

LA CITÉ DE LA MER

C H E R B O U R G

PRESS FILES 2023



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EDITORIAL

21 years ago, on 29 April 2002, La Cité de la Mer opened its doors to the public. It took a great deal of energy and perseverance to save this exceptional cultural and maritime heritage and to achieve the marriage, unlikely at first sight, between the 1st nuclear ballistic missile submarine *Le Redoutable*, launched in March 1967, and the Transatlantic liners' Terminal, an Art deco jewel from 1933.

My meeting in 1995 with Henri-Germain DELAUZE, head of COMEX, the world's leading underwater exploration company, sealed the fate of La Cité de la Mer, as did the first partnership agreement between La Cité de la Mer and IFREMER in 1998. These two pillars have been with us from the outset, helping us to establish our original DNA, which was the adventure of man under the sea.

For the past 21 years, La Cité de la Mer has set itself apart from the major maritime cultural and scientific sites by focusing on the quality and originality of its spaces.

Since 2002, our visitors have been captivated by «the world of life», illustrated by the 17 aquariums, including the highest in Europe (10.70-metre-deep) designed by Jacques ROUGERIE, and by our original scenography, imagined as a dive into the abyssal depths. Our collection of manned submarines, the only one of its kind in the world, has been gradually expanded, and has been on show in the Great Gallery of Men and Machines as from 2011. With the "Titanic Return to Cherbourg" space opened in 2012, La Cité de la Mer has been able to renew itself by drawing on the history of Cherbourg to offer the general public the captivating emotional force of the *Titanic* tragedy.

This success was made possible by the teams of La Cité, who have always been one step ahead and have surrounded themselves with the world's leading experts and talented scenographers. Director Jacques PERRIN has opened our eyes to the power of images to raise awareness. Taken from the rushes of his film *Oceans*, his beautiful videos enrich the Ocean of the Future concourse, inaugurated in 2019 and offer a sensitive look at the ocean.

Year after year, La Cité de la Mer has brought together a community of «great voices of the sea», including aquanauts, explorers, historians, oceanographers, divers and biologists.... from all over the world. All these ambassadors are working to protect the ocean, the future of mankind. In 2022, to mark the 20th anniversary of La Cité de la Mer, I wanted to expand the Generation Ocean movement with a younger generation of explorers and researchers.

After 21 years of development and excitement, and more than 4.8 million visitors, we're proud of everything we've been able to achieve for marine education. But we're preparing for the future with enthusiasm and determination! 21 years: it's a great time to look back at what we've achieved so far, but also to look forward with the same determination to pass on our passion for the ocean to all generations.



Bernard CAUVIN,
Founder of La Cité de la Mer

LE REDOUTABLE

The first French nuclear ballistic missile submarine, launched by General de GAULLE, *Le Redoutable* is an industrial feat and a symbol of French technological genius. As the first of its kind, *Le Redoutable* is in a league of its own, and is the pride of Cherbourg. More than 4.8 million visitors have already walked its passageways, and its visit remains unforgettable! In 2022, on 29 March, La Cité de la Mer celebrated the 55th anniversary of the launch of *Le Redoutable*.



THAT WAS ...

63 years ago France decided to build the first nuclear-powered submarine to carry strategic ballistic missiles.

59 years Lieutenant-Commander Bernard LOUZEAU is chosen to monitor the work on the Q 252 and to be its future commander.

58 years On 16 November, the Q 252 is christened *Le Redoutable*. Each of the Redoutable's 16 M20 missiles will be 50 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.

56 years On 29 March at 10.42am, the first French nuclear submarine, *Le Redoutable*, is launched in Cherbourg in the presence of the President of the French Republic, Charles de GAULLE.

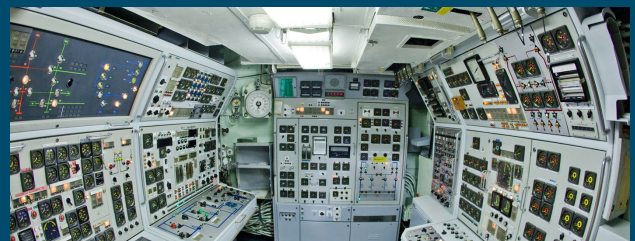
51 years On 28 January: *Le Redoutable* sails from Cherbourg for its new base: Ile Longue, in the Brest harbour, still the current base for submarines.

32 years Back to Cherbourg for decommissioning.

