

Spirit of Dunkerque



TOURIST GUIDE





spirit of **Dunkerque**

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.

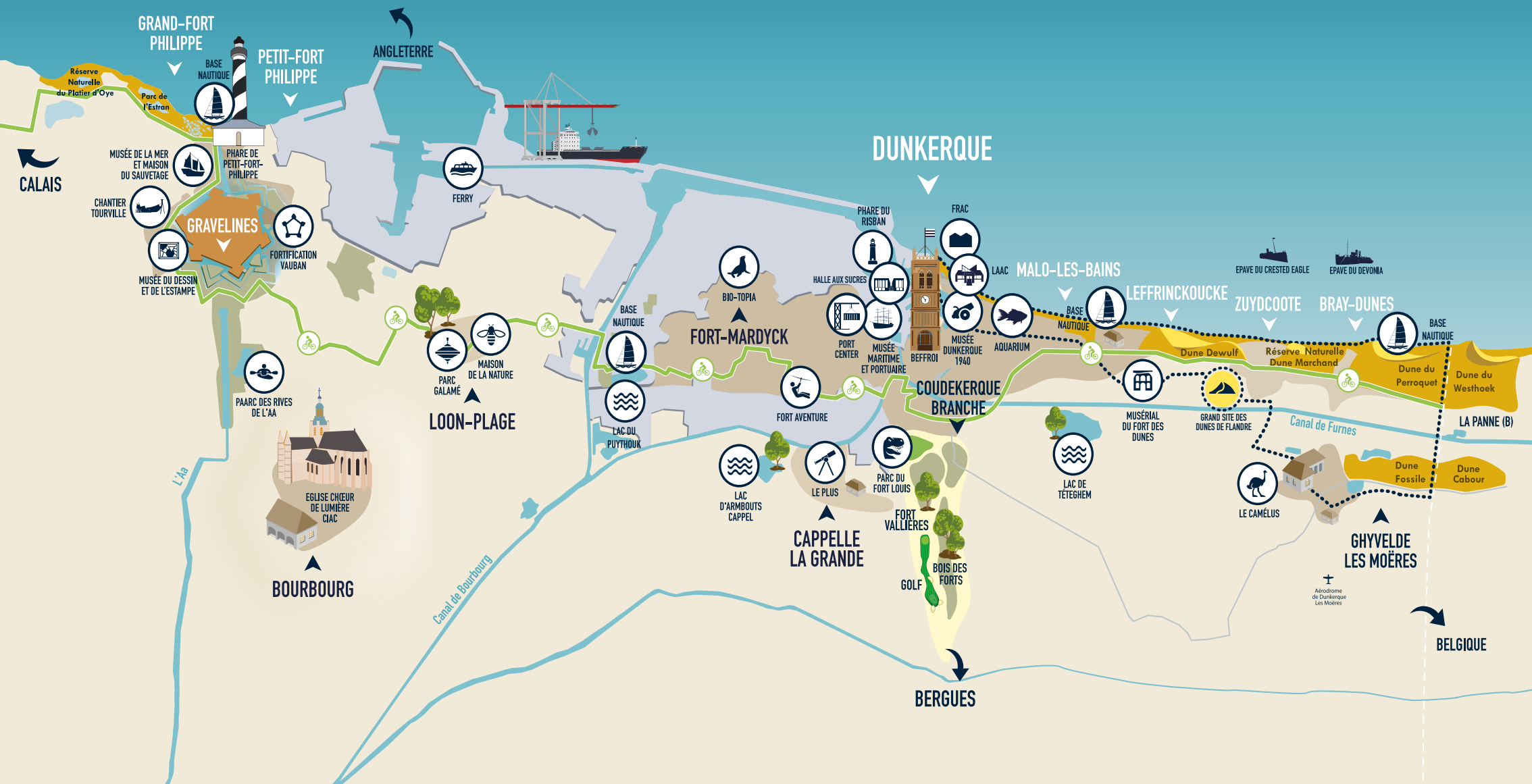
This short guide presents the good reasons for stopping off in Dunkirk. We are sure you'll be able to find plenty more.

Cover photo credit: ©Bastien Créqui

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MAP OF THE NORTH COAST





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DUNKERQUE

10 > 13 JULY 2025

COME ONBOARD!
TO CELEBRATE THE WORLD'S MOST
BEAUTIFUL SAILING SHIPS


THE TALL SHIPS RACES
Dunkerque 2025
organised by Sail Training International



voilesdelegende.fr



Amis des Grands Voiliers
Sail Training Association France
www.amisdesgrandsvoiliers.org

spirit of
Dunkerque
TOURISME & CONGRES

Dunkerque
Grand Littoral
COMMISSIONAIRE GENERAL



FAMILY-FRIENDLY BEACHES

©Bastien Créqui

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 windsurfers.

