

NORMANDY 2014

THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS
AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

PRESS PACK

**An exceptional programme of memorial events
throughout the region**



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2014 – A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER
IN NORMANDY



As well as the official ceremonies taking place on June 6th, in 2014 Normandy will host a rich and unprecedented programme of cultural events and celebrations. Sites, museums, places of remembrance, exhibitions, festivals, shows and entertainment can be enjoyed throughout the year.

Throughout Normandy and throughout the year!
With its natural beauty, its carefully-maintained cultural heritage and its educational museums, each year, Normandy attracts millions of visitors who follow the trajectory of the D-Day Landings and the battle which ensued. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy, the 2014 season will be themed around the history of remembrance. An exceptional programme of tourist events will allow visitors to relive and better understand this crucial phase in WWII and the reconstruction of Europe.

STEP BACK IN TIME
All year long, tourists and history lovers will take to the beaches and visit the monuments, cemeteries and museums dedicated to D-Day. The 2014 season will be decidedly special. From spring to autumn there will be many events in the towns and villages of the region. A unique occasion to discover, explore and revisit major sites from the Caen Memorial to Montormel, from the D-Day Landing Beaches to the bocage country, and from Sainte-Mère-Église to Bayeux and Cherbourg. In 2014, a celebratory programme including historical reconstructions, concerts, film screenings, firework displays, exhibitions, themed tours and walks will be available to all who visit Normandy.

POIGNENT SYMBOLS
The 2014 special programme of cultural and family-oriented events aims to engage, explain and evoke an understanding of the importance of remembrance. Whilst several locations (especially the beaches) still bear the stigmata of the war, they are also powerful symbols of freedom, peace and reconciliation. Whether you travel alone, as a couple, as a family or with friends, step into history and walk in the steps of those who have written it!



The 70th Anniversary logo

The logo takes the form of both the dove of peace and the letter 'V' for victory. The "Land of Freedom" logo was designed to give a common visual identity to the events and commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy as well as partners associated with the anniversary.

The logo can be downloaded for free at crt-telechargement.netconception.com/home.php

The Landing Beaches - UNESCO World Heritage Sites?

At the start of 2014, the Lower Normandy region will file an application to the Ministry of Culture for the D-Day Landing Beaches to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visited each year by millions of people, these exceptional sites are a universal symbol of peace and reconciliation. If you would like to support this application, please go to the following address: www.liberte-normandie.com

ALL EYES ON SWORD, IT'S OFFICIAL!

The international ceremony to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Allied Landings in Normandy of June 6th 1944 will bring together several Heads of State on Sword Beach, Ouistreham (Calvados) on June 6th 2014. The event was officially announced last June by Kader Arif, Minister for War Veterans at the Ministry of Defence. There will be limited access to the official commemoration ceremony – for more information we invite you to consult the website: www.the70th-normandy.com

Ambassadors for WWII remembrance

Lecturers, guides, film makers, veterans and site managers, all have a passion for history and are driven to share it. Whether Normandy natives or Brits who have fallen under her charms, let us introduce you to some of the voices that tell the stories of the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy.



© M.W.

Mark Worthington, Curator of the Airborne Museum Pegasus Bridge

Mark came to Normandy as an exchange student whilst studying French at university, he met his French wife (who today is the director of the Juno Beach Centre), and 25 years later, he's still here. The Airborne Museum Pegasus Bridge is run by the D-Day Commemoration Committee, a charity founded immediately after the war that donates its profits to help fund the annual D-Day commemorative events. As curator, Mark collects and

archives Veteran's stories and historical memorabilia that are donated to the museum. Mark is currently preparing two temporary exhibitions for 2014, one themed around both the Commando raids that helped prepare the D-Day landings and another on the War Correspondents and the Army Field and Photographic Unit who documented the events. Asked what interests him most in his work, "The human aspect and the men who served," he replies. "How these men came, served and returned home and never spoke about what they did in Normandy for the next 60 years is deeply moving." He's found that British War Veterans are very modest and will always prefer to answer with a "yes, no" answer. Getting details from them can be very difficult but with the passing of years, they find it easier to share their stories. Mark himself had seven uncles who served in the forces in WWII, one who served and was wounded in Normandy. "When I meet the Veterans, I'm reminded of my uncles," says Mark.

www.memorial-pegasus.org



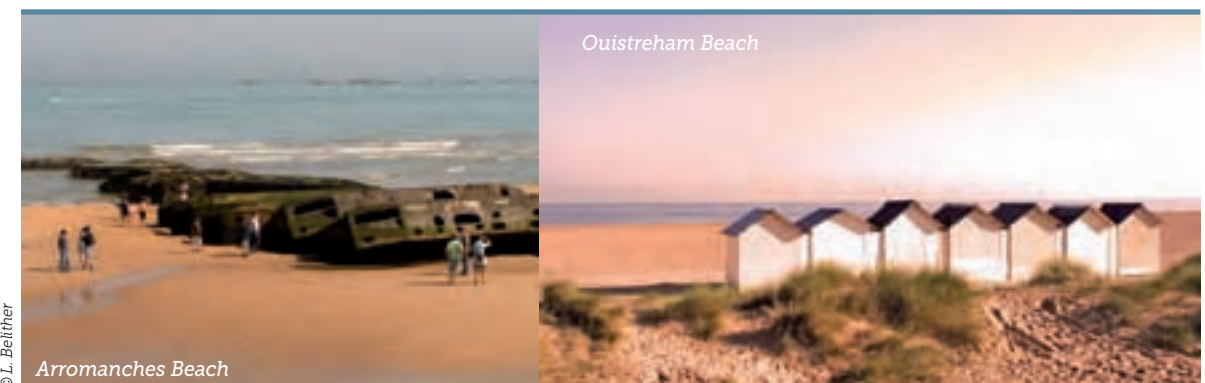
© D.R.

Claire Lesourd "A Human Adventurer"

Claire Lesourd's interest in the Second World War is primarily linked to her family history; "My grandfather was a prisoner in a reprisals camp" she says. After studying languages and working at the Caen Memorial, Claire qualified as an official guide and lecturer in 1999 and joined the Bayeux Tourist Office in 2003. Since 2011 she has been working as an independent guide in Normandy and works 75% of the time on the D-Day Landing Beaches. Does

she enjoy it? "For me, it's the human aspect rather than the war memorabilia that is most interesting. I know how a gun works, but I prefer to base my tours around human anecdotes, and around the lives of the soldiers and civilians." For two weeks around June 6th 2014, Claire will offer some unusual tours with the participation of a group of American musicians and choristers who will accompany her on the D-Day Landing Beaches.

Claire.guidage@gmail.com



© L. Beithier

© CDT Calvados



© COTC Sainte-Mère-Église

© Mémorial de Caen - US Army



© G.S.

Gary Sterne, The Maisy Battery

Fascinated by military history, Gary had read hundreds of books about D-Day and his curiosity was sparked by the incongruous nature of accounts of the seizing of the infamous Pointe du Hoc near to Omaha beach. Gary felt sure that part of the puzzle was missing and when he found a US Serviceman's map, showing an area marked as "area of high resistance" his search began. The Maisy Battery, whose area measures two and a half times that of the Pointe du Hoc, had lain buried under farmland for 63 years following the D-Day landings. This was the main reason that it had

been forgotten. Gary consulted official archive material, travelled to the U.S to interview dozens of Veterans and eventually, bought the land on which the Maisy Battery stood to begin the project of excavation. Thanks to this immense investigation, the true history of the seizing of the German artillery battery and breaking of the Atlantic Wall was established. In 2007, the Maisy Battery opened to welcome visitors during the summer months.

www.maisybattery.com/Home.html



© A.C.

