DUNKIRK
FRENCH FLANDERS
Your next trip to France...
Welcome to Dunkirk and French Flanders, a seaside destination offering superb sandy beaches, marinas and protected natural reserves.

Here you will find a wonderful combination of urban attractions alongside unspoiled countryside where the French way of life merges with traditional Flemish culture. A stone’s throw from the famous Dunkirk beaches you will find picturesque villages and walled towns, where time seems to have stood still for centuries. Enchanting windmills, towering belfries, delicious local food and traditional shopping are all available for you to discover. For the more adventurous, the frenzy of the annual carnival, the spectacular firework displays and fascinating visitor attractions mean there is plenty to enjoy... so there is always a good reason to come and visit. Not to mention the very warm welcome you will experience so typical of Northern France.

On the following pages you’ll find lots of good tips for your stay in Dunkirk and French Flanders, but we’re sure you’ll find plenty more!
Dunkirk is a town steeped in history. Despite the extensive conflict of the battles of 1940, there is a great deal to see and appreciate about the city and its architecture. One of the most memorable events in history was played out right here on the beautiful beaches extending for miles across the coastline of Dunkirk. From 26 May to 4 June 1940, the hemmed in British Expeditionary Force and French 1st Army faced annihilation from the rapidly advancing German army.

**1 DUNKIRK WAR MUSEUM**
Settled in the Bastion 32 bunker, the Memorial du Souvenir museum tells the incredible story of Operation Dynamo and the evacuation of 338 000 allied soldiers. The museum houses a rich collection of weapons, uniforms, models, photos and maps of the military operations. The museum is open every day from 1st April to 30th September from 10am to 5pm.
Rue des Chantiers de France - Dunkerque
www.dynamo-dunkerque.com

**2 THE FORT DES DUNES**
Built in 1878-1880 this fort near Leffrinckoucke, has played a pivotal role in the defence of Dunkirk and its port.
Open from early June to half September from 2:30pm to 6pm. Closed on Mondays.
Rue du 2 juin 1940 - Leffrinckoucke

**3 LA PLAINE AU BOIS**
This memorial recalls the plight of 80 British soldiers massacred by the enemy on 28th May 1940. Consisting of a reconstruction of the barn where the soldiers were needlessly executed, and the turrets that now house details of the war operations and command a panoramic view over the region to commemorate and honour those who died.
Rue des Dunkirk Vétérans - Esquelbecq

**4 THE SHIPWRECKS OF ZUYDCOOTE**
In 1940, during ‘Operation Dynamo’, huge resources were abandoned, including many damaged ships beached on the sands along the coast. Incredibly, some wrecks are still clearly visible at low tide along the beaches between Zuydcoote and Bray-Dunes.
The Dunkirk Tourist Board has published a brochure called “Battle of Dunkirk-Operation Dynamo”, that you can read as a flip book or download on bit.ly/dunkirk_1940

**5 THE BRITISH MEMORIAL**
Erected in 1957, this memorial pays homage to the 4,528 soldiers of the British ground forces and to six men of the Indian army who do not have a known grave.
Route de Furnes - Dunkerque
The name Dunkerque is Flemish, and means simply ‘the church on the dunes’. But since its foundation in the ninth century, the port’s geographic location has made Dunkerque a strategic prize. It was squabbled over by the British, Dutch and Spanish, but it has remained resolutely French since the late 17th century. This was the time that the local hero, Jean Bart, made his name as a ‘privateer’. Little more than state-sponsored pirates, privateers were given free rein to attack enemy ships.

**6 PORT MUSEUM**

Housed in a former 19th century tobacco warehouse, the collections include fascinating insights into the Nautical world of a large port, which provide both historical and contemporary perspectives. You can also board three ships that are open to the public: the tall ship Duchesse Anne, the lightship Sandettie and the Guilde barge.

9 Quai de la Citadelle - Dunkerque - www.museeportuaire.com

**7 SEA MUSEUM**

Step back in time, to the 19th century and immerse yourself in the world of Iceland fishing. The Musée de la Mer, with its wealth of souvenirs, ship models and old objects, tells the story of this very particular type of fishing. Open from April to September.

