



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
TRAVEL

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.

VIEW OF OMAHA BEACH FROM
THE BLUFFS. PHOTO BY JULIEN LECOMTE.



Stephen J. Watson,
President & CEO,
The National WWII Museum

Dear Friend of the Museum,

One of the most inspiring moments during my 20-plus 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



TOP PHOTO: LONGUES-SUR-MER BATTERY
MIDDLE: UTAH BEACH
BOTTOM: MULBERRY HARBOR REMAINS AT ARROMANCHES

STAND WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE



POINTE DU HOC.

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 coastline, 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 hung 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 Nazi occupiers. Behind them, in the darkness of early morning, an initial force of over 130,000 servicemembers 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.

LEARN THEIR NAMES HEAR THEIR STORIES

LIEUTENANT JOHN MARR

1918 – 2015

Company G, 507th Parachute Infantry
Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division



John Marr was born in Missouri in May 1918. He was drafted into the US Army in June 1941. When he became aware of a new specialized unit called the paratroopers, which would give him twice his monthly pay, Marr decided to join up.

Commissioned a Second Lieutenant and assigned to Company G of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, he was dropped behind enemy lines on June 6, 1944, with the 82nd Airborne Division. Marr saw action almost immediately near Sainte-Mère-Église, where he was involved in what is considered the costliest small-unit action in Army history: the Battle of La Fièvre.

After fighting in Normandy, Marr was put in command of Company B of the 507th during the Battle of the Bulge, and continued to lead the company as it spearheaded Operation Varsity, the crossing of the Rhine River, on March 24, 1945. He continued his career in the Army after the war, retiring as a Colonel in 1974.



Hear John's story in his own words in the Digital Archive of the National WWII Museum. **Scan QR Code to listen.**



PRIVATE HAROLD "HAL" BAUMGARTEN

1925 – 2016

116th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division



Harold "Hal" Baumgarten was born in New York City in March 1925. When he was just 18 years old, he was drafted into the US Army, shipped overseas to England, and assigned to the 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division.

On the morning of June 6, 1944, Baumgarten landed in front of the Vierville-sur-Mer draw at the Dog Green Sector of Omaha Beach, known to history as "Bloody Omaha." Of the 30 men on his landing craft, he was one of only two survivors.

After the war, the decorated veteran earned his MD and practiced medicine for over 40 years. Baumgarten also became a renowned speaker and internationally recognized historian who wrote two books on D-Day, including *Eyewitness on Omaha Beach: A Story about D-Day, June 6, 1944.*



Hear Hal's story in his own words in the Digital Archive of the National WWII Museum. **Scan QR Code to listen.**



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BAYEUX • CAEN • POINTE DU HOC • FALAISE



