

JOURNEY TO NORMANDY

5 days / 4 nights

50 pupils
5 adults
1 driver

DAY 1 WELCOME TO NORMANDY

4 p.m. - Dinner and accommodation at the Collignon Centre in Tournlaville

The Collignon Centre is at the heart of the Collignon water sports leisure park in Tournlaville, near Cherbourg, between Cap de la Hague and Val de Saire.

The centre is located near the sand dunes, with direct access to the beach along a footpath.

The premises:

- Recent, two-storey building. Accommodation capacity for 104 people.
- Dining room, multi-purpose room
- Audio-visual room
- Three classrooms
- Cafeteria.

The centre:

- On the 1st floor, two wings each with 10 rooms with 4 or 5 beds, shower and wash basins
- On the 2nd floor, 12 rooms with 2 or 3 beds, showers and wash basins
- Infirmary
- 4 cupboards in each room

Certification numbers:

National Education Authority: 50 90 03

Youth and Sports Ministry: 50-602-132

DAY 2 La Cité de la Mer : History of the deep sea

Breakfast at the accommodation centre

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Visit to the Cité de la Mer and to Cherbourg-Octeville

In a converted transatlantic maritime station in Cherbourg, the Cité de la Mer is an entertaining and educational centre dedicated to mankind's adventures under the sea.

During an entertaining visit always rich in emotions and sensations, the pupils will discover the little-known environment of the deep seas.

The Cité de la Mer is organised into four sections:

- **The Ocean Section**, devoted to the exploration and use of underwater treasures, and built around a vast aquarium, one of the deepest in Europe.
- **The Underwater Section**, with a visit to the Redoutable, the world biggest submarine





opened to the public. Here the pupils can see what daily life is like in a submarine.

Duration of visit to the Redoutable: 35 mins.

-The Big Gallery of Vessels and Mankind in the reception area. From the Nautilus, which dived down to 10 m in 1800, to the Archimedes; which reached 9 545 m in 1962, visitors can plunge into the international history of human adventures under the sea.

-The TITANIC and Emigration Section.

The first part of the exhibition, in the former luggage room, is dedicated to European emigration to the New World. The pupils will share the life experience and emotions of emigrants through films, archive photos and multimedia displays.

The second part of the exhibition, below the Luggage Room, is devoted to the Titanic. From the crossing to the sinking, the pupils will witness this historic voyage through the moving accounts of the survivors and through reconstitutions of the Titanic's decor.

During the visit, the pupils will also be able to "walk under the sea" in an incredible virtual adventure taking them to the furthest edge of the oceans...

Extra educational activities:

Bilingual quiz / English quiz

Themed itineraries: The Living and Movements and Strengths / 70th anniversary of the World War II Battle of Normandy.

Teachers' guide on the website <http://www.citedelamer.com/en/>

Noon - Picnic lunch provided by the Collignon Centre

5.30 p.m. - Dinner and accommodation at the Collignon Centre in Tourlaville

DAY 3 Mont Saint Michel, a Wonder of the Western World

Breakfast at the accommodation centre

10 a.m. – By foot crossing of the shingle beach to the Mont Saint-Michel with two guides

Duration: 3 hrs

Mont Saint-Michel Bay is an exceptional site. It has been studied by scientists from many different disciplines, but has yet to give up all its secrets. We recommend discovering the richness of this unique and majestic site for the quality and diversity of its natural environments.

The crossing with a guided commentary will provide pupils with general knowledge about the natural and cultural heritage of the Bay. Over a distance of 6 to 7 kilometres, the crossing of the shingle beaches and streams includes several stops to understand how the bay was formed, to observe and describe the landscape, the soil, the traces of the sea, the foreshore, the layout and constructions, the fauna and flora, and human activities.

Departure from Bec d'Andaine in Genêts.

Equipment: the crossing is made barefoot and in shorts. Depending on the weather, take some warm clothes, a windcheater, waterproof jacket or sun hat and sun cream. Also take a change of clothes, a towel and shoes for the arrival at Mont Saint-Michel.

1 p.m. - Picnic lunch provided by the Collignon Centre

2 p.m. - Guided visit to the village and Mont Saint-Michel Abbey with two guides.

Duration: 2 hours

Departure from the Tourist Office (MONT-SAINT-MICHEL)

This tour of Mont Saint-Michel is combined with a visit to the medieval village, with its timber-framed houses, ramparts and the Abbey, a masterpiece of Norman architecture.

Mont Saint-Michel is one of the major landmarks of religious history in medieval Europe. Consecrated to Saint Michael in 708 following miraculous apparitions, the Duke of Normandy gave it to Benedictine monks. The island developed its renown with the legend of the founding bishop Aubert and became one of the major pilgrimage sites in the Christian world. The monks undertook an incredible building project: the work continued from 1000 AD until the early 16th century. Mont Saint-Michel was also an impregnable fortress during the Hundred Years War. Used as a prison during the French Revolution, large scale renovation on the monastery begun in 1863. Classified as an historical monument, the Abbey is included in the visit.

