

PROGRAM APRIL - JULY 2024

Cherbourg,
Port de la Liberté

80th

ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LIBERATION 1944 - 2024

Program also available on
cherbourg.fr

 **CHERBOURG**
en Cotentin

AGENDA

After a long time of German occupation, Cherbourg was liberated on the 26th of June 1944, several days after the Normandy landings. For the Allies, Cherbourg was a priority objective after the landing. The aim was to seize the city as quickly as possible, and above all its precious deepwater port, which would then become the bridgehead for supplies to the front, enabling the Allies to regain France and Europe. 80 years after the Liberation, Cherbourg-en-Cotentin and other local stakeholders are organizing a number of commemorations and meetings, to understand, celebrate peace, pay tribute to and to pass on the duty of remembrance.

APRIL //

FROM 15/04 TO 12/05:
EXHIBITION THE NAZI
CONCENTRATION CAMP
SYSTEM
📍 1st floor, mairie déléguée
Tourlaville

20/04: SEMI-FINALE
OF THE ELOQUENTIA
CONTEST
📍 Salle Paul Éluard

28/04: TRIBUTE
CEREMONY FOR
THE VICTIMS OF
THE BOMBING OF
THE VILLAGE OF LA
GLACERIE
📍 Cherbourg-en-Cotentin

28/04: DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE OF THE
VICTIMS AND HEROES OF
DEPORTATION
📍 Cherbourg-en-Cotentin

MAY //

8/05: COMMEMORATIVE
CEREMONIES FOR THE
VICTORY OF MAY 8, 1945
📍 Cherbourg-en-Cotentin

13/05: LA FLAMME DE
LA LIBERTÉ, OPERATION
MIRROR 2024, ARRIVAL
CEREMONY
📍 Monument aux morts
jardin public de Cherbourg

18/05: THE EUROPEAN
NIGHT OF MUSEUMS AND
PIERRES EN LUMIÈRES :
destination le Roule !
📍 Musée de la Libération

20/05: ELOQUENTIA
CONTEST FINAL
📍 Théâtre à l'italienne

JUNE //

01/06: SHOW FORTITUDE
📍 Bibliothèque Jacques
Prévert

FROM 5/06 TO 7/06:
STOPOVER OF THE
SEABOURN OVATION
CRUISE LINER
📍 Quai de Normandie

6/06: VICTORY
BELLES MUSICAL
ENTERTAINMENT
📍 Place de Gaulle

7/06: INTERNATIONAL
CEREMONY
📍 Esplanade Paul Minard

8-9-22-23/06:
VISIT TO THE COASTAL
BATTERIES
📍 Fermanville

9-23/06: VISIT
CHERBOURG DURING
THE OCCUPATION
📍 Office de tourisme de
Cherbourg-en-Cotentin

10/06: CONFERENCE
HELD BY MICHEL BOIVIN:
The Resistance
📍 Grand salon mairie
déléguée de Cherbourg-
Octeville

13/06: CONCERT BY LES
MARINS DU COTENTIN
📍 Marché de Cherbourg-
en-Cotentin

15/06: WOMEN'S
MILITARY RUGBY:
Violette Szabo challenge
and exhibition
📍 Stade Maurice Postaire

16-30/06: VISIT
THE LIBERATION OF
CHERBOURG
📍 Office de Tourisme
Cherbourg-en-Cotentin

17/06: SCREENING OF *LE
GARS DES CALLOUINS*
📍 Cinéma Odéon

18/06: TRIBUTE
CEREMONY TO JEAN
GOUBERT
📍 Monument pour la Paix,
Équeurdreville-Hainneville

18/06: COMMEMORATIVE
CEREMONY FOR ENERAL
DE GAULLE'S APPEAL OF
JUNE 18, 1940
📍 Monument de la
Résistance, Cherbourg

18/06: REPUBLICAN
DINNER
📍 Salle Davoury,
Équeurdreville-Hainneville

19/06: CONCERT BY
THE CHERBOURG-
EN-COTENTIN
CONSERVATORY OF
MUSIC
📍 Place de Gaulle

20/06: CONFERENCE
HELD BY GHISLAIN
QUÉTEL: Following in
the footsteps of the
Resistance fighters in

