at Pointe du Hoc.

So it was that by the early hours of the 6th June, the first airborne troops had already set foot on the soil of Normandy: the British in the east, and the Americans in the west.

The American parachutists of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions were tasked with capturing Sainte-Mère-Église and securing the beachhead at Utah Beach. At 4 am, Sainte-Mère-Église was stormed.

At first light, the sea from the mouth of the Seine to the Cherbourg Peninsula was completely covered with ships. Thousands of craft carrying men, vehicles and equipment, pushed their way towards the coast, while at the same time Allied aircraft bombed the fortifications along the Channel coast, and naval guns opened fire. Men headed towards the coast on the greatest endeavour of their lives. Utah Beach was rapidly taken without too many losses. The German defences were soon overcome, and breaches opened up to allow troops and heavy equipment to advance.



Utah Beach D-Day Landing Museum

Built on the very spot where American troops landed on June 6th 1944, the D-Day Landing museum recounts the events of D-Day in ten sequences, from its planning right through to its success. On an in depth chronological tour you can get really involved in the history of the Landing and discover a rich collection of objects, vehicles, and equipment. Star of the museum is an authentic American Marauder B26 bomber which is displayed in a specially designed hangar. By watching the film "Victory Beach" you can relive the epic effort of the American soldiers in this decisive battle, which was the biggest amphibious operation in military history. Hearing the moving accounts of the veterans, you will get a real idea of their sacrifice which made Europe free once more.



Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée du Débarquement Utah Beach
50480 SAINTE-MARIE-DU-MONT
+33 (0)2 33 71 53 35
musee@utah-beach.com



www.utah-beach.com

SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE

N°15 - B3



Airborne Museum

freedom from the sky

With its 5 buildings and modern, spectacular and interactive presentation techniques, the museum takes you in the footsteps of the American paratroopers of D-Day.

You can see an authentic WACO glider, the only one in France so well preserved, here displayed in a fitting setting. Additionally, board a C-47 plane to follow in the footsteps of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division paratroopers who flew over to take part in the Battle of Normandy.

The objects in the museum come to life thanks to hyper-realistic reconstructions. You'll feel what it was like to jump from a C-47 in flight and land in the middle of the village of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, experience fighting in the flooded marshes during the Battle of La Fièvre and getting lost in Normandy's bocage during the Battle of the hedgerows...

The museum's film "The Way Back" screened in the big cinema hall gives a moving account of the fate of the men who came to liberate Normandy and Europe.



New for 2024 – Following extensive work to renovate and extend the museum, it now presents significant new areas for visitors. The WACO pavilion becomes the fifth building on the site; across its five spaces (covering a total area of 1,200m²), learn all about the American gliders used in the Second World War, from design to deployment. The museum's authentic glider has pride of place, in an exceptionally well-presented setting. The structure that previously displayed the WACO glider (the museum's original building), has been renovated and is now dedicated to the occupation, presenting a unique permanent exhibition on Occupation and Resistance in the Sainte-Mère-Eglise area. Finally, the museum grounds have been entirely reconfigured, with new planting, while period vehicles are on display outside... plus, there's a snack area, should you fancy a light bite. Do make use of the museum tablet, Histopad, on your tour – it really helps you step back in time. You'll truly feel you can immerse yourself in history here.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Airborne Museum
14 rue Eisenhower
50480 SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE
+33 (0)2 33 41 41 35
infos@airborne-museum.org



www.airborne-museum.org

SAINT-CÔME-DU-MONT

N°16 - B3



D-DAY Experience

An immersive museum dedicated to both American and German paratroopers, D-Day Experience offers visitors a dual perspective, making for a well-rounded tour. Located in Saint-Côme-du-Mont, at the Carrefour de l'homme mort, or Dead Man's Corner, a strategic point in the Battle of Carentan, D-Day Experience plunges you back into the heart of the fighting here. After a briefing by a hologram figure inspired by a real American paratrooper, board a C-47 plane transformed into a flight simulator to relive the night of 6 June 1944 as a para would have experienced it.

Prepare for a turbulent flight, fierce bombing going on all around. Next, thanks to the large-scale, innovative museum settings, you'll feel like you're advancing side by side with soldiers fighting to liberate Carentan. Then, step inside the historic house at Dead Man's Corner, the reconstitution of the German headquarters here revealing the enemy perspective. Finally, a giant 3D cinema screen offers an educational summary of the D-Day landings, presenting two films in one: D-Day Normandy 1944 and Taking and Holding Carentan. All told, D-Day Experience gives visitors a far-reaching tour, enabling you to learn in memorable manner about the events surrounding 6 June 1944, as well as about the Battle of Carentan in particular. Here, you don't simply learn about history, you relive it.

New for 2024:

the US 2nd Naval Beach Battalion is honoured in a new exhibition. The spotlight focuses on this all-too-little-known unit of the reconnaissance experts for the Utah Beach D-Day landings, forerunners of the US Navy SEALs. Capturing the authentic spirit of its work, all the pieces on display were used during the Normandy D-Day landings. This unique exhibition enables you to discover and understand the role of the 2nd Naval Beach Battalion and its links with the Utah Beach and Carentan sector.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

D-DAY EXPERIENCE
2, Village de l'Amont
50500 Saint-Côme-du-Mont,
CARENTAN-LES-MARAIS
+33 (0)2 33 23 61 95
contact@dday-experience.com
Online shop: www.paratrooper.fr



www.dday-experience.com

CATZ/CARENTAN

N°17 - B3



Normandy Victory Museum

The Normandy Victory Museum opens wide the doors of history, for visitors to learn all about the 100 memorable days that followed on from D-DAY. Wander through the 27 sets filled with detailed items (and some with accompanying sound-track), revealing daily life not just for the soldiers involved, but also for the civilians caught up in what became nicknamed the Battle of the Hedgerows. On this touching visit, you'll be absorbed by the display of over 15,000 authentic objects, archives (documents, photos, films), portraits of veterans and period vehicles, plus a rare Enigma Machine...

As you enter the museum, a reconstruction of a period street immerses you in everyday life for the people of Normandy in the 1940s. Then you continue on a moving visit, lasting between 90 minutes and two hours, and suitable for the whole family. In certain spots, you can pick up and examine a range of objects. Photograph yourself or your group in a jeep and even step aboard a real D-Day landing craft. Finally, an exhibition puts to the fore the role that women played during the Second World War, a contribution too long undervalued.

The Normandy Victory Museum also puts on temporary exhibitions, tours in period vehicles and major events, plus there's a charming vintage shop.

Additional features: tours in a period Dodge – the restaurant and bar in 1940s style – free parking

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Normandy Victory Museum
Rue de la fourchette Catz/Saint-Pellerin
50500 Carentan-les-maraix
+33 (0)2 33 71 74 94
info@nvm.museum



www.normandy-victory-museum.fr



AZEVILLE

N°18 - B3

> Azeville Gun Battery

With an incredible network of 300 metres of tunnels and a complete defensive system, the Azeville gun battery was one of the priority targets for the Allies on June 6th 1944. Taking part in the fighting from the beginning of the D-Day Landings, it bombarded the sector of Utah Beach for nearly 3 and a half days, considerably delaying the Allied forces who finally found a way round it. The position was taken on June 9th after intense fighting and numerous twists and turns.

You can look round the battery on your own on an multilingual audio-guided and illustrated tour (an exhibition covering life in the garrison and its relationship with the local population).

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Batterie d'Azeville, La rue, 50310 AZEVILLE
+33 (0)2 33 40 63 05
musee.azeville@manche.fr

Patrimoine et musées de la Manche

batterie-azeville.manche.fr



CARENTAN

N°19 - B3

> The Carentan 1944 Historical Trail

This 40 km circuit leads you on a discovery trail of 13 sites that featured large in the battle to liberate the Carentan sector, pitting American and German paratroopers against each other over several days.

You can follow this circuit at your own pace, in your own vehicle, all year round, making the most of the information panels, in English as well as French. Pick up a free brochure on this trail at the Office de tourisme de la Baie du Cotentin branches, at Carentan or Sainte-Mère-Église, or download the dedicated app via Rando Jeu.

Free

CONTACTS

Office de Tourisme de la Baie du Cotentin
Bureau de Carentan
24, place de la République
50500 CARENTAN
+33 (0)2 33 71 23 50
tourisme@ccdbcf.fr

www.ot-baieducotentin.fr



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and get over 70€ worth
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for museums, activities, natural attractions and
on regional and craft products around Sainte Mère
Eglise, Utah Beach, and Carentan.

On sale from our partners and from the Tourist
Offices of Carentan and Sainte Mère Eglise

More information at
www.ot-baieducotentin.fr



Reconstruction
of a café – grocery
store from the 1940s

Sylvie & Jean-Marie Caillard invite you to
their reconstruction of a 1940s café-grocery
store. Their doors are open from 11am to
11pm on the first Saturday of each month.
The opportunity to discover this place with
its collection of furnishings and objects
from the 40s.

Monsieur et Madame CAILLARD
11 rue Jean Truffaut
Carentan
50500 CARENTAN-LES-MARAIS
Tél. 06 34 03 46 45



ÉCAUSSEVILLE

N°20 - B2

> Airship Hangar

A place which has known three wars (14-18, 39-45 and the Cold War). Built as a maritime air station in 1916 to hunt down German submarines and mines, the concrete hangar (150 metres long, 40 metres wide and 31 metres high) is today the biggest in the world. From 1936 to 1939 it was batteries of marines who were based here. The Germans took it over between 1940 and 1944. On June 9th 1944 the hangar was liberated after a furious battle led by the US 8th Infantry. It remained a logistical base for the maintenance of vehicles for the Americans until 1945. Between 1967 and 1969 (during the Cold War) the site became a base for the construction of balloons for nuclear tests.

**New temporary exhibitions
New showcase displays / New video screens
at the heart of the museum.**

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Association des Amis
du Hangar à Dirigeables d'Écausseville
+33 (0)6 81 18 06 65
contact@aerobase.fr

www.aerobase.fr



ÎLE TATIHOU

N°21 - B2

> The Fort of Tatihou

No less than 30 structures were built by the Germans within the defensive walls of Fort Vauban on the Island of Tatihou during The Second World War! The casemates, the field gun emplacements, the tobruks, the machine gun posts, the trenches etc formed a condensed version of the Atlantic Wall. The particularity of Tatihou is in the juxtaposition of military fortifications dating from between the 17th and the 20th centuries. Some of the most recent structures are directly built into the older ones. This arrangement clearly illustrates how well these defensive systems have stood the test of time.

Every summer, artists take up residence inside the fort of Tatihou. The environs of the defensive fortifications are turned into a creative space to throw a different light on the history of the place.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Tatihou Ticket Office
quai Vauban, 50550 SAINT-VAAST-LA-HOUGUE
+33(0)2 14 29 03 30

tatihou.manche.fr



SAINT-MARCOUF-DE-L'ISLE

N°22 - B3

> Crisbecq Artillery Battery

Immerse yourself in the heart of the Battle of Normandy by visiting the 22 blockhouses that formed the most powerful German artillery battery along the D-Day landing beaches. Many period features have been retained in this startling complex linked by trenches and tunnels, and including dormitories, an infirmary, a kitchen, munitions stores, an anti-aircraft command post, plus the feared St Marcouf cannons, with their fearsome fire-power. This place turns out to be more than just an artillery battery, more a village in itself.

New for 2024 - 20 years of the artillery battery as a tourist site: Relive D Day as a US or German soldier, or then as a French female Resistance member... Are you ready for action?

