



**Liberation
Route
Europe**

TOUR & TRAVEL GUIDE
FRANCE

Key events & commemorations

Last Sunday
of April
National day of
Remembrance of the
victims and the heroes
of the Deportation

8th
of May
Commemoration
of the Victory

27th
of May
National day
of the Resistance

6th
of June
D-Day landings
commemoration –
Normandy

18th
of June
National day of
Remembrance of
General De Gaulle's
Appeal to Resistance

16th
of July, if on a
Sunday, or the
following Sunday
National Day of the
memory of the victims
of racist and anti-Semitic
crimes of the French
State and Homage to the
"Righteous" of France

15th
of August
Provence Landing
commemoration

25th
of August
Paris Liberation
commemoration

History



Belgian troops in Normandy

In 1940 Nazi Germany invaded
and occupied France.

This marked the beginning of four years of
oppression in which a large part of the Jewish
population was deported. In June 1944, the
Allied invasion of Western Europe began
and one of the largest battles of the war was
fought in Normandy. During these fights,
tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians
lost their lives. France emerged from the war
as one of the major powers and played an
important role in the shaping
of post-war Europe.

La Nueve

THE SPANISH LIBERATORS OF PARIS



Truck with Spanish names in Paris

The Ninth Company – in Spanish La Nueve – was part of
the French 2nd Armoured Division and consisted of 160
men, most of whom were Spanish Republicans.

After the end of the Spanish Civil War, many Spanish
Republicans took refuge in France and in French possessions
in North Africa. There, some of them joined the Free French
Forces and took part in the liberation of France. La
Nueve played a key role in the liberation of Paris,
as they were among the first to enter the capital
on 24 August 1944. Only in recent years has the
city of Paris paid tribute to its Spanish liberators,
with several events and commemorative plaques
throughout the city.



Guadalupe

Normandy and D-Day

On 6 June 1944 one of the largest
fleets ever assembled crossed the
English Channel towards France.

The Allied invasion of Europe had begun.
After the storming and capturing of the
beaches, a fierce battle broke out that was
to last for two months. In these bloody
fights, many soldiers and civilians lost their
lives, and the Normandy countryside was
left completely devastated.

Liberation of Paris

After the Allied forces broke out of
Normandy, they headed north in
pursuit of the retreating German
Army.

Paris was not a priority for the Allies since
they did not want to risk damaging the city.
This changed when the Parisians started a
revolt on 19 August 1944. The Allies quickly
sent the French and American forces to
liberate the city. The first units reached
Paris on the 24th. The next day, French and
American soldiers were welcomed by the
Parisians.



Omaha - Into the Jaws of Death



Liberation of Paris Champs-Élysées

The Artists' camp

CAMP DES MILLES



Camp des Milles Memorial, Aix-en-Provence ©Jacqueline Poggi

Camp des Milles was used between 1939 and 1942 as a
transit and internment camp under the Vichy Régime.

A unique feature of the Camp is the artworks produced
by the interned. More than 400 art pieces were created
by prisoners of the camp. Many persecuted artists and
intellectuals channeled their will to resist persecution and
dehumanisation through art. These include, among others,
Max Ernst, Hans Bellmer, and Lion Feuchtwanger. The
painting gallery, situated in the guards' canteen, displays
impressive murals painted by interned artists in 1940-1941.

“More than 400
art pieces were
created by prisoners
of the camp”

The French First Army

ARMY B



Belfort liberation

The French Army B (Armée B), which later became the
French First Army, was the largest French formation to
take part in the liberation of France.

Led by General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, it landed on the
coast of Provence in August 1944, during Operation Dragoon,
and liberated the city of Marseille. Along with the American

7th Army, it chased the German forces up to
Lorraine and liquidated the Colmar Pocket. In
the final Allied offensive on Germany, de Lattre's
troops advanced to the Danube. The French First
Army was mainly composed of North African
troops, and some of its elements had already
taken part in the liberation of Italy and Corsica.



