

# Abbaye-

# aux-

# Hommes

An  
outstanding  
heritage site

Program  
2019



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CAENA  
NORMANDIE

## **The Abbaye-aux-Hommes, an architectural masterpiece of mediaeval art and 18<sup>th</sup> century**

The Abbaye-aux-Hommes was founded in 1063 by **William the Conqueror**, and remains a beautiful monument containing a wealth of rich history. The **Abbey Church of Saint Stephen**, listed as a historic monument since 1840, reflects the past splendour of the Dukes of Normandy and is one of the world's finest examples of 11th century Norman Romanesque art. The fact that William the Conqueror himself is buried in the choir of this church is testament to its glorious past.

**The Abbey has weathered a millennium of turbulent European history**, rising phoenix like from the ashes of war and strife. The monastic buildings, for example, were rebuilt by Benedictine monks of the Congregation of Saint Maur following one such period.

There have been no monks at the Abbaye-aux-Hommes since the French Revolution, but the Abbey has retained its splendour and importance well into **modern times**. In 1804, the monastic buildings became a college and were christened the **Lycée Malherbe** in 1892.

It became a powerful symbol of freedom and brotherhood in the **summer of 1944** too, when thousands of civilians sought refuge within its walls during the Allied bombardment of occupied Caen.



Now a bastion of peace and tranquillity in the heart of the city, the Abbey opens its doors to visitors seeking the calm of the Tuscan-style cloister, the purity of its architecture and the rich decoration within.

**So come and visit with your family, your friends or a tour group and discover the splendour and majesty of this Abbey, one of the finest heritage sites in France.**



p.4 **An exceptional heritage site**

- William the Conqueror
- Monastic buildings, 18<sup>th</sup> century halls and cloister
- The Abbey Church of Saint Stephen...

p.6 **Discover the Abbey**

- ✚ Visit the Abbey (without a tour guide) and the permanent exhibition spaces
  - "1066-1204: An intimate glimpse of the Anglo-Norman, world"
  - "Caen, the summer of '44: Life goes on"

p.9 **Guided tours**

- ✚ The "Exceptional heritage site" tour
- ✚ Themed tours, with a "Travel through the centuries"
  - In the footsteps of the Conqueror: the birth of the Abbey
  - Monastic life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Abbey in the throes of the Revolution
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**CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS, THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY AND THE LIBERATION OF CAEN**

- Guided tours, exhibitions, events and more

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## William the Conqueror, father of the Abbey

William was born in Falaise in 1027 and was appointed the successor in 1035 to the throne of his father, the Duke. Around 1050, he married his distant cousin Mathilda of Flanders in a union opposed by the Church. As penitence, the pair founded two Abbeys: the Abbaye-aux-Dames, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, in honour of Saint Stephen.

The first stones were laid in 1066, the year of William's legendary conquest of England. The appointed successor to King Edward of England, William saw his crown usurped by the King's brother-in-law Harold and took up arms to claim his rightful place on England's throne. His efforts bore fruit in his victory at Hastings on 14 October 1066, paving the way for his coronation at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day and his new title, William the Conqueror. After his death, he returned to his native Normandy to be buried at the Abbey Church of Saint Stephen of Caen in 1087.

The Abbey Church of Saint Stephen  
The tomb of William the Conqueror



## The Abbey Church of Saint Stephen

Consecrated in 1077, much of the Abbey Church of Saint Stephen was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century; by far the oldest part of the Abbey, it was home to seven centuries of Benedictine monks. The choir was rebuilt in the 13<sup>th</sup> century in the Gothic style, and houses the tomb of William the Conqueror.

The Church of Saint Stephen is a wonderful fusion of Romanesque and Gothic architecture, and became a parish church in 1802. Even now, Sunday mornings the church resonate with Gregorian chants resounding in the choir, in an echo of its monastic past... Masses are still held within this church, which you can visit between 9am and 6pm during the week and between 2pm and 6pm on Sundays.

## The monastic buildings

The Abbey was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century as an Abbey Church served by a whole series of buildings used by the Benedictine monks for prayer and everyday monastic life. These buildings, however, were damaged so badly during the Wars of Religion in 1562 and 1563 that they could no longer house the Abbey's monks, and were razed at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to make way for the monastery you can see today.