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Batterie de Crisbecq
Route des Manoirs
50310 SAINT-MARCOUF-DE-L'ISLE
+33 (0)6 68 41 09 04
contact@batterie-marcouf.com

www.batterie-marcouf.com



QUINÉVILLE

N°23 - B2

> World War II Museum

Walking through 10,000 square feet of exhibition space, the visitor is transported back to life during World War II, with realistic scenes showing the atmosphere of the period as it really was. Wander down a typical street from the 1940's which has been completely reconstructed complete with its shops and houses. Many vehicles and items of the period, including a blockhouse form part of the visit, with a view of the anti-tank wall, which can still be found on the beach of Quinéville.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

World War II Museum
18, Avenue de la plage, QUINÉVILLE
+33 (0)2 33 95 95 95
memorial.quineville@wanadoo.fr



© Christophe Cauchard

SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE
N°24 - B3

➤ **Open-air museum**

Self-guided tour making use of the free RandoJeu app (count c.3 hrs). In your own vehicle, drive out to discover 11 main sites linked to the D-Day landings. This 50^{km} trail leads you around Sainte-Mère-Eglise, Picauville, Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, Utah Beach and Saint-Martin-de-Varreville.

You are guided along with the assistance of the app, which also provides first-hand accounts, videos and archive images, helping explain the historical events that took place in these spots.

Free download

CONTACTS
Office de Tourisme de la Baie du Cotentin
Bureau de Sainte-Mère-Eglise
6, rue Eisenhower,
50480 SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE
+33 (0)2 33 21 00 33
tourisme@ccbdcc.fr

www.ot-baieducotentin.fr



ORLANDES
N°25 - B3

➤ **German military Cemetery**

Located north of the village of Orlandes this cemetery has 10,152 graves. The Volksbund, which maintains German military graves began landscaping and architectural works in 1958. The cemetery was inaugurated on September 20th 1961.

One of the memorials bears the names of 22 soldiers who died on October 25th 1945. These German sappers lost their lives in the explosion of a load of dynamite at Asnières-en-Bessin near Bayeux. Their remains couldn't be individually identified so they were buried in block 27, row 13, grave 420/421.



Omaha Beach

Pointe du Hoc

On the other American beach, the situation was difficult. The beaches of Omaha were a real trap for the troops of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions. The first assault wave was brutally cut down, while the second left the beach strewn with the wounded, the dead and broken equipment. Eventually, drawing on the last of their resources, the soldiers managed to climb the cliff-like slope that overlooked the beach, and negotiate the barbed wire. Towards midday, they began to breach the German defences, and so the battle swung in the Allies' favour.

The assault on Omaha Beach encountered numerous difficulties and almost ended in a real disaster.

At the price of heavy losses, the Americans finally emerged victorious, and took possession of the coastal villages.

At the same time, a little further to the west, the 2nd Ranger Battalion was charged with climbing the 30-metre cliff at Pointe du Hoc, assaulting the German battery and destroying its guns. In a few minutes, the best climbers reached the top of the cliff. There they discovered a complete field of ruins created by shells and bombs from Allied naval ships offshore, but no sign of the 155 mm artillery, which had been withdrawn by the Germans a short time before. Towards midday Pointe du Hoc was in American hands.

Pointe du Hoc

The 2nd Ranger Battalion was tasked with climbing 30 metres of cliff, assaulting the German battery at Omaha and destroying its guns.

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER

N°26 - B3



Overlord Museum Omaha Beach

Located at the heart of Normandy's 1944 D-Day Landing Beaches, 500 m from Omaha's famed American Military Cemetery, Overlord Museum-Omaha Beach offers visitors an extraordinary tour. It boasts an unparalleled, unequalled historical collection from the period, helping you retrace the events of 1944 that began the liberation of Europe. The immersive presentations allow visitors to better understand the relevant history, from preparations for D-Day through to the liberation of Paris, and are well geared to younger generations.

The Leloup Collection.

Overlord Museum is the result of 50 years of research by father and son, Michel and Nicolas Leloup. Their passion has led to this place passing on so much about the war to future generations. Across the 2,200m² of exhibition areas, visitors can view some 10,000 items, including 40 period vehicles, tanks and cannons.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Overlord Museum Omaha Beach
 Lotissement Omaha Center
 14 710 COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER
 +33 (0)2 31 22 00 55
contact@overlordmuseum.com



www.overlordmuseum.com



CRICQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN

N°27 - B3

La Pointe du Hoc

Pointe du Hoc was a strategic point in the German defences on the Normandy coast. The mission to take it was given to the 2nd Ranger battalion. Under the command of Lt. Colonel J.E. Rudder these soldiers achieved the incredible feat of reaching the top in just a few minutes despite the slope being very slippery, the climbing ropes made heavy by seawater, and intense fire from the defenders. In a lunar landscape full of deep craters, the fierce battle which ensued was even bloodier than the climb. And a big surprise awaited the Rangers: they found that huge wooden beams had been placed in the stations instead of artillery guns!

Today the site still bears the traces of the German artillery battery as well as deep scars from the fierce fighting which took place here on June 6th and 7th 1944, which cost the lives of 135 Rangers.



Pointe du Hoc is one of the few places still showing clear signs of the violence of the Landings in Normandy. Severely hit by the fighting it allows you to imagine the extreme conditions in which the Rangers climbed the cliff under the fire from German soldiers lying in ambush at the top.

Free

CONTACTS

AMBC - Pointe du Hoc
14450 CRICQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN
0033 (0)2 31 51 62 00
normandy@abmc.gov



www.abmc.gov



COLOMBIÈRES

N°29 - B3

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER

N°28 - B3

> Big Red One Assault Museum

The first division of American infantry of the US Army is nicknamed The Big Red One because of its insignia consisting of a big red '1'. After Operation Torch in North Africa it fought Rommel's Afrika Korps, then took part in the landing in Sicily. It was also on Omaha Beach on June 6th 1944 where it suffered heavy losses. At the end of the war, in 1945, it had lost over 21,000 men (wounded and prisoners included) or nearly half of its numbers.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Big Red One Assault Museum
Le Bray, 14710 COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER
+33 (0)2 31 21 53 81
bigredoneassaultmuseum@gmail.com

www.bigredonemuseum.com

> Colombières Castle

Plunge into the heart of the psychological war carried out by the American propaganda services based at the Château de Colombières in 1944. Discover the history of the Ritchie Boys, young refugees from Germany, mainly of Jewish origin, who fled Nazi Germany and joined the American military intelligence services. These little-known historic facts are presented by the château's proprietor, who has gathered a unique collection of documents, newspapers and propaganda tracts, revealing the major role the Ritchie Boys played in the Allies' strategy.

Entrance fee. By reservation only

CONTACTS

Château de Colombières,
14710 COLOMBIÈRES
M ou Mme Charles de Maupeou
+33 (0)2 31 22 51 65
chateaudocolombieres@gmail.com

chateau-colombieres.fr



GÉFOSSE-FONTENAY

N°30 - B3

> Tour of Géfosse-Fontenay Blockhouse

Every Sunday morning at 10am the guide Luc Le Gleuher offers a guided tour of the Géfosse-Fontenay blockhouse. Visitors can find out about this perfectly preserved piece of the Atlantic Wall. The price of the visit is left to visitors' discretion.

Guided tour of blockhouse WN 88 from 1 June to 9 June, leaving every morning from the motor museum, Station 70; rest of the year, guided tour with admission charge, every Sunday morning.

Booking required

CONTACTS

For all information
+33 (0)6 74 72 25 15
Leaving every Sunday morning from the Musée Station 70 at Osmanville (close to Géfosse)

GRANDCAMP-MAISY

N°31 - B3

Maisy Gun Battery

Built after 1942 this German battery was part of a military area of 44 hectares (110 acres). Completely forgotten for sixty years, it was re-discovered in 2006. It covered Utah and Omaha Beaches. On June 9th 1944 the final assault by the 5th and 2nd American Rangers took place under heavy fire for five long hours.

2.5 km of trenches, tunnels and other underground constructions, as well as six 155 mm artillery platform emplacements are now open to the public.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Batterie de Maisy Route des Perruques
14450 GRANDCAMP-MAISY
info@maisybattery.com

www.maisybattery.com

SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER

N°32 - B3

Liberation House

Members of "Les Fleurs de la Résistance" (Flowers of the Resistance) association, messengers of memory, welcome you to the first house to be liberated by the Americans on the morning of June 6th 1944 at Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer. It is both a site of remembrance and a vestige of D-Day, dedicated to the Resistance fighters, to the little-known Top Secret operation of mission Ascan of the Sussex/Proust Plans which took place on the night of June 5th to 6th 1944 at Omaha Beach, to the paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division lost on Omaha: "the stela of memory" to the allies and civilians of the period.



By appointment.

Site free to visit
(donations to the association welcome).

CONTACTS

Maison de la Libération - Sébastien Olard
27 rue du val
14710 SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER
+33 (0)6 87 40 35 63
contact@maisondelaliberation.fr
f maison de la libération

www.maisondelaliberation.fr

SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER

N°33 - B3

Omaha Beach Memorial Museum



On the actual site of Omaha Beach with a floor area of 1400 m² (14,000 sq ft) the museum exhibits uniforms, personal items, arms, vehicles, a landing craft, Belgian gates, a long Tom 155mm gun, a tank and more. Many scenes and a wealth of photographic documentation will plunge you into the heart of the history of the Landings. A 25-minute long film including witness accounts from American veterans gives a clear account of the landings on Omaha Beach and at Pointe du Hoc.

There is a shop open to all in the museum reception area.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée Mémorial d'Omaha Beach
Avenue de la Libération
14710 SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER
+33 (0)2 31 21 97 44
contact@musee-memorial-omaha.com

www.musee-memorial-omaha.com

SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER

N°34 - B3

The museum of civilian life during and after the war



The museum of civilian life during and after the war: come and see an exhibition of daily life through everyday objects from the kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and wardrobe...

You will also find several objects from life under the Occupation featured.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée civil avant pendant et après guerre
8 rue Durant
14710 SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER
06 31 44 72 51 ou 06 95 11 29 24
christophemagali@outlook.fr

www.cmlesvignets.com

VIERVILLE-SUR-MER

N°35 - B3

The Omaha D-Day Museum

Thousands of original objects are exhibited in an area of over 3,000 m² or 30,000 sq ft at the heart of Omaha Beach in an authentic American building of the period. Situated between the American cemetery (4 km) and Pointe du Hoc (7 km),

and 200 metres from the beach, this museum displays a unique collection, collected over about fifty years by an enthusiast, who was also a father, but has now died leaving his two sons the duty of continuing this memorial endeavour.



Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée D-DAY Omaha
Route de Grandcamp,
14710 VIERVILLE-SUR-MER
+33 (0)2 31 21 71 80
d.dayomaha@orange.fr
contact@museeddayomaha.fr

www.dday-omaha.fr

**LA CAMBE**

N°36 - B3

The German military Cemetery of La Cambe

Covering 10.5 hectares, this is one of six German military cemeteries created in the aftermath of the Battle of Normandy in the Second World War. Almost 21,300 German soldiers are buried here. A permanent exhibition, in French, German and English, covers the themes of humankind in times of war, the German graves, the civil population, the meaning of commemorations and the duty of remembrance. By presenting examples of the lives of specific soldiers and families, the complexities and tragedies of the war are brought out.

The 1,120 Acer Globosum maple trees planted in the Peace Garden act as so many symbols of peace and reconciliation.