27 years The Ministry of Defence decides to donate the Redoutable to the Cherbourg Urban Community with a view to making it the main attraction of La Cité de la Mer. The submarine will be displayed on dry land in a specially designed dock, and will be transformed into a museographic item.

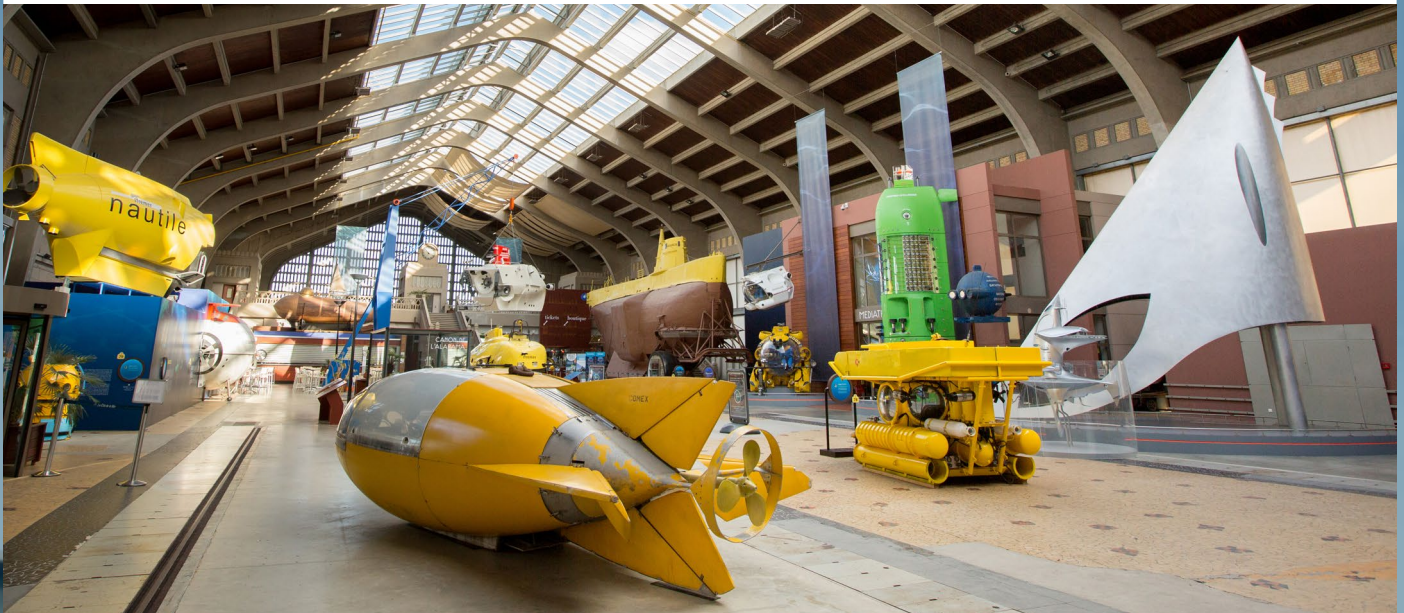
23 years 4 July 2000, the arrival of the submarine in its dock in front of the future Cité de la Mer.

21 years La Cité de la Mer opened on 29 April 2002. *Le Redoutable* becomes the largest visitable submarine in the world.



THE GREAT GALLERY OF MEN AND MACHINES

As soon as they enter La Cité de la Mer, visitors are greeted by the champions of the deep. They are about to dive with them into the great international epic of the oceanauts with these 13 submarines (French, American, Russian or Canadian). Since 2011, these strange machines have been part of the «Great Gallery of Men and Machines». They are the ones that have enabled the pioneers of the deep to go ever further in their exploration of the seabed, which is still less well known than the moon! Some, like the French Nautilus, the Russian Mir and the American Alvin, dived on the wreck of the *Titanic*. Cyana discovered the first hydrothermal springs. The Archimedes, the abyss lift, holds the French depth record: -9,645 m in 1962. A look back at these pioneers and the key dates in the underwater epic told at La Cité de la Mer!

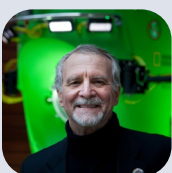


THE GREAT WITNESSES OF LA CITÉ DE LA MER

« Despite my numerous dives on board a submarine, for the first time, thanks to these machines, I discovered the heart of the sea (...) There are many maritime museums in the world but there is no equivalent to La Cité de la Mer which has managed to become international by welcoming Russian, American, Japanese and Chinese submarines and even James CAMERON's! »

Souvenir of Alain TOURNYOL DU CLOS, weapons engineer on the Redoutable in 1969, then Director of DCN Cherbourg 1994-1998.

