

CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

Normandy & Brittany

Mont-St-Michel to D-Day Beaches



CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

TRAVEL + LEISURE

France's Picture-Book Provinces

You'll tell everyone you know about the day you walked to Mont-St.-Michel. The cathedral-capped island floats on water - at least until the epic tide recedes to reveal the sandy seabed. Then, as the faithful have done for centuries, we make the pilgrimage on foot across the seabed to one of France's most glorious landmarks. True, the provinces of Brittany and Normandy have their apple orchards and salt-meadow sheep flocks and picture-book villages deep in the woods. And we've planned beautiful walks among them. But like the people and history of this region, we always seem to come back to the sea. To explore coastlines that have seen invasions from Iron Age Celts to D-Day's Allied Forces. To stroll in quaint ports that launched the Norman conquest of the British Isles. And to feast in restaurants where great platters of fresh oysters, lobsters and Coquilles St. Jacques are standard fare. So much beauty, in the shadow of so much history, warmed by a lively hospitality make this a truly unforgettable journey.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

St. Malo / Cancale

From seaside St. Malo, you'll follow the coast to the fishing port of Cancale. Nestled along the rugged coastline of Brittany, Cancale's rich tradition of oyster farming dates back centuries, intertwining with the town's maritime heritage. The community's meticulous cultivation of oysters not only embodies its profound connection to the sea but also serves as a cornerstone of local identity and pride. Generations of oyster fishermen have sustained the local economy and contributed to the region's gastronomic excellence. You'll pay a visit to a family-run oyster farm and enjoy a taste of this local delicacy.

Nourished from and inspired by French coastal cuisine, set out on an afternoon walk with your local guide who leads you along a scenic footpath from Pointe du Grouin. On foot at eye level, you can really soak in the history of the area and the scenic views that stretch from Mont-St.-Michel Bay to the Chausey Islands.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: ST. MALO

DAY 2 »

St. Malo

Your morning starts with a visit to the charming village of Saint Suliac. Nestled along the picturesque banks of the Rance River in Brittany, Saint-Suliac traces its origins to the early Middle Ages when it served as a bustling port town. Amble along the narrow cobblestone streets that wind through the village, flanked by traditional Breton stone houses adorned with colorful shutters and flower-filled window boxes. Leaving the village on foot, you'll see how the river teems with life, as fishermen cast their nets and sailboats glide silently across the shimmering waters. Birdsong fills the air, as herons and egrets wade in the shallows, and seagulls soar in lazy circles, their cries mingling with the distant chime of church bells. As the path meanders along the riverbank, your guide shares stories and anecdotes about maritime legends and seafaring traditions.

Midday, you'll arrive in St. Malo, a bustling 6th-century seaport that was once a haven for merchants, sailors and explorers. It's lunch time, so you'll want to join a chef friend of ours to learn the art of crepe making. Roll up your sleeves for a hands-on instruction, learning how to make these delicious pancakes that are a versatile staple of Breton cuisine. Then stretch your legs on a walk along the narrow, cobbled streets of the old town to the 1 ½ mile long ramparts that surround the walled town. From the Saint Vincent Gate (Porte St. Vincent) to the Saint Thomas Gate (Porte St. Thomas), every inner wall is packed with history and beautiful views of the Bay of St. Malo.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: ST. MALO

DAY 3 »

Mont St. Michel

Your much-anticipated visit to Mont-St.-Michel comes to life this morning as you experience in person one of the most dramatic and awe-inspiring sights in France. Combining history, architecture and natural beauty, this famed monastery was founded in 708 when legend says the Archangel Michael appeared to Aubert, the bishop of Avranches. Taking more than 500 years to build, this island-abbey is perched on a 264-foot rock a few hundred yards off the coast and beckons pilgrims from around the world. Your walk to this UNESCO World Heritage Site is an 'only with Classic Journeys' excursion across the low tides with sand underfoot and the sounds of the waves in the distance. Soak in this experience, step by step, as you make your way to Mont. St. Michel and immerse yourself in this island's rich history.

