



Reception and Facilities

Reception/Tickets

At your disposal are: drinks, sandwich dispensers, toilet facilities, etc. All through your visit, our hostesses will be able to provide you with information and guide you. Accessible to the disabled. Site equipped for people with hearing disabilities.

Shop

Books, video tapes, aeroplane and rocket models, tee-shirts, etc. The shop in La Coupole is filled with ideas to bring back the right souvenir of your visit.

Opening hours

Open every day all year round
- from 9. am to 7. pm
from 1st April to 31st October 1998
- from 10. am to 6. pm
from 1st November to 31st March 1999
Closed annually, the 2nd week in January.

Information/ Reservation

Tel: (00 33) 3 21 93 07 07
Fax: (00 33) 3 21 39 21 45

**La Coupole - BP 284
62504 SAINT-OMER CEDEX France**

Animals, although our friends, are not admitted to the site.

Access

By road: 5 km from Saint-Omer in the communes of Helfaut and Wizernes. Easy access by the A26 motorway (exit 3 or 4)

By train:
TER or TGV
Saint-Omer or Calais
FRETHUN station



LA COUPOLE

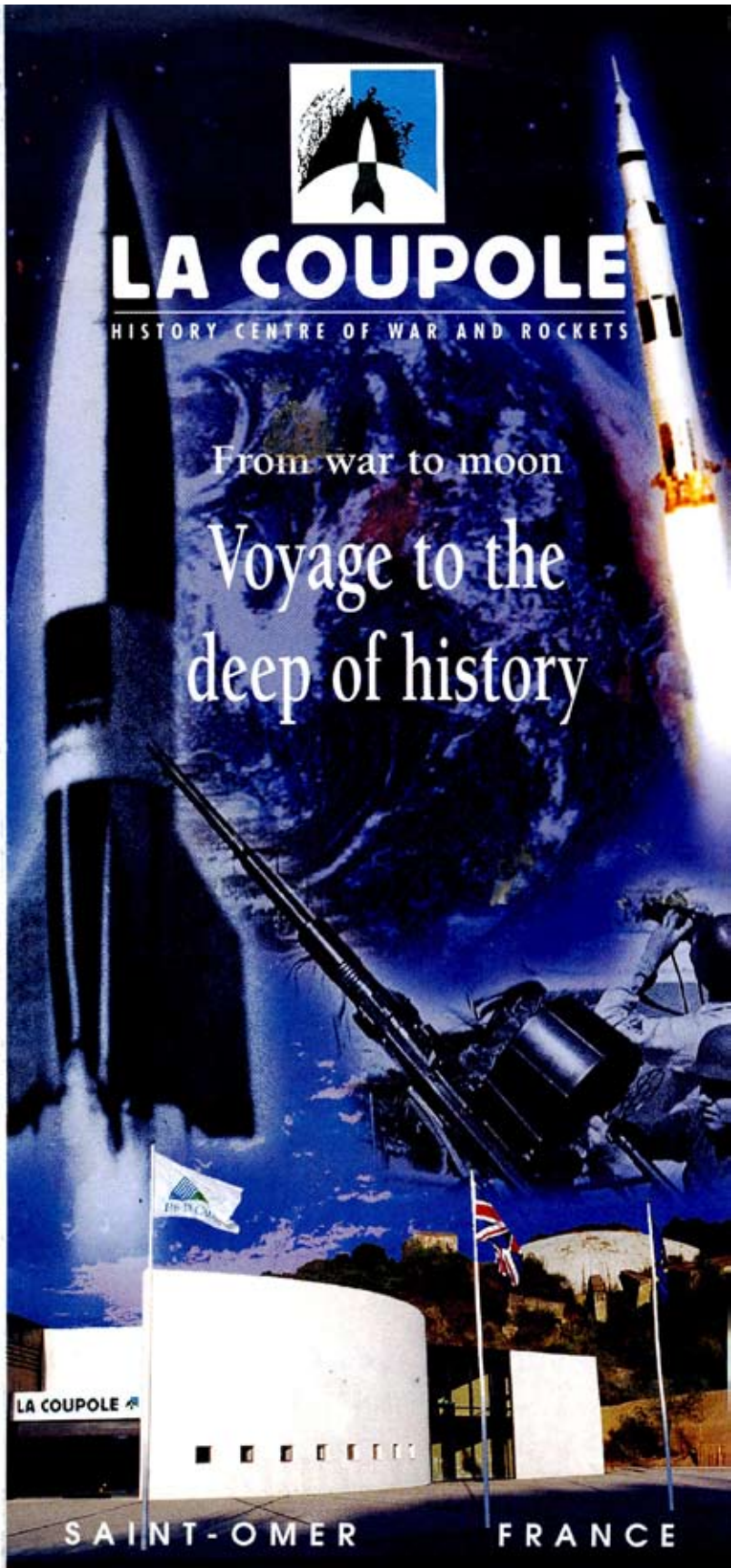
HISTORY CENTRE OF WAR AND ROCKETS



LA COUPOLE

HISTORY CENTRE OF WAR AND ROCKETS

From war to moon
**Voyage to the
deep of history**



LA COUPOLE

SAINT-OMER

FRANCE

BOATHELL COMMUNICATION • 00 21 98 29 12 • AG ST-OMER STEREO 8 • BULBOWE / David TOL • OVAL PHOTO: APTM • J.P. BRUNET, VOIE DU NORD • BLACKBOARD • DEUSCHES MUSEUM • NASA, GALAXY CONTACT • NOTION ARCHIVES WASHINGTON • P. THOMAS

Delve into the secrets of the most important underground V2 rocket base ever built

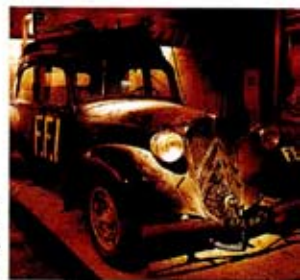


A complete AUDIO-GUIDED tour.

Stereo infra-red headsets enable you to listen to the commentary presented in the language of your choice. Far from the noise, you can visit at your own pace, within the surrounding noise.



Authentic F.F.I.
(French Resistance)
front-wheel drive car
