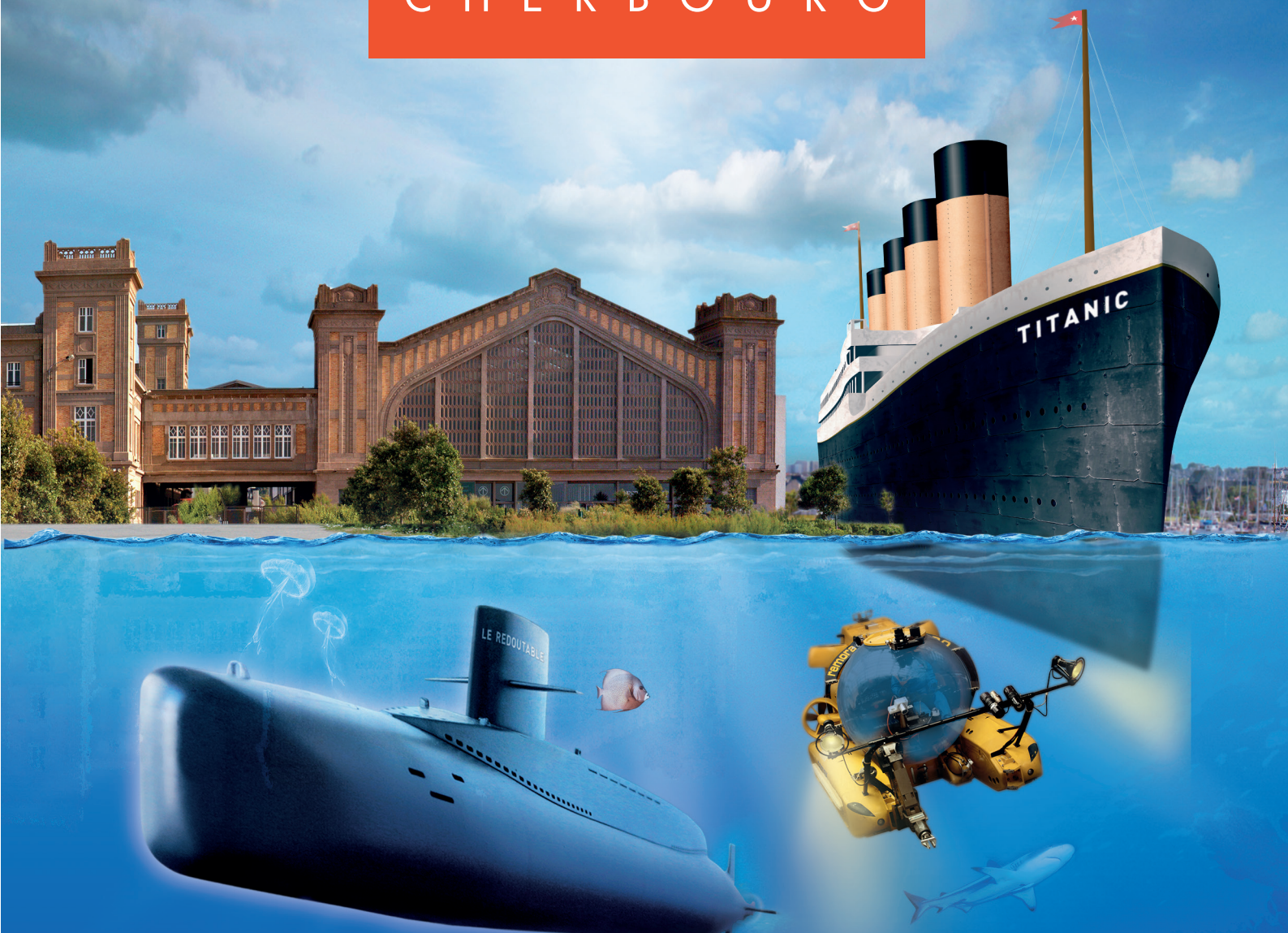


LA CITÉ DE LA MER

C H E R B O U R G



PRESS FILES 2019

DIVE INTO ADVENTURE!

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INTRODUCTION

There is a place on dry land where the ocean unveils its mysteries, allowing you to approach its abysses.

La Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg recounts man's adventures under the sea. Under the great Art deco vault of what used to be the Transatlantic liner terminal, it has taken over this unique architectural heritage, built in 1933, figurehead of the largest artificial roadstead in the world!

