



## **FRENCH LANDSCAPES – NORMANDY & THE CHANNEL ISLANDS MAY/JUNE 2022**

On this tour we discover the stunning landscapes of Normandy, exploring a history dating from prehistoric times to the legendary WW2 Battlefields, followed by a week in the charming Channel Islands, Jersey and Guernsey.

Normandy is the home of Calvados brandy, fat happy cows and hence Pont L'Évêque, Livarot & Camembert cheeses; as well as ancient Abbeys, William the Conqueror and the Bayeux Tapestry. It is a land of vast forests, villages of half-timbered medieval houses, sweeping coastline, chic resorts and picturesque ports.

In 1944 for several months it was also the scene of some of the most remarkable feats of international cooperation, bravery, planning and luck that the world has ever seen, in the successful D-Day landings that changed the course of WW2 and saved France.

Clustered just off the coast of France, the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey abound with exquisite coastlines, beautiful harbours, shaded lanes and old-world charm. The warm Gulf of St Malo ensures subtropical plants, superb local seafood and an incredible array of bird life.

The islands are proudly independent, self-governing British Crown dependencies and sport a wealth of quirky anachronisms. English is the main language and although place names may look French, local pronunciation is very different.

Superb accommodation in two 5-star Relais & Chateaux hotels and a charming manor house is also a highlight of the tour, ensuring that your leisure time is spent in the most beautiful of surroundings.

### **ITINERARY**

#### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Paris**

This evening we meet at our centrally located hotel in Paris and enjoy a welcome drink to start our wonderful tour of Normandy and the Channel Islands.

#### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Paris to Honfleur**

This morning we leave Paris and drive into Normandy, stopping for a visit at Giverny on the way, to visit the exquisite home and gardens of Claude Monet. At Monet's beloved home you can still see the Japanese bridge, waterlilies, and weeping willows that were the subjects of some of his most iconic paintings. We continue to the picturesque fishing village of Honfleur and our beautiful Relais & Chateaux Hotel, Ferme St Simeon. Drinks on the terrace overlooking the sea and dinner this evening in their gorgeous restaurant. (B, L, D)

#### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Pont l'Évêque, Honfleur**

Famous for the square shaped cheese that bears its name, Pont l'Évêque is one of the most charming villages in Calvados, lying right in the heart of the Pays d'Auge, known for the beauty of its pastoral landscape and



pretty valleys. Today we'll catch the colourful local market before returning to Honfleur and lunch on the port, before a relaxing walk to get to know the town. Free choice for dinner this evening – you may like to stay at the hotel or alternatively, walk (15 minutes stroll through the village streets) or take a taxi down to the old port to dine in one of the many cafes by the water. (B, L)

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Rouen**

Today we will discover the beautiful medieval city of Rouen. We'll see the famous Cathedral which houses the heart of Richard the Lionheart; the Law Courts, scene of Resistance fighting during WW2; the famous Horloge (clock tower); and Joan of Arc's memorial where the poor girl was burned at the stake after months of interrogation by the English. Dinner this evening at the hotel bistro. (B, L, D)

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Deauville**

The magnificent white chalk cliffs, coastline and rock formations of Étretat are sights that you have probably seen in iconic images of France... it is spectacular! This little fishing port was transformed into a fashionable seaside resort in the 1800's and became even more famous as the home of Maurice LeBlanc, who created the character Arsène Lupin, the "gentleman thief". Today we'll have a stroll round the Jardins d' Étretat, a beautiful Asian-inspired garden from where we can see stunning views over Étretat and its bay across to the Aval arch, which was famously immortalised by Claude Monet and Eugène Boudin. The little village is filled with pretty streets, shops and restaurants and we'll be having lunch in a beautiful restaurant with panoramic views. (B, L)

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches**

Today we will begin our exploration of the famous Normandy Beaches: with a local expert guide, first we visit famous Pegasus Bridge, scene of the extraordinary landing of the British Army airborne division which took place in the early hours of 6 June 1944. Next we continue on to Arromanches, where we see the incredible "Arromanches 360" cinema and presentation on the D-Day landings. From here we can also look down on Gold sector beach where the British troops built one of the two remarkable Mulberry Harbours, before lunch in town. The stories of bravery and fortitude that abound in this area will take your breath away.

Dinner this evening is once again at the hotel's gastronomic restaurant after drinks on the terrace. (B, L, D)

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Omaha, Bayeux**

Today we will leave Honfleur to transfer to our hotel near beautiful Mont St Michel. En-route we will visit Longues-sur-Mer battery which was a World War II artillery battery constructed by the Wehrmacht. It is the best preserved of all the fortifications and apart from being very scenic, it gives an excellent view of what the Germans saw on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944, when 5,000 enemy ships lined the horizon heading towards them. We will then visit the beautiful, emotionally charged American Cemetery at Omaha Beach before returning inland to Bayeux.

