

spirit of  
**Dunkerque**  
TOURISME & CONGRÈS

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# TOURIST GUIDE 2023

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Chrétien - Kids in Dunkerque - Studio Mallevaey - CUD Merlen - Jean Francois Pelegry So Watson.

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# spirit of Dunkerque

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We are delighted to welcome you to Dunkirk and the surrounding area – a seaside destination offering superb beaches and dunes, delicious local food, great shopping options and fascinating visitor attractions.

Not to mention a very warm welcome, typical of Northern France.

This short guide presents nine good reasons for stopping off in Dunkirk. We are sure you'll be able to find plenty more.

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# SUMMARY

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Beaches would be the first choice for many, but what about watching seeing or feeding exotic animals or riding a boat ?



## GRAVELINES BOAT HIRE

Gravelines is located at 3 miles away from the Dunkirk ferry terminal. It is the only walled town in France which is entirely surrounded by water. At the entrance of the town, you can either hire rowing boats, electric boats or water bikes.

Rue de Dunkerque - Gravelines  
+33 (0)3 28 65 33 77



## LE CASTELNAU BOAT TOURS

Go for a relaxing boat tour on the canal between Dunkirk and Bergues.

Parc du Fort Louis - Rue des Forts  
Coudekerque-Branche  
+33(0) 6 14 31 75 31  
[www.bateaulecastelnau.fr](http://www.bateaulecastelnau.fr)



## FAMILY-FRIENDLY BEACHES

Sitting on a shady restaurant terrace, overlooking the sea, nothing beats a delicious plate of local moules-frites, accompanied by an ice-cold beer or a glass of chilled white wine.

While the children play on the beach, you can sit back and enjoy the water sport show. The beaches of Gravelines Petit-Fort-Philippe, Dunkirk Malo-les-Bains, and Bray-Dunes are a paradise

for kite-surfers, sand surfers and wind-surfers.

And what better way to walk off your lunch than a stroll along the spectacular unspoilt dunes of Zuydcoote and Leffrinckoucke, or in the nature reserve at Grand-Fort-Philippe?

© Pierre Volot QUD

© Ville de Gravelines

© Le Castelnaud





© Mairie de Dunkerque



## FORT AVENTURES

Six tree-climbing trails and ziplines, suspended nets, free jump, wall climbing, a descent on a huge slide... there's everything to please adrenaline junkies! For the youngest, the junior trail is accessible from 80cm.

Rue de Nancy - Dunkerque  
+33 (0)7 79 43 42 06  
[www.fort-aventures-dunkerque.fr](http://www.fort-aventures-dunkerque.fr)



## DINO PARC

In the middle of Dinosaurs, take up the challenge of disc golf with the children. You can also take a golf cart for a 15min tour around the park.

Parc du Fort Louis - Rue des Forts  
Coudekerque-Branche  
+33 (0)3 28 24 15 41  
[dinoparc@ville-coudekerque-branche.fr](mailto:dinoparc@ville-coudekerque-branche.fr)



@ Office de Tourisme



## TYPICAL FLEMISH GAMES

In the family-friendly Parc Galamé at Loon Plage you can discover traditional Flemish games at the Musée des jeux traditionnels [Museum of Traditional Games]. There is also a natural swimming pool in the park.

655 rue Gaston Dereudre - Loon-Plage  
+33 (0)3 28 59 63 58  
[www.parcgalame.org](http://www.parcgalame.org)  
[www.ferme-galame.org](http://www.ferme-galame.org)



@ Ville de Loon Plage



© Bio-Topia



## BIOTOPIA ZOO

The zoo recreates the natural environment of more than 170 animals of 70 wild and domestic species of French and European wildlife. A great affordable attraction for the whole family.

Rue des Droits de l'Homme - Fort-Mardyck  
+33 (0)3 28 27 26 24  
[www.bio-topia.fr](http://www.bio-topia.fr)



© Camélus



## LE CAMÉLUS

For something different, many families choose to visit this farm in Ghyvelde, 6 miles away from Dunkirk. The farm is home to Watasi cattle, emus, ostriches, donkeys, yaks, etc.