from the liberation



One of the many of the Centre's audio-visual presentations: "The dark days", 8 minutes slide show.

Hitler's secret weapons

DISCOVERY

La Coupole enables you to discover the infernal nazi war machine seen from an angle never yet approached.



Over 100
illustrated
information
panels

Northern France in German hands

EMOTION

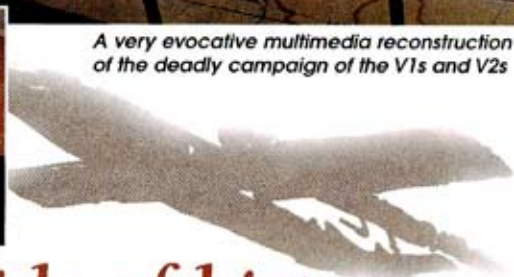
From the routes of exodus to the joys of liberation, you will discover, at La Coupole, the life of the French people in the 40s.



A very evocative multimedia reconstruction of the deadly campaign of the V1s and V2s



Authentic
V1s and V2s.



At La Coupole: the dark side of history

• 2 cinemas • 18 films or audiovisual presentations • over 3 hours of projection

2 tours: Rex, Cinéac

to discover the dark side of war and the conquest of space

1943. Hitler decided to destroy London. He ordered the construction of La Coupole of Helfaut: a concrete dome 5 metres thick, which protected the biggest underground V2 rocket launch pad ever built. This gigantic bunker, dug into chalk by Russian and Polish prisoners, is still intact. Today, it houses an astonishing history centre on war and rockets, where you can discover two major themes.

Northern France in German hands (REX tour)

On 10th May 1940, the German army invaded Northern France. Daily life then became one of exodus, deprivation, resistance and terror. These are the "DARK YEARS" of history. They lasted up until 1944.

Reconstructions, rare objects, often shown for the first time, and authentic objects, La Coupole will enable you to relive and discover, with emotion, these years of Occupation which were so difficult in Northern France.

Hitler's secret weapons and the conquest of space (CINEAC tour)

In 1944, the V1s, then the V2s of von Braun spread terror over London and Antwerp. These rockets were built by the deported of the concentration camp, Dora, in Germany.