You can still see evidence of the prestige and organisation of the Abbey in the Middle Ages, in the remaining bakery, apple press, cart-house, Ducal Palace (a former hostelry now home to the Artothèque art gallery) and the Guards' Hall (currently home to the Municipal Council).

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the monks began rebuilding the monastic buildings to reflect the scale and height of the church. This was based around a central cloister, providing access to the Chapter room, the Sacristy, the Refectory and the Locutory. These spaces were preserved from the violence of the French Revolution and the aerial bombing raids in 1944, and still retain the magnificent 18<sup>th</sup> century decoration: wood carpentry, paintings, wrought iron, chandeliers and more... These offer a wonderful backdrop to Caen City Hall, which occupied the former Monastery buildings since 1965.

# Self guided visit of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes



## “Discovery tour” (without a guide)

All year round, you can take all the time you need to explore **the cloister, the warming-house, the scriptorium, the grand staircase and the gatehouse** (you'll be given a map when you buy your entrance ticket).

The calefactory and the gatehouse are home to **permanent exhibitions**, which you can access with your entrance ticket. There are also regular temporary exhibitions at the scriptorium, so keep a look out when you come and visit.

### Opening hours

✚ From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, and from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September (closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May)

- Monday to Thursday, from 8am to 6pm
- Friday, from 8am to 5pm
- Weekends and public holidays from 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm

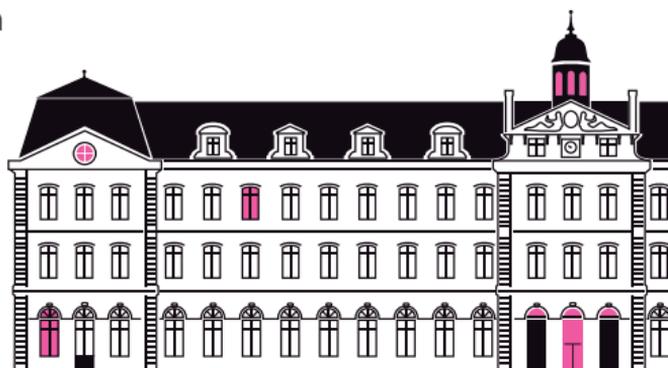
✚ From the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August

- Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6.30pm
- Weekends and public holidays from 9.30am to 6pm

✚ From the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March (closed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and all weekends in January)

- Monday to Thursday, from 8am to 6pm
- Friday, from 8am to 5pm
- Saturday from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 5.30pm
- Sundays and public holidays from 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm

Please note that the ticket office will close 30 minutes before the visitor spaces.





Cloister

**Entrance: 4€**

3€ when there are no temporary exhibitions

Free\* for under 18's, jobseekers and inhabitants of Caen

Groups: see ticket prices and conditions (page 20).

\*Upon presentation of relevant identification (see entrance conditions).



Don't forget to pick up the **Heritage Collection book** (on sale at the ticket desk for 5€)



## Permanent exhibition spaces



### “1066-1204:

### An intimate glimpse of the Anglo-Norman, world”

#### Calefactory

William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy and King of England, made Caen “one of the most powerful cities of the era” in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The Abbaye-aux-Hommes was one of the most important buildings of the time, on a level with the Ducal Castle and the Abbaye-aux-Dames. Step into the former monks’ calefactory and learn about the origins of the Abbey and how Caen grew from strength to strength. Here, you’ll find maps, texts and images, plus a facsimile of the Abbey’s confirmation charter and a reproduction of the seals of the Anglo-Norman kings, featuring the Conqueror himself and his descendants.



### “Caen, summer of '44: Life goes on”

#### Gatehouse

In the chaos of the Battle of Caen and the terrible bombardments crashing over the city in June and July 1944, thousands of civilians sought shelter and refuge in the Abbaye-aux-Hommes. This exhibition in the Abbey’s former gatehouse pays homage to them through a series of photos, archive documents and personal items. Immerse yourself in the drama with audio and video interviews, and see how local Caen citizens drew on their courage and determination to keep on living through the bombings.



# Take a guided tour of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes



## The “Exceptional Heritage” guided tour (50 minutes)

**Discover the glory and history of the Abbey with a guided tour through the 18<sup>th</sup> century monastic rooms, cloister, guards’ rooms, apple press and Abbey Church.** This tour is suitable for all visitors.

The visit may be modified according to the time, availability of the spaces and minimum number of participants.

