Guide to the sites and museums
of the Historical Area of the Battle of Normandy

EXPLORATION
AND EMOTION
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The Normandie PASS entitles you to many benefits, discounts and gifts…

How does it work?

Costing just €1* on top of a full adult admission charge, the Normandie PASS is only available from partner museums in the Historical Area of the Battle of Normandy, from 31 March 2014 to 11 November 2014.

* Valid from 31 March to 31 December 2014.
Exploration and Emotion

2014 marks the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, and we will be paying tribute to the men who came and fought here in the name of freedom, peace and reconciliation.

The Lower Normandy Council has been working jointly with the Normandie Mémoire association to ensure that we fittingly honour and celebrate our liberators.

We hope that this brochure will contribute to our aim by introducing you to the Historical Area of the Battle of Normandy, for its many sites and museums have much to teach us about what happened in the summer of 1944 and about the men to whom we owe so much.

Laurent BEAUVAIS, Chairman of the Lower Normandy Regional Council
Admiral BRAC DE LA PERRIÈRE, Chairman of Normandie Mémoire

www.le70e-normandie.fr

www.liberte-normandie.fr
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WHY NORMANDY?

It was at the Quebec Conference in 1943 that the decision was taken to launch a major landing on continental Europe in the spring of 1944, codenamed “Overlord”.

Contrary to what the German High Command had been expecting, the site for the attack was not to be the north coast of France, closest to Great Britain, but the beaches near the Seine Estuary. By landing along the less heavily fortified coastline of Lower Normandy, the Allies would have the advantage of surprise. To compensate for the lack of a deepwater port in the vicinity where heavy goods could be brought ashore, two floating harbours were planned. One was to be built off Arromanches, between Tracy and Asnelles at the western end of the British sector. The other would be located off Omaha Beach in the American sector. To create confusion, Allied air and sea forces would launch a bombardment of the Atlantic Wall defences prior to the first troops going ashore. They would be supported by amphibious tanks, armoured bulldozers, flame throwers and mine disposal vehicles.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE LANDINGS

In December 1943, General Eisenhower was appointed Commander-in-Chief of Operation Overlord. He was supported by General Montgomery, in charge of the land-based troops, and Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Naval Forces (Operation Neptune).

KEY

Map showing where a museum is located
Use this number to locate the museum on the map of sites, museums and cemeteries on p. 51-53
The colour of the square corresponds to one of the 8 chronological routes (see maps on p. 25 and p. 51-53)

“Qualité Tourisme (QT), a national seal of approval” QT status is awarded to tourist attractions for their visitor services and facilities

Places that sell and accept the Normandie Pass

The regional Normandie Qualité Tourisme (NQT) scheme is part of the French Government’s Tourism Quality Plan

Car park
Coach park
Picnic area

Tours for visitors with hearing loss
Disabled access
Toilets

Shop
Snacks
Animals allowed
At Le Val Ygot, in the heart of the Eawy Forest, a 3-hectare complex built in 1943 for launching the famous VI flying bombs has become a World War II commemorative site. Thirteen of the original buildings are still standing, including shelters, workshops and the launch ramp.

Unrestricted access. Information panels. Guided tours on request.

2014 opening times
- Open all year round

Tours and provisional rates for 2014
- Free guided tours from the first Sunday in April to the end of September
- Groups daily, by prior appointment only (€3 per person)
- 1 1/2 hr
- Bookings and information: valygot@gmail.com

Housed in a splendid Italianate theatre built in 1826, this museum is dedicated to the memory of the Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen who took part in the Dieppe Raid. Scale models, memorabilia and a wealth of documents, plus projection of a film on Operation Jubilee.

- Languages spoken: French, English, German
- Guided tours on request
- Average length of visit: 90 min
- Video (42 min)

Tours and provisional rates for 2014
- Adults: €2.80
- Groups: €2.30
- Free: children aged 15 or under

2014 opening times
- General public: open daily (except for Tuesdays) from the beginning of June to the end of September, 2pm-6pm. From Easter to the end of May, and from the beginning of October to 15 November, open on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays, 2pm-6pm (reception manned by members of the Jubilee Association). Pre-booked tours only between mid-November and mid-March: warm clothing recommended.
- Groups: open all year round, advance booking required. Contact the Jubilee Association - Tel. 0033 (0)2 35 84 80 67 or 0033 (0)6 65 67 90 40. Morning tours only in summer and at other times when the museum is open the general public. Tours between mid-November and mid-March: warm clothing recommended.
This two-storey museum relates the story of the sombre years of World War II via a large collection of documents and artefacts (period weaponry and clothing, crystal sets, flying equipment, posters, etc.). Video projection room.

Numerous eyewitness accounts from former Resistance workers who were deported from Seine-Maritime to concentration camps.

**Tours and provisional rates for 2014**

- Adults: €5
- Adult groups (min. 10): €4
- School parties: €2
- Free: children aged 10 or under and group leaders

**2014 opening times**

- 02/01 to 31/12: 2-6pm
- Annual closure: 25/12 & 01/01
- Closed in the morning

**Location**

See map on p. 51-53 no. 3 [H2]

Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation
Rue du Maréchal Leclerc
76440 FORGES-LES-EAUX
© 0033 (0)2 35 90 64 07
✉ 0033 (0)2 35 90 64 07
museedelaresistance@free.fr

Just seven minutes from Etretat, an open-air museum about one of the boldest Allied raids in the whole of World War II.

The Bruneval Memorial stands on the very site of one of the episodes of Operation Biting [27-28 February 1942]. As German defences blocked access from the sea, the decision was taken to drop a company of British paratroopers near a German radar station. Their mission was to neutralize the garrison, remove various key components of the radar and take them back to England. General de Gaulle inaugurated the first monument to the operation on 30 March 1947. The site was redeveloped in 1975 and the Charles de Gaulle steps were added two years later. In June 2012, a new memorial was officially opened by Kenneth Holden, one of the last surviving veterans of the Bruneval Raid.

**2014 opening times**

- The site is accessible free of charge all year round.
In order to prevent assault craft from landing, Field Marshal Rommel had thousands of beach obstacles built.

The precise date and time of the assault depended on a number of criteria. Rommel's defences had been placed on the beaches in anticipation of an attack at high tide. The assault would therefore have to take place midway through a rising tide, so that the landing craft would not become snagged on the spikes.

For the airborne troops the mission required a full moon.

Finally, the naval bombardment of the German defences 45 minutes prior to the landings had to take place in the first light of dawn, to be able to pinpoint the targets.

These three conditions (mid-rising tide and dawn preceded by a full moon) only occurred a few days each month. Eisenhower settled on June 5th, with the option of delaying operations to the 6th or 7th.

As it happened, bad weather in the Channel in early June forced Eisenhower to postpone the landings by 24 hours, by which time the conditions were due to improve.

And so the date Tuesday June 6th, 1944 entered into history.

In order to prevent assault craft from landing, Field Marshal Rommel had installed thousands of beach obstacles.
The gigantic undertaking was commenced in 1942 by the Todt Organization. It was not actually complete by 1944, despite the best efforts of Field Marshal Rommel, who took over responsibility for the whole sector from the Netherlands to the Loire in late 1943. The plan was to build 15,000 structures along the whole of the North Sea, Channel and Atlantic coastlines. 450,000 labourers (volunteers and conscripts) worked on the project, which required 11 million tonnes of concrete and 1 million tonnes of steel frames.

Contrary to the image painted by German propaganda, the “wall” was not one continuous structure but a series of four different types of fortification. These were fortresses, coastal artillery batteries, beachhead defences and barriers built either on the beaches themselves or inland.

Many remains of the Atlantic Wall, more or less well preserved, are still visible today along the Normandy coast. Behind them were massed more than 700,000 men. Altogether, the German Army counted 7-8 divisions in Lower Normandy.

*The Crisbecq Battery in its concrete encasement after the fighting.*
What’s new in 2014

- Exhibition and accompanying book on the history of the battery, based on the battery commander’s papers, Wehrmacht records and period photographs.
- 70th anniversary commemorations: 9 June at 7.30pm: lecture on the German troops in Normandy, followed by a musical picnic and the screening of a film on the Atlantic Wall. Open to everyone.

