

Day 1: Calais to Honfleur (Approx 170 miles)

Arrival day in France. We can offer a number of ferry options and depending on time of year and availability we may use the 'EuroTunnel'. The Dover - Calais or Eurotunnel crossing is included in the price; alternatively for a little bit extra we can organise a Portsmouth - Caen, Newhaven - Le Havre crossing etc.

After a short spell on the motorway to get us out of Northern France, we head towards the coastal road. Our first stop will be the lovely coastal town of Honfleur. This beautiful town is a superb place to stay. A really picturesque harbour and a favourite haunt of the artist, Monet.

Day 1: Honfleur to Arromanches (Approx 70 miles)

The first days ride will take us along twisty rural roads through delightful villages and beautiful scenery. There will be plenty of opportunities for photos, coffee and snacks. The pace will be gentle, though some of the roads are challenging.

The route to our hotel will take us past our first D-Day sites, including the famous Pegasus Bridge which was taken by the 6th British Airborne Division on the night of the 5th June and the Merville battery. These airborne troops were the first to land in Normandy.

Then its on to the coast road and past the beaches of Sword, Juno and Gold and up the cliffs overlooking Arromanches and the remains of the famous Mulberry harbour. Here we will stop for a short while for a snack, coffee and to visit the 360 degree cinema. The latter is highly recommended.

Day 2:

From Arromanches it is only a short distance to the infamous Omaha beach and the poignant American cemetery. Then onto Pointe Du Hoc where one of the most strenuous, dangerous, and demanding missions took place. Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder's was ordered to take his Second Ranger Battalion of roughly 200 men and land on a shingled shelf, scale the imposing 100-foot-high cliff while under hostile fire, and then destroy the six enemy guns. Pointe Du Hoc is now a memorial to these men and has remained untouched since D-Day.

Day 3: (Approx 228 miles)

We will take you on little used country roads through the beautiful countryside of Brittany, Normandy and Pays De Loire. We will pass by Mont St Michel as we return towards Arromanches.

We always visit beautiful Dinan. The medieval town on the hilltop has many fine old buildings, some of which date from the 13th century. The town retains a large section of the city walls, part of which can be walked round.

Major historical attractions include the [Jacobins Theatre](#) dating from 1224, the flamboyant Gothic [St Malo's Church](#), the Romanesque [St Saviour's Basilica](#), [Duchess Anne's Tower](#) and the [Château de Dinan](#).

Day 4 will be spent mainly visiting the landing sites in more detail as well as visiting the museums as we wend our way back to the port.

Alternate

Day 3: St Mere Eglise to Fougères (Approx 140 miles)

. After a traditional French breakfast, our first destination will be the airborne museum at St Mere Eglise. St Mere Eglise is famous for being the centre of US airborne operations on 6th June 1944. It was in this region that many of the 82nd and 101st US Airborne units (Band of Brothers) landed. Then it is off to the beaches of Utah before hitting the glorious and barely used Normandy roads.

We will overnight in the beautiful but little known town of Fougères in Brittany. Fougères is home to one of the largest medieval castles in Europe - it is a splendid sight and we will make sure you get time to visit the castle and the beautiful gardens that surround it. It is only a short walk from our hotel - we will then take you to one of our favourite restaurants for a lovely and very reasonably priced dinner, cooked from locally grown and seasonal produce.

Day 4: Fougères to Bagnoles de L'Ornes (Approx 120 miles)

Today, is a pure biking day. We will take you on little used country roads through the beautiful countryside of Brittany, Normandy and Pays De Loire. We will pass by Mont St Michel and usually take the time to enjoy a splendid and cheap 'Plat du Jour' lunchtime meal.

We always visit beautiful Mortain. Mortain is built on a hillside where the Cance river cuts through rock-strewn gorges to the vast wooded basin of the Sélune river. These gorges offer splendid walks alongside the two spectacular sets of waterfalls. "La Grande Cascade" is the largest waterfall in the north and west of France. The town itself was almost entirely rebuilt after 1944, having been the centre of a ferocious battle when the Germans counter-attacked after the allied breakout at Avranches. There is a memorial to the defenders of Hill 314 at "La Petite Chapelle" on the edge of the town. A viewing platform offers views as far as Mont St.Michel, some 25+ miles away.

Our overnight stop will be in the lovely Spa town of Bagnoles De L'Ornes. This beautiful Spa town has a very Alpine feel to it with lots of hotels, restaurants located around a magnificent lake.

Day 5: Bagnoles to Calais (Approx 250 miles)

Hopefully the hangovers are not too bad and we are all healthy enough to partake in breakfast. Then it is time for people to say farewell and head home.

- Return ferry crossing (Dover- Calais)
- Four nights accommodation in good quality hotels
- Breakfast each morning.

- Service throughout the trip of a 1066 guide.
- Route maps (digital - Garmin & Tom Tom)
- Hotel parking
- Support van

The following is not included:

- Petrol
- Travel Insurance
- Breakdown cover insurance
- Evening Meals
- Museum and Chateaux entrance fees

You need to budget around 20 - 25 euros for a decent 3 course evening meal. For lunchtimes we try and use local bakers for sandwiches/baguettes etc. Evening meal costs are very much dependent on how much wine and beer you drink!!