

Dunkirk, Hauts-de-France, France

Where Allied soldiers were evacuated from the beaches of Operation Dynamo in 1940, Dunkirk now offers cruise passengers a compelling mix of WWII history, free public transport, sweeping North Sea beaches, and hearty Flemish-French cooking.

Pier (docked)

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

Euro (€)

French (English widely spoken)

Free city buses

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — industrial port, 10–15 km from city center; shuttle bus required

Best For: WWII history, Dunkirk beaches, day trips to Bruges or Lille

Walk to center: Not walkable from pier — take ship shuttle or free city bus

Don't Miss: Musée Dunkerque 1940 in Bastion 32 and Malo-les-Bains beach

Getting around: Taxi €40–€50 · Rideshare Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Operation Dynamo: Bastion 32 Museum** — The Musée Dunkerque 1940 sits inside Bastion 32, the actual Allied command bunker during the evacuation.
- Malo-les-Bains Beach & Evacuation Shoreline** — The wide sandy beach where soldiers waded into the sea in 1940 is today a lively resort with Art Nouveau villas, a sea-dyke promenade, and water...
- Day Trip: Bruges, Belgium** — The 'Venice of the North' is just 45 minutes by road.
- Lille City Tour** — France's Flemish capital is 45 minutes south — Grand Place, the 17th-century Vieille Bourse, UNESCO belfry, and exceptional French/Flemish cuisine...
- WWI Flanders Battlefields & Ypres** — Ypres (Ieper) and the Flanders Fields are under an hour away — Menin Gate, Tyne Cot Cemetery, and In Flanders Fields Museum offer a powerful day...

BEST WALKS

- City Center Heritage Walk** 1.5 km · 30–45 min · Easy, flat — From Place Jean Bart, admire the statue of privateer Jean Bart, then walk to Saint-Éloi Church (note WWII bullet holes in the brickwork).
- Malo-les-Bains Promenade** 2 km along the seafront · 40 min · Easy — Hop on free Bus C3 to Malo-les-Bains.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		56°	43°	9d
Jun		68°	55°	10d
Aug		71°	59°	12d
Sep		68°	56°	10d
Oct		61°	51°	14d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:55AM–8:46PM · Jun 5:35AM–10:06PM · Aug 6:37AM–9:10PM · Sep 7:26AM–8:04PM · Oct 8:14AM–6:57PM

Euro (€)