Chemin du Camélus - Ghyvelde  
+33 (0)6 86 07 92 18  
[www.le-camelus.com](http://www.le-camelus.com)



@ A.Ceugniet



## THE AQUARIUM

In the house that belonged to the founder of the seaside resort, you can see 21 aquariums containing European and tropical fish. A beautiful park surrounds the building, and its playground makes it a popular pit-stop for families with toddlers.

45 avenue du Casino - Dunkerque  
+33 (0)3 28 59 19 18



# BEACHES, WILD AND WATER

A playful wind greets kite-surfs, sandyachts or leisure boats to our beautiful coastline.

The wide beaches and the untouched dunes will please your appetite for nature and open spaces, not to mention the numerous parks and woods, perfect places for quiet walks.



© Ville de Gravelines



## SAND YACHTING

Our giant beaches are the perfect spot for sand yachting, one of the easiest sports to get you some thrill.

On a 3-wheel-sail kart, after a briefing for every information you need, enjoy the feeling of playing with the wind! Sand yacht is safe, and quite easy even for beginners, and provides you intense sensations.

[contact@dunkerque-tourisme.fr](mailto:contact@dunkerque-tourisme.fr) or +33 (0)3 28 26 27 28



© Les Dunes de Flandre



## SAILING

Dunkirk has always been a town of sailors. What could be any better than a ride on a sail boat to discover our coast line ?

There are many ways to enjoy a ride on a sail boat. See Dunkirk from the sea on a simple tour on board, practice your sailing skills, or go for a day cruise. From Dunkirk or Gravelines, choose your kind of sailing, and come aboard for an unforgettable moment!

Quai d'Armement Nord - Dunkerque  
+33 (0)3 28 51 25 95  
[www.lesdunesdeflandre.fr](http://www.lesdunesdeflandre.fr)



© Ville de Gravelines



## PARC DES RIVES DE L'AA

Depending on your wishes, get away on foot, by bike, or on roller-blades on the 15km (10 mi) of dedicated paths, or jump in the water in the water park and enjoy the various activities : inflatables, paddle-board, water-skiing, kayaking or pedal boats

1 rue du Guindal - Gravelines  
+33 (0)3 28 23 59 82  
[www.lepaarc.com](http://www.lepaarc.com)





# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

A stunning view of the sea, the salty air of the seashore, a walk in the dunes, a cycling trip to our Belgian neighbours.... here are some of the ingredients of the generous cocktail of discoveries which will enliven those who love excursions in the great outdoors. So, are you ready for great getaways?



## PARC DE L'ESTRAN & PLATIER D'OYE



© Eden-62

The 300 hectares (1,160 sq mi) of this Natural Reserve reveal a kaleidoscope of landscapes: wet grasslands, trails lined with sea buckthorn and dog-rose bushes, a goose pond, observatories, a long sandy beach, and more.

These varied natural habitats are what makes this site so unique. Whether you're in the mood for a pleasant walk or a long hike, this site is meant for you!



© Pierre Valot CUD



## GRAND SITE DES DUNES DE FLANDRE

Located between the Port of Dunkirk and the French-Belgian border, the Dunes of Flanders stretch over 6 miles of French coastline and extend over another 11 km on the Belgian side.

The combining of green spaces with remnants of history makes this place unique

The shoreline bunkers and shipwrecks are a reminder of the painful events in 1940

Various hiking trails from 3 to 4 miles mark out the Dune Dewulf, the Dune du Perroquet, and the Dune Marchand.