2014 opening times

- April, October & school holidays (except Christmas): 2pm-6pm
- May & September: 11am-6pm
- June, July & August: 10am-7pm
- Last ticket sales one hour before the site shuts
- Exceptionally closed on 1st May 2014

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 5 [ B3 ]

Batterie d’Azeville

Built by the Todt Organization between 1941 and 1944, in Northern France, close to Sainte-Mère-Église, the Azeville Battery was one of the key fortifications of the Atlantic Wall. From its inland location, it was designed to protect the beaches all along the east coast of the Cotentin Peninsula. Equipped with a comprehensive defence system and impressive underground complex, it was one of the Allies’ prime objectives on June 6th, 1944. Despite an early attack, it continued to bombard Utah Beach for three days. It was finally silenced after fierce fighting on June 9th.

Features

Step back in time! Drawing on rigorous historical research, we show how the battery was built, what life was like for the Occupying troops and their relations with local people. See how the blockhouses were camouflaged as tumbledown cottages and explore the incredible network of underground rooms and tunnels. Multilingual audioguide (children’s version available).

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Audio-guided tour (approx. 45 minutes) [FR/GB/D/E/NL/I]
Children’s version in FR. Pre-bookings only for groups

- Adults: €5
  with Normandie Pass: €4
- Students, Intersite pass holders: €4
- Children: €2
- Adult groups (min. 20): €3.20
- School parties (min. 20): from €1.80
- Free of charge: WWII veterans, group leaders, children under 7 yrs

Guided tours (approx. 90 min)

In July and August, guided tour of the battery every Tuesday at 2pm (advance bookings only).
What’s new in 2014

Participation in the European Heritage Days on Saturday 20 September, 2.30pm-5.30pm.

2014 opening times

• Unrestricted access all year round

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 6 [E3]

At an altitude of 110 m, Mont Canisy dominates the Seine Estuary and the port of Le Havre. A French Navy coastal battery was operational here in 1940, but was put out of action prior to the arrival of the Occupying forces. Recognizing the strategic importance of the position, however, the Germans also installed a battery here, initially using six of the 155-mm French guns. By 1944, two of these had been rehoused in bunkers built nearby.

During the Landings, two British warships, HMS Warspite and HMS Ramillies, along with Allied air support, were charged with taking out the defences on the Côte Fleurie, in particular Mont Canisy.

The Germans left the battery during the night of 21st/22nd August without a fight.

Features

To supply the artillery pieces, the Germans constructed a network of underground chambers more than 250m long and 15m below ground level. The tunnels were protected by thick concrete defences built on the surface. Thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers, it is possible to go on guided tours of the underground structure today. Bring a torch!

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Mont Canisy can be visited free of charge all year round

Free guided tours from April to November at 2.30pm (2 hr) [FR/GB/NL]

• Tour of the structures above ground, as well as the network of underground chambers
  November 10. Meeting point at the “Belvedere”, gates open at 2pm

• Between April and September the times of the tours are available at the tourist office. Tours booked in advance can be arranged all year round.
Given the code name “HILLMAN” by the Allies, this site comprised 18 concrete bunkers buried to a depth of 4 m and linked by a complex network of trenches. Surrounded by minefields and barbed wire, the site was defended by guns, machine guns and armoured gunposts. On June 6th, the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment was given the difficult mission of capturing Hillman.

Features

This site is run by the “Friends of the Suffolk Regiment” association which, with the support of the local community, honours the veterans and maintains the memorial that was inaugurated in one of the bunkers on June 6th, 1989. The association is entirely run by volunteers, who share a passion for the fortifications, the history of the community and that of the Landings on June 6th, 1944. The museum comprises three rooms featuring British and German equipment of the time, as well as film projections.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

The Hillman site is open free of charge all year round.

Pre-booked guided tour (1½-2 hr) [FR/GB/NL]

• Guided tours available every Tuesday at 3pm, from July to September
• Guided tours possible throughout the year, advance booking only
LA POINTE DU HOC
Cricqueville-en-Bessin

What’s new in 2014
Reopening of the renovated and extended visitor centre.

2014 opening times
• Unrestricted access all year round
Visitor Centre opening times:
• 16 September to 14 April: 9am-5pm
• 15 April to 15 September: 9am-6pm
• Annual closure: 1st January & 25 December

Location
See map on p. 51-53 no. 8 [ C3 ]

Pointe du Hoc was one of the strategic points in the German fortifications along the Normandy coast. The task of taking it fell to the 2nd Battalion of Rangers commanded by Colonel J.E. Rudder. Incredibly, they managed to scale the summit in just a few minutes, despite the slippery surface, ropes made heavy by seawater and enemy fire. The ferocious fighting that followed on the lunar landscape potted with deep craters was more deadly than the ascent itself. Another surprise awaited the Rangers, when they discovered that the “guns” inside the bunkers were in fact wooden logs.

Today, the site contains the remnants of the German artillery battery and bears testimony to the bitter fighting of June 6th and 7th, which cost the lives of 135 Rangers.

Features
The Pointe du Hoc is one of the rare locations that still vividly portray the violence of the Normandy Landings. Deeply scarred by the fighting, the site makes it easy to appreciate the extreme conditions under which the Rangers had to scale the cliff face under German gunfire from above.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014
Pointe du Hoc is accessible free of charge all year round.
Located in the former German radar station just outside Douvres-la-Délivrande, this museum demonstrates the essential role played by radar during the Second World War and, in particular, the vital contribution it made to Allied success in the Battle of Britain and the Battle of the Atlantic. The station was one of the most important radar detection links in the Atlantic Wall defences in France.

At the site you will discover two remarkably well preserved bunkers and a highly original display explaining the role of radar and the development of radar technology.

Features
The only restored WWII radar station that is open to the public. It houses a unique example of the Wurzburg Riese radar.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014
Self-guided tour only (30 min)
- Adults: € 5.50
- Children: € 3.50

Guided tours
Saturdays and Sundays in July and August at 3.30pm
Built from 1942 onwards, this site formed part of a militarized zone covering 44 hectares and overlooked part of the Landing Beaches. On June 6th, 1944, it bombarded the Allied troops for three days. The final assault on June 9th, led by the 2nd and 5th Battalions of the US Rangers, took five hours.

Features

There are underground constructions, six 155-mm gun emplacements, tunnels and many other structures to explore. With over 1.5 km of restored trenches, you can move around just like the troops who defended this location. Several new guns have been installed since the opening of the site in 2007.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour only (45 min)
- Adults: €6
  with Normandie Pass: €5
- Students: €5
- Children and school parties: €4
- Adult groups: €4.50
- Free: WWII veterans, group leaders

Guided tour (45 min) [GB]

Advance booking only for groups
Longues-sur-Mer is the only coastal defence battery on the Landing Beaches to have been designated a “Scheduled Monument”.

A key component of the Atlantic Wall, this battery had a command post and four bunkers, each with a 150-mm gun permanently in place. Located in the middle of the assault sector and at the top of a cliff overlooking the Channel, it played a strategic defensive role during the Allied Landings of June 6th, 1944.

**Features**

Today it is the only battery to have retained its original guns. Located between Arromanches and Omaha Beach, the site has a panoramic view over the Landing Beaches.

**Tours and provisional rates for 2014**

The Longues-sur-Mer battery can be visited free of charge, all year round.

**Guided tour for members of the public (1 hr) [FR/GB]**

- Every day in June, July & August and weekends only in April, May, September & October
- Tour times: 10.15am / 11.45am / 2.15pm / 3.45pm
- Adults: €4
  - with Normandie Pass: €3
- Children (11-17 yrs): €3
- Free: children under 11

**Guided tours for groups (1 hr) [FR]**

For bookings and admission charges, please contact the Bayeux-Intercom tourist office on 00 33 2 31 51 28 27
Covering an area of several hectares between Ouistreham and Cabourg, the site of the Merville Battery is entirely preserved. Following an educational route, visitors can explore four bunkers, as well as one of the legendary Dakota C47 aircraft that took part in the Landings.

Features

In one of the bunkers, the clock has been turned back 70 years to dawn on June 6th. Every 20 minutes, visitors are plunged into a realistic reconstruction to experience the final minutes prior to the battery being put out of action. Sound, light, smoke and smells combine in a deluge of noise and fire. Wherever your path takes you at the Merville Battery, you are following in the footsteps of heroes.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour (1½ hr)

- Adults: €6
- Students, members of the Armed Forces: €5
- Children (6-16 years): €3.50
- Adult groups: €4.50
- School parties: €3
- Free: WWII veterans, group leaders, children (under 6 yrs)

Tour of the Dakota C-47 possible without any supplement (30 min) [FR]

- Pre-bookings only in July & August
Just a stone’s throw from the beach and the Ouistreham ferry terminal, and only 5 minutes away from Pegasus Bridge, the Atlantic Wall Museum is housed in the former German Army HQ that controlled the batteries guarding the Orne Estuary. Built from 5,000 tonnes of steel and concrete, this massive 17 m tower, overlooking the quaint seaside villas of Riva-Bella is unique of its kind. The tower has been restored so that it looks exactly as it did on the morning of June 6, 1944. Inside the rooms on each of its six storeys have been entirely refurbished and returned to their original functions, including an engine room, filter room, barrack room, pharmacy, infirmary, armoury, ammunition store, map room, radio room, switchboard, model room and observation post with a powerful telemeter. Spaces are also dedicated to the crack troops who breached the Atlantic Wall and the special equipment they used.