Twenty-seven years ago, Bernard Cauvin, a local councillor who had worked in Cherbourg's shipyards gathered a small group of people. This handful of enthusiasts laid the foundations of the ambitious project that would culminate in La Cité de la Mer, saving the building that was threatened with demolition. Fourteen years after its official opening, still under the chairmanship of Bernard Cauvin, it is one of the most popular leisure attractions in France, through a series of themed exhibits that both inform and entertain visitors. It was no accident that the French director Jacques Perrin set up his cameras here to film the last scene of his film "Oceans", creating the Gallery of

Extinct Species here.

A whole day will scarcely suffice to visit La Cité de la Mer and discover the exploits of the adventurers of the ocean depths, wonder at the wealth of underwater life in the 15 aquariums* and dive with Le Redoutable, the first French nuclear-powered submarine built in Cherbourg, and the largest submarine open to the public in the world.

The spirit of the place and Cherbourg's vocation as a transatlantic port were brought back to life. From 1870 onwards, the mighty liners left here for the Americas, including Titanic, whose only stopover on the continent was in Cherbourg, as she left for her final voyage.

La Cité de la Mer shows the adventure of the oceans on a large scale.

***In April 2019, THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE : 3 floors of spectacular multimedia displays and 17 stunning aquariums full of life and colour !**





LA CITÉ DE LA MER IS OPENING A NEW PERMANENT SECTION 'THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE' PAYING HOMAGE TO THE BLUE PLANET

Bernard CAUVIN, Chairman and Managing Director of La Cité de la Mer



In the spring of 2019, La Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg, Normandy, are opening a new permanent section covering 1,400 square metres, where visitors will experience a unique adventure, going from the surface of the sea to the bottom of the ocean.

Children and adults will live through an extraordinary voyage, discovering eighteen different interactive areas, and seventeen aquariums. In the heart of this great new adventure they will share in the fantastic encounters made by the pioneers who conquered the ocean depths and the creatures living there: giant animals and microscopic plankton.

'La Cité de la Mer' in Normandy is famous for its indisputable achievements. Since it opened in 2002, over 3,700,000 visitors have been fascinated by man's adventures under the sea and shared in the secrets of the submariners who embarked on the first French nuclear-powered submarine, Le Redoutable. La Cité de la Mer is the only place in the world exhibiting the submersibles epitomising worldwide exploration of the ocean depths, and it is becoming more and more well known both in France and worldwide.

After sixteen years, I wanted La Cité de la Mer to go one stage further. We would enhance the exhibits on show for the public and take up the challenge of combining today's fundamentals -the human genius that has presided over man's prodigious adventures under the sea- with a way of providing a new look at the future of

the Oceans, the elements that have exercised the most influence on human evolution since the beginning of time.

Visitors experience an entertaining story, suitable for all ages, based around exceptional moments when they are able to both contemplate and marvel at the beauty of the Oceans. There are interactive experiences involving complete immersion, where visitors encounter lively yet mysterious fauna from the last wild region of planet. They gain a new understanding of this gigantic yet fragile world, which humans hardly ever see, even though it provides the marvellous undreamt-of genetic resources that will contribute to the survival of the human race if we can use it intelligently.

With this ambitious project for society, La Cité de la Mer is determined to be considered as one of Europe's main centres devoted to the sea. We are more than ever keen to make science, and the people practising it, more accessible, and we want to inspire everybody with enthusiasm for the wealth represented for all by the Oceans.'



PRESS FILES
'THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE'
download the press files here



**DISCOVER
THE MOVIE**



THE TRANSATLANTIC HARBOUR

Officially opened on 30th July 1933, this splendour of the Art deco era, designed by the architect Levavasseur, became **the largest liner terminal in the world, and the second most extensive building in France after Versailles.**

This shows the importance of transatlantic travel. At one time, up to seven trains were arriving from Paris every day with passengers ready to sail to the Americas.

From the end of the nineteenth century onwards, countless men and women left from Cherbourg to try their luck in the New World. Between 1900 and 1914 there was a second wave of emigration, with most of the migrants coming from central Europe. As well as being driven into exile for financial reasons, they often had political or religious motivations. But they all had the same dream: to find a better life. Most were obscure, but some, including Charlie Chaplin, Richard Burton or Elizabeth Taylor, were some of the most glamorous stars of the time.

