

NORMANDY, BRITTANY & THE LOIRE VALLEY

*Enjoy romance, glamour, gastronomy and elegance,
including the fragrant gardens of Château de
Villandry, one of the hidden gems of France.*

8 DAYS | 1 COUNTRY | 10 MEALS | BALANCED ACTIVITY



4.7
★★★★★
feefo
Guest Review Rating



Trip code: E926

DEPARTURE MONTHS

Mar - Oct

For dates, prices and to choose your
group size call your Travel Advisor or
see insightvacations.com/normandy

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO PARIS

On arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport, transfers to the hotel leave terminal 2F at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:30, and 30 minutes later from terminal 1. After checking in, the capital's grand boulevards and world-famous landmarks are yours to explore. At 17:30, meet your Travel Director and fellow guests at the hotel before enjoying a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant with cuisine inspired by fresh home-made recipes. (D)
Le Méridien Etoile, Paris.

DAY 2 | ROUEN, HONFLEUR AND DEAUVILLE

Follow the River Seine to Rouen, capital of Normandy, to admire its ancient cathedral - a masterpiece of Gothic style and the subject of a series of paintings by Claude Monet. Wander through the narrow streets beneath the Great Clock to the Old Market Square. Here, a superb modern church commemorates the burning of Joan of Arc on this very spot in 1431. Continue to the charming fishing town of Honfleur with free time to explore the colourful, narrow streets after an orientation by your Travel Director. This afternoon, visit a family-run apple orchard to see how the local drink is produced and sample some cider and calvados. Then on to your luxurious hotel, located in the chic seaside resort of Deauville. (B)
Hotel Barrière L'Hôtel du Golf, Deauville.

DAY 3 | NORMANDY BEACHES AND D-DAY LANDINGS

Follow the route of the Rangers and visit the bunkers and the Rangers Memorial at Pointe du Hoc. With a Local Expert, spend a few reflective moments at the American Military Cemetery of Saint-Laurent, near Omaha Beach. Explore Normandy with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the D-Day Museum in Arromanches and see the remnants of the artificial port in the bay. Alternatively, visit the Bayeux Tapestry Museum and learn about the epic story of William, Duke of Normandy battling to become the King of England. This evening, you are treated to a delightful dinner, which promises creative cuisine, seasonal ingredients and delicious wines. (B) (D)

DAY 4 | MONT SAINT-MICHEL AND SAINT- MALO

Journey through Bocage country and explore the hilltop abbey of Mont Saint-Michel with your Local Expert. Situated on an island, the abbey is reached by a bridge across the shining sands. Continue along the Emerald Coast to stunning Saint-Malo, situated on the Rance Estuary and one of the most charming places in France. A Local Expert will take you on an exploration of the City of the Corsairs. Walk through the maze of streets of Intra Muros, the walled city, home of Jacques Cartier and other celebrated voyagers. (B)
Hôtel Le Nouveau Monde, St Malo.

INCLUDED MEALS: Breakfast (B) Dinner (D)
HOTELS: On occasion, hotels of a similar standard
and location may be used.

DAY 5 | VILLANDRY EXPERIENCE

Head south to follow the valley of the Loire, passing the moated Angers Castle. Cross the Loire to Saumur, where a local vintner will guide you through tastings of the region's delicious wines.

Head to Château de Villandry, the jewel of the Loire, to visit the glorious sustainable gardens on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Ensure you don't miss the water, ornamental and kitchen gardens. This stunning sea of fragrant green herbs, silvery cabbages and purple basil which has been grown organically to regenerate the local ecosystem. (B)

Relais Des Landes, Ouchamps.

DAY 6 | SCENIC DRIVE ALONG THE LOIRE VALLEY

Journey to the fairy-tale Château d'Azay-le-Rideau, considered one of the best representations of French Renaissance architecture. Having recently undergone extensive restoration, your Local Expert will show you the subtle blend of French tradition and innovative Italian decor within this 16th century icon of the Loire Valley. Return to your superb chateau for relaxation and free time. This evening, your Celebration Dinner starts with a glass of local sparkling wine and continues with excellent service and delicious Farm-to-Table dishes in the most wholesome setting, ensuring the memory of your meal will linger long after you've returned home. (B) (D)

DAY 7 | LA BEAUCE AND CHARTRES TO PARIS, CITY OF LIGHT

Travelling through the vast wheat fields of the Beauce region, Chartres Cathedral, nicknamed the 'Acropolis of France' by August Rodin, looms large on the horizon. Enjoy a guided tour of this architectural delight.

From here, return to the French capital where your Travel Director introduces you to all the fabulous sights, including the magnificent Eiffel Tower and the Tuileries Gardens bordering the facades of the Louvre. Behold the vast Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine once stood, then travel down the Champs Élysées to Napoléon's Arc de Triomphe. After dark, the City of Light really lives up to its name, when the monuments, buildings and bridges are lit up in all their glory. For that special touch of excitement and glamour, don't miss the chance to experience one of the world-famous cabaret shows. (B)

Le Méridien Etoile, Paris or similar.

DAY 8 | AU REVOIR PARIS

Your departure transfer will arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport at 08:00 or 11:00. (B)

*Superior Dining*

Enjoy a delicious farm-to-table Celebration Dinner, prepared with fresh, locally sourced ingredients | Welcome Dinner in Paris | Wine tasting in the Loire Valley.

Insightful Experiences

Visit a family-run apple orchard and taste Normandy cider and calvados.

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®
EXPERIENCE



DAY 5 | Discover the sustainable gardens of Château de Villandry. In the scenic Loire Valley, explore France's finest formal gardens. Now a hub for sustainability preserving the estate's biological diversity, learn how the organically grown herbs help to re-generate the local ecosystem (pictured above).

Scenic Drives

Fall in love with the French countryside as you travel along the River Seine and through Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley.

Top Rated Highlights

Visit Mont Saint-Michel and Chateau d'Azay Le Rideau, both with Local Experts. City tour of Saint Malo and a guided visit to the Normandy Landing Beaches, both with Local Experts | See the Cathedral, Great Clock, Old Market Square and Place du Vieux-Marché in Rouen, Honfleur, Angers Château, Eiffel Tower, Champs-Élysées and Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

See more experiences online

