D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy and Liberation of France

NORMANDY BEACHES • ARROMANCHES
SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE • BAYEUX • CAEN
POINTE DU HOC • FALAISE

Book early and save! See inside for details.
Dear Friend of the Museum,

One of the most inspiring moments during my 20 years with the Museum was visiting Omaha Beach in 2005 with WWII veteran Dr. Hal Baumgarten, who landed there with the 116th Infantry Regiment as part of the first wave on D-Day and was wounded five times in just 32 hours.

Nothing can match learning about the Normandy landings as you visit the very places where these events unfolded and hear the words of those who fought there.

The story of D-Day and the Allied invasion of Normandy have been at the heart of this Museum since we first opened our doors on June 6, 2000, and while our mission has expanded to cover the entire American experience in World War II, we still hold our Normandy travel programs in special regard—and consider them the very best in the market.

Drawing on our historical expertise and extensive archival collection, the Museum's highly regarded D-Day tours take visitors back to June 6, 1944, through a memorable journey from Pegasus Bridge and Sainte-Mère-Église to Omaha Beach and Pointe du Hoc. Along the way, you’ll learn the timeless stories of those who sacrificed so much to pull off the greatest amphibious attack in history and ultimately secure the freedom we enjoy today.

Led by historical experts along with local managers and guides, our Normandy travel programs offer an exclusive experience that incorporates pieces from the Museum’s oral history and artifact collections into presentations that truly bring history to life. After operating hundreds of trips to Normandy throughout the years, we’ve added new locations and experiences, forged new friendships and partnerships, and uncovered countless untold stories of those who fought to liberate Europe.

I hope you will take a few minutes to review this brochure, learn about the historical sites and figures our Normandy tours highlight, and then join us for this trip of a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Watson,  
President & CEO,  
The National WWII Museum
For more than two and a half years the Allies planned and gathered their military strength to launch the decisive amphibious invasion of northern France and strike a mortal blow against the Third Reich. In anticipation, Adolf Hitler stockpiled reserve units in the Atlantic Wall defenses across the French coastlines, determined to drive the Allied forces back into the sea when the invasion was finally launched. There would be no second chance for the Allies: The fate of the continent hangs upon this decisive day.

In the early minutes of June 6, 1944, Allied paratroopers and gliders descended from the night sky to wrest control of key bridges and roadways from the German Nazis. Behind them in the darkness of early morning, an initial force of over 130,000 servicemen from the Allied nations crossed a choppy English Channel aboard an armada of more than 5,000 ships. Their destination was Normandy, D-day had arrived.
D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy and Liberation of France

Normandy Beaches • Arromanches • Sainte-Mère-Église
Bayeux • Caen • Pointe du Hoc • Falaise

7 DAYS FROM $5,195 $4,695* double occupancy
$7,495 $6,995* single occupancy

*$199 per person taxes and fees are additional. Pricing and itinerary subject to change. Airfare is not included in the price listed.

MULTIPLE DEPARTURES AVAILABLE.
Visit ww2museumtours.org for a comprehensive listing of all tour offerings and early booking discount opportunities.

TOUR INCLUSIONS
Normandy's WWII history is intriguing and moving in countless ways. You will experience these sacred sites in ways other tours can’t offer with The National WWII Museum. With unmatched local expertise, our itinerary delves deeper into the stories and tumultuous times of World War II while providing the convenience and attention to detail you expect while traveling.

- Full-time logistical Tour Manager
- Expert local battlefield guides
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers (when arriving & departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Historic, hand-picked, fully-renovated accommodations in Normandy
- Four-star Charles de Gaulle Airport accommodations
- Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation
- VIP access to sites not offered on other tours
- Video Oral History presentations from the Museum’s digital collection
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- 6 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, and 3 Dinners
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinner
- Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge
DAY 1: ARRIVE PARIS / TRANSFER TO NORMANDY

Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) in Paris, guests are warmly welcomed and transported by private motor coach to Normandy. After enjoying some free time to relax or explore Bayeux, the group gathers this evening for a welcome dinner at a local French restaurant.

Accommodations: Hotel d’Argouges (D)
DAY 2: BRITISH SECTORS - PEGASUS BRIDGE /
GOLD, JUNO & SWORD BEACHES / ARROMANCHES

Today’s tour of Normandy begins where the first shots of the invasion were fired by British glider troops at the crucial Pegasus Bridge. Guests learn about Major John Howard and his men of the “Ox and Bucks” and how they were able to secure and hold the bridge. The drives along the British and Canadian sectors become the backdrop for the stories of landings that took place to the east of the American assaults. A stop at Juno Beach will highlight the Canadians who overcame strong winds, heavily-mined landing sectors, and rough seas to make impressive gains inland on D-Day. Arrive at Arromanches, and discover the remains of a Mulberry Harbor. Your guide offers insight into this great feat of engineering and ingenuity.