Adrian Cox, Arromanches Town Council

Adrian is driven by his dedication to the responsibility of remembrance. "I'm from a generation who grew up knowing the heroes who saved the world. For my generation it's easy to understand why we stand and respect. In a few years the next generation won't have the same opportunity to touch history while it's still living." Bridging the gap between Veterans and the future generations is essential to make sure that the sacrifices made are remembered and that such atrocities should never happen again." Since his arrival in Normandy in 1999, Adrian has been elected to the town council of Arromanches. He has

been given the responsibility for the organisation of the towns British D-Day commemorations and events. Adrian maintains connections with British Veteran groups helping to organise their annual trip each June and in 2009 he successfully brought 700 cadets from around the UK to Normandy to take part in the 65th anniversary celebrations.



© Visuel 1 Dday film

© Nicolas Job



© Pascal Vuong

Pascal Vuong, D-Day on the giant screen

An award winner from the start of his career, in 2013 Pascal Vuong shot "D-Day Normandy 1944" a major full length documentary in 3D IMAX_® for giant screens. The film mixes computer graphic images with archive photos, sand animations and real aerial and ground shots. For the first time in the history of cinema, filmgoers will be able to experience the D-Day landings as well as the ensuing Battle of Normandy and the Liberation of Paris on a

giant scale. Mixing spectacle with education, this film honours the soldiers and civilians who gave their lives for the Liberation 70 years ago. Released internationally in cinemas with giant screens in June 2014, the film will be shown on June 6th at the Zenith cinema in Caen.

www.n3dland.com



© Pascal Lefloch

Sylvain Pascaud and the D-Day wrecks

Television producer, Sylvain produced more than 70 documentary films during his time at Canal +. He has also participated in numerous sea and submarine expeditions on board Cousteau's The Calypso and the submarine research vessel, the Nautille with IFREMER (The French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea). During the summer of 2013, Sylvain directed operation "D-Day" – a project led by a team of oceanographers to list the undersea wrecks of D-Day. Until then, the sea and air phase of D-Day (code-name Operation

Neptune) had remained shrouded in the silence of the sea. The remains of an immense military operation of between 100 and 200 wrecked tanks and boats lie on the seabed off Arromanches. This scientific inventory carried out between Grandcamp-Maisy and Ouistreham is the subject of a television documentary which is due to be screened in 2014 as part of "Thalassa" on France 3.

www.memoire-en-couleurs.over-blog.net



© Claire Conan-Lagu

© D.R.

One of the last Veterans

Lucien Meyer, The front, prison and liberation

Born in a suburb of Strasburg on February 10th 1924, Lucien Meyer joined the German army on May 22nd 1943 in the 'Panzer-Jäger-Ers.u.Ausb.Abt.10' in Bavaria. He trained for three months in an anti-tank unit and was sent to the Russian front with the rest of his troop. In December 1943 he was sent to Berlin to help with the demolition of a factory and in January 1944 he was assigned to a new unit which was being set up at Montrichard near Blois. In March the unit was given 88 Pak 43 anti-tank guns at Godewaersvelde, near Hazebrouck. In May 1944, the unit called 'Schwere Pak-Abteilung 668' was stationed on the Belgian coast near Ostende and Zeebrugge. In July 1944 it reached the front in Normandy via Elbeuf, Lisieux, Falaise and Flers, finally arriving at Tinchebray on July 5th or 6th. Lucien Meyer took part in the offensive on Mortain and was captured in the Falaise pocket. During the fighting in Normandy he was made corporal. Once taken prisoner he was first sent to a camp on the coast not far from Courseulles from where he sailed to England, and thence to a prison camp in Scotland. After two months of captivity, he rejoined the French army in a camp situated close to London. Lucien Meyer was demobilised in January 1945.

www.memorial-montormel.org



© Claire Conan-Lagu

THE D-DAY LANDINGS AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY



© CDT Calvados

© E. Valère CRT

A short history of the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy.

Commanded by Eisenhower, Operation Overlord – the code name for the D-Day Landings, was planned as early as 1943. On June 6th 1944, more than 150,000 soldiers including Americans, British, Canadians, French, Polish, Dutch, Belgians and Norwegians, landed by sea and air on Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches. There followed a gigantic battle that mobilised around three million soldiers and ended on 21st August after 77 days of combat. The battle came to a close with the taking of the Falaise pocket on the heights of Montormel. 100,000 Germans soldiers were surrounded, six nations were involved in this final battle and 10,000 were left dead.

ALLIED PREPARATIONS

For many long months, a debate divided the British and Americans on the best strategy for the liberation of Europe. The British, drawn by peripheral operations in the Mediterranean, initially imposed their point of view: hence the series of landings in North Africa (November 1942), Sicily (July 1943) and then the south of Italy (September 1943). The Americans, favouring a more direct attack against Germany, advocated a cross-Channel assault. In exchange for concessions in the Italian theatre, they obtained the agreement of their Allies at the beginning of 1943. COSSAC, a unit commanded by the British General Frederick Morgan, was charged with planning the operation for 1944.

THE LANDINGS OF JUNE 6TH 1944

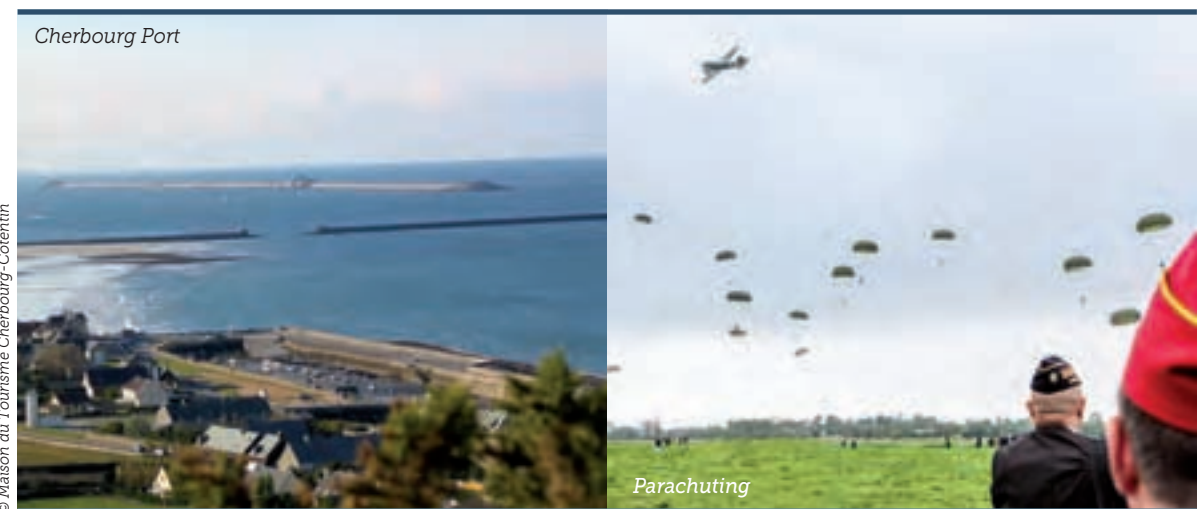
The battle began shortly after midnight on 6th June 1944 with the first parachute drop of British troops between the Orne and Dives rivers. It was then the turn of American paratroopers to jump over the Cherbourg Peninsula at the other end of the sector. RAF heavy bombers pounded the most dangerous artillery batteries of the Atlantic Wall. At dawn, the Germans were astonished to discover that the sea was covered by boats. This was Operation Neptune, the beginning of Operation Overlord and the liberation of Europe had begun. At 5.45am the fleet opened fire on the German defences. At 6.30am, the first waves of the American assault arrived at Utah and Omaha beaches. In the British and Canadian sectors, the attack was launched an hour later on account of the time difference of the tide. By the evening of the 6th June, 20,000 vehicles and 155,000 soldiers, including paratroopers, had made the landfall. Losses of those killed, wounded, or unaccounted for were in the region of 10,000 men, a number significantly lower than predicted. With the exception of Omaha Beach, where the battle continued and victory took a long time to come, the Atlantic Wall was broken and the Allies penetrated some 10 kilometres inland.