Features
Genuine PA3031 landing craft on display that featured in Steven Spielberg’s 5 Oscar-winning film, Saving Private Ryan.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014
Self-guided tour only (approx. 45 min)
• Adults: €7.50
  with Normandie Pass: €6.50
• Children aged 6-12 yrs: €5.50
• Adult groups: €5.50
• School parties (6-12 yrs): €3.80 / (13+ yrs): €4.80
• Admission free of charge for D-Day veterans, accompanying persons, coach drivers and children under 6 yrs
Educational quiz for children aged 6-12 years available on request at the reception desk
The coastal artillery battery of Crisbecq was built by the Todt Organization in 1942. With its 21 cm Skoda guns, it covered the sector from Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue to Pointe du Hoc.

Under the command of Lieutenant Walter Ohmsen, the men of this battery found themselves facing the 4th US Infantry Division, which landed on Utah Beach in the morning of June 6th, 1944. Of the 406 soldiers in the battery, only 78 managed to break out of the encirclement and join their lines on June 12th, leaving behind 21 wounded and numerous American prisoners.

Features

Get to the heart of History in the bunkers of the most powerful battery that guarded Utah Beach: Crisbecq Battery.

No fewer than 21 blockhouses, all linked by a network of trenches, can be visited altogether. Some of them contain dioramas depicting everyday life in the battery during the war.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour (1 hr)

- Adults: €7
- Students, members of the Armed Forces: €6
- Groups: €5
- School parties: €3.50 (incl. activity booklet)
- Free: WWII veterans, guides, children under 6 yrs, disabled visitors
- We accept holiday vouchers issued by the French National Holiday Vouchers Agency (ANCV)

What’s new in 2014

- Additional blockhouses have been converted to extend the existing exhibition space, and the dioramas have been rethought.
- Four new guns now on display
- Week of 6 June: a range of events at the Battery
The Airborne Divisions

Operation Overlord was launched in the early hours of June 6th, with the dropping of three airborne divisions on the two flanks of the front. American parachutists landed in the Carentan/Sainte-Mère-Eglise sector, while the British mission involved seizing certain key objectives around Ranville (artillery batteries, bridges, roads, locks, etc.). A little later in the day, several hundred US Rangers managed to capture the fortified position of Pointe du Hoc after a particularly daring assault.

The airborne troops in the British sector

To the east of the Orne estuary extends an area of low-lying land between the plain of Caen and the Dives marshes which were deliberately flooded by the Germans in 1944. It was here that the men of the 6th Airborne Division, under General Gale, were parachuted in the early hours of June 6th. Their primary mission was to occupy this zone to prevent a German counter-attack on the left flank of the landing sector, where the Allied forces were to launch their attack at dawn.

The airborne troops in the American sector

The Americans had a similar mission of protecting the Utah Beach sector on the west flank of the landing zone. The Allied Command decided to drop two parachute divisions during the night prior to the invasion to prevent German counter-attacks.

The 101st Airborne Division, commanded by General Taylor, had to secure the exits from Utah Beach and capture the bridges around Carentan, as well as its important communications hub.

The 82nd Airborne Division, under General Ridgeway, would secure Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the bridges over the Merderet River.
Located on the edge of the Landing Beaches, the Pegasus Memorial outlines the different missions the British 6th Airborne Division had to carry out in the early hours of June 6th 1944. They were the first soldiers to set foot on Normandy soil during Operation Overlord. One of their first objectives was to seize Bénouville Bridge, better known today as Pegasus Bridge. Conducted by professional guides, the tour of the Pegasus Memorial will help you relive the events that took place at dawn on June 6th, 1944.

The majority of artefacts on display have been donated by British veterans.

Features

Using a relief map and archive footage, your guide will explain how the operation unfolded. In the grounds of the museum stands the original Pegasus Bridge, as well as a unique full-size replica of a Horsa glider.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided or guided tour without a supplement (1-1½ hr) [FR/GB]

- Daily
- Pre-booking for groups
- Adults: €7
  with Normandie Pass: €5.50
- Students, children: €4.50
- Adult groups: €5
- School parties: €4.50
- Free: WWII veterans, persons accompanying school parties, children (under 8 yrs)
The fighting around Carentan/Saint-Côme-du-Mont was to determine the success of the Landings after June 6th, 1944, as it was imperative to link the Utah and Omaha Landing Beaches. For more than ten days, American parachutists launched fierce attacks on German paratroopers who had been ordered to defend the town to the last.

Set in the heart of the parachute zone and the battlefield at Carentan, Dead Man’s Corner Museum is located in the former German command post and houses many American and German mementos of the fighting.

Features

In a very unique setting, each item, the result of considerable research, tells the individual story of one man. A very different style of museum, where the emphasis is placed on the authenticity and quality of the objects on display.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Tour of Dead Man’s Corner Museum: self-guided tour (45-60 min) or guided tour with no extra charge, to be pre-booked with Mr ALLAIN [FR/GB]

- Adults: €5.95 with Normandie Pass: €4.95
- Children: €4
- Adult groups: €4
- School parties: €4
- Free: WWII veterans, children (under 9 yrs)

Tour of the “Path of Memory” circuit

- Free, self-guided tour with own vehicle (approx. 3 hr)
- Map with GPS coordinates
Overlooking the church square, the Airborne Museum uses its abundant collections to bring to life the events of D-Day and the exploits of the American paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. The first building houses a Waco CG-4A glider restored to its original glory. The second one features a reconstruction showing paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division about to climb aboard a Douglas C-47 Skytrain painted with the D-Day stripes. A 20-minute film recounts the paratroopers’ achievements in Normandy. In the new extension, a novel and thrilling display brings all these events to life – one minute, you are in a C-47, the next in the church square at Sainte-Mère-Église or in the flooded marshes nearby. The last space is home to a Piper Cub reconnaissance aircraft.

Features
A Waco CG-4A glider, the only one of its kind in France, and a Douglas C-47 Skytrain that was used to drop paratroopers during Operation Neptune (first phase of Operation Overlord), are two of the museum’s prize exhibits.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014
Self-guided tour (2 hr)
- Adults: €8
  with Normandie Pass: €7
- Children (6-16 yrs): €4.50
- Adult groups: €5.50
- School parties: €3.50
- Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons
The Landings

Between 6.30 am and 7.30 am on the morning of June 6th, 135,000 men and around 20,000 vehicles came ashore on the five designated beaches (Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword). Although the targets for the end of the day (Caen, Bayeux, Isigny and Carentan) were not reached, overall the operation was deemed to have been a success. Losses were fewer than had been anticipated, except for Omaha Beach (Colleville - Saint-Laurent - Vierville) where, despite the outstanding courage of the Americans, the bridgehead remained fragile. The five Landing Beaches now had to be linked up in the face of the German counter-attack.

The Battle of Normandy

The Battle of Normandy lasted three months, much longer than originally planned by the Allied strategists. The battle to secure the extended bridgehead was won in around ten days and the port of Cherbourg was captured at the end of June, but it was then that the problems began.

July was the blackest month for the Allies. The British and Canadians were held up outside Caen by a German armoured division, and the city was not completely liberated until the 19th. Meanwhile, the Americans were bogged down in the Cotentin Peninsula, held up by the “Battle of the Hedgerows” and encountering all manner of difficulties before eventually taking Saint-Lô on July 18th.

Everything changed at the end of July, with the success of Operation Cobra. This allowed the Americans finally to break through the enemy defences and strike out towards Brittany and the Loire. At the beginning of August, the failure of the counter-attack at Mortain ordered by Hitler led to the retreat of the German forces, threatened with encirclement. They were almost wiped out in the Falaise Pocket at the end of that month. All that was left for the German survivors to do was to evacuate the remainder of Normandy, cross the Seine and make their way back towards Germany.