Following free time for lunch and exploration in the village, a trip up the commanding bluff culminates with a viewing of Cinema Circulaire 360 and a visit to the German gun battery at Longues-sur-Mer. Enjoy free time this evening to explore Bayeux and enjoy dinner at one of the many cafés and restaurants serving traditional fare.

*Accommodations: Hotel d’Argouges (B)*
DAY 3: US AIRBORNE & UTAH BEACH

Travel along rural lanes, past hedgerows, and over causeways to La Fière, where the 82nd Airborne fought off four days of attacks from German troops trying to retake this strategic bridge. During today's drive, both the battlefield guide and the Museum's exclusive oral history collection offer personal stories from the men who fought on the frontlines. On arrival in Sainte-Mère-Église, the famous crossroads town where American paratroopers landed during the predawn hours of D-Day, tour the Musée Airborne and visit the church made famous in the film The Longest Day. After an included lunch, continue this afternoon to Brécourt Manor, where Dick Winters and some of his men from “Easy Company” launched the assault on German guns portrayed in the book and miniseries Band of Brothers. The day’s touring concludes with a visit to the Utah Beach Museum, which includes the story of the exemplary leadership of General Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., during the landings. Enjoy another free evening at leisure in Bayeux.

Accommodations: Hotel d’Argouges (B, L)
DAY 4: BAYEUX / CAEN

This morning’s tour is devoted to the picturesque town of Bayeux, beginning with a viewing of the Bayeux Tapestry—a 230-foot-long embroidered chronicle of William the Conqueror’s cross-channel invasion of England in 1066. Continue to the iconic skyline feature of Bayeux and the medieval center of the town, the Bayeux Cathedral, where a guided tour will bring to life the construction of the cathedral from the crypt to the spires. Following free time for an independent lunch, journey to Caen to tour Mémorial de Caen, a museum that places the battles of Normandy within the international context of World War II.

Accommodations: Hotel d’Argouges (B, D)
DAY 5: OMAHA BEACH / POINTE DU HOC / NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY

Today’s touring is devoted to the ground troops who came ashore in the Omaha Beach area. Head out for a morning visit to Pointe du Hoc, where the Army Rangers faced tough odds coming ashore before scaling the imposing 100-foot cliff. After visiting Omaha Beach, enjoy an included group lunch. The afternoon is devoted to the Normandy American Cemetery, where more than 9,000 Americans are laid to rest in the ground they helped liberate. Guests will be given time to walk the grounds, visit the small museum, and remember the sacrifices made here. Reflect on the day’s touring during dinner with the group this evening.

Accommodations: Hotel d’Argouges (B, L, D)
DAY 6: FALAISE GAP

This morning, bid farewell to Normandy and return to Paris. Focusing on the concluding battles of the Normandy Campaign, the first stop is in Falaise, which lends its name to the Falaise Pocket, where the Allies began a move to encircle the Germans. Traveling south from the city, traverse the infamous Corridor of Death, where the awful scenes of the routed Germany army were on display for several months as dead bodies and wreckage covered the landscape. Memorial de Montormel on Hill 262, where the Poles held off a desperate German counterattack, commemorates the closing of the pocket and offers an incredible view across the landscape, and the perfect vantage point for recounting these final battles. Upon arrival at the Sheraton Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

Accommodations: Sheraton Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (B, L)

DAY 7: PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT TO THE UNITED STATES

After breakfast, make your way to your departure terminal at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) on your own for individual journeys home. (B)
FROM THE MUSEUM’S COLLECTION

The National WWII Museum’s C-47, serial number 42-93096, was built at the Douglas Aircraft Manufacturing plant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. “096” was delivered to the US Army on April 8, 1944, at which time it was assigned to the 806th Army Air Force Base Unit at Baer Field, Indiana. The following month “096” was assigned to the 8th Air Force and transferred to the European theater of operations. Immediately after arriving in England on May 28, 1944, the aircraft was transferred to the 9th Air Force. One week after arriving in England, “096” carried pathfinders from the 82nd Airborne Division into the Normandy invasion.

The plane then dropped pathfinders from the 101st Airborne Division into Holland during Operation Market Garden. “096” also flew with the rest of its group to drop supplies to the 101st in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. During this mission, “096” sustained minor damage from German ground fire, but the plane was repaired and placed back in service in a matter of days. The plane’s final combat mission occurred on March 24, 1945, when it dropped paratroopers from the 17th Airborne Division across the Rhine River during Operation Varsity.

After the war, “096” participated in the Berlin Airlift before being transferred to the Finnish Air Force. After decades of service as both a military and civilian transport plane, and a reprisal of its participation in Market Garden for the movie A Bridge Too Far, “096” became a part of The National WWII Museum’s collection in 2006. It is on permanent exhibit in the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion.

