NORMANDY AND BRITTANY – MAY 2019

On the 9th of May, we continued our tour of France.

The first stop that day was in Le Havre. Before we got that far, the GPS in the car told the wrong direction. It probably wasn't wrong, but it hadn't been updated for many years. We were led into a road that became narrower and more winding over time. Finally we ended up at a bridge that was closed by a boom. The main road was across the bridge. The road was so narrow that we had to back until we found a place to turn around.

Le Havre was founded in 1517 as Franciscopolis after Frans I of France. Le Havre means the harbor. After the invasion of Normandy in 1944, the city was massively bombed. 5,000 were killed and 12,000 homes were completely destroyed. After the war, the city was rebuilt. In July 2005, the city plan was listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Le Chateau des Gadelles from 1886, a copy of a gatehouse in the castle "Arco de Santa Maria" in Burgos, Spain.

Statue given to Le Havre in 1924 because of that the Belgian government was staying here from 1914 to 1918.

View from the statue towards the harbor.

Then we continue with a serious, responsible and skilled driver.

An enlarged view from the picture to the right. This is a war memorial called 'Monument aux morts'. It was unveiled in 1924.

Through the streets of Le Havre.

We see St. Josefs church.

We are soon crossing the Seine.

Here we come to the bridge, Pont de Normandie.

Here we see the Seine which flows into the English Channel.

Here we come to Honfleur (Normandie-tourisme).
It is especially known for its old, beautiful and picturesque harbor, characterized by houses with slate-covered facades, often painted by artists.
The first written record of Honfleur is in a reference by Richard III, Duke of Normandy, in 1027. In the mid-12th century, the city was a significant transit port of goods from Rouen to England. Honfleur had a strategic position at the beginning of the Hundred Years War. The city prospered during hundreds of years on trading.

Then we come to the harbor.

This is the inner harbor of Honfleur. It started to rain when we got here, so we weren't tempted much to do any more sightseeing.

Here we continue. It was quite dense in some places.

Then we came to Deauville.

Deauville (Normandie-tourisme) and Trouville-sur-Mer (Normandie- tourisme) are two neighboring towns located on either side of the river La Touques. Both are popular holiday resorts.
With racecourse, harbor, marina, convention center, villas, casino and luxury hotels, Deauville is considered the jewel of the holiday resorts of Normandy. Only 4 500 live in each of the two cities.

This is the river [La Touques](). Trouville-sur-Mer is on the other side. We are standing on the side called Deauville.

Houses in Trouville.

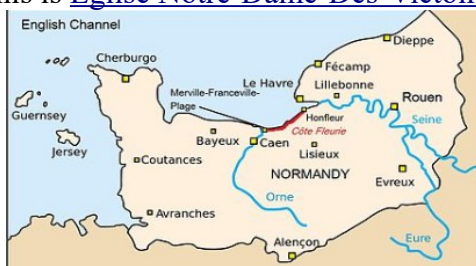This is the bridge that crosses the river between the two districts.

View further up the river.

This is [Église Notre-Dame-Des-Victoires]().

The casino.

This area of the coast was named [Côte Fleurie]() or Flower Coast in 1903.

The area between Trouville and Honfleur has been named Côte de Grace.

Just before we enter Cabourg, I took this picture of a wooden row where the treetops were cut square.

We drove further on into Cabourg.

Cabourg (Normandie-tourisme)

Cabourg is located at the outlet of the River Dives River.
There are many nice well-kept houses in the small town.

Casino.

Grand Hotel

Below are pictures of various houses around the Casino garden

We drove on to Caen. This is by the canal that runs from the sea and into the city.

William the Conqueror is considered the founder of Caen and he helped build the castle. Caen has been an important city in all the wars that have been in the area. There were invasion attempts from the Vikings. The city was on different hands during the centenary war. It was also important during the French Revolution. The city was heavily bombed during World War II and it took 14 years to rebuild it.

Various links
Wikipedia   Normandie-tourisme Wikitravel

Here I'm standing at Tour Guillaume Le Roy. It is a defense tower mentioned the first time in 1497.

