



# 2-Day Normandy and Brittany Coach Tour



# TRIP SUMMARY

# — Day 1

Day 1: Rouen, Honfleur, D-Day Beaches, Caen - Rouen Cathedral, Honfleur, Colleville-sur-Mer, Omaha Beach

Check in at Mercure Caen Centre Port de Plaisance (or similar) - Mercure Caen Centre Port de Plaisance

## Day 2

Day 2: Saint-Malo, Mont-Saint-Michel - Mont-Saint-Michel, Saint-Malo, Bretagne, France Price per person: \$475.00 USD



# Day 1: Rouen, Honfleur, D-Day Beaches, Caen

Take advantage of a two-day tour to visit the highlights of Normandy in France, with an official guide-interpreter from our team.

You'll leave our agency located in the center of Paris at 7:15 am. Climb on-board our air-conditioned coach and cross through the neighborhoods of western Paris until you reach the Normandy motorway. During the trip, your guide will explain the details of the tour and provide you with some initial commentary about the region. After around two hours, you will arrive in Rouen, the first stop of your excursion. Your guide will walk you through the historic center to discover, among other things, the impressive Rouen Cathedral. The city of Rouen is particularly charming thanks to its medieval alleyways, its lively pedestrian streets, its half-timbered houses and its famous Gros Horloge, an astronomical clock that is one of the city's treasures. Many Impressionist painters were inspired by the beauty of the city, including Claude Monet, who painted various views of the cathedral.

Then head to Honfleur, approximately 90 km (56 miles) west of Rouen. During the ride, admire the view of the Pont de Normandie, a cable-stayed bridge that spans the Seine estuary. When you get to Honfleur, enjoy some free time to discover this port city with its picturesque streets and colorful houses which has preserved a rich historic and artistic heritage. Eat lunch on your own in one of Honfleur's restaurants, in a typical atmosphere.

After lunch, the coach will take you to the Beaches of Normandy, which are mustsee World War II sites, symbolic of the Allied landings in 1944. First discover the American military cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, which is impressive with its 70 ha surface area and length of one kilometer. After listening to commentary from the guide, take advantage of this visit to discover this site, symbolic of the Normandy Invasion, inland from Omaha Beach.

If the weather permits, the coach may take you to Arromanches, around 25 minutes away. Immerse yourself in history as you visit this Normandy beach, where the remains of the pontoons of the 1944 landing have remained visible in spite of strong tides.

The day will end in Caen where you will stay at Novotel Caen (or similar) and dine with the group at the hotel.



**Rouen Cathedral** rue st leu, Rouen, FR, 76000 +33 2 35 71 71 60 Rouen Cathedral is a Roman Catholic church in Rouen, Normandy, France. It is the see of the Archbishop of Rouen, Primate of Normandy. The cathedral is in the Gothic architectural tradition. HistoryA church was already present at the location in the late 4th century, and eventually a cathedral was established in Rouen as in Poitiers. It was enlarged by St. Ouen in 650, and visited by Charlemagne in 769. All the buildings perished during a Viking raid in the 9th century. The Viking leader, Rollo, founder of the Duchy of Normandy, was baptised here in 915 and buried in 932. His grandson, Richard I, further enlarged it in 950. St. Romain's tower was built in 1035. The buildings of Archbishop Robert II were consecrated in 1065. The cathedral was struck by lightning in 1110. Construction on the current building began in the 12th century in Early Gothic style for Saint Romain's tower, front side porches and part of the nave. The cathedral was burnt in 1200. Others were built in High Gothic style for the mainworks: nave, transept, choir and first floor of the lantern tower in the 13th century; side chapels, lady chapel and side doorways in the 14th century. Some windows are still decorated with stained glass of the 13th century, famous because of a special cobalt blue colour, known as "the blue from Chartres". The north transept end commenced in 1280.



