

# PRESS RELEASE

LAND OF MEMORY, MARCH 2022



**A REMEMBRANCE TOURISM  
DESTINATION IN FRANCE,  
BELGIUM, GERMANY  
AND LUXEMBOURG**

**LAND OF  
MEMORY**  
BELGIQUE - DEUTSCHLAND - FRANCE - LUXEMBOURG

Chattancourt trenches

The Land of Memory is a new tourist destination that explores the history of the 20th century in France, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg.

The visitor will discover more than 80 Second World War remembrance sites.



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# A EUROPEAN TERRITORY OF REMEMBRANCE: AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT



## Remembrance for learning and growing

For younger generations in Europe, the two world wars are now distant and sometimes even forgotten.

However, **detailed knowledge of the circumstances that led to the 20th century's world wars** is essential to understanding today's world and the cooperative relationships that bind European countries and citizens.

For families, young people, teachers and history buffs, the **Land of Memory is an emotionally moving destination for exploring past events** where they happened.

## A fresh perspective and new activities

The Land of Memory is an exceptional territory for remembrance. Its **cross-border** location allows for the cooperation of tourist actors from each country and region of the territory and a plurality of points of view and testimonies.

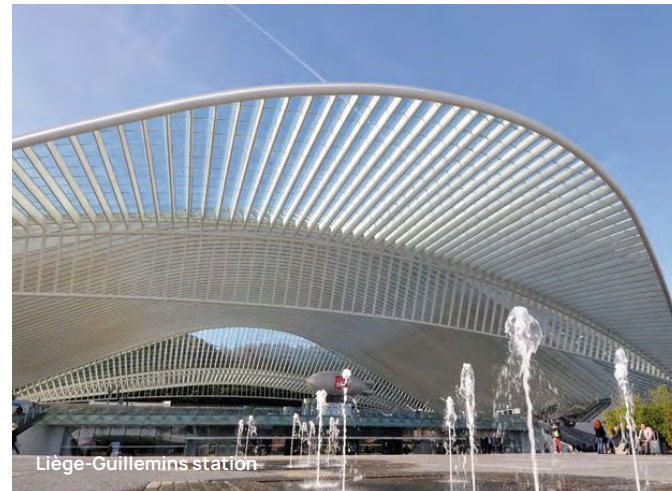
**Thus the four countries of this tourist destination offer more than 80 sites**, where you will meet people, explore, and participate in unique activities. Moreover, the proximity of **preserved natural areas**, such as the Ardennes mountains, the Moselle valley, the Argonne forests and the banks of the Meuse, makes for a stay that is as instructive as it is invigorating and wide-ranging.





# ABOUT THE LAND OF MEMORY

**The Land of Memory**  
is accessible by car, as well as  
by high-speed train from Paris, Brussels,  
Liège, Les Trois-Domaines (Meuse-TGV),  
and Luxembourg City.



## **During visits history is revealed through activities that are unique in the world**

Remembrance sites offer intense experiences that immerse visitors in the daily lives of the period's protagonists - soldiers, resistance fighters, civilians, etc. - and enrich the telling of history.



## **A visit to the Land of Memory is combined with a rich and varied tourist offer.**

Visitors can enjoy quality accommodation (charming hotels, castles, heritage sites, unique accommodation, etc.), numerous activities, leisure, and tasty discoveries of local products. Thus they can plan moments of relaxation between visits to historical and remembrance sites.





# MAP AND FIGURES

A visit to the Land of Memory is a real adventure: countless activities and discoveries await. Visitors learn about military and civilian events and ask questions about the common past that has marked the inhabitants of Europe's so-called **Greater Région\***.

**87** remembrance sites



## Who are the Land of Memory partners in the Greater Region?

Belgium: Liège and Luxembourg Provinces.  
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg: Éislek.  
Germany: Saarland

This cross-border region was strategic during the world wars and witnessed major historical events, thus it is a rare place that is imbued with emotion and where there is much to learn.



Bois de la Paix à Bizory (Bastogne)



# LES SITES HISTORIQUES EMBLÉMATIQUES

The Land of Memory highlights the region's emblematic sites, which have definitively marked European and international history, such Bastogne, Verdun and fortified position of Liège.