Free**CONTACTS****Cimetière militaire allemand**

14230 LA CAMBE

+33 (0)2 31 22 70 76

marie-annick.wieder@volksbund.de

www.volksbund.de**COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER**

N°37 - B3

Normandy American Cemetery and Visitor Center

Located just above Omaha Beach at Colleville-sur-Mer, the Normandy American Cemetery was dedicated in 1956. It honours the American service members who died during Operation Overlord and is part of the 26 permanent cemeteries on foreign soil managed by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). A key memorial site, it contains the perfectly aligned headstones of 9,387 soldiers who fell in combat. Completing this moving ensemble is a Garden of the Missing where the names of 1,557 soldiers are engraved, a chapel, a memorial and the Visitor Center. The new visitor center will be inaugurated on June 7, 2019. The visitor center exhibition plays an important role in providing visitors with context and emotional engagement to the incredible story of courage and sacrifice of the D-Day landings and Normandy campaign.

This is a place of commemoration and we therefore ask visitors to behave accordingly, and be both silent and respectful.

Free**CONTACTS****AMBC - Normandy American Cemetery**

14710 COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER

+33 (0)2 31 51 62 00

normandy@abmc.gov

www.abmc.gov

Gold Beach

Arromanches-les-Bains

After landing at Gold Beach, the British 50th Infantry Division was soon at the gates of Bayeux, and took control of the town on the morning of June 7th. Its objective was also to seize Arromanches, making ready for the installation of the future artificial «Mulberry» Harbour and linking up with Canadian troops, who had landed at Juno Beach. This mission would be accomplished on the evening of the 6th.



Arromanches

In 100 days, 220,000 soldiers, 530,000 tonnes of supplies and 39,000 vehicles were landed at "Port Winston"

The principle of the Mulberries, or artificial harbours, was to land vehicles and supplies very rapidly by using quays protected by a line of concrete caissons, until such time as the continental ports were captured. In 100 days, 220,000 soldiers, 530,000 tonnes of supplies and 39,000 vehicles were landed at "Port Winston". This was of crucial importance because Allied troops needed all their weapon supplies to fend off a German counterattack.

ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS

N°38 - C3



Arromanches 360 circular Cinema

New movie!

The 100 Days of the Battle of Normandy

The images projected onto nine screens come from British, Canadian, German, American and French archives.

This much awaited event was being prepared for on both sides of the sea. Then, despite unfavourable weather conditions, the first much hoped for step in the liberation of Western Europe came on the morning of June 6th 1944. From the landings on the 5 beaches of Manche and Calvados up to the tragic bombing of Le Havre on September 12th, the Battle of Normandy lasted 100 days. Experience 20 minutes of pure historical intensity!



Our reception area has been totally refurbished for your improved comfort with displays of maps, the chronology and an overview of the Battle of Normandy. Several British military items from the collections at The Caen Memorial are also exhibited.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Arromanches 360
Chemin du calvaire
14117 ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS
+33 (0)2 31 06 06 45
resa@arromanches360.com



www.arromanches360.fr

**ARROMANCHES**

N°39 - C3

The Landings Museum

On June 8th 1944, two days after the liberation of Arromanches, the first Phoenix concrete caissons were submerged at sea to form a breakwater. Less than a week later unloading could begin. In 100 days 220,000 soldiers, 530,000 tonnes of supplies and 39,000 vehicles were unloaded at "Port Winston".

Built on the very site of the British artificial port of which the traces can still be seen a few metres off shore, the museum tells the history of the incredible challenge that the construction and running of this port represented, a key element in the Allied victory in Normandy. Apart from showing how it worked, a collection of some 2,000 objects helps to evoke the atmosphere of the time and pay tribute to the soldiers of the nations which took part in the Landings.



Via archive film footage, unique collection pieces, animated models and unique video mapping... the D-Day landings of 6 June 1944, along with the history of the prefabricated British and American ports towed over, are explained to visitors in the renovated museum displays, with their enlarged collections and digital facilities offering an immersive visit lasting 90 minutes.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée du Débarquement

Place du 6 Juin
14117 ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS
+33 (0)2 31 22 34 31
info@musee-arromanches.fr



www.musee-arromanches.fr

**LONGUES-SUR-MER**

N°40 - C3

German Gun Battery of Longues-sur-Mer

The German gun battery of Longues-sur-Mer offers an extraordinary panoramic view over the Landing beaches. The only battery to be listed as a Historic Monument, it notably includes a firing command post and four reinforced concrete pillboxes each housing a long range artillery piece of 150 mm.

Situated in the area between Gold Beach and Omaha Beach at the top of a cliff overlooking the Channel, it played a strategic role during the Landing of Allied forces on June 6th 1944. Subjected to intense bombardment by air and then by sea which prevented it from fully taking part in the action on D-Day, it was taken by British troops on June 7th.



The gun battery at Longues-sur-Mer is the only one today to still be equipped with its guns from the period. The excellent state of preservation and the way the site has been laid out make this a place you should definitely visit, to be understood in greater depth thanks to eight explanatory signs.

Free

CONTACTS

Office de tourisme de Bayeux Intercom
Bureau de Longues-sur-Mer
Site de la Batterie
14400 BAYEUX
+33 (0)2 31 21 46 87
longues@bayeux-tourisme.com



www.bayeux-bessin-tourisme.com

VER-SUR-MER

N°41 - C3



British Memorial of Ver-sur-Mer

Overlooking Gold Beach and its artificial port, the British memorial of Ver-sur-Mer, inaugurated on June 6th 2021, pays tribute to the 22,442 soldiers under British command, who played a vital part during the landings on June 6th 1944 and the Battle of Normandy. Indeed it was right here in Ver-sur-Mer, bridgehead of the British offensive, that many of them landed on D-Day. In the heart of the countryside, this site of 18 hectares or 45 acres also honours the civilians of Normandy who lost their lives during the aerial bombardments.

Our guide will give you an exclusive insight into all the secrets of the British Memorial of Ver-sur-Mer. From the unusual design to the symbolism of the various elements, not forgetting the choice of location or the history of some of the heroes who are commemorated here, you will be plunged into the thick of the British landings.

Free

CONTACTS

Mémorial Britannique de Ver-sur-Mer
3 Avenue Paul Poret, 14114 VER-SUR-MER
f British Normandy Memorial

Contact information and guided tours:

Gold Beach tourist office:
contact@goldbeach-tourisme.fr
• Creully office: 02 31 80 67 08
• Ver-sur-Mer office: 02 31 22 58 58
• Asnelles office: 02 31 21 94 02
f Gold Beach Tourisme


www.britishnormandymemorial.org


RYES / BAZENVILLE

N°44 - C3

Ryes War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Situated beside the D87 road east of Bayeux, the military cemetery at Ryes, Bazenville has over 652 Commonwealth graves. The first of these were put here just two days after the Allied Landing at Arromanches.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1.7 million men and women of the armies of the Commonwealth nations who died in the two World Wars by looking after their graves and memorials in over 23,000 sites scattered across more than 150 countries and territories around the world.



For Evermore: Stories of the Fallen

Discover and share the stories of soldiers commemorated by the CWGC

cwgc.org


CONTACTS

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Visitor Centre
5-7 Rue Angèle Richard CS 10109
62217 BEAURAINS France
+33 (0) 3 21 21 77 00
visitcwgc@cwgc.org

www.cwgc.org


COMMES / PORT-EN-BESSIN

N°42 - B3

Museum of undersea wrecks

For thirty five years, Jacques Lemonchois has tirelessly scoured the depths off the landing beaches searching for the remains of the big warships sunk around June 6th 1944. The museum keeps these objects in the state in which they were discovered, and also presents war machines (assault tanks, torpedoes, mines, artillery guns, and mechanical parts) as well as many photographs and a 52-minute film. A museum that's unique in Europe.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée des épaves sous-marines du Débarquement
Route de Bayeux - RD 6
14520 COMMES - PORT EN BESSIN
+33 (0) 2 31 21 17 06
museedesepaves@orange.fr



VER-SUR-MER

N°43 - C3

America & Gold Beach Museums

The America section of the museum tells of the first postal link between the USA and France by air, the forced sea landing of the America at Ver-sur-Mer on the night of July 1st 1927 and the conquest of the North Atlantic by the pioneers of aviation in the 20th century. The Gold Beach section is devoted to the history of the Landings by the British in the King sector on June 6th 1944, and of the planning up until the assault of the 69th brigade (the 50th British Infantry Division). It pays tribute to the soldiers, sailors and air-men involved in this mission.

In our spaces, we propose period news reels from 1927 about America and five films on the British D-Day landings on Gold Beach on 6 and 7 June 1944.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musées America & Gold Beach
2 place Amiral Byrd, 14114 VER-SUR-MER
+33 (0) 2 31 22 58 58
america.goldbeach@gmail.com

www.goldbeachmusee.fr


APPLICATION Arromanches 1944 in enhanced reality

From the artificial port of Arromanches to Juno Beach



Available free at





Courseulles-sur-Mer

Douvres

Of the five landing zones, this one saw the furthest Allied advance by the evening of D-Day.

Juno Beach

Courseulles-sur-Mer

Landing by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division between Graye and Saint-Aubin. The Canadians had to take the coastal defences in the Courseulles-Bernières sector, and then sweep inland to link up with British troops from Gold and Sword Beaches. After heavy losses on the beaches – Canadian forces suffered 50% of their losses in the first hour

of the assault – the 3rd Division liberated its coastal sector and encircled the radar station at Douvres-la-Délivrande. Losing no time, they took control of villages inland: Reviers, Saint-Croix and Bény. Of the five landing zones, this one saw the furthest Allied advance by the evening of D-Day. For a month, Canadian forces battled to wrest the road, RN13, Carpiquet and Caen from the enemy.



COURSEULLES-SUR-MER

N°45 – C3



Juno Beach Centre

Located on the beach where Canadians landed in June 1944 alongside other Allied forces, the Juno Beach Centre presents the role of which Canada played during the Second World War, particularly in Normandy. After a short introductory film, visitors are invited to find out about this history in five permanent exhibition, spaces, featuring archival, documents, photos, audio-visual and sound records and an interactive media maps, objects and a twelve minute film entitled « They Walk With You », a taste of what the Canadians experienced on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy. The Juno Beach Centre also provides an insight into Canada of today.

Along with its permanent museum trail, the Juno Beach Centre, the only Canadian museum along the D-Day beaches, also presents a trail for young visitors, Explore Juno, to discover with the family, plus a temporary exhibition, Rising to the Challenge: the Canadian Royal Air Force in the Second World War. In addition, you can opt for a guided tour led by a young Canadian guide, taking you around Juno Park and its vestiges of the greater Atlantic Wall, including the bunkers opposite the museum. The Juno Beach Centre is committed to preserving war memories for future generations and to sustainable development.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Centre Juno Beach
Voie des Français Libres – BP 104
14470 COURSEULLES-SUR-MER
+33 (0) 2 31 37 32 17
contact@juno-beach.org



www.juno-beach.org



BÉNY-SUR-MER/REVIERS

N°46 – C3

Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

The Canadian military cemetery at Bény-sur-Mer is situated close to the village of Reviers, 18km east of

Bayeux on the D35. Over 2000 men are buried here. Many of them belonged to the 3rd Canadian Division,

which took a major part in the Landings and the march on Caen.

Sword Beach

Pegasus Bridge

On June 5th, a little before 11 pm, British gliders were launched towards Bénouville bridge. In the space of a few minutes, the men under Major Howard attained their objective and Bénouville bridge became Pegasus Bridge. The bridge at Ranville, a little further east, was also stormed. At the same time, the parachutists of the 6th Airborne Division overcame the gun battery at Merville.

The landing of troops by sea took place at Hermanville and Colleville. From there, the commandos – including the 177 green berets of the N°4 Commando – were ordered to take Ouistreham from behind. Afterwards, they advanced towards the bridges at Ranville and Bénouville to give their support to the paratroopers.