“ Sword Beach: Dr. Patterson of Lord Lovat’s 4th Commando

There were many bodies in the water... I saw wounded men among the dead, pinned down by the weight of their equipment. The first I came to was little Sapper Mullen, the artist. He was submerged to his chin and quite helpless. Somehow I managed to find my scissors and with my numb hands, which felt weak and useless, I began to cut away his rucksack. Hindmarch came up close to me and did the same on the other side. He looked lost but he recovered when I spoke to him and told him what to do. While I leaned over, I felt a shock in the behind, as if someone had hit me with a huge stick. We noticed later that it was a shell, but it hadn't hit anything important. I swore and continued. Eventually we got Mullen out. ”

Doctor J. H. Patterson, Medical record of the first day, no. 4 Commando from Lord Lovat, March Past, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1979.



THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

The Battle of Normandy lasted almost three months - much longer than Allied plans had foreseen. Despite the battle for the extension of the bridgehead having been won in 10 days, the Port of Cherbourg was only captured after a fierce struggle at the end of June. July was the darkest month for the Allies. British and Canadian troops were held back outside Caen by German armoured divisions and the town was not fully liberated until 19th July. During this time, the American advance stalled in the Cherbourg Peninsula, bogged down by fighting from hedge to hedge and experiencing great difficulty in capturing Saint-Lô on July 18th. All this changed at the end of July, with the success of Operation Cobra which allowed the Americans to push on relentlessly against the enemy defences and sweep towards Brittany and the Loire. At the beginning of August, the failure of the German counter-attack ordered by Hitler at Mortain precipitated the rout of the axis armies. For the survivors, nothing remained but to evacuate the rest of Normandy, re-cross the Seine, and withdraw in the direction of Paris and Germany.

NORMANS IN THE BATTLE

During the summer of 1944, the inhabitants of Lower Normandy found themselves in the middle of a battle of gigantic proportions. During July, at the height of the confrontation, more than two million soldiers were involved – twice the number of inhabitants of the départements of Manche and Calvados, where the fighting took place. There were many civilian victims; to escape the bombs and shells, people hid in cellars, caves, quarries, mine galleries and in trenches covered by branches. In their tens of thousands, the people of the Manche and Calvados fled south, on roads made dangerous by strafing from the air. During this time, those Normans enlisted in the ranks of the Resistance did their best to give the Allies their support.





© Calvados-Tourisme

© E. Valère CRT

The Atlantic Wall

The attack on the USSR, on June 22nd 1941 and the unexpected resistance put up by the Red Army forced the German command to dangerously weaken the Western Front by drawing off increasing numbers of troops. In December 1941 the entry of the United States into the war increased the fear of an Allied landing. In the same month, it persuaded Hitler to strengthen his defences by ordering the construction of the Atlantic Wall. This gigantic undertaking, entrusted to the Todt Organisation, began in 1942. It was still not fully completed in 1944, despite the efforts made by Field Marshall Rommel, who, from the end of 1943 had been given responsibility for the entire sector from the Low Countries to the Loire. It involved building 15,000 structures along the entire coast of the North Sea, the Channel and the Atlantic – an operation that needed 450,000 workers, 11 million tons of concrete, and 1 million tons of steel reinforcements. Contrary to the impression created by German propaganda, the “Wall” was not a continuous barrier. In essence, it consisted of four elements: fortresses, coastal artillery batteries, defensive works close to the beaches and obstacles on beaches themselves, as well as inland. Numerous vestiges of the Atlantic Wall – in various states of preservation – are still visible along the length of the Normandy coast. Behind the “Wall”, more than 700,000 men were massed.

Juno Beach: a Canadian chaplain

“No time was lost, the boats dumped as they turned, many were sunk; the water was covered with wreckage. Joel Murray from Cross Point and I landed together in the water and made shore. A young lad next to me fell, a bullet got him. I dragged him ashore, and there in that awful turmoil I knelt for a second that seemed an eternity and anointed him - the first of the long, long list I anointed in action.”

Reverend R. Myles Hickey,
The Scarlet Dawn,
 Unipress Editions, Canada, 1980



Commemoration Utah Beach

©Thierry Houyel

Sam Gibbons : Captain of the 501st Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division

“It was dark – there was a slight ground fog. I jumped and my parachute snapped open with a loud crack, reflecting the added weight of combat equipment. I was 24 years old... for this performance our heads had been shaved – the surgeons insisted we’d be easier to sew up that way – our faces and hands blacked to be less visible. We wore a special jumper’s combat uniform and boots. All of our clothing, including the long underwear and socks, had been impregnated with a chemical to protect us from poison gas. We smelled like inside men from the skunk works. My normal weight was 165 pounds. That night when I hit the ground I was well over 200 pounds. My equipment was typical for the jump that night. Two parachutes – one main on my back and a reserve one on my chest in case the main one malfunctioned. We all wore a Mae West, inflatable-type, life jacket because we crossed 150 miles of ocean and jumped near a river. Many got used that night.”

Sam Gibbons, *I was there,* Caen Memorial

Reconstruction of military camps



©Thierry Houyel

©Thierry Houyel

MAP OF THE LANDINGS AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY



The Battle of Normandy June – August 1944

NORMANDY 2014

Throughout the year and throughout Normandy there will be a rich and varied programme of cultural events for all to enjoy.

For a complete list of events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings, visit the website

www.the70th-normandy.com



Unforgettable visits

Lively educational sites will help better understand this remarkable chapter of history, from the Caen Memorial to the gun battery at Longues-sur-Mer, and from the Pointe du Hoc to the gun battery at Azeville, via the Overlord Museum and Juno Beach Centre.

HEAD TURNING

Arromanches 360°

At the heart of the battle. From February 2013, the “Arromanches 360°” circular cinema is showing a new film. “Normandy’s 100 Days” retraces the history of the battle, from the preparations for the D-Day Landings to the Liberation of Paris. Produced by the makers of the hugely successful French television series “Apocalypse”, the film is a stunning mixture of archive images gathered from around the world, with amazing special effects. You really will feel that you’ve travelled back in time!