Because the region is vast, it is possible to spend several days as part of a remembrance and educational excursion encompassing emblematic sites, learning opportunities and nature walks.



«Des Flammes à la Lumière» - Verdun

## FOR THE YOUNGEST

The emblematic site of Verdun includes a specific effort to present battlefield tours in the most interactive way possible for young audiences.

The sound and light show **“Des Flammes à la Lumière”** («From Flames to Light») revisits the history of the Battle of Verdun through an impressive dramatisation. With more than 250 actors on stage and multiple special effects, the show impresses audiences of all ages on Friday and Saturday evenings from late June to late July.

Some sites offer special tour booklets for children.

Thus the Verdun battlefield tour for children is accompanied by Vadrouille la Grenouille (booklet available at the Verdun Tourist Office), which follows a soldier's path over 13 km.



# TO EXPERIENCE ON SITE



## 1. Immersion in the Battle of Verdun

There is no other place in the world like Verdun. Its battlefield illustrates the horror of war as well as the solidarity between soldiers. More than 60 million shells were fired during the 300 days and nights of fighting. More than a hundred years later, the site still bears the scars of this deluge of artillery and violence.

Although forest and nature have reclaimed the battlefield, the trenches, fortifications, ravaged earth and ruts remain. In the heart of Verdun, the underground citadel, a veritable city under the city, shows us the organisation of the battle. We sense the soldier's experience and feel immersed in history.

Verdun is so rich in information that it is best to plan at least two days on site. **The Memorial Verdun** is the first stop on the tour; it was completely renovated in 2016 to provide a more complete experience. Next, **The Douaumont Ossuary** is a remembrance site where the unidentified soldiers who fell on the battlefield of Verdun are buried. Finally, **the nine villages along the Meuse were destroyed** are a must-see, as they were literally wiped off the map during the Battle of Verdun; since then, the condition of the ground and the presence of shells has prevented rebuilding.

## 2. Imagine the Battle of Verdun from the German side

To get a 360° understanding of the First World War, visit the German lines! A discreet and winding path leads to what was the German **Camp Maguerre**.

You can set off as a team to foil the plans of the German army hidden in the forest. A mixture of an escape game and an outdoor treasure hunt, this tour is part of the Explor Game® Portes de Verdun.







## 3. Relive the Battle of the Bulge

The town of Bastogne was at the heart of the fighting in the winter of 1944, to the point of becoming the symbol of the Allied resistance. Emboldened by this past, Bastogne has developed remembrance tourism that raises awareness of democratic values among younger generations.

The **Bastogne War Museum**, visitor is immersed in the Second World War, via multisensory performances, hundreds of original objects and a tour that tells the story of four figures who played crucial roles in the **Battle of Bulge**. The «One Day» package combines the audio-guided museum visit with access to four historical walks.

À quelques kilomètres de là, **the museum at la Roche-en-Ardenne** reveals a lesser-known episode of the Battle of the Bulge: the destruction of the town by Allied aircraft and its liberation by the British (Welsh and Scottish). In the same area, the **Manhay History Museum 44** focuses on the fighting of elite units from both sides, American and German.

To explore the subject further, the **December 44 Historical Museum** in La Gleize offers a chronological and thematic tour that tells the story of the Battle of the Bulge and the end of the Second World War in detail.

Finally, the **Remember Museum** in Thimister-Clermont presents the personal stories of men and women who fought in one way or another during the Second World War, and more particularly during the atrocious winter of 1944-45. What makes the experience truly unique: the stories are told by a real witness to the war.







#### 4. Discover the history of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg during the Nazi period

**Le Sentier des Passeurs** follows the route taken by resistance fighters and draft dodgers in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Two paths start from Troisvierges station: one follows the cross-border routes taken by smugglers, the other, which focuses on the resistance, takes us to the Auschwitz monument at **Cinqfontaines Convent**.

The «Visit Éislek» app enriches this experience with video and audio testimonials.

Another path to follow is the **Sentier du Souvenir** in the **Schumannseck** Woods, a strategic cross-roads in the Battle of the Bulge. Around 60 life-size figures, modelled on period photographs, immerse the visitor in the atmosphere and emotion of these tragic events.

The «Visit Éislek» and «Nächst Statioun» apps are exciting additions to the discovery of this remembrance site.