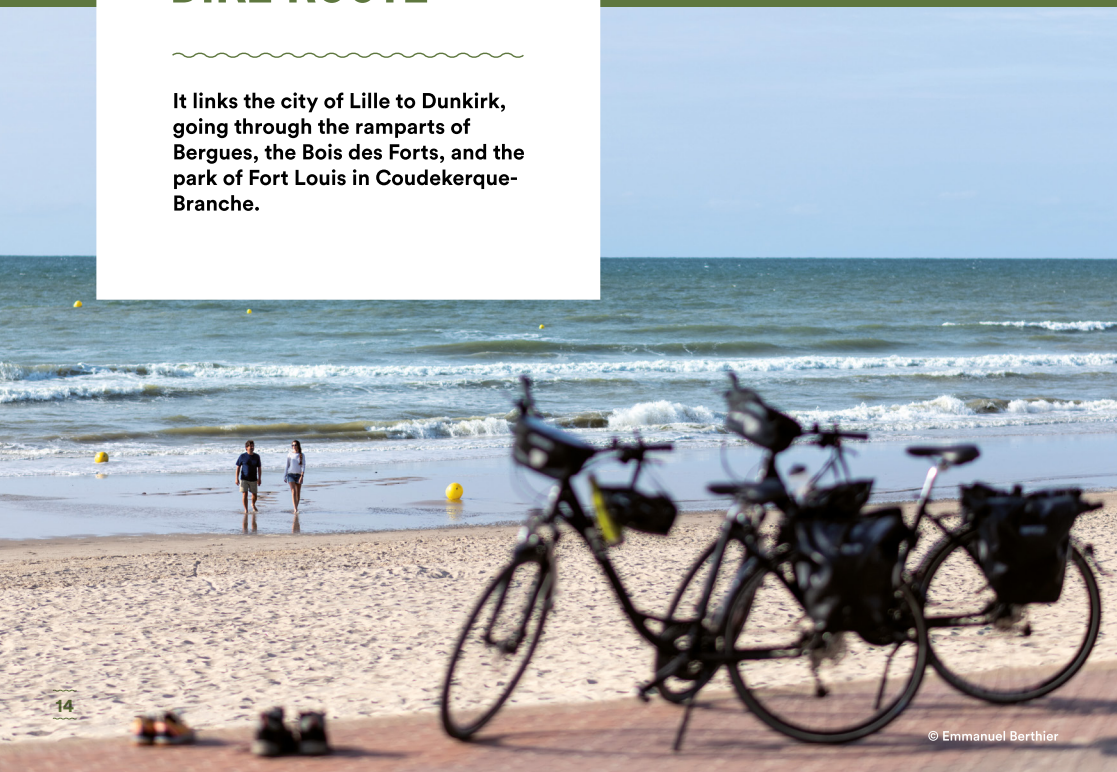


# EXPLORATION BY BIKE

Explore the seashore by bike, through towns, marinas, dunes, beaches and forests. From the Belgian border to Gravelines, there are 147 miles of cycling paths which guarantee you enjoyable outings in complete freedom!

## THE FLANDERS BIKE ROUTE

It links the city of Lille to Dunkirk, going through the ramparts of Bergues, the Bois des Forts, and the park of Fort Louis in Coudekerque-Branche.



© Emmanuel Berthier



© Emmanuel Berthier



# VELOMARITIME EUROVELO 4

The French part of the Eurovelo 4, the maritime cycle path, takes you from Brittany to Ukraine, going through Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Poland.

On our side, between Grand-Fort-Philippe and Bray-Dunes, the maritime cycle path enables you to travel over 33 miles from one wildlife area to the next, along the seaside, the dunes, and the region's unmissable sites.

[www.lavelomaritime.com](http://www.lavelomaritime.com)







# MARITIME TRADITION

The sea has always been the *raison d'être* of Dunkirk and of its surrounding area. Pirates, fishermen and dockers have made the history of our town the harbour of which has been the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in France since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



@ Destination Gravelines



## GRAVELINES LIGHTHOUSE

The Petit-Fort Lighthouse reaches the height of 29 metres (95 ft) above sea level. What makes this lighthouse so distinctive is its spiralling black stripe. Climb its 116 steps and you'll discover a breath-taking view of the banks of the Aa River.

An exhibit traces the lighthouse's history and the daily life of its keepers since 1843. Open from July to mid-October

Digue de Mer - Gravelines



## MARITIME AND HARBOUR MUSEUM

The Maritime and Harbour Museum, famous throughout Europe for its unique exhibits, welcomes you in the heart of the historical Citadelle quarter!

With your family, friends or by yourself, there is something for each and every taste and age: throughout a singular tour in a former 19<sup>th</sup> century tobacco warehouse, discover some exceptional figureheads or the tale of Iceland's fishers. You'll enjoy admiring the details of many ship models, contemplating some scenic dioramas, or wandering in our big technical gallery dedicated to handling professions, under the watchful eye of giant Roge the dockworker!