No advance booking required\*. Meeting point in the main entrance hall of the City Hall.

\*Depending on the schedule or other events in the Abbey, certain guided tours may be cancelled. Visitors will however be able to enter and visit the Abbey on a “discovery tour”.

### Tour times

✚ From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September (closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May)

- Every day: at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 4pm

✚ From the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August

- **In French:** every day at 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4pm and 5.30pm (except Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July)

- **In English:** from Monday to Friday at 11am, 1.30pm and 4pm by English-speaking students as part of Caen’s twinning events with Portsmouth (UK) and Alexandria (USA).

✚ From the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March (closed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and every weekend in January)

- From Monday to Friday at 10.30am and 2.30pm

- No guided tours on Saturday (self guided only)

- Sunday, school and public holidays (except in January) at 10.30am and 2.30pm

**Ticket price: 5,50€**

Groups: see prices and conditions (page 20).

## Themed tours “A travel through the centuries”

(1 hour 30)

**All year round, the Abbey’s guides are here to offer themed tours and take you through the history of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes: the Middle Ages, the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the modern era.**

### **Ticket prices**

Full price: 7€ / Reduced-price ticket: 5.50€

For other conditions and group visits:

Please see the reception/guided tour desk

The visits are conducted in French.

They begin in the reception hall at City Hall.

Minimum group size is 10 people, and places on the visit may be limited.

Upon prior reservation only

Information, reservation call +33 (0)2 31 30 42 81.



When you sign up for a themed visit, you’ll also get an entrance ticket to visit the Abbey for yourself.

*Refectory  
Landing of William the Conqueror  
on the coast of England, 1765, N-B Lépicicé*





## “In the footsteps of the Conqueror: the birth of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes”

**Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of February and the 7<sup>th</sup> of March at 2.30pm**

Around 1050, **William the Conqueror** married his cousin Mathilda of Flanders in a union opposed by Pope Leo IX. As penitence, the pair founded two Abbeys in the Duchy of Normandy, and William chose to build his in the town of Caen. Take a closer look at this legendary Norman who would go on to conquer England, then explore the Abbey’s first years and see the rise of Caen in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

This visit is based on accounts from mediaeval chroniclers and the iconography of William the Conqueror (coins, seals, the Bayeux tapestry, paintings and more).



Find out more about mediaeval Caen with a visit to the Ducal Castle!



### *An extract from the visit*

*“The Normans founded 25 abbeys across the region between 1045 and 1066, symbols of their penitence which also helped revitalise the local economy. When he built the church of Saint Stephen and chose it for his burial, he transformed the site from a simple church into a mausoleum – keeping his memory alive for centuries to come.”*



See other dates for this visit at [caen.fr](http://caen.fr)



Exhibition

“The golden age of Norman abbeys from 1066 to 1204”, from the 16<sup>th</sup> of February to the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 in the Abbey’s cloister.



## “Monastic life in the 18th century: the Abbaye-aux-Hommes in the throes of the Revolution”

**Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April at 2.30pm  
and Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July at 4pm**

In 1704, the Abbey’s monks looked on as the first stones were laid for their new monastery. Come and discover the life of the monks throughout this century, the end of the Abbey’s life as a monastery and some of the most iconic Caen citizens of these troubled times. These even include **Charlotte Corday**, the woman who assassinated the revolutionary Marat.

This visit is based on archive documents, historical accounts, maps, engravings and more.



Delve deeper into Caen’s  
history with a visit to the  
Abbaye-aux-Dames!



### *An extract from the visit*

*“It was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of  
November that we received  
orders to leave. This was a sad  
day, and a day I’ll never forget – I  
can still see our desperate brothers,  
rushing to pick up and take what  
was precious to them as they left.”*

*Dom Claude Ribard, the Abbey’s  
last sub-prior (1753-1827).*

Historical discovery trail   
“Caen and the Revolution”  
For 7-12 years old; free,  
please ask at the reception.



## “The Abbey... becoming the Lycée Malherbe”

Refectory



### *An extract from the visit*

*“On the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1892, the college’s leaders decided to name the establishment the **François de Malherbe** Lycée in homage to the poet born in Caen in 1555. It may be a little unfair considering the illustrious founder of the Abbey, but it’s not surprising that its professors chose a man who lived by the pen rather than the sword as the image of the college”.*



Come and admire the magnificently restored façade of the poet’s former house at 1 rue Vauquelin - place Malherbe. It’s not far from the Abbey, either!

**Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> of December at 6.30pm**

In 1804, Napoleon decreed that an imperial college would be founded in the former monastery and appointed 150 students to live and study there. By the end of the century, the establishment was formally christened the Lycée Malherbe, in honour of the famous 16<sup>th</sup> century Caen poet. With this visit, you can delve into the daily lives of the students who lived and studied here, some of whom lived to be very famous indeed!

This visit is based on archives, photos, commemorative plaques, sculptures and accounts...



## “The summer of '44: A haven in the chaos of war”

**Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of July and Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September at 7pm.**

In Caen, the summer of '44 was brutally interrupted by the aerial bombardment of the city centre on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. The Abbey soon became a sanctuary for more than 8,000 civilians... This visit will show you just how these thousands of civilians kept on living and working throughout the battle of Caen, in preparation for the Liberation.

This visit is illustrated by photos, text and audio and video accounts.



### *An extract from the visit*

*“Despite the ruins and the bloodshed, despite the horror of war... we knew the reason, we knew we would be the children of the liberation”.*

*Jean-Marie Girault, college student, member of the Red Cross emergency teams, Mayor of Caen from 1970 to 2001, Senator for Calvados from 1971 to 1998.*



⊕ The visits on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June and 9<sup>th</sup> July will feature the accounts of some of these civilians, read by two actresses from the Auloffée theatre company.

This summer in the Abbaye-aux-Hommes

## CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS, THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY AND THE LIBERATION OF CAEN

The history of Caen and Normandy itself is deeply entwined with that of the Second World War, with Caen right on the front line of the Allied landings in Normandy on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1944. Soon the Abbaye-aux-Hommes and the Lycée Malherbe became a sanctuary for thousands of civilians seeking shelter from the bombs.

To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy, there will be a series of themed guided tours and exceptional exhibitions from the city Archives and the CADOMUS funds.



**75<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

OF THE  
LANDINGS AND  
*liberation*  
OF CAEN

**SUMMER**  
2019  
6.06 > 21.08

Projections  
Exhibitions  
Dances and shows  
Concerts

Debates  
Meetings  
Celebrations

Reservations and full programme on [caen.fr](http://caen.fr)

## A guided tour in the city

### A GUIDED TOUR IN THE CITY "IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE OF CAEN"

**On Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July and the 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of August**

Visit time: 2 hours

Provided by the Caen-La-Mer Tourist Office

This visit will take you back to the decisive days which decided the fate of the city. The Battle of Caen was shaken by 72 days of aerial bombardment, 44 days of siege and 12 days of fire, leading to widespread devastation and almost 2,000 dead.

The inhabitants of the city worked together to survive in the midst of war, alternating between sorrow and hope.

Emergency rescue teams saved countless lives during the chaos of war.

Military strategists focused on the kilometres of front-line around the city, while fighters on the ground fought on and civil engineers repaired the roads and bridges needed to take the war deep into Germany. And the local civil authorities were quickly overwhelmed, with a teetering dictatorship poised to make way for a democratic future.

The guided tour ends at the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, a sanctuary for thousands of civilians throughout the summer of '44, where you can visit the permanent exhibition space inside the Abbey: "The summer of '44: Life goes on\*".

**Ticket prices:** full price: 6€ / reduced price: 4€ (job-seekers, students, pupils), free for children under 6 years old.

The tour leaves from the Hôtel d'Escoville at 2.30pm.

30 places available.

Book your tickets with the Caen-La-Mer Tourist Office, 02 31 27 14 14, Place Saint-Pierre in Caen or the Lofi Esplanade in Ouistreham; on-line at [reservation.caenlamer-tourisme.fr](http://reservation.caenlamer-tourisme.fr)

\* Access to the cloisters and the "Summer of '44" space in the Abbey may be affected by official formal ceremonies.

## Exhibitions

**From the 4<sup>th</sup> of June to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September**

### **“LIFE IN CAEN BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE WAR”**

Scriptorium – in the City Hall

Explore the daily life of Caen’s citizens through a series of emotional and surprising photos. Aside from the famous war photos, you’ll have the chance to see people’s lives during the Occupation, hear their stories and share their emotions in this difficult and frequently misunderstood time. This is an unprecedented collection of photos of Caen before, during and after the war.