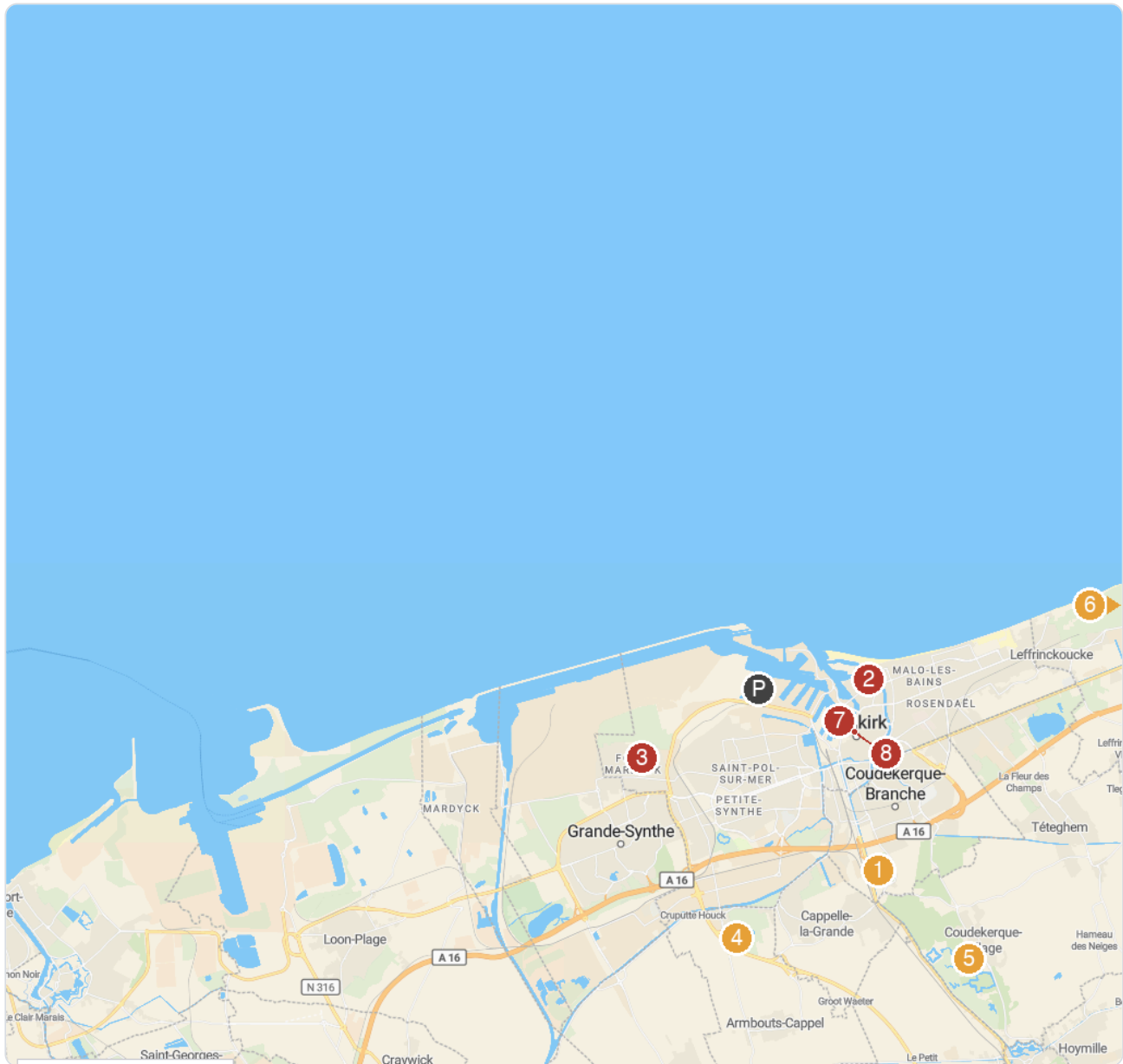
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Shuttle is essential. You cannot walk from the pier to the city — it's an industrial port. Confirm your cruise line's shuttle schedule and last departure time before exploring.
- All city buses are free. Dunkirk's DK'Bus Metro network charges zero fare. Bus C3 to Malo-les-Bains and several routes covering the city center are all no-ticket, just board.
- Pack a windproof layer. The North Sea coast is notoriously breezy, even in summer. Rain is possible any time of year — a light waterproof jacket earns its place.
- Eat like a Fleming. Try moules-frites, carbonnade flamande (beer-braised beef), or potjevleesch (cold meat terrine). Wash it down with a local bière de garde — 3 Monts or Anosteké are the go-tos.
- Museum combo tip. Bastion 32 and the Port Museum are the two must-visit paid attractions — each ~€8. Both are walkable from Place Jean Bart. Build 1.5–2 hrs for each.
- Sunday warning. City-center shops close Sundays, but beach-front restaurants at Malo-les-Bains and museum cafes typically stay open. Plan dining at the beach if arriving on a Sunday.

Dunkirk, Hauts-de-France, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1 Fort Louis Park** A historic park built on the site of Fort Louis.
- 3 Bio-Topia Fort-Mardyck - Dunkerque** A zoological and botanical park for nature discovery.
- 5 Bois des Forts** A large forest perfect for walks and outdoor activities.
- 7 Port Museum of Dunkirk** Museum showcasing Dunkirk's maritime history and port heritage.
- P Cruise port / terminal**

- 2 Museum Dunkerque 1940 Operation Dynamo** Museum detailing the 1940 Dunkirk evacuation, Operation Dynamo.
- 4 Lac d'Armbouts-Cappel** A scenic lake offering walking paths and nature views.
- 6 Reserve Naturelle Dune Dewulf** A protected nature reserve featuring coastal dunes and wildlife.
- 8 Saint-Éloi Catholic Church at Dunkirk** A historic Catholic church with impressive Gothic architecture.