Berthed in front of the museum, the spectacular three-masts *Duchesse Anne*, the largest sailboat open to visitors in France and the lightboat *Sandettié* invite you to extend your adventure by exploring the age of sailing ships and the peculiar world of marine traffic signals.

To conclude your journey, climb up to the top of the Risban lighthouse and enjoy the unforgettable 360° overview of coastal Flanders!

9 quai de la Citadelle - Dunkerque  
+33 (0)3 28 63 33 39  
[museemaritimeportuaire.com](http://museemaritimeportuaire.com)



© Théo Chrétien

## DUNKIRK PORT CENTER

This place is meant to discover all there is about the harbour, as you have never seen it before... Scale models, digital and multimedia tools will give you an enjoyable and interactive experience.

9 quai de la Citadelle  
Dunkerque  
+33 (0)3 28 63 33 44  
[www.dunkerqueportcenter.fr](http://www.dunkerqueportcenter.fr)





# SEA MUSEUM AND LIFEBOAT MUSEUM

Imagine schooners moored into the harbour, and men loading up cargos of salt. Watch the hustle and bustle of a great departure. Visit both museums and find all about the exciting lives of fishermen in Iceland waters, and lifesavers.

Guided tours in French only.

<https://reservation.dunkerque-tourisme.fr>  
Boulevard Carnot – Grand-Fort-Philippe



© Association Tourville



## WHERE TO EAT FISH ?

Most restaurants of our coastline provide the fishing of the day on their menu. But if you like cooking, buying fresh fish is worth trying !

### LES AUBETTES

Place du Minck - Dunkerque

Monday to Saturday, from 9 am until the stock lasts

### LE MINCK

40 Boulevard Carnot - Grand-Fort-Philippe

Tuesday to Saturday, from 8h30 am to 12h30 am



© OTCC



© Association Tourville



## ESPACE TOURVILLE

The Tourville Association has taken up a tremendous challenge : to build a life-size replica of a ship from Louis XIV's navy, the Jean Bart.

At the heart of a craftsmen's village with a blacksmith shop, smokehouse, scale model workshop and sculptor's studio, you can follow the construction of this grand historical ship, a first-rank, 17th-century vessel.

The Taverne Jean Bart serves delicious local dishes.

Route de Calais – Gravelines

+33 (0)3 28 21 22 40

[www.espacetourville.com](http://www.espacetourville.com)





# MILITARY HISTORY

Dunkirk is a town steeped in history. One of the most memorable events in wartime history was played out on the beaches of Dunkirk. Carried out from 26 May to 4 June 1940, Operation Dynamo led to the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force and thousands of French soldiers.

It was the largest evacuation effort in military history, and an unimaginable success at the heart of a humiliating defeat, a “miracle” that allowed 338,226 allied soldiers to escape the hell of Dunkirk and reach Great Britain.



© Jean-François Pélégry-SoWatson

## THE SHIPWRECK OF THE COAST

During this large evacuation manoeuvre, more than 200 boats sank. At low tide, some shipwrecks are visible all along our coastline. Take the opportunity to see, for example, the shipwreck of the Crested Eagle, a magnificent English paddle steamer on Zuydcoote beach.



© Office de Tourisme

## PRINCESS ELIZABETH

In the town centre docks floats a living memory. You have the chance to admire one of the Little Ships, which is the pride of Operation Dynamo. Built in 1927, requisitioned in 1939, this ship made 4 return journeys in the North Sea, saving 1673 human lives, including 500 French soldiers. Completely restored, today it houses a bar, a tearoom, and a restaurant.

Quai de l'Estacade – Dunkerque  
+33 (0)7 82 63 99 09  
[www.princesselizabeth.eu](http://www.princesselizabeth.eu)



# MUSÉRIAL FORT DES DUNES

The edifice, camouflaged in the dunes, was built between 1878 and 1880, to protect the town and the port of Dunkirk. Superb evidence of the military architecture of the 19e century, it is today a place of memory consisting of 6 multimedia-based immersive rooms, with scale models, and interactive panels on the history of the region from “Turenne to Dynamo”. Outside is a magnificent panoramic view onto the sea and dunes

Rue du 2 juin 1940  
Leffrinckoucke  
+33 (0)3 28 29 13 17  
[www.fort-des-dunes.fr/en](http://www.fort-des-dunes.fr/en)



© Office de Tourisme



## DUNKIRK 1940 WAR MUSEUM

The museum is located near the former Bastion 32, which was the command post of the French forces during the Battle of Dunkirk. It tells of the incredible timeline of this battle as well as what urban life was like in wartime. A close look at each and every detail of the uniforms, weaponry and vehicles used at that time will leave all visitors with vivid memories.

