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1 800 230 0426  
<http://www.france.com>  
[reservations@france.com](mailto:reservations@france.com)



## 4-Day Normandy, Loire Valley Coach Tour

\$1,115.00 USD

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## TRIP SUMMARY

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### 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

Check in at Mercure Angers Centre (or similar) - Mercure Angers Centre

### Day 3

Day 3: Angers, Langeais and Villandry castles - Château d'Angers, Château de Langeais, Château du Clos Lucé, Château De Villandry

Check in at Mercure Tours Centre Gare (or similar) - Mercure Tours Centre Gare

### Day 4

Château De Chenonceau, Château De Chambord, Château de Cheverny

Price per person: \$1,115.00 USD

# DAY 1

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## 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 must-see 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. History A 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. History The 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. History It 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.



## Omaha Beach

FR



Check-in

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



### **Mercure Caen Centre Port de Plaisance**

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

## DAY 2



### 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 13th 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



Check-in

**Check in at Mercure Angers Centre (or similar)**



**Mercure Angers Centre**

1 place Mendès France, Angers, FR, 49100

+ 33(0) 241603481

## DAY 3



### Day 3: Angers, Langeais and Villandry castles

The third day begins with breakfast at the hotel followed by a short stop at the Château d'Angers so you can admire the exterior of the medieval fortress.

You will then set off for the Loire Valley and the first tour will take place at Château de Langeais, a well-preserved fortified castle. Your guide will take you through the interior of the château, where depictions of everyday life in the medieval era using highly realistic wax figures will take you on a voyage of discovery through French history.

After the tour of Langeais there will be time for lunch in Amboise at a restaurant of your choosing. Your guide will point out some dining options located near Château d'Amboise.

The afternoon kicks off with a guided tour of Château de Chenonceau, just 20 kilometers from Amboise. This Renaissance masterpiece that spans the Cher river looks like a palace from a fairytale and has played a major role in French history. Also known as the "Château des Dames", it was built and renovated over a period of many years by a number of famous women from French history (including Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de' Medici). During your guided tour you will get the chance to admire the lavishly appointed rooms that embody the refined French way of life in the castle's heyday.

In the afternoon, in Amboise we'll we visit the Clos-Lucé, last dwelling of Leonardo da Vinci.

Then visit of the Gardens of Villandry castle. Visit of the historic districts of Tours. Dinner and overnight stay at a 3-star hotel in Tours.



#### Château d'Angers

2 Promenade du bout du monde, Angers, FR, 49100

+33 2 41 87 43 47

The Château d'Angers is a castle in the city of Angers in the Loire Valley, in the département of Maine-et-Loire, in France. Founded in the 9th century by the Counts of Anjou, was expanded to its current size in the 13th century. It is located overhanging the river Maine. Now open to the public, the Château d'Angers is home of the Apocalypse Tapestry. History Originally, this castle was built as a fortress at one of the sites inhabited by the Romans because of its strategic defensive location. In the 9th century, the Bishop of Angers gave the Counts of Anjou permission to build a castle in Angers. It became part of the Angevin empire of the Plantagenet Kings of England during the 12th century. In 1204, the region was conquered by Philip II and an enormous castle was built during the minority of his grandson, Louis IX ("Saint Louis") in the early part of the 13th century. The construction undertaken in 1234 cost 4,422 livres, roughly one per cent of the estimated royal revenue at the time. Louis gave the castle to his brother, Charles in 1246.





## Château de Langeais

37130 langeais, Langeais, FR, 37130

0247967260

La forteresse médiévale domine la ville de sa façade austère. Mais ne vous y fiez pas : le pont-levis est une invitation à pénétrer dans les appartements raffinés d'un grand seigneur. C'est le château le plus meublé du Val de Loire. Ambiance feutrée des chambres, splendeur des grandes salles de réception : vous serez plongé dans le quotidien d'un prince du XVe siècle ; vous revivrez l'événement qui marqua l'histoire des lieux : le mariage de Charles VIII et d'Anne de Bretagne, reconstitué avec des personnages en cire saisissant de réalisme.