« The idea of using the Transatlantic liners' Terminal, surrounded by water, for La Cité de la Mer made it a splendid setting for the sea! At La Cité de la Mer I can find everything I like. There is an emotional side to it. I see the machines I've dived in. I meet up with friends and colleagues with whom I share the same passion for underwater work, such as the Russian explorer Anatoly SAGALEVITCH, the American oceanographer David GALLO, the biologists Daniel REYSS and Françoise GAYILL, with whom I took part in ocean campaigns, engineers from IFREMER such as Jean JARRY and Pierre WILLM from the DGA, and other personalities from the world of the sea. It's the home of the oceanauts and a meeting place. I have nothing but fond memories! »



Paul-Henri NARGEOLET,
Specialist in the exploration of the wreck of the *Titanic* and Ambassador for La Cité de la Mer.



THAT WAS ...

101 years 28 July 1922, Jacques PICCARD was born. On 23 January 1960, along with the American Don WALSH, he became «the deepest man in the world» when he dived to 10,916 metres in the Mariana Trench aboard the bathyscaphe Trieste.

61 years On 25 March 1962, the inventor of the bathyscaph, Auguste PICCARD (father of Jacques PICCARD), represented by the figure of Professor Tournesol in Tintin, died.

1962 was a landmark year for underwater exploration, as a French crew distinguished itself: Pierre WILLM and Georges HOUOT made their 1st deep dive aboard the bathyscaph Archimedes. On 28 July, the French vessel made its record dive to 9,545 metres, with Henri-Germain DELAUZE on board as head of the CNRS bathyscaphe laboratory.

That same summer, in September 1962, 2 missions, one in the bay of Villefranche-sur-Mer entitled «Man in the Sea» and the second off Marseille commissioned by Commandant COUSTEAU «Précontinent» proved that a man could really live under the sea, and that work was possible at a depth where conventional divers could only make brief incursions.

51 years One of the pioneers of exploration was also a woman who would unravel the mysteries of the deep sea. She was Sylvia EARLE, who from 1972 to 1975 took part in 5 missions lasting 7 to 14 days in the underwater Hydrolab laboratory of the American NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

36 years In 1977, the architect Jacques ROUGERIE created the first underwater house called «Galathée». He will be later on the architect of the abyssal aquarium at La Cité de la Mer.

31 years Even though manned diving continued its missions, on 10 March 1992, IFREMER decided to build the Victor 6,000 underwater robot, which can operate at depths of up to 6,000 metres.

21 years La Cité de la Mer was inaugurated. The Archimedes welcomes visitors with its imposing stature from the reception area. Meanwhile, a new generation of submarines continues to explore the deep sea: IFREMER's Nautille, which discovered the wreck of the *Titanic* in 1985, makes its 1,500th dive on 7 December 2002.

11 years 14 February 2012: Tribute to Henri-Germain DELAUZE, who died and entered the paradise of geniuses. This leading figure in deep-sea adventures founded COMEX, a company known worldwide for its expertise in underwater engineering. His machines, which now form part of The Great Gallery of Men and Machines, bear witness to the technological, human and scientific adventures that make La Cité so rich!

26 March 2012: James CAMERON, director of *Titanic*, breaks the solo diving record at -10,908 metres. The faithful replica of the 7.3 m submarine takes pride of place in the Great Gallery of La Cité de la Mer. CAMERON's record has since been superseded by the American Victor VESCOVO, who reached -10,928 m aboard the Limiting Factor.

On 27 June 2012, Jialong, China's 1st manned submarine, reached a depth of 7,062 metres, setting a national diving record!

6 years 12 October 2017, the most illustrious American, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and French aquanauts inaugurated the «Explorers of the Abyss» Wall of Fame. This wall of fame, dedicated to the stars of the oceans, highlights the epic exploits of 16 aquanauts through a date, a record and a craft on the tour route.

