

NORMANDY TRAVEL GUIDE – LOGISTICS AND ITINERARY



My parents recently came to visit us in London, and the number one place my Dad wanted to go was Normandy. I think Normandy is definitely thought of as a parents' trip slash retired trip, so honestly I was not super excited. I love my Dad and wanted to give him a great trip so of course I planned a Normandy trip for him. Even through the planning process, I was still just going through the motions. But I have to tell you, it became one of my favorite trips I have ever done! Something between the uniqueness of this trip and the unexpected beauty of this part of France really captured me – maybe it's because beaches were involved but the beaches had more meaning than anything I've ever known, maybe it's because my parents were there and I love my parents, or maybe it was just the crisp fall weather in France that seems to make everything appear magical – but I highly recommend taking a pilgrimage to Normandy, and you don't have to wait until you're retired to do so.

Normandy used to be the Hamptons of Paris, where all the aristocrats would escape to for some *joie de vivre* on the weekends. World War II of course destroyed that and now it is mainly visited for a more low-key escape by Parisians. The rolling hills and meadows are colorful, green, and inspired the impressionist movement of the 20th century including Monet's paintings. There is so much to do in this region and as **Vogue** says eloquently, you should skip the French Riviera and head to Normandy instead this summer.

SHOULD I VISIT NORMANDY?

If you have any interest at all in World War II, then you are already ahead of me. My interest had never grown beyond my historical fiction novels that have slowly taught me World War II like my education never had. Normandy is definitely on the bucket list of all history lovers. Beyond history, Normandy is a beautiful region of France set against the stunning beaches, the cozy towns that survived the bombings, and the rolling hills that inspired the Impressionist movement. The region is also known for the best oysters in the world (which is honestly what got us the most excited), it's apple products including Calvados (apple brandy), cider, and tarte tatin, and it's the birthplace of camembert cheese! The BEST part about this region though is how nice the people are. French people are not known for being that nice to tourists... but every single person in Normandy is. Mainly because all the tourists are American so they need to be, but this definitely improved the trip!!



If you are doing a big France trip, you should definitely add on Normandy to Paris. You can also check out Mont St. Michel, one of the most beautiful sights I've ever seen – an abbey set on a tiny island off the coast, or Giverny – the location where Monet got his inspiration set in lush gardens. Normandy is an easy train ride from Paris even if you just want to do a day trip or a ferry ride from the south coast of England.

If you're trying to plan a big France trip and aren't sure what cities to pick, here are my other France guides that I have so far: **Aix-en-Provence** and **French Riviera**. These regions are in the southeast so completely opposite the map from Normandy, but it can help you choose.

You know what else is really close to Normandy and could be a great option if you choose the Dover to Calais ferry? **Bruges** – this adorable Belgian town known for being photogenic and for chocolate.

WHAT TIME OF YEAR SHOULD I VISIT NORMANDY?

The statistics are that something like 95% of the visitors to Normandy are Americans, and Americans usually don't travel outside of the summer. We went to Normandy at the end of September and were told that everything was about to shutdown because the Americans stop coming until the spring. So take this into consideration. The most lively time to come is on the anniversary of D-Day, June 6th, but I can also imagine that everything is very expensive at this time. Our guide insisted that it is incredible to come on this day, but he also lives sleeps and breathes World War II. I prefer a little less people.

HOW DO I GET TO NORMANDY?

This is the part that made Normandy the most difficult thing to plan – it is really not that easy to get to, from London specifically. There is only one airport in Normandy and it's teeny tiny with few flights (literally one gate). So here are your options:

FLY FROM ANYWHERE TO CAEN AIRPORT

UPDATE: As of March 5, 2020 Flybe has gone under which was the only airline flying this route. Unless another airline jumps in to help, flying to Normandy from London is no longer an option.

This is what we ended up doing. If you live in London, note that the only airport that flies to Caen non-stop is Southend Airport which is like 2 and a half hours by train from London, and there is only one flight a day. We trained to Southend, flew to Caen, rented a car, and drove to Bayeux (our hotel). This was fine but for such a close destination, it took so long! About 6 hours door to door.

PS there is no reason to buy a train ticket ahead of time from London to Southend. You can buy it from a ticket machine in London no problem. If you prefer to buy ahead of time, use **Trainline** for a mobile ticket.

