



THE TUG PRACTICAL GUIDE TO FRANCE

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1. THE HISTORY OF THE NEWHAVEN-DIEPPE LINE



From past to present: the Arundel and the Côte d'Albâtre

The Newhaven-Dieppe line is now the oldest of the cross-channel routes. William the Conqueror is said to have left from Dieppe when he set sail on his second voyage to Britain in 1067 after the Norman conquest of England in 1066. At the beginning of the 19th century the ships that left from Dieppe anchored off Brighton, causing passengers to land in rowing boats. Disembarkation was made easier in 1823 when a pier called the Chain Pier was built where the ruins of the West pier now stand. In 1824, the *General Steam Navigation Company* operated 25-metre long paddle steamers whose length equaled the width of the *Seven Sisters*. They connected Brighton to Dieppe in nine hours twice weekly. The real operation of the line began with the arrival and development of mainly British rail services and with the construction of a sheltered harbour called Newhaven, a few years later. Ferry companies started operating services as soon as rail developed. Brighton was linked to London by rail in 1840 and Newhaven to London in 1847. On this side of the Channel Rouen was connected to Paris in 1843 and to Dieppe in 1848. At the dawn of the 20th century the journey from London to Paris via Newhaven and Dieppe was advertised as being the fastest, the cheapest and the most scenic of all. The launching of such fast luxury ferries as the *Arundel* and the advent of new technologies like the screw propeller and the steam turbine were to polish its image and reduce crossing time to three hours at most. Car ferries carrying passengers, cars and trucks ushered in a new era of transportation in 1964. Newhaven, the only deep-water harbour between Dover and Portsmouth allowing access to all shipping at all times, is constantly evolving. It now belongs to Newhaven Port and Properties Ltd whose major shareholder is the Conseil Départemental de la Seine Maritime. Those wishing to discover more of the history of the line may consult the fascinating work by Pierre Launay, a member of Tug Horizon, called *Dieppe, Le Journal de bord du Transmanche* (Dieppe, a cross-Channel ferry logbook).

HANDY TIPS FOR A DREAM CRUISE



2.1. Our cruise ships

The *Côte d'Albâtre* and the *Seven Sisters* are two identical ferries carrying up to 600 passengers, 60 crew members, 120 cars and 50 heavy goods vehicles. The *Côte d'Albâtre* and the *Seven Sisters*, which belong to the Département de Seine Maritime, are currently operated by DFDS Seaways which is a large Danish company running freight and passenger services between Dieppe and Newhaven under a public service delegation contract. The ships have eight decks, including an open promenade deck. The passenger areas, the information desk, the saloons, the restaurant, the bar, the shop and the cabins are located on decks 6 and 7. Decks 3, 4 and 5 are for passenger vehicles, coaches and HGVs. The lower decks contain the engine room, the bunkers and the ballasts. They are remarkably comfortable and have good sea-keeping qualities thanks to stabilizers which are retracted before docking. Crossings are seldom cancelled due to severe weather conditions.

2.2. Ticket booking and purchase

As the ticket price is set according to demand ("Yield Management system"), advance booking is recommended since prices vary depending on the date and time of travel; reservations can be made on-line but if you are eligible for a concessionary fare (seniors or groups), we advise you to call the DFDS call centre (+44 33 058 787 87) or contact them by email <newhaven-dieppe@dfds.com>. Tug members are entitled to a 20% reduction for all crossings. If the online quota system says that there is no space left for foot passengers, we recommend you ring the call centre or enquire at the terminal. In the event of unfavourable weather and sea conditions, you will be notified by a reliable SMS messaging service, so make sure to leave a mobile phone number.

2.3. Our tips for embarkation

- The deadline for both cars and foot passengers is one hour before departure. If you're late for embarkation, call the terminal.
- Weather and tide conditions may cause timetable alterations.

- Do not forget to bring valid identification documents such as passports for adults and children. If you are travelling by car, DFDS hostesses will give you a lane number corresponding to the type of your car in order to speed up embarkation.
- DFDS's responsibility for your luggage begins at embarkation but baggage retrieval may be delayed at the arrival. Only hand baggage and private belongings are allowed into passenger areas.

2.4. Our tips for car drivers

- Leave your luggage in the car
- Set the handbrake and leave the car in gear
- Switch off the car alarm: it could be activated when the boat is tossed about by a heavy swell and drain the battery
- Close the windows (unless you're leaving a pet inside)
- Lock the doors

You will not be allowed to return to your car during the crossing unless accompanied by a crew member.

The usual route follows the coastline, affording a good view of the cliff chalks called the Seven Sisters. The Dieppe-Newhaven route cuts across the busy shipping lanes linking the Atlantic to the North Sea. As ships sail up and down the Channel, the ferry has to "slalom" between cargo ships and container ships. But don't worry! The *Seven Sisters* and the *Côte d'Albâtre* have sophisticated radars comparable to those used by air traffic controllers.

2.5. Our tips for the crossing

The distance as the crow flies from Newhaven to Dieppe is 67 nautical miles (124 km). The dock-to-dock crossing normally takes four hours but may vary depending upon weather conditions and tides.

- You are advised to take warm clothing as it can be quite cold on board, especially if you go out for a walk on the promenade deck. Blankets may prove useful for a night crossing.
- If you want to plug in your computer or your mobile phone, there are French sockets available. An adapter might come in handy: you can find one at the onboard boutique. The ships are equipped with good Wi-Fi, so you will be able to consult the online version of the Tug guide.
- To call France from British waters enter +33 followed by your number without the leading zero. To call England from France enter +44.
- Both Sterling and Euro are accepted in all areas of the ship.
- If you feel hungry, enjoy a meal in the Maupassant self-service restaurant, or grab a bite to eat in the Beachy Head bar.
- If you feel like shopping, why not spend some time browsing the shelves of the onboard shop? It sells a wide range of products to suit your taste: newspapers, magazines, gifts, souvenirs, toys, games, perfumes and cosmetics, plus a selection of beers, wines, spirits and tobacco products at duty-free prices. Meanwhile, children can make the most of the brightly-coloured soft play area or enjoy the video games and cartoons. Information on opening and closing times is given by PA announcement.

- There are 50 cabins available. You can book either a single bunk in a shared single-sex cabin or a whole two or four-bed cabin. You can also try one of the new Japanese-style "pods" which are mainly destined for HGV drivers but may be available off-season. You are advised to book when buying your ticket or on board if there is still one available.

If you suffer from sea sickness, here are a few tips that may prove handy:

- Make sure to buy your tablets in advance but be careful not to drive afterwards.
- Ask for sick bags available at the bar and the reception desk. The boutique sells sea-sickness bracelets but their effectiveness has yet to be proven
- Eat according to your normal diet (eating white bread without crust and an apple is recommended by experienced sailors)
- Don't move around too much; try to relax and lie down if possible
- Find a seat in the middle of the ship on the lower deck
- Don't look at the waves and the wake of the boat
- Wrap up warmly
- The best thing to do is to rest and relax before boarding the ferry, then you will enjoy basking in the sun on the promenade deck. The onboard facilities also include a lounge with magnificent panoramic windows with sea views.

2.6. Our tips for disembarking

Start your engine only when you are invited to drive off to avoid unnecessary pollution of the disembarkation area. Should your battery fail, a booster battery is available on board and the crew will help you start your car once the way is clear. In Newhaven disembarkation may sometimes be very slow: delays are caused by the UK Border Agency security checks.

3. ARRIVING IN DIEPPE



France is one hour ahead of the UK. When it is 12 noon in Britain it is 1 p.m. in France: so set your watch one hour forward in Dieppe.

Unloading passenger cars in Dieppe also takes time and passport control is longer than it used to be. After disembarkation, foot passengers board a bus which takes them to the terminal for passport control. Passengers arriving without baggage get back on the road quickly. Those who

have checked luggage in Newhaven have to wait for the baggage trolley which arrives at the terminal once car disembarkation is fully completed.

You have two options on leaving the terminal:

- Either you drive up the cliffs to Paris, Rouen and other French destinations and take the second exit at the roundabout.
- Or you can visit Dieppe town centre.



From past to present: the Pont Colbert

If you go by car take the first right at the roundabout, then drive along Quai de l'Avenir et Quai de la Marne, turn right onto the swing-bridge (**Pont Colbert**) and keep straight ahead, drive across the Jehan Ango bridge and stop at the Tourist Information Office where you will get all kinds of information about Dieppe (opening times: Monday to Saturday, 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm (closed on Sundays). Then if you turn right and drive along the quayside, you will reach the beach and the hotels lining the seafront.

The town centre is only a five-minute walk from the Tourist Information Office.

- Click on *Gîtes de France Seine Maritime* to find a flat or a B&B in town or by the sea and watch the video with beautiful images of Dieppe and its surroundings.

The **Le Cayeux** located near the tourist information office is the first café that opens in the morning. The **Tout Va Bien** brasserie located on Quai Henri IV is open all day; it is easily recognizable with its name brightly lit up in red neon lettering.