28 boulevard Carnot – Grand-Fort-Philippe

**8 VAUBAN PROMENADE**

Navigating around the city ramparts in rowing boats, or if preferred in electric boats, is a great way to explore the restored fortifications designed by Vauban.

Porte aux boules - Rue de Dunkerque - Gravelines

**10 ESPACE TOURVILLE**

Visit the construction site of a 17th century first rank ship and the attractions located in a historical park in Gravelines.

Route de Calais - Gravelines

**9 SAINT ELOI BELFRY**

A great way to see the city is to climb the 58 metre St Eloi belfry. A World Heritage Site, the stunning view of the town, port and beyond across Flanders is a ‘must see’.

Rue de l’Amiral Ronarc’h - Dunkerque

www.beffroi-dunkerque.fr

**11 THE RESCUE MUSEUM**

Dive into the maritime world of the old fishing port of Grand-Fort-Philippe and relive the great rescues at sea. Inside its former shelter, a restored lifeboat seems ready to go out to sea. Open from April to September.

Boulevard de la République - Grand-Fort-Philippe
One of the major natural attractions of Dunkirk and French Flanders is its stunning seaside. With 10 miles (15 km) of white sandy beaches and 1,700 acres of protected parkland, the wonderful French coast of Flanders is a dream location for kite surfing, sand-yachting, cycling and hiking.

**12 SAND-YACHTING**

Enjoy the thrills of this spectacular sport on the beaches that could not have been designed any better for sand-yachting. Learning the basics is easy, making this exhilarating sport accessible to those of all ages.

**Base Nautique Jean Binard** - Digue de Mer - Gravelines
**Mer et Rencontres** - 4 Digue Nicolas II - Dunkerque

"The Dunkirk Tourist Board also organises sand yachting weekends, so if you want more information check out the details at [www.shortbreaks.fr](http://www.shortbreaks.fr)."

**13 GOLF ‘BLUE GREEN’ - DUNKIRK GRAND LITTORAL**

Dunkirk’s recently re-landscaped 27-hole golf course is a must for any golfer. Just 9.3 miles (15 km) from the ferry terminal and 3.1 miles (5 km) from the town centre, the course also boasts spectacular views of the Flemish countryside including the pretty fortified town of Bergues.

**Route du golf** - Coudekerque-Village - [dunkerque.bluegreen.com](http://dunkerque.bluegreen.com)

**14 SAILING**

The regional yachting centre in Dunkirk can be found close by to the newly built Youth Hostel. Here you can experience the excitement of sailing genuine racing yachts on the Channel. Several types of yachts are available, allowing the whole family to sail together. This is a great way to discover the stunning Flemish coast.

**Ecole de croisière Dunes de Flandre** - Quai d’armement Nord - Dunkerque

**15 PORT TOURS**

Hop on board to discover Dunkirk’s impressive port on a fascinating and educational one-hour cruise. The ‘Texel’ tour ship offers the perfect opportunity for you to enjoy a drink whilst viewing the coastal installations from the relaxed interior comfort of this delightful craft.

**Place du Minck** - Dunkerque - [www.le-texel.fr](http://www.le-texel.fr)

**16 GARDENS OF THE ‘MONT DES RÉCOLLETS’**

Situated on over a hectare of the beautiful plain of Houtland, you will discover the 14 Flemish gardens that inspired generations of painters and artists. The nearby tavern is also opened every afternoon from Thursday until Sunday.

**8 rue St Nicolas** - Cassel
The region offers a wealth of family friendly attractions including a zoo, a spectacular planetarium, quaint farms and an amusement park. Dunkirk also offers a variety of quality sporting facilities such as Dunkirk’s Olympic swimming pool, the ice skating rink, the Olympic rowing lake at Gravelines and ‘Aqua Lamé’ the natural swimming pool including a solarium, beach volleyball, water jets and a playground.

**THE BEST PLACES FOR…**

**FAMILIES**

**17 LIGHTHOUSES**

Dunkirk’s Risban lighthouse has been guiding ships to safety since 1843. It is the highest automated harbour lighthouse in France. It takes 276 steps to climb, to fully appreciate the magnificent panoramic view on the sea and the surrounding cities. It is also possible to visit the Gravelines Lighthouse at Petit Fort Philippe.