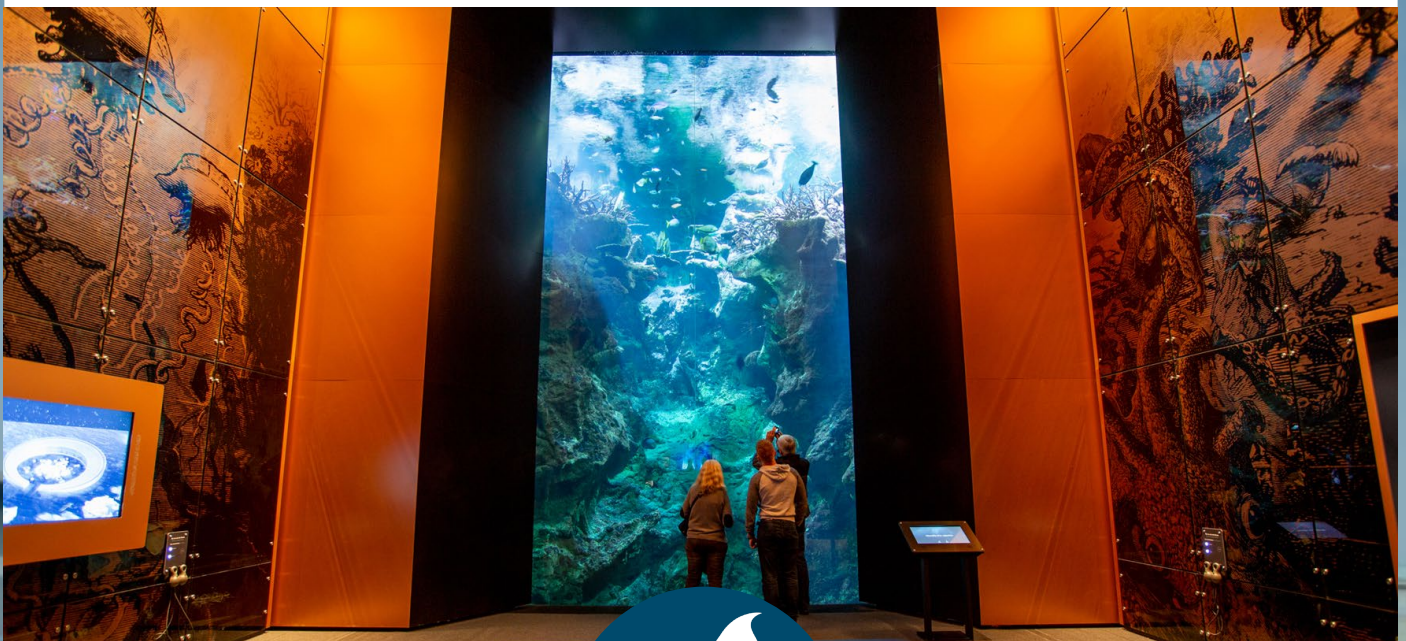


THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE

Inaugurated in 2019, the «Ocean of the Future» area is an invitation to marvel at the beauty of the ocean, and to understand its threats and promises so that we can better protect it.

Each visitor in turn will discover the most beautiful aspects of the ocean through images from Jacques PERRIN's film *Océans*, presented in a number of different settings (giant blades, descent into the abyss).

Designed and built with the help of a network of more than 30 international experts, personalities and institutions, this tour invites visitors to take stock of the situation: « There will be no spare oceans, and mankind must realise this before it's too late »: this quotation from Jacques PERRIN concludes the tour. It is an ode to the beauty of the oceans, leaving visitors with the question: « What kind of ocean do you want for tomorrow? »



THAT WAS ...

501 years The 1st circumnavigation of the globe, begun by the Portuguese MAGELLAN, was completed: Cape Horn was rounded, the Pacific was crossed and the earth was round. The ocean epic begins!

151 years 1872 corresponds to the 1st modern oceanographic campaign with the HMS Challenger. Measurements of ocean depths revealed that the ocean floor was not flat. The expedition brought the first polymetallic nodules to the surface, discovered more than 4,000 new marine species, took soundings more than 8,000 m deep and discovered the Mariana Trench!

41 years 2 March 1982 marked the 1st French oceanographic campaign focusing on hydrothermal springs, led by IFREMER's deep environment

laboratory (with Daniel REYSS and Daniel DESBRUYERES).

The year of this discovery coincided with the signing of the United Nations Montego Bay Convention (in effect in 1994), which finally laid the legal foundations for the Law of the Sea.

21 years The year 2002, the date of the opening of La Cité de la Mer, resonates with François SARANO because it coincides with the creation of his association Longitude 181. The association has always been a forerunner: a responsible diver's charter, the creation of limited fishing zones agreed with fishermen to moderate their impact.