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?



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?

LE 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.

PARC DE L'ESTRAN & PLATIER D'OYE

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!



2 km of trails – educational trail
GR 120 Great coastal hike

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

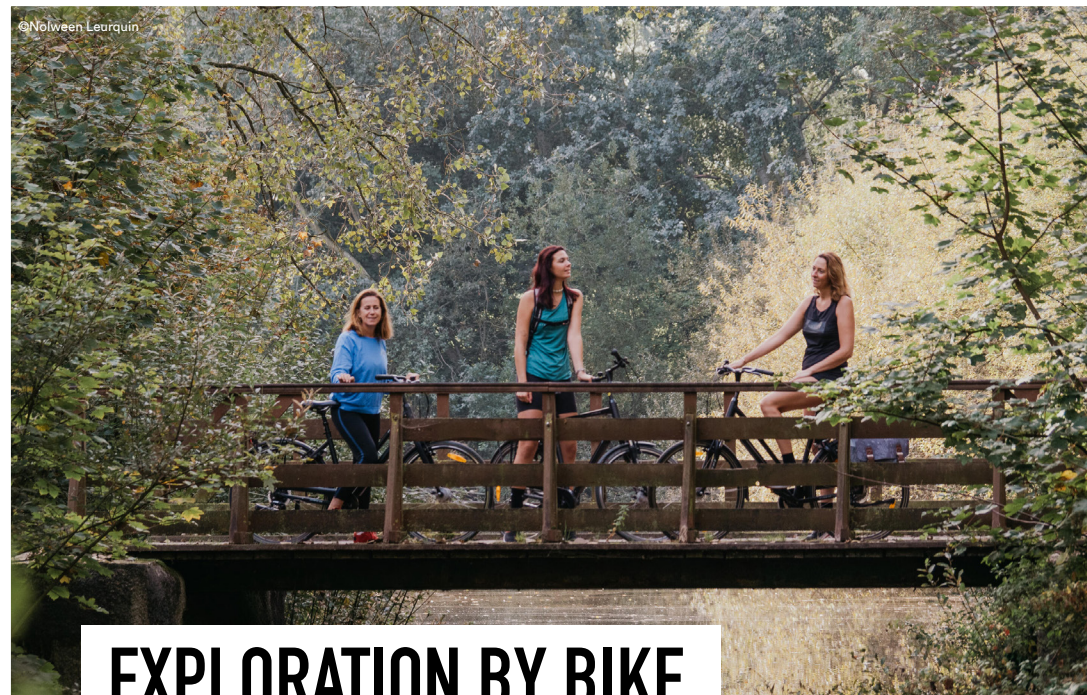
Good to know



Use your mobile phone to find your location and follow our free audio tours on the Wivisites app!



©Nolween Leurquin



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!

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

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.



©Christian Merlen



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.

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
oder +33 (0)3 28 26 27 28



©Destination Gravelines

SALING

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, chose your kind of sailing, and come aboard for an unforgettable moment!

ECOLE DE CROISIÈRE DUNES DE FLANDRE

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

CLUB CROISIÈRE ALIDADE

Rue de l'Aviso l'Impétueuse - Dunkerque
+33 (0)6 08 05 44 98
www.club-croisiere-alidade.com