Arromanches-les-Bains (14) - www.arromanches360.com

TRUE TO LIFE

Azeville Gun Battery

Operation Camouflage! For a truly lifelike reconstruction of the great moments of the Battle of Normandy, the Azeville gun battery, at Utah Beach, has been repainted in its original camouflage colours. These have been recreated through archive photographs dating back to 1944. On May 1st, a special tour will take place on the theme of “Life in a German gun battery during the Occupation”.

Azeville (50) - bitly.com/Azeville-Battery





© Calvados-tourisme

© E. Valère CRT

EDUCATIONAL

Caen Memorial. Understanding the War

The essential museum for everything you need to know about World War II, to look back at all the key events, in particular those concerning the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy. The Caen Memorial, Centre for History and Peace, has recently inaugurated a new exhibition space that recreates General Richter's subterranean bunker, with inventive staging that highlights the military aspects of the German Occupation, as well as the history of the Atlantic Wall. Among the events marking the 70th anniversary: an international exhibition of press illustrations (April 4th-6th), an exhibition "100 photos by Tony Vaccaro" (May), a conference on the Battle of Normandy (May 21st -23rd) and also two monumental paintings by the artist Jef Aérosol (June 3rd-4th).

Caen (14) - www.memorial-caen.fr



© E. Valère CRT

HEAD SPINNING

The Pointe du Hoc

On top of the cliffs. The Pointe du Hoc visitors' centre was transformed in 2013, moving into a stylish contemporary building that doubles its former area. It was on this exceptional site that US Army Rangers scaled the 100-foot cliffs, destroyed a vital German gun battery and took possession of this strategic position, giving them control of the coast road, and thereby playing an important role in the Allies' success.

Criqueville-en-Bessin (14)
www.isigny-grandcamp-intercom.fr

ESSENTIAL

La Cambe Military cemetery

In memory of German soldiers. In the north west of Calvados, the German Military Cemetery of La Cambe is a poignant site with 21,300 graves. The cemetery includes a visitors' centre and permanent exhibition space, as well as a garden planted with 1,200 maples – living symbols of peace between nations.

La Cambe (14) - www.volksbund.de



© Thierry Houyel

© E. Valère CRT

NEW

Overlord Museum.

A unique collection. The Overlord Museum is a brand new museum dedicated to June 6th 1944 and the Battle of Normandy. The museum boasts a unique and exceptional collection of over ten thousand objects and documents found on Norman soil, carefully gathered over more than 40 years by a first-hand witness of the conflict.

Colleville-sur-Mer (14) - www.overlordmuseum.com

MOVING

Military cemetery.

Tribute to American soldiers. 9,387 soldiers rest in the American Military Cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer, which overlooks Omaha Beach. A chapel, a memorial, and a garden of remembrance today honour their memory.

Colleville-sur-Mer (14) - www.abmc.com

EXPLOSIVE

Gun battery of Longues-sur-Mer.

A listed gun battery. Between Arromanches and Omaha Beach, Longues-sur-Mer is the only gun battery above the D-Day Landings beaches to be officially listed as a historic monument. It is also the only one that is still equipped with its original guns. The battery includes a command post and four casemates, each housing an artillery piece.

Longues-sur-Mer (14)
bayeux-bessin-tourisme.com/blog/visiteguide/batterie-de-longues-sur-mer



© Bischoff, Andrea



© E. Valère CRT

© CJB Le Goubey

UNMISSABLE

The Landings Museum. D-Day Museum. Inaugurated in 1954 by French president René Coty, this is the longest-established museum dedicated to the events of June 6th. With more 300,000 visitors in 2012, the D-Day Museum is a 'must'. It brings together documents and models to recreate the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches, traces of which still exist a short distance away. Thanks to its cinema and an outstanding audiovisual show, the museum offers the chance to relive the intensity of D-Day. Built on the very spot where the harbour was set up, the Arromanches Landings Museum also gives a spectacular view of the remains of the harbour, situated just a few hundred metres away from the shore.

Arromanches (14) - www.musee-arromanches.fr



© CJBG Wait

COMMEMORATIVE

Juno Centre Beach.

Happy Anniversary Juno! The Juno Beach Centre, which has recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, is currently screening a new film, called "In their Footsteps", which is both moving and educational. This museum is the only one on the D-Day Landing Beaches to be dedicated entirely to the role played by Canadian troops in the Second World War. For younger

visitors, an exhibition called "Grandma, what was it like during the war?" will help children to imagine what their lives might have been like if they had been ten years old in 1944. The tour of the museum concludes with a gallery on the Atlantic Wall (at Courseulles), open for the first time this year. **Courseulles-sur-Mer (14)** - www.junobeach.org

CIVILIAN

Civilian life in the Falaise area during The Second World War. Life goes on. An exhibition rich in documents and personal experiences evokes the daily life of civilians in the countryside around Falaise during the height of the Battle of Normandy.

From June to September -Falaise (14) - www.falaise-tourisme.com

TOUCHING

14 towns and villages in Calvados in the war, 1943 – 1945

Thousands of civilian victims in Calvados, hundreds of towns and villages ravaged, and then rebuilt... the department of Calvados is organising a travelling exhibition about 14 towns and villages which were particularly affected during the war and the Battle of Normandy. One by one, from March to October, these places will host a photographic exhibition showing the destruction, the subsequent reconstruction, and the life of the civilian population at the time. As well as the exhibition, each of the towns will be organising events involving local inhabitants. Organised by the Departmental Archives of Calvados, this exhibition will commemorate the sacrifice of the civilian population and illustrate the amazing dynamism which led to the reconstruction of Calvados.

From March to October, various places, Calvados (14) - www.calvados.fr

PANORAMIC

Utah Beach. A museum on the beach. Built on the very beach where the first American troops landed on June 6th – Madeleine Beach – the Utah Beach Museum was created in a former bunker in 1962. It has recently been renovated, extended and refurbished. Original equipment, weapons, photographs, maps, amphibious craft and souvenirs bring to life the highlights of D-Day. As a plus, there is also a panoramic view of the beach and the sea.

Sainte-Marie-du-Mont (50) - www.utah-beach.com

PARACHUTING

The Airborne Museum. Operation Neptune. Established in 1964 in the heart of the town, the Airborne Museum takes visitors through the epic deployment of American parachutists from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions during the nights of June 5th and 6th 1944, as part of Operation Neptune. The museum collection includes a Waco glider and Douglas C47 aircraft, which took part in the parachute drop, as well as documents, first-hand testimonies and ammunition. From 2014 it will have an additional 13,000 square feet of exhibition space devoted to "immersive exhibitions".

Sainte-Mère-Église (50) - www.airborne-museum.org

ARMOURED

Normandy Tank Museum.