- The town bus network does not serve the ferry terminal but a shuttle service is provided between the terminal and the Railway Station (fare: 2 € - cash only). You can also buy tickets on board. Please note that there is a limited bus service to neighbouring towns and villages.
- Taxis are theoretically available around the clock at the Jehan Ango bridge, Place du Puits Salé and in front of the railway station but it may be best to hire one via your destination hotel or via the ferry company either on board or in Newhaven by calling:

- Ango taxi Dieppe: 02 35 40 40 00
- Taxi Colis Boivin Patricia: 06 09 31 27 93 or 02 35 84 45
- To call France from the UK dial +33 followed by your number without the leading zero. To call a UK number from France dial +44 first.

The Dieppe station is within ten minutes' walking distance from the Tourist Information office on Boulevard Clemenceau via a pleasant stroll along the Dieppe marina.

- It opens at 5 a.m. from Monday to Friday, at 5:45 a.m. on Saturdays and at 7:20 a.m. on Sundays
- It closes at 10:20 p.m. from Monday to Saturday and at 10:15 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

The train makes various stops on the way to Rouen where you can change trains to Paris and other destinations.

- The ticket office opens at 6:30 a.m. on Mondays, at 9:15 a.m. from Tuesday to Saturday and at 12:30 on Sundays and holidays.
- It closes at 6.15 p.m. from Monday to Saturday, and at 7:30 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. It remains open all day on Mondays but expect to find it closed for a couple of hours at lunchtime.

For full information about fares, train time tables and various services provided by SNCF, click on *SNCF connect*. You can also hire a bike by clicking on *France Vélo Tourisme* where you will find all the information and advice you need for your cycling holidays (destinations, route maps and accommodation).

Buying your ticket from the blue TER ticket machine requires a little patience and a smattering of French:

- Take the time to choose between off-peak fares and peak fares. Make sure the machine is functioning properly before paying by card.
- Don't forget to validate your ticket by inserting it into the yellow machines before boarding the train: you may get fined if you are caught with a ticket that has not been punched.

You can also enter your destination and get times and tickets in English by clicking on the Gare & Connections website of the Dieppe station. Your ticket may also be issued in an electronic format and stored in your cell phone or your tablet, which means you don't have to validate it at the station: you will have to produce it to the train conductor who will scan it.

3.1. Traffic in France

- Keep right. Watch out for cars coming from the left on roundabouts.

The most dangerous moment for drivers is when they are tired and the road is deserted:

- Don't drive off on the left side of the road. French drivers normally drive on the right except when they have been sampling wine in Dieppe
- You must yield right-of-way to pedestrians on pedestrian crossings even if French drivers do not often do so
- If you are a pedestrian, don't forget to look left before stepping on to the road
- You must stop for a full 4 seconds at a STOP sign and give way to oncoming vehicles. Surprising as it may seem, in lots of small towns there are stop signs on the main road giving right of way to drivers coming from side streets
- A give way sign means the same thing as in Britain: you must give way to traffic but you need not stop if the road is clear
- Unlike the UK there are a lot of junctions where there is no signpost but you must give way to traffic coming from the right - even from a small side street - all the same. This is a big difference between France and Britain that can be easily forgotten.
- There are lots of speed traps on French roads as on British roads and we advise you to keep to speed limits. Do not exceed the recommended speed by more than 5 km per hour (3 MPH): French "gendarmes" are expert at finding clever hiding-places! The speed limit in town is 50 km/h (31 mph) and is frequently reduced to 30 km/h (19 mph) once you have driven past the signpost indicating the town or the village name. The maximum speed is 80 km/h (50 mph) on secondary roads. It is 110 km/h (69 mph) on dual carriageways and 130 km/h (81 mph) on motorways. The limit is 110 km/h (69 mph) in rainy weather even if French drivers do not often respect this. On motorways the T lane is reserved for subscribers with a pass. If you don't have one you can pay by credit card (no pin code is needed) or in cash. With free flow and the removal of toll barriers on the A 13 and the A 14, you can travel first and pay later. It is up to you to choose the method of payment that suits you best as long as you respect the 72-hour time limit after passing through. [Travel to and in France](#) will give you more information about the French Highway Code.
- Download the WAZE app if you don't have a GPS: it gives you information about traffic and speed traps.
- 112 is the European emergency number.

4. DISCOVERING DIEPPE



Dieppe is one of a kind. Though small, it is delightfully authentic and bustling with life. Whether you stay for a day, a weekend or an extended visit, you will always find something to suit your taste. Let us take you by the hand and guide you through the streets of Dieppe!

4.1 Where to go and what to do

- Why not board the mini-train for a quick 45-minute tour of the town? This will give you an overview of the main sights.
- When the weather is good in the Summer season, you can join a boat tour along the coast giving a fabulous view of the cliffs. Fishing trips may also be easily arranged.

4.2 Dieppe Castle and Museum

The castle that overlooks the town centre is one of Dieppe's most prominent landmarks. The museum displays maritime exhibits and works that paved the way for impressionism: Daubigny's cliffs at sunset and Isabey's Cliffs in Normandy or Vollon's scenes of everyday life in Dieppe. Camille Pissaro set up his easel in Dieppe because he found inspiration in its geographical location and in the contemplation of its bustling activity; his harbour surrounded with cliffs was a place swarming with people coming from steamers, sailing vessels, ferry-boats and trains (cf. chapter 1 *The History of the Newhaven-Dieppe Line*). He was also a pioneer in capturing the various atmospheric effects produced by Dieppe's numerous weather changes and thus became one of the most notable forerunners of Impressionism. Walter Sickert, who was influenced by Monet's Rouen cathedrals, varied the framing and the angles of view when he painted the Saint-Jacques church at different times of the day. The museum also houses paintings by Renoir, Boudin, Sisley, Eva Gonzalès, Leon Gambier and a fine collection of ivories carved by "ivory carvers who set up their workshops in Dieppe to take advantage of the elephant tusks arriving from Africa or Asia". It is also home to Camille Saint-Saëns' piano and belongings: an absolute must for any music lover!

4.3 19th August 1942 war memorial

This memorial museum opened in 2002 in the 19th century Italian-style municipal theatre. If you are interested in World War II's major historical events, the memorabilia, scale models and uniforms on display will allow you to gain an understanding of the Dieppe Raid which took place on August 19th 1942. The museum is located on Place Camille Saint-Saëns.



For further information please contact the Jubilee Association : (Tel. +33(0)235403665)

To end a day devoted to World War II, why not go to Val d'Ygot at Ardouval located in the magnificent Eawy Forest. It is a thirty-minute drive (N27+D915) that will take you to the only preserved V1 launch pad pointing at London in France. There are guided tours during the summer. Then you can either taste bison meat in a Canadian-style wood cabin restaurant and spend the night

in a traditional teepee at Rêves de Bisons (Muchedent) or come back in the morning to paddle down the river Varenne to Saint-Germain-d'Étables.

4.4 Eglise Saint-Jacques and Eglise Saint-Rémy



From past to present: rue Saint Jacques

The *Saint-Jacques church*, located in the heart of Dieppe, was originally built in the twelfth century as an important stage of the maritime pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. Its progressive architectural development enables visitors to trace the history of gothic art over four centuries. The best time to visit is on a summer's evening when the sun shines through the stained-glass windows whose resplendent colours are reflected on the floor.

The *Saint-Rémy church*, which was built in the late fifteenth century and early sixteenth century, prides itself on its monumental ancient organ designed by Claude Parisot. Organists enjoy playing it in recitals and concerts for which the church is now famed. The square in front of the church is popular for its restaurants and bars with outside seating for people to sit, relax and drink on warm sunny days.

4.5 Shopping in Dieppe

On arriving or before leaving or even while you're holidaying, go on a shopping spree in Dieppe! Park your car on the seafront (free) and head for the Tourist Office located near the Jehan Ango bridge. From this vantage point, you are a stone's throw from the fishermen's stalls selling the catch of the night. From October through to May, you will find mostly scallops which are Dieppe's speciality. For the rest of the year, as scallops cannot be fished, you will find a whole range of flatfish, sole and halibut as well as red mullet, whiting, cod, monkfish and herring when in season. Quite a show! After a stroll by the fish stalls, walk toward the Grande Rue to reach the Place du Puits Salé. Continue straight ahead along the rue de la Barre. Then go back to your starting point and turn right into the rue Saint-Jacques. On your way, you will discover a wide range of boutiques which usually open from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. (mostly closed on Sundays and in some cases Mondays). There are various services available such as banks, cash

dispensers, chemist's shops, bookshops, newsagents and even a good many estate agents. You will discover what the "*French touch*" is all about in Dieppe's fashion and ready-to-wear boutiques, jeweller's and shoe shops. Foodstores, traditional butcher's shops, a fishmonger, several delicatessens and bakeries are also to be found as well as a Carrefour Market (a well-stocked medium-sized city supermarket) located on the rue de la Barre.

You will also find patisseries (pastry shops) and chocolateries (chocolate shops) such as Roussel (Grande Rue) and Divernet where Oscar Wilde enjoyed ice cream on the balcony of the Art Deco dining-room. Wine, whisky, champagne, calvados and fine cheese connoisseurs will stop at the Boutique Olivier, rue Saint-Jacques. When you get near the Saint-Jacques Church (rue de Clieu), walk through the door of Les Vins en Scène based on a new wine bar concept, offering free tasting of wine and spirits from over 200 references selected by the host directly from independent winegrowers. The atmosphere is friendly, the bar being a former wine-merchant's cellar.

