

For immediate release

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News for 2020 from Normandy

3 April-6 September: NORMANDY IMPRESSIONIST FESTIVAL

The Normandy Impressionist Festival is an established event in the region's calendar, treating visitors from around the world to a five-month programme of over 450 events. Taking Normandy's rich Impressionist heritage as its inspiration, the festival welcomed 1.8 million visitors in 2016, and expects even more in 2020. With 20 Impressionist exhibitions, 30 contemporary exhibitions, concerts, light shows, street art, conferences and more, there'll be something for everyone. This year's festival will focus on the Impressionists' as observers of nineteenth-century French society. By focusing on aspects such as family, hobbies and work amid social upheavals including the Industrial Revolution, these artists captured on canvas the everyday nature of this pivotal period. normandie-impressioniste.fr

Spring: BRITTANY FERRIES' NEW GREEN VESSEL SETS SAIL

Named after the picturesque port on the Seine estuary, the 'Honfleur' will arrive in 2019 and serve Brittany Ferries' most popular route from Portsmouth to Caen/Quistreham. This LNG-powered ship will carry up to 1,680 passengers, and boast 261 cabins, two cinemas, several restaurants, passenger lounges and boutique shopping. Honfleur is the future of sustainable ferry transport and will soon be the greenest ship regularly operating on the English Channel. destinationhonfleur.com/en

Summer: CYCLE THE NORMANDY COASTLINE ON THE VELOMARITIME

France is the world's second most popular cycling destination (after Germany), and aspires to be the first within five years. With this in mind, a new 870-mile French cycle route the Vélomaritime will launch in summer 2020, linking Roscoff in the west to Dunkirk in the east. Normandy's section of the route passes all the big sites: the Mont-Saint-Michel, the D-Day Landing Beaches, Deauville, Honfleur, the cliffs of Etretat, and Fécamp, home to Bénédictine liqueur. It's an ideal route for cyclists looking to enjoy beautiful landscapes and a bit of history, culture and good food along the way. lavelomaritime.com

1-5 July: FISHING PORT FÉCAMP HOSTS THE FIRST EVER GRAND'ESCALE MARITIME FESTIVAL

Normandy's beautiful Alabaster Coast will welcome its first maritime festival in 2020, the Fécamp Grand'Escale. Taking place between the Kiel Regatta and Brest International Maritime Festival, sailing boats, yachts and steamboats will now be able to stop off en route (from Germany to Brittany) in Fécamp, a fishing port with a long maritime history. Visitors to the festival can enjoy sea excursions, concerts, live entertainment and tours of the visiting sailing boats. fecampgrandescale.com

5 September: BRITISH NORMANDY MEMORIAL OPENS IN VER-SUR-MER

Designed by Liam O'Connor, the award-winning architect behind the Bomber Command Memorial in London, this new site will be the first memorial to honour the 22,000 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who died fighting under British command on D-Day and in the Battle of Normandy. It will stand just outside the village of Ver-sur-Mer overlooking Gold Beach, where British and Allied troops landed on 6 June 1944. normandymemorialtrust.org/the-memorial

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- For more information on Normandy, visit normandy-tourism.org
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