



The D-Day Beaches

Normandy 1944

APPLICATION FOR
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
STATUS



RÉGION
NORMANDIE
www.normandie.fr

What is World Heritage?

The World Heritage Convention is **an international treaty** signed by the 193 UNESCO member States. It aims to **identify, protect, conserve, highlight and pass on** the wealth of **cultural and natural heritage to future generations**. Properties recognized as being of outstanding universal value are registered on the **World Heritage List**. This list now contains nearly **1100 properties**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
whc.unesco.org/fr



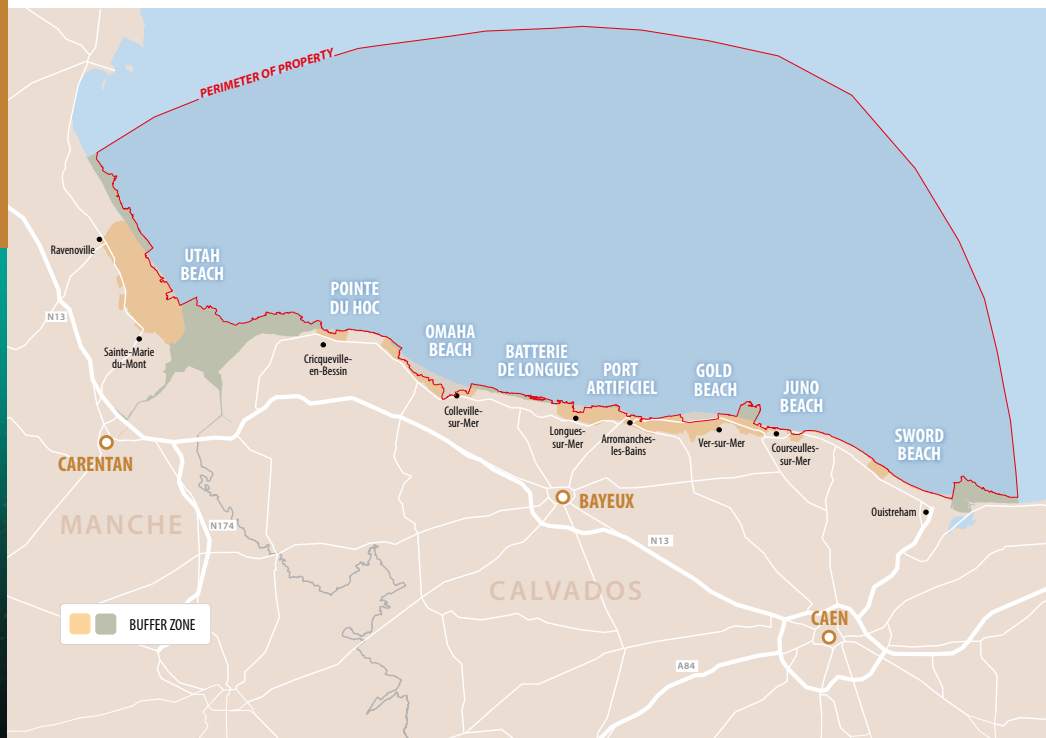
Wreck M39 - © Coen Plongée

Which sites does the nomination concern?

Eight sites on land and by the sea:

- Utah Beach
- Pointe du Hoc
- Omaha Beach
- The Longues-sur-Mer battery
- The artificial harbour
- Gold Beach
- Juno Beach
- Sword Beach

This area corresponds to over **80 kilometres of coastline** bordering part of the English Channel; it includes a substantial area in the bay of the river Seine. The area covers the five landing areas defined by the Allies in 1944: **Utah, Omaha, Juno, Gold and Sword**.



General map of the area (Source: Normandy Region, April 2018)

"The project to register the D-Day Beaches on the UNESCO World Heritage list one that is meaningful to people, because they come from all over the world to see these beaches. These places bear the universal values of peace and freedom".

Hervé Morin
President of the Normandy Region

This area was the scene of the confrontation during the **amphibious operation launched on June 6, 1944 (operation Neptune*)**: **it still bears the main traces of this**, whether visible or invisible, including archaeological and underwater remains.