There are also three major events every week in Dieppe :

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, a small market is held in Place Nationale. Every Saturday morning, do not miss the Dieppe Grand Marché, a popular event drawing crowds from miles around. On that day, the streets turn into a huge pedestrian area for local and distant producers and merchants to display their goods. Many sell organic products. Except for on Place Nationale, all the stalls display nothing but foodstuffs, many of them worth a photo.

You want to tour the local shopping centres?

You may! In Sussex French tourists love shopping in Tesco, Sainsbury's and M&S. In Dieppe's suburbs, you can find equivalent major French brands (Auchan, Leclerc, Intermarché, Lidl). The biggest shopping centre located close to the Monument Alpine roundabout is the Belvédère including the Auchan hypermarket and a 38-boutique mall. You will also find home decoration, DIY and computers on the same site. The hypermarkets are a popular venue for the renowned Foires aux Vins (Wine Fairs), usually held in spring and autumn. Large stocks of bottles, sometimes from world-famous chateaux, are sold at very attractive prices.

4.6 Eating out in Dieppe

In Dieppe restaurants do not serve food at any time of day or night. Restaurants open at lunchtime from noon to 1.30 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. You should note that a *menu* is different from the *carte* in French. The word *menu* usually refers to a fixed-price two or three-course meal whereas you choose whatever you like on the *carte*. Wine may be included in the menu but it is usually charged and may add substantially to the price of the meal. If you want to drink something less expensive than a whole bottle of wine, you may order a quarter of a litre *pichet*, a half-litre *pichet* or a litre *pichet*. The word *carafe* is commonly used for a jug of water: you ask for "une carafe d'eau" if you want tap water, which is free and a perfectly normal thing to do in France. Bread is free too and there is no cover charge. The waiter will only bring the bill when asked for it except in high season. Service is always included but you are welcome to leave a tip (two or three euros) if you have enjoyed your meal. Dieppe has plenty of brasseries and restaurants serving delicious sea or exotic food.

4.7 A wide choice of restaurants for all tastes and budgets

After a long walk on the beach by the cliffs, if you do not know which restaurant to pick when there are so many around you, why not head to the *Bas Fort Blanc* or to *La Réserve* where the food is of excellent quality, the price of a three-course meal exceptionally good, the staff very friendly and where you can taste the loveliest mussels ("moules") on the harbour. Most of the restaurants serving fish and seafood are located on Quai Henri IV. The *Restaurant du Port* enjoys a long-standing reputation for tasty cuisine; there is an excellent quality/price ratio at the *Musardière* which enjoys a great harbour location; though a bit pricey, the seafood will make your mouth water at *La Marmite Dieppoise* which is tucked away on the rue Saint-Jean. The *Comptoir à huîtres* is a walk away from the town centre but it is well worth a visit not only for the delicious shellfish served in generous portions but also for its fresh fish dishes. Perched on top of the Eastern cliff next to the Chapel Notre Dame de Bonsecours, *Les Voiles d'Or* was recently awarded a star in the prestigious *Michelin guide* and is often regarded as the best restaurant in town. Along with *Le Turbot* and *Le Comptoir à Huîtres*, it features in Rick Stein's *Secret France* in which "Rick searches for France's best-kept gastronomic secrets and – would you believe it - his journey begins in Dieppe with turbot straight off the boats". The menu of *Le Bistrot du Pollet* entirely depends on the daily delivery of local fresh fish (sea bass, turbot, sea bream). It is famous for its "foie de lotte mariné", its "sole au beurre citronné" and its Calvados soufflé.

We also recommend hotels on the seafront which have restaurants of their own such as the stylish *Présidence* in the *Mercure hotel*, the *Trèfle* in the *Grand hotel du Casino* or the panoramic restaurant of the *Windsor hotel*. The *O2mer* has access to the beach from the promenade. The *Bistrot des Barrières* where everything is fresh and comes from good local suppliers, the *Turbot* serving substantial portions of plaice, turbot, cod à la dieppoise, hake, ray with capers or cream and sole meunière and the *Bistrot du Pollet* whose speciality is the grilled fish of the day are all worth a special mention.

L'Entrepôt located 19, Arcades de la Poissonnerie, has become one of the trendiest places in Dieppe: not only does it serve all sorts of tasty dishes in vintage rooms - fish and chips with a sauce concocted by the chef, burgers with Normandy beef or chicken whose bread is made by a local baker, buckwheat and organic wheat pancakes, charcuterie platters, homemade pastries, not to mention delicious fresh fruit juices, smoothies and milkshakes – but it has also become a fashionable concert venue for local, national and even international musicians.

L'Auberge du Vieux Puits (1850) offers a high quality menu with dishes out of the ordinary using local and fresh produce and finely decorated rustic rooms looking out on the sea and the sunset.

4.8 Finding accommodation in Dieppe

The latest addition to Dieppe's hotel offering is the three-star *Brit Hotel* which is easy to find when arriving on a late ferry: on leaving the terminal, take the D485 road up to the second roundabout where you turn right and then take the 3rd exit at the third roundabout.

If you really want to find accommodation by the sea, six hotels located on the seafront face Europe's widest coastal lawns: the *Europe*, the *Aguado*, the *Hôtel de la Plage*, the *Windsor*, the *Grand Hotel of the Casino* and the four-star *Mercure*. British tourists appreciate the warm welcome of the *Hôtel*

des Arcades located on the quay opposite the Tourist Information Office, the pleasure port and the morning fish markets.

Most budget hotel chains are located on the outskirts of Dieppe: the *Ibis*, *Formule 1*, the *B&B Hotel*, *Kyriad Hotel* and the *Hôtel Initial by Balladins* hotels are all situated off the Avenue des Canadiens.



Although bed-and-breakfast accommodation is not as popular in France as it is in Britain, you will find "chambres d'hôtes" in and around the town: the *Villa des Capucins* is an ancient convent converted into a B&B which is only 15 minutes walk from the ferry terminal. The hosts will give you practical advice about things to do in the area, including trips to Rouen and Paris and Varengeville-sur-Mer. Breakfasts are generous and typically French with pastries and croissants. The *Bali-Dieppe* is just opposite the

Bonsecours Chapel and the *Villa Florida* has spacious rooms overlooking the golf course. If you choose to go to a motel, follow the sign "toutes directions" on leaving the ferry port : *Aux Ouvriers Réunis* is off the first roundabout at the top of the hill, you can't miss it! Try its tasty fixed-price lunch buffet menu. The staff are all very pleasant but there is a limited space for trucks: if you are just eating and moving on, this is an excellent stop. The *Varenne Leisure Park* is part of a water sports centre offering both lodging and meals and catering for school parties, cycling clubs and similar collective activities.

4.9 Going out for a drink in Dieppe

Dieppe's oldest and most famous café *Les Tribunaux* housed in a historic eighteenth-century building is the perfect place to sit and watch the world go by. The café has always been a favourite haunt of writers and painters. Renoir, Monet, Sickert, Whistler and Pissarro all came here, Flaubert and Maupassant, local literary heroes, were regular customers too, as was Oscar Wilde after his release from prison in 1897. While in exile in Dieppe, he wrote what became his final work - the agonised *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*. At the time, Dieppe hosted a large British community because it was at the heart of the London-Paris axis via Newhaven, the boat to rail link being operated in the harbour.



The breezy *Bar'O'Mètre* located right at the end of the seafront beneath the western cliff is very popular with local people and tourists who come to enjoy the fantastic sea view from the terrace. The *Mieux ici qu'en face*, a well-known bar in the Le Pollet fishermen's quarter, offers splendid views of the harbour front and passing boats in a friendly setting. If you are looking for a hidden gem for a late night drink, go to the classy *Epsom bar* serving delicious cocktails in a cosy ambiance to the strains of jazz, blues or pop bands playing mostly on Fridays. For a great night out, try *le Club 58*, rue de la Rade:

there's plenty of room and they often have themed evenings. If you are a gambler, try your hand at such casino games as roulette and slot machines. You will need an ID to get in but admission is free. The Casino also houses a restaurant and the *Grand Hotel*. The Dieppe golf course is one of

the oldest in France since it was designed back in 1897 by Willie Park Jr. who was the son of the winner of the first British Open (1860): as the saying goes, what's bred in the bone will come out in the flesh! This cliff-top 18-hole golf course offering spectacular views of the Alabaster coast combines all the challenges of a links course with narrow, wooded sections typical of parkland. You will receive a warm welcome at the bar and restaurant of the clubhouse with its Anglo-Norman architecture: green fees are reasonable and the draught beer is great! If you enjoy horse racing and your stay in Dieppe coincides with one of the summer racing days, there is also a restaurant at the Dieppe-Rouxmesnil racecourse. "And don't forget to spread the word: if there's a town in Normandy whose reputation does not measure up to what it really deserves, it's certainly Dieppe!" (*Lonely Planet*).

5. TOURING THE WESTERN COASTLINE



It would be a shame to miss out on a tour of the western coastline from Dieppe to Etretat: start from Place des Martyrs in Dieppe and drive in the direction of Pourville; the D75 and the D68 are dotted with a string of charming small seaside resorts where you can stop or stay depending on how much time you have. You can take a short break in Pourville, located 2 miles west of Dieppe, to see the beach and the cliffs that Claude Monet painted in 1882. Like him, take a walk along the seaside promenade to enjoy the beautiful sea view.

