

# Dunkerque

A French family destination, right across the English Channel!

One of the major natural attractions of Dunkerque and French Flanders is the seaside. The wide sandy beaches and the shallow North Sea offer fabulous conditions for a relaxing stay by the sea. But that is not all! The region offers a wealth of family friendly attractions and offerings including a zoo, an aquarium, boat rides and a theme park.

Hop over the English Channel for a change of scenery. Even if Dunkerque is just a stone's throw from Britain, you will enjoy the feeling of being abroad. If you don't feel like driving too far with the family, Dunkerque is definitely a destination to consider.

*\*Please check the opening times of each attraction before visiting.*

## DAY 1 : Dunkerque

### Parc Zoologique Dunkerque Grand Littoral

Located between the DFDS ferry terminal and the Dunkerque town centre, this zoo recreates the natural environment and habitats of its 170 animals of 40 wild and domestic species of French and European wildlife. It is not too big, so the zoo is perfectly fit for families with young children. It's affordable too, with tickets only € 4 for adults and € 2 for children!

### Dunkerque Belfry

This typically Flemish tower is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site and is open to visitors. On the fifth floor, you will see and hear a superb carillon of 50 bells. There is a lift up to the fifth floor, and 65 steps to get to the top, from where the view of the city and the surrounding area is breathtaking.

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### The Aquarium

In the house that belonged to Gaspard Malo, the founder of the seaside resort of Malo les Bains, 21 aquariums contain European and tropical fish. A beautiful French park surrounds the building, and its playground makes it a popular pit-stop for families with small children.

### Dunkirk War Museum

If you are travelling with teenagers, the Dunkirk 1940 - Operation Dynamo museum should be on your list. Discover the incredible story of the "Miracle of Dunkirk", the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force and more than 100,000 French troops in May-June 1940. And if you really want to dig into the history, we recommend the Dunkirk Battlefield Tour. [www.dunkirk-1940.fr](http://www.dunkirk-1940.fr)

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## DAY 2 : Plopsaland De Panne

Plopsaland de Panne is a big theme park located near the town of De Panne on the Belgian coast, at only 20 kilometres from Dunkirk. It's not only a highly entertaining day out for families with young children - teenagers will enjoy the spectacular attractions such as the "Ride to Happiness", Europe's best new rollercoaster!

## DAY 3 : Gravelines

### Boat rides

Gravelines is located 5 kilometres from the port of Dunkirk. It is the only walled town in France which is entirely surrounded by water. At the entrance of the town, you can hire rowing boats, electric boats or water bikes.

### Espace Tourville

Discover the construction of a full-size replica of a huge 17th century French warship by skilled marine carpenters and blacksmiths, using traditional ship building methods.

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