These sites also illustrate a shared desire **to safeguard this legacy and to convey its meaning**: a confrontation with political foundations, a fight for freedom and a commitment of 17 nations in the battle, **engendering lasting peace**.

They have been nominated for registration on the World Heritage list. The name given to the property is: **The Normandy 1944 D-Day beaches**.

* Operation Neptune was the first phase of Operation Overlord. Its aim was to open a new front in Western Europe against Third Reich troops, which eventually led to the liberation of Western Europe and the end of the Second World War in Europe.



What is outstanding universal value?

Outstanding universal value is defined by **cultural and/or natural significance so exceptional that it transcends national boundaries and has the same invaluable character for present and future generations.**

It is this which is the reason behind nomination for the World Heritage List and which also means that the beaches requires protection, conservation and management measures.

What outstanding universal value is proposed?

The Normandy 1944 D-Day beaches bear the traces and the memory of a confrontation for freedom and peace. They have become **the setting for global gathering, bearing a universal message about freedom and peace.**

The Normandy 1944 D-Day beaches are proposed in the **cultural property**, and specifically, **in the cultural landscape category**. More precisely, the beaches are a relict cultural landscape, in the sense of the testimony left by the D-Day event, and an associative cultural landscape, with which **exceptional symbolic values are associated.**

"There is no site as worthy of this UNESCO World Heritage listing as the D-Day Beaches".

Christopher Forbes

President of the association
prefiguring governance of the
D-Day Beaches

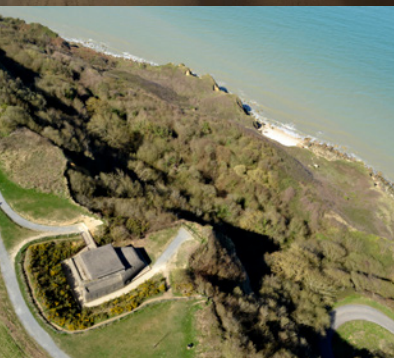
Why should the D-Day beaches feature on the World Heritage List?

- **To identify, preserve and pass on this heritage** to future generations
- **To strengthen the symbolic dimension**, the universal values of freedom and peace, the message for our world of today and tomorrow
- **To develop a sustainable tourism of excellence and** to welcome over 2 million visitors to the sites concerned each year in accordance with the spirit of the sites



Mulberry B - © François Chandavoine - Septième Ciel Images - Normandy Region

Utah Beach - © François Levalet



Longues-sur-Mer - © Fabien POTEL - aircapture.fr

Liberté j'inscris ton nom (Normandy, Land of liberty): a campaign backed by 60,000 people at the time of the official application

Many personalities from around the world have given their support to the application for having the Normandy 1944 D-Day beaches registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

"In early June 1944, while I was in Auschwitz, I remember picking up a piece of a German newspaper telling about the Normandy landings. The revelation of this event aroused an immense hope for freedom among those deportees who heard about it. Remembering June 6, 1944, is to remember this fight for the freedom of a country, a whole continent and the world".

Account by Simone VEIL(†),
former Minister of State, former President
of the European Parliament **in support of the application**

To support the application for having the Normandy 1944 D-Day beaches registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2019, the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy:

liberte-normandie.com





Hoc - © Fabien Potel - airkapture.fr

The Normandy 1944 D-Day beaches application: the key stages

2008



The Normandy Region is **launching a partnership initiative** with regional stakeholders such as state services and local authorities within the beach area.

Since
April 2014



The Normandy 1944 D-Day beaches are on **the national tentative list**.

From 2014
to 2017



The Normandy Region is carrying out partnership work **to prepare an application**. It contains over 500 pages and no fewer than 18,000 pages of appendices!

2018



France officially **registered the file with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre** in January 2018.

Normandy for Peace: a forward-looking initiative

In order to pass on to future generations the meaning of the combat waged on the D-Day Beaches, the Normandy Region has launched **Normandy for Peace**, which throughout the year supports **initiatives highlighting the universal values of peace and freedom in Normandy and all over the world.**

The culmination of this initiative, **the Normandy World Peace Forum**, will be launched in 2018 and will be held every year after the June 6, 1944 commemorations. **It will be an annual international event devoted to topics related to peace and stability throughout the world.**



Ver-sur-mer - © Normandy Region - Manuel de Rugy



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