Calvados and Manche
who worked with Secret
Services in London to
prepare and carry out the
D-Day landings
📍 Grand salon mairie
déléguée de Cherbourg-
Octeville

25-26/06: DISPLAY AND
DEMONSTRATION OF
1944 EQUIPMENT
📍 Esplanade de la Batterie
du Roule

25/06: FREEDOM BALL
📍 Place Hippolyte Mars,
Équeurdreville-Hainneville

26/06: COMMEMORATIVE
CEREMONY FOR
THE LIBERATION OF
CHERBOURG
📍 Jardin public Cherbourg

26/06: POPULAR BALL
📍 La Cité de la Mer

27/06: CONFERENCE
HELD BY STÉPHANE
LAMACHE:
The re-enactment of the
Festung Cherbourg
📍 Grand salon de la mairie
déléguée de Cherbourg-
Octeville

28-30/06: SHOW AND RE-
ENACTMENT:
Liberté retrouvée
📍 Village de la Verrerie,
La Glacerie

28/06: READER'S CLUB:
80th anniversary of
D-Day, freedom regained
in literature
📍 Bibliothèque Jacques
Prévert

29/06: TRIBUTE
CEREMONY TO THE
VICTIMS OF THE
BOMBING
📍 Ferme de la Foëdre,
square Strahlendorf

29/06: COMMEMORATIVE
CEREMONY FOR THE
LIBERATION OF LA
GLACERIE
📍 Mairie déléguée de La
Glacerie

29/06: WALKING RALLY
CHERBOURG PORT OF
THE LIBERATION
📍 Plage verte

30/06: TRIBUTE WALK
ASCENSION OF "LE ROULE"
📍 Montée des Résistants,
Fort du Roule

JULY //

6-7-20-21/07:
VISIT TO THE COASTAL
BATTERIES
📍 Fermanville

25/07: QUATUOR POUR
LA FIN DU TEMPS,
OLIVIER MESSIAEN
BY INTEMPORALIS
ENSEMBLE
📍 Grand salon mairie
déléguée de Cherbourg-
Octeville

UNDERSTAND

EXHIBITION

THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP SYSTEM

In this exhibition, the Comité d'entente des anciens combattants patriotiques de Cherbourg-en-Cotentin presents the Nazi concentration camp system in the historical and ideological context of nazism, including the only nazi concentration camp built on French territory, Natzweiler-Struthof.

• **From Monday, April 15th to May 12th, Mondays to Fridays: 8 am to 12 (except on Tuesdays, from 9:30 am to 12) and from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

📍 1st floor, mairie déléguée de Tourlaville - free, open to all

CONFERENCES

THE RESISTANCE

The speaker and writer Michel Boivin will present the various resistance movements that were organized around the town of Cherbourg and emphasize the role played by women during the Occupation.

• **Monday, June 10th, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm**

📍 Grand salon de la mairie déléguée de Cherbourg-Octeville - free, open to all

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE RESISTANCE FIGHTERS IN CALVADOS AND MANCHE WHO WORKED WITH SECRET SERVICES IN LONDON TO PREPARE AND CARRY OUT THE D-DAY LANDINGS

A "historical treasure trove" of documents and maps of the coastline between Saint-Malo and Le Havre, found in a suitcase in

Caen, reveals the relationships between the OCM-Centurie resistance leaders from Calvados, Manche and Seine-Maritime, and the secret services in London under General de Gaulle (BCRA), Her Britannic Majesty (SIS), Winston Churchill (SOE) and the United States of America (OSS). Ghislain Quéétel, member of the Association des Écrivains Combattants and the son of a Resistance fighter, retraces the history of these Norman Resistance fighters in this illustrated lecture.

• **Thursday, June 20th, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm**

📍 Grand salon de la mairie déléguée de Cherbourg-Octeville - free, open to all



©Ghislain Quéétel

THE RE-ENACTMENT OF THE FESTUNG CHERBOURG

In 1942, Hitler ordered the building of the Atlantic Wall. With Cherbourg and Le Havre facing England, considerable resources were deployed to transform them into impregnable fortresses. While most of the coastal defenses can still be seen today, the fortifications built in the very center of Cherbourg and in neighboring towns have suffered greatly from urbanization. After years of research, Stéphane Lamache, a historian and writer from Manche, invites you to delve into the history of the Cherbourg fortress during the German occupation, the traces of which are inexorably fading as time goes by.

