

# Normandy Driving Package

5 days / 4 nights

Normandy's dramatic 360-mile rugged coastline from the Seine Maritime to the World Heritage Site of Mont Saint Michel matched with the interior's thatched cottages, traditional farming and ever-changing landscapes has been home to a population descending from Vikings for over a thousand years. With a language and folk tradition different than the surrounding French, *Normandie* is rich in opportunities to explore a way sadly disappearing despite both government and private efforts of preservation. Besides history, Normandy also has a rich gastronomic tradition with its fresh fish and shellfish, duck, cream and famous cheeses like *Camembert*, *Livarot* and *Pont-l'Évêque*.



Traditional fishing boats in Honfleur



To most Americans, though, Normandy means the landing beaches of 6 June 1944 where the combined armies of liberation from the United States, British Empire, plus French, Polish and volunteers drawn from occupied countries, invaded Hitler's "Fortress Europe" in what is now known as The Longest Day. Your Avanti self-driving tour is a great opportunity to experience the history, heritage, cuisine and beauty of *Normandie*, and the remarkable and friendly people who live here.

Your 4-night Normandy Driving package includes

Honfleur, Trouville or Pont-Audemer	Bayeux or Caen	Mont St. Michel
• 1 night hotel	• 2 nights hotel	• 1 night hotel
• Daily breakfast	• Daily breakfast	• Daily breakfast
• Taxes & service charges	• Taxes & service charges	• Taxes & service charges
• 5-day economy manual car rental	• Suggested driving itinerary	• Michelin Normandy map
• <i>Normandie</i> Pass discount card	• Entrance to <i>Le Memorial de Caen</i>	• Normandy Top 10 book

~ Additional pre and post nights available upon request ~

**Day 1 ~ Arrive Normandy:** Arrive in the medieval town of *Rouen* on the Seine river (where Joan of Arc was burned) by rail from Paris to pick up your rental car before making your way to your choice of some of our favorite Normandy villages: **Honfleur**, a picturesque port city with a charming old town, **Trouville**, a calm fishing village with wide sandy beaches, or **Pont Audemer**, a market town called by some the "Norman Venice". (*Accommodations, Normandy*)

- DK Publishing Eyewitness Normandy Top 10 Guide ~ lists the best attractions, sights, museums and more across Normandy, brightly illustrated with maps, photography, and concise descriptions that make travel planning a breeze.
- Michelin Normandy road map ~ from the company that sets the standard for travel in Europe.
- Normandie Pass ~ a discount card that gives you reduced admission at more than 40 participating attractions, including discounts on local specialties, tastings, arts and crafts, science and discovery, and visits to farms and at local businesses.



**Day 2 ~ Drive to Caen:** Drive along the "Flowered Coastline" of seaside resorts to the heart of the Normandy D-Day beaches. (*Breakfast & accommodations, Bayeux or Caen*)

**Day 3 ~ Visit Le Memorial de Caen:** Visit *Le Mémorial de Caen* for a moving tour through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century starting with "The War to End All Wars", World War I, through the mid-war years that led to the devastation of World War II then on through the Cold War to today. (*Breakfast & accommodation, Bayeux or Caen*)

### The Landing Beaches



Omaha Beach today

As dawn broke on 6 June 1944, 9 battleships, 23 cruisers, 104 destroyers, and 71 landing craft plus troop transports, mine sweepers, and merchantmen, nearly 5,000 ships of every type, and the largest armada ever assembled off the shores of Normandy. A naval bombardment began at 5:50 a.m. then in the hours following over 100,000 fighting men fought ashore despite heavy casualties.



Utah Beach today

**Day 3 ~ Continued:** • Le Mémorial de Caen takes visitors on a journey through the Second World War with the theme of Peace and Human Rights. (Please present your voucher upon arrival at the Memorial. Hours: Daily 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. February 11 - November 11; 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., November 12 - December 24 + December 26 - 30. Closed Mondays.)



• Optional upgrade to The D-day Day Pass with entrance to the Memorial, with a guided tour of the Normandy Landing Beaches and an illustrated handbook. (Tour to Landing Beaches departs at 9:00 a.m. and lasts 4 to 5 hours with return to Le Memorial.)

**Day 4 ~ Drive to Mont-Saint-Michel:** Before you depart for Mt. St. Michel, make time for a visit on your own to see the famous Bayeux Tapestry in Bayeux commemorating William the Conqueror's victory in 1066. After a museum visit and lunch (both on your own) continue on to the magnificent Mont Saint Michel, one of the wonders of France and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (Breakfast, Caen or Bayeux; Accommodations, Mt St Michel)

• The Bayeux Tapestry (230 feet long and 20 inches wide) tells the story of the Norman invasion of England from the victor's perspective in a form an illiterate population could understand. The Tapestry Museum in Bayeux is open daily. (Admission not included)



• Le Mont-Saint-Michel (St. Michael's Mount) is a rocky tidal island in Normandy, located one half mile off the coast at the mouth of the Couesnon River near Avranches. According to legend, the archangel Michael appeared to St. Aubert, bishop of Avranches, in 708 and instructed him to build a church on the rocky islet. In the centuries since, it has been the site of a cathedral and village that today is the highlight of many Normandy holidays.

**Day 5 ~ Depart Mont-Saint-Michel:** Return rental car and depart for your next Avanti destination (Breakfast, Mt St Michel)

Normandy Driving Tour estimated driving times & distances ~

From / To	Time	Miles	From / To	Time	Miles
Paris Gare St Lazare to Rouen.....	1:10	(by rail)	Paris Gare St Lazare to Rouen (car)	1:30	81
Rouen to Honfluer.....	1:30	56	Honfleur to Caen.....	1:10	42
Rouen to Trouville-sur-Mer.....	1:30	58	Trouville-sur-Mer to Caen.....	1:00	38
Rouen to Pont-Audemer.....	1:00	36	Pont-Audemer to Caen.....	1:20	47
Caen to Bayeux.....	0:30	18	Caen to Mont-Saint-Michel.....	2:00	78

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent.

Agency label or business card here