After these two emotionally moving walks, continue experiencing the lives of Luxembourgers of the time by visiting the **National Museum of Military history**, which offers an impartial and striking exhibition to illustrate veterans' stories.

Finally, for photography enthusiasts, the **Clervaux Castle** hosts **«The Family of Man»**, a UNESCO «Memory of the World» photograph exhibition. Initially created in the context of the Cold War, this beautiful exhibition promotes peace and understanding between nations.





National Museum of Military history in Diekirch



National Museum of Military history in Diekirch



# UNIQUE, IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

The Land of Memory aims to attract all audiences and especially young people, whether in an educational or tourist context.

To this end, each itinerary offers immersive and vivid experiences of what daily life was like during the wars.

Underground Verdun Citadel



Underground Verdun Citadel

## FOR THE YOUNGEST

An immersive website traces the lives of people involved in the wars of the 20th century. Historical facts and events help young audiences become aware of historical causes and effects. The experience is designed to raise awareness of the values of peace and European cooperation among young generations. Designed as an interactive comic book, it is an excellent educational tool for teenagers.

For secondary school students, a visit to the Land of Memory is an important part of their studies. The history of totalitarian regimes and the formation of the European Community in the aftermath of the two world wars are covered in depth in secondary school.

These themes are essential in geopolitical history and the Land of Memory allows students to explore them in an engaging way.



# TO EXPERIENCE ON SITE



Underground Verdun Citadel

## 1. Explore the Underground Verdun Citadel\* in augmented reality.

Verdun has recently inaugurated a new visitor experience in the underground galleries of the citadel. Equipped with augmented reality goggles, in a wire-guided gondola, the visitor plunges into the history of the citadel and learns about the experiences of First World War soldiers via projections and other special effects.

The audience steps into the shoes of Jean Rivière and his fellow soldiers to experience their intense moments in the underground citadel and learn about the events that made it a symbol of the courage of the Great War's soldiers.



Chattancourt trenches

## 2. Experience the living conditions of soldiers in the trenches

Another impressive experience is a visit to the **Chattancourt Trenches** (France). It starts at the entrance with a welcome by volunteers in period costume.

The trench has been fully reconstructed so that everyone can experience the extreme living conditions of the soldiers during the Great War.

Enthusiastic tour guides tell a variety of anecdotes and soldiers' stories. The shop offers handicrafts from the trenches, relics made by infantrymen during their long hours of waiting, to deal with boredom, anxiety and fatigue before going on the next attack.

\*This visit is not suitable for children under eight years old or for people who suffer from claustrophobia. The constant temperature is about 8°C, even in summer.



Chattancourt trenches



## 1. Sleep like a soldier on the lookout for the enemy

**Fort Lantin**, one of the 16 forts of the fortified position of Liège (Belgium), offers groups the opportunity to spend a night in a former garrison room for a more real-life experience.

A unique accommodation for the most adventurous, who will certainly never forget it.



## 2. Experience Second World War bombing

At the **101st Airborne Museum** in Bastogne (Belgium), visitors can enjoy an exhibition rich in detail and period objects.

The most unique experience of this museum comes at the end of the tour: the reconstruction of a cellar that housed civilians. We experience the bombings of the Second World War through a terrifying, realistic soundtrack.





# SOURCES OF INSPIRATION FOR NOVELS

What could be more inspiring than following in the footsteps of the heroes of our favourite films and books?

Many Land of Memory sites have served as settings for fictionalised events.

Why not learn history in a different way?

Fort Eben Emael



## FOR THE YOUNGEST

Emile Bravo's comic strip **Spirou and Fantasio** presents, in its «Spirou» episode, «L'espoir malgré tout» («Hope in spite of everything»), an exciting story in the Land of Memory.

Indeed, while Spirou is a bellboy in Brussels and participates in the Resistance, Fantasio joins the Belgian army's **Fort d'Eben-Emael** garrison.

Like Fantasio in his adventure, children can visit the kilometre-long underground galleries or take a tour about soldier life at the fort at the beginning of the Second World War.



# TO EXPERIENCE ON SITE

## 1. Read works by infantrymen

The best way to experience the emotions of First World War soldiers is to read the masterpieces they wrote, such as Maurice Genevoix's « **Ceux de 14** » and Louis Pergaud's *Carnets de guerre*; the latter describes the daily lives of the author and other soldiers in the trenches.