An impressive collection of men, vehicles and equipment. GMCs, halftracks and jeeps queue to leave the beach.
TROOP MOVEMENTS IN JUNE-AUGUST 1944

8 chronological routes

1. OVERLORD - L’ASSAUT
2. D-DAY LE CHOC
3. OBJECTIF UN PORT
4. L’AFFRONTEMENT
5. COBRA LA PERCÉE
6. LA CONTRE-ATTaque
7. L’ENCERCLEMENT
8. LE DÉNOUEMENT

- Evening of June 6th
- July 31st
- German radar station
- Parachute zone
- Allied forces

Key:
- UTAH
- OMAHA
- GOLD
- JUNO
- SWORD

Evening of June 6th
June 11th
June 20th
July 18th
August 30th
August 18th
New film entitled *Normandy’s 100 Days*

Simultaneously projected onto nine screens, this 19-minute film tells the story of the 100-day Normandy Campaign, during which the German Army was remorselessly worn down and eventually ensnared in the Falaise Pocket, thereby speeding the liberation of the rest of France. This film shows the terrible suffering endured by civilians in Lower Normandy, whose towns and villages were reduced to rubble by Allied bombings. The film is both a spectacular technical feat and an artistic achievement, featuring mainly previously unseen footage from Canadian, American, German, British and French archive sources. It pays tribute to the soldiers of all nations, as well as to the 20,000 civilians killed during this battle to liberate Western Europe, on which so many hopes were pinned. It also pays homage to Robert Capa, whose eleven surviving photos of the Landings are featured in a novel display.

**Features**

The 360° circular cinema overlooking Arromanches is a prime attraction on the Normandy Campaign circuit, benefitting from the thousands of tourists who flock to see the remains of the artificial port, or “Mulberry Harbour”. Projected onto 9 screens, this high-definition film was made on the initiative of the Caen Memorial and funded by the Lower Normandy Council.

**Tours and provisional rates for 2014**

- Adults: €5
- Children (10-18 yrs): €4.50
- Adult groups (min. 20): €4
- School parties (min. 15): €3.10
- Students: €4.50 (valid student ID required)
- Free: veterans, children under 10

**2014 opening times**

- 2 January to 4 January: 10am-5.30pm daily
- 28 January to 14 February: 10am-5.30pm, closed on Mondays
- 15 February to end of April: 10am-6pm, daily
- 1st May to 30 September: 9.30am-7pm, daily
- 1st October to 11 November: 10am-6pm, daily
- 12 November to 31 December: 10am-5.30pm, closed on Mondays except for 22 and 29 December

- **Annual closure**: 25 December, 1st January, and 5-27 January 2014 inclusive

**Location**

See map on p. 51-53 no. 18 [ D3 ]
The Musée Mémorial de la Bataille de Normandie provides as comprehensive an overview as possible of the military events immediately following the Landings. After a brief presentation of the strategic position prior to the Landings, visitors are shown how the battle unfolded from June 7th to August 29th, 1944 and follow the Allies’ progress through a series of illustrated texts, original maps and 3D scale models. There are five themed area videos on the role of General de Gaulle between 1935 and 1946; the Mulberry Harbours; the taking of Cherbourg; the role of aviation in the campaign and, finally, the Battle of the Hedgerows. There is also a large collection of heavy equipment, weapons, uniforms and various other items, as well as archive footage.

Features

The museum has a classroom seating 45 people, which can be booked free of charge by groups. There is also a documentation centre which, again, can be booked free of charge.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour (90 min)
• Adults: €6
  with Normandie Pass: €4.50
• Students, children: €4
• Adult groups: €4.50
• School parties: €4
• Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons (1 for every 10 people), children (under 10 yrs)

Themed tour on request without supplement (1 1/2 hr) [FR]
• For pre-booked groups only. Contact Mme LEROSIER
1944-2014: 70 years of history at the Caen Memorial

From the origins of World War II to the end of the Cold War, the displays describe and explain the terrible history of the 20th century. Caen, so badly bombed in the summer of 1944 that it became known as the "martyred city", certainly deserved a proper tribute that reflected the scale of its suffering. This has been done in a spirit of reconciliation that is unique to the Memorial and which accompanies visitors as they are plunged into the tumultuous history of the 20th century.

Features

New permanent exhibition in an underground bunker

Located beneath the Memorial, this underground bunker housed the headquarters of Lieutenant-General Richter in 1944. The commander of the 716th Infantry Division of the Wehrmacht played a crucial role in the first weeks of the Battle of Normandy. A brand new display focuses on the military aspects of the German Occupation of Calvados, as well as the history of the Atlantic Wall. Open since October 2013.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

- Adults: €19
- Children (10-18 yrs): €16.50
- Family ticket: €49
- Adult groups (min. 20): €14
- School parties (min. 15): €7.50
- Students: €16.50 (valid student ID required)
- Free: children under 10, veterans
What’s new in 2014

• Temporary exhibitions in 2014
• Life-size scenes
• Aircraft and armoured vehicles
• Tank rides

2014 opening times

• 1st April to 31 October: 9am-7pm
• 1st November to 31 March: 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm
• Annual closure: 31 December to 31 January
• Last ticket sales 30 min before closing

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 21 [ C3 ]

The Normandy Tank Museum is the region’s largest museum, with 3,100 square metres of exhibition spaces, more than 40 vehicles on display, 11,000 artefacts dating from WWII, a 5-hectare zone for tank demonstrations and a 3-hectare airstrip. It is the only place offering tank rides in France.

Features

Just outside Carentan, midway between the Omaha and Utah beach sectors, this brand new museum stands on the site of the A10 Airfield built in 15-18 June 1944. Visitors can admire a superb collection that includes large numbers of tanks used in World War II, and more particularly during Operation Cobra, along with lorries, jeeps, motorbikes and airplanes, all in working order.

Instead of the usual static displays, the museum regularly holds outdoor demonstrations. Visitors can even climb aboard the tanks and ride along a specially designed track for a truly thrilling and unforgettable experience. The Boeing PT 17 Stearman and Piper L4 Grasshopper are also put through their paces on the airstrip. The A10 is the first airfield to have been reopened since 1944 to cater for small aircraft and host aerial displays and first flights, plus sightseeing trips along the Landing Beaches.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

• Adults: €9
• Children aged 6-12 yrs: €6
• Adult groups (min. 20): €5.50
• School parties (min. 20): €4.50
• Students: €6
• Ex-servicemen: €6
• Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons, guides
What’s new in 2014

New museum housing a unique collection of more than 10,000 items.

2014 opening times

- 1st March to 31 May: 10am-6pm, daily
- 1st June to 31 August: 9.30am-7pm, daily
- 1st September to 31 October: 10am-6pm, daily
- 1st November to 30 December: 10am-5pm, daily

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 22 [ C3 ]

Overlord Museum - Omaha Beach
Lotissement Omaha Center
14710 COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER
0033 (0)2 31 22 00 55
0033 (0)2 31 22 13 15
contact@overlordmuseum.com
www.overlordmuseum.com

Overlord Museum - Omaha Beach
Lotissement Omaha Center
14710 COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER
0033 (0)2 31 22 00 55
0033 (0)2 31 22 13 15
contact@overlordmuseum.com
www.overlordmuseum.com

Features

A unique and unrivalled collection of period items illustrating the events of 1944 that set in train the liberation of Europe. Narratives, firsthand accounts and personal effects belonging to veterans and civilians give this museum a very human dimension.

Immersive displays help visitors understand the events that took place between the preparations for D-Day and the Liberation of Paris, with a novel educational approach aimed at the younger generations.

Scenes depicting major operations that took place during the Normandy Campaign, with lifesize figures, vehicles and highly realistic backdrops featuring sound and light effects, plunge visitors into the heart of epoch-making history and make them feel as though they were really there.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour

- Adults: €7.10
  With Normandie Pass: €6.10
- Children aged 10-18 yrs: €5.10
- Adult groups (min. 20): €4.70
- School parties (min. 10): primary: €2.70 / secondary: €3.70
- Students, service personnel, disabled, others: €5.10
- Free: veterans, accompanying persons, children under 10, jobseekers, service personnel in uniform
Landings/Battle of Normandy

What's new in 2014

- Participation in the Night of Museums on Saturday 17 May 2014: free admission.

2014 opening times

- 1st April to 28 September: 2pm-6pm (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays)
- Annual closure: January to March & October to December

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 23 [ F5 ]

From the call for the defeat of the Germans on June 18th, 1940 to the Battle of the Falaise Pocket, this museum portrays the events that marked the Second World War.

The tour comprises thirteen different scenes from this troubled period, with wax figures, sounds and the actual voices of the main protagonists. This is completed by a 36 m² map explaining the Battle of Normandy.

