

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

# 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.”*

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

## France's Picture-Book Provinces

You'll never forget 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, you'll make the pilgrimage on foot across the seabed to one of France's most glorious landmarks. The provinces of Brittany and Normandy have their apple orchards, salt-meadow sheep flocks, and picture-book villages deep in the woods, and we've planned curated walks among them. Explore the coastlines that have seen invasions from Iron Age Celts to D-Day's Allied Forces and stroll through quaint port towns. Enjoy eating 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. Located opposite the bay from Mont St.-Michel, this small town is famous for its oyster-farming center, and you'll pay a visit to a family-run oyster farm and enjoy a taste of this local delicacy.

Nourished with your first taste of French coastal cuisine, set out on an afternoon walk with your local guide who leads you along a scenic footpath from Pointe du Grouin. Get your camera ready, as you'll have the opportunity to soak in the picture-perfect views of Mont-St.-Michel Bay and the Chausey Islands.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: ST. MALO

DAY 2 »

## St. Malo / Dinan

Your morning starts in St. Malo, a bustling 6th-century seaport that was once a haven for merchants, sailors and explorers. Local pirates, known as Corsairs, once received a special license from the King of France to pursue their trade without fear of being hung. Your walk takes you 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.

Make your way into the scenic countryside for a visit to Saint Suliac, a picture-perfect village overlooking the Rance River. Your first stop is a *crêperie* where we've arranged a private cooking instruction of this Breton specialty. Roll up your sleeves for a hands-on instruction, then enjoy the fruits of your labor by dining on the crêpes and *galettes* for lunch. Stretch your legs on a footpath with breathtaking views of the Rance River and the chance to spot local wildlife. Later, you'll continue south to Dinan for a guided walking tour around one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Brittany. Its timbered houses are built on stilts that rise from its old port for a picturesque backdrop.

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 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 visitors 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, so be sure to have your camera ready. 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 only 15 days in 1944, as well as 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 dramatically illustrates 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, you'll have time to walk through the cemetery filled with marble crosses and Stars of David. Filmed in the opening scene of *Saving Private Ryan*, you'll also have an opportunity to 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

Your morning begins in Bayeux, the first town liberated during the Battle of Normandy, and most famously, home to 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 distillery to taste Calvados, the legendary apple brandy. At a quaint restaurant, pause for a tasting of local cheeses, cider and *teurgoule*, a Norman dessert similar to rice pudding. Later, a countryside walk from Beuvron-en-Auge, a small town with half-timbered houses, leads you to a horse farm where you can watch the famous Norman horses being trained. Later in the afternoon, you'll journey northeast to Honfleur, situated on Normandy's stunning coast.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: HONFLEUR

DAY 6 »

## Honfleur / Deauville

Today you'll explore Honfleur, one of Normandy's most charming towns. 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, then stroll to Côte de Grâce. Here you'll have a magnificent view 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 train 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**

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## → DEPARTURE DETAILS

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