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Ideal Bathing, First Class Golf, Casino

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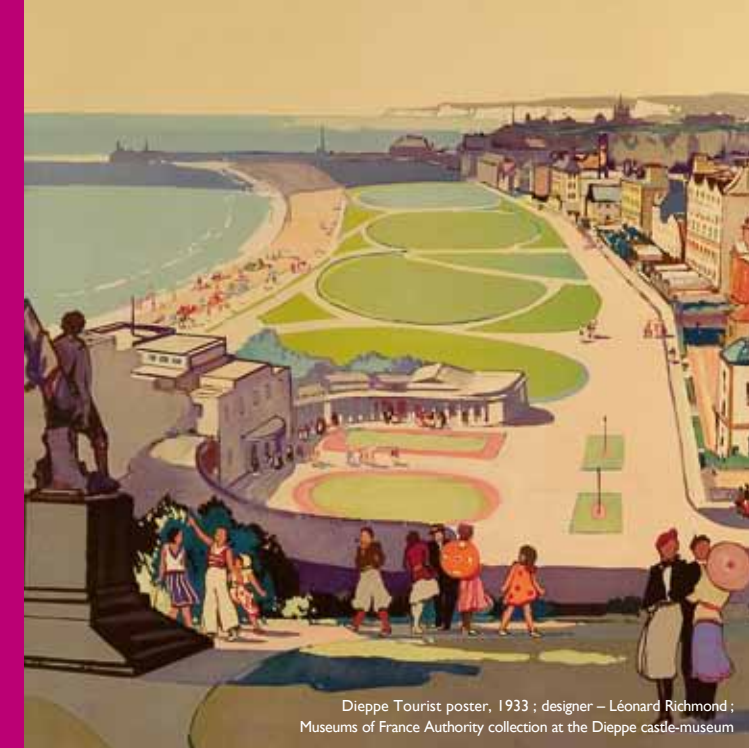
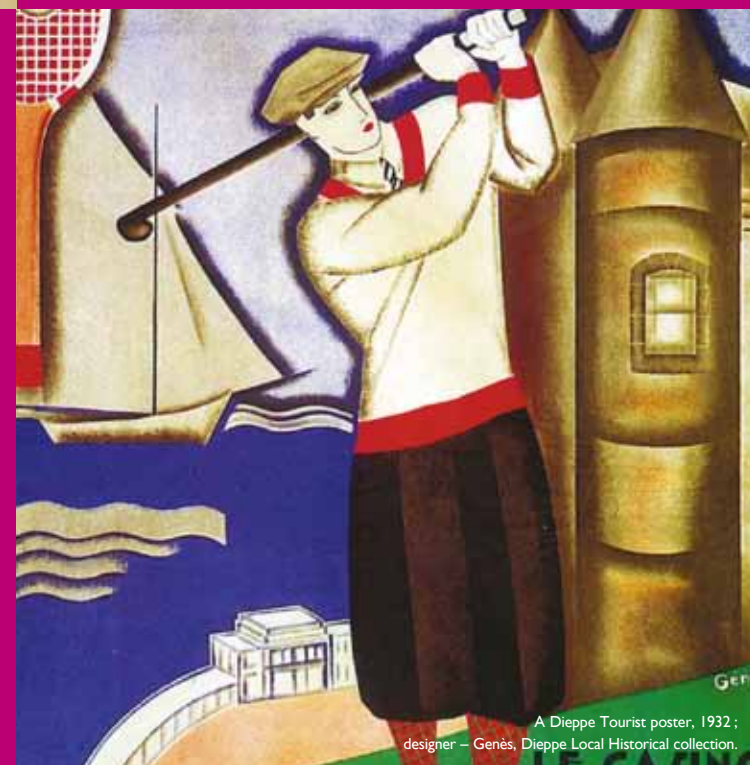
web site : www.dieppe.fr

Listen to the Story of Dieppe with “**Dieppe, Ville d'art et d'histoire**”
... In the company of a conference-guide recognised by the Ministry of Culture.
You will be welcomed by the guide who knows all the details about Dieppe and its history and will give you the keys to understanding the scale and development of the town and its different quarters. The guide is at your disposal if you take time to listen to her English and you may also use an audio-guide if you wish.

The Heritage Activities Service
... which coordinates the Dieppe Ville d'Art et d'Histoire activities offers year-round activities for Dieppe people and for school groups. We are ready to listen to your suggestions and projects.

If You are in a Group
Dieppe Ville d'Art et d'Art et d'Histoire offers group visits all year round. These have to be booked. Brochures can be sent to you by post. Apply to **Dieppe Ville d'art et d'histoire**.



