

CULTURE + WALKING

NORMANDY & BRITTANY

Mont-St.-Michel to D-Day Beaches



Classic
JOURNEYS

DAILY ITINERARY

NORMANDY & BRITTANY | MONT-ST.-MICHEL TO D-DAY BEACHES | CULTURE + WALKING



France's Picture-Book Provinces

“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

You'll tell everyone you know about the day you walked to Mont-St.-Michel. The cathedral-capped island floats on water—at least until the epic tide recedes to reveal the sandy seabed. Then, as the faithful have done for centuries, we make the pilgrimage on foot across the seabed to one of France's most glorious landmarks. True, the provinces of Brittany and Normandy have their apple orchards and salt-meadow sheep flocks and picture-book villages deep in the woods. And we've planned beautiful walks among them. But like the people and history of this region, we always seem to come back to the sea. To explore coastlines that have seen invasions from Iron Age Celts to D-Day's Allied Forces. To stroll in quaint ports that launched the Norman conquest of the British Isles. And to feast in restaurants where great platters of fresh oysters, lobsters and Coquilles St. Jacques are standard fare. So much beauty, in the shadow of so much history, warmed by a lively hospitality make this a truly unforgettable journey.

DAY 1

ST. MALO / CANCALE

- Visit a family-run oyster farm for a tasting
- Enjoy a scenic coastal walk from the fishing port of Cancale

After meeting in seaside St. Malo, we follow the coast to the fishing port of Cancale. Located opposite the bay from Mont-St.-Michel, this small town is famous for its oyster-farming center, and we'll pay a visit to a family-run oyster farm and enjoy a taste of this local delicacy.

Nourished with our first taste of French coastal cuisine, we set out on an afternoon walk that leads us along a scenic footpath from Pointe du Grouin, with excellent views of Mont-St.-Michel Bay and the Chausey Islands.

This evening we gather again for a festive welcome dinner.

OVERNIGHT: ST. MALO
MEALS: D

DAY 2

ST. MALO / DINAN

- Join a walking exploration of St. Malo
- Enjoy a hands-on cooking instruction
- Wander the medieval lanes of Dinan

Our morning starts in St. Malo, a bustling 6th-century seaport that was once a haven for merchants, sailors and explorers. Local pirates, known as Corsairs, once received a special license from the King of France to pursue their trade without fear of being hung. Our walk takes us along the narrow, cobbled streets of the old town to the 1-1/2 mile long ramparts that surround the walled town. From the Saint Vincent Gate (Porte St. Vincent) to the Saint Thomas Gate (Porte St. Thomas), every inner wall is packed with history and beautiful views of the Bay of St. Malo

Late morning, we visit Saint Suliac, a pretty village overlooking the Rance River. Our first stop is a crêperie where we've arranged a private cooking instruction of this Breton specialty. We enjoy the fruits of our labors by dining on the crêpes and galettes for lunch, before taking a walk with breathtaking views of the Rance River. Following our walk, we head south to Dinan, for a guided tour of one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Brittany. Its timbered houses are built on stilts that rise from its old port. Late afternoon, we return to St. Malo. Tonight, choose from one of the many wonderful restaurants recommended by your guide in St. Malo.

OVERNIGHT: ST. MALO
MEALS: B, L

DAY 3

MONT ST. MICHEL

- Walk across the bay to Mont-St.-Michel
- Explore an island and monastery

We depart this morning after breakfast for Mont-St.-Michel, one of the most dramatic and awe-inspiring sights in France. The monastery was founded in 708 when the Archangel Michael appeared to Aubert, the bishop of Avranches. Taking more than 500 years to build, this island-abbey is perched on a 264-foot rock a few hundred yards off the coast.

We time our walk with the ebb of the tide and set out across the Bay of Mont-St.-Michel in the company of our expert local guide, following a portion of the famous pilgrimage route where people came en masse to win the favor of Saint Michael. Our arrival in Mont-St.-Michel allows time for an in-depth exploration of the ramparts and abbey, including La Merveille, one of Europe's most important Gothic monuments, and the 11th-century Romanesque and Gothic abbey church.

Note: Due to the tides, our walk to Mont-St.-Michel may take place in the morning, mid-morning or afternoon. The itinerary above provides you an idea of our mid-morning crossing and afternoon visit of Mont-St.-Michel. When we cross the bay of Mont-St.-Michel in the late afternoon we visit the abbey first.

OVERNIGHT: PORT-EN-BESSIN
MEALS: B, D

DAY 4

D-DAY BEACHES

- Walk the D-Day beaches, including Arromanches and Pointe du Hoc
- Visit the American Cemetery

After breakfast we set out for the D-Day beaches, where on June 6, 1944, Normandy made its mark in history and became the battleground for one of the greatest military operations of our time. We begin the day with a visit to Arromanches, with ruins of the artificial harbor built in only 15 days in 1944, as well as German bunkers that remain sprinkled throughout the peaceful landscape. From here we visit Pointe du Hoc, which features the most spectacular scenery along the coast as well as a cliff-top observatory and German machine-gun posts. During the invasion, U.S. Rangers attempted a siege of the German-occupied cliffs by using grappling hooks and ladders borrowed from London fire departments. We explore the German bunkers and bomb craters that remain: a moonscape that dramatically illustrates the fierce fighting.

Later, a short drive takes us to the American cemetery and memorial, with time to walk along the peaceful beaches where American soldiers waded to shore. Take time to explore the memorial and walk through the cemetery filled with marble crosses and Stars of David, filmed in the opening scene of Saving Private Ryan. From here a walk takes us through the countryside to the western end of Omaha beach—where some of the fiercest fighting took place. After we return to our hotel you have the option to explore the 30-acre park and terraced French gardens or relax poolside with a glass of wine.