Pegasus Bridge

The men under Major Howard attained their objective and Bénouville bridge became Pegasus Bridge

On the afternoon of June 6th, Hitler gave the order to move several armoured divisions towards Normandy. However, by then it was too late: the die was cast.

On June 6th, at midnight, more than 156,000 Allied soldiers were in Normandy, including 23,000 paratroopers, and 20,000 vehicles of all types. 12,000 men had been killed, wounded or taken prisoner.



RANVILLE

N°47 - C3

The Pegasus Memorial

On the eastern end of the D-Day landing beaches, the Pegasus Memorial presents the various missions the British 6th Airborne Division had to carry out in the night of 5 to 6 June 1944 and pays homage to the men who took part in combat on this eastern flank. These soldiers were among the very first to set foot on Normandy soil at the start of the wider Operation Overlord. One of their greatest exploits was taking control of strategic bridges, the one across the canal at Bénouville, famously known as Pegasus Bridge, and the one over the Orne River at Ranville. With professional guides to hand, the tour focuses around the original Pegasus Bridge and a copy of a Horsa glider, helping bring back down on 6 June 1944 back to life.



The vast majority of the artefacts on display have been donated by veterans and their families.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Mémorial Pegasus

1 avenue du Major Howard
14860 RANVILLE
+33 (0)2 31 78 19 44
info@memorial-pegasus.org



www.memorial-pegasus.org



MERVILLE-FRANCEVILLE

N°48 - C3

Merville Gun Battery Museum

A formidable fortification in the Atlantic Wall, Merville Battery was built on the eastern end of Sword Beach, between the seaside towns of Ouistreham and Cabourg. A top priority to put out of action for D-Day, the Battery was repeatedly bombed by Allied aviation, but unsuccessfully.

The British 9th Parachute Battalion, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Otway, was then instructed to neutralise the Battery, on the night of 5 to 6 June.

At this historic site (heritage-listed as an historic monument), an educational trail has been put in place to help you explore the area and its various bunkers, offering an immersive experience.



A unique experience awaits you in the largest blockhaus. Sounds, images, lights and smells plunge you, for a few minutes, into the hell of the bombardments and the neutralisation of the Merville Battery on 6 June 1944. An interactive audio guide is now available for visitors from the museum reception.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée de la Batterie de Merville
Place du 9^e Bataillon
14810 MERVILLE-FRANCEVILLE
+33 (0)2 31 91 47 53
musee@batterie-merville.com


www.batterie-merville.com


DOUVRES-LA-DÉLIVRANDE

N°50 - C3

Radar station 44

Discover what life was like for German soldiers inside wartime bunkers during the Occupation in Normandy. The only radar station on the D-Day landing beaches, the 1944 Radar Museum occupies the former German lookout post. Two bunkers of the period have been reconstructed so that you can learn about the Atlantic Wall, the history of radar and daily life of the German soldiers.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Station Radar 44
Musée Franco-Allemand du Radar
RD 83 - Route de Béný
14440 DOUVRES-LA-DÉLIVRANDE
+33(0)7 57 48 77 32
contact@musee-radar.fr

www.musee-radar.fr

Hillman Strongpoint

Ce site allemand de la Seconde Guerre mondiale était le poste de commandement des défenses côtières du 736^e Régiment de grenadiers de la 716^e Division d'infanterie allemande. Eighteen blockhouses spread over 24 hectares, ten of which are open to the public. The site can be visited all year round, but the main structures are only open during the summer.

Donation from visitors.

CONTACTS

Site Hillman
Mairie de Colleville-Montgomery
14880 COLLEVILLE-MONTGOMERY
suffolk@amis-du-suffolk-rgt.com

www.amis-du-suffolk-rgt.com


OUISTREHAM

N°51 - C3

N°4 Commando Museum

Rare and moving museum created by British and French veterans, and traces the history of French fighters, who – thanks to the tenacity of Commandant Philippe Kieffer – were able to join the British commandos and join them in a number of missions. In particular, it recounts their training at Achnacarry camp in Scotland, and their participation in the D-Day landings at Colleville sur Orne, during the liberation of Ouistreham, and the Battle of Normandy. All the objects on show are authentic, the majority of the equipment and uniforms being gifts from families and relatives.

In addition to the tour, a 28-minute video composed of papers and period films shows the commandos at Achnacarry camp and during the D-Day landings and a 10-minute video in which Léon Gautier talks about the model showing the taking of the strongholds of Ouistreham.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée N° 4 Commando
Place Alfred Thomas (Face au Casino)
14150 OUISTREHAM RIVA-BELLA
+33 (0)2 31 96 63 10
contact@musee-4commando.fr

www.musee-4commando.fr



OUISTREHAM

N°52 - C3

> Atlantic Wall Museum The Bunker

The Atlantic Wall Museum is located inside the former German Army HQ that controlled the gun batteries of the estuary of the River Orne. All the internal rooms of the Great Bunker have been restored down to the smallest details: engine room, filter room, barrack room, flanking pillboxes, pharmacy, infirmary, armoury, ammunition store, radio transmissions room, switchboard, and an observation post from where you can see for 40km or 25 miles around the Bay of the Seine.

An exhibition dedicated to the greatest building project of the 20th century describes the construction of the Atlantic Wall, which mobilised two million labourers over a period of three years. With many previously unseen photos and documents relating to the Atlantic Wall, the atmosphere in this unique museum will straightaway plunge you into those troubled times.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée du Mur de L'Atlantique Le Bunker
Avenue du 6 juin
14150 OUISTREHAM RIVA-BELLA
+33 (0)2 31 97 28 69
museegrandbunker@sfr.fr

museegrandbunker.com



APPLICATION Soldat Léon Ouistreham 1944

Immerse yourself in the world of Soldat Léon: using your tablet or smartphone, you can be at the heart of the events on June 6th 1944, in the company of Léon Gautier, one of Commandant Kieffer's 177 French troops, who made the landing that morning. Soldat Léon will be alongside you in the capture of Ouistreham's casino, just as if you were there...

Available free at



DOUVRES-LA-DÉLIVRANDE

N°53 - C3

> La Délivrande War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves
Commission Cemetery

Situated north of Caen on the D7, the military cemetery of Douvres-La-Délivrande is the last resting place of nearly 1,125 victims of war. The graves in this cemetery date from D-Day, and the landings on Sword Beach, particularly in the Oboe and Peter sectors. Other casualties were brought here at a later date, from the battlefields between the coast and Caen.

HERMANVILLE-SUR-MER

N°54 - C3

> Hermanville War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves
Commission Cemetery

With more than 1,002 graves, Hermanville-sur-Mer military cemetery is located north of Caen, on the D60. The nearby village of Hermanville-sur-Mer is close to Sword Beach, and was occupied on June 6th by the men of the 1st Battalion South Lancashire Regiment. Later the same day, the Shropshire Light Infantry, backed up by the armoured units of the Staffordshire Yeomanry, managed to capture and hold Biéville-Beuville, four kilometres south of Hermanville-sur-Mer. Many of the men buried in this cemetery were killed that day, or during the push towards Caen.

RANVILLE

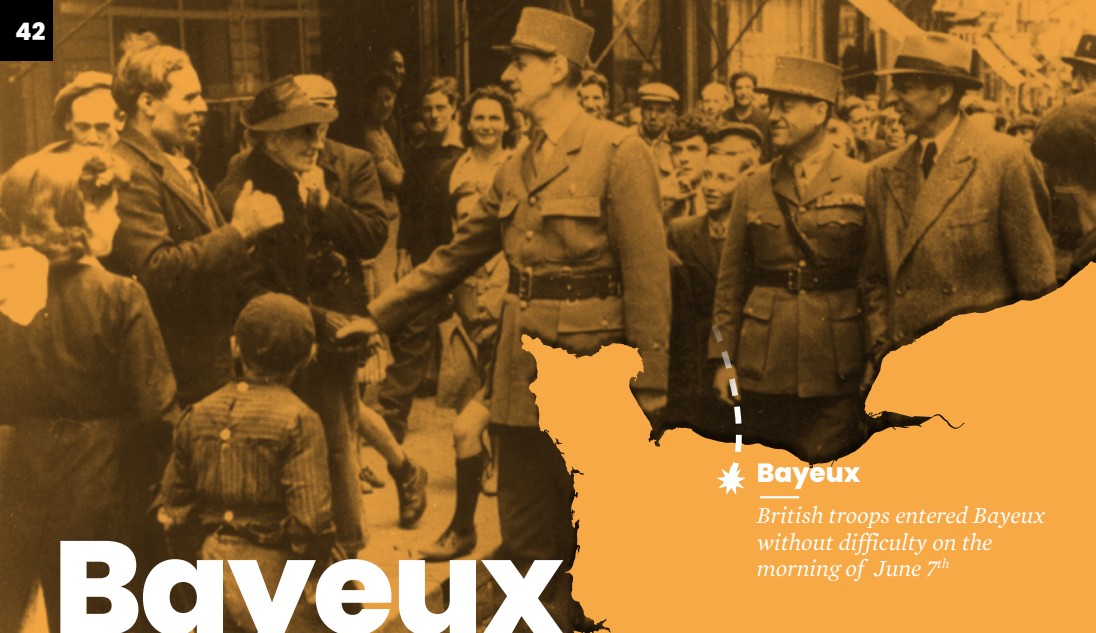
N°55 - C3

> Ranville War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves
Commission Cemetery

The name Ranville is forever linked with the 6th Airborne Division, which captured the Caen canal bridge during the first hours of D-Day. Nearly 2,257 Commonwealth soldiers are buried in Ranville's military cemetery and in the graveyard of the neighbouring church. The easiest access to these two sites is by the D513 leaving Caen, then heading left towards Hérouville. The cemetery is located one kilometre after leaving Ranville, on the rue des Airbornes. The famous Pegasus Bridge, as well as its museum, are situated to the west of the village.





Bayeux

British troops entered Bayeux without difficulty on the morning of June 7th

Bayeux

The first town to be liberated in mainland France

On the afternoon of June 6th General de Gaulle said: "The supreme battle is underway. It is, of course, the Battle of France and the Battle for France. For the sons of France, wherever they are, and whoever they are, the simple and sacred duty is to fight the enemy by all means at their disposal."

"In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on all other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world." General Eisenhower, June 6th 1944

British troops entered Bayeux without difficulty on the morning of June 7th. There, too, was Maurice Schumann, the spokesman of Free France (one of the voices of the BBC, he landed on June 6th at Asnelles). Without needing to fight, the troops captured the coastal battery of Longues-sur-Mer, and took its garrison prisoner.

On June 14th 1944, de Gaulle was on board the torpedo boat La Combattante. He landed on the beach between Courseulles and Graye and made his way to Bayeux to meet the local populace. He was acclaimed by the crowd.



BAYEUX

N°56 - C3

Bayeux War Cemetery & Memorial

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery and Memorial

The Bayeux Memorial is located on Boulevard Fabian Ware (named after the founder of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, or CWGC). It carries the names of over 1,798 soldiers who died during the course of the Battle of Normandy but who do not have a known grave. The Memorial was designed by P.D. Hepworth and inaugurated by the then Duke of Gloucester on 5 June 1955. Opposite lies Bayeux War Cemetery, the CWGC's largest in France from the Second World War. It contains over 4,143 Commonwealth graves, including those of 337 unidentified soldiers. Another 511 war graves for the fallen of other nationalities also stand here, most of them German. The bodies of the soldiers buried here were brought from the surrounding area, including hospitals in the vicinity.

OPENING TIMES

The Commission's cemeteries are open to the public all year round. For commemorative events and private requests, please contact the CWGC at enquiries@cwgc.org.