Route des docks flottants Dunkerque
www.museeportuaire.com
Digue de Mer - Gravelines
www.gravelinestourisme.fr

**18 PLUS**

Get ready for lift off! Take the journey from the first moments of the Big Bang right up to star studded heavens of the present day. Lose yourself in time and space as the planetarium guides you through galaxies of the universe by means of its laser shows, and exhibitions that appeal to people of all ages.

Rue du Planétarium Cappelle-la-Grande
www.le-plus.fr

**19 CAMÉLUS**

Want something a little bit different? Why not visit the Ostrich farm in Ghyvelde? Friendly and informative staff are always on hand to explain how the centre breeds and raises ostriches. And there are lots of other funny animals too!

21 rue d’Uxem - Ghyvelde
www.le-camelus.com

**20 SPORTICA**

Sportica’s facilities include a bowling alley, two saunas and a swimming pool.

Boulevard de l’Europe - Gravelines

**21 ZOO**

Especially designed to provide the right habitat for over 170 species of wild and domestic animals, the zoo makes for a great day out for all the family.

Rue des droits de l’homme Fort Mardyck
www.parc-zoologique.fr

**22 BOWLING**

Dunkirk’s bowling alley is open every day from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm, from Monday to Thursday from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am and Friday to Saturday from 8:00 pm to 3:00 am.

Sentier de la Vallée – Dunkerque
www.patinoire-dunkerque.com

**23 FARM MUSEUM LE BOMMELAERS WALL**

This museum is located in a working farm and aims to show real country life in Flanders a century ago. You can also purchase local produce in the shop.

Route de Furnes - Ghyvelde - www.ecomusee-flandres.com

**24 ICE RINK**

Open every day during the French school holidays and on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays during term time, the rink provides good value fun for all the family.

11 Place P Asseman - Dunkerque
www.patinoire-dunkerque.com
Visiting Dunkirk provides a great deal to do and see regardless of the season. Varied museums, art exhibits, the Port Museum, great shops and the Casino all provide great opportunities to enjoy.

25 **CHAPEL OF LIGHT**
Created by British sculptor Sir Anthony Caro, the stunning group of 15 sculptures, forms part of the restored gothic Cloister of the St. John the Baptist church.
Eglise Saint-Jean-Baptiste - 26 place du marché aux chevaux - Bourbourg
www.ciaucbourbourg.fr

26 **LAAC MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**
Located at the very heart of a superb sculpture garden. The LAAC presents an exceptional exhibition of art from the 1950s to the present day.
Jardin de sculptures - Car park: rue des chantiers de France - Dunkerque
www.musees-dunkerque.eu

27 **FRAC ART MUSEUM**
Located in an impressive building in the new Grand Large quarter, the FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais boasts an internationally renowned collection of more than 1,700 works of contemporary artists.
503 Avenue des Bancs de Flandres – Dunkerque - www.francnpdc.fr

28 **FINE ARTS MUSEUM**
The museum presents a large collection of Flemish, Dutch, French and Italian paintings from the 16th to 19th centuries. The exhibits also include a collection of over 10,000 natural history specimens, numerous decorative crafts and key archaeological finds...
Place du Général de Gaulle - Dunkirk - www.musees-dunkerque.eu

29 **MUSÉE DE FLANDRE**
Dedicated to Flemish art throughout history the building itself is worthy of a visit as it dates back to the French Revolution, and included the financial Castellany and the Court of Justice.
26 Grand Place - Cassel - www.museedeflandre.lenord.fr

30 **MUSEUM OF DRAWINGS AND ORIGINAL PRINTS**
The museum is set in the remarkable surroundings of the Gravelines Citadel, built under Charles Quint in the 16th century and renovated by Vauban in the late 17th century. It is the only museum in France dedicated to original prints.
Château, Arsenal - Place Albert Denvers – Gravelines
THE BEST WAY TO ENJOY YOUR STAY IN DUNKIRK

RESTAURANTS

Thanks to its exceptional location, Dunkirk and French Flanders boast a unique combination of traditional Flemish cuisine and excellent seafood. You’ll find fantastic fish platters, traditional dishes of waterzoi and potjevleesch. And why not try out the excellent Dunkirk mussels? Dunkirk’s huge range of restaurants represents excellent value for money compared to the rest of the country!

