

A Glimpse of D-Day

3 Night Tour - Bed & Breakfast

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 may not be the order your hotels have been confirmed for you - for your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.





Advance planning

To decide on places to see and plan your route it's useful to refer to tourist office and travel websites such as Google maps, viamichelin.com (which will also show motorway tolls if applicable) or theaa.co.uk

Hotel directions

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

Arrival

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

This tour is on a bed and breakfast basis.

Here we give some ideas of places to see in and around the places you'll stay. 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 and check opening times.

To benefit from a discounted entry fee at the Mémorial de Caen and the Cinéma Circulaire 360 at Arromanches, simply present your Brittany Ferries ticket on arrival.



D-Day memorial sculpture, Omaha Beach

Port en Bessin

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 reconstructed French street simulating the troubled times of WW2 for ordinary civilians living in France during the Occupation and a cinema shows the film 'From Cherbourg to Utah Beach'.



Landing Museum, Arromanches

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) 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, remains of the Mulberry Harbour

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 WW2 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.



US Army WW2 Sherman tank at Utah Beach Memorial



©Vincent Rustiel / Galvados Attraction

American Cemetery, Colleville



Café Gondrée, Pegasus Bridge



Caen city hall

Caen

The city endured a long battle in the summer of 1944 to be liberated and this did not happen until 19th July. The Caen Mémorial museum (just to the north-west of the city) is a tribute to their suffering and also a museum for peace, guiding you through the political and strategic stages of 20th century history, from the end of WWI to the fall of the Berlin Wall. This is a poignant and fascinating insight into these terrible events which were a key element in the eventual liberation of Europe.

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 learn about 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



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CAEN-NORMANDY
Memorial
CENTRE FOR HISTORY AND PEACE