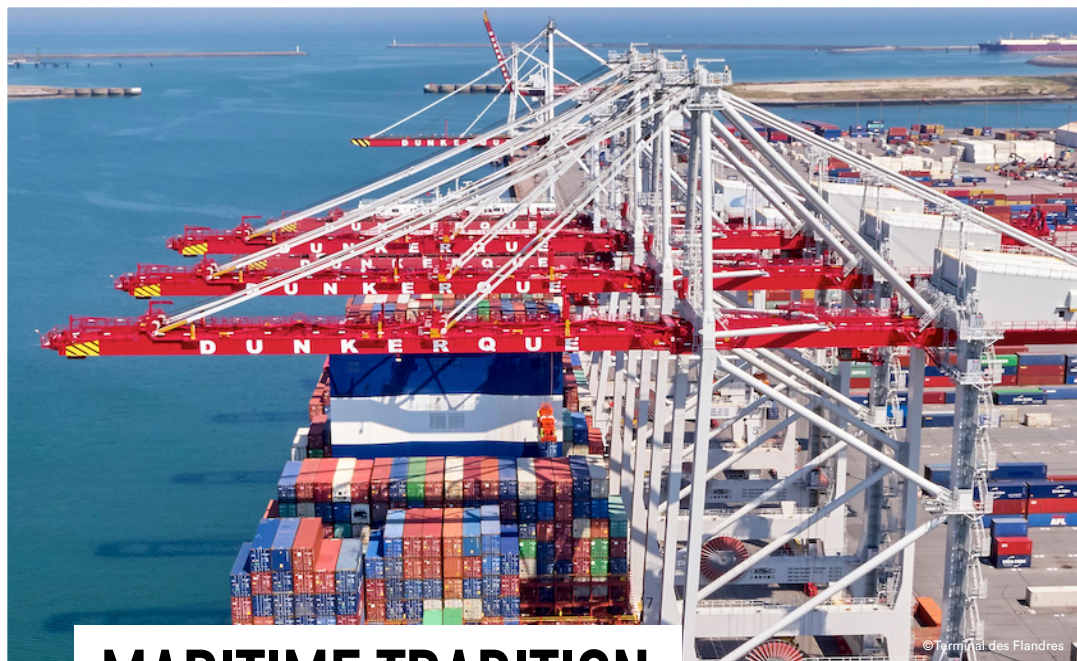
PAARC DES RIVES DE L'AA

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



©Foudoo



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 3rd largest in France since the end of the 19th century.

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

THE RISBAN LIGHTHOUSE

Climb up the 276 steps of the Risban lighthouse and enjoy the unforgettable 360° overview of coastal Flanders!

Open every Sunday
from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Route de l'Écluse Watier – Dunkerque

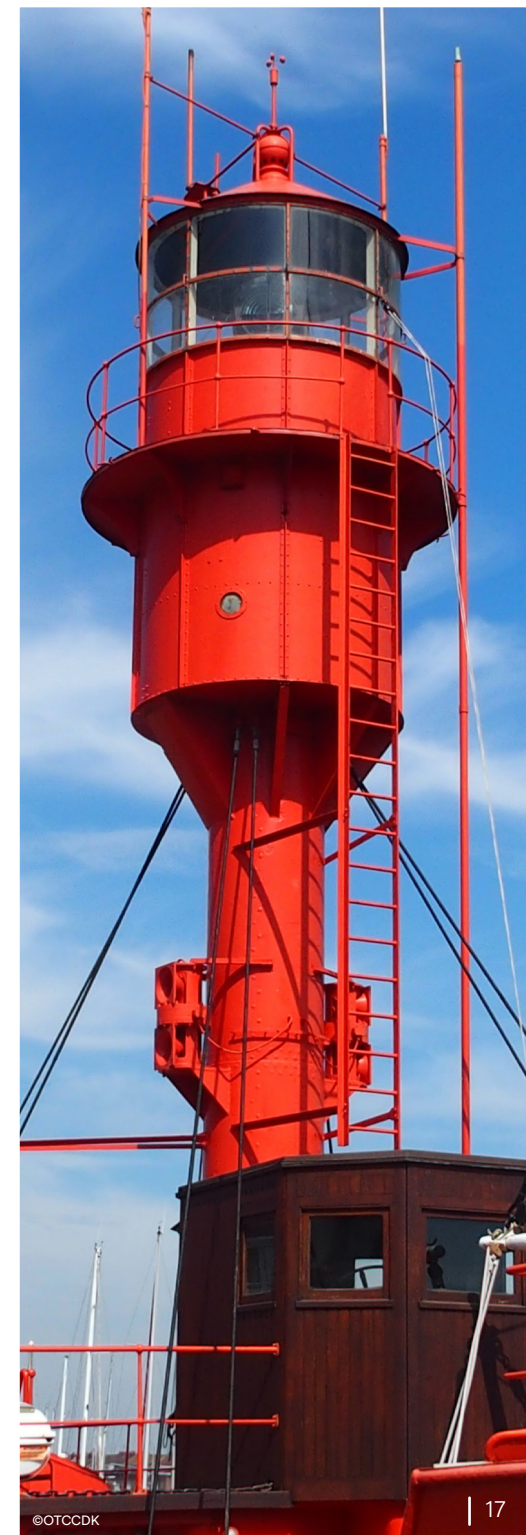
MARITIME AND HARBOUR MUSEUM

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 19th 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.

9 quai de la Citadelle – Dunkerque
+33 (0)3 28 63 33 39
museemaritimeportuaire.com





29 meters
high

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

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.
www.reservation.dunkerque-tourisme.fr
Boulevard Carnot – Grand-Fort-Philippe



ESPACE TOURVILLE → Unique in France

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.

Route de Calais – Gravelines
+33 (0)3 28 21 22 40
www.espacetourville.com

Good to know



The Taverne Jean Bart
serves delicious local dishes.



© Ville de Gravelines

WITH FAMILY

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

BIO-TOPIA 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



LE CAMÉLUS

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

Chemin du Camélus – Ghyvelde
+33 (0)3 28 26 04 05
www.le-camelus.fr



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

BOOTSVERLEIH GRAVELINES

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 BOOTSTOUREN

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



©OTCDDK

FORT ADVENTURES

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

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

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
www.ferme-galame.org



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.

