



Battle of Normandy and The Liberation of Paris

Multiple Departures Available

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



A view of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.
Photo by Julien Lecomte.

Book early and save up to \$1,000 per couple!



AERIAL VIEW OF NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY



AMERICAN SOLDIERS ABOARD AN LCI LANDING CRAFT ON D-DAY.

Dear World Traveler,

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

The story of D-Day and the Allied invasion of Normandy have been at the heart of The National WWII Museum's mission since we opened our doors as The National D-Day Museum on June 6, 2000, the 56th Anniversary of D-Day. Since then, the Museum in New Orleans has expanded to cover the entire American experience in World War II. The foundation of this institution started with the telling of the American experience on D-Day, and the Normandy travel program is still held in special regard – and is considered to be the very best battlefield tour on the market.

Drawing on historical expertise and an extensive archival collection, the Battle of Normandy and the Liberation of Paris tour takes visitors back 80 years, to June 6, 1944. Embark on a memorable journey from the famous church at Sainte-Mère-Eglise to Omaha Beach and Pointe du Hoc. Along the way, also discover the medieval treasures of Normandy in Bayeux and Rouen, then conclude in Paris to learn about the tragedies under occupation and triumphs after liberation.

Led by local guides who are experts in their fields, this travel program offers an exclusive experience that incorporates pieces from the Museum's oral history and artifact collections into presentations that truly bring history to life. Discover the lesser known stories of France, and experience this country in a new way. Even if you have been to France before, this tour promises to uncover history you've never heard of! We are pleased to offer Battle of Normandy and the Liberation of Paris, to honor those who fought for our freedom from tyranny.

To reserve your space(s), contact The National WWII Museum Travel at 1-877-813-3329 X 257.

Sincerely,

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

Stand Where History Was Made



VIEW OF MERDERET RIVER FROM THE BRIDGE AT LA FIÈRE. PHOTO BY JULIEN LECOMTE.

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.

Learn Their Names



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 Army and entered service 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. Assigned to Company G of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, he 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 United States 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.



Hear John's story in his own words in the Digital Collection of The National WWII Museum. Visit www2online.org and enter "John Marr" into the search field.

Hear Their Stories



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 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 Collection of The National WWII Museum. Visit www2online.org and enter "Baumgarten" into the search field.