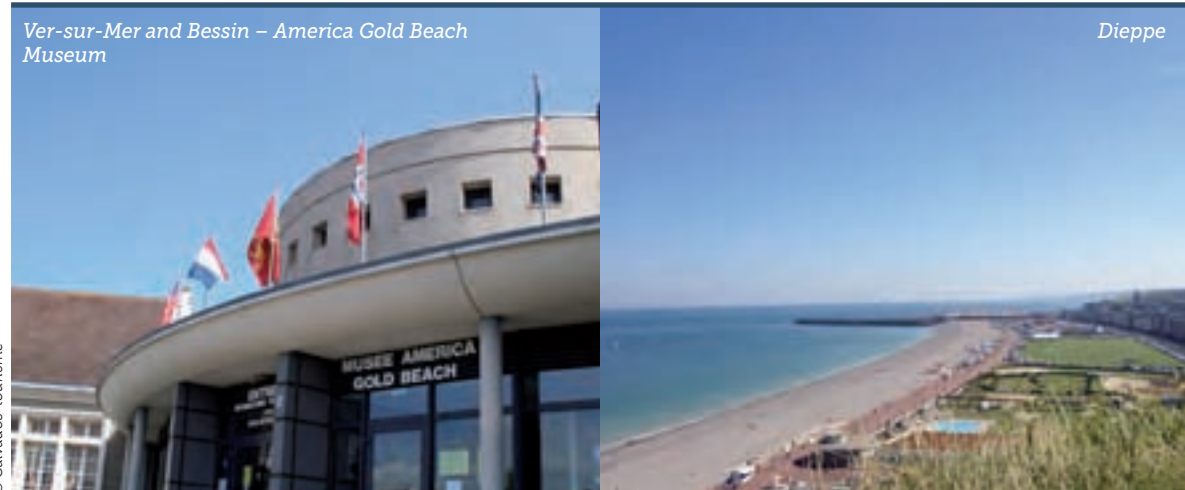
Jeeps and tanks. If you are keen on tanks and American army vehicles, the new Normandy Tank Museum, inaugurated in June 2013, is for you. Its unique collection brings together a large array of tanks that served in the conflict, as well as an important body of US Army trucks, jeeps and motorbikes.

Catz (50) - www.normandy-tank-museum.fr



© Normandy Tank Museum

© E. Valère CRT



MARINE

Cherbourg... And freedom came from the sea.

Undersea adventure. From April to September, La Cité de la Mer stages the exhibition "Cherbourg... And freedom came from the sea". With the help of photos and archive films, it explores the work of American forces in the days after the city was liberated (mine clearance, reconstruction of the quays, etc)

April to September, Cherbourg (50) - www.citedelamer.com

SPINE-TINGLING

Death Row.

The last battle. Starting from the Memorial of Montormel situated in the heart of the Falaise-Chambois pocket, a 12-mile driving tour with ten stops explains the Battle of the Falaise-Chambois pocket. This was the largest confrontation during the Second World War whose outcome led to the liberation of the rest of Europe. Your route takes you along part of "The Corridor of Death", an officially listed site through which the Germans withdrew.

Mont-Ormel (61) - www.memorial-montormel.org

TRAGIC

Operation Jubilee

The 1942 landings (Dieppe). The Memorial of August 19th 1942 brings together an array of documents, objects and models that evoke the exploits of soldiers, sailors and pilots who participated in the raid of August 19th 1942. The tour of the museum concludes with a gripping film about "Operation Jubilee", a failed attempt by the Allies to make a temporary bridgehead in occupied France, at the port of Dieppe.

Dieppe (76) - www.dieppe-operationjubilee-19aout1942.com

HEROIC

Bruneval Memorial 42

Operation Biting. On the night of February 27th – 28th 1942, 120 British soldiers from the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment were dropped over the Cap d'Antifer to carry out an assault on a radar station. Operation Biting – the first airborne operation carried out by the Allies in occupied France – was a success. A new memorial, inaugurated in 2012 in the commune of Saint-Jouin-Bruneval, pays tribute to these heroes.

Saint-Jouin-Bruneval (76) - www.bruneval42.com



Events

History is also told in images and music, through shows, concerts, historical frescos and lifelike reconstructions. On land, sea and in the sky, day or night, look out for some unforgettable events!

All of the events on offer in the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy are shown on the site www.the70th-normandy.com

MONUMENTAL

Reconstruction of a military camp.

The grounds of the Château du Taillis, which house the August 1944 museum, will see a reconstruction of American, British, French and German camps with over 250 participants. There will also be a screening and conference devoted to a little-discussed subject – "The Crossing of The Seine" – organised by the team at the Château Duclair Theatre on August 31st.

Reconstruction May 10th and 11th, Screening Conference August 31st , Duclair (76)

www.chateau-du-taillis.com

HISTORICAL WALK

Sword Beach. In the steps of the commandos.

From the beginning of June to the end of August, the town of Ouistreham offers guided walks on the theme of the Occupation and Liberation of the town. This is an opportunity to learn about a little-known page of our history, that of the "Kieffer's Green Berets" who were part of the Franco-British no 4 commando unit which liberated the town of Ouistreham.

Places and dates to be announced, Ouistreham (14) - www.ouistreham.fr/va

DAILY LIFE

Camp Arizona. A lifelike reconstruction of the Allied camp Arizona, with period military, civilian and agricultural equipment of the time, musical events, vehicle processions, archive documents and demonstrations of the daily life of soldiers.

From June 4th to 9th, Carentan (50) - www.amis-suffolk-rgt.com



ENCHANTING

Setting the coast alight.

Fireworks. 24 towns, 24 key sites of the D-Day Landing Beaches will take part in a spectacular display along 50 miles of Normandy's coast. 24 ambitious synchronised firework displays will take place at nightfall on June 5th.

June 5th D-Day Landing Beaches - www.normandiememoire.com

IMPRESSIVE

June 6th 1944, they were the First Produced by Jean-Michel Vecchiet

On the night of June 5th to 6th, the grounds of the Pegasus Memorial will be the setting for a large-screen projection of a 52-minute documentary film recounting the story of the soldiers from the 6th British Airborne Division who were amongst the first to set foot on the soil of Normandy. Also, don't miss out on a daytime visit to the Pegasus Memorial, situated right next door, which is a museum dedicated to the men of the British 6th Airborne Division, the 'Red Berets', their missions and their heroic actions on the day before the D-Day Landings and during the Battle of Normandy.

The night of 5th June, Pegasus Bridge Memorial, Ranville (14)
www.memorial-pegasus.org

ORCHESTRAL

Concert for Freedom. Composer, jazzman and rock musician, Karl was born in Wales just months before the D-Day Landings, on 17th February 1944. Thanks to his long standing career and a unique style that blends World and Classical music, Karl's music is hugely successful in the UK where it is regularly used on adverts, TV programmes and sports events. His latest work, "A mass for Peace," was commissioned by the Royal Armouries of the Tower of London to mark the millennium. The piece combines the basic mass with a variety of prose and poetry and uses a range of musical styles to reflect today's multi-cultural society. The work tells a story which encourages people reflect and arouses emotions.

From 5th – 9th June, Caen Memorial (14), Sainte Mère-Église (50), Sées (61), Lisieux (14) and Cherbourg (50)

www.orchestrenormandie.com



IMPOSSIBLE

They didn't know that it was impossible. Attack! Huge historical fresco in four parts dedicated to the incredible assault by British parachutists of the 9th Battalion on the gun battery at Merville at dawn on June 6th. From June 6th to 8th, Merville Gun Battery (14) - www.batterie-merville.com

FESTIVE

D-Day Festival. A festival of events. For its 2014 edition, the famous annual D-Day Festival sets its sights even higher. As well as a plethora of ceremonies, concerts and historical marches, demonstrations of parachuting and fireworks laid on from Courseulles-sur-Mer to Arromanches, from Omaha Beach to Carentan and at Sainte-Mère-Eglise, Longues-sur-Mer and Bayeux, major processions of military vehicles will take place at Grandcamp-Maisy and at Isigny.

