

Brittany & Normandy : Day-by-Day Itinerary

May 4 to 13, 2022

Day 1

Meet our group in the lobby of the hotel in Trouville-sur-Mer promptly at 2pm. Our English-speaking guide will whisk us off for a *promenade en mer* as we take in views of Trouville-sur-Mer and Deauville from the Channel. After our 45-minute boat cruise, we'll take a walking tour to get familiar with our new home away from home. We'll end our trip at the famous Trouville fish market and enjoy a glass of white wine as we sample the freshest seafood.

Day 2

After breakfast at our hotel, our coach will take us east to the old harbor of Honfleur, where Samuel de Champlain, set off in 1603 to found the city of Quebec and we'll walk in the footsteps of artists such as Claude Monet and Eugène Boudin. After our lunch in Honfleur, we'll continue east and cross the mouth of the Seine on our way to the white cliffs and lush gardens of Étretat. Before we head back to Trouville, we'll stop at the Christian Drouin Calavados for a tour of the orchard and distillery, followed by a tasting of local cheeses Camembert, Pont-l'Évêque and Livarot paired with apple cider, pear cider, pommeau and calvados – *oh là là*.

Day 3

A day of remembrance. Have breakfast at the hotel before our coach takes us to the west, where we'll spend our third day visiting the D-Day beaches, Arromanches, *Pointe du Hoc*, and Utah Beach Landing Museum with AFMSP friend and guest speaker Dominique François, an expert on World War II history in the region. We'll have dinner together in Trouville after our return from the commemorative sites.

Day 4

Destination : Caen and Bayeux

Following *le petit déjeuner*, we'll set off to Caen for a visit of the city center as well as the Château de Caen, built in 1060 by William the Conqueror whose remains rest in its *Abbaye aux Hommes*. After lunch, we'll head to Bayeux to view the well-known tapestry created in the 11th century that recounts the Norman conquest and Battle of Hastings. When we return to Trouville, you'll enjoy an evening on your own whether checking out the famous casino, strolling on the boardwalk or a leisurely dinner by the sea.

Day 5

Pack your suitcases and say *au revoir*, after breakfast we'll board the coach and head to Mont-Saint-Michel, a stronghold during the Hundred Years War and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon our arrival, our tour guide will meet us to lead us through on a guided tour of the village and the abbey. Please

note, there are more than 500 steps to access the abbey and 900 steps to the top. Anyone who chooses to wait at the hotel or main road can do so. We'll spend the night on the island at the Auberge Mère Poulard, founded in 1888, where we will enjoy dinner as well.

Day 6

Mère Poulard will provide breakfast before we set out, barefoot and in shorts, for a walking tour in the sand dunes to view Mont-Saint-Michel and neighboring Tombelaine island from a distance. Be sure to bring a windbreaker and water bottle for this three-hour *promenade*. Then, we'll board our coach and cross the border into Brittany where we will have lunch in the fortified city of Saint-Malo. Onward to Rennes, where we'll share dinner after checking into our hotel and spend the next four nights of our adventure.

Day 7

After breakfast, we'll take a walking tour to get to know Rennes a bit better. Then, we'll put on our aprons and learn how to make savory buckwheat *galettes* and sweet *crêpes*, traditional to this region. Enjoy the fruits of your labor for lunch and then sip locally made hard apple ciders from a *bol*, just like the locals. Take the rest of the day off to relax or explore Rennes on your own.

Day 8

Today, enjoy your *croissant* before we board the bus to explore the Atlantic coast of Brittany. First stop, Vannes where we'll take a lunch cruise on the Gulf of Morbihan and enjoy stunning views of its nature reserve. Afterward, we'll travel back in time to 4500 BC as we tour the Carnac stones. Carnac represents the largest collection of megalithic standing stones in the world, more than 2,800 across 4 kilometers, although what they represent is largely up for your own interpretation. Before we return to Rennes, we'll visit Quiberon and take in a stunning sunset into the ocean as we enjoy dinner on the presqu'île.

Day 9

Enjoy breakfast at our hotel and then "all aboard" the train to Vitré where we'll visit the castle and enjoy lunch like kings and queens. In the afternoon, we'll head back to Rennes where you can do any last minute shopping or site-seeing before our final dinner of the trip.

Day 10

Le départ. After breakfast, we'll say farewell and head home or on to your next adventure.

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