Features

Located in the outbuildings of Aigle Castle, the June 44 museum was opened in 1953 by Madame la Maréchale Leclerc de Hauteclocque. At the time it was the only "talking museum" in France.

Why not take the opportunity to visit the museums of meteorology and archaeology located on the same site as the June 1944 museum (free admission)?

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Audio-guided tours without any supplement (30 min)[FR/GB/NL]

- Adults: €3.60
  - with Normandie Pass: €2.70
- Students, children (under 15 yrs), members of the Armed Forces, jobseekers: €1.80
- Adult groups: €2.70 (min. 8)
- School parties (-15 yrs): €1.80
- Free: veterans, accompanying persons
Landings/Battle of Normandy

2014 opening times

- 1 April to 30 September: 10am-7pm daily
- Autumn half-term (9, 10 & 11 November): 10am-7pm
- **Annual closure:** January to March, December
- Open to groups during this period, pre-bookings only

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 24 [ B2 ]

Located north of Utah Beach, the Memorial de la Liberté Retrouvée takes visitors on a chronological journey through the Second World War in Normandy, in a modern exhibition space covering over 1,000 m². The very particular theme of everyday life in France during the Occupation has given rise to the reconstruction of lively and realistic scenes that will plunge you back into those troubled times. This museum is equally interesting to men and women, young and old.

Features

You can walk along a reconstructed street looking just as it would have done during the Occupation, with its shops and houses, and also look out onto Utah Beach from within a genuine Atlantic Wall bunker that forms part of the museum. A 55-seat cinema shows the film *From Cherbourg to Utah Beach.*

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

**Self-guided tour (90 min)**
- Adults, students: €7
  - with Normandie Pass: €6
- Reduced rate: €6
- Children (5-12 yrs): €5.50
- Adult groups (min. 15): €6.50
- School parties (over 10 yrs, min. 15): €6
- School parties (under 10 yrs, min. 15): €5
- Free: WWII veterans
- Last ticket sales at 6pm
The American Troops

After June 6th, the primary mission of the American troops who had landed or been parachuted was the capture of the port of Cherbourg. This was an essential logistical element of the battle. Having cut off the Cotentin Peninsula on June 19th, they took Cherbourg on June 26th and then launched a difficult and deadly assault southwards, which became known as the “Battle of the Hedgerows”.

Even with 700,000 men at their disposal, they did not take St-Lô until July 18th. Then, with Generals Bradley and Patton at the head of the First and Third Armies, they managed to break through the German lines, taking Avranches on July 31st, heading towards Brittany but also eastwards where, with the help of the recently landed 2nd French Armoured Division, they took Alençon and participated in the closing of the Falaise Pocket at Montormel.

An LST disgorging railway wagons onto the beach.
Perched on the top of Mount Roule, the Second Empire fortress enjoys a commanding view over the city and surrounding area of Cherbourg. A key stronghold for the French Resistance as the Germans advanced, the Fort du Roule was the scene of heroic combats in 1940 and again in 1944. In German hands until June 25th, Cherbourg became the principal port in Europe, once it had been liberated, playing a pivotal role in supplying the Allied troops on the front.

The Liberation Museum was created within the fort in 1954. A themed route leads visitors through the shadows of the Occupation and into the welcoming light of the Landings.

What’s new in 2014

- **Exhibition** from 1st February to 15 April, entitled “Along the Road to Freedom”: a photographic project undertaken by artist Bruno Elisabeth. A contemporary view of this symbolic route which follows the advance of General Patton’s Third Army after D-Day.
- **Exhibition** from 8 May to 30 November, entitled “Allies and Enemies: What Happened Next?”, examining Cherbourg’s international relations after World War II. The exhibition will draw on archive documents, pictures and items from local collections.
- **New multimedia** system in the museum’s projection room.
- **Night of Museums**: Saturday 17 May 8.30pm to midnight, free of charge.

2014 opening times

- February to November: 10am-midday & 2-6pm from Tuesdays to Saturdays, and 2-6pm on Sundays
- **Annual closure**: January, December

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 25 [ A2 ]
What’s new in 2014

Advancing Inland - interactive panels telling the story of the Normandy Campaign from D-Day to the Liberation of Paris.

2014 opening times

• 16 September to 14 April: 9am-5pm
• 15 April to 15 September: 9am-6pm
• Annual closure: 1 January & 25 December

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 26 [ C3 ]

The visitor centre explains the significance and meaning of Operation Overlord and honours the values of the World War II generation. It aims to help visitors intimately relate to the stories of the 10,944 men and women memorialized in the site at an emotional and intellectual level. The centre is an interpretive gateway to the cemetery, a key to better understanding its meaning.

*American Battle Monuments Commission

Features

The exhibitions are based upon three universal themes: Skill, Courage and Sacrifice. Exhibits go beyond the United States’ own involvement; they also tell the story of the Allies, the French Resistance and the civilians. The innovative design, the films, a variety of media and interactive panels, make the visitor centre a modern and dynamic place.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Free, self-guided tour (45-60 min)

• The film Letters is screened every 30 minutes in the auditorium
• Pre-booking for school parties
2014 opening times

- 19 April to 30 April: 10am-1pm & 2-7pm on Saturdays, Sundays & Mondays
- 1st May to 31 May: 10am-1pm & 2-7pm on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
- June to September: 10am-1pm & 2-7pm, daily
- 1st-31 October: 10am-1pm & 2-7pm at weekends
- Annual closure: January, February, March, 15 & 22 May, November, December.

Location
See map on p. 51-53 no. 27 [ C3 ]

The museum tells the story of the 25 years of undersea exploration that have allowed its founder Jacques Lemonchois to bring incredible remains up to the surface, many still in good condition. All the items on display come from warships that sank on or around June 6th, 1944 off Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno or Sword.

A wealth of photos and soldiers’ personal effects, together with tanks, torpedoes, mines, guns, mechanical parts, etc., combined with previously unseen footage, tell us about the men who sailed on these ships during the war.

Features

52 minutes of previously unseen footage showing the underwater wrecks dating from the Landings (French and English versions).

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tours
- Adults: €6.50
- Children aged 7-16: €3.50
- Adult groups (min. 20): €5
- School parties (min. 20): €3.50
- Students, disabled visitors, collectors, ex-servicemen: €5
- Free: veterans, accompanying persons, guides, coach drivers
This museum tells the story of a crack American unit specially trained for one specific mission on D-Day – the capture of Pointe du Hoc. Through texts and photographs, visitors can track the history of this unit from its creation in Northern Ireland on June 19th, 1942 to the end of the battle on Pointe du Hoc on June 8th, 1944.

Features

Discover images of the touching commemorative ceremony that marked the 40th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. On June 6th, 1984, President Ronald Reagan gave a moving speech at Pointe du Hoc honouring the memory of the soldiers who had taken part in the Landings, notably the Rangers of the 2nd Battalion.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour only (45 min)

- Adults: €4.40
- with Normandie Pass: €3.40
- Students: €3.30
- Children (6+ yrs): €2.20
- Adult groups: €3.30 (min. 20)
- Student groups: €2.20 (min. 20)
- School parties: €1.60 (min. 20)
- Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons, children (under 6 yrs)
This museum is intended to preserve the memory of all the young soldiers who perished in 1944, so that future generations will never forget the heavy price we paid for freedom. On the site of Omaha Beach itself and just 200m from the shore, this museum presents a collection of personal items, uniforms, vehicles and weapons in an exhibition space covering 1,200 m². Through the use of several scenes, archive photos, maps, panels and a film accompanied by veterans’ eyewitness accounts, the story is told of the Omaha Landings and Pointe du Hoc. Outside are a Sherman tank, an American “Long Tom” canon, a “Belgian Gate” beach obstacle and a landing craft.

Features

A rare collection of photographs, themed information panels and a reconstruction of the Omaha landing beach. Museum just 200 m from Omaha Beach.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tours only (1 hr)

• Adults: €6.20
  with Normandie Pass: €5.90
• Students (16-25 yrs): €4.90
• Children (7-15 yrs): €3.70
• Adult groups: €4.20 (free admission for 1 per 20)
• School parties: children (7-15 yrs): €2.80 / Students (16-25 yrs): €3.60
• Free: WWII veterans, members of the Armed Forces in uniform
Founded in 1962, in the very place where American troops landed on Normandy soil on June 6th, 1944, the Utah Beach museum pays tribute to all the men who risked — or sacrificed — their lives so that we might live in freedom. As a result of the yearlong construction work, the museum now boasts exhibition spaces covering more than 3,000 sq m. In ten chronological sequences, it covers the German Occupation, the forces that were present on the eve of D-Day, the Allied strategy and the events that unfolded on June 6th, 1944 in the Utah Beach sector. Its new prize exhibit is a genuine Martin B-26G Marauder displayed in a purpose-built hangar, alongside two flight simulators. By the time our visitors leave, they will have grasped the full strategic importance of this lonely beach in Normandy and the reasons for the Allies’ military and technological success at Utah Beach.

