



University of Illinois
Alumni Association

 **Duration**
8 days

 **Activity Level**
Moderate

 **Journey Type**
Land
Solo-Friendly



Normandy ~ Honfleur

August 29 – September 6, 2026

Starting from \$4,545/pp

Discover Normandy's proud traditions, dramatic history, rugged coast and pastoral landscapes on this marvelous seven-night journey! Unpack once and set out to pay tribute to the sacrifice and valor of the Allied forces on D-Day at Arromanches, Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Cemetery. Explore picturesque Honfleur and be awed by Mont-Saint-Michel's dramatic tidal island, the breathtaking seaside town of Étretat and Bayeux's magnificen...



Day-by-Day Itinerary

Normandy | Honfleur

Air Program: 9 days/8 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program: 8 days/7 nights

Breakfasts: 7

Lunches: 3

Dinners: 3

Receptions: 2

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, dinners and receptions.

- A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.
- This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.
- Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Please note, excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches.

Mild: Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour

Moderate: Walk 1-3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50-100 stairs; stand 1-2 hours

Active: Walk 3+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 2+ hours

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Paris, France. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: CDG.

Day 2 Paris, France | Honfleur

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

D

Arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. Proceed through immigration and into the baggage claim area to retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer and check in to the first-class Hôtel Mercure Honfleur. Please note that if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Welcome Reception and Dinner. This evening, gather at the hotel for a Welcome Reception to get acquainted with your fellow travelers. Then enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant, an inviting introduction to Normandy's coastal cuisine and convivial spirit.

Day 3 | Honfleur

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | D

Breakfast is served at the hotel each morning.

Historic Honfleur. Begin with a guided walking tour of this quintessential French port town, where maritime history and artistic innovation have intertwined for centuries. Discover how Honfleur inspired Claude Monet, Gustave Courbet and Eugène Boudin, and gave rise to the 19th-century École de Honfleur. Stroll the Vieux Bassin, where tall, narrow timber-framed houses crowd the water's edge, their reflections shimmering in the harbor. Learn about Honfleur's trading past and its role as a launch point for exploration, including Samuel de Champlain's 1608 voyage that founded Quebec City. Continue along winding streets lined with cafés, galleries and artisan shops to the wooden Church of Sainte-Catherine, built by shipwrights with the ceilings over the two naves shaped like inverted ship hulls. (Moderate)

Free Time: This afternoon is yours to meander through captivating Honfleur and have lunch at leisure. Sample Normandy's celebrated cheeses, paired with fresh bread and crisp local cider. Stroll through the public gardens to the estuary and beach or ascend part of the Pont de Normandie for elevated views of the river and sea. You may also visit Ferme Saint-Siméon, where Impressionists once painted the shifting light over the estuary.

Enrichment: The French Resistance. Early this evening, explore the origins and evolution of the Resistance, its leadership networks and the courage of citizens who risked everything to oppose occupation and reclaim France's freedom.

Later, gather at a local restaurant for dinner.

Day 4 | Honfleur | Arromanches | Omaha Beach | Colleville-sur-Mer | Pointe du Hoc

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | L

Enrichment: D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. During a lecture on the motor coach, gain insight into the planning, logistics and high stakes of Operation Overlord.

D-Day and the Battle of Normandy . Travel along the coast past Juno and Gold beaches, stopping at Pegasus Bridge, before continuing to Arromanches to visit the Landing Museum overlooking the remains of the Mulberry Harbour. Discover how this remarkable engineering feat enabled the rapid landing of troops and supplies and played a crucial role in the Allied invasion. Explore the museum's artifacts, photographs, documents and multimedia presentations, and gain insight into the extraordinary planning, execution and aftermath of Operation Overlord.

Take a break for lunch at a restaurant in Arromanches.

Next, as you walk along Omaha Beach, pause at the memorial to reflect on the extraordinary bravery of the Allied landing forces, who advanced under devastating fire across the heavily fortified shoreline to overcome German troops. At the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, observe the rows and rows of 9,385 white crosses and Stars of David overlooking the channel and honoring the fallen, as well as the serene memorial garden remembering those missing in action. Conclude the day at Pointe du Hoc, where U.S. Rangers courageously scaled 100-foot cliffs to destroy German artillery emplacements that posed a threat to troops landing on Omaha and Utah beaches. (Active)

After a full day, select from among Honfleur's seafood restaurants, brasseries and harbor front cafés for dinner at leisure. Your AHI Travel Director can assist with restaurant recommendations.