**Ticket price:** 4€ with the “discovery tour” of the Abbey  
Free (see page 7)

### **“MUNICIPAL LIFE IN OCCUPIED AND LIBERATED CAEN”**

City Hall – “Aile des jardins”

Registers, certificates and other items documenting how the city was run: what did the city do under the Occupation? How were the city’s services reorganised during and after the summer of ‘44? How did local politics come back to life after the war? These questions (and more) will be answered in this exhibition, using authentic documents, certificates and registers from this era.

**Ticket price:** free

### **“CAEN, THROUGH THE FOG OF WAR”**

An urban exhibition in Caen city centre

48 unprecedented photos of Caen’s city buildings before and after 1944.

Hôtel d’Angleterre - Avant et après le guerre ©Fonds DELASSALLE



©Cadomus



©Archives Ville de Caen



## Other events

### “CAEN IN IMAGES”

**From the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 to the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2020**

An exhibition in the Museum of Normandy

The city seen by artists, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the Reconstruction

For more information: [musee-de-normandie.fr](http://musee-de-normandie.fr)

### “1944 / 2019, A SHARED MEMORY”

**From May to September**

An exhibition in the Cloister of the Abbaye-aux-Hommes

Immerse yourself in 74 years' commemorations of peace in Normandy in the Abbey's beautiful cloister.

In partnership with the Conseil Départemental de la Manche and Ouest France.

### VIDEO-MAPPING

### “THE LIBERATION OF CAEN IN SOUND AND LIGHTS”

**From the 6<sup>th</sup> of June to the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, in the evening**

(every Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

On the façade of the City Hall

### THE LIBERATION BALLS

**On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July**, the anniversary of the liberation on the left bank. At the Place Saint-Sauveur.

**On the 19<sup>th</sup> of July**, the anniversary of the liberation of the right bank. At the Parc Claude-Decaen.

## Don't miss the other events at the Abbaye-aux-Hommes

### + Book Fair “Époque”

On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May

### + European Heritage Days 2019

On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, with the theme: “Art and entertainment”

### + Games night

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of September

### + The Independent Artists' Show

From the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of October

### + A November to Savour

### + November, played on the abbey's Great Organs

Concerts on the Cavallé-Coll organ

On Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November at 4.30pm

## Useful informations

The Abbaye-aux-Hommes welcomes more than 40,000 visitors every year, who come to enjoy the splendour of one of France's most beautiful stately buildings. You can visit the Abbey by yourself, or take a guided tour.

The Abbey Church is open every day from 9am to 6pm (from 2pm to 6pm on Sundays).

- Buy your tickets at the main entrance hall of the City Hall
- The ticket desk closes 30 minutes before the abbey itself
- You can pay by cheque, cash, credit card or holiday vouchers
- There's free Wi-Fi at the City Hall

### Getting to the Abbaye-aux-Hommes in Caen

- By road: Paris is 220km away (A13) and Rennes is 190km away (A84).
- By rail: Caen is 2 hours from Paris.
- By air: the Caen-Carpiquet airport is just 10 minutes from the city centre.
- By sea: the Ouistreham ferry port is 15 minutes from the city centre. You can take a ferry from Portsmouth to Caen, which takes 6 hours.



# Visiting the Abbaye-aux-Hommes



Cloisters



## Adult groups

### Reservation is required for self guided and guided tours

by e-mail to: [abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr](mailto:abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr)  
or by phone at +33 (0)2 31 30 42 81

#### ✚ Self guided

3€ or 4€ per person (if there is a temporary exhibition)

#### ✚ Guided tour

5€ per person

From Monday to Friday (except public holidays) in French or English.

Coaches can park on the esplanade in front of the City Hall for the duration of the visit.



The Citizens' visit – Wedding hall



## School groups

### Reservation is required for self guided and guided tours

by e-mail to: [abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr](mailto:abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr)

or by phone at +33 (0)2 31 30 42 81

#### ✿ Self guided

Free for Caen school groups

Fixed price for non-Caen school groups: 25€

#### ✿ Guided tour

You can buy a visitor's pack (group admission and teaching booklets).

Contact the reception desk for the terms and conditions.

Free for Caen school groups

Fixed price for non-Caen school groups: 30€

The Abbey does not have a cloakroom, canteen or covered playground. If weather permits, younger visitors can enjoy a picnic nearby.

