

#DISCOVERY COTENTIN

SCHOOL TRIPS TO NORMANDY  



www.encotentin.fr

COTENTIN
UNIQUE
BY NATURE



COTENTIN, A PENINSULA OUT OF THE ORDINARY

If you look at a map of France, you will see that Cotentin enjoys an exceptional situation. This is the only region on the French mainland where you can watch the sun rise, at daybreak, on the east coast... then on the same day, stand on the west coast from midday to see it start to set with the Channel Islands on the horizon.

Between sunrise and sunset, there is an incredible catalogue of landscapes, shores, atmospheres, ambiances and horizons which can be explored with school groups.

The tourist office wishes to better introduce you to this unknown and surprising land, surrounded on three sides by a secret sea and with a mysterious marsh completing the magic square. We want to help you spot the hidden treasures of this island-like region, a region out of the ordinary.

WELCOME TO COTENTIN!

Let us make all the arrangements!

Experts of this destination, we will be by your side before, during and after your stay. Our team is present all over Cotentin to offer bespoke programmes that cater to your every need in the best possible time.

FOR A PERSONALISED ESTIMATE, PLEASE CONTACT :

CÉCILE FOUCARD

Tel: +33 (0)2 33 78 19 29

Mobile: +33 (0)6 85 82 67 48

www.encotentin.fr - reservation@ot-cotentin.fr

COTENTIN AND ENGLAND, A COMMON HISTORY

The Cotentin peninsula is separated from England by a narrow sound we call « the English Channel » or « La Manche », depending on which side of the coast you stand. As a natural consequence, this closeness between our two shores resulted in the Cotentin shifting nations, being sometimes French, sometimes English. Part of England's history was thus written in Cotentin. Discover this close link throughout different periods of time.

PERIOD 1:

WARTIME

MAY 29TH 1692 : BATTLE OF LA HOUGUE



The English defeated the French armada in Saint-Vaast-La Hougue on May 29th 1692. After this massive defeat, King Louis XIV summoned Sébastien Vauban to build two defensive towers (nowadays registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List) : one in Saint-Vaast-La-Hougue, the other one on the Isle Tatihou. It is this precise island located one mile from the coast, and its maritime museum we invite you to discover.

BACK TO BARFLEUR, THE ROYAL PORT

Walk the old streets of Barfleur where a tragic event changed the course of medieval England. On November 25th 1120, « The White Ship » left the royal port and sank near the coast, drowning the only legitimate heir of the crown of England. Left with no male heir, King Henry I (son of William of Normandy) named his daughter Empress Matilda as his heiress. However, after his death, the barons supported her cousin Stephan of Blois and led to a civil war known as The Anarchy.



PERIOD 2:

LINKS BETWEEN CHERBOURG AND ENGLAND

APRIL 10TH 1912 : WELCOME ON BOARD THE TITANIC

The Titanic, giant of the seas, left Southampton and made her unique continental call in Cherbourg on April 10th 1912. Discover the exhibition « Titanic, Return to Cherbourg » in La Cité de la Mer and learn more about her history, her passengers, her tragic fate...



DISCOVER CHERBOURG FROM THE SEA

Relations between England and Normandy inevitably shaped the town of Cherbourg. The building of the massive artificial roadstead is a result of centuries of conflicts. Take a cruise in sheltered waters along the seafront and navigate in the second largest artificial harbour in the world inaugurated in 1858 by Napoleon III in presence of... Queen Victoria.



PERIOD 3:

THE D-DAY

JUNE 6TH 1944 : A LANDING PREPARED IN ENGLAND



Throughout WWII, Great Britain played a major role in Allies' victory. It was from England that General Eisenhower motivated his troops the day before the Airborne divisions dropping in Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the landing at Utah Beach. Relive their mission of capturing Cherbourg as soon as possible to provide the Allies with a port of supply.

PERIOD 4:

HUNDRED YEAR'S WAR

BECOME A DAMSEL OR A KNIGHT



Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte Castle is one of the most important buildings of the Hundred Year's War and the English occupation in Normandy. Recreate life in the Middle Ages within the castle and dress up like damsel and knight. Discover medieval cuisine through a cooking workshop and experience the social hierarchy of the time as wealth and status influenced the diet.