From June 1st to 8th, various locations - www.ddayfestival.com

APPETISING

Giant picnic. Meet on June 7th for the 10th giant picnic on Omaha Beach; as a mark of gratitude to those who fought for freedom. Since 2005 this event has been attracting around 1500 people of all generations and nationalities – perfect for families and friends.

June 7th. Omaha Beach, Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer - www.oti-omaha.fr

AERIAL

The aeroplanes of June 6th.

Air show. Situated on the ex-advance airfield ALG B9, from where 48 Canadian typhoons operated from June to September 1944, the regional stadium of Creully welcomes the Model Aircraft Club of Bessin on June 7th and 8th. On show will be giant models including 12 typhoons on a 1/5th scale, 7 DC3s and a C47 with a 26-foot wingspan.

June 7th and 8th Creully (14)- www.amcb.jimdo.com

SKYWARDS

International parachuting. A deluge of civilian and military parachute drops, with several nationalities present (USA, France, Germany, Holland, UK...) at the historic site of La Fièvre, drop zone in 1944. Varied activities will take place all day long on June 8th with on-site catering.

June 8th, Sainte-Mère-Église (50) - www.sainte-mere-eglise.info

MUSICALLY FESTIVE

Freedom Tattoo

Military Concert. Military concert. A festival of military music at the Caen Zénith will bring together 600 French, Belgian, Canadian, Dutch, Norwegian, Polish, British, American and German musicians.

June 7th, 8th and 9th, Caen (14) - www.memorial-pegasus.org

ILLUMINATING

The Lights of Freedom.

Sound and light show. At nightfall, Bayeux offers a walking tour around the cathedral and a show entitled "The Lights of Freedom", which mixes a recital with colours, special effects, music and projected images.

From June 14th to September 14th, Bayeux (14)

www.bayeux-bessin-tourisme.com

SOLIDLY CONCRETE

39-45 Tour

Do the wall. Combined with an educational slide show, a "39-45 Tour" (open May – September), explores the WWII remains of the blockhouses at Cape Fagnet to give a better understanding of the importance of The Atlantic Wall. In parallel, the cinema 'Le Grand Large' at Fécamp will show two documentaries by Jérôme Prieur, "The Atlantic Wall" and "Operation Jubilee" on September 20th at 9.30pm.

May 8th, June 8th, July 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, September 7th. Cape Fagnet, Fécamp (76)

SPECTACULAR

A grand music show. Specially devised and organised by the Département of Orne, this grand music show with choirs and orchestra will feature a backdrop of images from films.

August 22nd and 23rd, Quai des Arts, Argentan (61) - www.orne.fr

ANIMATED

Day of discovery and activities. Conferences, exhibitions of old equipment, and cultural activities will take place in the villages of the battlefield of Mont-Ormel. Lots of places to stop and explore together with opportunities to meet local people, some of whom witnessed this last battle of Normandy.

August 23rd, Mont-Ormel (61) - www.orne.fr



Bridging the generation gap

ONLINE

D-Day Blog: Annie Darling attends the 70th Anniversary

A 21 year old journalism student from London, Annie Darling, came over to Normandy to experience first-hand the 69th commemorations and will be back in June 2014 to cover the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Read all about it on her dedicated blog:

normandyddayblog.wordpress.com

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Tools for teachers

The Normandy Tourist Board and the weekly paper First News in association with Brittany Ferries have put together free teaching resources to help school groups learn about the history of William the Conqueror, Impressionism and the D-Day Landings & the Battle of Normandy.

Each study pack includes several pages of history in an easy and understandable format for pupils, useful links and various activities.

www.normandie-tourisme.fr/normandy-tourism/more-information/tourism-professionals/resources-for-school-groups-858-2.html



D-DAY IN HIGH-TECH

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings, a series of smartphone applications, GPS tours and virtual visits has been specially developed. A high-tech approach to exploring iconic sites and reliving the events of 1944 in 2014.

INNOVATIVE APPLICATIONS

An app for the Pointe du Hoc

The ABMC (American Battle Monuments Commission), in charge of managing the site at Pointe du Hoc, has a mobile application in French and English available from March 2013. From now on you can find out about the history of Pointe du Hoc with this app designed for iPhone and Android systems. It allows you to explore the site where the American Army Rangers scaled 100-foot high cliffs and destroyed a key German gun emplacement, taking control of coast road, thus playing a crucial role in the Allied success on D-Day.

Arromanches 1944 App

Developed with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Communication, ARROMANCHES 1944 gives a 360° view of the 1944 Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches, reconstructed in 3D (you can see the port operating as it did in '44). With augmented reality, it also allows you to revisit the German coastal defences, as well as the villages of Saint-Côme de Fresné and Courseulles-sur-Mer (to observe the D-Day landing operations between 5am and 7.25am on the morning of June 6th)

Available from Appstore.

A war veteran in Appstore

Léon Gautier landed with the French Kieffer commando unit on June 6th 1944. Now 90 years old, this D-Day hero has taken up residence at Ouistreham. He now tells the story of the Kieffer commando unit (notably the taking of the casino) on an app which you can download onto your smartphone. The app allows you to relive D-Day in an engaging video, allowing you to superimpose images from today over those of June 6th 1944 with the sounds of tanks advancing and the destruction...

Available in May 2014 in French and English.

Cherbourg on touchscreen tablets

From June 25th 2014 the Museum of the Liberation of Cherbourg will be equipped with multimedia technology showing the strategic role played by the port of Cherbourg during the Battle of Normandy. A large format touch tablet will present a panoramic photograph of the town. As you fly over one of 7 points of interest (the port, arsenal, swing bridge...) you will be able to access multimedia content specific to the site: text, images, film and audio archives presenting the place in 1944, both before and after the Landings, showing its role and what happened there... The tablet will be accessible to the disabled and the text will be translated into English and German.



TWO GPS TOURS

The Open Air Museum

This 30-mile tour around Sainte-Mère-Église, Picauville and Utah Beach is explored with a visioguide rented from the Tourist Office of Sainte-Mère-Église. Guided from site to site (11 in total) thanks to a GPS system, you can relive the first days of the D-Day Landings on screen. Historical slideshows, multimedia activities, eyewitness accounts, archive film footage etc. An innovative way to immerse yourself in history.

www.sainte-mere-eglise.info/en

In the footsteps of the 101st Airborne Division

This 25-mile tour is an invitation to explore 13 important sites in the battle for the liberation of the area around Carentan, where American and German parachutists were locked in combat for several days. The map and the GPS directions make it easy to find your way at your own pace in the heart of the Cotentin and Bessin Regional Nature Park.

www.carentan-circuit-44.com

A VIRTUAL VISIT

On the Farm in the Cherbourg Peninsula

Whilst looking around the farm museum of the Cherbourg Peninsula, you can relive "The farm under the Occupation" and learn about farm life and history thanks to a touch tablet. Discover how, in spite of the restrictions and requisitions, work carried on under German Occupation.

patrimoine.manche.fr/ferme-musee-cotentin-N.asp



NORMANDY 2014 : THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY IS A FAMILY EXPERIENCE TOO! HISTORY FOR ALL

The 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy is a great opportunity for all the family to join in the celebrations. .