In the transatlantic hall where customs and embarkation formalities were performed, they encountered the elegant surroundings that they would also find on board

the liners. This can still be seen in the Transatlantic Terminal Concourse which has been completely preserved, with its shops, post office and cafés that only seem to have closed yesterday.



"Our Lady of the Queens", as it was known affectionately before the war, was going to suffer a sad fate. Scuttled by the Germans in 1944, the Transatlantic liner terminal lost its 67-metre-high campanile.



This vestige of the Art deco period was rebuilt, but passenger numbers never reached the same level as before the war. The advent of commercial aviation spelt the end for Transatlantic liners. By the end of the nineteen seventies, the terminal had been completely abandoned. Miraculously, it escaped destruction by becoming a classified building in 1989, and took on a new lease of life thanks to Bernard Cauvin and his group of enthusiasts. The Transatlantic liner terminal's future was assured, when, **on 29th April 2002, La Cité de la Mer was opened. It has since had over 3,800,000 visitors.**



THE SUBMARINE CENTRE

THE LARGEST SUBMARINE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN THE WORLD!

A tour of the submarine will take you down into the bowels of the ship, which is 128 metres (420 feet) long and 10.60 metres (nearly 25 feet) in diameter. You'll be surprised by the narrow passageways, but will be able to imagine how the two 135-man crews spent their time during their 70-day patrols, when there were always crew members on duty 24 hours a day.

From the engine rooms to the bunks, not to mention the operating theatre and the operations navigation control room or "OPs room" with the familiar shape of the periscopes, you're completely submerged in Le Redoutable. After spending 35 minutes visiting the submarine, you're all set to go back to the harbour basin.



A SUBMARINE OF EXCEPTION

Try your hand at being a submariner as you board *Le Redoutable*. Once you have gone through the massive door, armed with your audio guide, you're inside the submarine Le Redoutable. This jewel

of the French navy, the first in a set of six SSBNs (Submersible Ships, Ballistic, Nuclear-powered), was launched in Cherbourg on 29 March 1967 by General de Gaulle.

WALKING UNDER THE GIANT

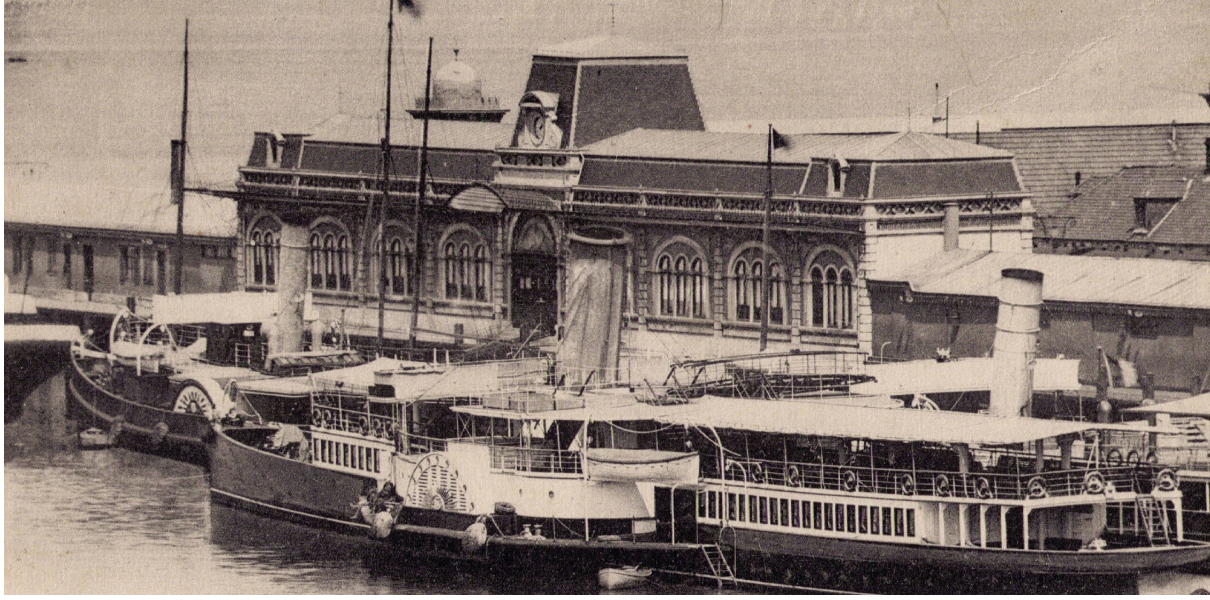
After going down into the basin made to take the Giant that epitomises the French navy, you will see the submarine in another light ... It's so enormous it will take your breath away... There are lively information panels along the way, explaining how we