Day 5 | Honfleur | Étretat, Normandy Coast | Upper Normandy

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | L

Étretat. Depart Honfleur for a scenic drive to the breathtaking coastal town of Étretat, crossing the iconic Pont de Normandie en route. Opened in 1995, the bridge is a masterpiece of modern design that exemplifies French civil engineering excellence and signals your approach to the coast. Arrive in the charming seaside town, tucked along a pebbly beach on France's northern coast. Étretat is renowned for its dramatic white cliffs, sculpted by nature into striking forms such as the Porte d'Aval arch and the famed Aiguille, known as the

“Needle,” a slender pillar rising from the sea. Bathed in ever-changing light, these luminous landscapes inspired Claude Monet and other Impressionist painters in the 19th century. Stroll the oceanfront promenade while taking in sweeping vistas of chalk cliffs, open sky and the vast Channel beyond. (Moderate)

Château du Bec. Continue, crossing the elegant, cable-stayed Pont de Normandie that spans the Seine en route to Upper Normandy to visit Château du Bec, a beautiful, privately owned 10th-century castle. Located at the confluence of two bodies of water fed by the sources of the Lézarde, this castle took its name from the Norse appellation le bec, meaning ‘stream’. Meet one of the owners and explore the wooded grounds. Savor a lunch that features estate-grown produce paired with local wines. (Moderate)

Venture out for more of Honfleur’s signature cuisine for dinner on your own this evening.

Day 6 | Honfleur | Le Mont-Saint-Michel

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B

Le Mont-Saint-Michel . Witness the awe-inspiring Mont-Saint-Michel, a granite tidal island off the coast of Normandy that rises like a mirage above white sands. For centuries, pilgrims have made their way to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey, perched atop the island. Explore the abbey, which has served as a fortress, a monastery and a prison, admiring the Romanesque foundations and soaring Gothic additions. Contemplate its enduring symbolism as a testament to faith, ingenuity and resilience — a timeless beacon of culture and history. (Active)

Free Time: Pause for lunch and time at leisure to stroll the ramparts, observe the tides racing across the sands or stroll along the charming, narrow streets beneath the abbey.

Return to Honfleur and have dinner at your own pace.

Day 7 | Honfleur | Bayeux | Caen

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | L

Bayeux. This morning, travel to medieval Bayeux, set amid the verdant Aure River valley. Visit the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Bayeux, considered a masterpiece of Norman Gothic architecture, consecrated in 1077 with William the Conqueror in attendance. Pause to appreciate the cathedral’s grand, sculpted façade and towering spires. Inside, marvel at the soaring ribbed vaults, the long nave and adjacent chapels, the elaborately decorated choir and the intricate stained-glass windows depicting saints and biblical stories. (Moderate)

Free Time: Afterward, relish some time at leisure to meander along Bayeux’s charming cobblestone streets filled with cafés and shops offering souvenirs, artisanal crafts and local Norman specialties.

AHI Connects | Norman Lunch & Calvados Tasting: Normandy’s apple cider brandy is among the world’s finest. After visiting Bayeux, continue to Les Vergers de Ducy, a traditional Norman estate where apples from its orchards are distilled into Calvados. Savor a traditional Norman lunch and a tasting of the smooth apple brandy amid the idyllic setting. (Mild)

Le Mémorial de Caen. Visit the award-winning Caen Memorial Museum to gain an international perspective of World War II, the Battle of Normandy and the Cold War. Exhibits emphasize the importance of remembrance, reconciliation and peace. (Moderate)

Choose your own café or restaurant to suit your taste this evening.

Day 8 | Honfleur

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | D

Free Time: Spend the entire day at leisure in Honfleur. Browse local markets, walk along the sea walls or pause at a waterfront café to savor traditional moules marinières. Consider visiting the Musée Eugène Boudin or the Musée de la Marine to delve further into the town’s artistic and maritime heritage. Your Travel Director can provide recommendations for sightseeing, shopping and dining.

Farewell Reception and Dinner. Gather for a reception at the hotel, followed by a celebratory dinner at a local restaurant, sharing stories of your time exploring Normandy.

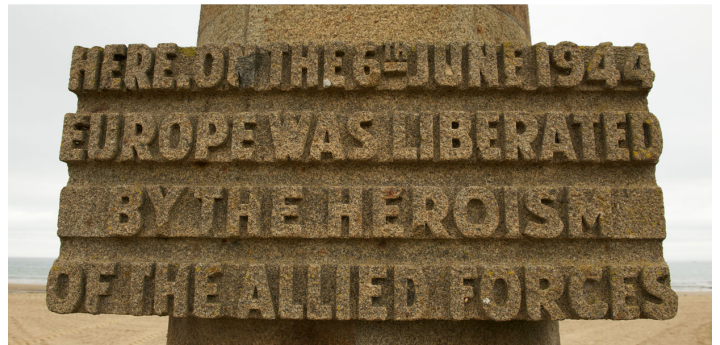
Day 9 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, bid farewell to your fellow travelers and captivating Normandy.

AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.



What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 7 nights in Honfleur, France, at the first-class Hôtel Mercure Honfleur.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 receptions and 3 dinners.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

On-site Features

- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.

FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

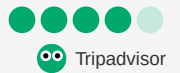
Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

The Hôtel Mercure Honfleur is a modern hotel ideally situated in the historic city center and just steps away from the charming harbor immortalized in paintings by artists like Claude Monet. From this convenient location, explore the intriguing history and culture of Normandy. After a day of enriching excursions, relax in the hotel bar with a glass of the local cider, a Calvados-based cocktail or a fine regional vintage. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Pricing

Trip Price (USD)	
Base Price	\$4,545
You Pay	\$4,545 per person

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is \$750.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click [here](#). Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 120+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.

