



# Tour Information



## Monet and the Impressionists in Normandy





# Travel

## Passports

Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to France.

## Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

French consulate: PO Box 57, 6A Cromwell Place, London SW7 2EW;  
Tel (020) 7838 2000/1. Information Service:  
Tel (0891) 887 733  
Fax: (020) 7838 2046.

Opening hours: 0900-1130 (and 1600-1630 for visa collection only) Mon-Fri (except British and French national holidays).

## Travel Arrangements

The quickest and most convenient way to get to this area of Normandy is by modern, executive coach and Eurotunnel.

**Departure from London Victoria will be at 07.30 with a further pick up made at Maidstone Services in good time for a scheduled Eurotunnel departure of 11.20. The Eurotunnel crossing operates up to 4 times per hour and takes just 35 minutes to Calais. The driving time from Calais to Rouen is approximately 2 hours.**

## Pick up points

Victoria Coach Station, 164 Buckingham Palace Road SW1W 9TP (please look out for “Travel Eds Normandy” on the display screen for details of the departure bay). Victoria station (on the Victoria, District and Circle lines) is 300m from the coach station or Maidstone Services (meet in front of



building entrance).



## Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

## Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



## Accommodation

### Hotel Mercure Rouen Champ de Mars, Rouen

Located a 10-minute walk from the historic city centre and the Cathedral, the Mercure Rouen Champ de Mars hotel offers modern rooms with all the comforts you need with a restaurant, bar, and comfortable bedrooms with private bathroom, TV, telephone and Wi-Fi.

For more information visit the hotel's website:

<https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1273-mercure-rouen-champ-de-mars-hotel/index.shtml>



## Food

General de Gaulle once asked, with a certain amount of pride, how it was possible to rule a country which produced 365 different kinds of cheese; with one of France's most impressive cheese-boards, Normandy makes an important contribution to this selection, with the excellent *Neufchâtel*, *Pont-L'Évêque*, *Livarot*, and, of course, *Camembert*.

In addition to being famous for its dairy products, Normandy is also renowned for its apple orchards and seafood. Shellfish, oysters, scallops, mussels, Coquilles St Jacques and cool water fish will feature on most menus, often combined with another regional speciality, such as a *sauce à la crème* or *au Camembert*.

The main dish will generally be meat-based and rich – *Canard à la Rouennaise* (duck), veal or pork in a cream or cider sauce, *Agneau pré sale* (roasted lamb raised on salty marshlands), or another Normandy speciality, *tripe* (*Tripes à la mode de Caen* or tripe stew).

Many of Normandy's sweet dishes are based on apples – the most widely spread being *Tarte aux pommes* (apple tart). Other specialities include *Teurgoule* (milky rice pudding with cinnamon), *pavé normand* (butter biscuits), and *Crêpes à la Bénédicte*.

*Calvados* with apple ice cream (*trou normand*) is a traditionally taken to clear the palate between courses.

Coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *café au lait* (or *crème*) is requested.

Almost all restaurants offer two types of meals: *a la carte* (extensive choice for each course, generally more expensive) and *le menu* (a set meal at a fixed price). The bill (*l'addition*) will not be presented until it is asked for, even if clients sit and talk for half an hour after finishing their meal. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.

Generally speaking, mealtimes in France are strictly observed. Lunch is as a rule served from noon to 1330, dinner usually from 2000-2130, but the larger the city, the later the dining hour.



## Drink

The abundance of apples also influences the region's beverage production, which includes cider (*brut* or *doux*), *pommeau* (sweet, light and refreshing as an *apéritif*), *Calvados* (brandy distilled from apple cider), and of course, apple juice.

Beer is also popular in the region; local favourites are *Lugus Ale*, *Loup Garou brune*, *Viking Wolf* and *Cervoise Guedelon*.

*Bénédictine*, with ice before a meal, or on its own as a digestive, is another popular liqueur of the region.

### Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

**Breakfast** – daily

**Dinner** is included on two nights



## Destination

Impressionism has long been associated to Paris, but there are many links and connections with the nearby region of Normandy, thanks largely to Monet's involvement in and love of the area. Having spent much of his childhood in Le Havre and the last 40 years of his life in Giverny, many of Monet's most famous paintings are of Norman landscapes. Indeed, his painting *Impression, Sunrise* of the Normandy coast gave rise to the term *Impressionism*.