Dans le parc, vous découvrirez le chantier reconstitué du plus vieux donjon de France. La promenade, ponctuée par les aires de jeux et la cabane perchée, se poursuivra jusqu'au belvédère sur la Loire, entre cèdres et séquoias.

Ouvert tous les jours de l'année (château et boutique)

- Février et mars : de 9h30 à 17h30
- Avril, mai, juin, septembre, octobre, et jusqu'au 11 novembre : de 9h30 à 18h30
- Juillet et août : de 9h à 19h
- Du 12 novembre au 31 janvier\* : de 10h à 17h
- le 25 décembre ouvert de 14h à 17h

Tarifs

- Adulte : 9 €
- Jeune de 18 à 25 ans : 7,50€
- Enfant de 10 à 17 ans : 5€
- Gratuit pour les enfants de moins de 10 ans
- Carte d'abonnement à l'année : 19 €

Parking voiture et camping-car gratuit à 2 minutes - Parking à vélos - Chiens admis en laisse

Sortie 7 autoroute A85 à 5 minutes

Gare SNCF de Langeais à 5 minutes



## Château du Clos Lucé

2 rue du Clos Lucé, Amboise, FR, 37400

A l'invitation de François Ier, Léonard de Vinci s'installe au Château du Clos Lucé, vit les trois dernières années de sa vie, et se consacre à l'aboutissement de ses inventions. Prolifique et inspiré, il travaille comme ingénieur, architecte et metteur en scène, organisant pour la Cour des fêtes somptueuses.

Dans sa résidence située à 300 mètres du Château Royal, il dresse les plans d'un château modèle pour François Ier à Romorantin et dessine l'escalier à double révolution de Chambord.

Le Château du Clos Lucé se consacre à la découverte et à la compréhension des savoirs du Maître italien.



## Château De Villandry

3 Rue Principale, Villandry, INDRE-ET-LOIRE, FR, 37510



Check-in

## Check in at Mercure Tours Centre Gare (or similar)



### Mercure Tours Centre Gare

29 rue E Vaillant, Tours, FR, 37000

## DAY 4



For our final day in the Loire Valley, our itinerary includes guided visits of Chenonceau, Cheverny and Chambord Castles with a farewell lunch at the Hotel Saint-Hubert at Cheverny.

Departure from Chambord around 4.30 PM.

Return to Paris around 7.00 PM.



### Château De Chenonceau

Rue Chateau, Chenonceaux, INDRE-ET-LOIRE, FR, 37150

02 47 23 90 07

Chenonceau, le « château des Dames »  
Chef-d'œuvre de la Renaissance, directement inspiré du Ponte Vecchio, Chenonceau, plus que nul autre, inspire un sentiment universel de paix. Le monument recèle des chefs-d'œuvre, une admirable collection de tapisseries, peintures et mobilier.



### Château De Chambord

Domaine national de Chambord, Chambord, LOIR-ET-CHER, FR, 41250

02 54 50 40 00

Découvrez le prestigieux Château de Chambord, influencé par la Renaissance italienne et le gothique français.



### Château de Cheverny

Cré, PAYS DE LA LOIRE, FR, 72200

Grand, 17th-century country mansion with ornate interiors, landscaped gardens & an orangerie cafe.



## Price per person: \$1,115.00 USD

### The price includes:

- \* Transportation in luxury air conditioned coach
- \* Entrance tickets for the various monument visits
- \* Accommodation (3 nights) in 3\*\*\* hotels (double room accommodation with private bathroom).
- \* Dinner on evenings 1, 2 & 3, buffet breakfast on mornings 2, 3 & 4 and farewell lunch on day 4
- \* Porterage service on hotel arrival and departure
- \* Services of our licensed multilingual guide

The price does not include:

- Return transport from/to your residence in Paris

**Please note:**

- \* Our free time lunch stops will give clients the chance to sample local culinary specialties and to be able to buy souvenirs in the visited places
- \* Comfortable clothing and comfortable shoes recommended
- \* No triple rooms available