From spring through to autumn throughout Normandy there will be special opportunities for family days out with the emphasis on pleasure, encounters and conviviality, at the D-Day Festival, or a giant picnic on Omaha Beach for young and old alike. Music lovers will love the 'Freedom Tattoo' military concert, and the 'Concerts for Freedom' organised by the regional orchestra of Lower Normandy. For thrill seekers, you can't beat an air show with model aeroplanes from the model aircraft club of Bessin taking to the skies. There are many events on offer, with an explosion of light and colour at nightfall. Amongst the big events not to be missed, the sound and light show at Bayeux cathedral and the extraordinary giant firework display which will set the sky alight all along the coast at 24 sites emblematic of the D-Day Landings. Young or old, you won't believe your eyes!

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

All of the events and dates for the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy can be seen on
www.the70th-normandy.com

Here is a selection of dates amongst hundreds of events planned all season long.

FEBRUARY

From Feb 1st: Grandma, what was it like during the war?, exhibition, Juno Beach Centre, Courseulles-sur-Mer



MARCH

From March to Oct: Leaving the war behind; From the Battle of Normandy through to Reconstruction, exhibition, 14 towns in Calvados



March 2nd: Freedom Walk, Asnelles, departure at 9am



APRIL

April 1st - Sep 1st: Cherbourg.... And freedom came from the sea, exhibition, La Cité de La Mer, Cherbourg



April 6th: From the gun batteries of Azeville to those of Cricqueville, walk, Utah Beach



MAY

From May to Dec: The 100 photos by Tony Vaccaro, exhibition, Caen Memorial



From May to Dec: The 100 objects of the 100 days of the Battle of Normandy, exhibition, Caen Memorial



May 1st - Dec 15th: So that we don't forget them and Anglo-Canadian war correspondents, exhibitions, Pegasus memorial



May 1st: Life at a German gun battery during the Occupation, tour at Azeville gun battery, Utah Beach.



From May 1st to Sep 30th: Une ville renaît (Rebirth of a town), open air exhibition, Rue Torteron and place de la Gare, Saint-Lô.



May 8th: 39 - 45 Tour conference, Fécamp.



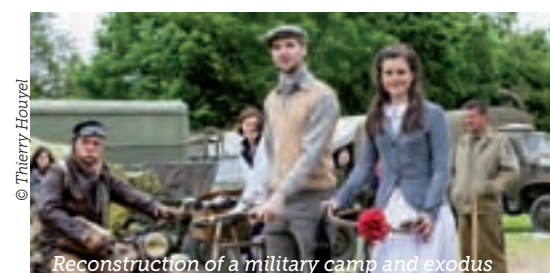
May 10th: Freedom came from the sea, walk, Omaha Beach.



May 16th: Evening of remembrance, conference, Château des Matignon, Torigni-sur-Vire 8.30 - 11pm



May 26th - June 5th: The Price of Freedom, conference, Museum of The Liberation, Cherbourg, 6.30pm





- conference
- parade
- remembrance ceremony
- exhibition
- screening / performance
- show / concert
- walk



Le Mont Canisy










-  conference
-  parade
-  remembrance ceremony
-  exhibition
-  screening / performance
-  show / concert
-  walk

JUNE









- June 1st – Aug 31st:** Daily life under *The Occupation*, exhibition, Fermanville Tourist Office 
- June 1st – 15th:** Remains of The Atlantic Wall, exhibition, Dives-sur-Mer Tourist Information Office 
- June 1st – Sep 30th:** Through stories, open air exhibition, Cresserons 
- June 2nd – 4th:** The Freedom Tattoo, procession and parade, Louis Villemer sports stadium and in the town centre of Saint-Lô 
- June 2nd - Sep 30th:** The Greatest Generation, History Centre of The Parachutists of D-Day, Saint-Côme-du-Mont, 9am – 6pm 
- June 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th:** In the Footsteps of the Commandos, Sword Beach 
- June 4th – 11th:** Saint-Hilaire-Petitville Remembers, exhibition, Recreation Hall, Saint-Hilaire-Petitville 
- Night of June 5th:** 6th June 1944, *They Were the First*, documentary, Pegasus Memorial, Ranville 
- June 6th:** Concert for peace, Sainte-Mère-Église, 8.30pm 
- June 6th:** D-Day Normandy 1944, 3D Imax film, Caen Zénith, 
- June 6th, 7th, 8th:** They didn't know it was impossible, site of the gun battery of Merville, 10.30pm 
- June 7th:** Giant picnic on Omaha beach, Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer. 
- June 7th:** Ceremony of Peace, Sainte-Mère-Église town hall. 
- June 8th:** The First Football Match in Free France, show, Henri Jeanne sports stadium, Bayeux, 5 – 6.45pm 
- June 8th:** 39 – 45 Tour, conference, Fécamp 
- June 8th:** Concert for Freedom, Lisieux 8.30pm 
- June 8th:** Ecumenical Service for Peace, at the site of the Merville gun battery, 10.30am – 12 midday 
- June 8th - 16th Aug:** Heroes or Martyrs, Tourouvre in the Torment of the Second World War, les Muséales de Tourouvre 
- June 9th:** The Atlantic Wall, conference at Azeville gun battery, Utah Beach 
- June 14th - Sep 14th:** Meet at the cathedral, the Lights of Liberty, sound and light show, Bayeux cathedral at nightfall 
- June 21st:** Franco-German Encounters, concert, Lisieux 8pm 
- June 26th:** Tour of Cherbourg in vintage cars 
- June 28th - 31st Aug:** Torgni in torment, exhibition, Château des Matignon, Torgni-sur-Vire. 
- June 30th:** The Occupation of the Châteaux in Saint-Pierre-Eglise, conference, Château de Carneville 8pm. 

Utah Beach











-  conference
-  parade
-  remembrance ceremony
-  exhibition
-  screening/performance
-  show / concert
-  walk





JULY

- July 1st – Aug 31st:** The reconstruction of Flers, exhibition, Media centre of Flers country 
- July 2nd – Sep 11th:** Series of walks between Arromanches and Merville-Franceville each Wednesday departing from the coastal station or from the historical site 
- July 5th, 12th 19th and 26th:** 39-45 Tour, Fécamp 3pm 
- July 8th and 22nd:** In the Footsteps of the Commandos, Sword Beach, walks and guided tours, Ouistreham 2.30pm 
- July 12th and 13th:** Freedom Celebrated, festival, dance and firework display, Bolleville 10am – midnight 
- July 18th:** Concert by Middle Jazz Band of Lisieux, Cagny 7.15pm 
- July 18th:** Wavelengths of war, sound tour by torchlight, Cape Fagnet, Fécamp 3pm 
- July 31st:** 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Jullouville, procession and parade, Jullouville 10am – 4pm 

AUGUST

- Aug 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th:** 39 – 45 Tour, conference Fécamp 3pm 
- Aug 5th and 19th:** In the Steps of the Commandos, guided walk, Sword Beach 
- Aug 9th to 17th:** Exhibition of a Panther tank and German motorcycles at the Montormal Memorial 
- Aug 15th and 16th:** Operation Paddle 1944, exhibition, Guy Môquet Hall Dives-sur-Mer 10am – 6pm 
- Aug 20th:** Historical walk departing from Ouistreham 9.30am 
- Aug 22nd:** Jazz concert, Place Lemercier, Touques 7 – 9pm 
- Aug 22nd and 23rd:** Grand Music Show, Le Quai des Arts, Argentan. 
- Aug 23rd:** Day of discovery and activities (conferences, exhibitions, activities...) Mont-Ormel. 