CONTACTS

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Visitor Centre
5-7 Rue Angèle Richard CS 10109
62217 BEAURAINS France
+33 (0) 3 21 21 77 00
visitecwgc@cwgc.org



BAYEUX

N°57 - C3

Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy

Situated close to the British Military Cemetery at Bayeux, the Memorial Museum is the only one in the region to be devoted entirely to the Battle of Normandy. It explains the key stages in the conflict and shows the fighting that took place on Norman soil after the D-Day landings, from June 7th to August 29th 1944.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée Mémorial de la Bataille de Normandie
Boulevard Fabian Ware, 14400 BAYEUX
+33 (0) 2 31 51 46 90
bataillenormandie@mairie-bayeux.fr

www.bayeuxmuseum.com

Cherbourg remained a strategic objective for the success of Operation Overlord

Cherbourg

Cherbourg-en-Cotentin

The port, a strategic objective

In February 1944, Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery decided that the landings would take place in an area 80 km (50 miles) long – rather than 40 km (25 miles) – extending from Colleville to Varreville and including the Cherbourg Peninsula, so that the port of Cherbourg could be captured as quickly as possible.

Cherbourg was a strategic objective for the success of Operation Overlord. In a short space of time, the port had to be able to handle troop ships from the United States, as well as munitions and machinery needed for the conquest of Europe.

The Americans needed to capture Cherbourg under the orders of General Bradley. On June 21st they surrounded the town. On the 25th, they had advanced into the streets. On the 26th, Fort du Roule was taken. General Bradley responded to the inhabitants who welcomed him: *“It is a pleasure to be able to say to the French people: here is the first large town that is returned to you.”*

On the other hand the port, sabotaged by the Germans, was in a sad state: a pile of ruins. Not to be discouraged, the soldiers set to the task of making it a working port once more. So it was that from the middle of July, the port of Cherbourg welcomed the first Liberty Ships arriving from the United States.

Cherbourg-en-Cotentin, Musée de la Libération © D. Scher



CHERBOURG-EN-COTENTIN

N°59 – B2

➤ The Museum of The Liberation

At the top of the Montagne du Roule, the museum of the Liberation is housed in a Second Empire fort. Its strategic position overlooking the port made it key to the defence of Cherbourg. Hence the expression: “Whoever holds Roule holds Cherbourg”. Once taken by the Germans, subterranean passages were dug into the rock. On June 26th 1944 the fort was retaken by the Americans. Cherbourg was the first port to be liberated in mainland France, as well as the biggest in the world, for several months.

New for 2024: a space dedicated to the history of the Montagne du Roule from Antiquity to the Second World War, enables visitors to grasp the strategic importance of this site dominating Cherbourg's great harbour.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée de la Libération
Fort du Roule – Montée des Résistants
50100 CHERBOURG-EN-COTENTIN
+33 (0)2 33 20 14 12
musees@cherbourg.fr

www.cherbourg.fr



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CHERBOURG-EN-COTENTIN

N°58 – A2

➤ La Cité de la Mer

20 Days for Cherbourg.

The Cité de la Mer occupies one of the most symbolic places in the liberation of Cherbourg – the transatlantic passenger terminal. A new 20-minute long film tells the story of this legendary battle on the big screen in the Auditorium. You will find out why Utah Beach was included in the plan for the landings on June 6th 1944. You will relive the first 20 days of the Battle of Normandy on the Cherbourg peninsula and see how Cherbourg

became the largest logistics port in the world, serving the Allies.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

La Cité de la Mer
Gare Transatlantique
50100 CHERBOURG-EN-COTENTIN
+33 (0)2 33 20 26 69
info@citedelamer.com

citedelamer.com

From Saint-Lô capital of ruins, to Avranches

The capture of Saint-Lô was entrusted to the Americans, who encountered great difficulties in taking the town, an important road and rail junction. After the bombardments of June 6th and 7th, and a month of deadlock and particularly deadly combat, the “capital of ruins” was liberated on July 18th.

The battle of Saint-Lô was one of the most significant episodes in the ‘battle of the hedgerows’, just before Operation Cobra. In the centre of the Cherbourg Peninsula, the war of the hedgerows turned into a real trench warfare. Operation Cobra was the codename given to the American offensive undertaken at the end

of July 1944 in the Cherbourg Peninsula in order to open up the way to Brittany and to break through the lines of German defence.

On the evening of July 30th American troops took Avranches. General Patton with the American armoured divisions and the 2nd French armoured division of Leclerc, just landed at Utah Beach, could then start to break through massively towards the south. Instead of retreating however, the German troops launched a counter-attack in the area of Mortain with the aim of cutting through the American lines. But this was doomed to failure from the very beginning, mainly due to the almost complete lack of air cover.

Saint-Lô

After the bombardments of June 6th and 7th, and a month of deadlock and particularly deadly combat, Saint-Lô was liberated on July 18th

GRANVILLE

N°60 – A1

> Batterie du Roc

The coastal Batterie du Roc, the second one in Normandy built by the German Navy to be listed as a French historic monument, lies close to Granville lighthouse. Given its strategic location at the northern end of the Bay of the Mont Saint-Michel, it offers exceptional views to the Chausey Islands. This German battery consisted of four active blockhouses for cannons, one now restored (even given back its original camouflage), four storage tanks and a command post. A further passive blockhouse to house troops, along with its armaments hold from which to supply the storage tanks, is now an immersive visitor space.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Batterie du Roc

Pointe du Roc - Rue du Roc, 50400 GRANVILLE
batterie.granville@gmail.com

www.batterie-granville.fr

MARIGNY

N°62 – B3

> Cobra Marigny Memorial

With its three exhibition rooms, the Memorial recounts the story of Operation Cobra, the name given to the American offensive carried out in the Cherbourg Peninsula at the end of July 1944, in order to open up the way to Brittany. Also included is a space dedicated to the dark years (1939-1945), and also a homage to the “poilus” or French soldiers of the First World War. In all, the Memorial displays more than 950 photos and documents, as well as 130 period objects.

Free

CONTACTS

Mémorial Cobra Marigny

2 rue des Alleux, 50570 MARIGNY
+33 (0)2 33 56 13 82
+33 (0)2 33 56 88 67
lemerre.eugene@orange.fr

FOLLIGNY

N°61 – B4

> Py Park at Folligny

Py Park is located close to the railway station at Folligny. During the Second World War, the station was the target of numerous deadly and devastating bombardments. After the bombardment of June 17th 1940, the station was rebuilt, fortified and occupied by the German Army to allow the control of goods traffic. Today, several concrete remnants remain and two restored underground rooms contain panels retracing wartime events in Folligny and its surroundings.

Free

CONTACTS

Mairie de Folligny

42 rue de la Libération, 50320 FOLLIGNY
+33 (0)2 33 61 33 11 / mairie@folligny.fr

www.tourisme-granville-terre-mer.com



MORTAIN-BOCAGE

N°63 – B5

> The Saint Michel Chapel

Perched on its rock promontory 323 metres high, it offers a panoramic view as far as Maine and Brittany. You can even see the Mont Saint-Michel on a clear day. A place of tragedy during the battle of August 1944 when many soldiers lost their lives here for our freedom, nowadays it is a place of remembrance with its memorial and one of three French depictions of General Eisenhower's coat of arms.

Free

CONTACTS

La Petite Chapelle Saint-Michel

50140 MORTAIN-BOCAGE
+33 (0)2 33 59 19 74
tourisme.mortainbocage@msm-normandie.fr

www.ot-montsaintmichel.com



PONTAUBAULT

N°64 - B5

► François Mutschler Collection

The François Mutschler Collection contains an array of objects from the Second World War, as well as postcards from the beginning of the 20th century and photographs from 1944, and a scale model of the bridge at Pontaubault.

Free

CONTACTS

Espace François Mutschler
Mairie, 17 rue Patton, 50 220 PONTAUBAULT
+33 (0)2 33 60 47 58
pontaubault.mairie@wanadoo.fr

www.pontaubault.fr


SAINT-LÔ

N°65 - B3

► Chapelle de la Madeleine US memorial

Now restored, this old leper colony in Saint-Lô houses a Memorial to the US 29th and 35th Divisions that liberated the city.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Chapelle de La Madeleine - Mémorial US
Direction Bayeux
Square des Victimes du 11 Septembre 2001
50 000 SAINT-LÔ
+33(0)2 33 72 52 55
musee@saint-lo.fr

www.ot-saintloagglo.fr

SAINT-LÔ

N°66 - B3

► The Art and History museum of Saint-Lô

Located in the centre of town, the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire presents very rich and varied collections. The collections offer a vast panorama of painting from the 17th century to the present day. A new exhibition area of over 3,000 square feet is devoted to the rich history of Saint-Lô since Neolithic times until its post-war reconstruction. Having been subjected to violent bombing raids which destroyed 91% of the town during the Second World War, it was completely rebuilt between 1944 and 1964 and received the 'Patrimoine de la Reconstruction en Normandie' (Reconstruction Heritage in Normandie) label.

The fine arts sections have been redesigned, with more items on display, shown both chronologically and thematically, making your visit more enjoyable and entertaining. The historical trail includes the reconstitution of a typical 1950^s flat and a display of materials.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée d'art et d'histoire de Saint-Lô
La Source, Place du Champ de Mars
50000 SAINT-LÔ
+33(0)2 33 72 52 55 / musee@saint-lo.fr

saint-lo.fr

SAINT-SÉBASTIEN-DE-RAIDS

N°67 - B3

► Musée Cobra La Percée

Located in the heart of the hedge-divided fields of the Bocage Normand, at the level of one of the last major strategic points in the Germans' defences in Normandy, the Mahlmann Line, this museum focuses on Operation COBRA and the liberation of the Centre-Manche area. The diorama presentations are strikingly realistic, while large numbers of items recovered from the battlefield as early as 1944 are put to the fore.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Cobra la Percée, Musée Mémorial
16 Les, Mille Diablos
50190 Saint-Sébastien-de-Raids
+33 (0)6 07 47 83 32
asphn44@gmail.com
f Cobra ou la 90th Div US dans la tourmente-6



HUISNES-SUR-MER

N°68 - B5

► German military cemetery

The cemetery at Mont-de-Huisnes is the sole German mausoleum in Normandy, and indeed in the whole of France. 11,956 soldiers who died in the course of the Second World War are buried here, along with 64 children and infants. The mausoleum is a circular building, 47 metres across, constructed on two levels. In the centre of the interior courtyard is a large cross. The mausoleum was inaugurated on September 14th 1963. It offers a magnificent panorama over the Mont Saint-Michel.

MARIGNY/LACHAP. ENJUGER

N°69 - B3

► German military cemetery

Inaugurated on September 20th 1961, this cemetery contains 11,169 tombs of German soldiers who died in combat. It is divided into five long rectangles of graves surrounded by a slope on all sides. Groups of crosses are dispersed throughout. From 1957 onwards, the remains of soldiers formerly buried in numerous small cemeteries were transferred here.



SAINT-JAMES

N°70 - B5

► ABMC - Brittany American Cemetery

"In Proud Remembrance of the Achievements of Her Sons and in Humble Tribute to their Sacrifices This Memorial has been erected by the United States of America." The cemetery, the Chapel with its Memorial Room and the Tablets of the Missing, stand in memory of the more than 4,410 service members who rest here.



Caen

Six weeks of fighting

Caen

The town became a major strategic objective to the distress of its population which fled the bombardments.

At dawn on June 6th, the bombing of towns in Normandy began. The entire centre of Caen was destroyed. The Allies' objective was to destroy the towns so as to obliterate all communications and to slow German reinforcements. On the morning of June 7th about ten of Normandy's towns including Caen, Lisieux, Coutances, Saint-Lô and Vire had been wiped off the map.

