

# 2020

## NORMANDY

### News & Events



© Jean-François Lange

3 April-6 September

#### **NORMANDY IMPRESSIONIST FESTIVAL**

The Normandy Impressionist Festival is an established event in the region's calendar, treating visitors from around the world to a five-month programme of over 450 events happening across the whole region. Taking Normandy's rich Impressionist heritage as its inspiration, the festival welcomed 1.8 million visitors in 2016, and is expecting even more in 2020. Featuring 20 Impressionist art exhibitions and 30 contemporary art exhibitions, dance performances, live entertainment, sound and light shows, street art, conferences, workshops and more, there's something to suit everyone.

This year's festival will focus on the Impressionists' role as observers of 19<sup>th</sup> century French society. By focusing on day-to-day life – family, hobbies and work – amidst social upheavals such as the Industrial Revolution, these artists captured the everyday nature of this pivotal period in their paintings.

**[normandie-impressionniste.fr](http://normandie-impressionniste.fr)**



© Brittany Ferries

May

#### **NEW GREEN BRITTANY FERRIES VESSEL**

Named after the picturesque port on the Seine estuary, the 'Honfleur' will arrive in 2020 and serve Brittany Ferries' most popular route from Portsmouth to Caen/Ouistreham. This LNG-powered ship will carry up to 1,680 passengers, and boast 261 cabins, two cinemas, several restaurants, passenger lounges and boutique shopping.

Honfleur is the future of sustainable ferry transport and will soon be the greenest ship regularly operating on the English Channel. **[destinationhonfleur.com/en](http://destinationhonfleur.com/en)**

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**WordPress** [normandyfoodie.com](http://normandyfoodie.com)

# News



Spring

## CYCLE THE SEINE – Paris to Le Havre

France is the world's second most popular cycling destination (after Germany), and aspires to be the first within five years. With this in mind, a brand new 430km cycle route, *La Seine à Vélo* is to be launched in 2020, which will link Paris to Le Havre and Deauville in Normandy. Following the course of the River Seine, the cycle route will pass through Giverny, Les Andelys, Rouen, Jumièges and Honfleur, and is suitable for beginner and expert cyclists of all ages. [axeseine.fr](http://axeseine.fr)



1-5 July

## GRAND'ESCALE FESTIVAL – Fécamp

Normandy's beautiful Alabaster Coast will welcome its first maritime festival in 2020, the Fécamp Grand'Escale. Taking place between the Kiel Regatta and Brest International Maritime Festival, sailing boats, yachts and steamboats will now be able to stop off en route (from Germany to Brittany) in Fécamp, a fishing port with a long maritime history. Visitors to the festival can enjoy sea excursions, concerts, live entertainment and tours of the visiting sailing boats. [fecampgrandescale.com](http://fecampgrandescale.com)



Summer

## THE BRITISH NORMANDY MEMORIAL OPENS – Ver-sur-Mer

Designed by Liam O'Connor, the award-winning architect behind the Bomber Command Memorial in London, this new site will be the first memorial to honour the 22,000 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who died fighting under British command on D-Day and in the Battle of Normandy. It will stand just outside the village of Ver-sur-Mer overlooking Gold Beach, where British and Allied troops landed on 6 June 1944.

[normandymemorialtrust.org/the-memorial](http://normandymemorialtrust.org/the-memorial)



August

## MARCEL PROUST MUSEUM – Cabourg

Commemorating 100 years since Marcel Proust won the coveted *Prix Goncourt* literary prize, the Villa du Temps Retrouvé (Marcel Proust Museum) will open in 2020 in Cabourg, Proust's favourite holiday retreat and the inspiration for his famous novel, *A la recherche du temps perdu* [In Search of Lost Time]. The museum will showcase the *Belle Epoque* period at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and explore the history of the Flowered Coast through Proust's eyes. [cabourg-tourisme.fr/en](http://cabourg-tourisme.fr/en)



# News



© Les Franciscaines/Ville de Deauville

## Opening in Spring **LES FRANCISCAINES – Deauville**

As its name suggests, this beautiful building was once home to the Franciscan order. It was sold to Deauville in 2012 and has since been entirely restored to house a museum, auditorium and media library, arranged across five zones, including one for children, all thematically linked to Deauville and its history. The museum will also exhibit works by André Hambourg, who donated over 500 paintings to the town, and other contemporary pieces.

