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Jewels of the North – Itinerary

Delve into France's northern historical and culinary heritage. One visit and a lifetime of memories. Bring History to life!

Day 1 – Paris

After checking in and meeting your Travel director for a glimpse into what lies ahead it's time to hit the streets of Paris and explore the allures of the city as you please. Perhaps you will choose to seek out delicious French flavours at a local restaurant or seek out the glittering Eiffel tower to discover why Paris is so deserving of the title 'The City of Lights.'

As there is not much time in Paris we suggest you arrive a few days early so you can get under the skin of the city of love (and also to get over the jet lag!)

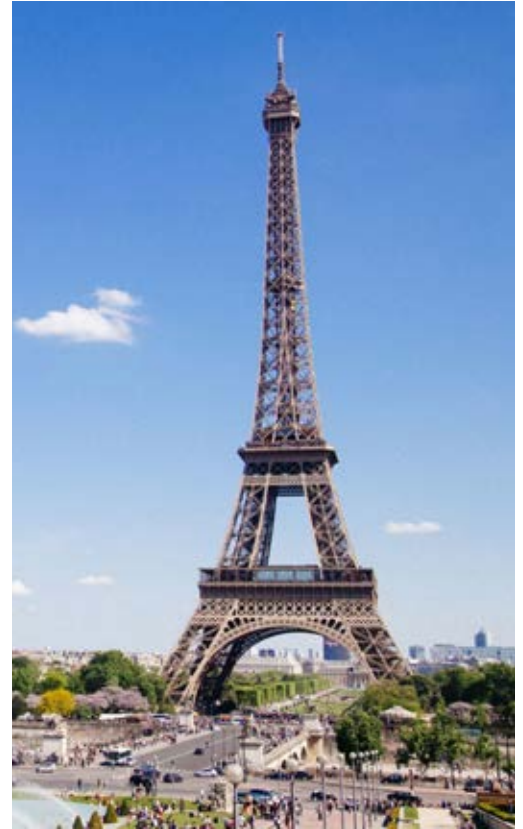
France Travel Solutions can arrange extra nights' accommodation pre and post-tour for those that require more time in the lovely capital. If you are seeking a longer tour itinerary, our wonderful La Belle Vie tour runs directly before this one, meaning you can easily experience both tours one after another!

Day 2 – Paris > Giverny > Paris

Today, we drive to the town of Giverny where Claude Monet spent the last 40 years of his life. Enjoy skip-the-line access to the house and gardens, which inspired his famous series of water-lily paintings. See the Japanese bridge that leads over the pond, and visit the studio where the artist worked, and the bedroom where he slept. Walk through his garden and his house and feel the atmosphere that reigned in the master of Impressionism and marvel at the flower compositions, ponds, and the water lilies that were his sources of inspiration.

You will have free time to explore the rest of the village of Giverny which is beautiful in its own right. Perhaps pay tribute at the cemetery down the street where Monet rests among the flowers and stop at a scenic café for lunch. You might wish to visit the Museum of Impressionism or shop for souvenirs – or maybe you will choose to do it all!

We will then drive back to Paris with the scent of the blooms and images of the heavenly colourful painting forever in our minds...



Day 3 – Villers Bretonneux > Amiens > Honfleur [special ANZAC dawn service for April tour only]

Our colourful dreams will be cut short very early this morning. We will travel to the Somme region, which is most known for 'The Battle of the Somme,' but frequently forgotten to be a region of significance and unique culture.

At dawn we'll pay tribute to the brave ANZAC's at the Somme National War Memorial ceremony in Villers-Bretonneux. We will stand with pride for our ancestors who, in that very town, lost their life for our country during WWI. Standing where they stood in the early morning light, honouring the memory of those who have fallen, this will be an emotional and poignant day to remember for a lifetime.

Just after the memorial there will be time to visit the Sir John Monash Centre where soldiers are commemorated, and to delve into the story of Australians at the Western Front at the Franco-Australian Museum. This morning is the opportunity for all Australians to reflect and salute the sacrifice and service of those who fought to defend Australia.

In the afternoon, we will have time to discover French Novelist Jules Verne's Ideal city... Amiens, the writer's second home, is ideal in many respects. Known as a city of art and history it conceals many treasures! Visit the Notre-Dame Cathedral, famous for being the largest Gothic building in France, and admire its stunning façade and interior décor. Fall back a little through history while walking the narrow 'rues' of the Saint-Leu district and wonder at the colourful houses lined up along the canals of 'Little Venice of the North.' This stunning town is perfect for an afternoon of wandering, history and discovering!