The book « **Paroles de Poilus** » edited by Jean-Pierre Guéno, is a selection of 100 letters and testimonies that reveal the daily lives of soldiers during the Great War.

To pay homage to these writers or immerse yourself in their memories, you can pay your respects at the **Nécropole Nationale of Saint-Rémy-la-Calonne** and walk along the **Crête des éparges** (France).



Douaumont Ossuary

## 2. Experience the tragic story of the «fusillés pour l'exemple» («executed to set an example»).

Watching Stanley Kubrick's « **Paths of Glory** », the viewer is dismayed by the blatant injustice of those «executed to set an example». This anti-militarist film, released in 1957, was inspired by several real-life events, including the Fleury executions and the Souain corporals affair.

In both cases, French soldiers were executed for refusing to engage in futile attacks between 1916 and 1918. The subject was the source of much debate throughout the 20th century.

To learn more, go to the remembrance stone of the village of Fleury-devant-Douaumont and to the **Douaumont Ossuary**, where you can read a condemned soldier's last letter to his wife.



Crête des Éparges



### 3. Remember the exploits of General Patton

The multi-award winning 1970 masterpiece « **Patton: Lust for Glory** », directed by Franklin J. Schaffner and scripted by Francis Ford Coppola, is about the events experienced by the famous general in Bastogne and in the Ardennes

From his first encounter with German troops in Tunisia to the Battle of the Bulge, Patton's military genius never failed.

Bastogne and its many museums as well as the **Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial** pay tribute to the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division, whom Patton rescued from a German trap during the winter of 1944-45.



General Patton Memorial Museum in Ettelbruck



General Patton Memorial Museum in Ettelbruck





# PREPARE YOUR STAY AT THE TOURIST SITE

**LANDOFMEMORY.EU**



Bois de la Paix - Bizory-Bastogne

The website [landofmemory.eu](http://landofmemory.eu) helps travellers organise their stay by highlighting several ways to approach their visit.

Four approaches are proposed to organise your trip for a day, a weekend or even a week

## 1. Immerse yourself in history via emblematic sites

Visitors to Verdun, Liège, Bastogne and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg will discover the major sites that bear witness to the events that took place in the region during the First World War.

> [See remembrance sites](#)

## 2. Learn about the lives and exploits of military and civilian personnel during the wars

This approach is particularly interesting for young audiences, who will identify with those who witnessed the era's events.

> [See testimonies](#)

## 3. Approach the destination through the plots of novels or films

By following a fictional character, the history of the wars is approached in a much more captivating manner.

> [See the works](#)

## 4. Choose a tourist route according to a historical theme

Different itineraries are proposed depending on length of stay and visitor interests (history, emotional encounters, nature...).

> [See the itineraries](#)





# THE LAND OF MEMORY PROJECT

AN IMPRESSIVE PROJECT  
OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION

The Land of Memory is the product of a European cooperation project, INTERREG V Grande Région, which involves French, Belgian, Luxembourg and German tourism partners.

## Renovate or create new remembrance tourism sites

This European programme supports the renovation and creation of new remembrance sites such as the Jacques Woods, the Schumannseck Memorial Trail (near Wiltz), the Verdun Citadel, Forts Vaux and Douaumont, Camp Marguerre, the Musée de Latour, and the Centre mémoriel de Rossignol.

## Take a group trip off the beaten path

Group trips are mainly aimed at schools and cultural associations. Networking with other operators allows us to offer fully tailor-made travel experiences

Information and tours on [groupes-landofmemory.eu](http://groupes-landofmemory.eu)



Verdun Citadel



## To facilitate the discovery of the Land of Memory

### 1. Tourism website

A website to organise your visit to the Land of Memory. > [See website](#)

### 2. Educational and immersive website

For the youngest, the discovery of history through a storytelling website in the form of an interactive comic book. > [See website](#)

### 3. Exposition : Our Common Heritage

This is an original and unique exhibition that traces the history of the cross-border region of the Land of Memory, from the Belle Époque to the creation of Europe. It is a shared history presented via a spectacular and immersive experience in a shipping container. Five giant photo albums tell the story of the lives of civilians during five periods of the 20th century.

