Welcome to Normandy!

Find out all you need to know about Normandy on our website

www.normandy-travel-trade.com

Located in the North West of France, Normandy is a region easily accessible by plane, train or by road. Within an hour’s drive from Paris and its international airports, Normandy offers a delightful selection of some of France’s best heritage, scenery, culture, food and entertainment.

Whether you plan a dedicated trip or are looking to include the region as part of a wider tour, Normandy remains the ideal destination, rich in medieval remains, brimming with history, teeming with tradition.

You are a tour operator, a group travel organiser, a coach company, an incoming agency, an association or a school? We look forward to welcoming you soon to Normandy, this incomparably beautiful region of France.

Our 2017 guide is full of practical information and inspirational ideas to help you plan your next trip to Normandy.

See you soon in Normandy!

Normandy: so easy to reach

Air France flies direct to Paris via Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru. Air India offers direct flights between New Delhi and Paris while Jet Airways offers direct daily flights between Mumbai and Paris. Both Jet Airways and Air India offer direct flights between Mumbai and London Heathrow - Jet Airways has two flights daily, while Air India has one daily flight. There are several low-cost carriers which fly direct between London and Normandy (Deauville/Caen). From Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, reach Paris ring road (peripherique) and follow directions to Rouen for the highway A13 or A14. The highway A13 crosses the entire region. You can reach Giverny in 1h, Rouen in 1h15, Caen in 1h5, and the D-Day Landing Beaches in 2h30 and the Mont-Saint-Michel in 3h30.

Contacts

If you would like help and advice about bringing your groups to Normandy, please contact our team. We can give you all the information you need on destinations, accommodation, themed tours and guides and we also have excellent connections in the region that are on hand to assist in making your trips run smoothly.

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Historical Normandy

Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned Emperor of France in the Palace of Versailles, but he was born in the Normandy town of Ajaccio. The Monarchy was restored in 1814 and Normandy fell under the rule of Louis XVIII and his brother Charles X. The 1830 Revolution and the July Monarchy have left their mark on the region’s history. Normandy is home to the world famous pilgrimage sites of Lisieux and the Mont-Saint-Michel. With its numerous abbeys, cathedrals, collegiate churches or simple country churches, and magnificent stained glass windows in such numbers that together they constitute one of the largest glazed areas in France, Normandy is one of France’s richest regions in terms of religious art.

Leisure and Entertainment

With its 400 miles of coastline, forests, countryside and water, Normandy provides an unlimited variety of outdoor activities. Whether by foot, horseback, canoe, kite surf or paraglide, visitors to Normandy get the best of what we have to offer - the Great Outdoors. Normandy is rightfully recognised as a top European golfing destination. And with its worldwide reputation for equestrian excellence, Normandy is an obvious destination for horse lovers. Normandy is also the playground for lovers of sea sport: choose between sand yachting, kite surfing, kayaking, sailing, wind-surfing and lots more. There are many marinas along the coast with some marinas purpose built and other marinas occupying old docks within large ports. Many famous races and international sailing events are planned in Normandy.

Impressionist Normandy

As the spiritual birthplace of Impressionism, Normandy has inspired many great artists to create images which live on the collective consciousness today. With its unique lightings, magical seascapes, dramatic monuments and dreamy countryside, Normandy offered the perfect backdrop for Impressionist painters such as Eugene Boudin, Auguste Renoir, Gustave Courbet, Camille Pissaro, and Claude Monet of course who lived for many years in the charming village of Giverny, a very popular place to visit for art lovers. You will find in Norman museums exceptional impressionist paintings from these artists.

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Deauville, on the Flowered Coast, is a stylish seaside resort, home to luxurious hotels, spas, golf courses, racecourses and casinos. The town is also known for its long wooden waterfront promenade, its sandy beach, its beautiful waterfront villas, chic boutiques and fine restaurants. It is home to the annual American Film Festival and various international polo and horse-racing events.

Across the river from its prestigious neighbour Deauville, the picturesque fishing harbour of Trouville-sur-Mer offers an atmosphere of authenticity, friendliness and simplicity. The golden sand beach is ideal for families while the many fish and seafood restaurants will delight all visitors. Also discover at night the mythical casino of Trouville-sur-Mer.

Honfleur offers the warm welcome of a little town. This maritime city has managed to preserve the traces of a rich historical past, which make it one of the most visited towns in France, with its picturesque backstreets and old houses, its little shops, charming hotel and friendly restaurants. Honfleur, a town of painters and impressionism, inspired Courbet, Monet, Bottin and many others.

This major European port combines the attractions of a modern, vibrant city with the charm of a seaside resort and a great nightlife with its casino. Many impressionists were built, loved the effect of the light, including Monet as seen in his “Sunrise at Le Havre.” The city was rebuilt after the Second World War in modernist style and has now been recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

The city is a veritable Museum-City, with its half-timbered houses, its paved streets and its gothic churches. Rouen is the historical capital of Normandy, and was the scene of the martyrdom of Joan of Arc. Over the centuries, different parts of the town blossomed with jewels of religious architecture. The Saint-Jean Cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Saint-Ouen Abbey has been classified as a World Heritage Site. It is also home to the annual American Film Festival and various international polo and horse-racing events.