Jean de Lattre de Tassigny (1946)

D-Day festival in Normandy

JUNE 6TH COMMEMORATIONS



D-DAY-FESTIVAL - Juin 2018,Cornemuse - Maison des Canadiens - Juno Beach
© Mathilde Lelandais

The D-Day Festival is a unique set of remembrance
events that takes place in the Normandy Region since
2007.

Every year around 6 June, the anniversary of the landings
in Normandy, several cities, villages and sites along the
Normandy coast host remembrance events of any kind. The
events include parades, reenactments, concerts,
fireworks, special exhibitions, parachute jumps,
which turn the whole Normandy coast into a single
special place for commemoration. The festival
celebrates solidarity, international brotherhood
and the memory of the many who fought and fell
in this huge operation, as well as for the Liberation
of Europe. The presence of D-Day veterans is what
makes the D-Day Festival a unique experience for
young and old.



Défilé véhicules militaires - Seconde Guerre
Mondiale - Journée vintage - Douvres -
La délivrance

The civilian suffering

NORMANDY



The battle for Caen

While information on the military efforts in the Battle
of Normandy is extensive, a lesser-known part of the
Battle is its toll on the civilian population.

The heavy fighting and the aerial bombing of the cities
between June and September 1944 caused a total of 20,000
deaths among the civilians – a similar number to the losses
that the U.S. Army had to face in that period.

Large cities saw thousands of deaths: in Caen,
which was heavily bombed for six weeks, 30,000
Anglo-Canadian soldiers and 3,000 civilians
lost their lives. The suffering of the population
of Normandy was huge, because it was often
caught in the crossfire or surprised by bombings.
In Falaise, a memorial and museum is completely
dedicated to the civilians in war.



Refugees of Caen in the convent of the abbey,
13 July 1944 © Mémorial de Caen



**Liberation
Route
Europe**

NETHERLANDS
Newday Offices
Jansburtsingel 30
6811 AE, Arnhem, NL
+31 (0)85-3309090
BELGIUM
Rue de Stassart 131
1050 Brussels, BE
+32 (0) 485 136 833
liberationroute.com
JURRIAN DE MOL,
Director Netherlands
j.demo@liberationroute.com
+31 (0) 6 54388386
JOËL STOPPELS,
Project manager
j.stoppe@s@liberationroute.com
+31 (0) 6 36 33 53 70
The Liberation Route Europe has been a
"Cultural Route of the Council of Europe"
since 2019
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
Itinerary cultural
of the Council of Europe
du Conseil de l'Europe
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
PARTNERS & SPONSORS
wends
The Hague
Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany

D-Day - Normandy



1 La Cambe Military Cemetery
LA CAMBE – volksbund.de



2 D-Day Museum Arromanches
ARROMANCHES – musee-arromanches.fr



3 Utah Beach Museum
SAINTE-MARIE-DU-MONT – utah-beach.com



4 Juno Beach Centre
COURSEULLES-SUR-MER – junobeach.org



5 The Pegasus Memorial and Bridge
RANVILLE – memorial-pegasus.org



6 Normandy American Cemetery
COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER – abmc.gov



7 Pointe du Hoc
CRICQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN – abmc.gov



8 Memorial of Caen
CAEN – memorial-caen.fr



9 360 Circular Cinema
ARROMANCHES – arromanches360.com



10 German Gun Battery
bayeux-bessin-tourisme.com



11 Airborne Museum
SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE – airborne-museum.org



12 Omaha Beach Memorial Museum
SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-MER – musee-memorial-omaha.com



13 Overlord Museum
COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER – overlordmuseum.com



14 Atlantic Wall Museum – The Grand Bunker
OUISTREHAM – musee-grandbunker.com/en/



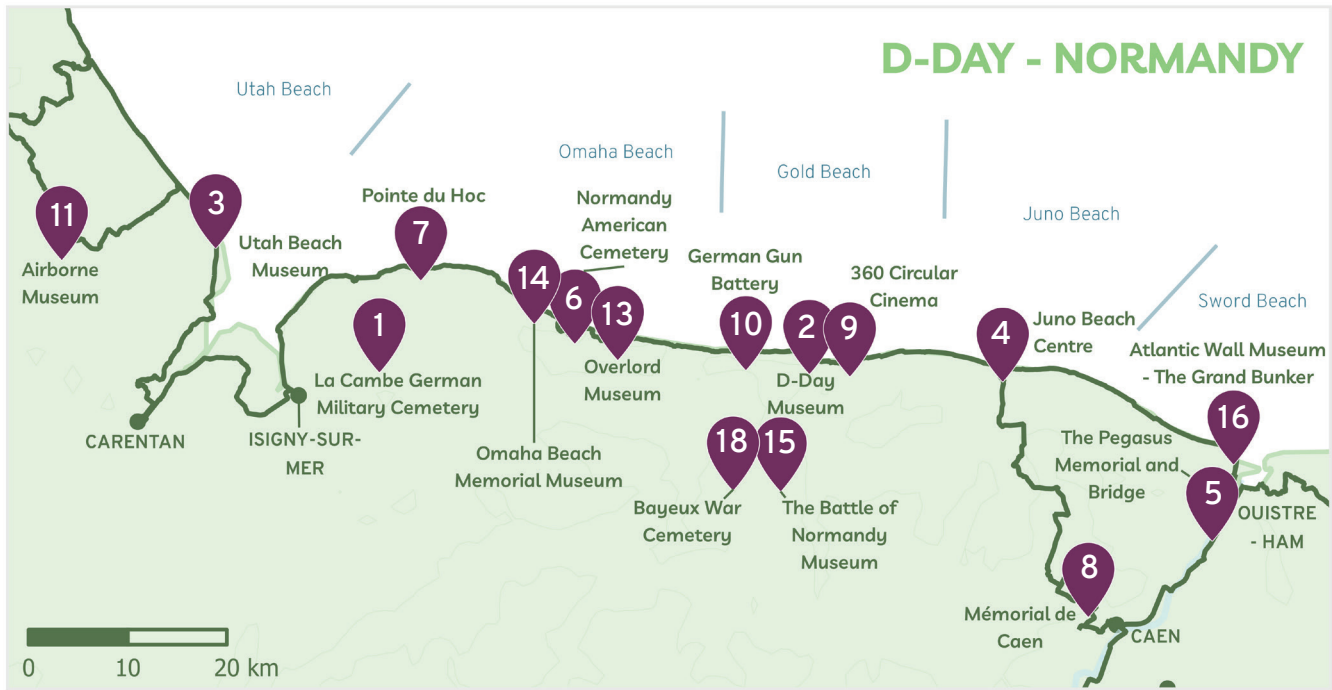
15 The Battle of Normandy Museum
BAYEUX – bayeuxmuseum.com