A LINGUISTIC IMMERSION

The Cotentin tourist office offers school groups discovery stays with complete immersion in the target language. Each site has a fully-equipped room and an educational department to enable the discovery of Cotentin, its history and culture, through fun and engaging workshops of non-linguistic subjects in French. In addition, recreational activities related to the theme of the day are suggested. Live a linguistic and cultural experience in French!

THEME 1:

DISCOVER AN UNUSUAL HARBOUR

LA CITÉ DE LA MER DIVE INTO ADVENTURE!

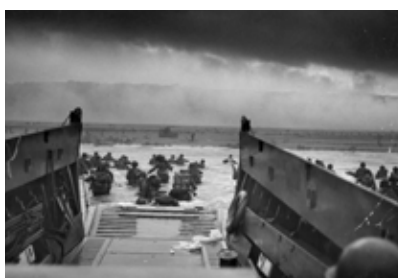
La Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg recounts man's adventures under the sea. Under the great Art deco vault of what used to be the Transatlantic liner terminal, it has taken over this unique architectural heritage, built in 1933, figurehead of the largest artificial roadstead in the world!

New 2019:

- New permanent exhibition « The Ocean of the Future »



- The film « 20 days for Cherbourg » about the liberation of Cherbourg during the Second World War



Unmissable:

- Get right into the heart of the life of the emigrants to the New World and relive the only crossing of the Titanic with the exhibition: « Titanic, Return to Cherbourg ».
- Come aboard the nuclear ballistic missile submarine: Le Redoutable, jewel of the French Navy.



THEMES PROPOSED BY THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

- The infinitesimally small :
the plankton - Biodiversity
- Threatened ocean - Tectonia
- Archeology - Emigration
- The Archimedes principle - Cold war
- Second World War

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

THE PORT OF THE AMERICAS

Walk around Cherbourg while participating in a discovery rally. Follow along the city's transatlantic history as one of the biggest European emigration port of the first half of the 20th century.



THEME 2:

RELIVE THE NORMANDY
LANDING

AIRBORNE MUSEUM



In the heart of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, facing the bell tower on which paratrooper John Steele remained hanging, the Airborne Museum will make you relive and understand the events of D-Day from its preparation in England to the conquest of freedom.

New since 2018 : Back in time with the Histopad!

THEMES PROPOSED BY THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

- The Second World War
- The landing in Normandy
- Written comprehension

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

BACK IN 1944

Come and join the briefing with a hologram of Colonel Wolverton in D-Day Experience. Then, board a real C-47 for a unique 4D high-tech simulated ride to relive the D-Day landings in Normandy as a paratrooper! A «realistic experience», as described by WWII veterans.

Novelty 2019 : 3D Movie Theatre!

THEME 3:

DISCOVER AN EXCEPTIONAL
SITE

TATIHOU ISLAND



Tatihou Island, accessible by amphibious boat from Saint-Vaast la Hougue, has gone through 300 years of turbulent history. Today the island is an exceptional site where historical heritage and a breathtaking nature reserve live side by side. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Vauban Tower can be visited as well as the gardens and the Maritime Museum.

New accommodation facilities in 2020 and 2021



THEMES PROPOSED BY THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

- Bird watching
- Marine biology
- Environmental and sustainable development education
- Sailors' songs, tales and imaginary stories

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

ROCKPOOLING AND COASTAL FORAGING

The coastline is a living demonstration of the rhythm of the tides that rise and fall twice a day. The foreshore is the part that is covered during high tide and uncovered during low tide. This cycle offers perfect conditions for a specific and fascinating ecosystem. Discover the foreshore and observe the marine organisms.

THEME 4:

LET YOURSELF BE
CARRIED AWAY BY YOUR
IMAGINATION

THE COTENTIN SEEN BY THE PAINTERS

The Thomas Henry Museum, which has earned the name Museum of France, is the third museum of fine arts in Normandy due to the historical and thematic richness of its collections. The museum is renowned for its remarkable collection of works by Jean-François MILLET, the child of the region.

