

Normandy post-cruise Tour

Our group will depart the SS Bon Voyage at 8:30 for the drive to Bayeux and the Normandy Beaches. It's a fairly long drive, but we'll break it up with a lunch stop en-route. Expect to arrive in Bayeux at approximately 4:00 PM. As much as I would have preferred flying or train, there is no airport of any capacity in Normandy and the train would have taken longer with an actual change of stations in Paris.

When asked by the cruise line about your departure from the ship, indicate that you're traveling to Normandy on the chartered coach. Your bags will be placed with other travelers for this group the night before we disembark.

The main portion of this group is staying at the in the center of Bayeux. There are a few guests staying nearby at Reine Mathilde. If I have not specifically discussed which hotel with you, then you're staying at the Churchill. Your room, tax, and continental breakfast have been prepaid.

[Churchill Hotel](#) 14 Rue Saint-Jean, 14400 Bayeux, France 33 2 31 21 31 80

[Reine Mathilde](#) 23 Rue Larcher, 14400 Bayeux, France 33 2 31 92 08 13

We have nearly two full days of touring in the region and you'll have your fill of D-Day landing history before we depart for CDG Airport and our last night in France.

On Monday morning we'll be met by two local guides and will start our tour of the Normandy Beaches. We'll break up into two groups of 16 in each group.

Here's an abbreviated itinerary for our two days on tour.

Sunday, May 22nd

- 8:00 AM Identify your bags at the coach prior to boarding
- 8:30 AM Group departs for Bayeux
- 12:30 PM Lunch stop en-route
- 4:00 PM Arrive in Bayeux-Evening free

Monday, May 23rd

- 9:00 AM Meet guide and driver for first day of touring. Suggested itinerary to include visits to Sainte-Mere-Eglise, La Fiere, Utah Beach, and Sainte-Marie-du-Mont.
- 12:00 PM Lunch on your own along the route

- 5:00 PM Return to the hotel
- 7:00 PM Group dinner at La Taverne des Ducs*

*Since we'll be on the road to CDG on our last day, it made sense that we have our farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Normandy. The 3-course menu will be local specialties. I'm steering clear of interior organs or odd delicacies.

Tuesday, May 24th

- 8:30 AM Check out of the hotel prior to starting the day's touring. Arrangements will be made to store baggage at the hotel.
- 9:00 AM Our day begins with visits to Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, and the American Military Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer
- 12:00 PM Break for lunch on your own
- 3:00 PM Return to hotel to load coach for the drive to CDG Airport
- 5:30 PM Arrive at Hyatt Regency CDG for overnight.

The [Hyatt Regency](#) CDG Airport will be our last night in France. Your room, tax, and continental breakfast have been prepaid. The Apollo Restaurant serves dinner on site until 10:00 PM.

Wednesday, May 25th

Departing flights throughout the day. The hotel operates a complimentary shuttle to CDG. The Hyatt operates a shuttle to Terminal 2 TGV Station every 30 minutes from 6:15 AM to 10:15 AM and from 5:15 PM to 9:15 PM. If you need a ride outside these times, the front desk will arrange a shuttle provided you are a World of Hyatt member.

Airlines are suggesting 3-4 hours advance check in, mostly due to the testing requirements to reenter the USA. To avoid possible surprises and to navigate what could be long lines, it might be prudent to adhere to this guideline. If mandatory testing is suspended, those check in times will be eased. Your airline is the best source of information on this topic.

Baggage

I've addressed this in the cruise letter, but it bears repeating. Please limit your baggage to one large and one small bag. Consider that you'll be able to launder clothing on board. Many European coach companies don't have storage for the sheer volume of bags that Americans take on tour. Also keep in mind that most European hotels have postage-stamp sized rooms that will get much smaller once you wheel your bags in.

Gratuities

Typically for a full day tour, the suggested gratuity is between 4-6 euro per person. These are guidelines only. You should tip based on the service and information provided. I think you'll be pleased with these guides.

Normandy Weather

It's a marine climate. Expect moisture. Remember the D-Day landings were postponed due to lousy weather. It may still be warm, so bring a light, waterproof shell. Everyone in the PNW owns at least one of these.

I'll be with the group if you have any questions along the way. You can also leave a message for me at the Churchill if I'm hard to find.

Brad Cilley

425 375 2676

brad@nwtravel.com