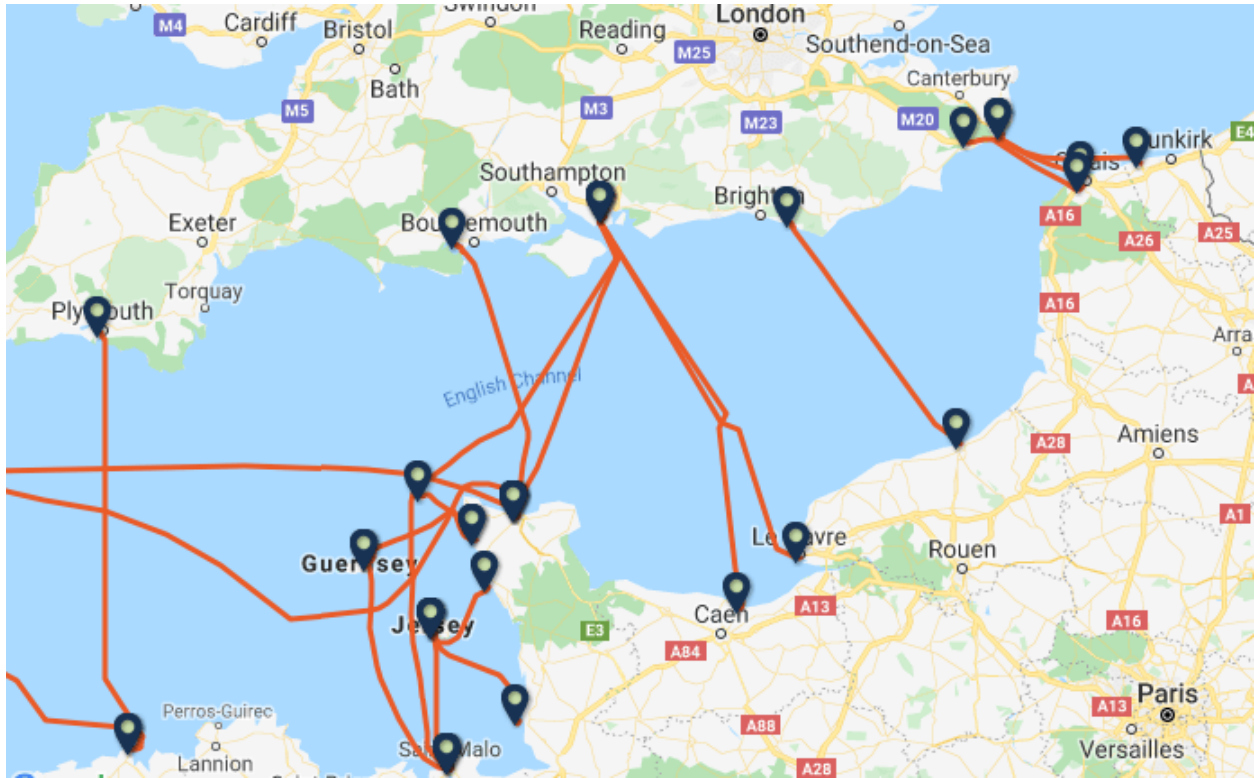
Look at flights to Caen

Look at rental cars in Caen

TAKE A FERRY FROM ENGLAND AND RENT A CAR IN FRANCE

There are so many options of where to get a ferry from, and because we were going later in the year a lot of the ferries weren't running anymore. That is why we ended up flying. If you are having a vacation in London or England and want to tack on Normandy, then I think the ferry is a great idea. It will still require you renting a car and taking a train from London to the coast, but not flying and having to pack your toiletries into little plastic baggies and not worrying about buying wine or Calvados in Normandy and having to check your bag back is always best.

Below I will compare all your options with the assumptions that you do not own a car in London and will need to take a train to the coast, you will rent a car in France when you get there, and you are staying in Bayeux – just so that the comparisons can be fair.



DOVER TO CALAIS

This route is the shortest ferry, as you can tell from the picture, but it is pretty far from London and pretty far from Bayeux as well. The train from London St. Pancras to Dover is about 1 hour so add on an additional 30 minutes to 1 hour to get to St. Pancras. The ferry takes 1-1/2 hours to cross and costs 25 each way on P&O Ferries. The other provider, DFDS, didn't have an option to select "no vehicle" so I assume it is not available as passenger only. P&O Ferries has 23 crossings a day and the **timetable can be found here**. There is also a disclaimer that check-in for passengers closes 1 hour before departure, so you have to factor that in to the times as well. There are so many car rental companies in Calais so you will have your pick. From Calais to Bayeux is about 4 hours. So all-in door-to-door this option will take 8 hours – same as below.

This option would be best, in my opinion, because of the amount of routes that you can choose from, the amount of car rental companies you can choose from, and the short time you will be at sea. I think with this route you should definitely research some stops on the way to Bayeux. There are so many cute coastal towns that I read about when I was researching, but we would not have had time with our schedule to see them. If you can plan ahead of time to factor that in, then this is the best route I think.

PS there is no reason to buy a train ticket ahead of time from London to Caen. You can buy it from a ticket machine in London no problem. If you prefer to buy ahead of time, use **Trainline** for a mobile ticket.