Battle of Normandy *and* The Liberation of Paris

Multiple Departures Available

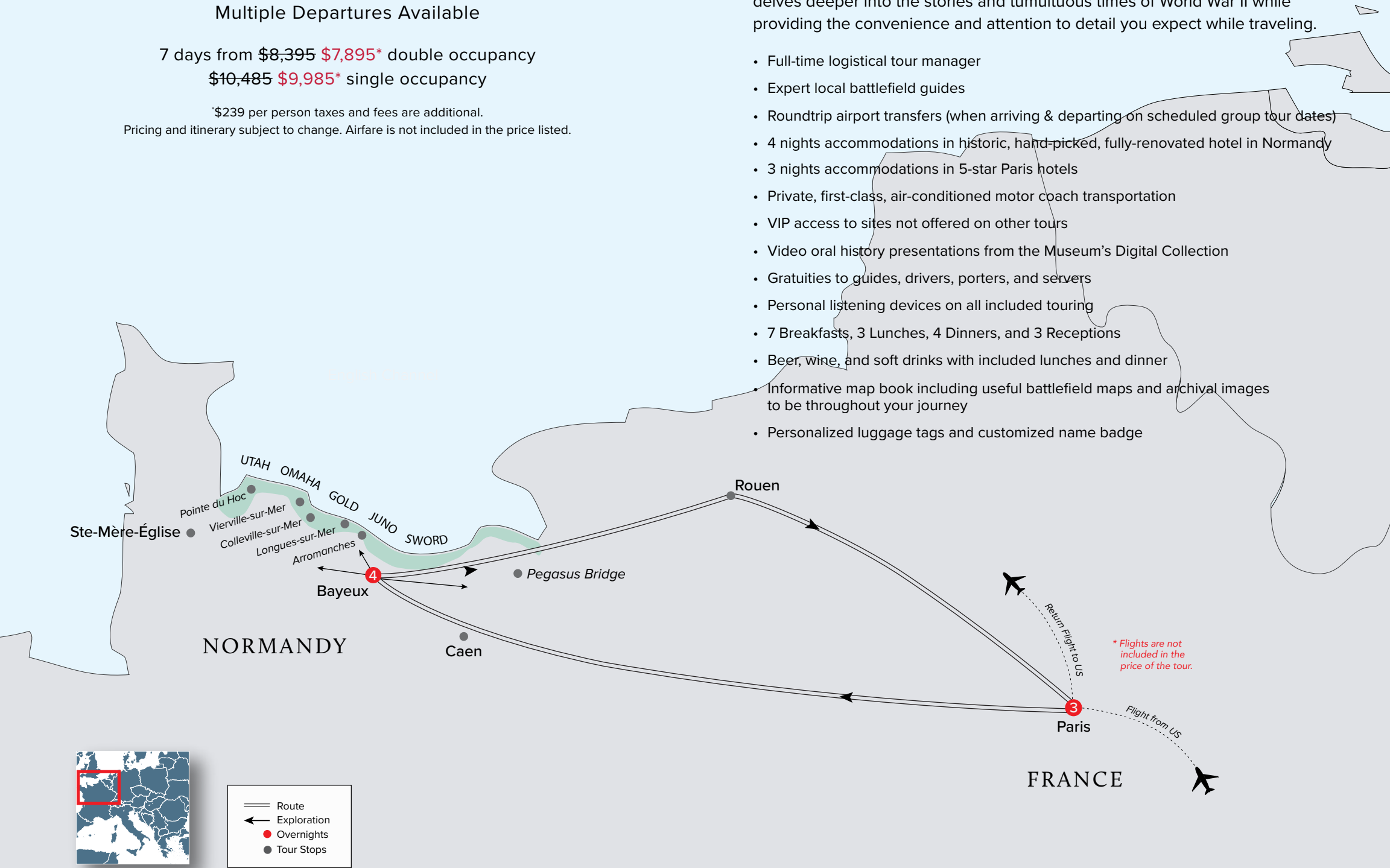
7 days from ~~\$8,395~~ **\$7,895*** double occupancy
~~\$10,485~~ **\$9,985*** single occupancy

*\$239 per person taxes and fees are additional.
Pricing and itinerary subject to change. Airfare is not included in the price listed.

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)
- 4 nights accommodations in historic, hand-picked, fully-renovated hotel in Normandy
- 3 nights accommodations in 5-star Paris hotels
- 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
- 7 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 4 Dinners, and 3 Receptions
- 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

Arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) in Paris and transfer by private motor coach to the quaint, medieval village of Bayeux in Normandy. Enjoy some free time to relax or explore Bayeux, then gather this evening for a welcome dinner at a local French restaurant.

Accommodations: Hôtel d'Argouges (R, D)



STREET VIEW IN BAYEUX NORMANDY.

MODERN-DAY PEGASUS BRIDGE ON THE CAEN CANAL. PHOTO BY JULIEN LECOMTE.

DAY 2:

PEGASUS BRIDGE / ARROMANCHES / BAYEUX

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 next stop is Arromanches. Discover the remains of a Mulberry harbor and enjoy free time for lunch in this quaint seaside village. 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. Enjoy a group dinner in Bayeux this evening.

Accommodations: Hôtel d'Argouges (B, D)





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, 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: Hôtel d'Argouges (B, L)

LA FIÈRE, COURTESY OF JOHN SNOWDON



CHURCH OF
SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE



UTAH BEACH MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF JOHN
SNOWDON

DAY 4: POINTE DU HOC / OMAHA BEACH / NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY

The final day in Normandy is devoted to the ground troops who came ashore in the Omaha Beach area. Pointe du Hoc is a stunningly beautiful battlefield riddled with a network of craters, caused by the massive Allied bombardment of the area prior to the D-Day invasion. It is also the site where the Army Rangers faced tough odds in the English Channel before landing and scaling the imposing 100-foot cliff. Next, stand on Omaha Beach, where some of the fiercest fighting of the invasion took place. Contemplate the sacrifices made here during an included group lunch. Spend the afternoon at the Normandy American Cemetery, where more than 9,000 Americans are laid to rest in the ground they helped liberate. Walk the grounds, visit the small museum, and remember the sacrifices made here. Reflect on the Normandy touring at a group dinner this evening.