Dieppe has belonged to the **National Network of Art and History Towns or Areas since 1985.**

The Ministry of Culture and Communication, Architecture and Heritage Department, gives this national network label to local communities which activate their heritage. This guarantees the competence of the guides and conference leaders and the quality of their work. From the antique vestiges of Dieppe to 20th century architecture, the towns and villages present their heritage in all its diversity. 130 towns and areas today offer their savoir-faire all over France.

Nearby,
... are the towns of Fécamp, Le Havre, Rouen, Elbeuf and the beautiful Pays d'Auge area. These all have the Pays ou Villes d'Art et d'Histoire label.

“Dieppe is marvellously invigorating and healthy...no other bathing station on the continent can boast such a health record...many people who come here to die regain perfect health.”

JOHN STRANGE WINTER HEARTH AND HOME, AUGUST 27th 1896



Listen to the **Story of Dieppe & England**

Dieppe discovery tour



Richard Parkes Bonington, "The Inner Harbour at Dieppe", 1824; Narbonne Museum of Art and History.

Introduction

Since the eleventh century Dieppe has had both rich and tumultuous relationships with England. In fact, it was the unification of the Duchy of Normandy and the Kingdom of England by William the Conqueror in 1066 that led to the true development of Dieppe thanks to the trading between the two Channel coasts. Dieppe became French like the rest of Normandy in 1204 and then, during the Hundred Years War conflict, the city was occupied by the English before they were permanently ousted in 1443.

However, Franco-British rivalry reigned upon the high seas as well and Dieppe privateers regularly attacked English ships and strategic positions.

In retribution for this an Anglo-Dutch flotilla bombed and destroyed 90% of the town. It was not until the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815 that relationships between the two countries improved and that Dieppe, opening up to the joys of sea-bathing, was host to a real English colony!

1 – Dieppe Station

A large number of English people crossed the Channel to go to Paris and they were very enthusiastic about the plan to build a railway line from Paris to the Channel

coast. In those days it took 32 hours to travel from London to Paris during an uncomfortable and often perilous journey. Despite the objections to this proposed new mode of transport the project was finally adopted and an English company was chosen to build a railway line from Paris to the Normandy coast, which reached Dieppe in 1848. Some British workers set up home permanently in the region.

2 – The Bérigny Dock

The ‘Bérigny’ Dock was built at the beginning of the 19th century on the site where the Town Hall and the Jean Renoir Centre now stand. It was here that English families such as the Taylors, the Delarues, the Yéos and the Chapmans set up business. They specialised in pebble and flint transformation, wood and coal imports and they also played an important role at the heart of the English community.

Besides commercial ships the dock also welcomed the yachts of several famous people, including that of the future King Edward V11.

3 – The “Puits Salé” Square

Many English families were attracted to Dieppe by the life-style and the low cost of living. However they did not give up their English eating and clothing habits and English shops sprang up everywhere, shops like the grocer’s whose ‘English Grocer’ sign is still visible in the High Street or the famous ‘Litten’ shop on the Duquesne quayside.

Most of the families came from the middle classes but there were also aristocrats and politicians and a good number of undesirable people.

A genuine community was created and the English had little to do with the Dieppe families.

4 – The Rue de la Barre and the Anglican Community

The number of English people in Dieppe grew so rapidly that they soon obtained the nomination of an Anglican vicar. At first the congregation shared the converted Carmelite chapel as their Temple with the local Dieppe protestants. In 1867 when conflict broke out in the Anglican community it split into two. One of the congregations then in 1872 built a chapel dedicated to All Saints in the Rue de La Barre. Lord Salisbury frequently attended the chapel and was a popular attraction. An ecumenical centre now stands in its place.

The “All Saints” chapel, destroyed in 1940.



The Great Steeple-Chase of Dieppe in 1856, Louis Heyrault, lithograph on coloured paper, Dieppe Castle-Museum

The second congregation, after having used the old masonic lodge acquired land in the Rue Asseline to install a temple prefabricated in England. This was closed at the beginning of the 20th century when the community was finally reunited.

5 – La Rue des Fontaines and the English quarter

In the 1820s the English settled in Caude Côte, the new area built on the hill between the Rouen road and the castle. The chalet built for Lord Salisbury in Puys and which no longer exists, was a model for small, picturesque chalets whose numbers multiplied in the 1870s. These villas were built in brick, sometimes embellished with flint and mock timbers and they displayed all the originality that was more readily tolerated in sea-side architecture.

6 – The Golf Course

The English residents inspired the building of one of the first golf courses in France in 1897. The course was ideally situated on the cliff head and had a magnificent view of the sea. One had to be an experienced enough player, however, to not send balls flying into the sea! Golf was one of many leisure pursuits for the English along with horse-racing, excursions into the countryside and badminton.