- Then head to Varengeville-sur-Mer located just three miles west of Dieppe. From the Saint Valery church perched on a chalk cliff lashed by the waves where famous artists such as Braque are buried you can survey the whole Côte d'Albâtre (the "Alabaster Coast") from Saint-Valery-en-Caux to Le Tréport.
- Then, when you drive through Sainte-Marguerite-sur-Mer, turn right onto the D75A to visit *Le Vastérival* which is an absolute must in the area. This wonderful garden full of camellias, rhododendrons, magnolias and hydrangeas was created by Princess Sturdza who had a passion for botany now conveyed by Benjamin: during the guided tours you have to book in advance, he will talk you through the transparency pruning technique that allows visitors to see wonderful species simultaneously. Then get back to departmental road 75 and proceed toward Veules-Les-Roses via Sotteville-sur-Mer where access to the pebble beach from the cliff overlooking the Channel is by 231 steps carved out of the chalk. There is a car park right at the top. If you feel hungry after that exhilarating walk, go to the *Restaurant des Embruns*

which serves excellent food that goes far beyond the limits of regional food and taste "marmite sottevillaise" and "magret de canard" (fillet of duck).

- Follow in the footsteps of Victor Hugo, Guy de Maupassant, and many impressionist artists at Veules-les-Roses which is located some 12 miles (19 km) southwest of Dieppe. It is well-known for its 1,194 kilometre-long river which is the shortest in France (0,742 mi): the Veules, which is bordered by renovated watermills, meanders its way through the commune, thus creating ponds for growing watercress. The Tourist Information Office organises guided tours of the river Veules all year round. For further information, call 02.35.97.64.11.

If you want to splash out, spend the night at the *hotel Douce France*, which is a former 17th century post house on the riverside: its façade flanked by two round turrets make it easily recognisable in the main street. You can also have a moment of pure enjoyment in the tearoom by the water's edge. If you feel a bit homesick and want to have a nice cup of tea, why not visit *Atelier 2* where Marilyn serves a huge selection of teas from all over the world, scones and ice cream made from local ingredients and the most tasty cakes ever! Her husband's art studio is also well worth seeing. On your way back to Dieppe in the evening you can drive up to the cliff overlooking Pourville beach and stop at the viewpoint to gaze at the sunset.

5.1. Visiting Fécamp

It is well worth visiting Fécamp which boasts many assets: it is "a port, a lovely seaside resort, a ducal town, a pilgrimage destination, an art centre, the home of a famous liqueur and, in addition, it is the place where you'll see the tallest cliffs in Normandy" (they reach a height of about 300 feet). It is sixty-four kilometres away from Dieppe and it will take you about an hour to get there. On leaving Dieppe, take the first exit at the Rond-Point (roundabout) des Canadiens and follow the D925 all the way to Fécamp. Then head for the *Office intercommunal de tourisme* located on Quai Sadi Carnot where you'll get la Carte d'Hôte, a free brochure that will allow you to get discounts in hotels, museums and all kinds of watersports.

If you want to drive to Cap Fagnet you can enjoy a panoramic view of Fécamp harbour and the tall cliffs surrounding it. It is reachable by car in less than 10 minutes from Fécamp centre but if you want to hike up there, take the *Sente aux Matelots* (GR 21) which is located at 68, Quay Maupassant. On a clear day, you can zoom in on the porte d'Aval of Etretat from there. There is a picnic area and a semaphore built on the foundations of a former lighthouse. If you are interested in fortifications dating back to the Second World War, you can also walk around a WW2 German blockhouse and radar locations which are preserved in relatively good condition. Boards give descriptions and a history in English. On top of a very high cliff, the *Chapel of Notre Dame du Salut* topped by the statue of a golden virgin served as a sea-mark for sailors who still climb up there before taking to the sea. Their lives are depicted in the recently opened *Musée des Pêcheries*, dedicated to the history of the town which is closely related to fishing. You can immerse yourself in their universe through videos, moving paintings and model boats which offer a captivating insight into the lives of those men who braved the seas for nine months to fish cod and support their families: just enough information to keep you interested without your eyes glazing over!

Chez Nounoute is just two minutes' walk from the *Musée des Pêcheries* if you cross the Quai de l'Entrepôt. It is an authentic seafood family restaurant keeping tradition alive. The entire business is a family affair run by Nounoute, a well-known fisherman's wife who is an expert at selecting fish from

the Crie and cooking them to perfection. If you want to share a delicious plateau de fruits de mer containing oysters, prawns, brown shrimps, whelks, winkles, crab and langoustines, go to chez Nounoute but don't forget to call ahead to get a table at this restaurant which is soon packed with tourists and locals. *Le Vicomté* located at 4, rue du Président Coty is a very small authentic country French place with blue-and-white checked tablecloths and the owner of the place who is just as authentically French as his moustache will translate the menu into English if you don't speak French. This restaurant has a limited menu which changes daily but the dishes are superb and the pricing reasonable. There is a limited but reasonably priced selection of wines. *La Marée* is a good restaurant with a fabulous view over the fishing port of Fécamp and the ideal place if you like prawns and mussels or a beautifully cooked sole accompanied by a few steamed potatoes. Plain, uncomplicated cuisine at its best.

To round off your trip to Fécamp in the nicest way, we suggest you visit the *Bénédictine Palace*, a building of neo-gothic and neo-renaissance style built in the nineteenth century by Alexander the Great thanks to the famous liquor that made him rich. You will discover the only distillery in the world still in operation: plants and spices are distilled in big hammered copper stills dating back to the 1860s. The entry ticket is well worth the visit and includes Benedictine tasting at the end of the visit. But be careful to indulge with moderation if you are driving back to Dieppe!

5.2. Visiting Etretat



If you are driving from Dieppe, you should set off at about 9.30 via N27 and A29 in order to reach Étretat by 11.30 but the white cliffs of Étretat enjoy such a world-wide reputation that you may have difficulty parking your car, especially in the town centre and near the seafront. Coming to Étretat from the A13 via Goderville, you may find it convenient to park at the free car-park located on the Criquetot L'Esneval Road (D39) which is the largest of the town. From there you get on a miniature scenic railway that will take you to Place du Marché or Place de Gaulle. If you don't mind walking down rue Guy de Maupassant who was born in Étretat, you will see *Le Clos Lupin* on your

way (just look out for the signs): it is the house where Maurice Leblanc lived and wrote the adventures of Arsène Lupin, the "French Robin Hood". He was inspired by the spectacular cliffs, especially the cliff called the needle because of its pointed shape when he wrote *L'Aiguille Creuse*. Even if you haven't read any of the Arsène Lupin novels, this museum is well worth visiting and as you go from room to room, you're given details of the suspenseful story of the *Hollow Needle* via headphones - in English. In addition, you may enjoy taking a stroll in the well-kept garden.

Another way of avoiding parking your car in the town centre is to leave the car at Les Loges and opt for a railbike to Étretat: the ride is all the easier as it is mostly downhill. If you go down in the morning, you can spend the day in Étretat and then get the vintage train back up to Les Loges in the afternoon. It is good value since you would have to pay for parking in the centre, assuming you find one. Also, you can book a "chambre d'hôte" at *Le Clos des Hautes Loges*.

Once arrived in Étretat, you can no longer walk up to the top of the Falaise d'Amont: access is now forbidden for environmental reasons. So, if you want to see the monument dedicated to aviation pioneers Nungesser and Coli which stands there near the chapel, you can either walk up the "escalier de la plage" (the beach stairs) or take the miniature scenic railway. Instead we suggest climbing up to the golf course which can be reached on foot via the steps at the western end of the beach. It is located above the *Dormy House hotel* which we highly recommend because of the spectacular view you get from there.

If you enjoy hiking on the cliffs, why not walk to Le Tilleul beach via GR 21, a long-distance coastal footpath that connects Le Havre to Le Tréport. As a British tourist once put it, "Etretat is lovely but spoiled by too many cars. The shorefront car park is a scar on the landscape. Le Tilleul beach can be reached by hiking from the cliffs or via a short drive. There is no vehicle access, you have to walk or cycle 2km to the beach. There are no amenities and far fewer people". If it rains, you might as well go to the *Galion Restaurant* where entrecôte and mussels with chorizo are served by two friendly ladies in a homely, country-style setting. If you want to have a lovely dinner on a terrace overlooking the sea at sunset, you can taste the fish soup and the cod at the *restaurant du Perrey*.



6. EXPLORING ROUEN



Famously described by Victor Hugo as "the city of a hundred spires", Rouen, which was once one of the capitals of the Anglo-Norman dynasties ruling both England and large parts of modern France from the 11th to the 15th centuries, is nestled in the scenic meanders of the Seine. No wonder it can boast a rich cultural heritage which is well worth exploring.

- If you come by car, it's approximately one hour's drive from Dieppe to Rouen and it is motorway driving all the way (N27-A151: you can park near the docks and hop on a modern Teor streetcar that will take you to the city centre or go the Vieux Marché or the Palais de Justice car parks and walk to the intersection between rue Jeanne d'Arc and rue Gros Horloge
- If you come from Dieppe by train, come out of the station and walk down rue Jeanne d'Arc until you reach rue Gros Horloge which cuts across it at a right angle.