Coaches can park on the esplanade in front of the City Hall for the duration of the visit.

### A whole host of themes are available

#### “William the Conqueror and monastic life at the Abbey”

An educational tour of the history of the Abbey, William the Conqueror, how the monastery was run and the Romanesque and Gothic architecture.

#### “The summer of '44: refugees in the Abbey”

An educational tour focusing on the daily lives of the refugees in the Abbey during the bombing raids in the summer of 1944.

#### “Citizenship: the role of city hall and our elected representatives”

An educational tour which shows visitors what the city hall does, the role of the Mayor, the symbols of the Republic and what happens in a city council session.



## For disabled visitors

The Abbaye-aux-Hommes was awarded the "Tourisme et Handicap" label (for services to people with mental and hearing disabilities) as a reward for its work to improve their tours and offer properly-adapted services.

Tours may vary according to times and availability; please contact the reception and guided tour desk.

 Self guided or guided tours

### Information and reservations

by e-mail to: [abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr](mailto:abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr)

or by phone at +33 (0)2 31 30 42 81

Free for disabled people and one companion



### Motor disabilities

Depending on the visit, the tour is accessible between 75% and 100%. Wheelchairs may be borrowed (subject to availability). Adapted bathroom facilities. Disabled parking.



### Hearing disabilities

The reception and ticket desk is equipped with a magnetic loop. Portable magnetic loops and tablets with French sign-language videos are available to use during the tour. Adapted bathroom facilities (flashing lights in the event of an alarm).



### Visual disabilities

There is a tactile model to present the buildings, and a sensory visit of the Abbey allows visitors to touch the decoration (woodwork, stone, ironwork, church clothes) and discover the gardens. The solo visit route features information panels in large print and Braille.



### Mental disabilities

An "Easy to Read and Understand" document is available upon request. For groups (upon reservation only), there are adapted workshops and tools to help visitors discover the Abbey in a fun and friendly way. Adapted visit times.

## Gift Shop - Souvenirs

The Abbey gift shop offers a wide range of souvenirs: pop-up cards, mugs, commemorative coins, children's items... all featuring the Abbaye-aux-Hommes and its illustrious cast of characters!



## Themed books and the Heritage Collection

- for sale at the reception desk, for 5€
- available in French and in English



## Contact and reservations

**User relations desk**

**Reception / Guided tours**

**Abbaye-aux-Hommes**

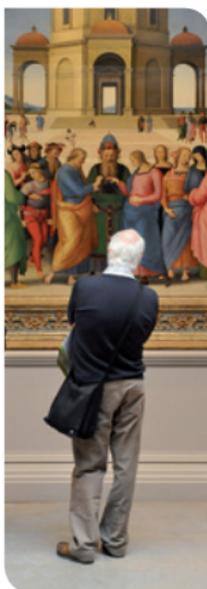
Hôtel de ville de Caen  
Esplanade Jean-Marie-Louvel

14027 Caen cedex 9

+33 (0)2 31 30 42 81

[abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr](mailto:abbayeauxhommes@caen.fr)

For more information: [caen.fr](http://caen.fr)



# CAEN DISCOVERY PASS

3 museums + 1 abbey  
at **reduced rates!**

INDIVIDUAL  
PASS

**19,95€**

INSTEAD OF 31,80€  
38% REDUCTION

**On sale  
at each site**

TICKET VALID  
UNTIL 31/12/2019

## MÉMORIAL DE CAEN - 19,80€

Unguided visit of the museum dedicated to 20<sup>th</sup> century history, excludes 2019 Rockwell, Roosevelt and the Four Freedoms exhibition

## + MUSÉE DE NORMANDIE - 4€

Unguided visit of the museum dedicated to the history of Normandy, set in the heart of the Château de Caen, which was built during the 11<sup>th</sup> century as the residence of the Dukes of Normandy.

## + MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS - 4€

Unguided visit of the permanent collections and temporary exhibitions, extending over more than 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> and dedicated to Art, from the Italian, Flemish and French Renaissance to 21<sup>st</sup> century contemporary art.

## + ABBAYE-AUX-HOMMES - 4€

Visit to explore the 18<sup>th</sup> century monastic buildings and St-Etienne Benedictine abbey, founded in 1063 by William of Normandy.