• **Thursday, June 27th, 8 pm**

📍 Grand salon de la mairie déléguée de Cherbourg-Octeville - free, open to all

PAY TRIBUTE

CEREMONIES

LA FLAMME DE LA LIBERTÉ, OPERATION MIRROR 2024

As a sign of gratitude for the unfailing commitment of the United Kingdom and the United States in 1944, the Flame of the French Nation, carried by 44 young people, will follow the Liberty Road to Cherbourg, the last stop on French soil before pursuing its memorial journey to England, and then the United States.

• **Monday, May 13th, 7 pm**

📍 Arrival ceremony at the Monument aux morts du jardin public de Cherbourg - free, open to all

INTERNATIONAL CEREMONY

For the first time since the end of World War II, Cherbourg will host an international ceremony in the presence of the French President. A symbolic event dedicated to the Battle of Cherbourg, in a way to reassert the primordial role of its deepwater port and pay tribute to it.

• **Friday, June, 7th**

📍 Esplanade Paul Minard



American soldiers look towards Cherbourg [The arsenal burns]. 1944. NARA/Ville de Cherbourg-en-Cotentin.



Les Victory Belles ©Ville de Cherbourg-en-Cotentin

CELEBRATE

MUSEUM

THE EUROPEAN NIGHT OF MUSEUMS AND PIERRES EN LUMIÈRES : DESTINATION LE ROULE !

80 years after the Liberation, by whom and how can the memory of this period be passed on? Discover or rediscover the history of Le Roule and the life of the Cherbourgeois during the Occupation, through specially imagined and written stories based on archival documents. Take part in family games to understand the notion of resistance during the Second World War, and creative workshops for children. Visit the sentinel of the city, which has kept a close watch since medieval times, and enjoy a friendly buffet on the theme of liberated Normandy.

• **Saturday, May 18th, 6 pm – 12 am**

📍 Musée de la Libération, Cherbourg-en-Cotentin - free, open to all

SPECTACLE FORTITUDE

June 6, 1944, D-Day. The Allies land on the Normandy coast. Fortitude is the secret operation behind the landing, an illusion worthy of theater ! Proceeding between historical facts and shadowy areas, the Compagnie des Cœurs Vaillants brings Operation Fortitude to life. A tale of illusions and magic, discover the staging of the greatest gamble in history!

• **Saturday, June 1st, 3 pm**

📍 Bibliothèque Jacques Prévert, Cherbourg-en-Cotentin - free, open to all

MUSIC AND DANCE VICTORY BELLES

The Victory Belles, three American singers, will perform songs from the Liberation era at the weekly market in place de Gaulle.

• **Thursday June 6th, 10 am and 11:30 am**

📍 Weekly market, place de Gaulle – free – open to all

CONCERT BY THE CHERBOURG-EN-COTENTIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Enjoy an exceptional musical evening celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Liberation with a concert by the Big Band of the Cherbourg-en-Cotentin Conservatory of music. Let yourself be transported by timeless melodies, paying vibrant tribute to those who left their mark on history.

• **Wednesday June, 19th, 7 pm – 8:30 pm**

📍 Place de Gaulle - free, open to all

FREEDOM BALL

Banned during the Occupation, balls revived at the dawn of the Liberation. Equeurdreville-Hainneville invites you to relive the atmosphere of celebration and festivity with its traditional freedom ball. A big band will enliven the party, and during the party and the esplanade in front of the town hall will be transformed into a dance floor. For those who wish, come in costume!

• **Tuesday June 25th, 7 pm-10 pm**

📍 Place Hippolyte Mars, Équeurdreville-Hainneville - free, open to all



©Philippe Simonin

REENACT

MILITARY CAMP AND CIVILIAN LIFE FREEDOM REGAINED

For three days, discover the urban and rural life of the population during the Occupation through numerous activities, performances, exhibitions and the reenactment of an American military camp with military vehicles. On Saturday, take part in a Jeep tour before putting on your dancing shoes for the popular ball. You can wear 1940s costumes!

• **From Friday, June 28th at 7 pm to Sunday, June 30th, 6 pm**

📍 Village de La Glacerie, Cherbourg-en-Cotentin - free - open to all - food and beverage service available on site



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