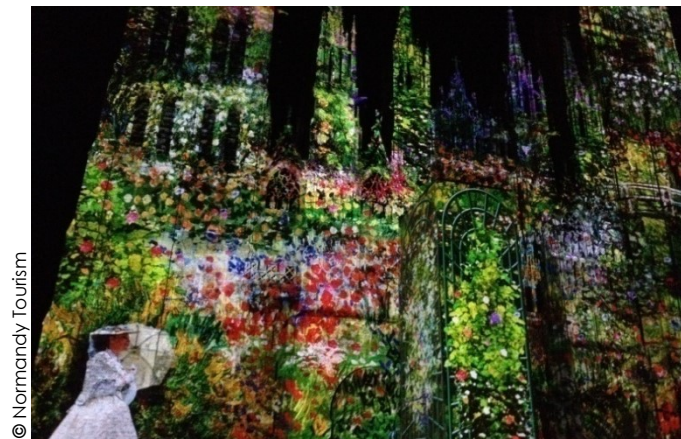
**[indeauville.fr/franciscaines-project](http://indeauville.fr/franciscaines-project)**



© Marc Lerouge

## Newly signposted **VELO MARITIME CYCLE ROUTE**

The Vélo Maritime extends for 870 miles along the coast from Roscoff to Dunkirk and, as of 2020, the entire Normandy section will finally be fully signposted. The route passes all the big Normandy sites: the Mont-Saint-Michel, the D-Day Landing Beaches, Deauville, Honfleur, Etretat and Fécamp, home to Bénédictine liqueur. It's an ideal route for cyclists who want to experience different landscapes and enjoy some history, culture and good food along the way. **[lavelomaritime.com](http://lavelomaritime.com)**



© Normandy Tourism

## May **PANORAMA AND LIGHTSHOW – Rouen**

Rouen's 31-metre high panorama is the first and only of its kind in France and, from May 2020 onwards, will showcase German artist Yadegar Asisi's latest masterpiece, featuring Rouen Cathedral, Claude Monet and Impressionism.

In addition, every night from 30 May to 13 September, two free 12-minute lightshows will be projected onto the façade of Rouen's Notre Dame Cathedral. Timings can be found on Rouen Tourism's website.

**[panoramaxxl.com](http://panoramaxxl.com) | [rouentourisme.com](http://rouentourisme.com)**



© David Parry Photography

## September **INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL – Dieppe**

One of the largest kiting events in the world, Dieppe's world-renowned kite festival takes place every two years. In September 2020, hundreds of kites will fill the air over the port, making for quite the visual spectacle. Held on Dieppe's vast seafront lawns, this free event will bring together over 1,000 kite professionals from across the world, and looks set to attract around half a million visitors, thanks to the town's excellent ferry, rail and road links.

**[dieppe-cerf-volant.org/ukaccueil.html](http://dieppe-cerf-volant.org/ukaccueil.html)**



# News



© Sabina Lorkin/Anibas Photography

July

## 'THE CHRONICLES OF THE MOUNT' LIGHTSHOW – Mont-Saint-Michel

During the summer months, Normandy's most iconic landmark will come alive at night with a new sound and light show which will extend throughout the whole abbey, adding a bit of extra magic to evening visits. Experience this famous medieval monument like never before, as each room is enhanced by visual and audio effects, and fully immerse yourself in the chronicles of the Mont-Saint-Michel.

[leschroniquesdumont.fr/en](http://leschroniquesdumont.fr/en)



© D. Commencal

1 February

## LACE MUSEUM REOPENS – Alençon

Following renovations, the Museum of Fine Arts and Lace in Alençon is to reopen with a brand new centrepiece: an exquisite 3.5m long, 2m wide lace bridal veil dating back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, which would have taken up to 500,000 hours to hand stitch. The museum will also be celebrating ten years since the Alençon lace stitching technique became Unesco listed, and will house an impressive permanent art collection featuring works by French and foreign artists. [museedentelle.cu-alencon.fr](http://museedentelle.cu-alencon.fr)



© Nicolas Laurain/Florence Descourt

Spring

## FOREST BATHING IN THE PERCHE – Bellême

Accompanied by forest therapist Nicolas Laurain, visitors to the Perche Regional Natural Park in south Normandy can now embark on a two-hour forest ramble with a difference. Already a popular pastime in Japan, immersing yourself in the sights, sounds and smells of the forest is known in the UK as 'forest bathing', and is thought to reduce stress and bring inner peace through reconnecting with nature.