managed to get the 128-metre-long Redoutable into a space that is only 136 metres long, how a nuclear-powered submarine works, what the crew do with their household waste, ... and who are known by French submariners as "golden ears"?...

MORE INFO ABOUT LE REDOUTABLE NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE

The French submarine, Le Redoutable, spent 90,000 hours underwater and covered 1,270,000 kilometres, 32 times the circumference of the Earth! Have you ever dream of dining on board Le Redoutable, in

Cherbourg? You can make that dream come true. La Cité de la Mer organises corporate events, giving you the chance to entertain your clients in an original setting, on board the submarine, for an exceptional dinner...



TITANIC, RETURN TO CHERBOURG

CHERBOURG, A PORT FOR MIGRATION, A GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

With transatlantic activity in full swing up until 1933, the theme of European emigration to the New World was at the heart of the project for the **new exhibition** which has been set up in the old Passenger Terminal, one of the last places in Europe still bearing witness to the heritage of this great era. The new section of the complex, over 2,500 square metres in area, was opened to the public early in 2012.

Over a period of a hundred years (1869-1969), around **4 million persons** came through Cherbourg, some leaving Europe for the Americas, others crossing the Atlantic to arrive in Europe, though most of them were emigrants.

The first part of the exhibition is dedicated to this period and is housed in the impressive former **Baggage Hall**.

There is an interactive video display, where visitors are able to share the emotion of emigrants, going back in time to feel the atmosphere of the era and meeting the passengers embarking on liners in Cherbourg. A unique heritage is on show for visitors.

The exhibition is dedicated to the memory of some of the main museums on the theme of emigration such as Ellis Island. Sets of clothing and linen, papers, religious items, but also glimpses into the hopes of the emigrants, as well as the poverty they had experienced, pass before our eyes in the slides projected onto our first "dynamic wall". The second screen (same digital device) takes visitors by the hand to board the Titanic by showing them the names of the 281 passengers who boarded the ship at Cherbourg.

The crossing can commence...

"EMIGRATION AT THE HEART OF YOUR HISTORY"

Interactive attractions have been added to the Baggage Hall, giving further insight into emigration. Historical reality is preserved, and visitors can identify with the enormous numbers of people who crossed the Atlantic to leave Europe. **8 touch-screen tablets and two giant projections of the faces of men, women and children make visiting the exhibition a really moving experience.**

First two interactive tablets: **"Could you have become an American citizen?"** These interactive tablets confront the visitor with the extremely strict questionnaires that candidates for emigration had to fill in when they arrived in Ellis Island, running the risk of being sent back. An experience for you, before you watch the film "In the footsteps of emigrants".

The six following interactive tablets: **"Was one of your ancestors an emigrant?"** The answer to the question is in the genealogy data base into which they can enter their name .





RELIVE THE TRAGIC VOYAGE OF THE TITANIC, 107 YEARS ON

On 10th April 1912, the Titanic made her first stop-over in Cherbourg, with the port's tenders taking 281 passengers on board. It was to be the last stop-over in mainland Europe for this giant of the seas...

The second part of the exhibition, located downstairs from the Baggage Hall is dedicated to the Titanic. Visitors will relive the liner's construction as well as the atmosphere of working and living on board, from the passengers' perspective but also from the crew's viewpoint.



Visitors go down along the hull of the Titanic: a film is projected onto a giant 24-metre screen before their eyes. Quite something! There are three different scenarios: the four days of this unique crossing, the collision with the iceberg and the ship going down. The public will walk alongside a recreated part of the ship's hull, before going on board. This is achieved using multimedia slides: along the 1st-class, 2nd-class and 3rd-class corridors, then up to the bridge; visitors will then visit an area dedicated to the enquiry

that took place after the catastrophe... an extremely moving experience. The most up to date cinematic and audiovisual techniques are used.