On this wonderful short lecture tour, based in Rouen, you will track the Impressionist heritage throughout the region, in the incomparable company of Prof. Anne Anderson whose knowledge and enthusiasm will enlighten and entertain.

### Details of places of interest included in your tour:

#### Giverny

The village which Monet fell in love with, and lived in, from 1883 until his death in 1926, Giverny is a lovely place. There will be visits to Monet's House, where you will be able to stroll around the magnificent gardens and lily pond that Monet created and captured in some of his most famous paintings, as well as the *Musée des Impressionnismes*, home to a series of exhibitions dedicated to Impressionism.

For more information about the Musée des Impressionnismes, please visit:

<http://www.mdig.fr/en>

#### Rouen & the Musée des Beaux Arts

Located on the Seine, Rouen is a beautiful cathedral city with a wealth of sights, particularly its *Cathédrale Notre-Dame*, which was repeatedly painted by Monet, the 15<sup>th</sup> century *Palais de Justice* and the *Place du Vieux-Marché*, where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake in 1431.

Rouen's fabulous *Musée des Beaux Arts* houses a wonderful collection including masterpieces by Delacroix, Corot, Gustave Moreau, Degas and Monet (his *Rouen Cathedral*), establishing Rouen as the home of one of France's biggest Impressionist collections outside Paris.

For more information about Rouen, please visit:

<http://www.rouentourisme.com/>

For more information about the Musée des Beaux Arts, please visit:

<http://mbarouen.fr/en>

#### Musée d'Art Moderne André Malraux (MuMa)

Enjoying a coastal setting in Le Havre, the MuMa was the first major museum built after the Second World War and is a masterpiece of modern architecture, renowned for its light, transparent look and feel. It contains the second largest collection of Impressionist paintings in France (after the Musée d'Orsay).

For more information about the MuMa, please visit:

<http://muma-lehavre.fr/en>

#### Honfleur

The pretty port of Honfleur, with its picturesque backstreets and old houses, has long held a strong appeal to artists. The changing light on the Seine estuary has inspired many Impressionists including Courbet, Monet and Boudin.

For more information about Honfleur, please visit:

<http://www.ot-honfleur.fr/>

#### Parc du Bois des Moutiers

The house of the Parc du Bois des Moutiers was created for Guillaume Mallet by Sir Edwin Lutyens and is built in the Arts and Crafts style for which Lutyens is renowned. The gardens were a result of his collaboration with Gertrude Jekyll and the result is a wonderful garden and park with the added benefit that the 12 hectares are in a peaceful valley running down to the sea. Another benefit is the acid soil which allowed the planting of numerous rare species including Himalayan rhododendrons, Chinese Azaleas and more. The Normandy climate means that these have grown magnificently too and there are rhododendrons which are 10 meters high.

For more information about Parc du Bois des Moutiers, please visit:

<https://www.french-gardens.com/gardens/bois-des-moutiers.php>



## Your lecturer / guide

Your guide, **Prof Anne Anderson**, is a NADFAS lecturer who has published many academic papers in highly regarded journals, is an expert on Arts and Crafts.

### Enjoy two lectures during your tour:

*'Monet at Giverny'*

*'Impressionism or painting quickly out of doors'*



## Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

# The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in Normandy at this time of year is likely to be similar to the UK in spring – unpredictable and the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

**Time** – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

**Language** – French.

**Religion** – Roman Catholic.

**National holidays** – New Year's day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Victory in Europe day (08 May); Ascension day; Whit Sunday; Whit Monday; National day (14 Jul); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Armistice day (11 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec).

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

**Credit cards** – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

**Shops and museums** – Department stores are open 0900-1830 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1200-1430. Some food shops (particularly bakers) are open Sunday mornings, in which case they will probably close Monday. Many shops close all day or half-day Monday. Please note that most museums are closed on Mondays.

**Clothes & shoes** – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

**Camera** – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

**Bath plugs** – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

**Telephones/mobiles** – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



## Health

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**



### Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



## Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit: <https://www.ehic.org.uk>



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

Consular services Paris

16 rue d'Anjou

75008 Paris

France

Tel: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00

Fax: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 27

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00.

Travel Editions

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

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Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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