Accommodations: Hôtel d'Argouges (B, L, R, D)



LES BRAVES MEMORIAL, OMAHA BEACH

GERMAN STRONGPOINT, OMAHA BEACH



NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY

DAY 5: ROUEN / TRANSFER TO PARIS

After breakfast, bid farewell to Normandy and head to the ancient city of Rouen. From the Gothic architecture of the Notre-Dame Cathedral to the charming half-timbered houses in the center of town, enjoy a walking tour of the place described by Victor Hugo as “the city with a hundred bell towers.” During a guided walking tour, view the monumental Gros-Horloge, the 14th-century astronomical clock that has been keeping time in Rouen’s main square since 1389 and visit the Joan of Arc Tower, where the Maid of Orleans was tried and convicted of heresy in 1431. During World War II, Rouen was the scene of the Eighth Air Force’s first bombing mission over Europe in 1942. The city would suffer under the Allied bombardments in the buildup to D-Day as rail yards and road networks became primary targets. Enjoy lunch and free time in Rouen, then continue to Paris this afternoon.

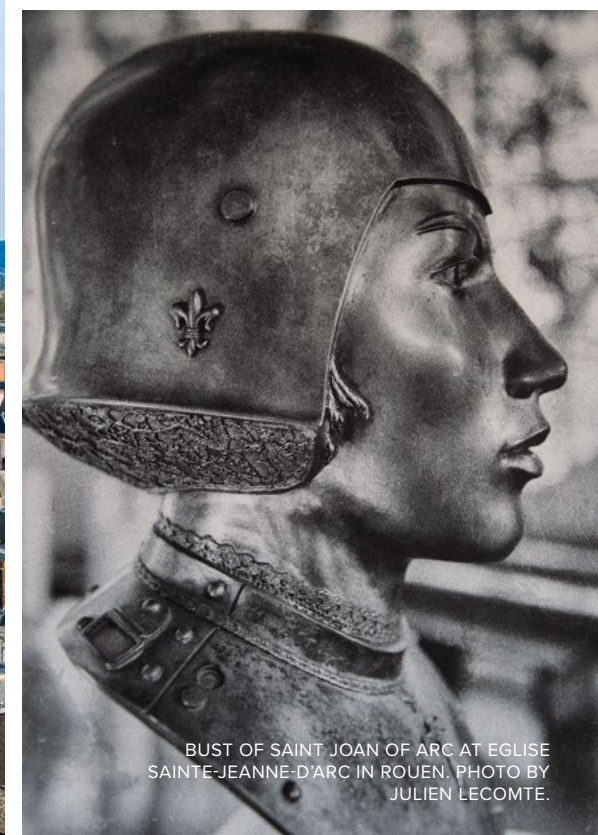
Accommodations: Hôtel du Louvre (B)



AERIAL VIEW OF ROUEN



RUE DU GROS-HORLOGE, ROUEN

BUST OF SAINT JOAN OF ARC AT EGLISE
SAINTE-JEANNE-D'ARC IN ROUEN. PHOTO BY
JULIEN LECOMTE.

DAY 6: PARIS UNDER OCCUPATION

When Paris fell in 1940, the first couple of years under occupation resembled a prewar “City of Light,” but the Gestapo slowly increased pressure on the French citizens. From their headquarters on Avenue Foch, the Gestapo looked for spies, saboteurs, and resisters. The plan to deport France’s Jews to concentration camps also operated from Avenue Foch. In one horrendous incident, the French police and gendarmes rounded up over 13,000 Jews on January 16-17, 1942, holding them at the Velodrome d’Hiver. The Germans sent most of the Jews held at this cyclodrome to Auschwitz. The Vel d’Hiv roundup has proved to be a difficult moment for French politicians with an apology coming from Jacques Chirac in 1995, and a wider admission of the French government’s involvement from Emmanuel Macron in 2017. Take in important landmarks around Paris, such as Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Élysées, and the Eiffel Tower during a driving tour. After lunch, travel to Le Mont-Valérien, a nineteenth-century fortress on a scenic hill in Suresnes, just west of Paris. Originally a site of religious pilgrimage, the Germans turned it into their key execution site in the French capital. Between 1941 and 1944 they executed over a thousand people there, including French Resistance fighters, hostages, Jews, and political opponents. Mont Valérien provides a unique insight into the bravery and courage of those who fought against the Nazi occupation of France during World War II.