This new bilingual exhibition (French or English) lasting over an hour will stimulate the public's curiosity and help visitors see the legend that was Titanic in a new light. The designer has not forgotten the fans of historical investigation and deep-sea mystery. The last room in the exhibition is dedicated to research, using contemporary documents and tabloid headlines reporting the catastrophe. 1,490 dead... We also devote space to the search for the wreck of the Titanic, which was finally located in 1987 by a combined French and American team, at a depth of 3,800 metres.

We have worked in conjunction with the historians, technicians and scientists of the Association Française du Titanic, and the complete visit is based on the actual testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the disaster.





A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF MANNED CRAFT, EPITOMIZING DEEP-SEA DIVING...

This unique collection is on display in the entrance hall of the Transatlantic liners' Terminal. As soon as you arrive, you will be plunged into the epic journeys of the oceanauts who went down thousands of metres in these wonderful machines!

The manned chamber is the common element found in all the machines, enabling explorers to dive down to

the **ocean depths** in complete safety. One of the aims of the Great Hall and the Men celebrated by La Cité de la Mer is to help you feel for yourselves exactly how it felt on board the machines when they were underwater. Technical explanations are provided, together with the story of each machine: maximum submergence depth, diameter of the manned chamber, crew size, type of vessel, number of dives...

MANNED SUBMARINES IN THE GREAT HALL

15 submarines (French, American, Russian and Japanese) have taken over the main entrance hall. These are the vessels that have enabled the pioneers exploring the ocean depths to go deeper and deeper. Just think that we know less about the sea bed than about the surface of the moon!

Archimède and its new manned chamber showing the size of the observation post in this machine that took men down to a depth of 9,545 metres (31,315 feet) in 1962.

The Beebe & Barton bathysphere : a full-scale model, 1.45 metres in diameter! These two crazy explorers went down to 900 metres in 1934, with only a cable connecting them to the surface!

But there is also **a host of other fascinating vessels** : actual submarines and models of submarines: Globule, Nautilus, Alvin, Fulton's Nautilus, Total Sub, Cyana, Tourelle Galeazzi, Mir and Deepsea Challenger, the 8

metres model of James Cameron's submarine.

Two new submarines machines arrived last year : Remora 600 and 2000 of Comex company. The eye of SeaOrbiter arrived in the great hall is the first part of the construction of the vessel. The original idea and design of SeaOrbiter are created by the world-renowned French architect Jacques Rougerie.



EXPLORERS OF THE ABYSS

On October 12th 2017, the elite in deepsea exploration (American, Canadian, Chinese, French, Japanese, Russian) unveiled **the Wall of Fame «Explorers of the Abyss»** in the heart of the Great Gallery of Men and Machines.

From left to right :

Daniel Reyss (FR), Masahiko Ida (Japan), Xin Wu (China), Weicheng Cui (China), Don Walsh (USA), Bernard Cauvin, Yvan Tchernomordik (FR), Alexandra Oppenheim-Delauze (FR), Anatoly Sagalevich (Russia), Philippe De Guillebon (FR), Jean Jarry (FR).





WALKING INTO THE DEPTHS

LA CITÉ DE LA MER'S VIRTUAL ANIMATION FOR ALL THE FAMILY

After visiting the aquarium, it's time for YOU to be the hero...

Our virtual adventure "Walking into the Depths" will whisk you off for a voyage through the depths of the ocean. We guarantee that you'll be thrilled by this sensational attraction!

La Cité de la Mer exhibition centre asked Captain Glass, a worthy successor to Jules Verne's Captain Nemo, to take you right down to the bottom of the ocean on board the Hadalys, the latest in virtual

simulators and underwater exploration capsules.

The Captain and his crew will keep an eye on you and help you out, while you go down to the inhospitable world of the ocean depths, just as they were when they were discovered scarcely fifty years ago by the first deep-sea explorers. There, before your very eyes, will be revealed countless seascapes, as strange as they are beautiful, a world bathed in a strange darkness where little-known species of amazing underwater animals live.

