



**Decouvertes**  
Exclusive cultural tours  
Luxury independent Travel



## Following the footprints of the Allies...

### *Full day excursion to Arromanches, Omaha Beach & Pointe du Hoc*

Depart from Paris and go back to WWII in the footsteps of the allies during the landing day of June 6<sup>t</sup>, 1944. You will first visit Arromanches and its artificial harbor, then continue to Omaha beach and its American military cemetery and the Pointe du Hoc.

### **Make it with an Expert!**

**DECOUVERTES ADVICE for a special optional venue:** Visit the D-Day beaches with a former general of the American Army

*Please see the last page for more information*

### **Make it Memorable!**

**DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue:** Enjoy a half-day visit to Caen Memorial, the Museum for Peace.

*Please see the last page for more information*



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### *From Paris to Normandy*

7:00 am: Meet your driver-guide in the lobby of your hotel in Paris and drive to Normandy, where **you will follow the traces of the Allies during World War II.**

Relive June 6, 1944, and discover what it is known as “**The Longest Day**”. You will follow the roads taken by our liberators while listening to the local anecdotes that our guide will be happy to share with you.

This journey back in time will also give you the opportunity to appreciate **the charm of the small villages** with their old stone churches and the fortified farms that make up the Norman countryside.

Start your journey with a visit of **Arromanches** (3 hours drive from Paris). You can see this lovely village and the remains of the artificial harbor. Here you can visit the **D-Day Landing Museum**, built on the site of the artificial harbor constructed during the Second World War.

Depending on your schedule and your preferences from this point in Arromanches, you can easily go on to the other landing beaches and other main World War II sites.

Visit **Omaha beach**, for example, the beach which is depicted in the opening scenes of Steven Spielberg's, “Saving Private Ryan”. Omaha beach witnessed the most vicious fighting of World War II. Approximately **34 000 soldiers from the 1st, 2nd and 29th Infantry Divisions landed on this beach on D-Day**. The beach was covered in anti-tank and anti-landing craft obstacles.

Nearly all the pre-invasion bombarding had missed the fortifications along the beach and the geography of the beach itself, consisting of 80 to 100-foot bluffs rising up from the shore, was very easily defendable terrain for the Germans.

One of the German's only good quality front line Infantry Divisions was also present on the beach, purely by coincidence. This made the assault the most difficult of all the beaches on D-Day, earning the nickname “**Bloody Omaha**”.



Only a few days after the landings, **the Americans had transformed nearly the entire beach into a vast artificial harbor**, code named "Mulberry A".

It was used for less than a week before it was destroyed in a very heavy storm between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 22 June 1944. There is only one piece of this harbor left to be seen today.

Two kilometres (1.2mi) west along the beach from Omaha is the **American Military Cemetery**, where the graves of 9,386 American soldiers can be found.

This immense place of memory and reflection will amaze you with its calmness and serenity. **You can see the graves of some of the 307 unknown soldiers** or visit the resting places of the more famous, such as the Niland brothers, the family who inspired the film "Saving Private Ryan" as well as those who were awarded the Medal of Honor, one of whom is General Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

Enjoy lunch at leisure in a restaurant suggested by your driver.

You could also visit the "**Pointe du Hoc**". On this particularly favorable site, the Germans had built a heavy artillery battery capable of raking a wide stretch of coastline. It represented a formidable threat to the two beaches where American troops were going to land: **Utah Beach to the west and Omaha Beach to the east.**

After having scaled the 100-foot cliffs, under heavy enemy fire, the **Rangers pushed on through this lunar landscape to capture and destroy the six heavy guns** capable of firing their shells to a maximum range of nearly 15 miles. Colonel Rudder and his men only realized upon capturing the battery that the Germans, under the orders of Rommel, had moved the guns half a mile inland and hidden them while bunkers were being constructed to protect them.

The overpowering of **Pointe du Hoc was a long and laborious fight**, with the Rangers being left to fend for themselves two days longer than had been planned. The 2nd Battalion suffered very heavy casualties during the two and a half days they were at Pointe du Hoc, only 90 of the original 225 still fighting when they were finally relieved.

Drive back to Paris at the end of the afternoon (*3 hours drive*).





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*NB: Please note that some sites mentioned in the itinerary might not be available every day or all year long.  
We suggest you check with our Production Managers*

### *This package includes*

- Deluxe Sedan or Minivan which can carry up to 6 passengers
- Services of a professional English-speaking licensed guide-driver who is licensed to guide and accompany you on walking tours, as well as into museums and monuments
- Découvertes fees
- Emergency 24-hour assistance available during your stay
- All taxes

### *This package does not include*

- Entrance fees
- Tips
- Lunch or dinner

### **Découvertes can also suggest:**

- Pre-payment of all entrance fees to museums and other sites.
- Lunch reservations



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## *Make it Optional*

### **Make it with an Expert!**

#### ***DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an exclusive optional venue***

Enjoy a full day visiting D-Day beaches with an American expert former Brigadier General. You will visit the WWII sites with the input of the military expert including Arromanches artificial harbor, Omaha Beach and its cemetery, and the Pointe du Hoc.

This excursion is perfect for those who wish to have a deeper knowledge of World War II.

*Please contact us for more information and price. Upon request and availability.*



### **Make it Memorable!**

#### ***DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue***

Officially named "Le Mémorial de Caen, un musée pour la paix" (The Caen Memorial, a Museum for Peace), the Caen Memorial is regarded as the best World War II museum in France. Established in 1988, the Caen Memorial focuses on the events leading up to and after D-Day (Jour J). You will walk through an excellent five-part presentation: the lead-up to World War II; the Battle of Normandy; two powerful video presentations; the Cold War; and the ongoing movement for peace. Continue onto the last section which includes a Gallery of Nobel Peace Prizes, celebrating such figures as Andrei Sakharov, Elie Wiesel and Desmond Tutu.



*Please contact us for more information and price. Visit available everyday. Upon request and availability.*

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