

City tour « The essentials of Calais » (About 2h30)

Follow the red itinerary and walk through the streets of Calais.
Thanks to thematic panels, you will discover all the treasures of the city.

- 01 Museum of Fine Arts
- 02 Notre Dame Church
- 03 Lighthouse
- 04 Courgain Maritime, fishermen area
- 05 Watch tower / Statue of Charles de Gaulle & his wife
- 06 World War 2 Museum
- 07 Theatre
- 08 Lacemaking and Fashion Centre
- 09 Townhall / Belfry / Statue of Rodin « Les 6 Bourgeois »

Further information to complete your visit:



You can enjoy our beautiful beach and its fine sand.



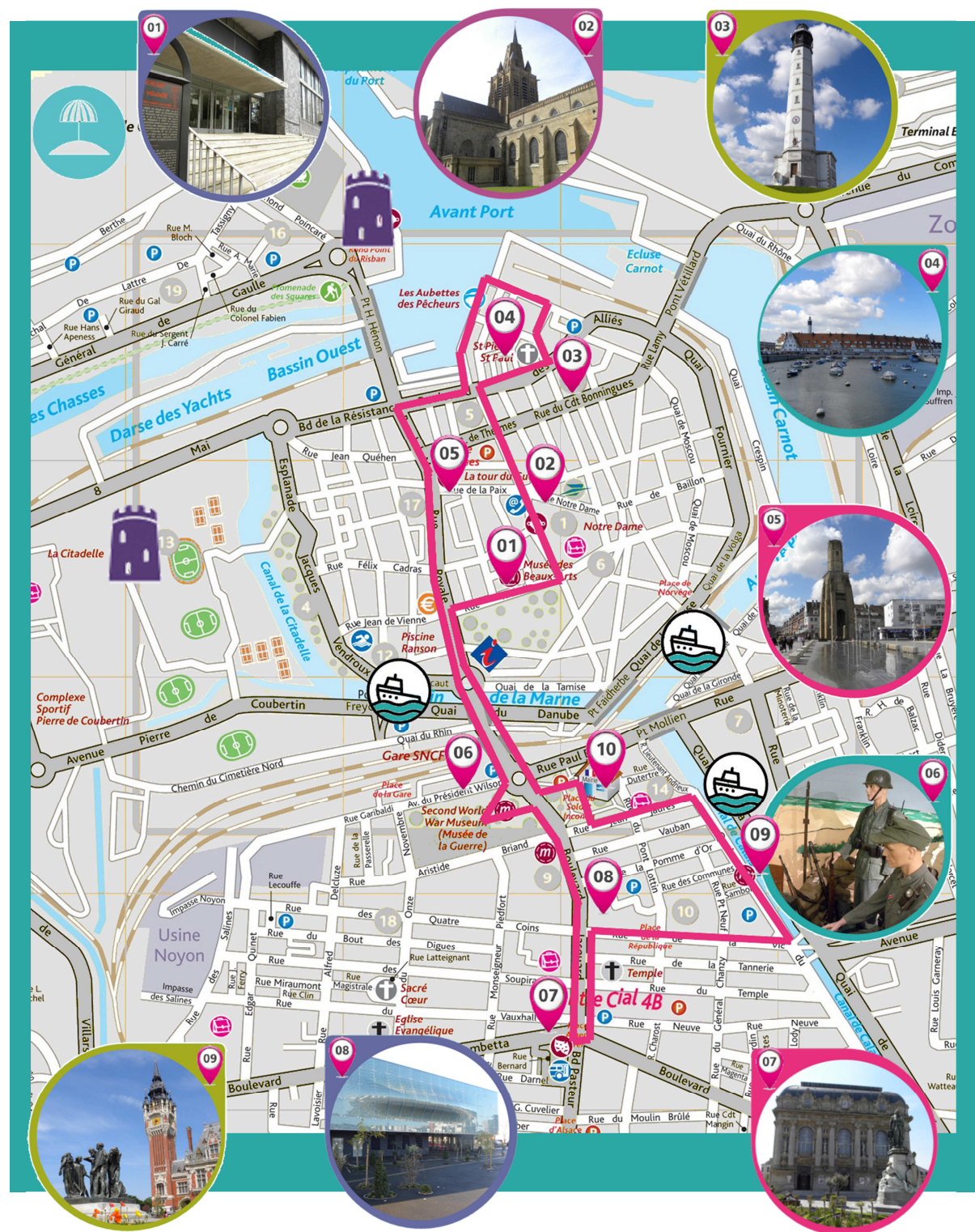
It is also possible to visit the fortifications (Fort Nieulay, Fort Risban & Citadelle)



Panels and flaschcodes are available on each tourist attraction explaining the history of Calais & its monuments.



Another way to discover Calais: aboard our river shuttle « Calais Majest'in »



5 min

Tourist office, 12 boulevard Clémenceau.

Leaving the tourist office, go towards the Museum of Fine Arts (second on your right).

01

Museum of Fine Arts, Rue Richelieu.

Facing Richelieu Park, this museum inaugurated in 1966 brings an interesting light on the Rodin Masterpiece "Les Six Bourgeois". In addition of XIX and XX century sculpture it houses collections linked to the local history: paintings, graphic arts. The museum also offers temporary exhibitions related to modern art. (Duration of visit: 1h30). Free mobile app is proposed to complete your visit.