If La Coupole had never been abandoned, in July 1944, the launching rate would have reached 50 V2s per day!

When the war was over, the liberators recovered German engineers from both East and West. Between the Soviets and Americans, the space race began. The Saturn V rocket, developed by von Braun, enabled Man to take the very first step on the moon.

From war to the moon, from dark years to light years, La Coupole relates the history of these deadly machines, from an angle never yet approached, ironically paving the way for the conquest of space, today a source of co-operation and progress between nations.

LA COUPOLE IN FIGURES

- A labyrinth of 7 km of galleries
- A dome 72 metres in diameter
- Concrete 5 metres thick
- 42 metres of low galleries to underneath the dome



LA COUPOLE

HISTORY CENTRE OF WAR AND ROCKETS



*Cape Kennedy:
Saturn V take-off in 1969
Relive this adventure
thanks to the following film:
"From the Earth to the Moon"*



*Rocket Pad:
7 big models
which relate
the history of
the conquest
of space*



2 big cinemas, each with 100 seats.

The conquest of space

THE EPIC JOURNEY

Relive Neil Armstrong's steps on the moon, follow, image by image, the frenetic race between the Americans and Soviets.



Your visit in brief

A tour lasting 2 hours

- 1 - Entry by the underground galleries
- 2 - Ascent beneath the dome by lift, 42 metres above
- 3 - Access to the cinemas and 2 tours
- 4 - Return to the lower level. Uncompleted rocket launch preparation
- 5 - Way out - to the reception area and the shop

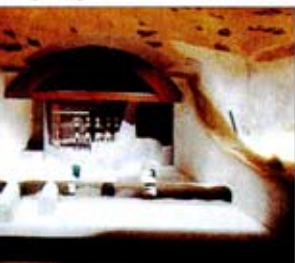
LA COUPOLE

HISTORY CENTRE OF WAR AND ROCKETS





Animated model
display



Headset guide
system for
independent
visiting



Rocket area, from
the V2 to Ariane IV

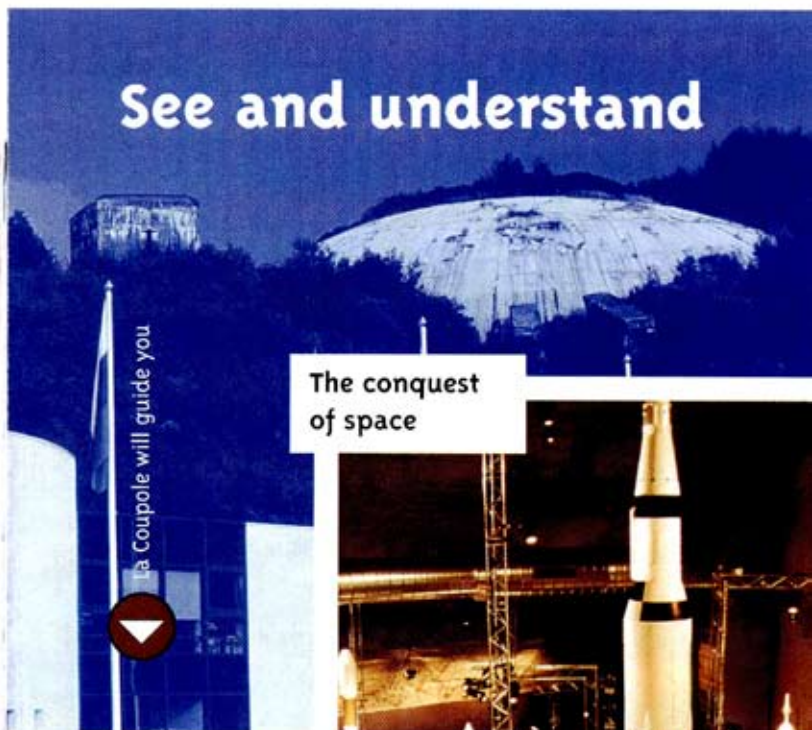


Multimedia areas

2 cinemas
18 films
Over 3 hours
screening



See and understand



La Coupole will guide you



The conquest
of space



The German secret
weapons



Daily life in Northern
France under the
German occupation



At the crossroads of history and science



Go back in time

La Coupole invites you to take an incredible voyage into the heart of history and science.