Accommodations: Hôtel du Louvre (B, L)



AVENUE DES CHAMPS ÉLYSÉES



FRENCH CIVILIANS LEAVE THEIR DESTROYED HOUSES IN PARIS, FRANCE, 1943. COURTESY OF DPA PICTURE ALLIANCE.



CLOSE-UP OF THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE

DAY 7: LIBERATION OF PARIS

Experience the inspiring stories of victory at the Liberation Museum in Paris. The exhibits showcase a vast collection of artifacts, documents, and personal accounts from those who lived through this pivotal moment in French history. Interactive displays highlight the lives of key figures like Jean Moulin and Philippe Leclerc. Moulin's work to unify the disparate resistance groups to a common cause, and Leclerc's role in commanding Free French forces in North Africa and in Europe highlight the paths available to free France from Nazi tyranny and its collaborationist partners. Transport back to the summer of 1944, and admire the courage and determination of the ordinary citizens who rose up against the German occupiers.

Accommodations: Hôtel du Louvre (B, D)

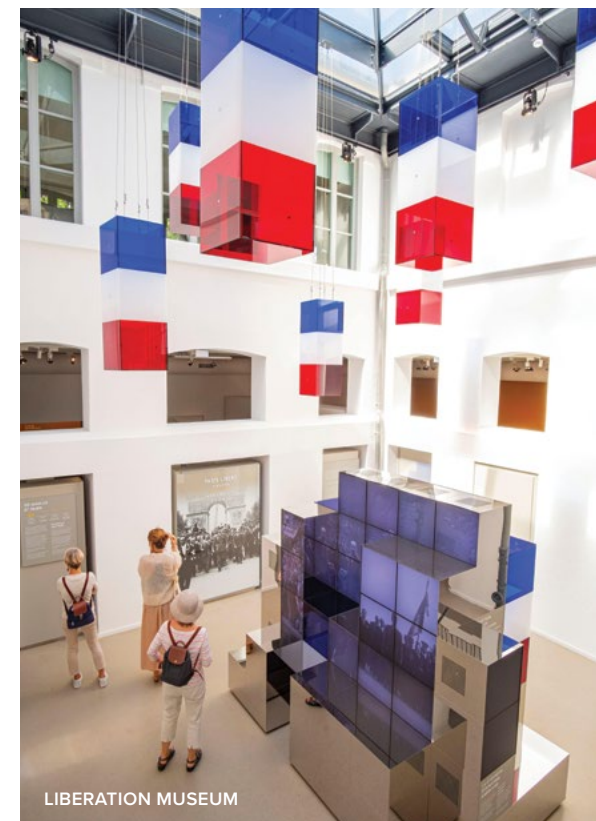
DAY 8: TRANSFERS TO CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Charles de Gaulle (CDG) Airport for flights home. (B)



LIBERATION MUSEUM (MUSÉE DE L'ORDRE DE LA LIBÉRATION)

AMERICAN TROOPS MARCHING DOWN THE CHAMPS
ÉLYSÉES / EVERETT COLLECTION INC / ALAMY.



LIBERATION MUSEUM

FEATURED ACCOMMODATION



Hôtel d'Argouges

BAYEUX, FRANCE

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.

FEATURED ACCOMMODATION



Hôtel du Louvre

PARIS, FRANCE

A short walk from the Louvre, the Palais Royal, and the Opéra Garnier, the 5-star Hôtel du Louvre invites you to explore the City of Light from one of the best locations in the city. This luxurious hotel offers bright, spacious rooms, and stunning architecture. Amenities include a fitness center, room service, and complimentary internet access.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION PROGRAM

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.



MONT SAINT-MICHEL

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



GIVERNY

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Day One: Arrive Paris, tour Giverny, and settle in to Normandy

Enjoy a scenic transfer from 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 enjoying dinner at one of the many quaint restaurants serving traditional fare.

Accommodations: Hôtel d'Argouges

Day Two: Mont Saint-Michel

After a morning at leisure, embark on a trip to 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