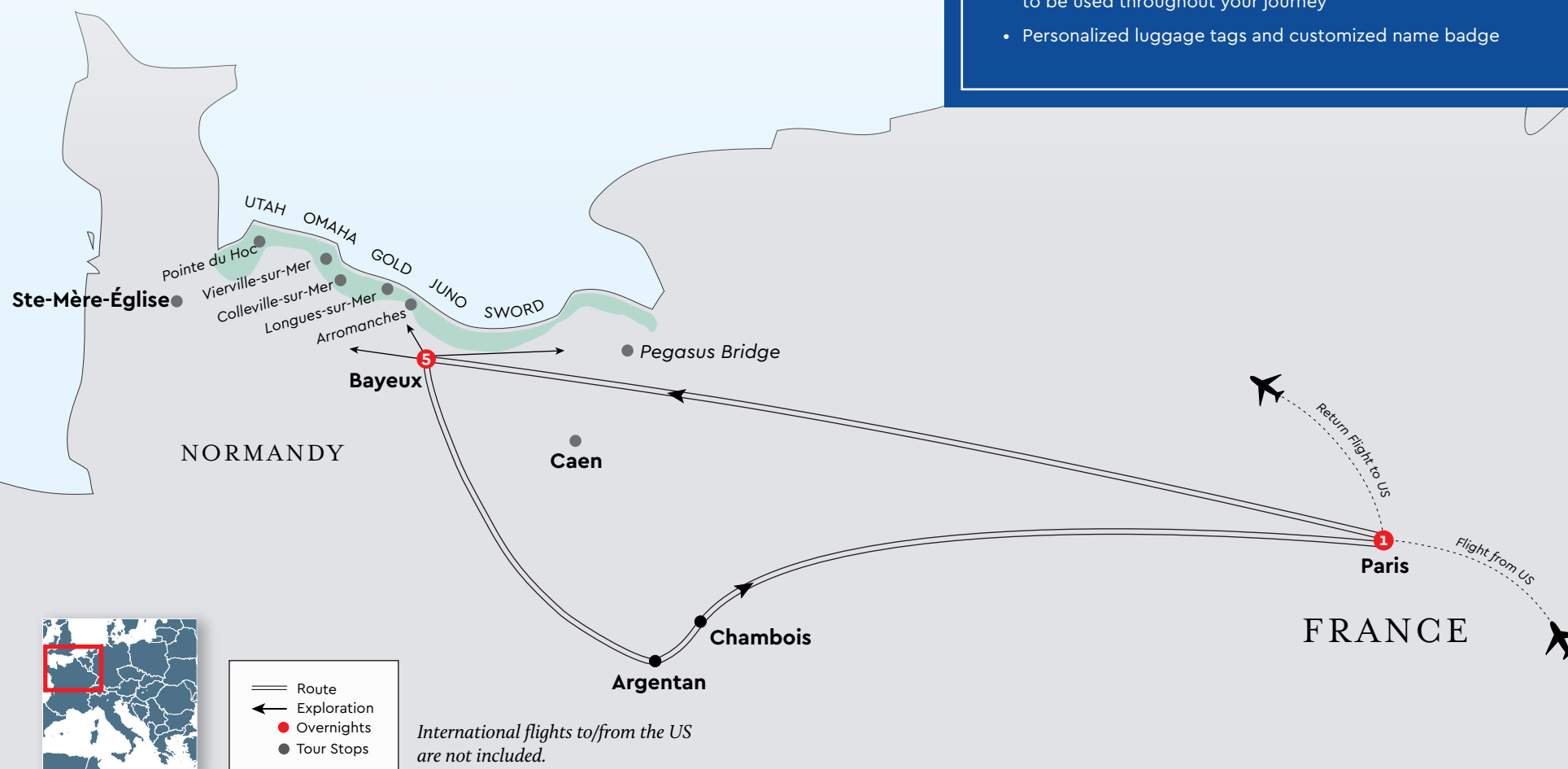
MULTIPLE DEPARTURES AVAILABLE.

Visit ww2museumtours.org or scan the QR code for a comprehensive listing of all tour offerings, pricing, 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 and 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 used 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: Hôtel d'Argouges (D)



BAYEUX, FRANCE

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. Drive along the British and Canadian sectors while hearing stories of the 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, gaining insight into this great feat of engineering and ingenuity.

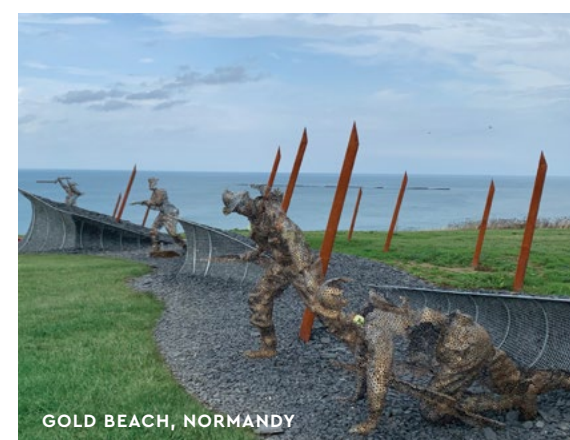
Following free time for lunch and exploration in the village, a trip up the commanding bluff culminates with a viewing of Cinema Circulaire 360 and a visit to the German gun battery at Longues-sur-Mer. Enjoy dinner with the group in Bayeux this evening.

Accommodations: Hôtel d'Argouges (B, D)

PHOTO: VIEW OF ARROMANCHES, FRANCE



CROSS OF LORRAINE, JUNO BEACH, NORMANDY



GOLD BEACH, NORMANDY

DAY 3: US AIRBORNE & UTAH BEACH

Travel along rural lanes, past hedgerows, and over causeways to La Fièvre, 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, the scene of the assault led by Dick Winters famously depicted in the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*. Conclude the day's touring at the Utah Beach Landing Museum, which features the story of General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., a restored B-26 Marauder, and detailed re-creations of the German beach defenses. Enjoy an evening at leisure in Bayeux.

Accommodations: *Hôtel d'Argouges (B, L)*

"IRON MIKE" MONUMENT AT LA FIÈRE.
PHOTO BY JULIEN LECOMTE.



SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE



UTAH BEACH
MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF
JOHN SNOWDON

DAY 4: BAYEUX / CAEN

Journey to Caen to tour Mémorial de Caen, a museum that places the battles of Normandy within the international context of World War II. Spend the rest of the day delving into the medieval treasures of Normandy, starting with a visit to Caen Castle. Built in 1060 by William the Conqueror, Caen Castle is one of the largest castles in Western Europe and was used as a barracks during World War II. Enjoy lunch and free time in Caen, then return to Bayeux for a guided tour of Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Bayeux, a masterpiece of Norman Romanesque and Gothic architecture consecrated in 1077. The afternoon is open for shopping, exploring, and dinner on your own.

Accommodations: *Hôtel d'Argouges (B, D)*

CATHÉDRALE NOTRE-DAME DE BAYEUX

M
MEMORIAL

MÉMORIAL DE CAEN MUSEUM

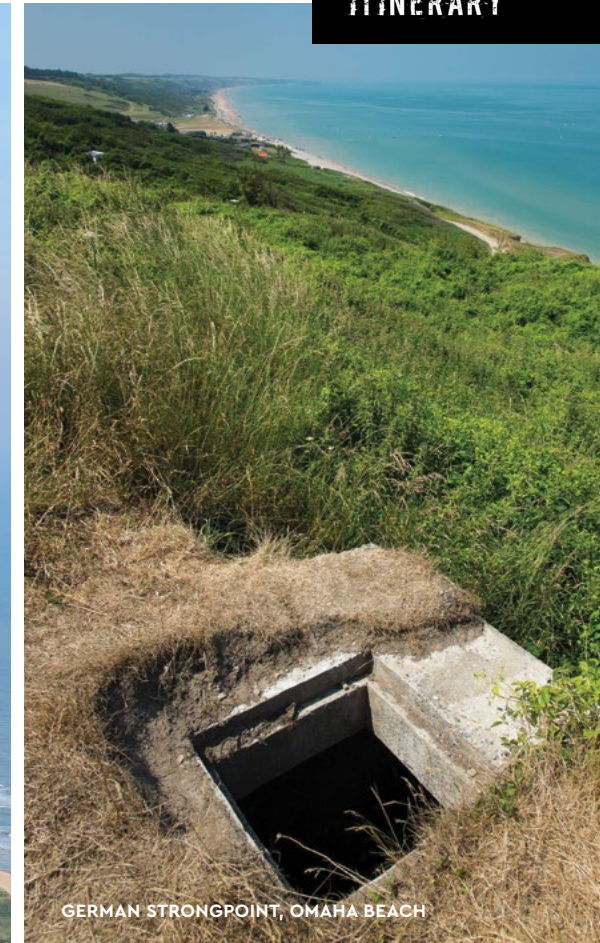
DAY 5: OMAHA BEACH / POINTE DU HOC / NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY

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 2nd Ranger Battalion scaled 100-foot cliffs to neutralize the fortified German position. 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: *Hôtel d'Argouges (B, L, D)*



AERIAL OF NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY



GERMAN STRONGPOINT, OMAHA BEACH



AMERICAN CEMETERY, NORMANDY

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 town, traverse the infamous Corridor of Death, where the awful scenes of the routed Germany army were on display for several months as bodies and wreckage covered the landscape. Mémorial de Montormel on Hill 262, where Polish troops 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 for individual journeys home. **(B)**



FALAISE TOWN



DOUGLAS C-47 SKYTRAIN "096"

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 Eighth 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 Ninth 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 in September 1944. "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 1977 movie *A Bridge Too Far*, "096" became a part of The National WWII Museum's collection in 2006. It is on permanent exhibit in 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, 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. 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



FEATURED ACCOMMODATION

FEATURED ACCOMMODATION



HÔTEL D'ARGOUGES

BAYEUX, FRANCE

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.