Day 4 – Honfleur > Etretat > Honfleur

We are settling in for 3 days in Normandy in the small port town of Honfleur at the mouth of the Seine river. Flowing into the English Channel, Honfleur which is also called the cradle of Impressionism seems untouched by the passage of time. Honfleur has retained over the years many landmarks of its rich past. The harbour at this seaside town has been the subject of paintings by Monet, Courbet, Eugène Boudin, and many others. Along the Côte fleurie we will have free time to experience the rich history and the food, as cheeses, seafood, and cider the region is famous for.

Today we will take a coastal drive to see the white cliffs and the three rock arches of Etretat, a striking natural wonder famous of the Normandy seaside. This is a day of beautiful sights – after the cliffs we will wind down and spend a leisurely period of time strolling around one of the picture-perfect little villages of France.



Day 5 - Honfleur > Deauville > Honfleur

Explore the market at the historic port in Honfleur this morning, tasting the specialities of Normandy. Visit the Saint Catherine's church, the largest wooden church in France exploring the pleasures of the provincial town at your own pace.

In the afternoon we will embark along the phenomenal Pont de Normandie that spans the Seine estuary, to the Côte Fleurie on our way to the luxury holiday destination of Parisians, Deauville, one of the most prestigious seaside resorts in all of France. Stroll along the famous 1923 boardwalk and try your luck at the Casino, one of the most popular attractions in town. Admire the beautiful architecture, shop the iconic luxury designer fashion brands or perhaps settle yourself somewhere and take in the people and rhythms of the French lifestyle.

Day 6 - Honfleur > Bayeux > Dinan

Today we say goodbye to Normandy but not before trying the amazing specialty of the region. En route to another amazing region, Brittany, we will stop in Calvados to experience the spirit signature drink of the north. An interactive tour taking us through the history of the brand in an immersive and visually stunning display before we have the chance to sample the signature apple brandy. This region is also famous for its cheese, which we will be sure not to miss while in town!

Today we will also stop in Bayeux to see the incredible and famous Bayeux Tapestry, a 70-metre-long tapestry depicting the story of William the Conqueror's 1066 conquest of England. This historical tapestry is nearly 1000 years old!

Later this afternoon we will make our way to the medieval town of Dinan in the Brittany region where we will settle in for 3 nights. Wander the cobblestoned streets of half-timbered houses, enjoy the crepes, specialities of the region, and see the 'Donjon' (Fortified Tower) of the Duchess Anne. This town has so much character and so much to see, with another surprise and hidden treasure always around the corner.

Day 7 - Dinan > Mont Saint Michel > Dinan

Here is the highlight of our wonderful time in north of France.

Today we will soak in the incredible beauty and background of one of France's most recognizable landmarks, the tidal island of Mont Saint-Michel. After Crossing the walkway to wander the enchanting Island village, you will embark on a guided tour with an expert to tell you everything you could want to know and lead you through this storybook place, including the most famous Abbey in the world perched upon the island.

Visit "the Marvel" and go back to the dark ages for a day. We'll have lunch together here, and after lunch you can explore to your hearts content.



Day 8 – Dinan > Saint Malo > Cancale > Dinan

Enjoy independent exploration in the morning – there is always more to discover in Dinan! Perhaps sample some cider and try the crepes of Breton which are known for being the best in France.

Later In the day we will continue along the Emerald Coast to stunning Saint-Malo, situated on the Rance Estuary and one of the most charming places In France. At your leisure you can wander the ramparts of the thick city walls, offering fantastic views over the old town and the bay. By night you will see the town’s medieval maze and winding streets abuzz with quaint bars and restaurants. Alternatively, you may wish to join an optional experience to Cancale for a delicious meal of fresh seafood, especially oysters, and other Breton specialties.

Day 9 – Dinan to Paris

After a final breakfast it will be time to return to Paris. Take in the beauty of France on the final drive back to the Capital and reminiscing your favourite experiences. Your hearts full of rich memories, your minds of history, culture and laughter and your taste buds fulfilled of the best cuisine France has to offer, we know you will be replenished of Joie de Vivre!

If you want to stay a little longer to this amazing country, we can absolutely organise a personalise bespoke tour or pre and post accommodation in Paris!



Tour Inclusions and Entry Admissions

Accommodation

- 8 nights in boutique accommodation or traditional guesthouse

Your Tour Team

- Experienced bilingual Tour Leader and Chauffeur

Transport

- Premium minibus transportation
- Access to your choice of visit, and the flexibility of transportation from your Tour Leader

Entry Admissions

- Immersive and interactive visit of a Calvados distillery in Normandy with two tastings
- Sir John Monarch Museum remembrance
- ANZAC dawn service
- Entrance Mont Saint Michel
- Entrance Abbey at Mont Saint Michel
- 2 hour private confidential guided visit of the Mont Saint Michel

Meals

- 6 European-style breakfasts (B), 2 picnic lunches (L), 2 traditional dinners with locals (D)



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