OVERNIGHT: PORT-EN-BESSIN
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 5

BAYEUX / PAYS D'AUGE

- See the Bayeux Tapestry up close
- Walk the scenic Pays d'Auge countryside

Our morning begins in Bayeux, the first town liberated during the Battle of Normandy, and most famously, home to the Bayeux Tapestry. Dating to 1067, the 230-foot-long tapestry depicts the decisive Battle of Hastings, when William of Normandy conquered England in 1066. Its

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impressive size along with its artistic and historical merits make the embroidered tapestry a world-renowned masterpiece.

Late morning a short drive takes us to the Pays d'Auge—classic Normandy countryside lushly woven with fields, wooded valleys, cider orchards, dairy farms, manor houses and quaint villages. Here we visit a family owned distillery to taste Calvados, the legendary apple brandy. At a quaint restaurant, we pause for a tasting of local cheeses, cider and teurgoule, a Norman dessert similar to rice pudding. Later, a countryside walk from Beuvron-en-Auge, a small town with half-timbered houses, takes us to a horse farm where we watch the famous Norman horses being trained.

Later in the afternoon, we journey northeast along Normandy's coast and countryside to Honfleur.

OVERNIGHT: HONFLEUR

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 6

HONFLEUR / DEAUVILLE

- Enjoy a guided walk around beautiful Honfleur, the birthplace of impressionism painting
- Wander the traditional market and the art galleries

Nearby Honfleur is one of Normandy's most charming towns. A walk around the town takes us through half-timber houses and cobbled streets to the old dock (Vieux Bassin), which still attracts artists as it did in the days of Boudin. The original fishing boats have been replaced with yachts, but the slender buildings lining the quays make for unforgettable views. We continue on to Place Ste. Catherine where a traditional market is still held on the weekend, and walk up to Côte de Grâce. Here we have a magnificent view of the town where Impressionism was born, before taking time to browse the galleries and shops that line the streets.

We part company at the Deauville train station where you may catch trains back to Paris.

MEALS: B



DAILY ITINERARY

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Tour Hotels



Le Nouveau Monde Hotel & Spa

Set near the ancient city walls in the heart of town, this property offers wonderful views of the tidal beaches and rooms decorated in soothing contemporary style. Facilities include a spa, a steam room and a jetted indoor pool.

OVERNIGHT: SAINT MALO | NIGHTS: 2



Chateau La Cheneviere

You live the gracious chateau life in this magnificent residence built in the 18th century. It sits in an impressive 30-acre park with rose gardens and a heated outdoor pool. The rooms blend classic charm and modern comfort.

OVERNIGHT: PORT-EN-BESSIN | NIGHTS: 2



Les Maisons de Léa

In the heart of historic Honfleur and less than a mile from the beach, this charming 4-star hotel comes to life from an old salt warehouse and three 16th century houses and features individually-appointed rooms, spa, and gourmet restaurant and bar.

OVERNIGHT: | NIGHTS: 1

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Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
May 11-16, 2020	\$4,995	\$5,590
June 15-20, 2020	\$5,095	\$5,690
September 7-12, 2020	\$5,095	\$5,690
October 5-10, 2020	\$4,995	\$5,590
May 3-8, 2021	\$4,995	\$5,590
June 14-19, 2021	\$5,095	\$5,690
September 6-11, 2021	\$5,095	\$5,690
October 4-9, 2021	\$4,995	\$5,590

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 6 Days, 5 Nights

START: 10:30 AM Le Nouveau Monde Hotel & Spa lobby, St. Malo, France

END: 12:00 PM Trouville-Deauville Rail Station, Deauville, France

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Perfect Pairings Dinners**
- **Wine on Us**
- **Privileged Access Events**

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

Travel for Free

Your trip is free when you organize a Classic Journeys trip with 10 or more travelers (including you)! Or you can share your savings with other group members.

TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Normandy and Brittany...

- Walking the tidal flats that surround Mont-Saint-Michel
- Tasting Breton oysters at a family owned farm
- Walking along D-Day Beaches, through medieval villages and into Norman countryside
- Overnighting in perfectly-sited accommodations, including your 4-star chateau outside Bayeux
- Exploring with incredibly knowledgeable local guides, like Dominique

"Dominique is both elegant and comfortable company, intelligent and kind. Whatever question we had, she made sure to answer. We could not have had a better guide."

—Myra S., New York, NY

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Dordogne Valley

Bordeaux & Southwestern France

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Ambling in the legendary vineyards of St. Émilion
- Marveling at castles and fortified villages
- Viewing prehistoric cave art firsthand

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/bordeaux/>.



England

Cotswolds, Stonehenge & London

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking between villages of honey-colored stone
- Rambling hillsides studded with stately homes
- Approaching Stonehenge like a Bronze Age pilgrim

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/londonstonehengecotswolds/>.



England

Cornwall Coast to Land's End

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking lush green cliffs lined with coastal paths
- Crossing a causeway to an island castle
- Exploring seaside hamlets with picturesque harbors

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/cornwall/>.

You might also enjoy...



Ireland

Killarney Lakes & Dingle Peninsula

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking breathtaking peninsulas and sandy shores
- Exploring centuries-old ruins on a remote island
- Socializing with locals at colorful pubs

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/ireland/>.

“Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.

Congratulations! How did you get the news?

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



How can you top this?

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

"I voted for you!"

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

STAFF AND GUIDES

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

ACTIVITIES

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

ACCOMMODATIONS

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

FOOD

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

OVERALL VALUE

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

Final thoughts?

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.