A website presents the exhibition's dates and locations. The public can submit their own photos of the period for possible inclusion in the exhibition. > [See the agenda](#)



Our Common Heritage - exposition Land of Memory

## The «Before the war» board game

Each player is in charge of a European country and must make choices and alliances, which result in peace or war.

The aim is to learn about the history of the 20th century while discovering the Land of Memory.

This game is currently available on request for schools and associations (contact: [info@landofmemory.eu](mailto:info@landofmemory.eu)).

It will soon be available for sale to the general public.



Before the War - Land of Memory Game



Website - Land of Memory



# LAND OF MEMORY PROJECT PARTNERS



VISIT EISLEK  
<https://www.visit-eislek.lu/>



BELGIAN LUXEMBOURG PROVINCE OFFICIAL TOURISM WEBSITE  
<https://www.luxembourg-belge.be/>



IDELUX PROJETS PUBLICS  
[www.idelux.be](http://www.idelux.be)



FÉDÉRATION DU TOURISME DE LA PROVINCE DE LIÈGE  
[www.liegetourisme.be](http://www.liegetourisme.be)



MEUSE ATTRACTIVITÉ  
<https://www.lameuse.fr/>



TOURISME GRAND VERDUN  
<https://www.tourisme-verdun.com/>



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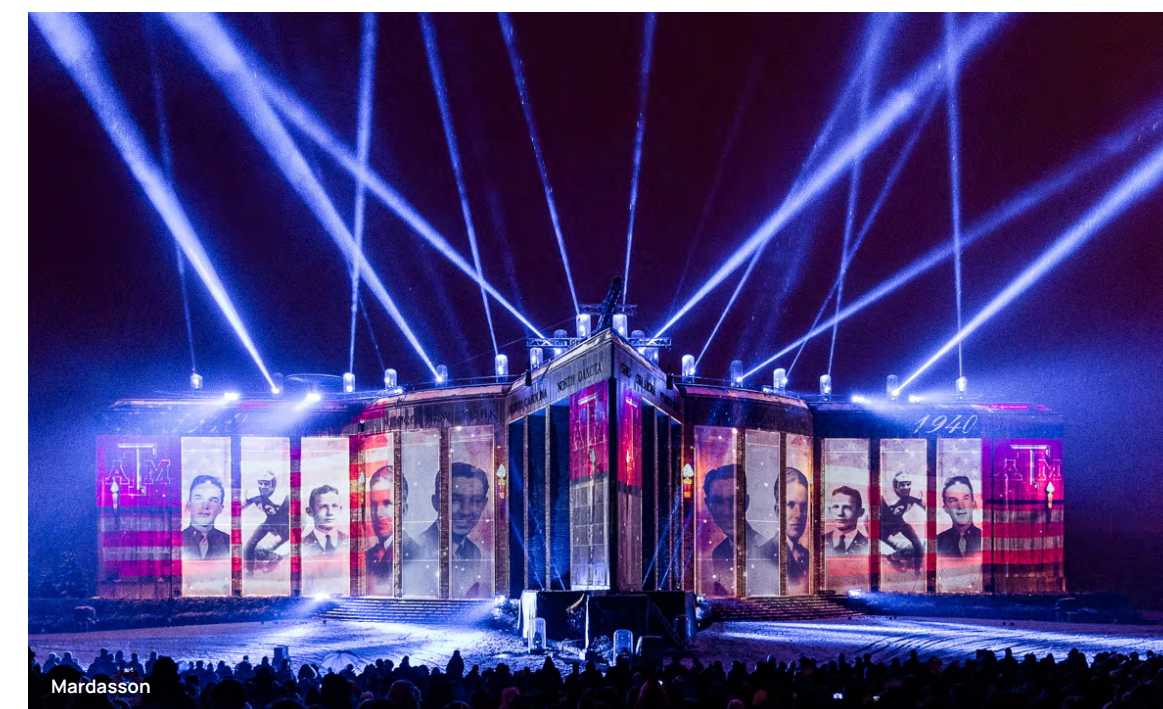
## CONTENUS PRESSE

ADRESS BOOK

PHOTO LINK

WEBSITE

NEW IN 2022





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# MEM RY

**A JOURNEY TO OUR HISTORY'S  
REMEMBRANCE SITES**