TITANIC, RETURN TO CHERBOURG

Inaugurated in 2012, the «*Titanic, return to Cherbourg*» area takes visitors on a journey through time, from the legendary liner's stopover in Cherbourg on 10 April 1912 to the tragic night of the sinking. In April 2022, La Cité de Mer, the French reference site on the *Titanic*, has commemorated the 110th anniversary of the Cherbourg stopover. It's an opportunity to revisit the transatlantic epic and take the pulse of this *titanic* wreck that is still the stuff of dreams!

As an introduction to the tour, visitors will learn about Cherbourg's transatlantic past and the history of European emigration to the New World, some of which took place here.

Walking alongside the recreated hull of the *Titanic*, a few steps below, visitors have the sensation of accessing the lower deck. The sets of the 24-metre film «Horizon», the 1st-class cabin, the testimonies of survivors... visitors live an extremely moving experience.



THAT WAS ...

111 years On 10 April 1912, at 6.35pm, the *Titanic* stopped in the Cherbourg harbour. Setting sail from Southampton, the liner was making her last continental call before heading for Ireland. 24 passengers disembarked in Cherbourg, along with a small amount of freight. Meanwhile, 151 1st-class passengers and 28 2nd-class passengers embarked via the Nomadic tender, while 102 3rd-class passengers took the Traffic before boarding the liner.

On 15 April 1912, at 2.15 am, the *Titanic* sank in the Atlantic Ocean. In less than 3 hours, the «unsinkable» liner disappeared, taking 1,490 people with her. The 711 survivors were picked up by the *Carpathia* at around 4am. The wreck has since lain at a depth of 3,800 metres.

36 years On 1 September 1985, the wreck of the *Titanic* was located by a Franco-American team led by Jean Louis MICHEL (Ifremer) and Robert BALLARD (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution). The expeditions that

followed were led by RMS Titanic Inc, including 5 in cooperation with Ifremer, which supplied its Nautile pocket submarine. Between 1987 and 2010, 8 campaigns brought back nearly 5,500 artifacts, all of which are now carefully preserved in Atlanta.

26 years Director James CAMERON makes the film *Titanic*, which will hold the box office record for over a decade!

11 years 10 April 2012 at 6.10pm, opening of the new «*Titanic Return to Cherbourg*» exhibition at La Cité de la Mer, 100 years to the day after the stopover!

15 April 2012: The wreck of the *Titanic* is officially protected under the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

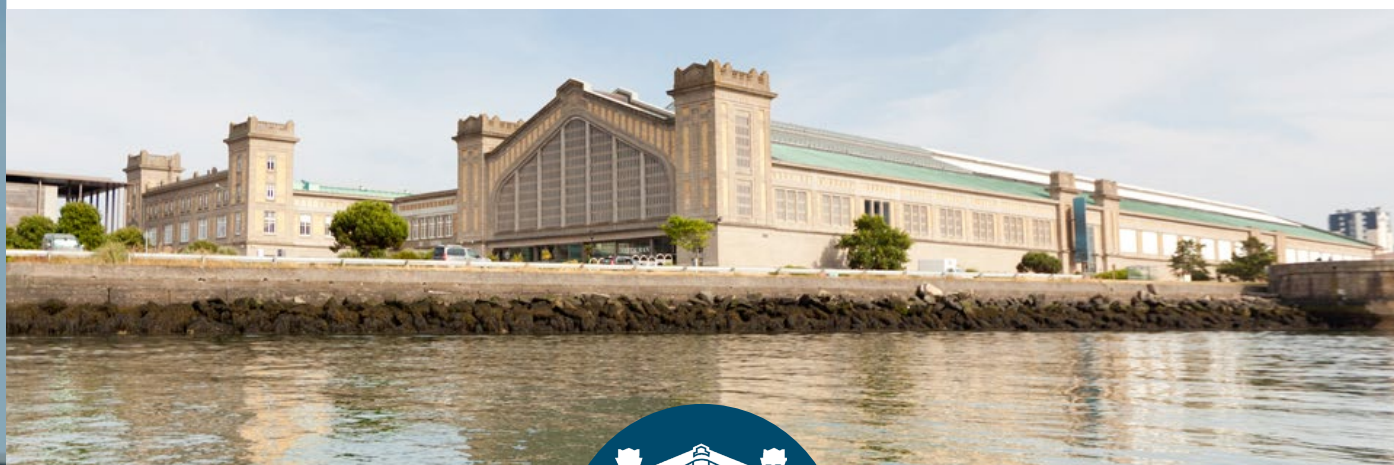


TRANSATLANTIC LINER'S TERMINAL

Officially opened on 30 July 1933, this splendour of the Art deco era, designed by the architect René LEVAVASSEUR was not only the largest liners' terminal in the world, but also the second most extensive building in France after the Castle of Versailles. On the transatlantic side, 2 ocean liners could dock simultaneously in front of it. On the rail side, up to 7 trains a day connect Paris-Saint-Lazare in just 3 hours and 15 minutes.