[Book your ferry tickets here](#)

[Look up rental cars in Calais here](#)

NEWHAVEN TO DIEPPE

Newhaven (just east of Brighton on the map above) from London is about 1-1/2 to 2 hours by train depending on where you are starting from. The ferry takes 4 hours. Dieppe looks like a super small town with only Avis as a car rental option if you want an automatic car, but the drive from there to Bayeux would take 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours depending on traffic. Door to door that would be about 8 hours. The tickets are £15 each way if you are doing passenger only (up to £120 each if you have a car) and the

sailings are at 9:00 / 10:00 depending on the time of year and an additional 5:30 PM ferry in the summer.

There is an overnight ferry but I am going to leave that off as it seems kind of strange to me. I read reviews and they are overwhelmingly positive which is nice! Reviews do say that the route can sell out quickly.

PS there is no reason to buy a train ticket ahead of time from London to Caen. You can buy it from a ticket machine in London no problem. If you prefer to buy ahead of time, use [Trainline](#) for a mobile ticket.

[Use this link to look up ferry tickets](#)

[Check Kayak for car rental options in Dieppe](#)

PORTSMOUTH TO CHERBOURG

This route appears to be one of the quickest and easiest routes because Portsmouth is close to London and you get to ride a fast ferry that only takes 3 hours. Cherbourg is also very close to Bayeux. The downside is that this ferry does not run year-round and also it is nicknamed "the vomit comet". Soooo... there's that. Because it is a fast ferry, it is smaller and really feels all the waves while traveling. I've taken one of these in Greece during a windy month and literalllllly it lived up to it's name. So if you think you have a stomach of steel, read on. If you don't, maybe pick another option.

Cherbourg is a great destination for you if you refuse to get a rental car, because there is a train station that can take you to Bayeux in 1 hour (a car will also take 1 hour). It is also full of World War II history so could be a good place to start your trip. Cherbourg is not large so Europcar appears to be the only car rental company with Automatic options.

Trains from London to Portsmouth take 1 hour 30 mins from Waterloo so I'll add another 30 minutes to get to Waterloo. Please note also that in the summer the only time the ferry leaves is at 9 AM (sometimes there is one at 5:15 PM on the weekends), and you need to be there 30-60 minutes before departure.

This can mean leaving London at 5:30 AM or having to get a hotel in Portsmouth the night before – something to think about! Portsmouth does have a couple D-Day museums and sites that could be of interest to you so spending a night there could be fun! The ferry costs anywhere from £30 – £55 each way depending on how flexible you want your fare to be.

This route door to door is the shortest so far – only 7ish hours. So this is a good option if you want to see some more D-Day sites, if you don't want to rent a car in France, and if you have a strong stomach.

PS there is no reason to buy a train ticket ahead of time from London to Caen. You can buy it from a ticket machine in London no problem. If you prefer to buy ahead of time, use [Trainline](#) for a mobile ticket.

[Buy your ferry ticket here](#)

[Look up rental cars here](#)

PORTSMOUTH TO CAEN

There are lots more options of ferries from England to France as you can see from the map, but I'll end it with this option. This option gets you as close to where you want to go as possible – Caen ferry terminal is only 40 minutes from Bayeux. Caen ferry terminal is outside Caen though and that is where all the car rental options are – so you will most likely have to cab into the city or to the airport to get your car. You can also cab to the train station and train to Bayeux if you do not want to rent a car. I already discussed getting to Portsmouth above.

The ferries from Portsmouth leave at various times throughout the year so please check the timetable here. The biggest difference with this route is how slow and long the ferry takes, 6-7 hours, which is why most of the options are overnight. If you don't want to do overnight the ferries leave at 8:15 AM at 2:45 PM. The overnight ones leave at 10 PM and 10:45 PM. All ferries cost between £30 – £55 each way depending on how flexible you want your fare to be.

This route door to door takes over 11 hours most likely so is definitely the longest option. It would be great if you don't want to rent a car and have a sensitive stomach so can't do the Portsmouth to Cherbourg route.

[Buy your ferry ticket here](#)

[Look up rental cars here](#)

TAKE A TRAIN FROM PARIS

If you are in London, you can always take the Eurostar from London to Paris. We didn't consider this just because the Eurostar can be so expensive and we were booking last minute when it's the most expensive. This route door to door can take 7-8 hours and is pretty simple, but can cost you £90+ round-trip for Eurostar depending on what time train you book and how far in advance you book and £50+ round-trip for the regional train in France.

This option is definitely best if you can book in advance and get a good deal and do not want to take a ferry – this is clearly the most convenient route.

You can also fly to Paris from London and get a regional train from Paris to Bayeux if flights from London to Paris are low.