The following are suggestions for two walking tours starting from that intersection that will enable you to see Rouen's major sights:

6.1. First walking tour



- Turn left into rue Gros Horloge which is a pedestrian street lined with medieval half-timbered houses that will take you to *The Gros horloge*: its big astronomical clock whose mechanisms can be visited, dates from the Late Renaissance period and "tells the time, the phases of the moon and the day of the week using allegorical subjects" with a single hand.
- Walk under the clock arch and carry on straight ahead until you see Rouen Cathedral of Notre Dame: it covers the whole spectrum of Gothic architecture from early to late and even neo-gothic style in its spire. This flamboyant Gothic gem is also the tallest cathedral in France with its 151-metre tall cast-iron spire that Gustave Flaubert describes as "la tentative extravagante de quelque chaudronnier fantaisiste" ("the extravagant attempt of some

whimsical boilermaker") in his famous novel *Madame Bovary*. The ambulatory shelters the recumbent figures of four famous dukes of Normandy: William "Long-sword", Henry the Young King, Richard the Lion Heart and Rollo. The great impressionist painter Claude Monet was so impressed by the stone lacework of the western façade that he tried to capture it in varying light and weather at different times of the day. Out of the 28 canvases that he painted mostly from what is now the Tourist Information Office - where all sorts of tourist leaflets and guided tours are available - only one (*Rouen Cathedral, Facade and the Tour d'Albane. Grey Weather*, 1894) hangs in the *Musée des Beaux Arts* which also exhibits other major works by Monet, Pissarro, Sisley and Léon-Jules Lemaître showing Rouen and the bucolic setting of the river Seine. If you feel like taking a break after visiting the Cathedral early in the morning, go to *Brasserie Paul*: this is a great place to have good quality coffee and cake for a reasonable price and it was the haunt of Simone de Beauvoir who describes it in *The Prime of Life*. If you stay overnight in Rouen, we suggest *Hotel Le Cardinal* overlooking the cathedral square from which you can take photos of the cathedral in different lights and understand why Monet did the same thing from across the square. Its exceptional location will allow you to see the fabulous sound and light show which illuminates the



cathedral at nightfall in Summer. The highlights of Norman history are re-enacted in vivid colours on the Western façade whether it be the birth of Impressionism or the epic of Joan of Arc. You can also spend the night at the *Hotel Le Vieux Carré* (34 rue Ganterie) which boasts a central position to visit Rouen's main sights and offers comfort and affordable prices.

- Take rue Saint Romain to the left of the cathedral. If you are interested in the history of France at the time of the Hundred Years' War and in the epic of Joan of Arc, enter *Historial Jeanne d'Arc*. The holographic images, audiovisual displays, sound effects and 3D projections will give a true-to-life dimension to your visit. The *Augy pottery* located at no. 26 perpetuates the tradition of Rouen earthenware.

- Walk all the way down to the *Church of Saint Maclou* which is one of the finest examples of the flamboyant Gothic style (15th century), then turn left into rue Damiette which houses antique dealers, art galleries and restaurants, keep straight ahead up to Place du Lieutenant Aubert and turn right into rue Eau de Robec which a little channel with running water in the middle makes easily recognizable.

6.2. Second walking tour



- At the intersection between rue Jeanne d'Arc and rue Gros Horloge, turn right and walk towards the Place du Vieux Marché where Joan of Arc was burnt alive at the stake by your ancestors on May 30th, 1431 during the Hundred Years' War. Don't worry! The restaurant owners of this Old Market Square won't hold that against you, especially in *La Couronne*, the oldest inn in France (1345), whose reasonably priced menus include Pressed Duck or "duck foie gras" served with rhubarb compote. You will enjoy your meal surrounded

by photos of the movie stars who have eaten in this internationally reputed restaurant. It is advisable to reserve a table in advance if you go there at traditional meal times.

- If you want to know what a typical French bistro looks like, try *Le P'tit Zinc* which is located directly across from the Joan of Arc church. It is a lovely, informal restaurant with well-prepared, tasty regional food, friendly service and some excellent wines but can get very crowded.
- The *Hotel de Bourgtheroulde* located on nearby Place de La Pucelle (i.e. "the Maid" from Lorraine) is a former mansion dating back to the 16th century when flamboyant Gothic merged into early Renaissance style. It was converted into a luxury five-star hotel in 2010; if you walk into the hotel's inner courtyard on the left you will see the galerie d'Aumale which depicts the "Field of the Cloth of Gold" meeting between François I, king of France, and Henry VIII, king of England (1520).
- To round off the tour, we suggest you take rue Rollon and rue aux Juifs to visit the *Palais de Justice*. Depending on how much time you have to discover the city, you may push on to *Saint-Ouen Abbey Church* and the *Hôtel de Ville* (town hall) or even to the bustling *Place St Marc market* at the end of rue Alsace Lorraine where you can buy fruit, vegetables, flowers, meat, bric-a-brac and antiques on Saturdays and Sundays.
- You can also choose to go on a cruise on the River Seine, weather permitting. You will discover the picturesque landscapes of Sahurs, La Bouille, Caudebec en Caux and Villequier painted by Sisley, Lebourg, Boudin and Turner.

7. EXPLORING PARIS



7.1. Looking for ideas for your next travel getaway?

- Why not go to Paris! Nothing could be easier. It's only a couple of hours away from Dieppe whether you go there by train – change at Rouen - or by car. If you choose the latter, remember that it can be very difficult to park in Paris:
- If you have a smartphone, click on *parkme* or on *parkopedia*: these apps should help you locate a car park near your destination
- You can even travel by coach: it is cheaper but takes longer

- In any case, avoid using your car once in Paris and travel around the city by bus or by metro (underground): download the *Citymapper Paris app* which is the most convenient of all because it gives access to all the means of transport available in Paris
- For example, you can travel by "the *Batobus* [which] is a boat shuttle that travels down the River Seine, stopping frequently at the city's top attractions"
- You can even visit *Paris by scooter* but the most eco-friendly of all is the bicycle: the Velib service allows you to find a docking point to get a bike and return it wherever you are.

7.2. Never been to Paris before?

Don't worry! If you browse through the different items of the *Paris tourist office website* (explore – what to see – going out – shopping – eating out – where to stay – practical Paris), you can plan your whole stay, choose the museums you want to visit in "the top twenty



most visited museums in Paris" list, find suggestions for cultural outings with children, discover unusual museums and those that open late in the evening – you will enjoy quieter visits then - and discover them in virtual tours. We suggest two options but it's up to you to decide what you would like to see depending on your taste, your budget and the length of your stay.

7.3. A weekend in Paris?

- If you arrive by morning train in the newly renovated Gare Saint Lazare, which has become an opulent consumer paradise with all the global brands, why not have "petit déjeuner" at the authentically French *brasserie Lazare*.
- Then you will feel fit enough to visit the iconic sites and monuments that have made Paris famous all over the world: walk to Auber RER Station which is just 600 metres away from Gare Saint-Lazare and hop on a RER A train for a nonstop 3-minute ride to Place Charles de Gaulle.
- Climb up to the terrace of the *Arc de Triomphe* (284 steps) which provides superb views of Place de l'Etoile, the Champs-Élysées, Place de la Concorde, the Louvre museum and La Défense.
- Stroll down the Champs Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Some of Paris's top museums are close to the famous avenue: the *Grand Palais*, the *Petit Palais* and the *Palais de la Découverte* where children can learn science while having fun. Most of them have cafés and

restaurants allowing you to regain strength after a visit which may be a bit strenuous at times.

Then, we suggest two options:

- Either you turn left and cross the Pont Alexandre III to see the *Hôtel national des Invalides* which houses the tomb of Napoleon and then walk to the most iconic monument of all : *the Eiffel Tower*. If you feel tired after climbing up to the second floor and down again - climbing to the top is more expensive -, why not end the day with a *Batobus* trip on the Seine, on board a *vedette de Paris* or a *bateau parisien* whose wharfs are near the Pont d'Iéna.
- Or walk towards the *Jardin des Tuileries* which is a perfect place to relax and to see great paintings: it houses both the *Jeu de Paume* on the left and the *Musée de l'Orangerie* on the right with Monet's series of large Water Lilies paintings. Then enter the rue de Rivoli and walk into *Smith&Sons* (at no. 248) which offers an impressive selection of English holiday reads you can enjoy while basking in the sun on one of the free deck chairs by the water of the two ponds of the *Jardin des Tuileries*. Then keep straight on till you reach the *Louvre museum* to discover the enigmatic smile of the Mona Lisa or the glass pyramid by I.M.Pei (1989). Keep going on the rue de Rivoli and turn right into the rue du Pont Neuf, cross the Pont Neuf and relax in the Square du Vert-Galant at the tip of the île de la Cité. To top off your day, why not spend the evening cruising on board a *Vedette du Pont Neuf*?