DYNAMO TOUR

The guides from the Tourist Office will help you relive this turning point in the Second World War through different visits suitable for all audiences.

Reservation at reception points from the Tourist Office or on www.dunkerque-tourisme.fr

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



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 19th 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





©Ville de Dunkerque

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



©Princess Elizabeth

THE SHIPWRECK OF THE COAST

During the Operation Dynamo, more than 200 boats sank.

At low tide, on Zuydcoote beach, take the chance to see the wreck of the Crested Eagle, a Thames paddle steamer that was hit by German dive bombers.

Just few hundred meters away, you can see the wreck of the Devonia. This ship, converted into a minesweeper, was badly damaged during the battle.

Good to know



Find out about the tides
before you leave at:
www.maree.info/3

To locate wrecks, go to
<https://dkepaves.free.fr>



©Christophe BONTE

HERITAGE AND HISTORY

At the end of the XIXth 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.

GUIDED TOUR

The guides from the Tourist Office will help you relive this turning point in the Second World War through different visits suitable for all audiences.

**Reservation at reception
points from the Tourist Office
or on
www.dunkerque-tourisme.fr**



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 !

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**



A WELL-KEPT SECRET: THE LITTLE CHAPEL

Dedicated to «Notre Dame des Dunes», it's not just a religious building, it's also a symbol of our maritime history.

For centuries, it has been the site of offerings made by sailors to thank the Madonna for her protection.

You're in for a real treat!

1 place de la Petite Chapelle – Dunkerque

“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




THE CHURCH OF SAINT-ELOI

The magnificent Catholic church, also known as the Cathedral of the Sands, was built in the center of Dunkirk and bears witness to the history of the city.

Like the belfry that faces it and was originally its bell tower, it is classified as a historical monument.

The origins of the Saint-Eloi church date back to the mid-15th century. The construction of the church in the Flamboyant Gothic style began in the 16th century after the first building burned down. The neo-Gothic facade dates from 1894 and shows numerous impacts from the last wars.

2 rue Clémenceau – Dunkerque
Open Tuesday to Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 17:30.

Good to know 

In the choir of the church is the tomb of Jean Bart, the famous corsair of Louis XIV.



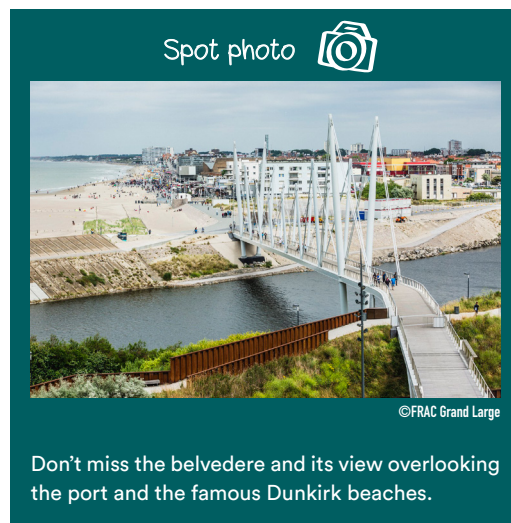
ENCOUNTERS WITH ART

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.

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.

FRAC Grand Large
503 avenue des Bancs de Flandres
Dunkerque
+33 (0)3 28 65 84 20
www.fracgrandlarge-hdf.fr



Don't miss the belvedere and its view overlooking the port and the famous Dunkirk beaches.

MUSEUM OF DRAWINGS AND ORIGINAL PRINTS

“Musée du Dessin et de l’Estampe Originale” (Museum of Drawings and Original Prints) in Gravelines, the only museum in France dedicated exclusively to printed works.

The museum, located in the armory buildings in the heart of the fortress city, has around 21,000 works, mainly woodcuts 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

LAAC MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Visit the museum «LAAC - Lieux d’Art et d’Action Contemporaine» (Museum of Contemporary Art), a sparkling museum like the Pop Art years. Then stroll in the sculpture garden that surrounds this architecturally stunning museum.

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





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
oder +33 (0)3 28 26 27 28

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.

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

DAILY MARKETSIN DUNKIRK AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

Most markets are open from 9am to 12 noon.

MONDAY

Grand-Fort-Philippe

TUESDAY

Dunkerque Malo-Les-Bains

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY

Dunkerque-centre

THURSDAY

Bray-Dunes

FRIDAY

Gravelines centre

SUNDAY

Dunkerque Rosendaël



spirit of **Dunkerque**

TOURISME & CONGRÈS

+33 (0)3 28 26 27 28

CONTACT@DUNKERQUE-TOURISME.FR

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  #VISITDUNKERQUE

WWW.DUNKIRK-TOURISM.COM

Dunkerque – Malo-Les-Bains – Bray-Dunes – Zuydcoote – Leffrinckoucke – Gravelines