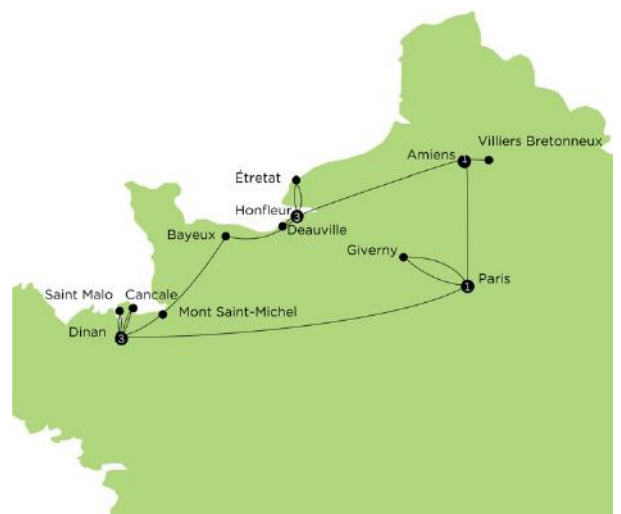




Jewels of the North special ANZAC

Dawn Service and dedicated ceremony of the Engineers Memorial Bridge

The Jewels of the North tour is a perfect mix of taking in and honouring the memory of the soldiers of World War 1 and buckling up to see the iconic sights and landmarks of Northern France. You will journey through the natural wonder of the famous Normandy seaside, the magical Mont Saint Michel, Brittany's medieval half-timbered village of Dinan, the cradle of impressionist town Honfleur, the prestigious Saint-Malo, and the luxurious Deauville! Also on the journey is Monet's dreamy gardens at Giverny, Amiens Cathedral, Etretat Cliffs, the historical Bayeux Tapestry and many more hidden treasures that will bring the North of France's rich history to life!

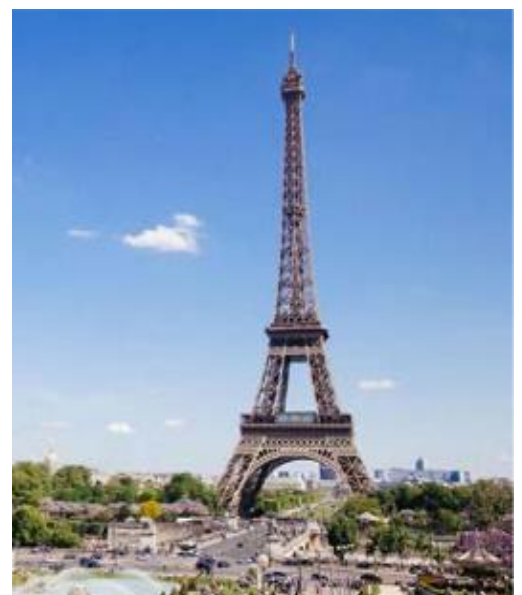


Itinerary

Day 1 - Paris

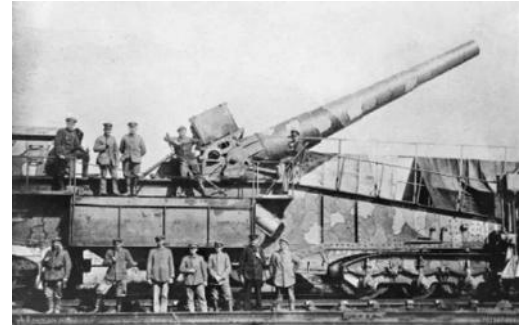
After checking in and meeting your Travel director at our 4-star Hotel, we'll get to know each other over a delicious welcome dinner. Bon appétit! Seek out the glittering Eiffel Tower!

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 the other!



Day 2 - Paris > Amiens [Engineers Memorial Bridge opening ceremony]

Wednesday the 24th of April, 2024, will mark the opening of the friendship bridge between France and Australia; a historical day to honour the memory of our WWI soldiers. During this special edition of Jewels of the North, you'll delve into the stories of the Australian Sappers involvement in the battles of the Western Front and understand all the more the poignancy and importance of this exclusive opening ceremony. This special day will also honor the incredible work, investment and effort of the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers and celebrate the special relationship between the French people of Amiens and the Australian soldiers.



Day 3 - Villers Bretonneux > Amiens > Honfleur [ANZAC dawn service]

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 lives 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 day to remember for a lifetime.



Just after the service, there will be time to visit the Sir John Monash Centre where soldiers are commemorated, and to further discover the story of Australians at the Western Front at the Franco-Australian Museum.



In the afternoon, you will have some free time in the ideal city of famed French Novelist Jules Verne... Amiens. Known as a city of art and history it conceals many treasures! Visit the Notre-Dame Cathedrale, famous for being the largest Gothic building in France, and admire its stunning facade and interior decor. 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 the '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 Cote fleurie we will have free time to experience the rich history and the food, as the region is famous for its cheeses, seafood, and cider.

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



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 and explore the pleasures of the provincial town at your own pace.

In the afternoon we will embark along the phenomenal Pont de Normandie that spans along the Seine estuary to the Côte Fleurie, as we make our way to one of the most prestigious seaside resorts in all of France. The stunning town of Deauville is known as a luxury holiday destination for Parisians. 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 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 signature drink of the north. An interactive tour will take 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, specialties 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 the 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 an expert-guided tour to learn everything you could want to know about this storybook location. This tour includes a visit to the most famous Abbey in the world, which is perched fantasy-like 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, which is 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!), as well as other specialties of Breton.



Day 9 – Dinan > Giverny > Paris

On our last day, 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, feeling the atmosphere that reigned in the home of the master of Impressionism and marvelling 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 paintings forever in our minds...

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



Tour inclusions and entry admissions

Accommodation

- 9 days tour including 8 nights specially selected boutique accommodation

Your Tour Team

- Experienced bilingual Tour Leader and Chauffeur

Transport

- Premium minibus transportation
- Your Tour Leader has the flexibility to take you to your point of interest; you can choose between many options

Meals

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

Entry Admissions

- Entrance and audio guide of the Bayeux Tapestry Museum
- Immersive and interactive visit of a Calvados distillery in Normandy with tasting
- Skip the line admission to The Monet House and Gardens at Giverny
- Sir John Monarch Museum remembrance and Franco-Australian Museum at Villers-Bretonneux
- ANZAC Dawn Service
- Entrance Mont Saint Michel
- Entrance and audio guide to the Mont Saint Michel Abbey
- 2 hours private conferential guided visit of the Mont Saint Michel (minimum guest apply)



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