



Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel



Place of memories: landing beaches and battlefields

4 days - 3 nights' excursion to Normandy

Depart from Paris and go back to WWII in the footprints of the allies on the landing day of June 6, 1944. You will visit Omaha beach and its American military cemetery, the Pointe du Hoc, Arromanches and its artificial harbor, Bayeux and its tapestry, Caen and Calvados.

Make it in a jeep!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for a special optional venue: half-day excursion to d-day beaches aboard a private jeep

Please see the last page for more information

Make it Memorable!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: Enjoy a half-day visit to Caen Memorial, the Museum for Peace.

Please see the last page for more information



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Day 1 - Omaha Beach & Pointe Du Hoc

Depart from Paris and drive towards Normandy.

We start with a visit of **the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach**, the largest World War II-era American cemetery in France. Here, far too many men—9,386—rest in graves laid in perfect symmetry.

Our private tour allows us time to pause and reflect before the 22-foot bronze statue, “The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves.” We see **the Wall of the Missing and the chapel**, in which is inscribed, “I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish.” This visit is certain to be one of your most memorable.

Depart for **Strong Point 42**, the German position that controlled Omaha Beach from the east. Here we hear an explanation of **Germany’s beach defences** and its challenge to the Allied landing. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes for our exploration.

We’re now on **Omaha Beach** as it was early in the day on 6 June 1944. Our guide takes us to the spot where the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions disembarked under fierce enemy fire. Then on to the German positions on the west end of Omaha Beach, the model for the D-Day scenes in “Saving Private Ryan”. **An American National Guard monument now stands on one of the positions.**

Drive along the D-Day Overlord Route to **Pointe-du-Hoc**. We walk on this unforgettable, bomb-scarred, cratered terrain and feel ourselves swept up again in the 6 June attack on Colonel James Rudder and the D, E, and F Companies of the Second Ranger Battalion.

Their mission here? **To scale the vertical cliffs and neutralize suspected German artillery positions.** By the end of the battle only 50 of the more than 200 American rangers who landed here were still able to fight.

Enjoy lunch at leisure in Grandcamp-Maisy: we suggest **the restaurant La Marée** that offers a sailing ambience and naval decor opposite the fish market; the dining room has a veranda and serves fresh seafood caught in the Channel or the ocean.



Late this afternoon check in at your hotel. Relax and refresh yourself.

You may wish to **have dinner at the hotel's restaurant**, whose decoration is as high quality as the service. Thanks to the chef's creations you will spend some unforgettable moments here and be welcomed into refined decoration harmonized with soft music.

Return to your hotel in Port-en-Bessin.



Day 2 - Arromanches & Bayeux

Morning departure to **Arromanches**. Realizing the difficulties of capturing intact an enemy held port, the British, under Churchill, opted for the mammoth task of building two artificial harbors, one for the American 1st Army at Omaha, the other for the British 2nd Army at Gold.

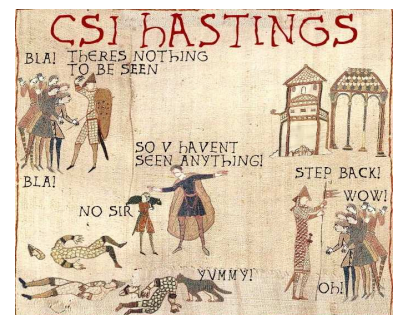


However, following a very severe storm lasting from the 19th to the 22nd of June 1944 which completely destroyed the American Mulberry harbor, **the British artificial port at Arromanches was left** as the only main supplied channel for all of the equipment needed by the Allied soldiers fighting in Normandy.



We head for **Bayeux** next, with a **stop at the German Cemetery**. This offers us a chance to reflect on the stark differences in our cultures' approaches to memorializing war victims.

In Bayeux there is time to pause and consider all the history we've seen thus far. Take some time to yourself here. This was the first French town liberated by the Allies.



You may want to have a look at **the 12th-century Cathedral of Notre Dame**. This graceful church was financed by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and rambunctious half-brother of William. The south transept shows the story of Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was assassinated in this cathedral on the orders of Henry II.

Perhaps you would prefer to roam the streets full of half-timbered houses and charming little shops. The choice is entirely yours.