This “City of the Dukes” is internationally renowned for its UNESCO-listed needlepoint lace and is ideally situated on the edge of the Normandy-Marne Natural Park for trips into the countryside. Alençon is the birthplace of Sainte-Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1873). She spent her early years in Alençon with her parents and her four sisters. Sainte-Thérèse became the third woman saint to be raised to the rank of “Doctor of the Church”.

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Known as the “Versailles of Horses”, le Haras du Pin National Stud is the oldest and most prestigious national stud and was founded in 1715 by Louis XIV. It is open to the public and organises a number of shows every year.
Caen is a thriving modern city with outstanding historical sites including William the Conqueror’s Ducal Castle and the Abbaye aux Hommes and Abbaye aux Dames, together with the peace museum, Mémorial de Caen, which takes an in-depth look at 20th century history. Bayeux, with its narrow cobbled streets and cathedral at its heart, is the perfect example of a medieval Norman town. It is also home to the world famous Bayeux Tapestry, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a unique document which tells the story of the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 by William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy.

Day 1: Rouen

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Day 2: Honfleur - Deauville

The maritime city of Honfleur has managed to preserve the traces of a rich historical past, which make it one of the most visited towns in France, with its picturesque backstreets and old houses, its little shops, charming hotels and typical restaurants. Deauville, on the Flowered Coast, is a stylish seaside resort, home to luxurious hotels, spas, golf courses, racetracks and casinos. The town is also known for its long wooden waterfront promenade, its sandy beach, its beautiful seafront villas, chic boutiques and fine restaurants.

Day 3: Caen - Bayeux

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Day 4: Bagnoles-de-l’Orne

Bagnoles-de-l’Orne is the perfect town to relax in, an ideal spot to recharge your batteries and fill up with energy. From the thermal springs to the winding paths of the Andaine forest, the town offers a casino, racecourse, lake, cycle tracks and a golf course.

Suggestions of 4 tours in Normandy

Le Havre

Le Havre is the second largest port in France, the birthplace of the Impressionist movement and the home of Claude Monet. The city has a unique historical character, as it was reconstructed after World War II from the designs of Le Corbusier. The city now has some of the most modern and distinctive architecture in France.

Day 2: Honfleur – Deauville

Honfleur is a charming fishing port with traditional Norman architecture. It looks much as it did when Monet was a frequent visitor. Many famous artists as Courbet, Reya, Morisot, Renoir, as well as some Post-Impressionist collections. This major European port combines the attractions of a modern, vibrant city with the charm of a seaside resort and a great nightlife with its casino. From June to October 2017, the UNESCO-listed City of Le Havre and its port will commemorate their 500th anniversary with a major artistic event including 30 exciting projects: contemporary works of art, exceptional exhibitions and many more celebrations…

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Day 4: Giverny/Rouen/Etretat/Trouville-sur-Mer/Bagnols-de-l’Orne – 3 days/2 nights

Giverny is a small village a short distance from Paris, this quaint artists’ retreat on the banks of the Seine River became the home of Claude Monet, father of the impressionist movement. Worth a visit: Claude Monet’s House and Garden and the “Musée des impressionnismes Giverny.”

Rouen is a veritable Museum-City, with its fine half-timbered houses and its paved streets. Both Monet and Pissarro succumbed to the charms of this medieval city. Works are exhibited in the Rouen Fine Arts Museum. The Notre Dame Cathedral had its moment of glory when Monet consecrated some thirty canvases to its façade, painted at various times of day to capture the changes in luminosity.

Day 2: Le Havre – Étretat

In Le Havre, many Impressionist artists loved the effect of the light, including Monet, as seen in his “Surf at Le Havre”. The Malraux Museum boasts a collection of impressionism. These include paintings by Boudin, Courbet, Corot, Sisley, Pissarro, Renoir, as well as some Post-Impressionist collections. This major European port combines the attractions of a modern, vibrant city with the charm of a seaside resort and a great nightlife with its casino. From June to October 2017, the UNESCO-listed City of Le Havre and its port will commemorate their 500th anniversary with a major artistic event including 30 exciting projects: contemporary works of art, exceptional exhibitions and many more celebrations…

A special mention goes to Étretat and its stunning cliff formations, including the famous chalk needle needed. Monet interpreted many of the scenes along this coast, leaving us a canvas trail to follow, as did other artists such as Boudin, Pissarro or Morisot.

Day 3: House of Claude Monet

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a website dedicated to travel trade professionals

This website features all the information you need including a private space, a toolkit together with a photo library and an interactive map to help you organise your trip to Normandy...

1. For brochures, photo library, downloads
2. To get to Normandy, weather and tides
3. Everything Normandy has to offer
4. Normandy highlights
5. Your space and log book
6. Map your offers and favourites

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