

Tour  
Information



# Operation Overlord- The story of the D-Day Landings





# Travel

## Passports

Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit.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 08.00 with a further pick up made at Maidstone Services, at 09.15, in good time for a scheduled Eurotunnel crossing. The crossings operate up to 4 times per hour and takes just 35 minutes to Calais. The driving time from Calais to Bayeux is approximately 3 hours 45 minutes.

## 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

### The Lion d'Or Hotel, Bayeux

The three-star Le Lion d'Or Hotel is in the heart of the lovely and historic town of Bayeux. With just 31 rooms, it is small and friendly with a bar, restaurant and cosy, well-appointed rooms with all modern facilities. Bedrooms have a private bathroom with bath/shower, TV, free wi-fi and hairdryer. Please note the hotel is laid out over three floors and does not have a lift. There are rooms located on the first floor which can be reached by approximately 20 steps.

For more information visit their website  
<http://www.liondor-bayeux.fr/en/>



## Food

With its extensive coastline, seafood is one of Normandy's many specialities. You can find anything from shellfish, to lobster, clams, whelks, scallops, mussels and oysters from the Manche and Calvados. Oysters are classified, like cheeses and wines, with their own AOC (Controlled Origin Name). Seafood will feature on most menus from Dieppe to Alençon which often combine fish with the region's other culinary specialities, such as *Sauce à la Crème* or *au Camembert*. Normandy's cheese board is one of the most impressive in France. It contains the best-known types of cheeses outside its local area. Camembert is its most famous cheese and comes from the village of the same name near Vimoutiers, but you can also try *Neufchâtel*, produced in a variety of different shapes and sizes, *Pont-L'Évêque* and *Livarot*. Cheese in France is usually served between the main course and dessert.

Whether eaten as a dessert, or as a treat with afternoon tea, many of Normandy's sweet dishes are based on apples, such as the delicious apple tart. More Norman specialities include the milky rice pudding or *Teurgoule* made with creamy local products, the *Sucres de Pommes* from Rouen (an apple candy) for those with a seriously sweet tooth and the *Caramel de Pommes* from Dieppe or buttery *Isigny* toffees.

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.



## Drink

Wine is by far the most popular alcoholic beverage in France, and the choice will vary according to region. Wine in this area benefits from a dry and sunny microclimate and mineral rich and calcareous soil. The flavour of the wine is therefore gorgeous. Normandy wines are foremost white but red is also enjoyed. The most popular grapes in this region are *Melon de Bourgogne*, *Auxerrois*, *Pinot Noir*, *Muller-Thurgau* and *Pinot Gris*.

Normandy boasts a range of apple drinks, most notably cider, *poiré* or Pear liquor, *pommeau* and *calvados*. A shot of calvados with apple ice cream, or *Trou Normand*, is very popular and the traditional way to clear the palate between courses of typically rich Norman food. *Bénédictine* is another liqueur of the region which can be drunk with ice before a meal, or afterwards, on its own as a digestive. It is also sometimes used as a base for many famous cocktails.

In elegant restaurants the wine list will be separate from the main menu, but in less opulent establishments will be printed on the back or along the side of the *carte*. The waiter will usually be glad to advise an appropriate choice. If in doubt, try the house wine; this will usually be less expensive and will always be the owner's pride.

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

**Breakfast** – daily

**Dinner** – There is a welcome dinner on the first night and a farewell dinner on the last night, both at the hotel.



## Destination

Normandy is one of the 18 regions of France, roughly referring to the historical Duchy of Normandy. The Allies, in this case involving Britain, the United States, Canada and Free France, coordinated a massive build-up of troops and supplies to support a large-scale invasion of Normandy in the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944 under the code name Operation Overlord. The Germans were dug into fortified emplacements above the beaches. *Caen*, *Cherbourg*, *Carentan*, *Falaise* and other Norman towns endured many casualties in the Battle of Normandy, which continued until the closing of the so-called *Falaise* gap between *Chambois* and *Mont Ormel*. The liberation of *Le Havre* followed. This was a significant turning point in the war and led to the restoration of the French Republic.

### Details of places of interest:

#### Pegasus Bridge

During the Second World War, Pegasus bridge played a vital role in preventing a German counter attack during the weeks following the Normandy Invasion by Allied Forces. It was taken intact by the British 6th Airborne Division, commanded by Major John Howard, as part of a special mission, operation Tonga, and the object of this action was to prevent German armour from crossing the bridges and attacking the eastern flank of the landings at Sword Beach.

For more information about Pegasus Bridge:  
<http://d-dayrevisited.co.uk/d-day/pegasus-bridge.html>

#### Creully

In the Calvados department in the Normandy region. The town square is named after Canadian Lieutenant Bill McCormick of the 1st Hussars Canadian Armoured Regiment. Lt. McCormick was the only Allied soldier to reach his D-Day objective when on 6 June 1944, after the tank he commanded passed through Creully, it reached the Caen-Bayeux road. Château de Creully is an 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century castle in Cruelly. It has been altered a lot over the centuries and has had many parts removed and added, such as the watchtower which was added in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. From 7 June 1944, the day after D-

Day, until 21 July, the square tower housed the BBC war correspondents and their radio studio, whence the first news of the Battle of Normandy was transmitted. From 8 June to 2 August 1944, Field Marshal Montgomery had his tactical headquarters at the nearby château de Creullet.

For more information about the Château de Creully:  
<https://www.spottinghistory.com/view/2688/chateau-de-creully/>

#### Gold Beach

Gold was the code name for one of the five areas of the Allied Invasion. Central of the five areas, it was located between Port-en-Bessin on the west and La Rivière on the east. High cliffs at the western end of the zone meant that the landings took place on the flat section between Le Hamel and La Rivière, in the sectors code-named Jig and King. Taking Gold was to be the responsibility of the British Army, with sea transport, mine sweeping, and a naval bombardment force provided by the Royal Navy as well as elements from the Dutch, Polish and other Allied navies.