Built to welcome the great and the good, "Our Lady of the Queens" was scuttled by the Germans in 1944 and rebuilt after the war, without its so dearly missed campanile. It was inaugurated a second time in 1952, 71 years ago, but never again experienced the crowd of yesteryear, as air traffic was booming. The stars continued to disembark there, passing through its Baggage Room and its "Salle des Pas Perdus" (Hall of Lost Footsteps), which are still preserved today.

Abandoned for several decades, it escaped destruction and was added to the Supplementary Inventory of Historic Monuments in 1989. Finally, in 2002, 21 years ago, it was given a new lease of life thanks to La Cité de la Mer project.



THAT WAS ...

101 years 22 November 1922; the major port development project undertaken by the Cherbourg authorities was recognised as being in the public interest. Cherbourg passed the 100,000 annual transatlantic passenger mark, doubling its pre-war attendance.

91 years 14 March 1932, Mr QUONIAM, President of the Cherbourg Chamber of Commerce, laid the last stone of the Quai de France, while the Transatlantic liner's Terminal was inaugurated on 30 July 1933.

79 years On 23 June 1944, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Fortress of Cherbourg, German General von SCHLIEBEN, gave the order to dynamite the Transatlantic liner's Terminal. At 11pm, the Campanile exploded.

71 years 22 May 1952, Inauguration of the new Transatlantic liner's Terminal with Antoine PINAY and Maurice LEVAVASSEUR, President of the Cherbourg Chamber of Commerce.

22 September 1952: The British actor-filmmaker Charlie CHAPLIN made a stopover aboard the Queen Elizabeth. Nearly 80 journalists and other reporters

came to Cherbourg that day to wait for the man who had just been permanently banned from the United States by the McCarthy Commission.

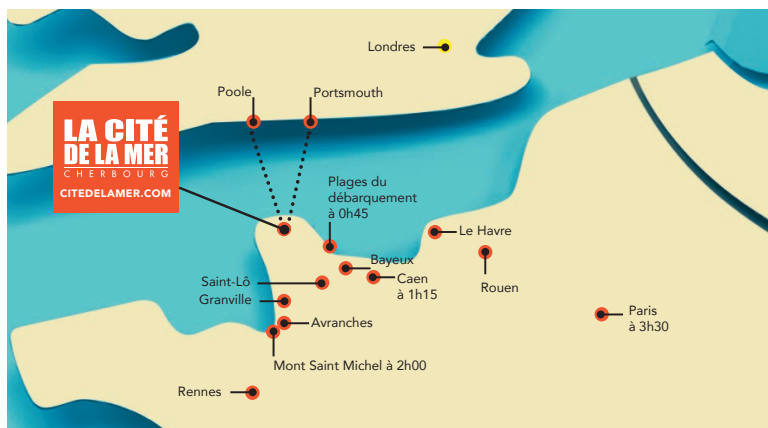
34 years On 27 December 1989, the Transatlantic Terminal Concourse was saved by its registration on the Supplementary Inventory of Historic Monuments, including the Trains' Hall and the "Voie Charretière" (carriageway), with their equipment (footbridges, staircases, and lift shafts), the façades and roofs of the Transatlantic Hall, as well as the two mobile boarding gangways.

On 16 August 2000, the Transatlantic Hall was also listed and the transformation of the Terminal continued (renovation of the Baggage Room in April 2004, new Cruise Terminal in 2006, new conference area with a 350-seat auditorium in 2008, etc.).

1 year Last year, in September 2022, the long-awaited consecration! Cherbourg's Transatlantic liner's Terminal and the submarine *Le Redoutable* were voted France's 1st Favourite Monument by viewers of Stéphane BERN's programme on French TV.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ACCESS TO LA CITÉ DE LA MER



HOURS AND RATES

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

Short school holidays: 9.30am to 6pm

In July and August: 9.30am to 7pm

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

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

** Please note that for safety reasons, children under 5 are not allowed to visit the submarine *Le Redoutable*.

The «Emigration» area is not open during cruise ship calls in the harbour. The *Titanic* area remains accessible.

La Cité de la Mer has been awarded the «Quality Tourism» label, as well as the «Tourism and Disability» label for the following disabilities: hearing, mental and visual.

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