Now direction Notre Dame Church, continue in Richelieu street and turn second left « rue du Seigneur de Gourdan »

5 min

02

Notre Dame Church, rue Notre Dame.

Both the biggest and the oldest church in Calais, it dates back to the 13th century. The English occupation (1347-1558) strongly influenced its architecture. Major restoration work has just been completed and is complemented by a garden around the church. Charles De Gaulle and Yvonne Vendroux got married here in 1921.

To rejoin the lighthouse, go on to Place d'Armes. Just pass along "la Halle" and cross "Rue Jean Noël Dubout".

10 min

03

Lighthouse, Place Henri Barbusse.

Until the 19th century, the Watchtower was used as the lighthouse. The current lighthouse, built in 1848, is situated in the Courgain Maritime area. It sustained no damage during the two world wars and the 58m high structure still dominates the port. Climbing the lighthouse gives you an exceptional view over the port and the sea. Exhibition on the lighthouses and marker buoys on the ground floor.

Then, go towards the fishing harbour (Quai de la colonne Louis XVIII) by following the church Saint Pierre-Saint Paul on the right and continue straight on.

5 min

04

Courgain Maritime, fishermen area

The Courgain Maritime has been a stronghold of sailors and has seen many generations of fishermen, lifeguards and even privateers grow up. The maritime tradition is kept alive today with traditional festivals and the daily sale of fresh fish straight from the fishing trawlers.

You also see Louis XVIII column, recalling the arrival of the future King of France on 24th April 1814.

This marks the end of 20 years of exile in United Kingdom and announces the end of Napoleonic and restoration era.

If you wish, you can walk to the beach to admire the ferries crossing the Channel, and discover the Banksy graff, british street artist, besides the first aid office: a small boy with a field-glass. Then continue to rue de la Mer.

5 min

05

The watch tower and the Statue of Charles de Gaulle & his wife, Place d'Armes.

The Watch Tower was used to spot any unexpected attacks from enemies, in the darkest hours of the late Middle-Age, but also to give advanced warning of other dangers such as fire.

Following renovation work, the square has a statue of the couple Charles and Yvonne De Gaulle.

Cross the « rue Royale » and pass in front of the station. You will see the Saint Pierre Park, and the museum of the Second World War is inside.

10 min

06

WW2 Museum, Parc Saint-Pierre.

On the 26th May 1940, after 4 days under siege, German troops took over Calais. The German Navy built a bunker in the heart of the city in a park. Nowadays there is a museum on the site, whose 22 rooms give testimony to the period through archives and a collection of weapons and uniforms.

Continue straight on « Boulevard Jacquard » until you see the theatre.

10 min

07

Theatre, boulevard Pasteur.

Completed in 1906, this theatre with its majestic façade is a building that was designed following the union of Calais and Saint-Pierre, as the City Hall. Its acoustics and its Italian-style hall make it one of the main live performance venues in the city.

Return to « Boulevard Jacquard » on the right side. You can see at the corner of "Rue de Vic" the "Meccano Lab", space for discovery and workshops dedicated to the famous game made in Calais. Steps on the floor are "Chemin de la Cité" by Hamish Fulton and lead to Cité de la Dentelle, through rue de Vic, where many lace factories were formerly established.

Make a detour "rue de la Tannerie" to discover another Banksy graff, a copy of Géricault painting "Le radeau de la Méduse" (crossing rue de la Tannerie- rue du Pont Lottin, on the left).

10 min

08

The Centre of Lace & Fashion, 135 quai du Commerce.

The right place to find out all there is to know about the famous Calais lace! This former 19th century factory has undergone a major architectural facelift. The exhibits tell the story of the development of the techniques, and are completed by demonstrations of the impressive leaver machines. Temporary exhibitions linked to fashion and haute couture creation are scheduled throughout the year.

Straight on along the canal. You discover a stop of our new river shuttle « Calais Majest'in ». At the end of the street, turn left on « rue Jean Jaures » to arrive on square « Place du Soldat Inconnu » and the town hall.

10 min

09

Townhall / Belfry / « Les 6 Bourgeois » by Rodin, Place du Soldat Inconnu.

This building, a mix of Neo-Renaissance and Flemish styles, is the symbol of the union between Calais and Saint Pierre. Realized by the Architect Louis Debrouwer, the first stone was laid in 1911. Inside, you can admire the Art Deco stained glass windows on the ground floor, but you mustn't miss the Council Chamber on the first floor, the VIP Lounge and the Wedding hall, where Charles De Gaulle got married in a civil ceremony in 1921.

Annexing the City Hall is the Belfry, which is accessible in a lift and offers a panoramic view over the entire city and its surroundings from 78 meters up.

In front of the City Hall, you can see one of the famous sculptor Rodin's masterpieces. Inaugurated in 1895, the statue recalls the dedication and sacrifice of those 6 noble Calais men, who were prepared to give their lives for Edward III of England after Calais had been under siege for 11 months, from September 1346 to August 1347.

The city tour ends here. Enjoy your trip in Calais!



Special offer : visit more, spend less !
Information & sale at the Calais Côte d'Opale tourist Office

11€