[Eurostar trains to Paris](#)

[Book regional trains in France to Normandy](#)

IF YOU ARE ALREADY IN FRANCE

If this is part of your larger France vacation, then of course it is much more convenient to get to Normandy. You can either rent a car from your location and drive it to Normandy or you can train to Normandy and rent a car from there.

WHERE SHOULD I STAY IN NORMANDY?

If you are coming for the D-Day sites, then I would recommend staying nearby them – especially if you are doing an all-day tour as it will probably pick up in one of these towns. The main towns are Bayeux and Caen. We stayed in Bayeux and it was SO cute so I highly recommend it, but Normandy is huge so you have lots of options whether you want to stay in a chateau somewhere in the country or somewhere on the coast – it's up to you.

Our hotel, **[Domaine de Bayeux](#)**, is listed as the number 4 best place to stay out of 3,000 in Normandy... we loved it! It was just outside Bayeux, walking distance into the city, and felt like a chateau in the country. We kept passing this beautiful 5-star hotel, **[Villa Lara Hotel](#)**, that has the best location in Bayeux and were jealous of the people staying there! So check it out if you want to be a little more luxurious. I also read that this 3 star hotel, **[Hotel d'Argouges](#)** is supposed to be great, and it looks so cute!

[Check out hotels in Bayeux on Tripadvisor](#)



If you're not coming for the D-Day sites but just to enjoy Normandy, I would stay in some gorgeous chateau somewhere. I have read about a couple including **Chateau de Chantore** that is close to Mont. St Michel and the posh town of Granville, **Chateau de Saint Paterne**, and **Manoir de Surville**. For a lot of luxury, check out the **Cures Marines** 5-star luxury hotel near Caen but on the water. I also suggest some coastal stops in this blog, and if you end up going to Deauville and want to be super fancy, **Hôtel Barrière Le Normandy** is where all the fancy people used to stay like Winston Churchill and Coco Chanel.



HOW DO I GET AROUND NORMANDY?

I already covered the basics here in the how do I get to normandy section, but basically a rental car is going to be your best option for flexibility. You can get away with just using trains if you want to just stay in Bayeux or Caen. For us, the guide that we found for our private D-Day tour only operated out of his clients' cars, so we had no choice but to rent a car. But if you are going to Normandy solely for a weekend and solely to see D-Day sites, and your tour guide picks you up at your hotel, then maybe you don't need to rent a car.

Normandy is pretty rural so there aren't many train lines outside of the larger cities. You can fly into Caen and train to Bayeux, or ferry into Cherbourg and train to Bayeux – but for example the train from Calais to Bayeux is like 6 hours.

HOW MANY DAYS SHOULD I SPEND IN NORMANDY?

I really depends on what you want to see and how relaxed you want to be. Because it is pretty difficult to get here, I would try and stay at least 3 nights. We did a 2 night trip and I would have preferred at least one more day. You can easily spend a week here just visiting all the little nearby towns, visiting Brittany, doing historical or food tours, visiting Mont St. Michel, visiting Giverny, the list goes on. Here is how our schedule looked:

Leave my house in London at 7:45 AM to catch the train to Southend Airport. Get to our hotel around 2:30 PM. Head to see some D-Day sites after lunch in town. Grab dinner. Next day, all day D-Day private tour with a dinner in town after. Final day, drive to Mont St. Michel early in the morning and wave hi, grab some oysters, drive to the airport to fly home. Doesn't that sound a little rushed? I definitely could have used another night in the area to take my time, see everything a little more thoroughly, and relaxed.

WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN NORMANDY?

The main reason Americans come to Normandy is to see the D-Day sites, cemetery, and museums – and that is what we came for! But if you aren't into that, or want to extend your trip, there is also so much exploring to be done. I would think of Normandy as similar to any area in France (like **Provence**) as a collection of super cute, old French towns with their own charm and culinary delights. I am going to talk most about what we did during our short trip, but I'll mention other things that you should look into! Hopefully I can go back at some point and put more details around those places.

WORLD WAR II SITES

I highly encourage you to do a guided tour of D-Day sites in Normandy. The amount that you will absorb with an expert versus just reading signs at the different places is amazing! You'll also enjoy it so much more when you can ask your questions / cater the trip to your knowledge / etc.

To find a tour guide, I got some recommendations from friends that had gone before along with scouring the internet for some guides that came highly recommended. Since there were four of us, I knew I wanted to do a private tour – but I still think a group tour would be better than doing it on your own. I emailed each of the guys that I found and only one was available so that's who we used. He ended up being *perfect* for us, specifically because my dad could geek out with him. His prices were lower at €340 for the whole day, and we just had to provide him with a car and a driver. We were with him for 8 hours and explored all over. I highly recommend using Chris! **[Check out his website here.](#)**

But of course, if you really don't want to pay for a guide or want to spend more time exploring the cute towns, here are the must see places.