Caen and its airfield at Carpiquet were keenly sought by the airmen of the RAF.

During June the town became a major strategic objective to the distress of its population which fled the bombardments. It wasn't until the morning of July 9th, a month after the D-Day Landings that Caen was finally liberated by the Canadians arriving from Saint-Germain-la-Blanche-Herbe. The British entered from the east and moved through the ruins.

But the Germans still held the right bank of the river and it wasn't until July 19th that the last quarters of the town, such as Vaucelles, were liberated.



CAEN

N°71 - C3

The Caen Mémorial museum

Experience moments from history!

From the origins of the Second World War to the end of the Cold War, museum exhibits recount the terrible history of the 20th century.

Caen, bombed during the summer of 1944 and martyred city of the Liberation, deserved homage on a scale equal to its suffering.

During the school holidays, make the most of our guided tours for families and share the history of the Second World War with your children and grandchildren!

Watch our immersive film, 'Europe, Our History', a new audio-visual experience, to understand our common European history. This lively 17-minute-long film, shown on a 360° screen, is impressive and moving, for you to discover with family or friends.



The Caen Memorial invites you to discover a new visitor space dedicated to the Patrick Chauvel collection. War journalist and photographer, Patrick Chauvel covered 50 years of conflict, including in Israel, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Chechnya and Syria. On all these fronts, this war reporter left an invaluable photographic testimony.

Buy your tickets online
www.memorial-caen.fr

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Le Mémorial de Caen
Esplanade Général Eisenhower
CS 55026 - 14050 CAEN Cedex 4
+33 (0)2 31 06 06 45
resa@memorial-caen.fr



www.memorial-caen.fr

**BRETTEVILLE-SUR-ODON****N°72 - C3**

> D-Day Wings Museum

The D-Day Wings Museum is the only museum in Normandy entirely devoted to aviation during the landings of June 6th 1944, the Battle of Normandy of the summer of 1944 and more generally to Second World War aircraft. You can see the only American barrage balloon still in flying condition! You can go inside a Spitfire, into the turrets of bombers, into a Typhoon fighter-bomber and onto anti-aircraft guns. You will see evidence of the aerial fighting with several wrecks and aeronautical objects. This place is doubly historic because it is located in the old workshops of Carpiquet airbase which was one of the Luftwaffe's active bases during the Battle of Britain in 1940-41. It's also the place where Canadians confronted the 12th SS Panzer division "Hitlerjugend" in July 1944.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

D-Day Wings Museum
485 rue Jules Védrières
14760 BRETTEVILLE-SUR-ODON
contact@ddaywingsmuseum.com
[f](https://www.facebook.com/ddaywingsmuseum) ddaywingsmuseum

www.ddaywingsmuseum.com**CAEN****N°73 - C3**

> Digital tour of Caen

Caen, summer 44: civilians in the battle

Between June 6th and July 19th 1944 the inhabitants of Caen, caught in the crossfire of the Battle of Normandy, had to be organised in order to survive. Discover how they ensured their food supply, and how they set up emergency services and medical treatment. A digital tour across town with 12 stops, allowing you to learn about daily life for thousands of Caen's inhabitants during the war period.

Free

CONTACTS

Office de tourisme de Caen-la-mer
Place Saint Pierre - 14000 CAEN
+33 (0)2 31 27 14 14
info@caenlamer-tourisme.fr

www.caenlamer-tourisme.fr**CREULLY-SUR-SEULLES****N°74 - C3**

> Musée de la Radio BBC

Located on the upper floors of the Château de Creully, this museum retraces the history of radio, of BBC reports broadcast from the Tour Carrée and of the liberation of Creully. Admire the unique collection of radio paraphernalia, from the 1920^s to the present day, plus a temporary exhibition devoted to the French Gendarmerie Nationale in the Second World War. Make the most of the terraces offering splendid views of the Château de Creullet, headquarters for Britain's General Montgomery in June 1944.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée de la Radio BBC
Château de Creully, 30 Place Edmond Paillard,
14480 CREULLY-SUR-SEULLES
+33(0)2 31 80 10 61
ambbc.creully@gmail.com
mairie@creully-sur-seulles.fr

www.museedelaradiobbc-creully.com**ST-MARTIN-DES-BESACES****N°75 - B4**

> The Bocage Breakout Museum

Discover the extraordinary adventures of the soldiers who fought in the Normandy Bocage hedgerows by taking in the eight museum spaces, plus an impressive diorama, at this place, 9^{km} from the Route des Gorges de la Vire. The audio-guided tour (in French or English) lasts 45^{mins} and features sound and light displays. On this moving visit, you'll learn the fate of soldiers involved. Every year, on the last weekend in July, a Fête de La Libération takes place at Saint-Martin-des-Besaces's municipal stadium.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée de la Percée du Bocage
5, rue du 19 Mars 1962
Saint-Martin-des-Besaces
14350 SOULEUVRE-EN-BOCAGE
+33(0)2 31 67 52 78
contact@laperceedubocage.fr

www.laperceedubocage.fr**TILLY-SUR-SEULLES****N°76 - C3**

> Museum of the Battle of Tilly-sur-Seulles

Housed in a 12th-century chapel, this museum brings to life the combat that took place at Tilly-sur-Seulles and in the surrounding area during the three weeks following the D-Day landings. The 30th British Army Corps confronted two divisions of the elite 1st SS Panzerkorps, resulting in an unusually violent conflict that severely damaged the village of Tilly-sur-Seulles, which was taken and retaken twenty-three times in the space of nearly a month.

Eyewitness accounts, photographs and wartime objects punctuate the tour, and show the suffering faced by the civilian population during the Liberation of Normandy. A different temporary exhibition every year.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée de la Bataille de Tilly-sur-Seulles
Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Val,
rue du 18 juin 1944
14250 TILLY-SUR-SEULLES
+33 (0)6 07 59 46 02
association@tilly1944.com

www.tilly1944.com

BANNEVILLE-LA-CAMPAGNE**N°77 - C3**

➤ Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Situated about ten kilometres east of Caen on the D675, Banneville-la-Campagne Military Cemetery contains the graves of more than 2,170 Commonwealth soldiers. Most were buried here between the second week in July and the end of August 1944, which coincided with the battle to retake Caen, the battle of the Falaise Pocket and the Allied advance on the opposite side of the Seine.

**BROUAY****N°78 - C3**

➤ Brouay War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Situated beside the N13, halfway between Bayeux and Caen, Brouay Military Cemetery is the final resting place of almost 377 Commonwealth soldiers. For most, their burial followed the violent combat that took place in the region between June and July 1944, when Allied forces attempted to encircle Caen from the south.

CAMBES-EN-PLAINE**N°79 - C3**

➤ Cambes-en-Plaine War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Situated 7 kilometres northwest of Caen, on the rue du Mesnil Ricard, over 224 Commonwealth victims of the war are buried here. More than half of them formed part of the South Staffordshire and North Staffordshire Regiments, and fell in combat on July 8th and 9th, during the final assault on Caen. A large part of the town was liberated on July 10th.

CHOUAIN**N°80 - C3**

➤ Jerusalem War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Situated 9 kilometres southeast of Bayeux, on the D6, Chouain-Jérusalem Military Cemetery is one of the smallest Commonwealth military cemeteries in the world. The majority of its 48 tombs date from July 10th 1944, when the sector was the scene of fierce fighting just after the liberation of Bayeux.

FONTENAY-LE-PESNEL**N°81 - C3**

➤ Fontenay-le-Pesnel War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

This cemetery, situated 16 kilometres to the west of Caen on the D139, contains the graves of more than 521 Commonwealth soldiers. A large number of these men were killed during the battle to the west of Caen during June and July 1944. Many men from the South Staffordshire, East Lancashire and Royal Warwickshire Regiments, as well as the Durham Light Infantry, have their final resting place here.

HOTTOT-LES-BAGUES**N°82 - C3**

➤ Hottot-les-Bagues War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Hottot-les-Bagues Military Cemetery is situated 14 kilometres southeast of Bayeux on the D6. It is the last resting place of more than 1,138 Commonwealth victims of the war. A large number of them fell during the violent combat in this sector, between June and the beginning of July 1944.

SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN**N°83 - C3**

➤ Secqueville-en-Bessin War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Located between Bayeux and Caen alongside the D217, Secqueville-en-Bessin is the last resting place of nearly 117 Commonwealth troops. This battlefield cemetery contains the graves of soldiers who fell during the advance on Caen, which took place at the beginning of July 1944.

SAINT-DÉSIR-DE-LISIEUX**N°84 - D4**

➤ St. Desir War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

The most easterly Commonwealth military cemetery in Normandy, the military cemetery of Saint-Désir is located beside the D159 to the west of Lisieux. 603 of the Commonwealth war dead buried here were killed towards the end of the Normandy campaign, whilst pursuing German forces towards the Seine.

SAINT-MANVIEU/CHEUX**N°85 - C3**

➤ St. Manvieu War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

The military cemetery of Saint-Manvieu, Cheux, is situated on the D9 to the west of Caen. It contains more than 2,182 Commonwealth military graves due to the intense fighting in the region between Tilly-sur-Seulles and Caen from mid-June to the end of July 1944.

TILLY-SUR-SEULLES**N°86 - C3**

➤ Tilly-sur-Seulles War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

The military cemetery at Tilly-sur-Seulles is situated to the southeast of Bayeux, alongside the D6. This cemetery contains almost 1,221 Commonwealth soldiers' graves. Principally from the 49th and 5th Divisions, as well as the 7th Armoured Division they fell in the fierce fighting in the sector just after the D-Day landings.





Falaise pocket Chambois

★ Falaise

*"It is one of the greatest
killing fields in the war"
Eisenhower would
say of this battle*

Just as there were three phases to the invasion (by air, sea and bombardments by sea and air), there were also three phases in the Battle of Normandy. The month of June was devoted to the taking of Cherbourg. In July, Caen and Saint-Lô were liberated and troops advanced on Avranches. The month of August would see the end of the battle with the encircling of the 5th and 7th German armies in "Falaise Pocket".

When the Canadians took Falaise on August 17th they still needed to

close the pocket with the help of the Poles from the 1st armoured division and the Americans to the east of Argentan. At Chambois there was a veritable "corridor of death". On August 21st the German defeat in Normandy was sealed. "It is one of the greatest killing fields in the war" Eisenhower would say about this pocket.

So it was that the Battle of Normandy ended, after very bloody battles on each side. Now Paris and the rest of Europe remained to be liberated...



MONT-ORMEL

N°87 - D4

Mont-Ormel Memorial

In August 1944, 9 Allied divisions encircled 100,000 Germans in Falaise-Chambois pocket. The Battle of Normandy was coming to an end. Situated exactly where the fighting took place, between Argentan and Vimoutiers, the Mont-Ormel Memorial offers outstanding views over the Dives valley.

The battle of Falaise-Chambois pocket (18-22 August 1944) was the last gory stage in the Battle of Normandy, where soldiers from Poland, Canada, Great Britain, America and France distinguished themselves in the face of simultaneous and desperate attacks by the encircled German troops. This memorial site pays homage to the great strategists and fighters in a battle that Montgomery described as "the beginning of the end of the war".