7 – The Race Course

The first races took place in Janval but in 1852 the town dedicated a real race-course to the new English leisure activity. The third week in August was ‘Racing Week’, one of the most popular summer events.

8 – English artists in Dieppe

From 1815 onwards Dieppe attracted a large number of French and foreign artists. The less wealthy among them met together in the warm atmosphere of the hotel run by Titine Lefebvre in the Rue de la Halle au Blé. Some who had visited the town during their childhood, such as Walter Sickert, settled here. Sickert was separated from his wife and went to live with a Le Pollet fisher-woman. William Turner also visited Dieppe and the Irish writer Oscar Wilde came to Dieppe in exile before settling in Berneval, a coastal village near here.

The English novelist Mrs Stannard, writing under the name of John Stange Winter, gives us a detailed account of Dieppe in the tourist season in her articles for the London weekly “The Citizen” and in her novel “A Flirt on the Water’s Edge”.

9 – Le Bas Fort Blanc

In 1879 luxurious seaside chalets were built at the foot of the cliff including the mysterious villa Olga. This was the home of the Duchess of Caracciolo whose life-style scandalised the English colony. The mystery surrounding the father of her daughter spiced up the gossip as did the numerous supposedly secret

visits of the future monarch. Was Olga the god-daughter or the real daughter of the future king Edward V11?

10 – Sea-bathing and the Casino

After 1815 and the return of peace English artists were attracted to France by its historical remains that they found passionately interesting. They arrived in Dieppe by boat and brought with them the fashion for sea-bathing which the English did for fun. This rapidly became an organised activity and a society was created to make Dieppe the new Brighton.

From 1822 bathing establishments and casinos succeeded each other depending on changing architectural fashion and became the main leisure attractions of the town. Finally, visits from members of the French royal family such as the Duchess of Berry made Dieppe a highly fashionable resort.

The “Les Algues” villa at the Bas Fort Blanc; architect Ernest Bertrand, built circa 1880.



The Royal Hotel opposite the sea and the Bathing Station; lithography by A. Aubrun, based on Féret, circa 1865; Local Historical collection, Repro Inv. C. Kollman.

11 – The beach: the August 19th 1942 raid

On August 19th 1942 the Anglo-Canadian raid code-named ‘Operation Jubilee’ took place on the beaches of Varengeville, Pourville, Puys and Berneval.

The raid planned to launch a frontal assault on the Dieppe beach after British commando landings on the lateral beaches but the operation ended in failure with a high number of casualties: almost 1200 men were killed.

The numerous commemorative stones along the sea-front and in the neighbouring coastal villages are in honour of this sad event as is the August 19th 1942 memorial in the little theatre. The ‘Vertus’ cemetery above Dieppe is the resting place of the victims of this drama (a more detailed brochure about this event is available).

12 – The sea front - the Quai Henri IV: English hotels

Le Castel Royal (12) Many famous people stayed at this hotel but it was sold in 1900 to an English company which knocked it down and in its place rebuilt a hotel belonging to a London and Brighton chain hotel compagny. It was converted into flats in 1936.

Hôtel de Londres (13)

Built in the 19th century, and despite the hostility between the French and the English, this hotel was used by English commercial travellers. It was also the starting point for carriages to Rouen and Paris before the construction of the railway. On its façade the statues representing Mercury, god of travellers, and Bacchus, god of wine, symbolise its function.

14 – The Quai Henri IV: The Cross-Channel service

From the middle of the 18th century Dieppe and Brighton, and then Newhven, were linked by a regular maritime service. At first sailing ships were used (a 16 hour crossing) and then steam ships (a 5 hour crossing).

In 1848 with the construction of the railway line you could travel from London to Paris by train and boat via Dieppe. A harbour station was built on the quayside to take travellers and merchants directly to Paris. It took eleven hours to get from one capital to the other. The service was initially owned by English companies but it later accommodated French ships. In 1994 the Cross Channel station was moved to the harbour entrance and in 2006 two brand new ferries were introduced. The crossing takes four hours.

15- Quai Henri IV - The Crab Tower: The Finishing school

The English had the habit of sending their children to Dieppe to finish their schooling and numerous “Finishing

Schools” flourished and became an important sector of the economy. Young ladies perfected their education in these establishments before “coming out” into the world. One of these famous schools was on the top of the Crab Tower near to Walter Sicker’s workshop.

16 – The village of Puys

The installation of a submarine telephone cable linking Beachy Head to Puys in 1861 and followed by the arrival of the British Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, attracted a rich clientele to Puys. The Prime Minister’s very original villa, the Cecil chalet, inspired the construction of many more in the village.

In the memory of Doreen Vincent

Cross-channel ferry-boats alongside the Henry IV quay.