P.S. If you are a reader, before I came to Normandy I read the book called "**[The Baker's Secret](#)**" that was a historical fiction book about D-Day based in Normandy. I loved the book and found that I was much more knowledgeable about what our guide was telling us because I had read it in the book. I highly recommend reading this book even if you're not planning on visiting!

ARROMANCHES 360° CIRCULAR CINEMA

This is a really great place to start off your trip to Normandy. It is a really cool IMAX-esque cinema with a short 30 minute video giving you an overview of D-Day. The video was made of real footage from the day of and was very moving! They show it every 30 minutes, and note that their "closing time" online is their last showing. The town of Arromanches is also totally adorable and picturesque. We ended up getting dinner on the water in this town and had an amazing meal!



LONGUES-SUR-MER BATTERY

Our tour guide recommended that we visit the cinema and this before our guide the next day because he wouldn't cover it, and I think this was maybe my favorite thing we saw. They are actual guns built into the hills by Germans to defend against the D-Day invaders. It was just so neat to see these in real life, out in the middle of the fields, and not inside a museum. There are lots of signs too with English descriptions about the guns, so a great way to learn more.



AMERICAN CEMETERY

This beautiful cemetery is actually technically US soil and run by the US National Parks. It is so beautiful and moving and I would budget an hour or two here. Google ahead of time what the words on the crosses mean for some context. There are also some beautiful large mural maps that tell a really great story of D-Day. Our guide took us here first to beat the crowds and that was very smart too!



OMAHA BEACH

Right next to the American Cemetery is Omaha Beach, one of the US landing sites from D-Day. Our guide completely voiced over everything at this beach so I am unsure if there are signs that can tell you anything if you don't have a guide. You can at least google Omaha Beach while you are there and get some information.

POINTE DU HOC

Our next stop after Omaha Beach was Pointe du Hoc. Our guide took us here because he knew we were from Texas and a man from Texas led an attack here. Pointe du Hoc was home to some German batteries as well as some shelters where they lived. Both the guns and the shelters are still there and you can actually walk through the shelters which was very neat. Also, this entire peninsula is cratered with bomb marks which was also crazy for me to see – not to mention made it very picturesque!