With the help of modern technology and faithful reconstructions, you will discover what daily life was like during the German occupation in Northern France, as well as Hitler's secret weapons and the first steps in the conquest of space.

The unique site of *La Coupole* is an impressive testament to the past. Since its opening in May 1997, it has had over 400,000 visitors.

So, hold your breath and prepare to enter one of the most crucial phases in our history.



After exploring the main underground gallery, you ride up 42 m in a lift under the concrete dome. 2 visiting circuits await you, with access via the 2 cinemas.



Und
Gall

The German secret weapons and the Total War

During the Second World War, the Nazi engineers developed a revolutionary weapon: the V2. As the first stratospheric rocket in history, the V2 rapidly became a top priority arms programme for Hitler, who saw in this rocket the means of destroying London and of reversing the course of the war by striking at the very symbol of resistance to Nazism.

The building of *La Coupole* started in 1943 and it was designed to be the launch base for this new weapon. In this gigantic bunker, which is today transformed into a memorial and history centre, you can follow the development programme of the V1 and V2 secret weapons as well as their military use during the conflict.



Rea
V2

The conquest of space

Immediately after the Second World War, the Cold War began between the Soviets and the Americans. After the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 and the advent of peaceful co-existence, the conflict moved to the field of space conquest and a technology race started up between the two great powers.

Wernher von Braun and his team, who were V2 rocket designers in Nazi Germany and who rallied to the American cause in the final weeks of the War, were also the engineers of Saturn V which took Man to the moon. It is this fascinating period of the race to conquer space, the most important human enterprise of the 20th century, that is presented to you at *La Coupole*, using the most up-to-date museographic techniques.

Space rockets



V1 and rockets



Period reconstruction

On 10th May 1940, the German army invaded the North of France. Then began « the dark years »: a time of privation, terror and resistance for the occupied populace. Using rare documents, *La Coupole* retraces this painful past: period films, reconstruction of the interior of workers' dwellings, shop fronts, the firing squad execution wall from the Lille citadel, a real Free French Forces Citroën Traction...

So many testaments which enable us to relive and discover the daily life of the inhabitants of Nord/Pas-de-Calais under the occupation.

Lille 1941





Ticket Prices

	Single	Group
Adults	55FF 8,38€	45FF 6,86€
Children	40FF (1) 6,09€	30FF (2) 4,57€

Family rate applicable for more than 2 adults + 2 children paying admission (refer to group rate).
 (1) Children aged between 5 and 16 years inclusive.
 (2) Children aged between 5 and 16 years inclusive as well as all school groups (secondary schools).
 Charges and conditions valid from 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2000 inclusive of V.A.T. at the current rate. Charges are subject to change without notice and are covered by the general terms of sale.

Opening Times

Open every day all year round

- from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm from 1/04 to 30/09/2000
- from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm from 01/01 to 31/03 and from 01/10 to 31/12/2000

Annual closing the first and second weeks in January.

La Coupole

B.P. 284

62504 - SAINT-OMER Cedex - France

Telephone: (00 33) 3 21 93 07 07

Fax: (00 33) 3 21 39 21 45

Internet: <http://www.lacoupole.com>

From Calais : Motorway A26, exit 3
 From Paris : Motorway A1, then A26, exit 4
 From Rheims, Valenciennes : Motorway A26, exit 4
 From Lille : Motorway A25, Hazebrouck St-Omer exit
 From Rouen : Motorway A16, then N42

Groups

From 20 paying visitors upwards and only with prior reservation, the group receives a personalised greeting and access to the lounge reserved for coach drivers.

Group Packages

We can offer packages including meals, accommodation and the discovery of the region's other major tourist attractions. Please do not hesitate to ask for the « discovery packages » brochure at La Coupole Reception.

Shop

Books, video cassettes, model aircraft and rocket kits, tee shirts... You are sure to find the ideal souvenir of your visit in the La Coupole shop.

Reception

Throughout your visit our hostesses are available to help and guide you. Drinks, sandwiches, toilets... are available. Access for people with limited mobility. The site is equipped for the hard of hearing.

Our animal friends are not admitted to the site.

Average length of the visit : 2 1/2 hours