32 rue des Chantiers de France  
Dunkerque  
+33 (0)3 74 06 02 81  
[www.dynamo-dunkerque.com](http://www.dynamo-dunkerque.com)



FR RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



© Ville de Leffrinckoucke





# HERITAGE AND HISTORY

At the end of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, much attracted to the seashore's beauty, painters and actors had plenty of cottages built by famous architects. Malo-les-Bains's seafront is thus lined with villas with eclectic architectures.



Discover Dunkerque and Malo-les-Bains along the history, follow the guided tours on the application Wivisites



## THE BELFRY OF DUNKIRK

Erected circa 1440, the Belfry rang the bell of the Saint-Eloi church until a fire separated the two buildings in 1558. Start your journey off through time taking the lift up to the impressive 50-bell carillon, then on up 65 steps to take a deep breath before the amazing view takes it away. The belfry can be visited all year round and houses the Tourist Office and its shop.

Rue de l'Amiral Ronarc'h – Dunkerque  
+33 (0)3 28 26 27 28  
[www.dunkirk-tourism.com](http://www.dunkirk-tourism.com)



## FORTIFIED TOWN OF GRAVELINES

Located at the outlet of river Aa in an exceptional natural setting, the fortified town of Gravelines remains a unique site.

Old stones and vegetation mingle there for everyone to relish on. Lovely public gardens designed in what used to be strongholds, and around an old military building, vegetable gardens along the rampart's former sentry walk, and Vauban Nature area and bird sanctuary outside the fortress... Gravelines is a small town but its fortifications are one of a kind: a star-shaped bastion kept intact so far, along with its moats and Porte aux Boules. Altogether, the monument has been listed as a national treasure and patiently restored since the 1980's. Whether you fancy a walk or boat tour or even a cycle ride is entirely up to you!



## ENCOUNTERS WITH ART

Dunkirk and the surrounding area offer a surprisingly rich variety of fine and contemporary art, sculpture and architecture. You can view internationally renowned collections here, from Renaissance engravings to impressive outdoor sculptures and the work of modern artists such as Andy Warhol.



### WHERE TO SEE “CAR CRASH” BY ANDY WARHOL

Le Laac (Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art) is a combination of a dramatic outdoor sculpture garden and a modern art museum that seems rooted in the second half of the 20th century. It holds an impressive collection of work from the 1950s to the 1980s: Karel Appel, Arman, César, Eugène Leroy, Andy Warhol... The works are displayed alternately depending on the exhibition calendar.

**LAAC**  
302 avenue des Bordées – Dunkerque  
+33 (0)3 28 29 56 00  
[www.musees-dunkerque.eu/](http://www.musees-dunkerque.eu/)



### VIEW A COLLECTION OF ART WORKS DEVOTED TO DESIGN

The FRAC was built next to the “Cathedral”, the last remaining trace of the former shipyards. Its six levels invite visitors to get up-close and personal with contemporary art. Don't miss the belvedere and its view overlooking the port and the famous Dunkirk beaches.

**FRAC Grand Large**  
503 avenue des Bances de Flandres  
Dunkerque  
+33 (0)3 28 65 84 20  
[www.fracgrandlarge-hdf.fr](http://www.fracgrandlarge-hdf.fr)



### WHERE TO SEE “THE APOCALYPSE” BY ALBRECHT DÜRER

This engraving is one of the masterpieces of the Musée du Dessin et de l'Estampe Originale [Museum of Drawing and Original Print] in Gravelines, the only French museum devoted to printed works. Located in the heart of the walled town, in the buildings of the Arsenal, the museum boasts a collection of almost 21,000 works of art, mainly engravings from the 15th century to the present day.

