

THE DELIGHTFUL NORMANDY COAST

Day One

Pick-up Points

05:00 hours - Johnsons Coach Travel, Liveridge House, Liveridge Hill, Henley in Arden

We will depart our last pick up at 05.00 hours and make our way to Dover for our 10.00 hours ferry crossing to Calais. A comfort stop will be made en-route. After disembarkation we will continue our journey to our hotel, The Mercure Hotel, Lisieux arriving late afternoon. Comfort stops will be made. You will then have free time to unpack and relax before dinner is served. Dinner will be served at 19:00 hours

Day Two

After breakfast we will depart the hotel at 10.00 hours and make our way to Honfleur. Honfleur is probably one of Normandy's most picturesque and well-preserved ports. Activity is centred around the Vieux Bassin or old harbour with its slate-fronted houses which seem like they are about to topple over. The area oozes charm with renovated buildings such as salt warehouses or Greniers à Sel now home to temporary art exhibitions.



It's not hard to see why Honfleur attracted so much artistic talent in the 19th century. Eugene Boudin, the seascape painter who taught Monet, was born here in 1824. This seems to have set off a trend with Renoir, Pissarro and Cezanne all visiting the town and meeting at the Ferme St-Simeon, now a luxury hotel. Their works are displayed at the Musee Eugene along with other masters such as Dufy and Marquet.

We will return to the hotel late afternoon. Dinner will be served in the hotel.

Day Three



Departing the hotel after breakfast we make our way to Rouen where you will meet your guide for a tour of Rouen. After the tour you will have free time and be able to purchase lunch before departing for Giverny, the house and gardens of Claude Monet the impressionist painter.

Claude Monet designed a garden ablaze with flowers and colour which became his favourite model for painting. We will return to the hotel late afternoon in time to freshen up before dinner.

Day Four

We will depart the hotel after breakfast at 09:00 hours and travel to Bayeux a town with excellent examples of Norman architecture and a medieval centre. The Town's main claim to fame, the Bayeux Tapestry depicts the conquest of England by William of Normandy (William the Conqueror). A tapestry with 70 metres of embroidery portrays this historical conquest.

Departing Bayeux we make our way to Arromanches to the D Day Museum on the beach. After leaving Arromanches we ascend the hill by coach where you will have a wonderful view of the Mulberry Harbour as many pieces of the harbour are still in tact. We will follow the coast passing some of the D-Day Landing beaches as we return back to our hotel. Dinner will be served in the hotel at 19:00 hours.

Day Five

Today we will spend the day in Lisieux. Lisieux is the capital of the Pays d'Auge. Local produce can be sampled at Lisieux's market on Wednesdays and Saturdays including cheeses such as Camembert, Livarot and the creamy Pont-l'Eveque. Sparkling cider is the local drink but the area is also known for its apple brandy or Calvados and the herbal liqueur called Benedictine.

Lisieux is also a famous pilgrimage centre with its cathedral devoted to St Therese who was canonised here in 1925. A tourist train is probably the best way to discover the religious sites of Lisieux and includes the rather sombre looking Cathedrale St-Pierre. We will return to the hotel late afternoon. Dinner will be served in the hotel.

Day Six

After breakfast, we will depart the hotel and make our way *Deauville*, a small resort and *Trouville* which is situated on the coast where the cliffs of the Normandy Corniche slope away at the mouth of the River Touques, to be replaced by a wonderful beach of fine golden sand. Deuille is the home of a very famous casino where Omar Sharif lost one million pounds in one sitting! We will return to the hotel late afternoon. Dinner will be served in the hotel.

Day Seven

After breakfast we will depart the hotel and make our way to Calais for our 16.10 hours return ferry crossing to Dover. We will drop off as per pick-up points arriving at Stratford upon Avon at 20.30 hours and Henley in Arden at 20.30 hours.