On arrival on the island, you'll soon discover a labyrinth of narrow streets and alleys that are lined with charming shops, restaurants, and quaint houses. The climb up to the top of the abbey offers breathtaking views. The abbey itself is a masterpiece

of Gothic and Romanesque architecture, which you'll learn about with your expert local guide. Together you'll explore La Merveille, one of Europe's most important Gothic monuments, and the 11th-century Romanesque and Gothic abbey church. *Note: Due to the tides, and with the advice of your local guide, your walk in the Bay of Mont-St.-Michel may take place in the morning, mid-morning or afternoon.*

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: PORT-EN-BESSIN

DAY 4 »

D-Day Beaches

Today you'll set out for a series of meaningful walks along the D-Day beaches, where on June 6, 1944, Normandy made its mark in history and became the battleground for one of the greatest military operations of our time. Begin the day with a visit to Arromanches, with ruins of the artificial harbor built in 1944 in only 15 days. From there, explore the German bunkers that remain sprinkled throughout the peaceful landscape. On a specially curated walk, you'll experience on foot at eye level what it was like for allied soldiers to arrive at these cliffs and beaches. With an insightful visit to Pointe du Hoc, which features the most spectacular scenery along the coast, you'll be able to take in the sights at the cliff-top observatory and German machine gun posts. During the invasion, U.S. Rangers attempted a siege of the German-occupied cliffs by using grappling hooks and ladders borrowed from London fire departments. Explore the German bunkers and bomb craters that remain: a moonscape that is the incredibly dramatic setting for the intense fighting.

After, a short drive takes you to Normandy's American Cemetery which sits on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel. One of the best-known military memorials, its orderly rows are filled with marble crosses and Stars of David. As you walk through the cemetery, you may recall the opening scene of *Saving Private Ryan*. Continue on foot on a walk along Omaha Beach, where some of the fiercest fighting took place. After immersing yourself in these historic sites, return to your hotel for some downtime to reflect on today's impactful visits.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: PORT-EN-BESSIN

DAY 5 »

Bayeux / Pays d'Auge

Bayeux may have been the first town liberated during the Battle of Normandy, but its history of battles goes much further back in time as you'll see artistically in the Bayeux Tapestry. Dating to 1067, the 230-foot-long tapestry depicts the decisive Battle of Hastings, when William of Normandy conquered England in 1066. Its impressive size along with its artistic and historical merits make the embroidered tapestry a world-renowned masterpiece.

Late morning, enjoy a short drive to the Pays d'Auge—classic Normandy countryside lushly woven with fields, wooded valleys, cider orchards, dairy farms, manor houses and quaint villages. Here you'll visit a family-owned horse farm where you're greeted warmly by the husband and wife who tend to the land with a deep-rooted passion. As the gentle mist of morning lifts, revealing rolling green pastures and centuries-old apple orchards, your hosts share tales of the region's equestrian heritage. Wandering with them through the farm, the rhythmic clip-clop of hooves fills the air as thoroughbred horses graze in the pastures. The fragrance of blooming apple blossoms perfumes the air, signaling the region's famed orchards nearby. Walking through the apple groves, you learn the time-honored tradition of cider production, where the prized fruit is transformed into the renowned Calvados apple brandy. Raise a glass to the day with your hosts.

Later in the afternoon, you'll journey northeast to Honfleur, situated on Normandy's stunning coast. Soak in the ocean views on your walk through town, first along cobbled streets that are lined with cafes and artisan boutiques and then past colorful fishing boats that sway gently in the harbor, ending with an arrival on foot to your seaside retreat. Enjoy downtime and an aperitif on the terrace before a dinner of local specialties.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: HONFLEUR

DAY 6 »

Honfleur / Deauville

Today you'll explore Honfleur, one of Normandy's most charming towns, on foot at eye level. A curated walk around the town with your guide takes you through half-timber houses and cobbled streets to the old dock (Vieux Bassin), which still attracts artists as it did in the days of Boudin. The original fishing boats have been replaced with yachts, but the slender buildings lining the quays make for unforgettable views.

Continue on to Place Ste. Catherine where a traditional market is still held on the weekend. Mingle with the locals and enjoy the magnificent views of the town where Impressionism was born, before taking time to browse the galleries and shops that line the streets. Mid-day, part company at the Deauville station where trains make the scenic journey to Paris.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



[Le Nouveau Monde Hotel & Spa](#)

Set near the ancient city walls in the heart of town, this property offers wonderful views of the tidal beaches and rooms decorated in soothing contemporary style. Facilities include a spa, a steam room and a jetted indoor pool.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[Château la Chenevière](#)

You live the gracious chateau life in this magnificent residence built in the 18th century. It sits in an impressive 30-acre park with rose gardens and a heated outdoor pool. The rooms blend classic charm and modern comfort.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[Le Manoir des Impressionnistes](#)

Le Manoir des Impressionnistes is a beautiful 5-star hotel situated by the sea in Honfleur. Built in the 18th century, this picturesque property features fine dining, a spa retreat, and manicured gardens.

NIGHTS: 1 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Le Nouveau Monde Hotel & Spa lobby**
START CITY: **St. Malo**
START TIME: **10:00 AM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Trouville-Deauville Rail Station**
END CITY: **Deauville**
END TIME: **12:00 PM**