

A Glimpse of D-Day

3 night tour - B&B

Your itinerary

The following pages contain general information about your car or motorcycle tour and the locations where you will stay. The order in which they appear on these pages may not be the order your hotels have been confirmed for you - for your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.





Maps and guide books Included with your travel documents you will find an excellent map of France to help you plan your journeys. For route planning you may wish to go to one of the travel websites such as

Google maps, viamichelin.com or www.theaa.co.uk.

Hotel directions With your travel documents you will find an information sheet for each hotel which has been booked for you giving directions together with some further details.

Arrival Unless stated, you will be expected to arrive at each of the hotels pre-booked for you by 6pm each day. This should allow you time to have a fairly leisurely drive between hotel stops but if you find you will be arriving later than this please ring and advise the hotelier so that your room is held for you.

Extra charges Details of which meals are included at your hotels are shown on your travel documentation and on these pages. All additional meals, drinks, phone calls etc must be paid for prior to departure from the hotel.

Here we give some ideas of places to see in and around your overnight stops. There are so many museums and memorials dedicated to D-Day and the battle of Normandy in this area that it is not possible to visit them all in just a few days, so it may well be worth doing some research in advance to help choose which ones to see.

In and around Port en Bessin



Ste Mère Eglise

Omaha Beach - This is close to Port en Bessin and is the largest of the 5 Landing Beaches, which suffered the fiercest fighting and heaviest losses on D-Day. As a consequence the emotive and beautifully maintained American cemetery overlooks this beach, at Colleville. Heading west from here is **Utah Beach** - there is an interesting and very informative museum right on the dunes here. **Sainte Mère Eglise** a short drive inland is where a wartime paratrooper, John

Steele, famously landed on the church tower. You can see a replica of this still there in the village. Around 12k north of Utah Beach is **Quinéville**, which was an important German sector headquarters. It was liberated after serious resistance on July 14th by the American Infantry Division. The Mémorial de la Liberté Retrouvée museum here has a



D-Day memorial sculpture, Omaha Beach

reconstructed French street simulating the troubled times of WW II for ordinary civilians living in France during the Occupation and a cinema shows the film 'From Cherbourg to Utah Beach'.

In and around Arromanches

The artificial harbour at Arromanches played a major role in the liberation of Normandy, from June to November 1944. The Landing Museum (Musée du Débarquement)



Landing Museum, Arromanches

just a few metres from the shore, relates the history of the building and operation of the Mulberry Harbour, and explains the role of the nations who fought for the liberation of Normandy. **Arromanches Cinema 360°** - located on the cliff top above Arromanches, this theatre is an impressive place to visit and unique in Normandy. The films are projected on nine screens giving a 360° view. They mix wartime footage with modern shots of the battlefield. A short drive inland is **Bayeux**, the first French city liberated by Allied troops. The Musée Mémorial de la Bataille de Normandie shows military events prior to and after the Landings, up until August 29th 1944. Around the museum is a large collection of weapons, heavy equipment and various other commemorative items and nearby is the largest British WWII cemetery in France. Like Colleville it is immaculately kept but on a smaller scale. You may also like to set aside a few hours to visit the tapestry whilst in Bayeux.



Arromanches



American Cemetery, Colleville

In and around Caen

Caen endured a long battle in the summer of 1944 to be liberated and it did not happen until 19th July. The Caen Mémorial museum is a tribute to their suffering and also a museum for peace, guiding you through the political and strategic stages of the history of the 20th century. The film show is particularly compelling, including a fairly new one - 'D-Day and the Battle of Normandy: 19 minutes of pure emotion'. This is a poignant and fascinating insight into these terrible events which were a key element in the eventual liberation of Europe.



Café Gondrée, Pegasus Bridge

Pegasus Bridge - To the east of the Landing Beaches, close to Sword Beach, Bénouville Bridge was built in 1934 to cross the Orne river between Caen and

Ouistreham. During Operation Overlord on 6th June 1944 and just six hours before the landings, one of the objectives of the British 6th Airborne Division glider unit was to seize it. It took only ten minutes. The first French house was also liberated and the first British soldier of the Normandy invasion was killed. The bridge was renamed in honour of the airborne forces (whose emblem is Pegasus) and its importance in the Battle of Normandy. The original bridge can now be seen in the Pegasus Museum.

Ouistreham - Le Grand Bunker Atlantic Wall and D-Day museum is recommended to gain an insight into the daily life of occupying German troops at the time leading up to D-Day - there are great views from the observation tower (but being over 4/5 floors, lots of stairs!)



Caen Mémorial



Caen city hall



CAEN-NORMANDY Memorial CENTRE FOR HISTORY AND PEACE