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Lunch is independent. **We suggest Le Lion d'Or** where you can taste traditional cuisine served in a warm setting: beams, antique ornaments and carefully-laid tables.

One can't properly visit Bayeux without **walking the length of the 231-foot, 11th-century Queen Matilda tapestry**. Known throughout the world, this incredible work of art depicts the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Fifty-eight panels tell the fascinating story of how William, Duke of Normandy, became William the Conqueror and eventually King William of England. (Here's a fact that should help you while you view the tapestry: the Saxons are represented as moustached men and the Norman soldiers' heads are shaven at the back.)

This is as exciting as a narrative gets, as exhilarating as any account of a historic battle. A good yarn, woven nine hundred years ago.

This evening, we **suggest dinner at the Michelin starred restaurant l'Ecailler** and its attractive, nautical décor, pleasing to the eye. Shellfish, seafood and fresh fish for your taste buds: set your sails for this restaurant opposite the harbor!

Return to your hotel in Port-en-Bessin.

Day 3 - Caen & Calvados

This morning we arrive in the town of Caen to visit **Le Mémorial de Caen (the Museum for Peace)**. Embark on a journey through the collective memory of events from 1918 to the present day, the causes and issues leading up to World War II, the years between the wars, and the advance of Fascism. We view the spellbinding multimedia projection of film clips from both the Allied and German perspectives. It's an unforgettable testament.

To the Calvados countryside: we follow the Cider Trail and enjoy a **picnic lunch** at leisure and a **tasting of the local brews**: cider, Pommeau, and aged Calvados.

Taste the local cheeses as well—Camembert, Livarot, and Pont L'Evêque. Learn all about le trou Normand, literally the Norman hole, served between courses to "open" the appetite.





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Visit the **16th-century village of Beuvron-en-Auge**. Hidden deep in the Pays d'Auge, it resembles nothing as much as a scene from Disney's "Snow White." Stroll independently around the central square with its lovely old half-timbered houses and a colorful marketplace that today is filled with artists' shops.

Tonight, **why not enjoy dinner at the chateau de Sully?** You will taste excellent cuisine prepared by chef Nicolas Fages, who uses products from the local Norman countryside. Whether they come from the nearby seaside or the green grassland, the countryside products associated with a fertile innovative ability unveil unexpected ensnaring flavors.

Return to your hotel in Port-en-Bessin.

Day 4 - From Normandy to Paris

Breakfast at your hotel. Private transfer to CDG airport.

QC





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*NB: Please note that some sites mentioned in the itinerary might not be available every day or all year long.
We suggest you to check with our Production Managers*

This package includes

- Private transfers from Paris to Normandy
- Services of a professional English speaking guide-driver
- Deluxe vehicle during 4 days that can be a Sedan or a Minivan
- 3 nights' accommodation in a four stars Hotel in Normandy with breakfast included
- Découvertes fees
- 24 hour assistance available during your stay
- All taxes

This package does not include

- Entrance fees
- Tips
- Lunch or dinner

Découvertes can also offer:

- Lunch reservations
- Entrance fees
- Car disposal during the evening



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Make it Optional

Make it in a jeep!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an exclusive optional venue

A different and perfect way to discover the D-day beaches! The jeep will be driven by a professional chauffeur and a local escort-guide will lead the visits on each visited site such as Omaha Beach and its American Cemetery where you will get closer to these young men and women who left their native land to die in France, the Pointe du Hoc which remained intact after the rangers' assault and that will carry you away to the heart of the fierce battle, or Arromanches and its D-Day museum that will offer your eyes the pleasure of contemplating didactic windows of the various units that were present during this battle for Normandy.



Please contact us for more information and price. Upon request and availability.

Make it Memorable!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

Officially named Le Mémorial de Caen, un musée pour la paix - "The Caen Memorial, a Museum for Peace," the Caen Memorial is regarded as the best World War II museum in France. Established in 1988, the Caen Memorial focuses on the events leading up to and after D-Day (Jour J). You will walk through an excellent five-part presentation: the lead-up to World War II; the Battle of Normandy; two powerful video presentations; the Cold War; and the ongoing movement for peace. Continue unto the last section that includes a Gallery of Nobel Peace Prizes, celebrating such figures as Andrei Sakharov, Elie Wiesel and Desmond Tutu.



Please contact us for more information and price. Visit available everyday. Upon request and availability.