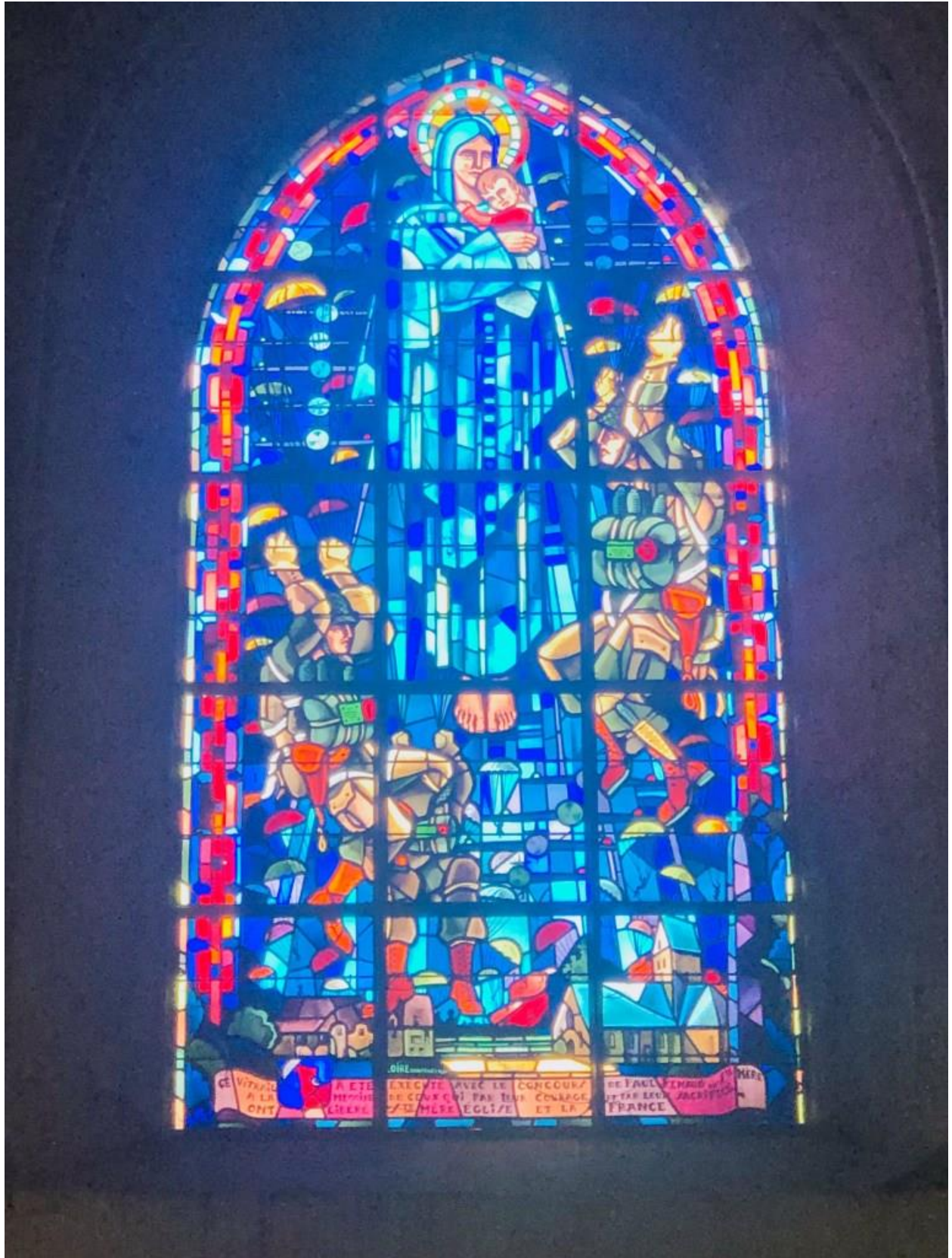




TO THE HEROIC RANGER COMMANDGES
OF THE 116TH INF
WHO UNDER THE COMMAND OF
COLONEL JAMES E. RUDDER
OF THE FIRST AMERICAN DIVISION
ATTACKED AND TOOK POSSESSION OF
THE POINTE DU HOC

SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE

We grabbed baguettes in this town and visited the church that is super famous because of the (fake) man that they have hanging from his parachute from the church. Tourists love to come to see this. Basically one of the airborne divisions landed here and almost all of the paratroopers were killed as they fell from the sky. Legend is that one landed on the church and got stuck, hence the fake man hanging from the church (and the motif on the stain glass windows).



UTAH BEACH

Our final stop just as the tide was rolling out was Utah Beach, another of the famous US landing sites on D-Day. There were a lot of tourists, museums, and signs on this beach, so you will be able to read (or google) about the significance.

BAYEUX

Since we stayed in Bayeux, I can give recommendations about what to do in this cute town. The cathedral is totally stunning and I definitely recommend going to check it out. The area long the small canal is also very beautiful. The thing that Bayeux is most known for is the Bayeux Tapestry. Unfortunately, we kept missing the closing times and never got to visit it. It doesn't actually have anything to do with World War II – it is a 70m long tapestry created by the nuns depicting William the Conqueror's invasion of England in 1066. We were told that it is a must-see!