[sylvoterrehappy.com](http://sylvoterrehappy.com)



© Musée Fernand Léger - André Mare

Just opened

## FERNAND LEGER AND ANDRE MARE MUSEUM – Argentan

This new museum in south Normandy is named after the famous cubist painter Léger and the Art Deco artist Mare, who were born and went to school together in Argentan. Situated in Léger's childhood home, the museum will focus on the two artists' close friendship and their different creative approaches. It will also provide a new home for one of Léger's most emblematic works of art, *The Sunflower*.

[musees-argentan.fr](http://musees-argentan.fr)



# News



© Rouen Normandie Tourisme & Congrès

## Just re-opened **ESCAPE THE DUNGEON – Rouen**

Following renovations, Le Donjon in Rouen is back and better than ever before. The first escape game in France to take place in a historic monument, this attraction has just reopened as a 'Hyper Escape Game'; a new code-breaking, fully immersive escape experience where, thanks to VR technology, participants are plunged right into the middle of the siege of Rouen during the Hundred Years' War. Tickets cost €7 per person and groups can be 3-6 people. **[donjonderouen.com](http://donjonderouen.com)**



© Normandy Tourism

## Newly installed **SAINTE-THERESE'S BASILICA IS NOW WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY – Lisieux**

For Catholics, Lisieux is synonymous with Thérèse Martin, a model of 19<sup>th</sup> century piety who was canonised in 1925. The city is now the second most important religious pilgrimage site in France (Lourdes is the first). Sainte-Thérèse's fame also explains the extravagant and beautiful 20<sup>th</sup> century basilica in Lisieux which, following the addition of a lift in late 2019, can now be enjoyed by wheelchair users and less mobile visitors. **[visit-lisieux.com](http://visit-lisieux.com)**



© Caen La Mer Tourisme

## Just launched **SEASIDE AUDIO TOURS – Ouistreham**

Visitors to the seaside town of Ouistreham Riva-Bella, best known for its ferry port and historic seafront, which was codenamed 'Sword Beach' as part of D-Day, can now rent an umbrella for €6 from the tourist office, fitted with headphones and sensor. Follow a 2km audio walking tour through Ouistreham and the neighbouring town of Lion-sur-Mer, learning about this area's rich history and admiring the grand *Belle Epoque* villas along the seafront.

**[caenlamer-tourisme.fr](http://caenlamer-tourisme.fr)**



© Musée de Vire

## Just reopened **VIRE MUSEUM – Vire**

This 18<sup>th</sup> century former Augustine hospital became the town of Vire's museum after the original building was destroyed by the bombings of 1944. The museum has been a listed historic monument since 1975, and underwent a complete restoration in 2019. Its new exhibit will explore the history of the Vire area from the Middle Ages to today, with a particular focus on the post-war reconstruction. It will also feature exhibits on Fine Arts and the Industrial Revolution.

**[museedevire.blogspot.com](http://museedevire.blogspot.com)**



# New restaurants and foodie experiences

© Le Frichti



## LE FRICHTI – Vernon

A stone's throw from Giverny, this *épicerie*-cum-restaurant is well worth the detour from Monet's house and gardens for its artisanal products alone, though if you stopped off for a bite or a coffee, you certainly wouldn't regret it. Dishes range from snacks and salads to soups and burgers, all using regional products.