In four languages, this museum describes the scale of the battle and its challenges. A film (consisting of archive images and eyewitness accounts), an animated model map, and relics of the fighting all add to the guide's explanations as you stand before the battle field.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Mémorial de Mont-Ormel

Les Hayettes

61160 MONT-ORMEL

+33 (0)2 33 67 38 61

memorial.montormel@orne.fr



memorial-montormel.fr



**BAGNOLES-DE-L'ORNE
NORMANDIE**

N°88 - C5

➤ Memorial Tour

Memorial tour – Traces of war: After the US entered the war in December 1941, and faced with the threat of an allied invasion, Hitler ordered the building of a 4000 km long line of defences along the length of the European coastline. This would be the Atlantic Wall. One of the main support bases for the whole operation was established at Bagnoles de l'Orne. Huge reserves of fuel, food stocks and ammunition were camouflaged in the forest of Andaines.

Learn for yourselves about this little known feat from The Second World War along a route of 2.6 km (1 1/2 miles) or its shorter version of 1.2 km (1/2 mile) with explanatory signs along the way.

Free

CONTACTS

Office de Tourisme
+33 (0)2 33 37 85 66
tourisme@bagnolesdelorne.com

www.bagnolesdelorne.com



BERJOU

N°89 - C4

➤ Blackwater Museum 39/45 Berjou

Situated on the heights at Berjou, near Condé-sur-Noireau, the Liberation Museum retraces the fighting of August 15th, 16th and 17th 1944 around Noireau, drawing on numerous objects found on the battlefield, together with explanations from a guide. The penultimate battle before the closure of the Falaise pocket, the liberation of Berjou was a grim episode, involving desperate fighting by the Germans seeking to defend their position around the community. The museum pays homage to the British soldiers of the 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Division and the 8th Brigade of Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry who distinguished themselves here.

New: "Berjou, August '44" themed circuit with 6 information desks.

Entrance free

CONTACTS

Blackwater Museum 39/45 Berjou
Lieu-dit «Les Cours»
61430 BERJOU
musee.berjou@gmail.com
+33 (0)6 71 82 24 96

www.musee-berjou.fr



L'AIGLE

N°90 - D4

➤ Musée "juin 1944" de L'Aigle

This museum plunges visitors into the events that marked the Second World War, from General de Gaulle's broadcast on June 18th 1940 to the defeat of the Germans during the battle of Falaise pocket. The museum shows eleven scenes of wax figures with the real voices of the main actors of these troubled times, as well as a 120-square-foot strategic map of the Battle of Normandy.

Inaugurated in 1953 in the outbuildings of the château de L'Aigle by Madame la Maréchale Leclerc de Hauteclocque, the June 1944 Museum was the first "talking museum" in France.

Entrance free

CONTACTS

Musée « Juin 44 »
Mairie de L'Aigle
Place Fulbert de Beina
61300 L'AIGLE
+33 (0)2 33 84 44 44
patrimoine@ville-laigle.fr

www.ville-laigle.fr



BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAIZE

N°91 - C4

➤ Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

The Canadian cemetery at Bretteville-sur-Laize is located 14 km south of Caen, beside the N158 road. Most of the soldiers buried here died in the last stages of the Battle of Normandy, during the taking of Caen and the push southwards, led in the first instance by the 4th Canadian Armoured Division and the 1st Polish Armoured Division, in order to close off the breach in the Falaise Pocket. A large proportion of the units of II Canadian Corps is represented at this cemetery, which contains 2,958 Second World War graves, mostly Canadian, with 87 graves of unidentified dead.



ST-NICOLAS-DES-BOIS

N°92 - C5

➤ National Necropolis of Les Gates

This national necropolis is situated in the Escouves forest where the fiercest tank battles took place in August 1944. It contains the remains of 19 soldiers from the 2nd Armoured Division who died in the fighting to liberate the Orne department. This division commanded by General Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque landed in the sector of Utah Beach on August 1st 1944. Its participation in the liberation of the country was of great symbolic importance. It took part in the intense battles which led to the encirclement of German troops in the Falaise-Chambois pocket before taking part in the liberation of Paris. Latin crosses, and headstones marked with the Islamic crescent or the Star of David are in keeping with the spirit of union and fraternity in the 2nd Armoured Division. Unlimited access.

VIMOUTIERS

The Tiger Tank

Listed as a Historic Monument on December 2nd 1975, this Tiger Tank is one of the last, if not the only one still existing in Normandy.

At the end of August 1944, it ran out of fuel on its way to a refuelling base at the Château de L'Horloge at Ticheville, and it was abandoned near Vimoutiers!



URVILLE / LANGANNERIE

N°93 - C4

➤ Polish military cemetery

Situated on the RN 158 between Caen and Falaise (Urville exit), this cemetery contains the graves of 615 Polish soldiers and officers. A small number of them – pilots or resistance fighters – were killed in 1940 during the Battle of France, or during the Occupation. The large majority belonged to the 1st Polish Armoured Division under General Maczek, who paid a heavy price during the fighting at the Falaise-Chambois pocket. This Polish military cemetery is one of seven foreign military cemeteries maintained by the French state. It is also the only Polish cemetery from the Second World War in France.

Normandy will bear the scars of war *for a long time*

During the summer of 1944, the people of Normandy found themselves caught in the midst of a gigantic battle. During the month of July, when the fighting was at its worst, over two million soldiers were in the fray (twice as many as the number of inhabitants of Calvados and Manche). Civilian victims were numerous; to escape the bombs, people took refuge in cellars, quarries and trenches. Some decided to flee along roads which had become dangerous due to aerial strafing.

The Battle of Normandy lasted nearly three months, a lot longer than Allied strategies had allowed for. The liberation of communities took place only slowly and progressively. Then at last the people of Normandy encountered the liberating soldiers for whom they had waited so long.

But the fighting and bombing had created too many ruins and cost too many lives for them to celebrate their liberation without reserve. The liberators were welcomed everywhere by the local population and the Allies tasted cider and calvados, whilst the locals could savour the taste of chocolate and tobacco once more.

Due to the length of the Battle of Normandy many communities far from the coast had to wait a long time for the arrival of the troops. The department of Manche was only completely liberated on August 15th. On August 21st department of Orne was also liberated. In Calvados, the last place to be freed was Honfleur on August 25th. The towns of Vernon and Rouen were liberated at the end of August, Dieppe on September 1st 1944 and Le Havre on the 12th.



FALAISE

N°94 - C4



The Falaise Memorial Civilians at War



Discover a museum that's unique in Europe!

Located in Falaise, Normandy's iconic medieval town, renowned as the birthplace of William the Conqueror, the Falaise Memorial encourages you to learn about the Second World War and the Battle of Normandy in unique fashion, via the civilian populations involved.

Discover what daily life was like not just for Normandy families, but also other families across France and Europe facing the horrors of war. From occupation to reconstruction, via the battles for liberation, share many period stories thanks to the trails proposed, featuring period items, reconstructions of settings, archive material and numerous testimonies.

An exceptional immersive film projected over the authentic vestiges of a house that was destroyed in August 1944 transports you back to the horrendous bombardments many were subjected to in the Second World War.

This is a site not to be missed to bring history back to life, and to understand current world events.

Buy your tickets online
www.memorial-falaise.fr

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Mémorial de Falaise
Place Guillaume le Conquérant
14700 FALAISE
Tél. +33(0)2 31 20 02 97
info@memorial-falaise.fr



www.memorial-falaise.fr



DUCLAIR

N°95 - E3

➤ August 1944 Museum, Hell on The Seine

At the end of August 1944 the order for a general retreat was given to German forces. Tens of thousands of German soldiers then attempted to flee the advance of the Allies, but found themselves blocked by the Seine.

The aim of this museum is to commemorate those tragic hours of fighting followed by the hours of relief at liberation. With scenes incorporating thousands of period objects like uniforms and weapons, with accounts by soldiers, civilians, and eyewitnesses of the fighting, you can come to understand the history of the last battles in the Battle of Normandy.

Entrance fee

CONTACTS

Musée Août 44

Château du Taillis, 76480 DUCLAIR
+33(0)2 35 37 95 46 / +33(0)6 83 82 22 89
chateaudutailis@gmail.com

www.chateaudutailis.com



GONFREVILLE-L'ORCHER

N°96 - D3

➤ Maison du Patrimoine et des Cités provisoires

The so-called Cigarette Camps were transit camps for GIs waiting to return to the USA. At Gonfreville l'Orcher, the Philip Morris Camp saw over one million men pass through between 1945 and 1947. It then provided emergency accommodation, for 35 more years, for Le Havre citizens left homeless due to the 1944 bombardments of the city.

Free

CONTACTS

Maison du Patrimoine et des Cités provisoires

2a & 2b rue du 8 mai 1945
76700 GONFREVILLE-L'ORCHER
+33 (0)2 35 13 16 53
maison-patrimoine@gonfreville-l-orcher.fr

www.gonfreville-l-orcher.fr

CASTINE-EN-PLAINE - RN158 (BESIDE THE TRUNK ROAD)

Memorial site

Mémorial des blindés de la Seconde Guerre mondiale (Memorial to the role of armoured vehicles in the Second World War)

Southeast of Caen, between 18 July and 20 August 1944, Allied infantry and armoured vehicles would play a crucial part in the Battle of Normandy. Over a month after the D-Day landings of 6 June 1944, the front to the east had hardly moved while Allied troops had suffered heavy losses. A large number of military operations were therefore launched. The means employed were considerable, involving tens of thousands of men, a large number of armoured vehicles, including many tanks, and bomber planes.

SAINT-CHARLES-DE-PERCY

N°97 - B4

➤ St-Charles-de-Percy War Cemetery

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery

Situated along the D290 A, the Saint-Charles-de-Percy Military Cemetery is the southernmost military cemetery in Normandy. Most of the men buried here were killed at the end of July and the beginning of August 1944, during the major push from Caumont-l'Éventé towards Vire. Just over 809 dead from the Commonwealth are interred here.

SAINT-DÉSIR-DE-LISIEUX

N°98 - D3

➤ German military cemetery

The German military cemetery at Saint-Désir-de-Lisieux contains the bodies of 3,735 victims of war who fell during the violent fighting along the River Toques, between its mouth and Lisieux and Orbec. Construction started in 1957-1958, and the cemetery was inaugurated on September 21st 1961.



