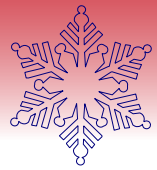


Festive Normandy



France is renowned for its wonderful markets, but one of the best times of year to visit is during the Santa season! Christmas shopping in France is sure to be a memorable experience as you weave in and out of the enticing stalls offering wonderful hand crafted gifts and sumptuous traditional fayre.

You can also find unique tree ornaments for your Christmas tree, and if you want to send something different to your friends this year why not buy some French Christmas cards and gifts...

Here are a few of the key festive highlights in Normandy:

CHERBOURG

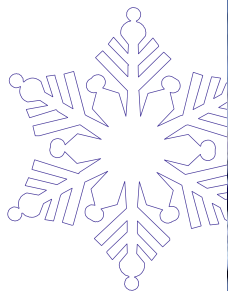
Cherbourg is the gateway to Normandy and is now served from the Channel Islands by HD Ferries! It lies on the Cotentin Peninsula which covers an area of around 18 miles and has a variety of landscapes. It has a spectacular coastline and plenty of safe, sandy beaches. The port's attractions include a fabulous aquarium and memorials to the deceased of WWII. The countryside of the Val de Saire area, east of Cherbourg, and the Hague peninsula, to the west, also have much to offer.

Visit the Liberation Museum - Fort du Roule. This museum examines the significance of the Battle of Normandy.
La Cite de la Mer - This vast aquarium is in a converted liner terminal that also contains a decommissioned nuclear submarine that can be toured. Ludiver Observatory and Planetarium - Those with an interest in astronomy will be thrilled with their "virtual guide".

Winter events in Cherbourg:
Seafood & Regional products Festival
16th - 18th November

Wine and Gastronomy event
8th - 10th December :
Grande halle de la Cité de la Mer

ARRIVÉE DU PÈRE NOËL
(Father Christmas) with street parade
and band 23 December



CAEN

As the capital of Lower Normandy, Caen is a thriving university city with exceptional historical heritage. William the Conqueror lent the town his favour in the 11th century and commissioned many of the city's most famous sites including the Abbey aux Hommes and the Abbey aux Femmes.

The Caen Memorial is a must-see for all visitors as it not only examines the events from 1939 to 1945, but the Second World War's deep-rooted origins. The Museum of Normandy, located in the town's medieval castle, offers a wide range of exhibitions that illustrate the varied history of the region. Lovers of art should head to the Museum of Fine Art which boasts one of the finest classical and 17th century Baroque collections. The exotic Botanical Gardens are also worth a visit. And for children, the Viking themed "Festyland" park will no doubt keep them entertained!

Christmas Markets in Caen:
Patinoire de Noël from 8th December to 6th January.

Christmas market from 24th November to 24th December with parades, illuminations and regional products for sale.

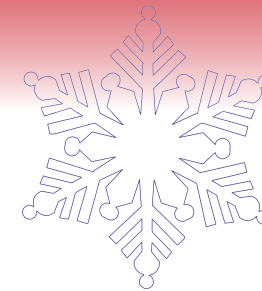


ROUEN

Rouen is a wonderful city break location at any time of year. This historical capital of Normandy is filled with architectural gems such as the Rouen Cathedral and the famous Big Clock. The municipal garden and Museum of Fine Arts are also both worth a visit. The modern church of Saint Joan of Arc marks the site where the revered Saint was burnt at the stake. The town's cobbled streets have plenty to offer passers-by, brand name shops and charming cafés from which you can bask in the wonderful atmosphere of Rouen.

Christmas Market in Rouen

The wonderful Christmas Market in Rouen is from 24th November to 30th December, set out in all its glory near to the Cathedral, the theme in 2007 is 'Christmas markets of the world', a superb event with traditional crafts, festive gifts and pretty festive illuminations throughout the month.



LE MONT SAINT MICHEL

Situated in the middle of a bay, the beautifully preserved medieval Mont Saint-Michel perches above the skyline and is a must-see for visitors to Normandy.

This 'Wonder of the West', and haunting Gothic-style Benedictine abbey dedicated to the archangel St Michael is breathtaking, as is the well preserved medieval village that nestles at the bottom of the mount.

Christmas mass is held in both the church and the abbey on 24, 25, 31 December and 1st January.

