

Dunkerque

An ideal short break, right across the English Channel

"Dunkerque is a destination where the magic ABC of art, beaches and cuisine are in ample supply, along with a rich history and a beautiful hinterland – not to mention plenty of retail opportunities. I promise you a rewarding visit."

Simon Calder, travel journalist

For the 2022 season, Dunkerque hotels and attractions are happy to offer special discounts to DFDS Seaways passengers.

DAY 1 : Dunkerque

Dunkerque Belfry

This typically Flemish tower is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. It 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.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR DFDS PASSENGERS : BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

Dunkirk war museum

The Dunkirk 1940 – Operation Dynamo museum is a must see for many British visitors. 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 in the history, we recommend the Dunkirk Battlefield Tour.

www.dunkirk-1940.fr

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The museum is located just a few hundred yard walk to the Dunkirk beaches. The wide sandy beaches are not only famous; they are also beautiful and stretch as far as the eye can see. Go for a relaxing stroll or sit down on one of the many terraces and enjoy a delicious fresh local craft beer.

Enjoy a meal onboard Princess Elizabeth

This well-preserved paddle steamer was built in 1926. In May 1940, she played a crucial part in the Dunkirk evacuation. Accompanied by the flotilla of 'Little Ships', she saved 1673 Allied soldiers in 4 crossings. The paddle-steamer is now a floating gourmet restaurant, which serves refined local cuisine with a British touch in a cosy, romantic atmosphere. Special tip : the plat du jour or lunch of the day menu is served from Monday to Friday



DAY 2 : Leffrinckoucke and De Panne

Museum Fort des Dunes

This 19th century fort still bears the scars of the battle of 1940 and the German occupation. The audio tour in English around the fort allows you to explore the history of the site, located in a well-preserved nature reserve. Inside the building, the exhibition focuses on the history of the French-Flemish coast. From Turenne (1658) to Operation Dynamo (1940).

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The Museum is located in the spectacular unspoiled dunes between Dunkerque and the Belgian border. Go for a relaxing stroll in the natural reserve. Thanks to the node-to-node hiking network, you can choose how far you want to go without getting lost. The area has been shortlisted to obtain the prestigious "Grand Site de France" label.

Leffrinckoucke is just 10 miles away from de Panne, a lively seaside resort on the Belgian Coast. De Panne offers great shopping options and the beautiful seaside architecture of the "Dumont quarter" is definitely worth a visit.

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.

Delve into the world of a naval shipyard of another age and explore the forge, the traditional smokehouse and the carpentry workshop.

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