7.4. A day trip to Paris?

After leaving the main entrance of the Saint Lazare station, walk down the Rue du Havre which is opposite the main entrance and take the first left onto Boulevard Haussmann where you will find the Printemps and Galeries Lafayette department stores. If you want to take typically French gifts back to Britain, go to Lafayette Gourmet (35, Bd Haussmann) whose four floors display "gourmet food delights, delicious French produce and specialities from the best food brands around". Then stroll down the Rue de la Paix via Place de l'Opéra to gaze at the famous jeweller's shop windows and walk past the famous *Hotel Ritz* in the Place Vendôme. If you feel like breaking for lunch, turn left into the Rue Saint Honoré, left again into the Marché Saint-Honoré and at the corner with the Rue Hyacinthe, you'll see *Le Rubis* and *Le Bistrot*, two old-fashioned Paris bistros full of locals serving great food at affordable prices. Then you'll feel fit for a one-and-three-quarter long tour of Paris's main sites on board a City Vision coach starting from and returning to Place des Pyramides where the statue of Joan of Arc will help you find your way. If you don't feel like walking all the way down from Saint Lazare station, take metro line 14 to Place des Pyramides. On your way back, you should get off the train right on time to find a restaurant and have a pleasant evening in Dieppe but if you intend to stay longer in Paris, Printemps Haussmann is open on Thursday evenings until 8.45pm and its magnificent art deco cupola provides a magical setting for your Christmas shopping.

7.5. The hidden charms of Paris

If you have the opportunity to stay longer in Paris, you might like to discover the unexpected hidden charms of Paris:

- *Bercy village* located right outside the Cours Saint-Emilion metro station in the old warehouse district converted into shops and restaurants serving specific food from different countries or genuinely French bread, cakes and pastries.

- The famous *passages* of Paris are covered pedestrian arcades that can be found all over the city and often feature small traditional shops. For example, why not do some window-shopping in the Passage des Panoramas and carry on into Passage Jouffroy with its typical Hôtel Chopin at walking distance from *the Louvre*, *the Musée d'Orsay*, *the Centre Pompidou* and *the Bouillon Chartier* which is handy for lunch or dinner. It is a historic reasonably priced *Belle Époque* restaurant located at 7, rue du faubourg Montmartre where waiters run around in black vests and white aprons.
- In the *Marais district*, Parisians enjoy shopping in the Enfants Rouges covered market where fish, meat, fruit and vegetables are lavishly displayed on colourful stalls.
- If you want to follow in the footsteps of Amélie Poulain and soak up the atmosphere of an authentic village in the heart of Paris full of cobbled streets go to Montmartre and treat yourself to a "crème brûlée" and a cup of coffee at the zinc counter of the *Café des Deux Moulins* where Amélie was a waitress. Then walk to the Place des Abbesses which is about two thousand feet away from the Place du Tertre: it is another authentic square teeming with life with cafes, greengrocers, restaurants, pharmacies, cobblestone streets, tourists, locals and all one has to do is set eyes on Sacré Coeur. It's a trek, but there's a funicular. Once there, the view of Paris unfolds below and is spectacular. Lots of little galleries, hotels and the Montmartre museum are all in the neighbourhood.
- *Marché Saint Honoré* which is not far from the Opéra (10 minutes). It is a pedestrian precinct area with café terraces. Have a stroll in the posh galleries of the Palais Royal nearby.
- The covered pedestrian passages of the rue Saint-Denis: the *Cour des Petites écuries* (stables) is teeming with restaurants and bars like *Bar O P'tit Paris* and the *Tribal Café* serving reasonably priced pints of beer and free couscous; Brady, nicknamed "Little India" because it is brimming with Indian restaurants, there is also a South Asian grocery where you can buy various spices, vegetables, and sauces (M° Château d'Eau).
- The parc des Buttes-Chaumont: there is nothing like spending a morning or an afternoon strolling among exotic trees or relaxing by the water of the lake. Enjoy the impressive viewpoint from the suspended bridge. If you feel like having wine and tapas and feeling good musical vibrations, go to the *Rosa Bonheur* bar in the evening (M° Buttes Chaumont).
- Italie, Tolbiac and the Chinese Quarter: an offbeat walk from the village-like La Butte-aux-Cailles to the Chinese district of Tolbiac (M° Tolbiac). If you want to relax and listen to good music comfortably nestled in a deck chair, have an apéritif at the *Batofar* barge moored near the Pont de Tolbiac.
- Quartier Mouffetard (M° Censier Daubenton): Walk to the rue Mouffetard in the footsteps of Hemingway and Woody Allen to the authentic Mouffetard street where you can find a daily market with fresh products, delicious pastries and tasty cheeses. Enjoy a cup of coffee on a terrace in Place de la Contrescarpe before strolling through the *Jardins du Luxembourg* and the *Quartier Latin*.
If you want to know everything about the world famous Saint Germain des Prés, browse *the official website Paris je t'aime*. If you wish to rub shoulders with celebs you can try to get into the very exclusive Montana. If you are the artistic or bookish type, why not stroll about the bookshops and the galleries of the rue des Saints-Pères (M° St Germain/Sèvres Babylone).
- If you like hunting for antiques, go to the Village Saint Paul (M° St Paul) or take the time to bargain-hunt at the Porte de Clignancourt flea market called *Les Puces de Saint-Ouen* (fleas). If you want to find other ideas for outings in Paris, click on the Time Out website. If you are travelling on a tight budget, click on "Inexpensive Paris", "Paris for free" or "Free monuments and museums in Paris" or log on to "Theatre on a budget" and get 50% discounts in kiosks: the main kiosk is at Madeleine (opposite n° 15 place de la Madeleine),

but you will also find stands at Ternes (in the middle of the square by the Métro exit) and Montparnasse, in front of the station.

- If you stroll along the banks of the river Seine, do not miss *Shakespeare & Company*, the famous bookshop (37 rue de la Bûcherie) which offers a magnificent view of Notre Dame de Paris. Since opening in 1951, it's been a meeting place for anglophone writers and has become a Left Bank literary institution which draws booklovers and tourists who enjoy browsing among the bookshelves lining its dark rooms.



8. TOURING THE EASTERN COASTLINE

Le Tréport is a beach town which is very popular with Parisians. As it is only 30 km away from Dieppe, you have enough time to make a detour to

- Saint-Martin en Campagne which houses the *Musée d'Histoire de la Vie Quotidienne* dedicated to all those objects that have been part of our everyday life and may elicit feelings of nostalgia for past decades, whether they be tractors, irons, radio sets, record-players, old typewriters or computers of the 80s
- or to Penly where guided tours will allow you to go behind the scenes of a nuclear power plant (Visitors' Centre: 02 35 40 60 30).
- Then use Waze or your built-in SatNav to get to the free Le Tréport funicular railway which has four cars constantly going up and down like an elevator. The bottom station is close to the sea and the top station has a big parking lot and some nice views over the coastline, Le Tréport and Mers-Les-Bains. If you are interested in World War II, "there is a defensive labyrinth in the chalk cliffs of the Alabaster Coast, the Kahl-Burg, which was dug by the Germans after the Canadians launched a raid on Dieppe in 1942 and which is part of the Atlantic Wall" (*Seine Maritime Outstanding Normandy*). If you contact Didier Morainville (06 81 07 22 95), he will take you on a guided tour.
- As soon as you have set foot on firm ground, you can start to stroll the streets of Le Tréport using the *Guide of Le Tréport* which will give you lots of information to plan a vacation or find a restaurant. One of the best known is *the Homard Bleu* although Tripadvisor's reviews point out that the wait may be long at times.
- Mers-les-Bains Art Deco beach resort is within walkable distance from the *Homard Bleu*. The seafront promenade - fringed by a continuous row of well preserved "belle époque" colourful

early 1900's seaside 'villas' - is beautiful and there are patches of sand for children on the pebble beach.



- Then take rue Sadi Carnot, turn left onto D 1015 and continue on to the *Musée des Traditions Verrières* located in Ruelle Sémichon in Eu. The industrial evolution of glassware manufacturing since its origin is traced by professional glass-blowers and videos. The fragrance room exhibits a unique collection of perfume bottles: in the so-called "Glass valley" (Vallée de la Bresle) seven glass works produce 70% of the glass bottles

for high-end perfumes. Visitors can attend all kinds of workshops related to glass and English booklets are available at the reception.

- If you delight in gazing at sumptuous rooms with gilding everywhere, porcelain and silver displays, it is really worthwhile to visit the *Château d'Eu* which was the residence of France's last king before he had to leave the country for England. The first "entente cordiale" between France and England was brought about by a very strong symbolic gesture – Queen Victoria's visit to King Louis-Philippe at the Château d'Eu in Normandy from the 2nd to the 7th of September 1843. She was the first British monarch to go to France since Henry VIII.

If you consider staying longer in Dieppe, it is really worth travelling beyond Le Tréport and exploring the Bay of the Somme by train: vintage trains run by the "Réseau des Bains de mer" will take you around the Bay of the Somme and its resorts: Cayeux sur Mer, Saint Valery sur Somme, Noyelles sur Mer and Le Crotoy. Nature lovers who are fond of bird-watching should continue on to the *Parc du Marquenterre* in the heart of the Bay of Somme National Nature Reserve: it covers 230 square kilometres of protected land and has been one of the highlights of European ornithology for 40 years. The guides are knowledgeable and helpful and will show you a great many migratory bird species through their excellent telescopes.