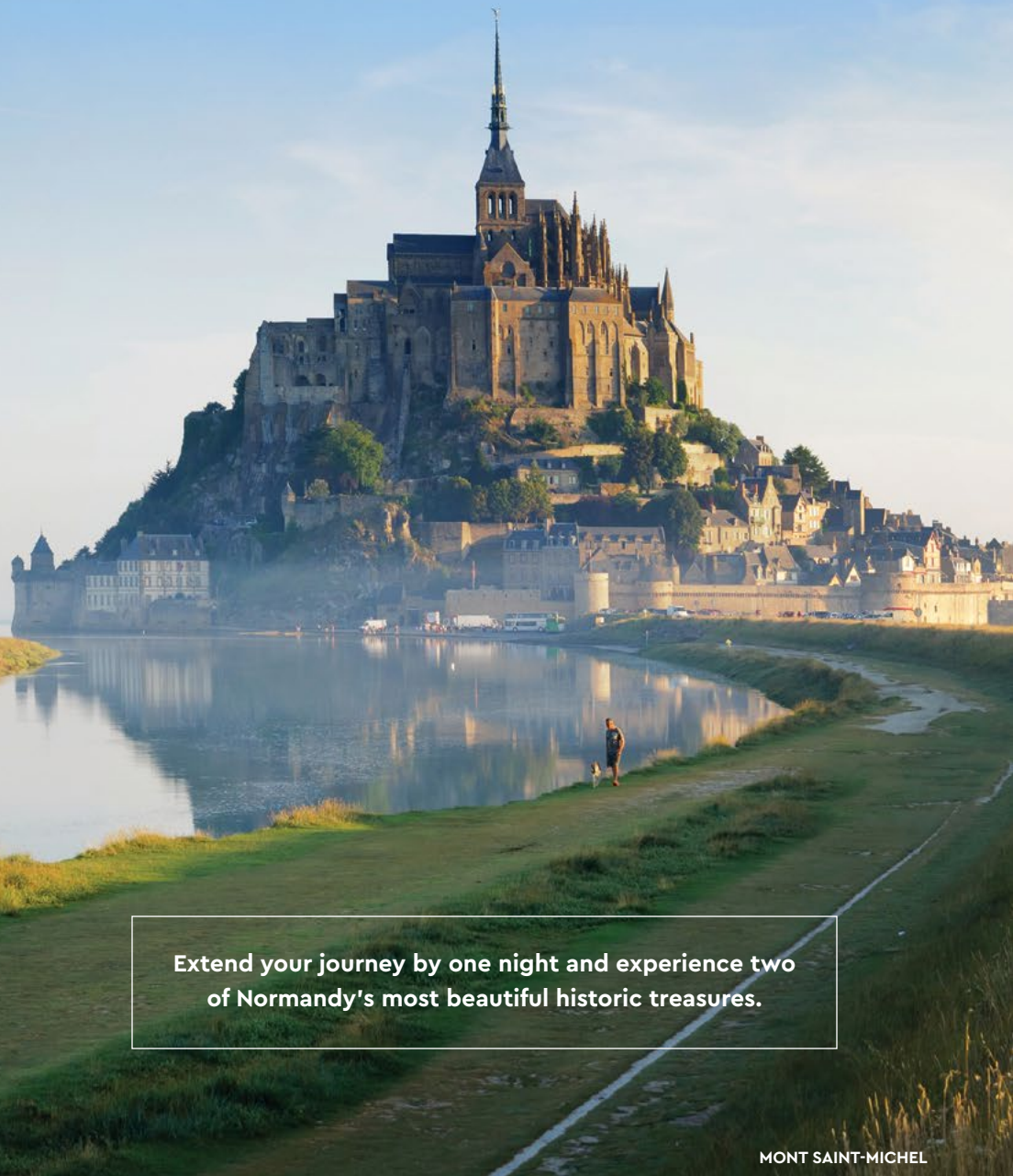


OPTIONAL ONE-NIGHT PRE-TOUR
EXTENSION PROGRAM

THE TREASURES OF NORMANDY

Only \$999 per person double occupancy, \$1,399 single occupancy

\$129 taxes and fees are additional.



Extend your journey by one night and experience two
of Normandy's most beautiful historic treasures.

MONT SAINT-MICHEL



GIVERNY

PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE PARIS / GIVERNY / BAYEUX

Enjoy a scenic transfer from Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) to Claude Monet's home and gardens at Giverny, immortalized in his Impressionist art. Badly damaged during World War II, Giverny has been painstakingly restored to its former magnificence. After a tour of Giverny and lunch on your own in the area, continue to Bayeux and settle into the historic Hôtel d'Argouges. Spend the afternoon and evening exploring this storied medieval town center and enjoy dinner at one of the many quaint restaurants serving traditional fare.

Accommodations: *Hôtel d'Argouges*

DAY 2: MONT SAINT-MICHEL

After a morning at leisure, embark on a trip to Mont Saint-Michel, a breathtaking tidal island just off the Normandy coast. The island's signature medieval abbey projects a dominating presence that made it both an ideal observation post for the *Wehrmacht* and a popular destination for German tourists during World War II. The visit includes lunch. Return to Bayeux this afternoon and attend a welcome dinner with main tour guests arriving today.

Accommodations: *Hôtel d'Argouges (B, L)*



German Wehrmacht
paratroopers at the foot
of the Mont Saint-Michel
monastery, December 1943.

Program Inclusions

- One-night's accommodation 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
- 1 Breakfast, 1 Lunch
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with the included lunch
- Expert local guide / tour manager
- Private, first-class air-conditioned coach
- Personal listening devices on all included touring



Call 1-877-813-3329 x 257 • Visit: ww2museumtours.org
Email: travel@nationalww2museum.org