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NORMANDY TOUR SAMPLE

Our tours are private and may be customized, combined, lengthened or condensed.

Upon your arrival at Paris CDG airport your driver will meet you and transfer you directly to your hotel in Normandy, the Villa Lara.

This property located right in the heart of Bayeux features period-style furniture, a flat-screen TV and a minibar. Each room has an individual color theme using neutral tones and printed fabrics with bathrooms with a marble floor, bathrobes and slippers.

A buffet breakfast of fresh pastries and hot coffee is offered every morning in the dining room. Guests can also relax in the empire-style bar before dining in the nearby restaurants. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel.



This afternoon you may wish to explore Bayeux on your time (time permitting) and visit the Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral.

The Bayeux Tapestry which was rediscovered in the late 18th century in Bayeux (where it had been traditionally displayed once a year at the Feast of the Relics), and engravings of it were published in the 1790s by Bernard de Montfaucon. Later, some people from Bayeux who were fighting for the Republic wanted to use it as a cloth to cover an ammunition wagon, but luckily a lawyer who understood its importance saved it and replaced it with another cloth.





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In 1803, Napoleon seized it and transported it to Paris. Napoleon wanted to use the tapestry as inspiration for his planned attack on England. When this plan was cancelled, the tapestry was returned to Bayeux. The townspeople wound the tapestry up and stored it like a scroll. After being seized by the Nazi think tank the Ahnenerbe, the tapestry spent much of World War II in the

basement of the Louvre. It is now protected on display in a museum in a dark room with special lighting behind sealed glass in order to minimize damage from light and air. In June 2007, the tapestry was listed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

Towering over the center of Bayeux is the stunning **Cathédrale Notre-dame**. Consecrated on 14 July 1077 in the presence of William, Duke of Normandy and King of England the Cathedral underwent numerous extensions and embellishments between the 13th and 15th centuries. Visiting the crypt is recommended, as this is one of the few parts of the Cathedral that have remained un-altered since the 11th Century.



Day 2 - Full Day D-Day Beaches Tour 8H

09.30AM Meet your driver/guide in the lobby of your hôtel for your full day tour.

Today the sites you will visit today include :

- The German Coastal Artillery Battery at Longues-sur-Mer
- The Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches
- GOLD Beach at:
 - Ver-sur-Mer
 - Crepon
 - Cruelly

Then stop for lunch.



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After lunch you will continue your tour, visiting:

- Pointe-du-Hoc

- OMAHA Beach, including:
 - Vierville-sur-Mer
 - St Laurent-sur-Mer
 - Le Ruquet

- At Pointe du Hoc you will see the German six-gun battery that was capable of firing directly onto Utah and Omaha beaches. Hence, the 2nd Ranger Battalion was given the task of capturing the position by scaling the local cliffs using rope ladders. While there, you can observe the gun emplacements, lots of bomb craters and visit a German sleeping quarter.

- Then to Omaha beach where you will have two stops at the location of German gun locations and we will see the guns still there including the deadly 88 mm.

You will end this day program at the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-Sur-Mer, which will be the most significant part of the tour, where almost 10,000 American casualties are at rest.



"The U.S.A., proud of the exploits of their sons, humble before their sacrifice, has erected this monument in their memory." The cemetery, the Chapel with its Memorial Room and the Wall of the Missing, commemorates the soldiers who are resting in this setting of peace.

Day 3 – Full Day tour D-Day Beaches Tour 8H (cont)

09:30 AM Meet your driver/guide in the lobby of your hotel for your day tour.

Today you will visit :

- Visit La Cambé German Military Cemetery on the way to UTAH Beach

- Brecourt Battery, famous for its capture by E Company 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (the Band of Brothers)



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- Tour the UTAH Beach area, visiting:
 - Varreville Beach and Memorials
 - La Madeleine, Chapel, Beach and Memorials

With your guide, you will discover Utah beach where the 4th Division headed by General Barton and Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, assistant divisional commander who accompanied the first wave, were beached. They will walk on the beach and be able to observe the various commemorative monuments there.

Then stop for lunch.

After lunch you will continue your tour:

- Tour the American Airborne Landings area, visiting:
 - Manoir de La Fièrè
 - Iron Mike
 - The Bridge and causeway
 - Sainte-Mère-Eglise
 - Church
 - Monuments
 - Hotel de Ville
 - American Airborne Museum

Sainte Mère Eglise, the famous Church where the American Paratrooper, John Steele, was hooked onto the bell tower. He managed to survive, and Red Button reenacted his story in the movie, The Longest Day. See the stained glass windows commemorating the US paratroopers. Paul Renaud, the very son of the Mayor of Sainte Mère Eglise in 1944, designed this window.

You will then visit the local Museum totally dedicated to the American 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions who were air dropped in the area.





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Time permitting you may also visit the Caen Memorial.

The Caen Museum was built on the site of an old bunker and was inaugurated on June 6, 1988 (the 44th anniversary of D-Day) by President François Mitterrand. It was later expanded by President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder.

Day 4 - Full Day Tour to Le Mont St. Michel

9.00 AM Your driver/guide will meet you in the lobby of your hotel for your full day touring of Le Mont St Michel.

Le Mont Saint-Michel was built in a strong rock that measures 84 meters height. It is pure granite and is so hard that has resisted the passage of time. Mont Saint Michel was built as a medieval castle. It has two large towers to defend the entrance to the castle. St. Michael is a surety for freedom and thus this sanctuary also became a symbol of the allied landing in Normandy during the Second World War.



Luncheon suggestion: La Mère Poulard Mont-Saint-Michel (out-of-pocket).

Nestled in an ancient dwelling in the unique setting of its kind in the world, in the middle of Mont Saint-Michel, La Mère Poulard offers its guests the charm, comfort, tradition and quality of this friendly establishment, an unforgettable moment in this magical place full of history. As part of La Mère Poulard's historic setting, diners are encouraged to sample the traditional recipes proposed by the celebrated chef of Mont Saint-Michel: the traditional omelet, Mont Saint-Michel salt-marsh fed lamb, Brittany lobster, fish and seafood from the bay, and tasty treats.



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Day 5 - Full Day Transfer to Giverny then on to Paris

After breakfast and checking out, meet your driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Monet's House & Gardens in Giverny.

Your visit to Monet's House & Gardens will be self-guided with entrance tickets included.



Visit Impressionist master Claude Monet's country home in the lovely village of Giverny. Explore the remarkable flower and Japanese water gardens he created and painted. Monet's gardens were a constant source of inspiration for him. Art lovers will recognize the water lilies, bridges, willows, the banks of flowers and the light reflected on the pond.

Option: Private guided tour available as well

Flowering Guide at Giverny

April: Tulips, pansies, forget-me-nots, narcissi, aubrietas, cherry and crabapple blossoms, daffodils

May: Iris, peonies, rhododendrons, geraniums, wisteria, azaleas, wallflowers, daisies, delphiniums

June: Roses, poppies, clematis, tamaris

July: Roses, nasturtiums, ageratums, zinnias, nicotiana, busy lizzies, verbenas, dahlias, rudbeckias, salvia, gladioli, cleomes, cosmos, sunflowers, helianthus, water lilies

August: Dahlias, roses, cosmos, rudbeckias, hibiscus, nasturtiums, water lilies

September: Carpets of nasturtiums, asters, dahlias, cosmos, rudbeckias

After Monet House and Gardens you will be transferred to your Paris hotel.