16 Bayeux War Cemetery
BAYEUX – cwgc.org



17 Civilians in Wartime Memorial Falaise
FALAISE – memorial-falaise.com



Operation Dragoon - Provence



1 Memorial of the landing in Provence, Mount Faron
TOULON – cheminsdememoire.gouv.fr



2 Camp des Milles Memorial
AIX-EN-PROVENCE – campdesmilles.org



3 National Museum of the Marine
TOULON – musee-marine.fr/toulon



4 The Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial
DRAGUIGNAN – abmc.gov



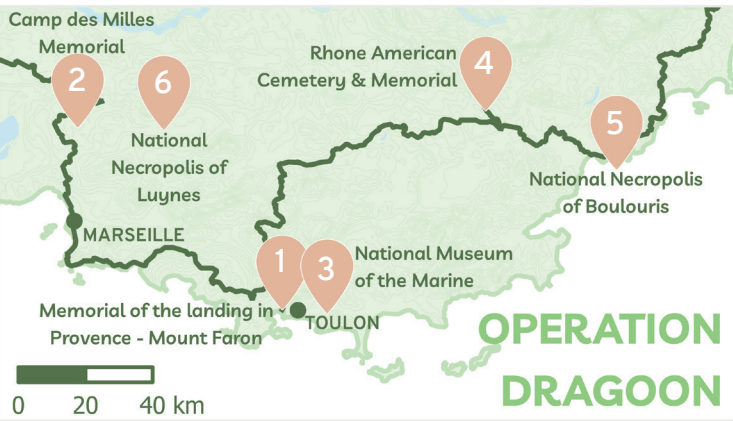
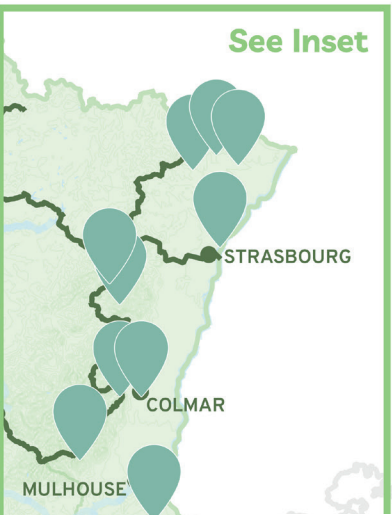
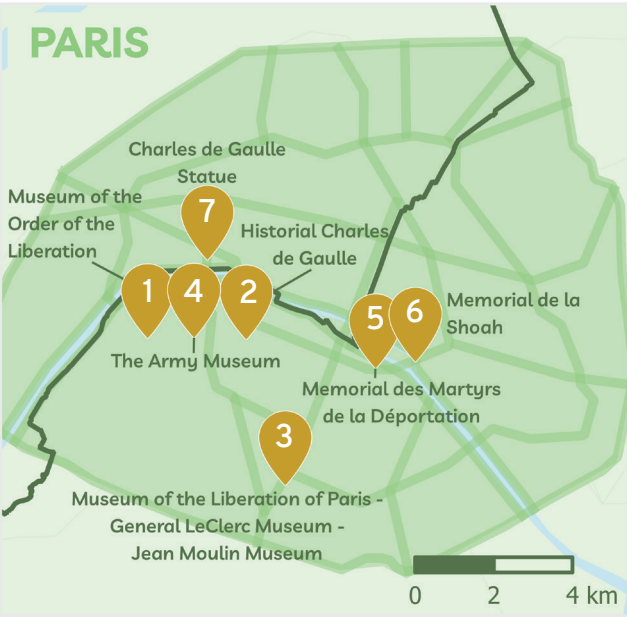
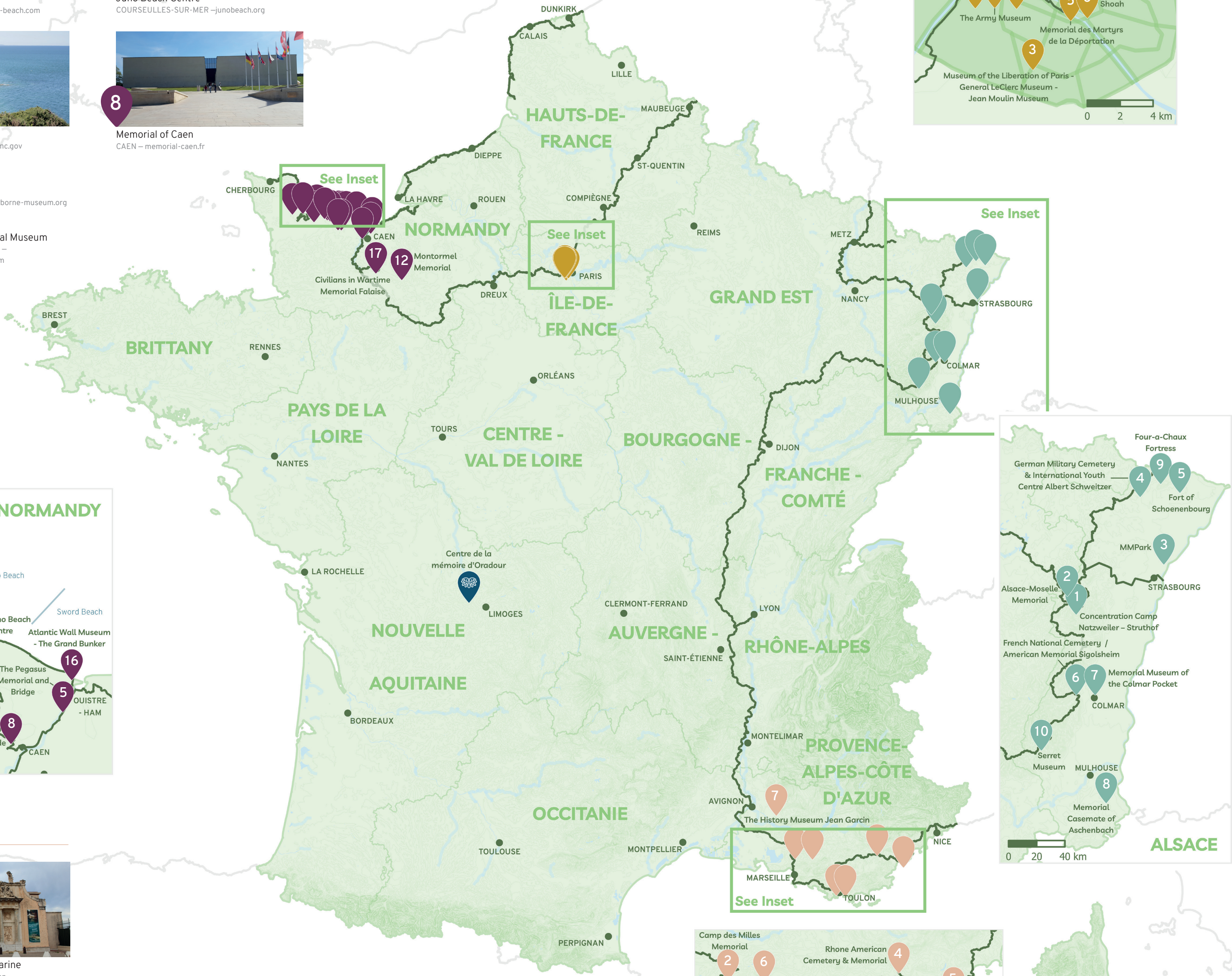
5 National Necropolis of Boulouris
BOULOURIS