3 p.m. - Entrance to Mont Saint-Michel Abbey (approximate time)

The Abbey is the most famous site in Normandy. The origins of the edifice date from the beginning of the 8th century. The archangel Saint Michael appeared three times in a dream to Aubert, the bishop of Avranches, telling him to found an oratory. The construction of the Abbey, with granite from Chausey and Brittany, was a genuine architectural feat. Your visit will also be a chance to appreciate the "Merveille" and to visit the Chaplaincy, the Guests' room, the dining hall, the Cellar, the Knights' room and the Cloister.

5 p.m. - Dinner and accommodation at the Collignon Centre in Tournlaville

DAY 4 : 6 June 1944 : reliving our history

Breakfast at the accommodation centre

10 a.m. - Visit to St Mère Eglise with a qualified guide

Duration: 3 hrs

Meeting at Place de l'Eglise (SAINTE-MERE-EGLISE)

A qualified guide will travel with you on the coach for a visit to Sainte Mère Eglise and Utah Beach.

On 6 June 1944 and during the weeks that followed, the region's inhabitants witnessed a decisive phase in the Second World War: the Normandy Landings. The itinerary below will help pupils learn and understand the Utah Beach Landings and US parachuting in and around Sainte Mère-Eglise.

The itinerary will take you from Sainte-Mère-Eglise and Saint-Martin de Varreville on the Madeleine beach (Utah Beach), to Sainte-Marie du Mont, then back to Sainte-Mère-Eglise.

Sainte-Mère-Eglise: this small town suddenly came to the forefront of world news in the night of 5 and 6 June 1944 when the first American parachutists landed in and around the town. Each year, Sainte-Mère-Eglise, immortalised in the film "The Longest Day", is visited by large numbers of Americans who come to keep alive the memory of the 82nd Airborne Division

See the church: this robust edifice built from the 11th to the 13th century was hit during the battle. German snipers had to be driven out of the clock tower where they had taken refuge. The modern stained-glass windows around the doorway depict the arrival of the US parachutists. A dummy attached to the church steeple with its parachute recalls the tragic adventure of soldier John Steele.

Kilometre Zero on Liberty road was erected in front of the Town Hall. A monument commemorates the civilian victims and liberators.

Saint-Martin de Varreville: the monument to General Leclerc recalls the landing of the 2nd D.B. on this beach on 1 August 1944.

Madeleine Beach (Utah Beach): like Omaha Beach and the other Normandy Landings beaches, this stretch of sand to the north east of Carentan became part of history following the operations carried out on the sea front by the US units at dawn on 6 June 1944.

Without being clearly defined, Utah Beach lies between Madeleine Beach and the Varreville Dunes.

It was named after a US state, chosen as a code name for the landing site, like Omaha Beach and the other beaches on the Calvados coast.

Here you will discover many monuments built in memory of the US troops: the monument to the 4th US Division, the monument honouring the memory of the dead of the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, a memorial stone and crypt commemorating the action of the 90th Airborne Division, and not forgetting the 00 Milestone on Liberty Road.

On an area of dunes that became US land after a symbolic gift was made by the town of Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, a large memorial stone was erected by the Americans in homage to the victims of the deadly battle on Utah Beach. From the embankment, the view over the sea is beautiful.

The village of Sainte-Marie-du-Mont: In the village, around the village square and the church, twelve plaques recount the events of the Liberation from the early hours of D-Day. Sainte-Marie-du-Mont is located on the road leading to the beach which crosses sectors flooded by the Germans that the men of the 82nd Airborne Division had to take control over. The church changed hands several times during the night: a stained-glass window depicts some of the episodes of the liberation of the village. Finally, a plaque, on the wall of a house in the corner of the town square, recalls that the building housed the Kommandantur, where the villagers had to register each day before going out to work on the coastal defences.

Noon - Lunch at Collignon accommodation centre

1.30 - Visit to the Airborne Museum in Sainte-Mère-Eglise.

Duration: 2 hours

In a 3000 m² park, this legendary museum is a hymn to the extraordinary adventure of the US parachutists from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions who landed at Sainte-Mère-Eglise in the night of the 5 and 6 June 1944.

A first building in the shape of a parachute houses a WACO glider in its original condition, as well as a large number of display cases containing period documents, personal accounts by GIs, weapons, ammunition, equipment, etc.

In the second building in the shape of a delta wing, the pupils can see a D-47 DOUGLAS plane that was used for parachuting soldiers and towing gliders during Operation Overlord. A large number of dummies wearing period uniforms are exhibited, as well as personal souvenirs donated by US veterans.

In 2014, the museum was extended. The new building provides an innovative visit, and rich in emotions. The pupils will board a C-47 plane in England and land on Sainte-Mère-Eglise town square, and then take part in securing the bridges and in the battles in the Normandy forests.

5.30 p.m. - Dinner and accommodation at the Collignon Centre in Turlaville

DAY 5 Departure

Breakfast at the accommodation centre

Noon - Picnic lunch provided by the Collignon Centre

End of programme