

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



Normandy & Brittany

Mont-St-Michel to D-Day Beaches



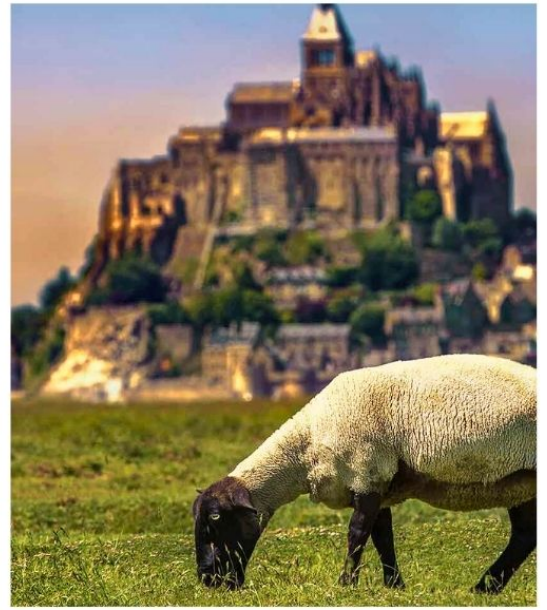
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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

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 is a truly unforgettable journey.



DAY 1 »

St. Malo / Cancale

- Visit a family-run oyster farm for a tasting
- Enjoy a scenic coastal walk from the fishing port of 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: L, D OVERNIGHT: ST. MALO

DAY 2 »

St. Malo

- Explore the bustling 6th-century seaport of St. Malo
- Visit the charming village of Saint Suliac

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

- Take a memorable trek across the bay to Mont-St.-Michel
- Explore the iconic island and its monastery

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

- [Walk the historic D-Day beaches stopping at Arromanches](#)
- [Visit the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach](#)

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

- [Explore the historic town of Bayeux](#)
- [Walk in the scenic Pays d'Auge countryside](#)

Bayeux may have been the first town liberated during the Battle of Normandy, but its history of resilience and charm stretches back centuries. Although the extraordinary Bayeux Tapestry—an 11th-century embroidery illustrating William the Conqueror's 1066 victory at Hastings—is currently undergoing restoration and not available to view, its rich legacy still echoes throughout the town. Today, begin your day soaking up the atmosphere of Bayeux's beautifully preserved medieval center, where half-timbered houses and cobbled streets invite you into the town's storied past. The remarkable Bayeux Cathedral, a Norman Gothic masterpiece consecrated in 1077, stands at the heart of the town and offers an inspiring window into Bayeux's deep historical and religious roots.

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, D OVERNIGHT: HONFLEUR

DAY 6 »

Honfleur / Deauville

- Enjoy a guided walk around beautiful Honfleur, the birthplace of impressionism painting
- Wander the traditional market and the art galleries

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

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

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Trouville-Deauville Rail
Station
CITY: Deauville, France
TIME: 12:00 PM

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- 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.
- ▶ **PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS**
A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**
One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.