Here we visit the unique Bayeux Tapestry, a 70 metre-long, 50 cm high embroidery made from wool on a linen canvas made by women in the late 11th century to chronicle the conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066. We end our day at our charming manor house hotel which will be our base while we explore Mont St Michel. Dinner at a local restaurant this evening. (B, D)

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Mont St Michel**

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Mont St Michel is on the bucket list of many travellers, and today you'll finally be discovering this extraordinary island, home to the spectacular Romanesque cathedral perched on its apex. Mont St Michel features in the 1,000-year-old Bayeux Tapestry and has been revered by the French since the 8th century when the first monastery was established on it. You can't take a bad photo here; around every corner is a different view of the Cathedral, towering over the village! Dinner this evening at a local restaurant. (B, D)



### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Mont St Michel to Dinard**

Today we leave Avranches for the next part of our tour – the Channel Islands, but first a night at a beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century grand hotel in Dinard, Brittany, near where we take the ferry tomorrow. On the way we will turn back towards the coast and another picturesque little fishing village, Cancale, which is famed throughout France for its oyster production. It is said that Louis XIV ordered oysters from Cancale to be delivered to Versailles. So we'd better eat some while we're there... you can buy them fresh from the daily oyster market on the pier and when you're finished, throw the shells on to the beach, which as you will see is covered in them from those oyster aficionados that have come before you!

Dinard is another seaside delight; the Belle Epoque villas will transport you back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This evening is at your leisure to discover and enjoy the town. (B)

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Jersey!**

This morning we take the hour-long fast ferry (early start as we need to be at the ferry at 8 am!) to the largest of the Channel Islands, Jersey. "The beauty of Britain, the flavours of France: Glorious Jersey is the best of both worlds, but very much its own happy master".

There is nowhere in the world like the Channel Islands! Located between England and France, they are an independent, English-speaking territory with a mix of British and French cultures. Jersey is fiercely proud of its turquoise waters, walking trails along cliffs and inland valleys, great food and picturesque defensive castles. We are staying for four relaxing nights at the superb Longueville Manor, known as one of the most outstanding in the R&C collection, with its beautifully appointed rooms and suites, wonderful restaurant and enchanting gardens.

On arrival off the ferry, we will take an orientation tour of the island with our guide Tracey, who is a fountain of knowledge on Jersey and has written a book about the history. We'll discover St Helier (the capital, a beautiful port town), St. Brelade's bay, the rugged north coast, Corbiere, St. Ouens, Gorey Harbour and Mont Orgueil before returning to settle into our idyllic hotel. Dinner at the hotel restaurant this evening. (B, L, D)

### **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Discovering Jersey**

Today we will be taking a short flight across to Guernsey and spending the day exploring this beautiful little island. From Roman settlements to German Fortifications and from Norman legacy to the English Civil War, St Peter Port has an amazing history. In the afternoon, we explore Guernsey further with our local guide Annette, including the German Occupation Museum. Make sure you read (or re-read) the wonderful "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" before we go! Our day trip includes lunch on the island and then after returning by air to Jersey, dinner is at leisure this evening – you may wish to dine at the hotel restaurant or take a taxi into St Helier where there is a wide range of dining choices. (B, L)

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June – The charming island of Guernsey**

Today a special tour which explores hidden lanes, valleys and spectacular countryside, where time seems to stand still. We'll also learn about the dark days of the German Occupation in WW2 with a visit to the Jersey War Tunnels. Lunch in the sun at a beachside restaurant and then this evening is again free for you to dine where you wish. (B, L)

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Wine, Chocolate & Relaxation!**

For our final day in the Channel Islands our day centres around the beautiful La Mare Wine Estate and Distillery, a unique venue situated in the beautiful Jersey countryside. Set in the peaceful grounds of a traditional 18th-century granite farmhouse, this 25-acre working estate is committed to creating the very best wines, ciders and spirits, along with hand-made preserves, fudge, chocolates and Jersey Black Butter.



After a relaxing morning at the hotel, we enjoy a tour and afternoon tea at La Mare. This evening we will once again dine at the beautiful hotel restaurant. (B, D)

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Return to France**

This morning we take the early ferry back to France and St Malo, from where we transfer to Rennes and train back to Paris. This evening a special dinner at a local Parisien restaurant to say goodbye. (B, D)

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

This morning after breakfast the tour ends.

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## **Normandy & The Channel Islands Tour**

**21<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

### **TOUR PRICE:**

**€9,900 euros double/twin share**

**€4,990 single supplement**

**Tour deposit is €3500 per person (converted to AUD).**

### **TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

**4\* and 5\* accommodation as per itinerary, transport in air-conditioned private bus, meals as per itinerary (including wine), entries & excursions, flights between Jersey and Guernsey, ferry journeys, 1<sup>st</sup> class train from Rennes to Paris and the full-time services of your tour manager Sue Heine.**

### **SPECIAL COVID TERMS & CONDITIONS:**

Your deposit is due at time of booking and final payment is due on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. Payments are fully refundable up to 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

In the event that specified COVID-19 related government regulations will or are likely to prevent travel to France for our tour, we guarantee that the tour will be re-scheduled to a later date agreeable to, and convenient for, all tour guests. We cannot re-schedule on an individual basis as this is a unique one-off small group tour.

### **Specified government regulations are:**

A Travel Advisory due to COVID-19 for the destination country from the government of the Passenger's country of residence, either at Level 4 (advising against all travel) or Level 3 (advising against all but essential travel).

Border closures or enforced quarantine due to COVID-19 which are put in place by the government of the destination country and are applicable to the Passenger.

COVID-19 related regulations put in place by the government of the destination country make it impossible for the tour to operate as scheduled.