[facebook.com/lefrichti](https://facebook.com/lefrichti)

© L'Etage Deauville

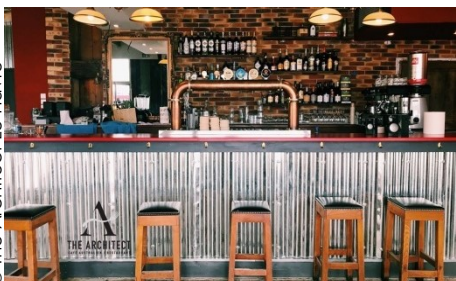


## L'ETAGE – Deauville

On the top floor of Deauville's new Novotel, this restaurant's decor is all clean lines and cool colours, with a panoramic sea view from the roof terrace. Its beautiful dishes celebrate classic Normandy fare, from fresh fish and cheese to apples and caramel.

[etagedeauville.com](http://etagedeauville.com)

© The Architect Le Havre



## THE ARCHITECT – Le Havre

Thanks to its Aussie owner, this new restaurant and bar combines French cuisine with Antipodean modernity. Focusing on friendliness and quality food, The Architect is a great spot for lunch, dinner or drinks in the upstairs 'speakeasy', all while enjoying the views over the port.

[thearchitectrestaurant.com](http://thearchitectrestaurant.com)

© Le Goût du Large Le Tréport



## LE GOÛT DU LARGE – Le Tréport

Bringing new life to the foodie scene in Le Tréport is Chef Jonathan Selliez, originally from Lille, but who holidayed in the seaside resort as a child. Selliez's dishes at Le Goût du Large are both stunning and delicious, with an emphasis on seafood and local products.

[bit.ly/LeGoutDuLargeLeTreport](https://bit.ly/LeGoutDuLargeLeTreport)

© La Villa des Arts



## LA VILLA DES ARTS – Lisieux

Situated in the brand new hotel of the same name, this 'bistronomic' restaurant prides itself on its fresh, locally sourced organic ingredients. Not only a restaurant, but also an art gallery, its colourful walls are decorated with paintings by local artists and quirky vintage pieces.

[bit.ly/villadesartslisieux](https://bit.ly/villadesartslisieux)

© Andy Chilton on Unsplash



## 'ON RUE TATIN' COOKING CLASSES – Louviers

This new cultural cooking programme is run by award-winning American food writer Susan Herrmann Loomis, who has lived in Normandy for nearly 20 years. Participants spend five delicious days preparing, cooking and enjoying the meals they've made, and visiting local markets and artisan food producers.

[onruetatin.com](http://onruetatin.com)



# New accommodation

© Château Salverte



## CHATEAU SALVERTE – Le Bosc du Theil

This beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> century country manor has just been restored to its former glory and boasts three (soon five) bedrooms. With the Château du Champ de Bataille, Le Bec-Hellouin Abbey, hiking trails and greenways all on its doorstep, the hotel is ideally situated. The owners also offer guests 2CV tours of the surrounding countryside.

Prices start at €90/night. [chateausalverte.com](http://chateausalverte.com)

© Parc Animalier Ecouves



## LODGE EN TERRE SAUVAGE – Forêt d'Ecouvres Zoo

A brand new lodge for 4-6 people, set right in the middle of the Forêt d'Ecouvres Zoo. Play Dr Doolittle for a weekend and enjoy seeing the animals up close and personal, then enjoy the novelty of staying in your very own private zoo once the park closes for the night!

Prices to be confirmed. [parc-animalier-ecouvres.fr](http://parc-animalier-ecouvres.fr)

© Manoir de l'Evêché



## MANOIR DE L'EVECHE APART HOTEL – Lisieux

Stay in the lap of luxury at this former bishop's house. A great base for exploring the Pays d'Auge, Lisieux is near the ports of Caen and Le Havre, and only 1h40 from Paris by train. There are 20 apartments (ten standard, nine family and one privilege), a spa and a restaurant.

Prices start at €110/night. [manoirdeleveche.fr](http://manoirdeleveche.fr)

© Novotel Deauville Beach



## NOVOTEL\*\*\*\* – Deauville

Right on the seafront and near the casino, train station and shops, the Novotel Deauville Beach boasts classic and executive rooms, suites and a bar/restaurant. Enjoy this chic seaside resort's famous boardwalk, luxury boutiques, Belle Epoque villas and two racecourses.