**Features**

The Utah Beach Musée du Débarquement regularly stages temporary exhibitions and has a comprehensive programme of events (talks by people who witnessed the Landings, ‘forties concerts, book signings, etc.).

**Tours and provisional rates for 2014**

**Self-guided tour (1½ hr)**
- Adults: €8
  - with Normandie Pass: €7
- Students, members of the Armed Forces: €6
- Children (7-15 yrs): €3.50
- Adult groups: €6 (min. 20)
- School parties: €3
- Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons, coach drivers, children under 7, disabled visitors, VIPs, tourism professionals, residents of Sainte-Marie du Mont, press card holders

**Guided tour (no additional charge) [FR/GB] (1 hr):**

Please contact us to find out tour times

**Comprehensive guided tour of the site**

Landing beach and museum: €12
The British and Canadian Troops

As soon as they had met up, the British and Canadian forces headed south with the aim of taking Caen, while the parachutists of the 6th Airborne Division took up positions covering the east flank of the landing zone.

Led by Captain Kieffer, 177 Frenchmen belonging to the British No. 4 Commando landed at Ouistreham with the mission of reaching a breach 500 m further west. Theirs was the only French land-based unit that fought on D-Day in Normandy.

The presence of several German armoured divisions halted the British advance and a terrible struggle took place midway between Bayeux and Caen. Tilly-sur-Seulles was captured, lost and regained no fewer than twenty times. To the west of Caen, “Hill 112” was the scene of some of the worst fighting and Caen was not taken until July 9th and 19th.

Although Falaise was only some thirty kilometres south of Caen, the battle there was to cost many lives before the town fell on August 17th. This was only a short time before the “Montormel Pocket” was closed at Chambois, thanks partly to the 1st Polish Armoured Division which had landed in Arromanches at the beginning of the month.

Meanwhile, the 6th British Airborne Division, reinforced by two brigades of Belgian and Dutch soldiers, made its way along the Cote Fleurie, where the towns of Deauville, Trouville and Cabourg were liberated at the end of August.

*British and Canadian forces on their way to yet another battle.*
What’s new in 2014

Animated 3D model of the artificial port

2014 opening times

- February & November: 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm
- March & October: 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5.30pm
- April: 9am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-6pm
- May, June, July & August: 9am-7pm
- September: 9am-6pm
- 1-23 December and 26-30 December: 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm
- Annual closure: January

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 31 [D3]

Musée du Débarquement

Place du 6 Juin
14117 ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS
☎ 0033 (0)2 31 22 34 31
✉ 0033 (0)2 31 92 68 83
info@musee-arromanches.fr
www.musee-arromanches.fr
www.arromanches-museum.com

Built at the same place as the British artificial port and overlooking some of the remains lying just a few metres from the shore, this museum relates the incredible story of the building and operation of one of the two “Mulberry Harbours” that were to be the key to the Allies’ success. In addition to telling the story of the artificial port, the museum features some 2,000 different items that encourage visitors to remember and pay tribute to the soldiers from different countries who took part in the Landings.

Features

A 30 m line-up of scale models, a diorama and archive footage highlight the sheer scope of the logistical and strategic operation undertaken by the Allies. The remains of Port Winston, which are visible from the museum, bear eloquent testimony to the ambitiousness of this endeavour.

- Brochures available in 19 languages.
- Diorama available in 6 languages.
- Film featuring archive footage available in 9 languages.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour (1¼ hr)

- Adults: €7.90
  with Normandie Pass: €6.90
- Students, children: €5.80
- Adult groups: €6.20
- Student and school groups: €4
- Free: WWII veterans, children (under 6 yrs)

Guided tour without supplement (1¼ hour 15) [FR]

- Pre-booked guided tours for groups with no extra charge [GB/German]
  Pre-bookings with Mme Isabelle MARIE
  Visitor guides available in 19 languages
Situated on the beach where the Canadians landed in June 1944, alongside other Allied forces, the Juno Beach Centre portrays the role played by Canada in the Second World War, particularly in Normandy. As well as being a centre for history, education and heritage, it offers the public a chance to discover the different faces of contemporary Canadian society and understand the country’s culture and values through a collection of films, archive recordings and interactive terminals.

**Features**

In addition to its permanent display, the one and only Canadian museum on the Landing Beaches also houses temporary exhibitions, offers a special circuit for younger visitors and a range of activities for school parties.

Accompanied by a young Canadian guide, it is also possible to tour Juno Park and its Atlantic Wall remnants, including the bunker located opposite the museum.

**Tours and provisional rates for 2014**

**Self-guided tour (1 hr)**
- Adults: €7
  - with Normandie Pass: €5.50
- Students, children (8 yrs and over): €5.50
- Adult groups: €5.50
- School parties: €4
- Free: WWII veterans and widows, children under 8 yrs

**Self-guided tour of the Juno Beach Centre and guided tour of Juno Park (45 min) [FR/GB]**
- Adults: €11
  - with Normandie Pass: €9
- Children (8+ yrs): €9
- Adult groups: €9
- School parties: €5.50

**Educational activities for school parties (8-18 yrs)**
for only €1.50 extra (30 minutes)
- Daily, pre-booking only
- Picnic room available (pre-booking only)

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**What’s new in 2014**

- **New temporary exhibition** opening on 1st February 2014: “What Was it Like During the War, Granny?” The lives of ordinary people in Normandy and Canada from the Occupation to Liberation. New educational displays.
- **Juno Park**: from 1st April 2014 onwards, tour led by a Canadian guide of the tunnels that housed the Germans’ underground command post here in 1944.
- **Film In Their Footsteps**: D-Day and the ensuing Normandy Campaign seen through the eyes of Canadian soldiers.

**2014 opening times**

- February, November & December: 10am-5pm
- March & October: 10am-6pm
- April to September: 9.30am-7pm
- **Annual closure**: January and 25 December

**Location**

See map on p. 51-53 no. 32 [ D3 ]
This museum tells the story of how, through the tenacity of one man - Captain Philippe Kieffer – French fighters were able to train as commandos and take part in numerous raids alongside their British comrades. It focuses on their training at Achnacarry in Scotland and the role they played on D-Day, when they captured Ouistreham casino and helped to liberate the town.

All the exhibits are genuine period artefacts, and most of the equipment and uniforms were donated by the commandos’ families.

Features

26-minute video containing period footage shot at the famous Achnacarry training centre in Scotland.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Unrestricted tours [FR/GB]

- Adults: €5
- Students, children & servicemen: €3
- Adult groups: €4
- School parties: €3
- Free: WWII veterans, children under 10 yrs

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 33 [ D3 ]
British and Canadian Troops

What’s new in 2014

- The museum curator is always happy to explain Operation Bluecoat to visitors at the start of their tour [FR/GB].
- Presentation of part of the Bailey bridge at Pont-Farcy.
- 70th Anniversary celebration: 26 & 27 July.

2014 opening times

- 2 April to 29 September: 11am-5pm closed on Tuesdays
- Annual closure: 1 January to 2 April & October to December

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 34 [C4]

The Musée de la Percée du Bocage is dedicated to Operation Bluecoat, led by General Montgomery, when the British divisions, 11th Armoured, Armoured Guards and 15th Scottish, enjoyed considerable success. It describes life during the Occupation between 1940 and Liberation in 1944, the Resistance and the violent fighting in the hedgerows, during which the 11th Armoured Division succeeded in pushing back some of the strongest forces of the German Army.

Features

The museum has a general diorama of the battle at Saint-Martin-des-Besaces, as well as eight audiovisual presentations of what was at stake in Operation Bluecoat. Particular attention paid to the personal experiences of the soldiers, with many items donated to the museum by the men who fought for our freedom. Display of a P51 Mustang engine discovered in Saint-Martin-Don.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Audio-guided tour [FR/GB] or guided tour [FR/GB] without any supplement (45-60 min)

- Adults: €6
  with Normandie Pass: €5
- Adult groups (min 20): €4
- School parties, children aged 12-18: €2
- Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons, children (under 12 yrs)
The museum evokes the bitter fighting that took place during the first three weeks after D-Day in the communities of Tilly-sur-Seulles, Lingèvres, Cristot, Boislonde, Saint-Pierre, Audrieu, Hottot-les-Baguès and Villers-Bocage, between Bayeux and Caen.