ACCOMMODATION

With a choice of over 20 well equipped hotels, you can catch a great night’s sleep without breaking the bank! The Tourist Office is also very amenable to visitors in helping to find the best hotel to meet your needs.

OPEN MARKETS

The residents of Dunkirk are proud of their bustling open markets. Most of them take place in the morning, only the Dunkirk town centre market ends at 4pm on Saturdays (2pm on Wednesdays).

Dunkirk’s seaside resort of Malo-les-Bains is a lively place to visit. Each Tuesday morning there is a lovely open market at Turenne square. The traditional open market at the centre of the borough of Rosendaël on Sunday mornings is also not to be missed.

In Gravelines, open markets take place in the main square on Friday mornings, and in other parts of town on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday mornings. Friday is market day in Hondschoote, and there are markets in Grande-Synthe on Tuesday (place du Marché) and Thursday mornings (avenue Dudebout).

SHOPPING

Dunkirk is the perfect place to stop off at the start or the end of your holiday. 400 shops across the town-centre include all your favourite brands. Specialist shops offer delicious French products like cheese, wine, beer and chocolate. Parking close to the shops is easy, with thousands of parking spaces in and around the town centre. Don’t forget to stock up on local goodies at either of the two city supermarkets or one of the superb hypermarkets just outside Dunkirk: Cora, Carrefour and Auchan.

The Hondschoote area is known for its flax fields. At le Grenier du Lin, a specialised shop, you’ll discover all you can do with linen, from clothing to food.

FLEA MARKET – BOOT SALES

Boot sales are held during the summer in nearly every city of Northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Typically, the locals set up their stands in many of the streets to sell their bric-a-brac. Don’t miss the annual international boot sale in the town centre of Dunkirk on Ascension Day (beginning of June). There is also usually a flea market somewhere in the region on most weekends. The Tourist Offices will be happy to provide a full list.

Located near the beach, the Casino offers gambling tables, slot machines and a lounge bar. The restaurant has a tropical theme to its interior.

Place du Casino - Dunkerque
dunkerque.groupetranchant.com

31 DUNKIRK CASINO
DFDS Seaways is the only ferry company to sail to Dunkirk from Dover and as there are up to 24 daily sailings it couldn’t be easier.

Travel with your car, caravan, motorcycle, motorhome – or even your bicycle – and you’ll be in Dunkirk in just 2 hours.

Whether you’re heading to Dunkirk to see sights such as the historic Belfry (a UNESCO World Heritage site), the Port Museum and the Musée des Beaux-Arts, with its wonderful exhibitions of French, Flemish and Italian paintings, you’ll be able to access the city easily as it’s just a short drive from the port.

With no luggage restrictions on DFDS Seaways ferries, their route is also perfect if you’re planning on stocking up on local produce to bring back home to the UK, or if you’re taking a trip which requires a lot of supplies and provisions such as camping or other outdoor activities.

Each sailing from Dover to Dunkirk takes just 2 hours, but there’s plenty to do to keep you entertained onboard. The modern fleet was purpose-built especially for the route, so you can be sure to find everything you’ll need to have a pleasant journey.

All of the ships on the route come with a self-service restaurant as well as a fast food diner, and a lounge café bar where you can enjoy a hot or cold drink and a snack. There’s also a shop onboard which stocks a range of fragrances and cosmetics, confectionery, children’s toys and games, as well as any travel essentials you may have forgotten to pack!

If you’re travelling with your family, then your little ones can enjoy themselves in the dedicated soft play areas or games room while you chill out and catch up with the latest news and sport on the widescreen TVs. And of course there’s nothing like the fresh sea air out on deck – it’s a great place for exploring, bird watching and ship spotting!

Prices for a car + up to 9 people are from only £35 each way. Prices for other vehicles vary.

For more information or to book visit www.dfds.co.uk