Prices start at €149/night. [bit.ly/novoteldeauvillebeach](http://bit.ly/novoteldeauvillebeach)

© Domaine des Butineuses



## DOMAINE DES BUTINEUSES – Marchainville

For anyone who fancies sleeping out in the open but isn't a fan of camping, this is the answer. Stay in one of three 'Bubbles Bees' on the edge of a picturesque lake and enjoy privacy, heating, electricity and an en suite bathroom, plus a delicious breakfast on the terrace.

Prices start at €120/night. [domainedesbutineuses.fr](http://domainedesbutineuses.fr)

© Maison Maleyrand



## MAISON MALEYRAND – Mortagne-au-Perche

Lovingly brought back to life over the course of five years, this elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century manor house is a treasure trove of period furniture, flea market finds and antiques, and boasts two bedrooms and one suite. Guests will enjoy the beautiful walled garden and the fine spread served each morning in the breakfast room.

Prices start at €110/night. [maisonmaleyrand.com](http://maisonmaleyrand.com)

# More dates for the diary

21-25 February

## **GRANVILLE CARNIVAL – Granville**

Normandy's longest-running carnival, Unesco listed since 2016, features fancy dress, parades and live music.

[carnaval-de-granville.fr/en](http://carnaval-de-granville.fr/en)

14-16 March

## **FOIRE AU BOUDIN – Mortagne-au-Perche**

Black pudding festival featuring annual competition, market stalls and tastings.

[foireauboudin.free.fr](http://foireauboudin.free.fr)

End of May (dates to be confirmed)

## **NORMANDY CHANNEL RACE – Caen**

A 1,000-mile international boat race across the English Channel and Irish Sea, starting and finishing in Caen.

[normandy-race.com](http://normandy-race.com)

June (dates to be confirmed)

## **OPERA EN PLEIN AIR**

### **– Château du Champ de Bataille**

Open-air opera performed against the backdrop of a 17<sup>th</sup> century chateau.

[operaenpleinair.com](http://operaenpleinair.com)

June-September

## **NORMANDY BY NIGHT – region wide**

Enjoy light shows, markets, tours of the Mont-Saint-Michel, fireworks and more.

[bit.ly/NormandyByNight](http://bit.ly/NormandyByNight)

June-September

## **LE PIN THURSDAYS – Haras du Pin**

Dressage and show jumping family shows every Thursday afternoon at the Haras du Pin National Stud.

[haras-national-du-pin.com](http://haras-national-du-pin.com)

June-October

## **NORMANDY ROCKS! – region wide**

Rock out to acts like Depeche Mode, Disclosure, Placebo and Fatboy Slim at Beaugard Festival or enjoy some springtime jazz in the medieval town of Coutances. [bit.ly/NormandyRocks](http://bit.ly/NormandyRocks)

August (dates to be confirmed)

## **CREVECOEUR MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL**

### **– Château de Crèvecœur-en-Auge**

Historic re-enactments, medieval tavern and banquet in a 12<sup>th</sup> century castle.

[bit.ly/CrèvecœurMedievalFestival](http://bit.ly/CrèvecœurMedievalFestival)

August (dates to be confirmed)

## **LES TRAVERSEES TATIHOUE – Saint-Vaast**

Folk festival scheduled at low tide when Tatihou Island is accessible on foot.

[bit.ly/TravTatihouFest](http://bit.ly/TravTatihouFest)

September (dates to be confirmed)

## **AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL – Deauville**

Premières of all the latest US films, pulling in stars like Johnny Depp, Sienna Miller and Kristen Stewart.

[festival-deauville.com](http://festival-deauville.com)

September

## **SEPTEMBRE MUSICAL – Orne**

Five weekends of live classical music performed at picturesque spots such as the Château de Carrouges.

[septembre-musical.com](http://septembre-musical.com)

12-13 October

## **FETE DU VENTRE – Rouen**

A farmer's market boasting 100 stalls, local products, demos and live street entertainment. [rouenconquerant.com](http://rouenconquerant.com)

December-January 2021

## **WILLIAM'S CATHEDRAL – Bayeux**

Spectacular light show featuring the Bayeux Tapestry projected onto the walls of Bayeux Cathedral.

[bit.ly/bayeuxwilliamscathedral](http://bit.ly/bayeuxwilliamscathedral)

# NORMANDY



## France.fr