The purchase and restoration of the C-47 was made possible through a gift from Paul Hilliard. The National WWII Museum Inc., 2006.181

BRITISH PARATROOPER BERET

British paratroopers wore red berets during World War II, and this one belonged to Corporal Wally Parr of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He wore it on D-Day, throughout the Battle of Normandy, at the Battle of the Bulge, in Denmark, and after the war in Palestine. A tear in the beret was caused by a shell fragment that tore a gash in the side of Parr’s head on July 22, 1944.

Gift of Wally Parr, 1995.002.001

101ST AIRBORNE EASY COMPANY HELMET

This US M1 infantry helmet with airborne liner was worn by Edward Sabo, member of Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, during and after the Normandy invasion. Each of the four infantry regiments in the 101st Airborne used a suit from a deck of cards as its identifying mark. The spade went to the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment hence the mark on the side of this helmet.

Gift of Linda Sabo Peck, 2033.352.001

GERMAN BOOTS

The black leather boots pictured here were worn by Franz Gockel on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. Franz Gockel’s 18th birthday passed while he was defending the Atlantic Wall as a member of Germany’s 726th Infantry Regiment of the 352nd Infantry Division. He manned a captured Polish machine gun in Widerstandsnest (Resistance Nest) 62 on Omaha Beach.

Gift of Franz Gockel, 2004.235.005

PARACHUTE WEDDING DRESS

Wedding dresses were made from parachutes on the US Home Front and in postwar occupied Europe. The war led to shortages of most fabrics, and to have dresses for their special day, brides often would acquire a parachute from a relative serving in the military. The parachute would then be cut up and turned into a dress, either at home or by a dedicated dressmaker. This dress was worn by Myrtille Delassus when she married American GI Sergeant Joseph Bilodeau in France shortly after the end of the war.

Gift of Myrtille M. Bilodeau, 2010.233.003

DOUGLAS C-47 SKYTRAIN “096”
Handpicked for your comfort and convenience

The ideal location of the historic Hôtel d’Argouges is perfect for exploring Normandy. This elegant, 18th-century residence owned by the same family for two generations invites you to experience luxury and comfort among refined surroundings: high ceilings, original doors, period fireplaces, and parquet floors polished by time.
OPTIONAL EXTENSION PROGRAM

OPTIONAL TWO-NIGHT PRE-TOUR EXTENSION PROGRAM

THE TREASURES OF NORMANDY

Only $1,199 per person double occupancy, $1,799 single occupancy
$129 taxes and fees are additional.

Program Itinerary

Day One – Arrive Paris, transfer to Normandy
Enjoy a scenic transfer from Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) to Bayeux and settle into the historic Hotel d'Argouges. Spend the afternoon and evening exploring the medieval town center and enjoying dinner at one of the many quaint restaurants serving traditional fare.
Accommodations: Hotel d'Argouges

Day Two - Falaise
On your first day of touring, journey to the picturesque town of Falaise, the birthplace of William the Conqueror. Visit Chateau de Falaise, the seat of the Dukes of Normandy from the 13th century to the 17th century, when it was abandoned. During World War II, the chateau suffered from heavy bombardment during the Battle of the Falaise Pocket, but was restored after the war. Next, visit the Memorial des Civils, dedicated to the Norman civilians who were affected by the D-Day invasion and during the ensuing 3 months of the Battle of Normandy. Return to Bayeux for an evening at leisure.
Accommodations: Hotel d'Argouges (B)

Day Three - Mont Saint-Michel
Today's touring includes a trip to a breathtaking tidal island just off the Normandy coast. The island's signature abbey projects a dominating presence that has attracted pilgrims, armies, and tourists for more than a millennium. The visit includes lunch. Return to Bayeux this afternoon and attend a welcome dinner with main tour guests arriving today.
Accommodations: Hotel d'Argouges (B, L)

Program Inclusions

- Two-night accommodations at the historic 4-star Hôtel d'Argouges
- Transfer from Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) to Bayeux
- Two days of touring, including all admissions
- 2 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches
- Expert local guide / tour manager
- Private, first class air-conditioned coach
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Included gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers

Journey into the Middle Ages on our custom-curated extension program focused on the historic importance of the picturesque Normandy region.
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Featuring Michael Neiberg, PhD & Jonathan Boff, PhD
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**NEW** EASY COMPANY: ENGLAND TO THE EAGLE’S NEST
Featuring an original Band of Brothers cast member
Aldbourne • Portsmouth • Normandy • Eindhoven Arnhem • Bastogne • Clervaux • Hagueau • Dachau Zell am See

**NEW** BATTLE OF THE BULGE
Featuring Roland Gaul and a Band of Brothers cast member
Clervaux • Lanzerath • Elsenborn Ridge • Malmedy La Gleize • Bastogne • Luxembourg American Cemetery

The Pacific Theater

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Featuring Jonathan Parshall and James M. Scott
Manila • Corregidor • Bataan

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