SEPTEMBER

- Sep 7th:** 39 – 45 Tour, conference, Fécamp 
- Sep 11th:** Historical walk departing from Ouistreham 9.30am 
- Sep 14th:** March of Peace and Reconciliation from the Memorial of Montormel to Tournai-sur-Dives 9.15am – 5pm 
- Sep 20th:** The Atlantic Wall and Operation Jubilee by Jérôme Prieur, documentary screening, Le Grand Cinema, Fécamp 9.30pm 

For the complete programme of official events go to
www.the70th-normandy.com

YOUR STAY IN NORMANDY



The 70th anniversary of the Battle of Normandy

The 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy will truly put Normandy in the limelight!

Between the official commemorations and the cultural and tourist programme of events, 2014 will be particularly packed with events for Normandy. The whole region will mobilise is actively coming together to give so that visitors, tourists, families and war veterans are given the best possible welcome.

To facilitate this, the Tourist Office, the Departmental Tourist Boards and the Normandy Regional Tourist Board will offer a wide array of accommodation solutions on their websites: hotels, B&Bs, inns or chateaux... take your choice!



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HEROES... AS IF YOU WERE THERE!

In an old radio command post

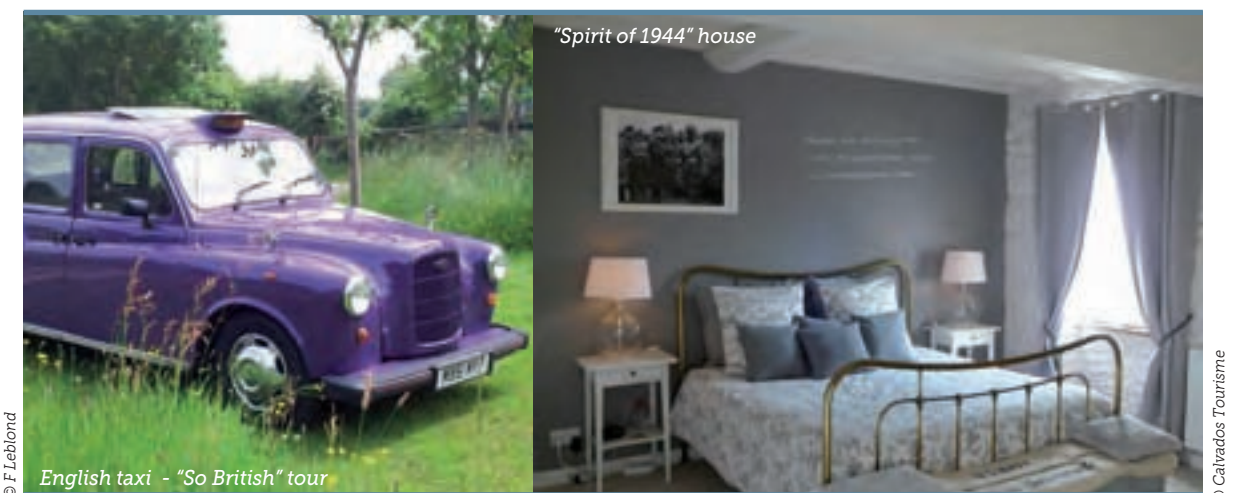
In June and July 1944, the American press in France set up its HQ at the Château of Vouilly, not far from Isigny-sur-Mer. Today's breakfast room was the newsroom for about 50 war correspondents. A radio transmitter was set up at the end of the park to establish communications with the USA via a relay station in England. Today the owners have four rooms at the Château.

www.chateau-vouilly.com

A D-Day Bed and Breakfast

Virginie and Cyrille Colin offer rooms on the theme of the D-Day Landings. A WWII themed break including two nights with breakfast, entrance to the museums around Utah Beach and the rental of the open air museum GPS. As a bonus, guests will be offered a 'cricket' and a piece of canvas from an authentic 1944 parachute!

La Ferme de Riou, Sainte-Mère-Église, www.fermederiou.com



A night at the château

Why not treat yourself to a weekend at a château? The Château of Boucéel, at Vergoncey, welcomes visitors within its 18th century walls for a privileged and unforgettable stay. The owners will tell you about the history of their family, and in particular their ancestor Arnaud de Roquefeuil. Through his drawings, he recounted his life on the front, his combat in the resistance, his arrest by the Gestapo and his deportation to Buchenwald.

www.chateaudebouceel.com

"So British!" tour of the Orne

Whilst staying in Suisse Normande, hop aboard an old English taxi cab for an unusual tour of the main sites in the battle of Normandy in the Orne, particularly the famous Falaise-Chambois pocket! Visit the Museum of the Liberation of Berjou, and the Montormel Memorial, have a picnic lunch with a view over Falaise Castle... this is what's planned! Escorted by a guide on board a vintage car, you will enjoy the various stops on your route.

www.normandie-weekend.com

Chic and charming history at La Cambe

Situated between two temporary airfields in 1944, close to the German cemetery at La Cambe and close to the American sites of the Pointe du Hoc and Omaha Beach, the "Spirit of 1944" is a house where you can feel the wind of history blowing. Patricia Kiefer and Laurent Gaudi, the young owners, set their sights on this pretty Normandy farmhouse and transformed it into a place of remembrance: the corridors are lined with framed photos and newspapers of the period, and objects and uniforms from the Second World War are to be found in all the rooms transporting you back to the heart of the 1940's. They have been letting two rooms with historical names since the end of 2013: the General Dwight Eisenhower Room and the Commander Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Room. You will be welcomed with a Glenn Miller record playing and the fire glowing in the hearth... from the moment you arrive, you take a trip back in time and rediscover the spirit of 1944.

www.spiritof1944.fr



ON FOOT, BY BICYCLE, ON ROLLERBLADES OR ON HORSEBACK

Walking "in peace"

Whether on the D-Day Landing Beaches or the main sites of the Battle of Normandy, 'Walks in Peace' are historic guided walks organised by walking groups, tourist offices, or communities linked to the Walkers Federation, and 'Walks in Freedom', which can either be done alone or in a group. In 2014 new ideas for excursions on foot, bicycle, mountain bike, canoe, rollerblades or on horseback are available for you to discover.

www.randonnees-normandes.com

Normandy by bike

Normandy can be explored on foot, horseback or in a boat... and of course, by bike. Over 300 miles of green lanes have been created for you to travel along at your own pace. For the more active, three grand tours offer a mixture of sport, culture and gastronomy. "Paris - Mont-Saint-Michel" consists of 275 miles in 7 stages, crossing the Regional Nature Parks of Perche and Normandy-Maine. The "D-Day Landing Beaches - Mont-Saint-Michel" route consists of six stages and lets you explore the splendid gorges of the Vire. Finally a Franco-British route, "Cycle West" is a network of over 1250 miles of cycle lanes linking Normandy, Brittany and the south west of England. www.normandie-cote-nature.com

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The latest news and practical information on the 70th anniversary of D-Day and The Battle of Normandy is available at: www.the70th-normandy.com

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All the latest news and practical information regarding
the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and the
Battle of Normandy is available at:

www.the70th-normandy.com

