

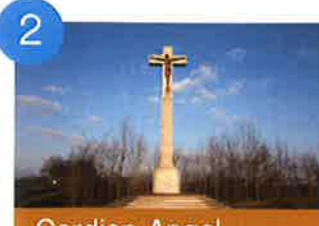
Discover the Chemin des Dames

1



Laffaux's Mill
Terrible fights happened here during both World War one and two.

2



Guardian Angel Calvary
Erected in 1924 in the memory of the soldiers of the Chemin des Dames.

3



Malmaison Fort
A great battle happened in these ruins in October 1917.

4



La Royère
Learn more about the Fort Malmaison attack in October 1917.

5




Chapelle of Ste Berthe
A place of many fights between May and October 1917; rebuilt in 1927.

11



Vauclair Abbey
Cistercian Abbey's ruins originally created in 1134.

13




Napoleon Statue
In memory of the March 14th 1814 battle of Craonne.

14




California plateau
In this place, great fights happened in 1917 and 1918. Many trenches still remain.

18



Chemin des Dames Observatory
Great view on the Chemin des Dames at 200 m.

19



War Tanks National Monument
Erected in 1922 on the place where French tanks were historically first used the April 16th 1917.



TO DISCOVER

Every Thursday in July/August :

Thursday in July/August Guided tour to discover the Chemin des Dames - At 2 PM starting at Visitor Center

€ Full price (+ 7 years old) : 8 € - 7 y.o : free
Lasting 1h15. On reservation only - limited tickets available.

Chemin des Dames tour :

From April to November At specific dates - At 2 PM starting at Visitor Center

€ Full Price (+ 7 y.o) : 8 € - 7 y.o : free
2-3 hours. On reservation only - limited tickets available.

For any further information : www.chemindesdames.fr

8




Visitor Center - Dragon's Lair
Visitor Center and Museum for the Chemin des Dames.

6



Cerny-en-Laonnois
Memorial French and German graveyards.

12



Monument for the Basques
Erected in 1928 in the memory of the French 36th Infantry Division.

15




Old Craonne Arboretum
Old Craonne village, completely destroyed during World War One.

9



Haim Kern Monument
"They did not choose their graves", by H. Kern.

7




Tribute to Senegalese Skirmishers
"Constellation of Pain", by C. Lapie, 2007

10



Vassogne Museum
Center about Work history.

17



Guillaume Apollinaire Monument
Erected in 1990 on Yves Gibeau's initiative in the Buttes's Wood.

16



Peace Garden
German, Moroccan and Italian gardens created in 2018.

Caverne du Dragon

Chemin des Dames

As an iconic site of the Chemin des Dames Battle, the Dragon's Lair is still today a very important place for the World War One memory. It is a unique place for its long and important history.

World war one happened a century ago, but its memory was never distorted. In Aisne, one of the most heavily damaged area of this war, many places remind the visitors what was one of the greatest tragedy known by mankind. The Dragon's lair is one of the most important of them all.

This old Quarry in the middle of the Chemin des Dames was the heart of the battles for the conquest of this territory from 1914 to 1918. Barracks, a church, infirmary, and even a graveyard were created in the "creute", and was owned by both sides during the war.

In 1917, there were so many fights in the Dragon's Lair that it was sometime difficult to say if it was French or German.

Ever since the war ended, the Dragon's lair keep the memory of thousands of fighter, linked to the Chemin des Dames and the terrible French attacks of 1917. This memory remained thanks to the action of the veterans and the Souvenir Français association. Nowadays, the place was improved by the Aisne department to continue to keep this memory alive.

As the artist Haim Kern work "They did not choose their graves", in front of the Dragon's Lair, remind us, our duty is still today to never forget the fallen of the Chemin des Dames. Their story as yours to discover at the Dragon's Lair.

Useful Informations

i You can only access the Dragon's Lair with a guided tour.
Tour Length: around 1:15. 12°C, prepare warm clothes.
Tours starts at regular times during the day.

YEARLY CALENDAR		FOR GROUPS ONLY				
J	F	M	A	M	J	10 AM-5 PM Last tour starting at 3:30 pm
J	A	S	O	N	D	FOR ALL VISITORS
						10 AM-6 PM Last tour starting at 4:30 pm
						Closed from December 15 th to January 15 th

€ Full price : 9 € Reduced price* : 4,5 € Family price : 24 €
* Reduced price : children/students/teachers/jobseekers/veterans/disabled peoples

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Exclusive tour for children (6-11 y.o.) and teenagers (12-15 y.o.) :
Every Wednesday at 11 am and 2 pm. Duration : 1 hour

👥 Group prices (+25 visitors): on reservation only - please contact us.

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DIGITAL TABLE | MEMORIAL ROOM | HISTORICAL LINE
SPECIALIZED BOOKSTORE | PANORAMIC SHOP



NEW!
Visitor Center
CHEMIN DES DAMES - CAVERNE DU DRAGON

Des lieux d'histoire dans l'Aisne

A UNIQUE 14-18
MEMORIAL SITE

**La Caverne
du Dragon**



Centre d'Accueil du Visiteur
CHEMIN DES DAMES - CAVERNE DU DRAGON - DRACHENHÖHLE

Caverne du Dragon

www.chemindesdames.fr

Centre d'Accueil du Visiteur

CHEMIN DES DAMES - CAVERNE DU DRAGON - DRACHENHÖHLE

In a building on the top of a breathtaking landscape damaged by the Great War, discover the Chemin des Dames history with new interactives tools. Screens, historical pictures and testimonies teach you the lives of thousands of fighters send in some of the World War One most terrible fights.

A brand new and exhaustive interactive table was created to help the visitor to discover the main memory sites in the area, side by side with showcases where weapons and uniforms are displayed. Very far from an old history class, you can live a full immersion in the past and memory of this special place.

Come to dig the battlefield ground polluted by what remains of shells and hear the infamous French soldier's song: The song of Craonne. Read the memorial database of the fallen in the Chemin des Dames, and then go 14 meters under the surface of the earth to discover the Dragon's Lair, a shelter for the soldiers between 1914 and 1918.

The Chemin des Dames Visitor center want to keep the Chemin des Dames in the greatest World War One memory sites, and to be one of the great cultural attractions of the Haut-de-France Region, to pass on the story of this area to every visitor from all generations and countries, and to be the memorial gate of the World War One sites in Aisne department.

Useful Information

i The Visitors Welcoming Center is open and free to visit everyday. You can discover a WWI timeline, a digital table, a room for remembrance, a temporary exhibition room and a brand new shop will help you discovering the Chemin des Dames battlefield.

YEARLY CALENDAR		EVERY DAY				
J	F	M	A	M	J	10 AM-5 PM
J	A	S	O	N	D	FOR ALL VISITORS
						10 AM-6 PM
						Closed from December 15 th to January 15 th

📍 Visitor Center
CHEMIN DES DAMES - CAVERNE DU DRAGON

RD 18 Chemin des Dames
02160 Ouches la Vallée Foulon
France

**FREE
ADMISSION**



(+33) 3 23 25 14 18 - www.chemindesdames.fr