9. CYCLING IN AND AROUND DIEPPE

Dieppe has gradually become the cycling hub of Normandy with the 2012 opening of the "Avenue Verte", a cycle route linking London to Paris put in place by the Seine Maritime Département and Dieppe municipal authorities. If you want to travel by bicycle in the "département", a temporary bicycle rental location is at your disposal outside the Dieppe Tourist information office in the Summer season. Whether you hire a bicycle or you've got your own, you'll find accommodation in these hotels with bike storage areas:

- *Hotel Aguado* : 60 bikes (02 35 84 27 00)
- *Hotel de l'Europe*: 60 bikes (02 32 90 19 19)
- *Egg Hotel*: 12 bikes (02 35 85 76 37)
- *Hotel Mercure*: 60 bikes (02 35 84 31 31)
- *Hotel Windsor*: bikes can be left outside (02 35 84 15 23)
- *Hotel des Arcades*: inner courtyard with space for 40 bikes (02 35 84 14 12)

If you are travelling with a cycling group, a cheaper plan to stay is

- The *Varenne Leisure and Sports Centre* located about 5 miles from the centre of Dieppe at the start of the Avenue Verte which can accommodate about 50 cyclists.

If you want to visit Normandy as a whole, you'll get a coloured map and a brochure of the seven main Normandy cycle routes by clicking on *Guides et brochures* but if you want to cycle inside the "département", you'll get a quick overview of all its cycle trails by clicking on the "A vélo" page of its website.

9.1. The Avenue Verte

The Avenue Verte connecting London to Paris is a cycling route which is 470 kilometres long but of course you can select the portion of the route which appeals most to you. It all depends on various criteria listed in the *L'Avenue Verte London Paris website*: are you a beginner or a seasoned cyclist? Are you travelling alone or as a family? How long do you plan to cycle on the Greenway? By filling in the boxes corresponding to these items, you'll be able to find your ideal itinerary. This same website page will provide you with a wealth of tutorials and information: where can I find "Accueil Vélo" ("Cyclists Welcome") facilities and tourist information offices along the route? What are the main highlights of the cycle route? Where can I find the accommodation that suits me? All these service providers are located within 5 kms of the route. Last but not least, you can download a free map of the cycle route. The Avenue Verte, which follows the route of a former railway line linking Arques-la-Bataille - near Dieppe - to Forges-les-Eaux provides around 28 traffic-free miles on flat ground you may have to share with roller skaters, horse riders, hikers and even strollers! Before setting off on your cycling tour don't forget to collect maps and documentation from the Tourist Information Office.

The following is an alternative route that will allow you to reach the start of the Avenue Verte right from the ferry terminal and spare you steep hills and heavy traffic. As you leave the ferry terminal, take the first right at the roundabout and follow Quai de l'Avenir and Quai de la Marne. When you have reached the Grande rue du Pollet which is near the Colbert swing bridge, turn left and then right at the traffic lights into the rue Joseph Brunel which becomes rue and route Bonne Nouvelle (D1) up to Martin-Eglise

- where you can have great dining at the traditional and classy *Auberge du Clos Normand*: it is a haven of peace and tranquillity which is roughly thirty minutes from the boat
- Or you may choose to take a break across the road at the typically French *Clos Henri IV* offering a really good value lunch menu. It is a post office, a café and a brasserie all in one place run by a charming hostess. Get there early if you haven't booked in advance!
- Then go on towards Arques-la-Bataille and the Avenue Verte and cycle past the magnificent Forêt d'Arques on your left.

As the Avenue Verte is well signposted, you can cycle all the way to Paris: of course, you have to share it with cars in places but it is well worth making the trip and visiting the highlights of the cycle route which are mentioned in the website.

9.2. The Véloroute du Lin



Start: Hautot-sur-Mer, near Dieppe

End: Fécamp

Distance: 75 km / 47 miles

Road surface: Greenway / shared roads

Difficulty: Easy

According to the *Freewheeling France website*, "the Véloroute du Lin" which links Hautot-sur-Mer near Dieppe to Fécamp gives pride of place to one of the highlights of this part of Normandy: flax. With long sections of greenway, four car parks and 12 picnic sites and rest spots along the route, it is a family-friendly alternative to the more hilly, challenging Véloroute du Littoral, which runs along the Alabaster Coast from Dieppe to Fécamp. The Véloroute du Lin which is barred to car traffic is a fantastic one-day cycle or overnight ride for cyclists of all abilities". As Frank Lambert puts it, it "is by no means a surprise to locals in the surrounding area, as it follows an old railway line that used to run between Dieppe and Fécamp, and which has long been used as a walking route. You'll cycle past the vibrant blue flax fields - which flower in June - of the Pays de Caux, the Scie and Saâne river valleys, as well as a multitude of quaint villages where you can stop off for lunch and explore": Offranville, Ouville-la-Rivière and Luneray, where you must not miss the typical Sunday morning market which is "popular with locals and tourists alike and where you can buy a variety of local products to take home on the ferry" (Tripadvisor). We suggest you get a glimpse of what Dieppe is like before getting to the start of the "flax trail" at Pourville:

- Take the first right at the roundabout, cycle along Quai de l'Avenir et Quai de la Marne, turn right onto the swing-bridge (Pont Colbert) and keep straight ahead, cycle across the Jehan Ango bridge and stop at the tourist information office where you will get all kinds of information about Dieppe
- Then if you turn right and cycle along the quayside, you will reach the beach and the hotels lining the seafront
- Take the cycle path that runs the length of the beach and turn left into the rue Aguado located just before the Casino, left again into the rue de la Halle de Blé and right into the rue

du 19 août 1942 which will take you to the the *Café des Tribunaux* right in the heart of the *Place to Puits Salé* . Why not have a drink on the terrace of the café?

- Turn left into the rue Victor Hugo and right into the Boulevard du Général de Gaulle
- When you get to the Place des Martyrs de la Résistance, cycle past the branch of a bank called "the Société Générale" and brace yourself for the signposted steep hill leading to Pourville.
- If you turn right into the Rampe du Château a few hundred yards away you can even cycle up to the top of the *Château-musée* of Dieppe.
- The D75 leads you over the promontory where the Dieppe golf course moves ever closer to the cliff edge. Beware of the spectacular hairpin bends as you cycle down to Pourville.
- In the middle of this small seaside resort you will cross a bridge with a boulangerie-pâtisserie-restaurant called *Adèle* on your left. A little further on turn left and down into the municipal car park where you will find the start of the cycle track leading to the Avenue du Lin.

9.3. The coastal cycle path

The *Seine Maritime Outstanding Normandy website* provides you with all kinds of brochures including one called *Carte des véloroutes et voies vertes* (Greenways and Cycles Routes Maps) which contains an accurate description of the 180-km-long (111 miles) challenging *Alabaster Coast Cycle Route* linking Le Tréport to Le Havre and consisting of small sign-posted roads shared in some places with motor vehicles. If you want to get a precise picture of what lies ahead for you on the route, read Hilde Morris's account of her 52 km bike ride from Fécamp to Le Havre along the *Véloroute du Littoral de la Côte d'Albâtre*. It might prove useful for anyone planning on this bike route in Normandy. We wish you "bon voyage"!



10. VISITING NORMAN MANSIONS AND GARDENS

The yellow pins on the above map represent Norman mansions which are often surrounded by beautiful gardens. Visiting hours may vary from one place to another and some of them are not open on a regular basis but by appointment only: this is why our guide provides addresses, telephone numbers and even e-mail addresses rather than opening times which may change depending on the season, weather, demand or the gardener's whim.

10.1. Château de Mesnil Geoffroy



The Château de Mesnil Geoffroy is a 30-minute car ride from Dieppe. Its architecture with "tall chimneys, sloping roofs and bull's eye skylights" is typical of Louis XIII style. It has the largest private rose garden in Normandy which has over 2900 labelled plants representing 2000 different varieties of rose. You can take part in guided tours of the rose garden in which you will be told the history of roses and their fragrance and given practical advice on the growing and tending of roses. A collection of 210 varieties of iris with magnificent colours adds to the charm of the orchard. Children enjoy going on a

treasure-hunt in the maze thanks to a free age-adapted leaflet. They may also enjoy watching all kinds of exotic birds such as parakeets and lovebirds.

10.2. Parcs et vergers "Les Prés"

At Criel-sur-Mer there is a family estate with an early twentieth century villa set in the Prés Salés floodplain on the banks of the river Yères, run by the Tailleux family who had the idea of creating a garden, an orchard with cider apple trees and a kitchen garden on the 8 hectares (20 acres) which make up the estate. At the end of your visit, why not taste the house speciality: cider.

10.3. Le Vasterival

The Vasterival garden, designed by Princess Margareta Sturdza and located in Sainte-Marguerite-sur-Mer, a few kilometres away from Dieppe, is an open-air botanical museum which occupies an entire valley of over 30 acres and attracts both beginners and keen gardeners alike. It is renowned throughout the world not only for its collections and its many rare or unique specimens but also for its specific growing and pruning methods ('Transparency Pruning') you can learn about during a tour which is a real gardening lesson. Princess Sturdza had a passion for maples, conifers, hydrangeas and hellebores.