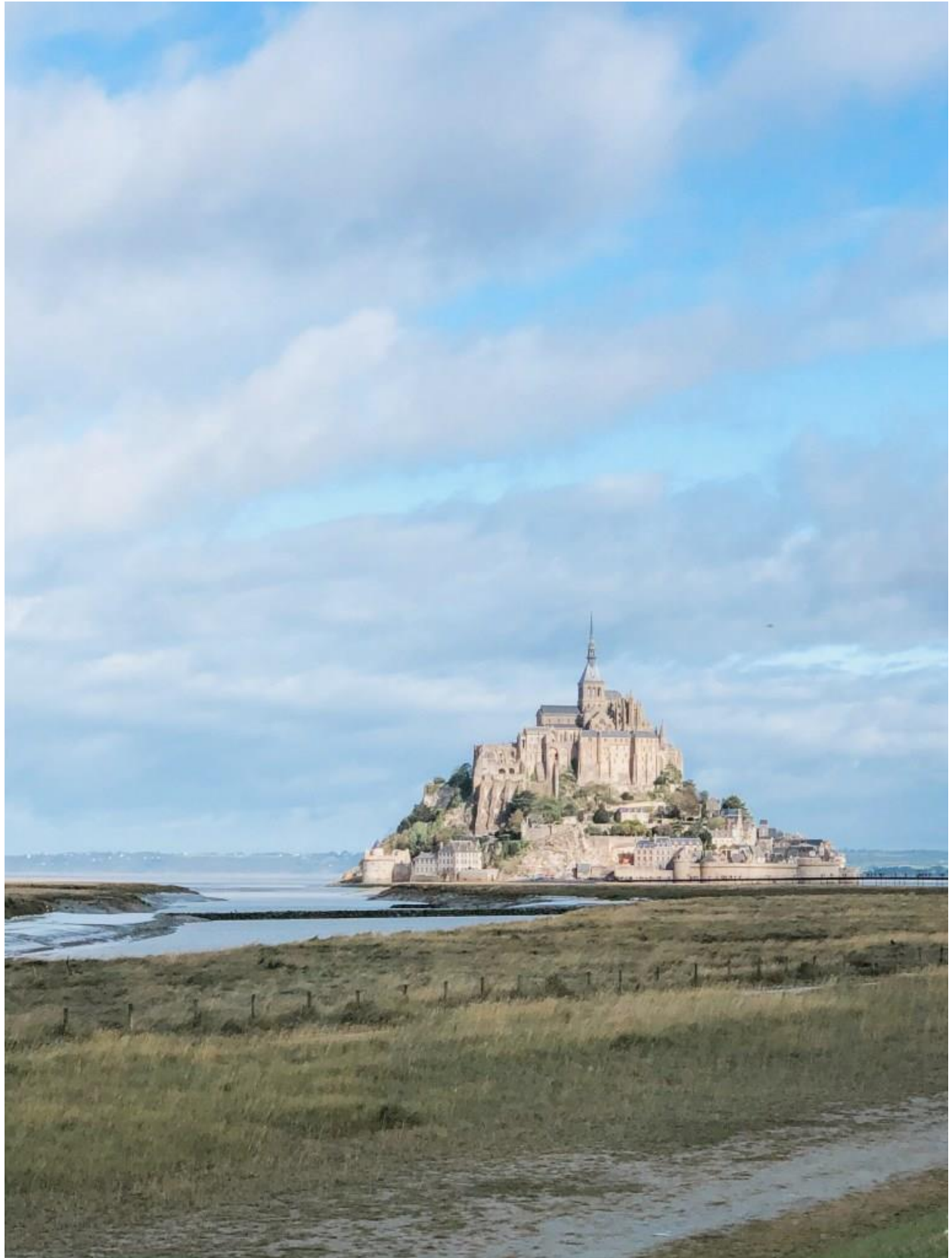


The street that the cathedral entrance faces, Rue de Bienvenu, is super cute with some really great culinary shops and restaurants. Au Comptoir des Saveurs was a super cute fine food shop that I could've spent hours in. If you walk north and then take a right on Rue Saint-Martin, then there are lots of good shops on that street as well. When we were there on Saturday they also had an open-air market with some vendors selling sausage, calvados, and more.



MONT ST. MICHEL

My husband and I made a day trip to Mont St. Michel before our evening flight back to London, and it is sooooo cool! It's basically this teeny tiny pointy island in the middle of the water (very technical terms here) with a cute little abbey on top! It is at it's most beautiful during high tide when the island is completely surrounded by water and reflecting the island and the skies – this happens in the morning at something like 9 or 10 AM and we were not able to make it, but keep that in mind! When you are driving towards Mont St. Michel you will start seeing signs towards a giant, well-organized parking lot. From here you can walk across the very long pedestrian bridge to the island or take a shuttle (you will see multiple signs for all of this).



We were dealing with some time constraints that day so we just viewed it from afar. From my research, the two biggest things to do on the island are to go and visit the abbey (recommended to buy tickets in advance to avoid the lines) and to get an omelet? Apparently the omelet was invented here, but the restaurant where you can get it at, La Mère Poulard Café, is like \$50 an omelet. No thanks, lol.

A great pitstop on the way to Mont St. Michel would be Villedieu les Poêles. It is supposed to be famous for it's copper pots and pans – yes please!! Saint James is one more town over and is also supposed to be adorable, with Saint James L'Atelier store selling France's original sailor stripes! What a fun souvenir.

SO MUCH MORE

Normandy is a huge region with so much to see, and above is what we did. From my research, I know one of the biggest attractions is Giverny where Monet lived and got his inspiration, and **here is the website** for more information about entry times and tickets. Giverny is only an hour outside of Paris so could be a good starting point for your Normandy trip if you are starting in Paris.

Rouen is supposed to be beautiful with a gorgeous cathedral and loads of history. This could be a good second stop after Giverny on the way to the coast.

One thing I would have loved to do, not surprisingly, is explore more of the coastal towns and beautiful coastlines. I read the most about Honfleur being very cute, but it looks like there are lots of gorgeous cliffs called Porte d'Aval and Chemin des Douaniers in Étretat. From Rouen I would travel to Étretat and then down to Honfleur along the Côte Fleurie (or "the flowered coast"). This coastline is considered to be the "Riviera" of the north with beautiful beachside towns with fancy mansions that used to be the rich's getaway! Past Honfleur is Deauville which was supposed to be the most luxury getaway of them all. Fun fact: Madame Chanel opened her first clothing store in Deauville in 1913 because she loved it so much.

In all of these towns, I am sure it is nice to just stroll along the promenade and explore the tiny streets, stopping for oysters and calvados as you go. I would spend half to a full day in each town and enjoy it as you go!