NORMANDY EXPERIENCES

In Normandy,
**live experiences and
unforgettable moments...**

en.normandie-tourisme.fr/the-experiences



**An immersive
D-Day
experience
for kids
at Juno Beach**



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with a Local
Guide**



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the Footsteps
of the 101st
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amid iconic
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on Omaha
Beach**



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**Behind the
Scenes Tour
at the Airborne
Museum**



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**Flap your
wings and fly
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https://norman-air-49.webself.net

NORMANDY BATTLEFIELD TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION

www.normandy-battlefield-tour-guides-association.com

FEDERATION OF THE GUIDES OF NORMANDY

contact@normandyguides.com
www.normandyguides.com
www.guidesdenormandie.fr





Index of Communes and military cemeteries

INDEX OF COMMUNES

A

Ardouval 5
Arromanches-les-Bains 29, 30
Aumale-Blangy 5
Azeville 15

B

Bagnoles-de-l'Orne 58
Banneville-la-Campagne 54
Bayeux 43
Bazenville 33
Bénerville-sur-Mer 5
Bény-sur-Mer 35
Berjou 58
Bretteville-sur-Laize 59
Bretteville-sur-Odon 52
Brouay 54

C

Caen 51, 52
Cambes-en-Plaine 54
Carentan 14, 15
Catz 14
Champigny-la-Futelaye 8
Cherbourg-en-Cotentin 45
Cheux 55
Chouain 54
Colleville-Montgomery 39
Colleville-sur-Mer 21, 23, 27
Colombières 23
Commes 33
Courseulles-sur-Mer 35
Creully-sur-Seulles 52
Cricqueville-en-Bessin 22

D

Dieppe 6
Douvres-la-Délivrande 39, 41
Duclair 62

E

Écausville 16

F

Falaise 61
Fécamp 6
Folligny 47
Fontenay-le-Pesnel 55
Forges-les-Eaux 6

G

Géfosse-Fontenay 23, 24
Gonfreville-l'Orcher 62
Grandcamp-Maisy 24
Granville 47

H

Hautot-sur-Mer 9
Hermanville-sur-Mer 41
Honfleur 7
Hottot-les-Bagues 55
Huisnes-sur-Mer 49

L

La Cambe 26
La Chapelle en juger 49
L'Aigle 58
Langannerie 59
Le Tréport 7
Longues-sur-Mer 31

M

Manneville-sur-Risle 7
Marigny 47, 49
Merville-Franceville 38
Mont-Ormel 57
Mortain-Bocage 47

O

Orglandes 18
Ouistreham 39, 40

P

Paluel 8
Pontaubault 48
Port-en-Bessin 33

Q

Quinéville 17

R

Ranville 37, 41
Revers 35
Ryes 33

S

Saint-Charles-de-Percy 63
Saint-Côme-du-Mont 13
Saint-Désir-de-Lisieux 55, 63
Sainte-Mère-Église 12, 18
Saint-James 49
Saint-Jouin-Bruneval 8
Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer 24, 25
Saint-Lô 48
Saint-Manvieu-Norrey 55
Saint-Marcouf-de-l'Isle 17
Saint-Marie-du-Mont 11
Saint-Martin-des-Besaces 53
Saint-Nicolas-des-Bois 59
Saint-Sébastien-de-Raids 48
Secqueville-en-Bessin 55

T

Tatihou 16
Tilly-sur-Seulles 53, 55

U

Urville 59

V

Ver-sur-Mer 32, 33
Vierville-sur-Mer 25
Vimoutiers 59

INDEX OF MILITARY CEMETERIES

American 27, 49
Commonwealth 9, 33, 35, 41, 43, 54, 55, 59, 63
French 59
German 8, 18, 26, 49, 63
Polish 59

Map Museums, outdoor site and military cemeteries

THE ALLIES PREPARE FOR D-DAY

- 01 V1 Rocket Launch Bases p.5
- 02 Le Val Ygot p.5
- 03 Mont Canisy gun batteries p.5
- 04 Memorial of the 19th August 1942 p.6
- 05 The Blockhouses of Cape Fagnet p.6
- 06 Normandy Resistance museum p.7
- 07 The Station Blockhouse p.7
- 08 Kahl Burg p.7
- 09 The Resistance and Deportation Museum p.7
- 10 The Alabaster Memorial p.8
- 11 The Bruneval Memorial p.8
- 12 German military cemetery p.8
- 13 Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery p.9

UTAH BEACH SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE CARENTAN

- 14 Utah Beach D-Day Landing Museum p.11
- 15 Airborne Museum p.12
- 16 D-Day Experience p.13
- 17 Normandy Victory Museum p.14
- 18 Azeville Gun Battery p.15
- 19 The Carentan 1944 Historical Trail p.15
- 20 Airship Hangar p.16
- 21 The Fort of Tatiou p.16
- 22 Crisbecq Artillery Battery p.17
- 23 World War II Museum p.17
- 24 Open-air museum p.18
- 25 German military Cemetery p.18

OMAHA BEACH

- 26 Overlord Museum Omaha Beach p.21
- 27 La Pointe du Hoc p.22
- 28 Big Red One Assault Museum p.23
- 29 Colombières Castle p.23
- 30 Tour of Géfosse-Fontenay Blockhouse p.23
- 31 Maisy Gun Battery p.24
- 32 Liberation House p.24
- 33 Omaha Beach Memorial Museum p.24
- 34 The museum of civilian life... p.25
- 35 The Omaha D-Day Museum p.25

- 36 The German military Cemetery of La Cambe p.26
- 37 Normandy American Cemetery et Visitor Center p.27

GOLD BEACH

- 38 Arromanches 360 circular Cinema p.29
- 39 The Landings Museum p.30
- 40 German Gun Battery of Longues-sur-Mer p.31
- 41 British Memorial of Ver-sur-Mer p.32
- 42 Museum of undersea wrecks p.33
- 43 America & Gold Beach Museums p.33
- 44 Ryes War Cemetery p.33

JUNO BEACH

- 45 Juno Beach Centre p.35
- 46 Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery p.35

SWORD BEACH

- 47 The Pegasus Memorial p.37
- 48 Merville Gun Battery Museum p.38
- 49 Hillman Strongpoint p.39
- 50 Radar station 44 p.39
- 51 N°4 Commando Museum p.39
- 52 Atlantic Wall Museum The Bunker p.40
- 53 La Délivrande War Cemetery p.41
- 54 Hermanville War Cemetery p.41
- 55 Ranville War Cemetery p.41

BAYEUX

- 56 Bayeux War Cemetery & Memorial p.43
- 57 Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy p.43

CHERBOURG

- 58 La Cité de la Mer p.45
- 59 The Museum of The Liberation p.45

FROM SAINT-LÔ TO AVRANCHES

- 60 Batterie du Roc p.47
- 61 Py Park at Folligny p.47
- 62 Cobra Marigny Memorial p.47
- 63 The Saint Michel Chapel p.47
- 64 François Mutschler Collection p.48
- 65 Chapelle de la Madeleine US memorial p.48

- 66 The Art and History museum of Saint-Lô p.48
- 67 Musée Cobra La Percée p.48
- 68 German military cemetery p.49
- 69 German military cemetery p.49
- 70 Brittany American Cemetery p.49

CAEN

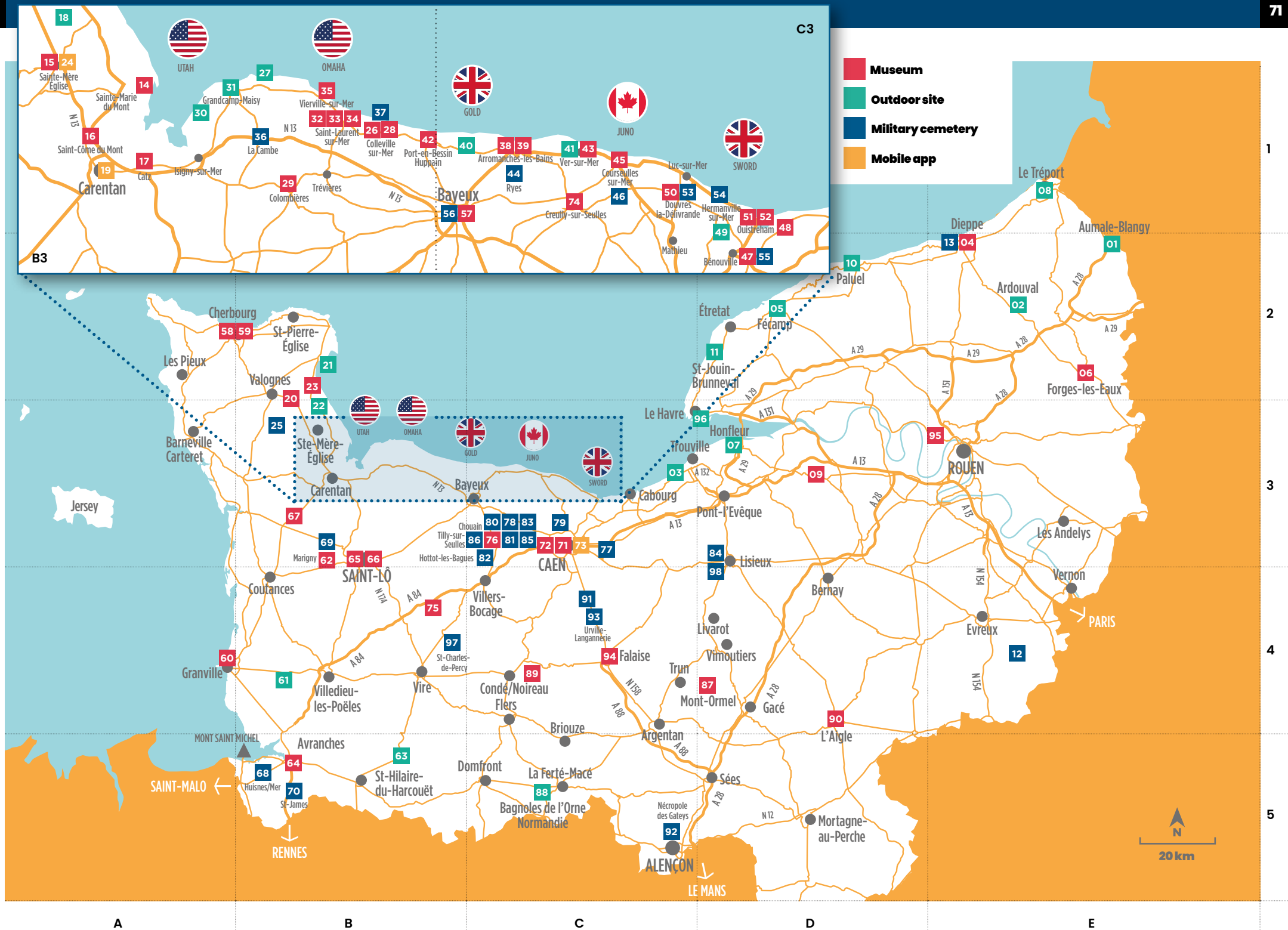
- 71 The Caen Mémorial museum p.51
- 72 D-Day Wings Museum p.52
- 73 Digital tour of Caen p.52
- 74 Musée de la Radio BBC p.52
- 75 The Bocage Breakout Museum p.53
- 76 Museum of the Battle of Tilly-sur-Seulles p.53
- 77 Banneville-la-Campagne War Cemetery p.54
- 78 Brouay War Cemetery p.54
- 79 Cambes-en-Plaine War Cemetery p.54
- 80 Jerusalem War Cemetery p.54
- 81 Fontenay-le-Pesnel War Cemetery p.55
- 82 Hottot-les-Bagues War Cemetery p.55
- 83 Secqueville-en-Bessin War Cemetery p.55
- 84 Saint-Desir War Cemetery p.55
- 85 Saint-Manvieu War Cemetery p.55
- 86 Tilly-sur-Seulles War Cemetery p.55

FALAISE POCKET CHAMBOIS

- 87 Mont-Ormel Memorial p.57
- 88 Memorial Tour p.58
- 89 Blackwater Museum 39/45 Berjou p.58
- 90 Musée « juin 1944 » de L'Aigle p.58
- 91 Bretteville/Laize Canadian War Cemetery p.59
- 92 Nécropole nationale Les Gates p.59
- 93 Cimetière militaire polonais p.59

NORMANDY WILL BEAR THE SCARS OF WAR FOR A LONG TIME

- 94 The Falaise Memorial - Civilians at War p.61
- 95 August 1944 Museum, Hell on The Seine p.62
- 96 Maison du Patrimoine et des Cités provisoires p.62
- 97 St-Charles-de-Percy War Cemetery p.63
- 98 German military cemetery p.63





Commemorate the end of WWII

80 years later

In 2024 and 2025, we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Over time, it becomes apparent that our direct memory of the events is fading away. However, the lessons we learn from the war remain extremely significant, and its history can be traced everywhere: in our families, schools, neighbourhoods, and museums.

Europe Remembers is a digital campaign aimed at preserving the memory of the conclusion of the Second World War in Europe. From the landing in Sicily in 1943 to the capitulation's signature on 8 May 1945, it provides an easy entry point to educational content and engaging events. On a single, multilingual platform, you will find historical information, remembrance sites, exhibitions, and commemorations all around Europe.

LRE Foundation

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www.europe remembers.com

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