For more information on Gold Beach, visit:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold\\_Beach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_Beach)

#### Longues-sur-Mer Battery

The Longues-sur-Mer Battery was part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall defences consisting of four rapid firing 152mm navy guns, each housed in large concrete casemates. The site of the battery also included a fire control post, ammunition stores, defensive machine gun posts and accommodation for the soldiers. The battery is located between Omaha and Gold beach which made it a threat to the Allied landings. Because of this, the area was heavily bombed on the night before D-Day. This was followed by a naval bombardment in the morning. Although the bombing did not cause much damage to the guns it did destroy the phone line linking the fire control bunker to the guns which severely disrupted the batteries ability to engage with the Allied ships that eventually knocked the guns out of action during a duel in which no Allied ship was damaged despite the battery firing 170 rounds. On

the 7th of June the major responsible for the battery surrendered to the British with 184 men. For more information about Longues-sur-Mer Battery, visit:

<https://www.normandywarguide.com/place/longues-sur-mer-battery>

## Colleville Cemetery

The American cemetery at Colleville sits atop the bluff overlooking "Easy Red" sector of Omaha Beach. Covering an area of 172 acres, the cemetery was dedicated in 1956 and is the resting place for 9,385 American dead. A memorial to the missing with almost 1,600 names stands at one end of the cemetery. It is the most visited cemetery under the administration of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and receives over 1 million visitors each year.

For more information about Colleville Cemetery, visit: [http://www.dday.center/cemetery\\_us\\_colleville.html](http://www.dday.center/cemetery_us_colleville.html)

## Jerusalem War Cemetery

Jerusalem is the smallest military cemetery in Normandy. The cemetery was designed by architect Philip D. Hepworth and was built and is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This was the site of burials from the 10th June 1944. It was also the first Commonwealth War Graves Commission Second World War Cemetery, in France, to have a Cross of Sacrifice erected. The area around here was the scene of bitter fighting as the Germans tried to counterattack and retake the ancient market town of Bayeux in June and July 1944. There are no D-Day, Tuesday 6th June 1944, casualties. Casualties range from 16 to 39 years of age. Amongst those buried in this cemetery are 2 Army chaplains, side by side.

For more information about Jerusalem War Cemetery, visit:

[www.fallenheroesofnormandy.org/Cemeteries/19](http://www.fallenheroesofnormandy.org/Cemeteries/19)

## Hill 112

Hill 112 was an unimpressive stretch of country covered with wheat two or three feet high, and with a few wooded copses and several villages on its slopes. From this elevation the entire valleys of the Odon and Orne could be seen, and the Germans said, "He who controls Hill 112 controls Normandy." The area around Hill 112 changed hands many times and thousands of Allied and German troops were killed or wounded on its slopes.

For more information about Hill 112: <http://www.hill112.com/battle.htm>

## Caen Memorial Museum

The Mémorial de Caen commemorates World War II and the Battle for Caen. More generally, the museum is dedicated to the history of the twentieth century, mainly focused on the fragility of peace. Its intention is "pay a tribute to the martyred city of the liberation" but also to tell "what was the terrible story of the 20th century in a spirit of reconciliation"

For more information about Caen Memorial Museum, visit:

<http://normandy.memorial-caen.com/>

## Musee de la Bataille de Normandie

Situated near the British Military Cemetery of Bayeux, the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy narrates the battles which took place in Normandy after the D-Day landings, between 7th June and 29th August 1944. The collections of military equipment, the diorama and the archival films allow the visitor to grasp the enormous effort made during this decisive battle in order to restore peace in Europe.

For more information about Musée de la Bataille de Normandie in Bayeux, visit:

[http://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/musee\\_memorial\\_bataille\\_de\\_normandie\\_en.html](http://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/musee_memorial_bataille_de_normandie_en.html)

## Your lecturer / guide

**Julian Humphrys**, who read at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has worked at historical sites both in Britain and overseas and is now in Development Officer at the Battlefields Trust. He has a very infectious enthusiasm for history and has published numerous books on castles and battles including "Enemies at the Gate" and "Battlefield Hikes".

## During your trip enjoy two evening lectures:

"Break in: The Allied Landings on D-Day, 6 June 1944"

"Break out: The Battle of Normandy, Summer 1944"

## Reading suggestions

**Graham Robb, *The Discovery of France*.** A general introduction to French culture, landscape and history, it also features an excellent insight into the distinctive character of France's regions.

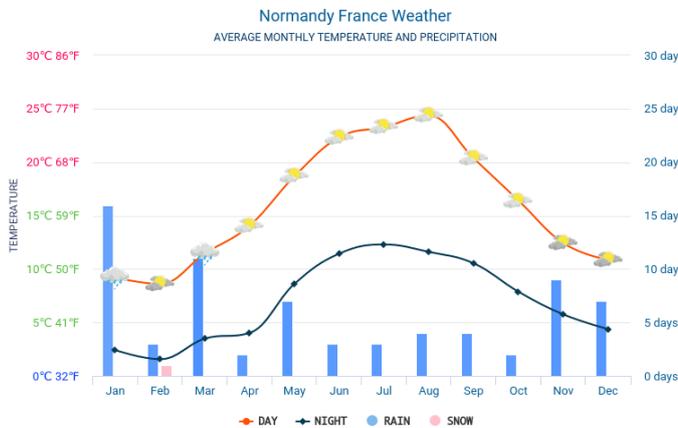
## Tour manager

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 cool with 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 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

**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 4DB

Tel: 0207 251 0045

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

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