

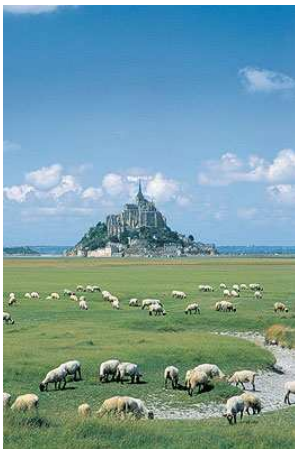


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## Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley

**A tour to discover three beautiful regions of western France: Normandy and its cultural heritage from a past full of surprises until the famous battle of June 1944, the strong Breton identity offering outstanding maritime landscapes, and last the Loire Valley, synonym of softness, to the encounter of the French kingdom's history in its most beautiful hours which have left us the famous castles.  
An itinerary to decline to infinity for an extensive visit of each of these terroirs.**



### **Day 1: Paris - Giverny - Rouen – Deauville**

Early morning arrival in Paris, welcome at the airport by your guide and departure by bus to Normandy through the Seine valley. Stop in **Giverny** to visit the house and the gardens of the famous impressionist painter **Monet**. Then to **Rouen**: guided visit of the old town with its beautiful half-timbered houses, the Gothic Cathedral, the Market Square and its amazing church Saint Joan of Arc, modern with Renaissance stained glass, built by Louis Arretche where the maiden of Orleans was burned alive....

**Dinner and night in Deauville**, a seaside resort of international repute.

### **Day 2: Etretat - Fecamp - Honfleur – Deauville**

Departure for the seaside resort of **Etretat**: walk along the beach surrounded by chalk cliffs, immortalized by many painters, poets and writers. Continuation of the road along the Alabaster coast and arrival in **Fecamp** to visit the **Palais de la Benedictine**, both place of production of the famous liqueur and a museum, in an amazing neo-Gothic and neo-renaissance palace.

We pass the Seine over the **Pont de Normandie** and we stop in **Honfleur**, a small picturesque harbor with colorful houses and a wooden church. To close the day, visit of a **Calvados distillery** and tasting.

**Dinner and overnight in or near Deauville.**

### **Day 3: Bayeux - Omaha Beach - Mont-Saint-Michel**

Departure for **Bayeux**: visit the cathedral and the "Bayeux Tapestry", work of the 11th century that recounts the conquest of England through William the Conqueror. Continuation of the road along the landing beaches, **Arromanches** and the ruins of its artificial port built in England in 1944 and shipped by boat, **Omaha Beach** where the Americans landed at dawn on June 6, 1944 and its cemetery and the **Pointe du Hoc**, with its impressive bomb craters. **Dinner and night around Mont Saint Michel.**

### **Day 4: Cancale - Saint Malo - Mont Saint-Michel**

**Mont-Saint-Michel**, visiting the abbey, architectural wonder of the West perched atop a hill, surrounded by sand and sea, walk in the walled village where souvenir shops abound. We continue along the bay to reach **Cancale**, a picturesque oyster port, where we visit an oyster farm. **Oyster tasting.**

Then towards **Saint-Malo**, city of corsairs, famous since the 16th century, we discover the history of its famous men that are **Surcouf** and **Duguay Trouin**, but also **Jacques Cartier** and **Chateaubriand** ... From the ramparts, stunning view over the mouth of the river Rance, the harbor, the beaches and the walled city.

**Dinner and night around the Mont Saint Michel.**

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**Day 5: Dinan - Cap Fréhel – Vannes**

Morning stop in the medieval walled town of **Dinan**, exceptionally well-preserved heritage: narrow streets and timbered houses, belfry, churches and monasteries ... Leisure time, shopping (bring a picnic) before joining the **Cap Fréhel** and its impressive granite cliffs covered with heather and gorse. We finally leave the north coast for the Gulf of Morbihan in the south.

**Dinner and overnight in or near Vannes.**

**Day 6: Gulf of Morbihan - Carnac – Vannes**

On morning, cruise on the **Gulf of Morbihan**: this "inland sea", scattered with islands, enjoy a mild microclimate and is a yachting paradise. The afternoon is devoted to the discovery of intriguing prehistoric remains: visit of the rows of **Menhirs of Carnac**.

By late afternoon, stroll in **Vannes**, a historic town which harbor advances up to the entrance of the city and **dinner** in the old city. Back at the hotel. **Night in Vannes or surroundings.**

**Day 7: Montsoreau - Villandry - Tours**

Departure for the Loire Valley. At **Montsoreau** unusual visit of troglodyte caves: former extracting galleries of truffeau, now converted into mushroom farms and wine cellars. Typical lunch in a troglodyte restaurant. Continuation of the road in **the Loire valley**, which provides, with its tributaries, a sumptuous setting for castles and medieval fortresses, they were transformed in Renaissance by elegant castle for hosting kings and nobles. Visit of the famous terraced gardens of **Villandry**, the last of the great chateaux of the Loire, built in the Renaissance.

**Dinner and overnight in or around Tours.**

**Day 8: Chambord - Chenonceau - Montlouis – Tours**

This day will be devoted to the visit of two famous castles: **Chambord** castle, castle of the excessiveness in the heart of a dense forest full of game and built on the orders of François 1er, is undoubtedly the most impressive castle of the Loire. Guided visit and stroll around the gardens.

The Chateau de **Chenonceau**, a jewel of Renaissance architecture in an enchanting site, crossing stately over the Cher. Remarkable by its architecture and history, it is also by its rich collections. Inside visit and walk through the magnificent French gardens.

By late afternoon, visit of a **wine cellar in Montlouis**, and wine tasting.

**Dinner and overnight in Tours.**

**Day 9: Tours - Chartres – Paris**

On the way back, visit the cathedral of **Chartres**, built in the early 13th century and considered one of the finest gothic building in its architecture, its sculpture and stained glass whole period.

Then, transfer to the airport and return flight.

**Our services:**

- 8 nights half board (three course dinner drinks not included) in \*\*\*hotels as per program
- a typical lunch in the Val de Loire (drinks not included)
- Tourist coach as per program
- Qualified guide from arrival at airport to departure
- Admission in: Giverny, the Benedictine Palace , Calvados distillery, Bayeux Tapestry, Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey, Villandry gardens, Chambord and Chenonceau castles
- Oysters tasting in Cancale
- Cruise in the Gulf of Morbihan
- Visit and tasting in a wine cellar in the Loire Valley

1 free per 20 paid in double.



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