One more place I'll mention is Cancale, which is actually supposed to be home of the world's best oysters. It is about a 45 minute drive west of Mont St. Michel and would be a great stop if you are into oysters. When I was debating heading here after the island I also read about a super cute town called Dinan – check this out too!

I also read about some fun **food tours** in the region that focus on Camembert and cider / calvados. That would be fun!

WHERE DO I EAT IN NORMANDY?

Normandy is a culinary destination in itself, and it is most known for having the best oysters in the world, camembert cheese, and all their apple products – cider, calvados (apple brandy), and tarte tatin (apple tart). If you are into oysters (my whole family is obsessed and this was the reason we were most excited to visit the region), then you must eat them everywhere you go! It won't be hard to eat any of these dishes as they will most likely be on every restaurant menu.



If you want to go somewhere specifically for cider, our D-Day tour guide made a pitstop at a local cider maker where we got to do a tasting and buy some bottles – Bernard Lebrech Cidre and Calvados Brewery. My dad bought a couple bottles in Bayeux too and said that this guy's was definitely the best! It's in this super old castle/mansion with a lot of history, and the guy was super friendly. There's no website so just look it up on [**Google Maps!**](#)

We ate dinner our first night in Arromanches at **Hôtel de La Marine** after visiting the 360 theatre and this ended up being our favorite meal! The hotel is right on the water with a parking lot nearby. You can call ahead and make a reservation and be seated in the room with the better view. We did not have a reservation and were seated in the less crowded second room, but still loved it. The oysters we got there were the best ones we had the whole trip!

The next day was our all day World War II tour so we just grabbed sandwiches in Sainte-Mère-Église (Boulangerie Patisserie Marguerite, right around the corner from the church). I read reviews that Port-en-Bessin-Huppain is a great little seaside town to stop at for lunch near the American cemetery.

Our second night we had dinner in Bayeux at **Le Pommier**. It was okay. I kept reading online about **La Rapière** that looked very fancy but they were booked up when I called – so try and make a reservation ahead of time! I also read good things about **L'Angle Saint Laurent**.

Our favorite place we ate at was actually this teeny oyster shack near Mont St. Michel that I randomly found online when I googled "oysters near Mont St. Michel". You are sitting in this little shack overlooking the water with Mont St. Michel in the distance where you can order plates and plates of oysters or mussels (another regional specialty). The oysters are priced at like €1 each which is so cheap. There is a little food truck thing next door and you can walk out and order buckets of French fries and bring them back to your table to eat with your mussels or oysters. It was just so awesome! The place was sooo packed so is obviously a popular pick with the locals. It's called "la Degustation Huitres Et Moules" (literally oysters and mussels in French) [**on Google Maps.**](#)



WHAT SHOULD I PACK FOR NORMANDY?

It definitely depends on the time of year! We went in late September and it was freezing cold – I wished I had on jeans, boots, and a sweater but I was not dressed enough at all. Especially if you're going to see the D-Day sites, you want to be protected from the wind on the beaches!

Other than that, the Bayeux/Caen region is just full of American tourists so no need to look your absolute best if you know what I mean... I'm sure if you go to the northern coastal fancy region, you might want to look super cute and French.

MY PERFECT NORMANDY ITINERARY

DAY 1

I am going to assume that you are an American reading this and traveling to Paris from the US. If so, after you finish your Paris trip you should rent a car and drive first to Giverny and spend an afternoon there exploring Monet's home. After that, you should drive to Étretat with a stop in Rouen on the way if you have time. Stay somewhere in Étretat and enjoy those beautiful cliffs (if beautiful cliffs are not your thing, move on to Honfleur if cute seaside towns are more your thing).

DAY 2

Travel along the Côte Fleurie stopping at Honfleur and Deauville. Stay the night in Deauville if you are doing some slow travel and want to stay in a fancy hotel in a fancy town. If not, continue onto Bayeux where you will stay for two nights. Make a stop in Caen along the way if you want to see the cathedral or

castle. If you have time, go to Arromanches and do the 360 theatre and the German gun battery – and eat at the hotel on the water!

DAY 3

Today will be a D-Day sites day. Hopefully you were able to get a private or group tour guide for the day, but if not just go around to all the D-Day sites and use a guidebook or Wikipedia to get your information.

That evening eat dinner in Arromanches if you didn't get to go the night before or eat in Bayeux.

DAY 4

Today you should drive to Mont St. Michel, park, and explore the abbey and the island! Tonight you should probably cash out and stay in the super fancy Chateau de Chantore because it looks really awesome. It's actually east of Mont St. Michel. If you want to explore west before checking in, go get lunch at our little oyster shack and explore Cancale or Dinan if you have time. This is the end of your 4 days in Normandy! Stay here and enjoy it!