6 National Necropolis of Luynes
LUYNES



7 The History Museum Jean Garcin: 1939-1945 the Call of Liberty
FONTAINE-DE-VAUCLUSE – vaucluse.fr



Paris



1 Museum of the Order of the Liberation
PARIS – ordredelaliberation.fr



2 Historial Charles de Gaulle
PARIS – charles-de-gaulle.org



3 Museum of the Liberation of Paris - General Leclerc Museum - Jean Moulin Museum
PARIS – museeliberation-leclerc-moulin.paris.fr



4 The Army Museum
PARIS – musee-armee.fr



5 Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation
PARIS – freeddommuseum.com



6 Shoah Memorial Le Marais
PARIS – memorialdelashoah.org



7 De Gaulle Statue Champs-Élysées Liberation Parade
PARIS

Alsace



1 Concentration camp Natzweiler - Struthof
NATZWILLER – struthof.fr



2 Alsace-Moselle Memorial
SCHIRMECK – memorial-alsace-moselle.com



3 MPMark
LA WANTZENAU – mmpark.fr



4 German Military Cemetery International Youth Centre Albert Schweitzer
NIEDERBRONN-LES-BAINS – jbs-niederbronn.de



5 Fort of Schoenenbourg
SCHÖNENBOURG – lignemaginat.com



6 French National Cemetery - American Memorial Sigolsheim
SIGOLSHEIM – necropole-sigolsheim.eu



7 Memorial Museum of the Colmar Pocket Battle Winter 1944-45
TURCKHEIM – musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/



8 Memorial Casemate of Aschenbach
UFFHEIM – maginot68.com



9 Four-a-Chaux fortress
LEMBACH – lignemaginat.com



10 Serret Museum
SAINT-AMARIN – museeserret.fr