10.4. Shamrock Gardens

Although not up to the hype and a bit pricey, if you are a hydrangea lover, you will be in heaven in the Shamrock garden which is located about 9 kilometres from Dieppe. Over two thousand varieties from all over the world have been collected here by Corinne and Robert Mallet. It is fun looking for the exit of the maze.

10.5. Jardin du Mesnil

Le Jardin du Mesnil, which is a forty-five-minute car ride from Dieppe, is a haven for Japanese maples, dogwoods, magnolias, rhododendrons, azaleas, liquidambars (sweet gum) and rare trees from all over the world. Visit the tearoom where Catherine and Philippe will serve you exotic teas and homemade food from local markets. If you are an apprentice botanist you can consult the botanical library.

10.6. Château de Bosmelet



This Louis XIII style chateau located around 30 kilometres from Dieppe and set in the heart of the longest avenue of 300-year-old lime trees in Europe stands on the remains of a fortress that Henry VI gave his lieutenant general Sir John Falstaff, who was immortalised by Shakespeare. The grounds were designed by Colinet who was the head gardener of Le Nôtre in Versailles (1715). It is also famous for the part it played during World War Two: in spring 1943, Colonel Hollard, a member of the French Resistance who pretended to sell bibles in the area, discovered six V1 flying bomb launch ramps which targeted London. Disguised as a worker he even drew sketches of a V1 and of the other ramps that he managed to transmit to the Allied Forces, allowing the RAF to bomb the Bosmelet site in 1944. As a consequence, no missile ever reached its target from here: he was called "The man who saved London" by Churchill and awarded the DSO.

10.7. Jardin de Bellevue

Six hectares of gardens face the Eawy Forest, offering beautiful walks among 2,000 cultivated plant species. Martine Lemonnier specialises in the cultivation and sale of 250 varieties of hellebores. Those plants are popular with gardeners because they bloom in the heart of winter: that is why they are called Michaelmas roses. The colour of their flowers whose intensity varies ranges from black to white. English is spoken.

10.8. Château de Bois Guilbert



Jean-Marc de Pas who is a landscape artist at heart exhibits some 70 remarkable sculptures on 17 acres of parkland located around six kilometres from Buchy. The lake island, the box maze, the Four Seasons cloister, the earth Gala, the chestnut tree dating back to the 17th century and the 200-year-old plane trees are characteristic features of this family property which hosted such prominent French

literary figures as Corneille and Fontenelle. Guided tours, entertainments, workshops, sculpture exhibitions, seminars, courses and furnished accommodation are also provided on the spot.

10.9. Les Jardins Agapanthe



Jardin Agapanthe is located in Grigneuseville which is 37 kilometres from Dieppe. It was created from bare ground by Alexandre Thomas who is an imaginative garden designer rather than a conventional gardener. "His strength lies in the use of striking plants in terms of shape, size, age and originality" which he turns into theatrical objects. "Watercourses and pools create a succession of moods" while carefully staged plays of light create magical atmospheres at night in summer. He is an expert at blending the wide spectrum of Norman greens with the whites and the blues of wisteria, hydrangea and agapanthus.

10.10. Les Jardins d'Angélique

These cottage-garden style gardens located in Montmain ten miles away from Rouen were designed by their owners in memory of a daughter who died aged nineteen. The poor signage may make them difficult to find but they are well worth a detour. Stretching out from the eighteenth century manor house, the garden is laid out with grassy pathways bordered with roses and hydrangeas leading you to urns and statues. Benches set in leafy bowers allow you to rest and soak up the atmosphere of this enchanting place. It should be on every garden lover's bucket list!

10.11. Château de Miromesnil



This is a lovely place to visit and is only 20 minutes south of Dieppe. A beech grove leads to the Louis XIII style Château de Miromesnil where the famous Norman writer Guy de Maupassant was born in 1850. If you would like a good read about colourful Norman characters, why not choose *Normandy stories* by Guy de Maupassant! The walled-in garden is a fine example of a traditional kitchen garden with thousands of flowers in bloom and trees with apples and pears.

10.12. Manoir de Villers

This great manor in neo-Norman style with the roofing taking inspiration from the best houses of Rouen and its façade dressed with a strange "trompe l'oeil" was witness to the daily country life of people from the High Society of Rouen. You can take a peaceful walk through the grounds bathed in the light of the river Seine where you will discover *le Jardin du Levant*, *le Jardin Secret*, *le Jardin de Verdure* and *le Petit Chalet* looking out onto a romantic pond.

10.13. The Karlostachys Jungle Garden

An unusual exotic garden located 36 kilometres from Dieppe and housing more than 5,000 species integrated in the local ecosystem. If you are nostalgic for Tarzan movies and have a crush on a French Jane you have met in Dieppe, take her to that exuberant jungle and walk under giant bamboo, banana trees, eucalyptuses and redwoods.

10.14. Abbaye de Saint Georges de Boscherville



It will take you 13 minutes by bus (line 30) from the Mont Riboudet Kindarena bus stop in Rouen to reach the Abbey and there is a bus every thirty minutes. You will discover a four-hectare monastery garden given over to fruit, vegetables and perennial plants all year round which surrounds a splendid 12C Norman Romanesque abbey-church. Climb the monumental staircase that leads you to the Pavilion of the Winds and stand at the stone parapet for a grand view of the apse of the abbey church and the Seine Valley.

10.15. Jardin Plume

From Dieppe, it will take you a little more than an hour to cover the 73 kilometres (D915) to the Jardin Plume. Budding botanists, you will not be disappointed when you see the geometrical layout which was carefully thought out by Sylvie and Patrick Quibel blending the sombre green of the box with the jewel colours of the flowers. Experienced botanists, click on the *Le Jardin Plume: A Modern Impressionist Masterpiece in Normandy* website if you want to have an accurate description of the way it was designed.

10.16. Parc de Clères

The 13-hectare Parc de Clères surrounding a neo-Gothic château is the perfect destination for a family travelling in France. It is home to all sorts of animals roaming around freely among well-kept flower-beds and Alpine plants: deer, wallabies, cranes, swans, monkeys, flamingoes and prancing peacocks. Your children will love the place but there is no coffee-shop on site as you might have found on a National Trust site in Britain. If you want to have a bite to eat, go to the restaurant bar *Le Commerce* whose terrace is on the riverside (La Clairette) and which offers plain home cooking.

10.17. Château de Sissi Hotel (Sassetot le Mauconduit)



The chateau found fame in the summer of 1875 when the Empress Elizabeth of Austria, known as Sissi, who had been advised by her physicians that sea air would be good for her constitution, rented it for the summer. There are many photographs and souvenirs of her stay everywhere in the chateau" (Tripadvisor). If you have seen Ernst Marischka's films starring Romy Schneider and want to recapture Sissi's romantic mood, take the footpath to the Petites Dalles beach where she enjoyed swimming or go for a horse ride in the 11 hectares of wooded parklands surrounding the chateau. The hotel is "nicely renovated and reasonably well maintained, with an excellent dinner in a charming setting but you won't find the typical big hotel or resort amenities" you usually find in such places (Tripadvisor): a quiet spot "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife!"

10.18. In the footsteps of Emma Bovary

Those of you who have studied *Madame Bovary* at school in England and want to follow in the footsteps of Emma Bovary will go to Ry which is located 20 km east of Rouen and provides the setting for the fictional Yonville-L'Abbaye. If you go to the Norman church whose oak porch sculpted in a highly decorative design dates back to the 1500s, you will see a commemorative plaque which reads thus: "À la mémoire de Delphine Delamare, née Couturier, Madame Bovary 1822-1848" ("In



memory of Delphine Delamare ...). She married an unexceptional health officer in whose company she felt so bored that she was unfaithful to him. She eventually committed suicide after various disappointing love affairs, leaving behind various debts. This is the true story that inspired Flaubert's plot. Visitors are invited to take part in a digital tour of ten stops starting on the Place Flaubert taking them to the places where the characters would have lived and worked, such as the Bovarys' house, Maître Guillaumin's notary office and Homais' apothecary. You'll walk past half-timbered houses, brick houses with intricate designs and the river Crevon running through the town centre. Cyclists who now cross the

Channel in increasing numbers will enjoy riding along "the 66-kilometre cycling circuit called [*Promenade au Pays d'Emma Bovary*](#), leading you through various sites and landscapes associated with the novel, including chapels, the gardens of Château de Martainville-Épreville and the ruins of the medieval castle of Blainville-Crevon. Drivers could also head to Flaubert's birthplace in Rouen, which now houses a museum, Musée Flaubert d'Histoire de la Médecine or see the beautiful stained-glass window of Saint Julian which inspired Flaubert's short story, *La légende de Saint-Julien l'hospitalier* (The Legend of Saint Julian the Hospitalier). Also worth a look in Rouen Cathedral is a low-relief stone sculpture that inspired the scene where Salomé dances on her hands in Flaubert's short story, *Hérodias*. Visitors on a Flaubert-themed pilgrimage to Rouen can stay at the Hôtel Littéraire Gustave Flaubert just off the old market square or opt for the pricey Hôtel de Bourgtheroulde, thought to be the inspiration for the Hôtel de Boulogne, where Emma met with her lover in *Madame Bovary*".



By the Crevon riverside