This is how it looks on the other side. It was connected to defense walls that no longer exist.
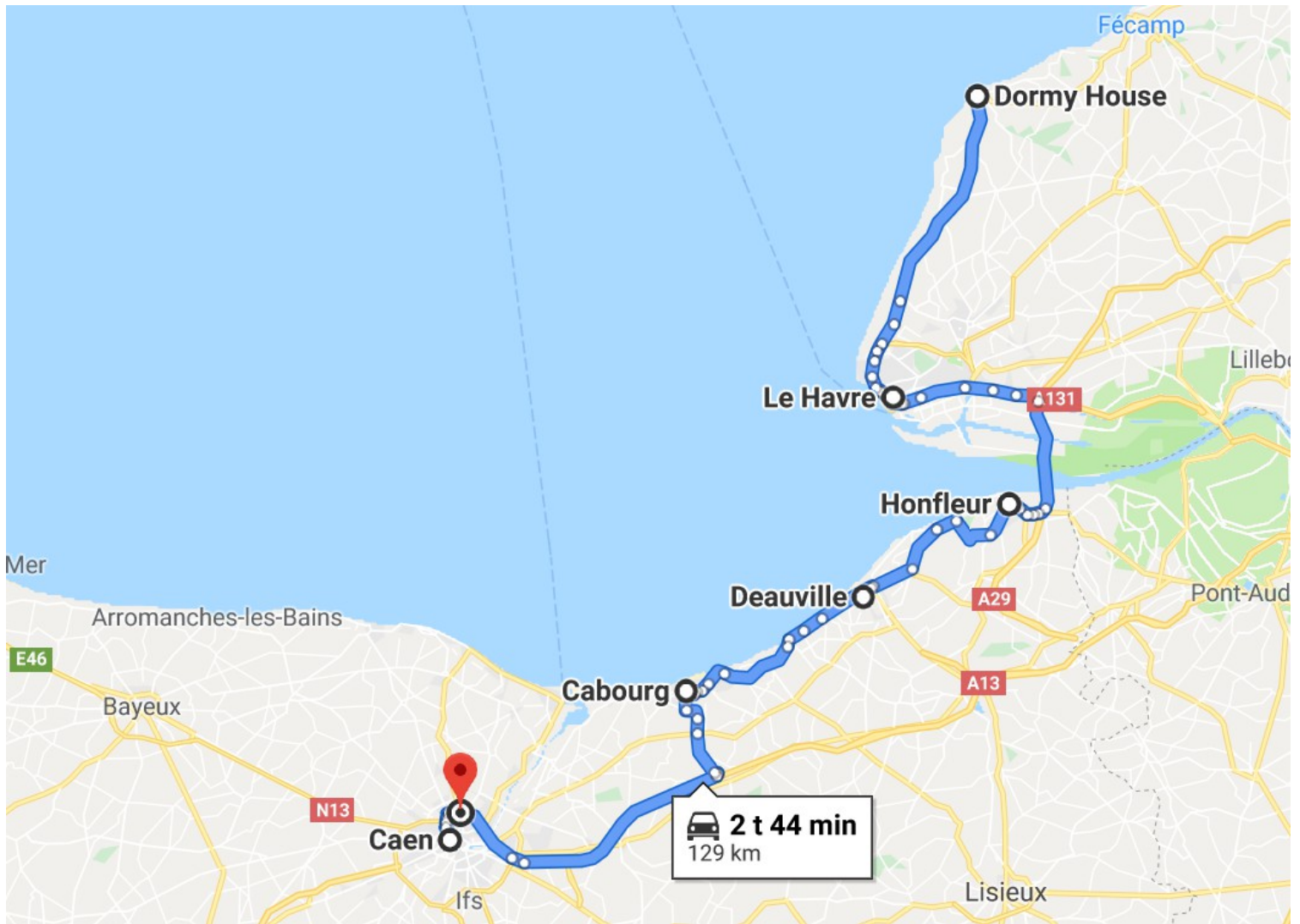

St Peter's Catholic Church

Here we see Caen Castle. It was built by Wilhelm the Conqueror in 1060.

The road continued past the castle.

We stayed at Novotel Caen Côte de Nacre in the outskirts of the city.

This was the driving route this day.