**Musée du Dessin et de l'Estampe Originale**  
Place Albert Denvers  
Gravelines  
+33 (0)3 28 51 81 00



### “THE CHOIR OF LIGHT” BY SIR ANTHONY CARO

Let yourself be dazzled by this monumental work made of 15 different elements in the church of Saint Jean-Baptiste in Bourbourg which combines the Gothic, the modern, and the sacred.

At the CIAC, Centre Interprétation Art et Culture [Centre of Interpretation of Art and Culture], you can learn about the Choir of Light. It offers at the same time a varied and original cultural programme combining various disciplines and artistic media.

**1 rue Pasteur - Bourbourg**  
+33 (0)3 28 59 65 00  
[www.ciac-bourbourg.fr](http://www.ciac-bourbourg.fr)





# GREAT SHOPPING OPTIONS

The town centre of Dunkirk is the biggest open-air shopping centre in the Côte d'Opale [Opal Coast]! National and independent brands, concept stores and more traditional businesses are side by side. Food, clothing, and accessories, beauty products, household equipment, IT, leisure and culture...

Every line of business is represented there, without exception. Going there for a specific purchase or walking there for an afternoon's shopping is a pleasure!  
In the walled town of Gravelines, you will find shops specialising in the best French cheeses and wine.

**Daily open-air markets in and around Dunkirk for unbeatable prices and beautifully fresh produce! Most markets are open from 9am to 12 noon.**

|                        | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| DUNKIRK CENTRE         |        |         | ✓         |          |        | ✓        |        |
| DUNKIRK ROSENDAEL      |        |         |           |          |        |          | ✓      |
| DUNKIRK MALO-LES-BAINS |        | ✓       |           |          |        |          |        |
| GRAVELINES CENTRE      |        |         |           |          | ✓      |          |        |
| GRAND-FORT-PHILIPPE    | ✓      |         |           |          |        |          |        |
| BRAY-DUNES             |        |         |           | ✓        |        |          |        |

**Antiques and car boot sales.**  
**A great tradition in our region, with a friendly atmosphere and great deals to be had.**

## BARGAIN HUNTERS, DON'T MISS THESE DATES :

Dunkirk international Flea Market : on Ascension Thursday  
Dunkirk Malo-les-Bains flea market : 14<sup>th</sup> July  
Coudekerque Branche flea market : 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in September



# A UNIQUE MIX OF FRENCH AND FLEMISH CUISINE

Thanks to its location, Dunkirk boasts a unique combination of traditional Flemish cooking and excellent French cuisine.



Enjoy a 'Fresh Fish of the Day' alongside traditional Waterzoi and Potjevleesch, all must-try specialties prepared only in this part of France

From a quick snack to a 4 course gourmet extravaganza, one thing is for sure : the area's huge range of restaurants represents excellent value for money.

## GOOD TO KNOW

Most restaurants are open from 12 noon to 2pm and from 7pm to 10 or 11pm.

If you are looking for a restaurant which serves food all day, contact Dunkirk Tourism :

contact@dunkerque-tourisme.fr  
or +33 (0)3 28 26 27 28



# TEE OFF AT DUNKIRK'S SPECTACULAR GOLF COURSE

Dunkirk's 27-hole golf course is a must for any golfer. Its layout is inspired by the design of the former 17th century military fortifications. Driving off artillery towers and bastions and navigating moats and lakes all make for an unforgettable golfing experience.

Bluegreen Golf Dunkirk route du golf  
Coudekerque Village - [www.bluegreen.fr/dunkerque](http://www.bluegreen.fr/dunkerque)



© CUD - Merlen

TAKE THE BUS,  
IT'S FREE FOR EVERYONE!

# DUNKIRK TOURISM

DUNKIRK BELFRY  
RUE DE L'AMIRAL RONARC'H

DUNKIRK BEACH  
1 PLACE DU CENTENAIRE

BRAY-DUNES  
PLACE JÉRÔME RUBBEN

LEFFRINCKOUCKE  
PLACE DE LA GARE

GRAVELINES  
11 RUE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

+33 (0)3 28 26 27 28

CONTACT@DUNKERQUE-TOURISME.FR  
WWW.DUNKIRK-TOURISM.COM

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