Visitors can follow the infantry and armoured fighting on the Tilly Front as it unfolded day by day, hour by hour, between XXX Corps and two elite SS Panzer Divisions, amidst the civilian populations. Taken and re-taken 23 times in the space of a month by the opposing sides, the village of Tilly-sur-Seules was almost 70% destroyed and lost 10% of its population during this particularly violent battle.

Features

Here, in the shadow of the 12th-century chapel, which itself suffered during the battle, is where history was made. The use of eyewitness accounts, photographs and objects recovered from the battlefield not only brings history to life, but also bestows an air of reverence. This museum helps visitors to understand the extent of the losses suffered by civilians during the Liberation of Normandy.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour (45 min)
- Single admission charge: €4
  - with Normandie Pass: €3
- Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons, children (under 12 yrs)

Guided tour (1-2 hr) [FR/GB]
- All year round, but pre-booking only
- Single admission charge: €6

Tours of the battlefield (approx. 2 hr) [FR/GB]
- All year round, but pre-booking only
- Single charge: €7

What’s new in 2014

- The “Tilly 44” association, which runs the museum, is staging the 6th Battle of Normandy book fair 8 June 2014.
- New displays
  Call +33 (0)607594602 for details.

2014 opening times

- 1 May to 30 September: 10am-midday and 2pm-6pm, weekends and bank holidays only
- Annual closure: October to April

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 35 [ D4 ]
What’s new in 2014

“Preparations for D-Day: assault and reinforcements”, Lieutenant Colonel John Sainsbury, OBE TD, is the man behind a new educational panel featuring 34 period photographs. This panel describes Operations Smash (Studland Bay) and Fabius (Hayling Island), the assault on Gold Beach King and the arrival of reinforcements. New documents donated by Major Edwin Hunt, MVO.

2014 opening times

- April to October: 10.30am-5.30pm
- April, May, June, September & October: closed on Tuesdays
- Open daily in July and August
- Annual closure: November to March (for pre-booked group tours during this period, call 0033 (0)2 31 22 20 86)

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 36 [D3]

Gold Beach museum deals with the key stages of the British landings in this sector, from the meticulous planning and reconnaissance of the beaches through to the Landings themselves on June 6th, 1944.

It not only commemorates the victorious 50th Division, which achieved its objectives, but also the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, without whom the Landings could not have succeeded.

Features

Explore the history of the Landings through models, educational panels, documents, and personal effects donated by D-Day veterans.

Another story is also told in this museum – that of the first official Air Mail service between the United States and France (29 June / 1st July 1927) using a Fokker aircraft christened “America” by Admiral Byrd.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Self-guided tour (30 min)

- Adults: €4.50
- with Normandie Pass: €3.50
- Students, children: €2.50
- Adult groups: €3.50
- School parties: €2
- Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons, children (under 5 yrs)

Guided tour (1 hr) [FR/GB]

- Any day by pre-booking
- Single charge of €45 on top of admission charges
The outcome of the Battle of Normandy

Having failed to cut off Patton’s army with the Mortain counter-offensive, the weakened German forces began a retreat towards the Seine. In a pincer movement, with British, Canadian and Polish troops coming from the north, and the Americans and Leclerc’s French coming from Alençon in the south, the Allies managed to capture the best part of two German armies in the Falaise-Chambois Pocket (the “Corridor of Death” at Mont-Ormel).

The Battle of Normandy ended at Tournai-sur-Dive on August 21st, 1944. Three days after their first great victory on the continent, the Allies crossed the Seine and entered Paris. Visiting the battlefield where bodies of men and animals were piled on top of each other, with the wreckage of burnt-out vehicles, General Eisenhower declared it to be “one of the greatest ‘killing fields’ of any of the war areas”.

Normandy’s martyrdom - the price that had to be paid for France’s liberation

Almost 14,000 dead amongst Lower Normandy’s civilian population. Caen, Lisieux, Coutances, Saint-Lô, Vire and many other towns annihilated, tranquil villages razed to the ground and economic activity largely wiped out. Artistic and cultural treasures lost forever. Normandy would bear the scars of war for a very long time.

Its martyrdom was the price paid for the nation’s freedom. It is also right that, in remembering the sacrifice of a region and its inhabitants, we do not forget the young men who came from across the Channel and across the Atlantic, and who still lie in the Normandy soil they came to liberate.

Jean QUELLIEN

Two American soldiers talking to local children.
The Normandy Campaign finally drew to a close on the banks of the Seine. In the final days of August 1944, tens of thousands of German troops attempted to flee the advancing Allies. This museum is intended to recall the tragic fighting and the feelings of relief at being liberated, through the eyewitness accounts of soldiers and civilians, as well as thousands of artefacts, weapons and uniforms.

Features

Two topics that are often neglected: the German rout and the crossing of the Seine. The story that began on the beaches on June 6th ended on the banks of the Seine on 30th August, 1944. An exceptional location within the Château du Taillis, at the very spot where the armies crossed the Seine, and a private collection that was more than 20 years in the making.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

- Adults: €5
- Children (6-18 yrs): €2
- Adult groups (min. 8): €3.50
- School parties: €3
- Students: €3
- Free: veterans, accompanying persons

2014 opening times

- May to October: 10am-midday & 2-5pm from Wednesdays to Sundays

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 37 [ G3 ]

Musée Août 44
Château du Taillis
76480 DUCLAIR
0033 (0)2 35 37 95 46
0033 (0)6 83 82 22 89
chateaudutaillis@online.fr
www.chateau-du-taillis.com

THERE’S SO MUCH TO SEE IN NORMANDY!

You will find everything you could possibly want to know plus a wealth of other information about the history of D-Day and the ensuing Normandy Campaign on our website

www.normandiememoire.com
Situated between Argentan and Vimoutiers, the Memorial overlooks the plain where, in August 1944, 100,000 Germans were encircled by nine Allied divisions. American, British, Canadian, French and Polish troops inflicted on them what was an unprecedented defeat on the Western Front. 50,000 Germans were killed or taken prisoner and thousands of vehicles, guns and horse carcasses were piled high on the battlefield. The Battle of Normandy was over, but for the civilians, the end of hostilities did not signal the end of their hardships. In the midst of the carnage, they had to make some sort of order out of the chaos.

Features

Built overlooking the combat zone, the Montormel Memorial has an exceptional view over the Dives valley.

An animated 3D map allows you to follow the advance of the troops day by day. As you look over the battlefield, a guide will explain how events unfolded in the Falaise-Chambois Pocket. Rare photos, archive footage and eyewitness accounts all help to put the final phase of the Battle of Normandy into its proper context.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014

Audio-guided tour (1 hr) [FR/GB/D/PL]
- Adults: €5.50
  - with Normandie Pass: €4.50
- Children (over 12 yrs): €3.50
- Children (6-12 yrs): €2.50
- Ex-servicemen: €4.50
- Adult groups: €4.50
- School parties: €2.50
- Free: WWII veterans, accompanying persons

All-inclusive museum visit and battlefield tour (90 min) for pre-booked coach parties [FR]
- By prior appointment only
- Contact the Montormel Memorial for rates

Free battlefield tours (3 hr) [FR]
Advance bookings at the museum only

Montormel Memorial events: see “Cultural season” programme on our Website

What’s new in 2014

Some genuine artefacts from the battlefield can now be seen. This selection comes from the Falaise Pocket and some of the personal effects eloquently tell the stories of the soldiers to whom they belonged.

2014 opening times

- 1 October to 31 March: 10am-5pm
- Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays
- April: 10am to 5pm
- May to September: 9.30am to 6pm
- Autumn half-term: 10am-5pm daily

Location

See map on p. 51-53 no. 38 [ E5 ]
2014 opening times
- January, February, March, October, November & December: 9.30am-5pm on Mondays to Fridays
- April, May & June: 9am-6pm on Mondays to Saturdays, 10am-1pm on Sundays
- July & August: 9am-6.30pm on Mondays to Saturdays, 10am-4pm on Sundays
- September: 9am-6pm on Mondays to Saturdays
- School holidays: February half-term, October half-term and Christmas holidays: 9.30am-5pm on Saturdays

Location
See map on p. 51-53 no. 39 [ B3 ]

An original approach to the history of the Normandy Landings and the liberation of Saint-Mère-Église, Utah Beach and the surrounding area. Our new digital tourist guide will take you on a 50 km tour of the most strategic sites - including some of the lesser known ones - starting from Sainte-Mère-Église. Featuring eyewitness accounts, photos, archive footage, quizzes, and much, much more, it will bring the events that took place in 1944 to life and make them far easier to understand. Languages available: French and English.