THEMES PROPOSED BY THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

- The discovery of Cotentin artists
- The biography, the family
- The portrait

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

DISCOVER A LAND OF LEGENDS

Discover the Hague, the birthplace of the painter Jean-François MILLET, in the company of an elusive guide: a learned and facetious goblin. It is a truly immersive and poetic journey that awaits you at the Tourp Manor, thanks to the history, the richness and the legends of this region. **Unique in Normandy**





EXPERIENCES IN COTENTIN

*Taste our local flavours,
experience unique
moments and travel
through our heritage,
all year round, Cotentin
overflows with
unsuspected treasures!
A day on one of the
Channel Islands will be
an extra fascinating
adventure.*

CHANNEL ISLANDS

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME



For centuries, people from the continent, like famous French novelist Victor Hugo, found shelter on the Channel Islands to disappear. This mysterious land at a stone's throw from the coasts of Cotentin is perfect for a day trip. Hop on Manche Iles Express ferries to Jersey or Guernsey for an unforgettable journey throughout history!

GASTRONOMY

BAKE YOUR OWN BREAD



Mill from the 18th century, renamed the Marie Ravenel Mill as a tribute to the miller and poet who lived there for 31 years. During the visit all steps to making bread will be explained, you will then knead, mould and bake your own in a wood-fired oven... what are you waiting for to taste it while it is still warm!

YUMMY SNAILS!

During the visit of a very peculiar farm, you will discover how this fun animal lives and be explained everything about its slobbery world, from its birth to our plate! Come and say "bonjour" to mister snail and see how it behaves in society... Enjoy, you are in France!

PURE BUTTER BISCUITS FROM NORMANDY



Here you are at La Maison du Biscuit, family artisan biscuit makers in Normandy where the expertise of the biscuit makers has been passed down through 5 generations of the family Burnouf. A 1900's style street to welcome you, with all the facades of yesteryear. « Good morning Sir, Madam, a little biscuit to taste on your arrival! »





CULTURAL HERITAGE

THIS IS NOT A USUAL VISIT!

The 19th century Italian style theatre is one of the most emblematic building of Cherbourg. From 2019, school groups can visit it on demand with a very original concept, a dramatized wandering called "This is not a visit". An offbeat way to discover that magnificent place by following up and down two unusual guides!

Now that the theatre has no longer secrets for you, why don't you stay for a little more and catch a play?

HÔTEL DE BEAUMONT



It is the most prestigious private mansion in Cotentin: it has a monumental staircase, some state rooms, suites and private rooms beautifully furnished. Outside, there is a decorated formal garden, one of the finest examples of "jardin à la française" in Cotentin. The building which was built in 1767, takes back into the charming and elegant atmosphere of the 18th century aristocratic lifestyle. If you are lucky, you might meet the Countess, Claire Des Courtils, the owner of the place who still lives there!

LIGHTHOUSE OF GATTEVILLE

Located on the east coast of Cotentin, the Gatteville Lighthouse was built between 1829 and 1834 to guide sailors through the dangerous Barfleur Strait. This monumental building is 75 meters high (246 ft) and is the second highest lighthouse in Europe. Dare you climb its 365 steps to get to the top exterior platform?



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

SURF IN COTENTIN

The finest surfing spots in Normandy are in Cotentin! The Cotentin Surf Club offers initiation sessions or full week classes for school groups from 6 years old. On the unspoilt west coast, the most beautiful waves await you.



COASTEERING

This is brand new in France and Cotentin is a pioneer, this activity is a mix between canyoning and climbing but on sea. The wild shores on the west coast of Cotentin are the perfect playground to practice this activity. Climb rocks, jump into water holes, explore caves, dive into currents... What an adventure... Unique by nature of course!



NAUTICAL ACTIVITIES

Looking for nautical fun? Here you are! Cotentin is an excellent water sports venue with the second largest sailing school in Normandy. There's a great variety of activities for school groups. Whether you prefer optimist, sailing dinghy, catamaran, windsurfing, kayak, stand up paddle, sand yachting, sailing is how-you-like-it on the coasts of Cotentin.

IT IS ALMOST AN ISLAND!

The Regional Park of Cotentin and Bessin Marshes spreads over 27000 hectares of marshes and reclaimed land, creating a typical bocage landscape. These characteristic wetlands stretch from one coast of Cotentin to the other... With the abundant rains of winter, the marshes become almost white with water, reminding Cotentin of the island it once was. Discover the animals, flowers, landscapes and architecture that make this region unique.

HOW TO TRAVEL TO COTENTIN ?



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LE MARCHÉ



La Manche
CHANGEZ DE POINT DE VUE

Commercialisation service
reservation@ot-cotentin.fr
Tél : +33 (0)2 33 78 11 81
www.encotentin.fr

NORMANDY