#### Honfleur Honfleur, FR, 14600

Honfleur is a commune in the Calvados department in northwestern France. It is located on the southern bank of the estuary of the Seine across from le Havre and very close to the exit of the Pont de Normandie. Its inhabitants are called Honfleurais. It is especially known for its old, beautiful picturesque port, characterized by its houses with slate-covered frontages, painted many times by artists, including in particular Gustave Courbet, Eugène Boudin, Claude Monet and Johan Jongkind, forming the école de Honfleur (Honfleur school) which contributed to the appearance of the Impressionist movement. The Sainte-Catherine church, which has a bell tower separate from the principal building, is the largest church made out of wood in France. HistoryThe first written record of Honfleur is a reference by Richard III, Duke of Normandy, in 1027. By the middle of the 12th century, the city represented a significant transit point for goods from Rouen to England.Located on the estuary of one of the principal rivers of France with a safe harbour and relatively rich hinterland. Honfleur profited from its strategic position from the start of the Hundred Years' War. The town's defences were strengthened by Charles V in order to protect the estuary of the Seine from attacks from the English. This was supported by the nearby port of Harfleur. However, Honfleur was taken and occupied by the English in 1357 and from 1419 to 1450. When under French control, raiding parties often set out from the port to ransack the English coasts, including partially destroying the town of Sandwich, in Kent, England, in the 1450s.



#### Colleville-sur-Mer

Colleville-sur-Mer, FR, 14710

Colleville-sur-Mer is a commune in the Calvados department in Normandie region in northwestern France. Historylt was originally a farm owned by a certain Koli, a Scandinavian settler in the Middle Ages. It shares the same etymology as the other Colleville in Normandy. During the conquest of England by William the Conqueror or following it, Gilbert de Colleville was given lands in England, it was from this Knight that the modern de Colville/Colvin family would develop, including Clan Colville in Scotland and the Barony de Colville, of Castle Bytham in England. The beach next to the coastal village was one of the principal beachheads during the Normandy landings on 6 June 1944, designated Omaha Beach. Sights Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial is located in Colleville-sur-Mer. Notre-Dame de l'Assomption de Colleville: dated to the 12th or 13th century, a historical monument since 1840.





#### Check-in

# Check in at Mercure Caen Centre Port de Plaisance (or similar)



#### Mercure Caen Centre Port de Plaisance

Mercure 1 rue de Courtonne BP 3086 CAEN CEDEX, Caen, FR, 14018 0231472424



## Day 2: Saint-Malo, Mont-Saint-Michel

After breakfast, take a seat on the coach, which will head to Saint-Malo (approximately 170 kilometers from Caen). Take advantage of a guided tour to discover this town in Brittany which boasts a rich historic heritage and several classified monuments: the city walls, the castle, Saint-Malo Cathedral, and Fort National.

Enjoy some free time to eat lunch in the center of this historic city.

The tour will continue on with a visit of Mont Saint-Michel which marks the border between Normandy and Brittany. Discover this "Wonder of the West" perched on a rocky islet dating back to the Middle Ages, surrounded by a splendid bay. At the entrance, after going through the King's Gate, with its drawbridge, you will find the Grande Rue, or main street, where the main museums, shops and medieval houses are located. Follow the guide to climb the Grand Degré staircase. When you get to the top, visit the fascinating 8th century Benedictine abbey. Admire its Gothic architecture and discover the cloister, dining hall and garden overlooking the sea. After the guided tour of the abbey, be amazed by the panoramic view before you as you walk along the town walls. Also take advantage of this free time to enjoy a delicious crepe or buy some souvenirs.

Departure time is around 4:30 pm from Mont Saint-Michel, for an expected return time in Paris of around 9:15 pm.



#### **Mont-Saint-Michel**

The abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel is a unique building: its plan is unlike that of any other monastery. Constrained by the

pyramidal shape of the Mount

, its medieval builders wrapped the buildings around the granite rock. The abbey church, situated at the top, stands on crypts that create a platform designed to take the weight of a church 80 metres long. The building known as the Merveille,

often regarded as the jewel of the abbey's architecture, is evidence of the architectural mastery of its 13 th century builders who succeeded in perching two blocks of 3-storey buildings on a steep rocky slope. This required very precise technical calculations



Saint-Malo, Bretagne, France Saint-Malo, FR

Price per person: \$475.00 USD The price includes:

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- Transportation in an air conditioned coach
- Entrance tickets for the various monument and museum visits
- Accommodation in 3\*\*\* hotel (double room accommodation with bathroom)
- Porterage service on hotel arrival and departure
- Buffet breakfast and evening meal in the hotel
- Services of a tour guide

The price does not include:

• Return transport from/to your residence in Paris

#### Please note:

- Persons with walking difficulties might not be able to reach the Abbey (many steps)
- Comfortable clothing and good shoes recommended
- Single room supplement : 36 euros
- For any booking which requires a single room (triple room unavailable), a supplement of 36€ will have to be paid at PARISCityVISION agency prior your tour departure