Features
An easily followed trail taking in some of the crucial yet surprisingly lesser known sites.
Accessible to hearing-impaired people.
Ideal for families, educational booklet available.
Tourist guide hire for 2-3 people.
Possibility of purchasing a single ticket for admission to the Utah Beach D-Day Museum, the Airborne Museum in Sainte-Mère-Église and the Open-Air Museum. Digital guides can be hired from the tourist office in Sainte-Mère. Further details available on request.

Tours and provisional rates for 2014
Self-guided tour (½ day) [FR/GB] (pre-booking recommended)
- Adults: €8/digital guide with Normandie Pass: €6 (Normandie Pass not on sale at the tourist office)
- Digital guide hire: €250 deposit/guide + proof of identity
- Allow at least 3 hours (i.e. half a day) for the trail
Qualité Tourisme (QT) and Normandie Qualité Tourisme (NQT) status is granted to tourist attractions that have been awarded a seal of approval for the quality of their visitor services and tourist information.
A veritable open-air museum, the Historical Area of the Battle of Normandy covers all the locations, museums and remembrance sites for D-Day and the ensuing offensive in the Calvados, Manche and Orne departments.
Almost 100,000 soldiers were killed in Normandy, 40,000 Allied and 60,000 German, in the fighting of the summer of 1944. Whilst some of them, mainly American, were repatriated, the majority still lie in Normandy soil. There are 27 military cemeteries, 16 British, 2 Canadian, 2 American, 1 Polish, 1 French and 5 German.

**AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION CEMETERIES**

**COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER,** 9,387 graves  
Between Arromanches and Grandcamp  
14710 Colleville-sur-Mer  
✆ 0033 (0)2 31 51 62 00 - ✆ 0033 (0)2 31 51 62 09  
normandy@abmc.gov - www.abmc.gov  
On a 70ha site overlooking Omaha Beach with 9,387 perfectly aligned headstones and a Garden of the Missing bearing the names of 1,557 more soldiers, the American Cemetery is a place for remembrance and reflection. A chapel, a memorial and a visitor centre open since June 6th 2007 complete the scene in this most moving location.

**SAINT-JAMES (Montjoie-Saint-Martin),** 4,410 graves  
Between Avranches and Fougères  
Organization for the care and upkeep of the cemeteries:  
American Battle Monuments Commission  
68, rue 19 Janvier - 92380 GARCHES  
✆ 0033 (0)1 47 01 19 76 - ✆ 0033 (0)1 47 41 19 79

**CANADIAN COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION CEMETERIES**

**CINTHEAUX,** 2,958 graves  
On the outskirts of the town, on the RN158 between Caen and Falaise  
2,958 soldiers lie in this cemetery, 2,872 of them Canadians who perished during the various assaults of Second Canadian Army Corps between Caen, Falaise, Chambois and as far as the Seine, during July and August 1944. Open daily.

**BÉNY-SUR-MER - REVIERS,** 2,049 graves  
Near Courseulles
**MILITARY CEMETERIES**

**Polish Cemetery - Urville-Langannerie**

**URVILLE-LANGANNERIE, 615 graves**
On the RN158, Grainville-Langannerie exit, between Caen and Falaise
Urville-Langannerie is the only Polish cemetery in France. Located between Caen and Falaise, this cemetery contains the graves of 615 Polish officers and soldiers killed in the fighting to liberate France. It was inaugurated in October 1946.

Most of the men buried here belonged to General Maczek’s 1st Polish Armoured Division. Placed under the command of the Canadian Army, this division took part in the Normandy Campaign, as well as the liberation of Belgium and Holland.

**Organization for the promotion, care and upkeep of the cemetery:** see French cemetery.

**French Cemetery**

**Les Gateys French Necropolis, 19 graves**
North of Alençon
Some of the bodies of the 70 men of the 2nd French Armoured Division who fell during the fighting in the Orne department were returned to their families. As a result, only 19 soldiers are buried at Les Gateys (village of Saint Nicolas des Bois), inaugurated in 1970, to where their bodies were transferred from municipal cemeteries.

**Organization for the care and upkeep of the French and Polish cemeteries:**
Office National des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre - Mission Mémoire et Communication de Basse et Haute-Normandie
Service départemental du Calvados
Rue Neuve Bourg l’Abbé - BP 20528
14036 CAEN CEDEX
0033 (0)2 31 38 47 80

**German Cemetery - La Cambe**

**LA CAMBE, 21,222 graves. Between Bayeux and Isigny - 14230 La Cambe**
0033 (0)2 31 22 70 76 - 0033 (0)2 31 22 05 27
lucien.tisserand@volksbund.de - www.volksbund.de
This impressive cemetery covering over 7 hectares contains the bodies of 21,222 soldiers who fell during the fighting of 1944. Memorial chapel at the entrance. Peace garden with 1,220 maples (*Acer platanoides* ‘Globosum’), living symbols of peace.

**HUISNES-SUR-MER, 11,956 graves**
Near Mont Saint-Michel
0033 (0)2 83 37 82 82 - lucien.tisserand@volksbund.de
This cemetery on the Île de Noirmoutier contains the bodies of 8,500 German soldiers who died in the Second World War.

**MARIGNY, 11,169 graves**
Between Saint-Lô and Coutances
0033 (0)2 31 22 05 27 - lucien.tisserand@volksbund.de

**ORGLANDES, 10,152 graves**
South of Valognes
0033 (0)2 31 22 05 27 - lucien.tisserand@volksbund.de

**ST-DÉSIR-DE-LISIEUX, 3,735 graves**
Near Lisieux
0033 (0)2 31 22 05 27 - lucien.tisserand@volksbund.de

**Organization for the promotion of the French and Polish cemeteries:**
Office National des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre - Mission Mémoire et Communication de Basse et Haute-Normandie
Service départemental du Calvados
Rue Neuve Bourg l’Abbé - BP 20528
14036 CAEN CEDEX
0033 (0)2 31 38 47 80

**Polish Cemetery**

**RANVILLE, 2,562 graves**
Near Pegasus Bridge
**SAINT-MANVIEU-NORREY, 2,183 graves**
Between Caen and Bayeux
**SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN, 117 graves**
Between Caen and Bayeux
**TILLY-SUR-SEULLES, 1,222 graves**
Between Caen and Balleroy
**ST-CHARLES-DE-PERCY, 789 graves**
Near Bény-Bocage
**ST-DÉSIR-DE-LISIEUX, 598 graves**
Near Lisieux

**Organization for the care and upkeep of the cemeteries:**
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
7, rue Angèle Richard - 62217 BEAURAINS
0033 (0)3 21 21 77 00 - 0033 (0)3 21 21 77 10

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0033 (0)2 31 22 05 27 - lucien.tisserand@volksbund.de

**Organization for the care and upkeep of the cemeteries:**
Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (SESMA)
9, rue du Pré Chaudron - BP 75123
57036 METZ CEDEX
0033 (0)3 87 34 77 57

**Organization for the promotion of the French and Polish cemeteries:**
Office National des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre - Mission Mémoire et Communication de Basse et Haute-Normandie
Service départemental du Calvados
Rue Neuve Bourg l’Abbé - BP 20528
14036 CAEN CEDEX
0033 (0)2 31 38 47 80
ASSOCIATION NORMANDIE MÉMOIRE
88, rue Saint Martin - 14000 CAEN
✆ 0033 (0)2 31 94 80 26 - ☏ 0033 (0)2 31 94 84 97
info@normandiememoire.com - www.normandiememoire.com

NORMANDY TOURIST BOARD
✆ 0033 (0)2 32 33 79 00 - info@normandy-tourisme.fr - www.normandy-tourism.org

CALVADOS TOURIST BOARD
✆ 0033 (0)2 31 27 90 30
tourisme@calvados.fr - www.calvados-tourisme.com

MANCHE TOURIST BOARD
✆ 0033 (0)2 33 05 98 70
manchetourisme@manche.fr - www.manchetourisme.com

ORNÉE TOURIST BOARD
✆ 0033 (0)2 33 28 88 71
info@ornetourisme.com - www.ornetourisme.com

SEINE-MARITIME TOURIST BOARD
✆ 0033 (0)2 35 12 10 10
tourisme@cdt76.fr - www.seine-maritime-tourisme.com

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