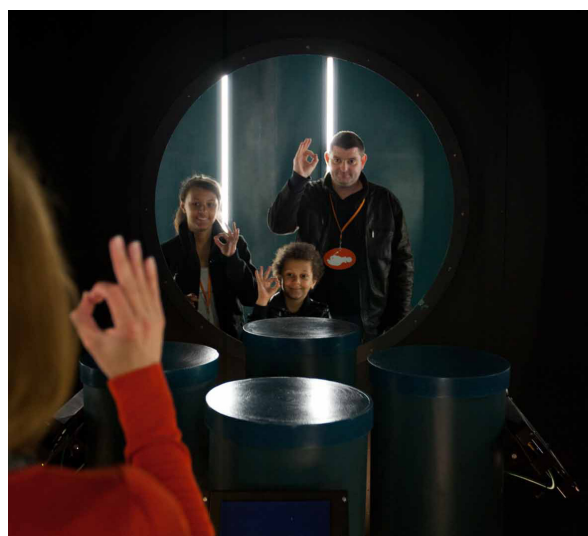
TRAINING FOR BUDDING HEROES

But, before you can go into this strange land, you have to go on the training course. So off you go to Hadale 31, the secret underwater base in our centre. Captain Glass and his staff will teach you the rudiments. Your senses will become accustomed to the conditions you will encounter as you go down to the depths of the ocean. And now you're ready to go back to the Hadalys and be the star of this virtual adventure taking place 10,000 metres under the sea. You'll never forget your trip to this enchanted world, or your visit to our aquarium.

Take a souvenir of the adventure home with you!

Experience an extraordinary adventure and go home with a souvenir photo* of your epic journey under the sea!

*Prices are available in the centre



PRATICAL INFORMATION

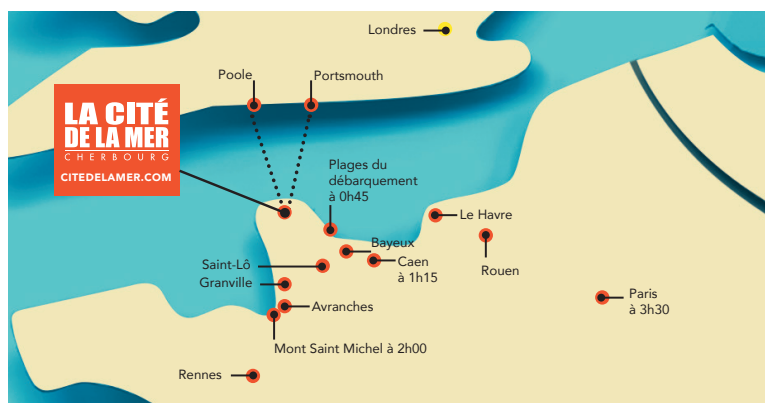
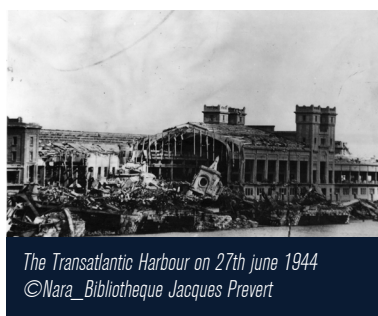


PHOTO LIBRARY



RATES AND HOURS

INDIVIDUAL RATES 2019 (provisional rates applicable from April 1st 2019) :

Children from 5 to 17 inclusive : € 14 / Adults : € 19

Under 5 years* : no admission charge**

OPENING TIMES :

Open throughout the year from 10am to 6pm

In July and August : 9:30am to 7pm

Please note that tickets sales stop an hour and a half before the centre closes.

* Free for children under 5 accompanied by an adult buying a ticket

**Please note that, for safety reasons, children under five are not allowed to visit *Le Redoutable* submarine. Free for children under 5 accompanied by an adult buying a ticket.

When there is a cruise ship in the harbour, the Emigration area is closed to the public.

To make the most of your visit, we advise you to arrive in La Cité de la Mer during the morning. Your tour around our complex will be all the most pleasurable. Your ticket is valid for the whole day. You can leave the complex, have your lunch, and come back to carry on your tour at leisure. We hope to see you soon in La Cité de la Mer.

Peak periods : When there are a lot of visitors in the complex, the "Walking into the Depths" attraction will be accessible as places become available. It is therefore advisable to arrive as soon as the centre opens, to be sure of having place.

SEAMARKS



29TH APRIL 2002 :
Date of opening



3 800 000
total number of visitors
since it opened in 2002



5 HOURS
average time taken
to visit the complex

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