

Museum Descriptions

German Secret V-1 and V-2 Rocket Museum

http://www.lacoupole.com/en/musee/default_dedie.asp

Situated in the Pas-de-Calais, 5 km from the town of Saint-Omer, LA COUPOLE is a gigantic underground bunker designed by the Nazis, in 1943-1944, to store, prepare and launch the V2 rockets (first missiles to reach the stratosphere), the secret weapon that Hitler was counting on to destroy London and reverse the course of the war. Rehabilitated as a History and Remembrance Centre, La Coupole reveals, in an impressive setting, the challenges of total war and the stages in the conquest of space, which paradoxically resulted from the V2 technology. The Centre also expands on the theme of the German occupation from 1940 to 1945 in the Nord—Pas-de-Calais, one of the hardest hit regions during the "dark years". Numerous audiovisual documentaries will enable you to explore these two major themes in the collective European memory, at your own rhythm, thanks to infrared audio-guided headsets*.

Pegasus Bridge Airborne Museum

<http://www.normandy1944.com/>

Inaugurated on 4th June 2000 by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Memorial Pegasus is dedicated to the men of the 6th Airborne Division and their heroic actions during the Battle of Normandy 1944. Visitors to the museum will learn about the vital part played by the 6th Airborne Division which while sustaining heavy losses secured the eastern flank of the landing beaches. Maps, original equipment, a video and model presentation of the airborne attack and a full lecture outside on the original lift bridge are among the highlights of this stop.

82nd and 101st Airborne Museum (optional)

<http://www.airborne-museum.org/ang/index.htm>

The Airborne Museum is set in a 3000 sq meter park opposite the church. The two buildings are designed in the shape of parachutes. The first houses an authentic Waco glider, with many displays of period documents, testimonies, weapons, munitions and war material. The second, delta-shaped building contains a C-47, commonly called a Dakota, which on D-Day dropped paratroopers and towed gliders. Period uniforms as well as personal objects offered by American veterans are displayed around the aircraft Eisenhower.

The Merville Battery

http://www.batterie-merville.com/index_uk.html

The only part of the Atlantic Wall that Rommel visited three times (6th March, 6th May, 27th May 1944) during the 3 months preceding D Day. An educational trail that threads through the site, explaining the role of each bunker, the way the Battery functioned and the stages of the attack at dawn on 6th June 1944. A complete rearrangement of casemate no1, resumed to its

original state as at dawn on 6th June and where, thanks to odour diffusers, special lighting and digitally spaced sound effects every half hour, it will be possible to experience the minutes that preceded the neutralisation of the Battery. Combining the three senses, sight, sound and smell will immerse the visitor into a deluge of combat, the hell that unfolded at dawn on 6th June, replicated.



War Memorials/Points of Interest

Moerkerke Village: Site of failed first crossing of the Leopold Canal by the Canadian Algonquin Regiment. Guided walk and lecture at site.

Menin Gate Memorial and Last Post Ceremonies: Memorial archway with the names of over 50,000 missing Allied soldiers in the Ypres Salient.
Evening ceremony

Varlet Farm: Battlefield relic collection at this farm that was a German strongpoint during World War One in Ypres Salient.
Talk at site.

Atlantic Wall: exploration of the remains of portions of the Atlantic Wall in the village of Wissant and Audinghen France.

Essex Farm (John McCrae Memorial): Field first aid post in Ypres Salient. Talk at site.

Shrapnel Charlie: visit with a toy soldier artist who makes toy soldiers from shrapnel.

Vancouver Corner Canadian Memorial: Site of first German gas attack against Canadian positions. Talk at site.

Passchendaele 1917 Memorials: Town plaque and high ground marker “Crest Farm” dedicated to the Canadians who crossed the muddy morass and captured Passchendaele Ridge in 1917. Talk at site.

Vimy Ridge Memorial Battlefield Park: Interpretive center/ monument and tunnel complex tour. Guided walking tour and talk at site.

Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Regiment Memorial battlefield Park: Interpretive center/trenches. Guided walking tour and talk at site.

Longnager Crater: Largest mine crater created on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Talk at site.

Dieppe Main Landing Beach and Pourville/Puys Site of failed Canadian raid on August 19, 1942. Talk at site.

Dieppe Bunker Complex: Remains of German bunker defence system overlooking Dieppe beach. Talk at site.

Juno Beach Bunkers and Memorials: Site of Canadian 3rd Infantry Division landings on June 6, 1944. Talk at site.

Mulberry Harbour: Remains of artificial harbour used by allies beginning June 9, 1944. Talk at site.

Longue Battery Complex: Remains of large German coastal guns and observation bunker. Talk at site.

Ste. Mere-Eglise Church and John Steele Memorial: Site of U.S. airborne disaster during the early morning of June 6, 1944. Talk at site.

Tank memorial: The use of the tank for the first time in history here near Flers in the Somme September 15th 1916. Talk at site.

Cemeteries (In each cemetery visited we will discover some very unique graves that will help us to understand the battles that were fought in and around the area.)

Adegem Canadian War Cemetery/Belgium, WW2

Langemark German War Cemetery/Belgium, WW1

Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Cemetery/Belgium, WW1

Neuville St. Vaast German War Cemetery/France WW1

Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery/France, WW2

Ranville Airborne Cemetery/France, WW2

Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery/France, WW2

Omaha Beach American War Cemetery/France, WW2

La Cambe German War Cemetery/France, WW2

