Normandy... Behind the Scenes

Finding France offers a unique perspective from the moment you set foot in Normandy. Meet extraordinarily talented craftsmen and discuss with passionate masters sharing the lore of how things came to be. Quaint and comfortable lodging will sustain the quest to uncover the far-reaching roots of local culture. Guided with gusto throughout the all-inclusive customized tour – fine dining included! – this will be the experience of a lifetime. For any duration from 1 to 6 days, we will work with and for you to plot out a truly authentic journey.

Here's our recommended itinerary for a 4-day and 3-night tour:

- Day 1: Giverny and arrival in Bayeux
- Day 2: Available options:
 - Option 1: D-Day beaches
 - Option 2: Bayeux and its craftsmen
- Day 3: Mont-Saint-Michel (option: spend a night on the Mont!)
- Day 4: Camembert, Apple Cider and Calvados







Giverny and arrival in Bayeux

DAY 1

MORNING

- Pick-up from the place of your choice (Paris and surrounding area)
- Meet a local (artist, gardener...)
- Peek into the life of Claude Monet, the painter who invented Impressionism, as you trod upon the cobblestones in Giverny, his hometown.
- Enter the house he lived in and meet the muses of his inspiration: fabulous rare flower gardens and a certain famous pond... waterlilies included!

AFTERNOON

- Take a walk in historical downtown Honfleur, complete with its century-old fishport.
 Meditate in awe and wonder in the largest wood-built church of all France: Sainte-Catherine.
- Possible alternative: head off to Bayeux right from the start.

AVAILABLE OPTIONS*

Instead of the suggested activities in the main itinerary

- Museum of Impressionists
- Museum of old industrial machines of the 19th century
- More options upon request





D-Day beaches

DAY 2 - Option 1

AMERICAN ROUTE:

- Cross the magnificent Normandy countryside with its green meadows and its cow farms.
- Discover the following sites: Omaha Beach, Normandy American Cemetery, Gold Beach with Arrromanches and remnants of Mulberry Harbor, one of the largest artificial ports ever built to land Allied troops.

If you have relatives who fought in the 1944 Battle of Normandy, he'll delve into historical databases and pinpoint exactly where and when your ancestor set foot on Norman soil.

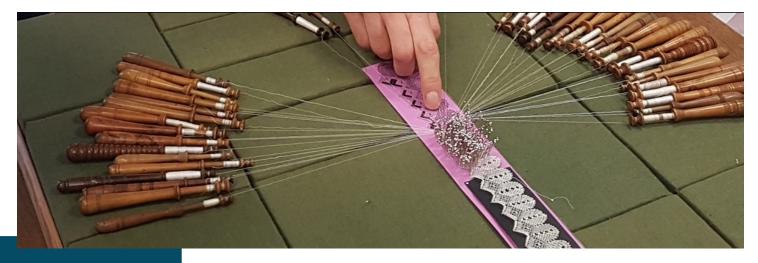
AFTERNOON

 Meet a local cheese producer that will explain to you the traditional process of making his own typical cheese from Normandy.

AVAILABLE OPTIONS*

Instead of the suggested activities in the main itinerary

- Utah Beach
- Sainte-Mère-Église where the parachutist John Steel was trapped on the church tower
- American Airborne sector
- Pointe du Hoc with remnants of the bombing
- Canadian route available on request
- More options upon request





Bayeux and its craftsmen

DAY 2 - Option 2

MORNING

 Walk through Bayeux: historical down-town, XIth century cathedral, charming medieval streets, and tapestry dating from 1066 made by the wife of William the Conqueror.

AFTERNOON

 Get to know craftswomen working in the center of Bayeux:
 Angelique (milliner), Aline (ceramic painter), Véronique (lacemaker).

AVAILABLE OPTIONS*

Instead of the suggested activities in the main itinerary

- Meet local producers on a weekly market.
- Meet up with Jean-Pierre and François in their apple orchard, where they produce small batches of cider. Visit their cider brewery and cellar. Sample their fully natural products.
- Meet oyster farmers as they battle to preserve the environment and their ecosystem. Visit the oyster breeding grounds at low tide.







Mont-Saint-Michel

DAY 3

MORNING

- Roam through lush green valleys of the Normandy countryside with fields of emerald green dotted with beefy cows.
- Tour the medieval portion of Mont-Saint-Michel, including the XVth century castle walls and the XIIIth century abbey.
- Sample Pommeau, a local spirit derived from apples, and snack on famed Norman cookies.

2-day tour recommended: Spend a night on the Mont!

AFTERNOON

- Get to know Emmanuel, a bubbly shopowner cracking joke upon joke as he mans his shop on the cobblestone Grand Rue at the heart of Mont-Saint-Michel. He'll tell you all about his family's arrival on the Mount... in 1680!
- Saunter through the winding narrow streets of this timeless heavenly land between sea and sky.

AVAILABLE OPTIONS*

Instead of the suggested activities in the main itinerary

- Private guided visit of the Mont Saint Michel by night in a quiet environment.
 Sleep on the Mont!
- Ride like the wind during a horse-back outing across the bay at low tide
- Cross the Mont-Saint-Michel bay on foot with a qualified quide
- Let an pilot enamoured with the area fly you over the estuary







Camembert, Apple Cider and Calvados

DAY 4

MORNING

- Behind-the-scenes visit of an active cheesemaker near the Camembert village and see his cows or his goats!

Sample 3 typical cheeses: Camembert, Livarot and Pont-l'Evêque.

AFTERNOON

 Visit an apple cider and calvados producer in his distillery. Taste his best vintage bottles: 8 years, 12 years, and Timeless.

AVAILABLE OPTIONS*

Instead of the suggested activities in the main itinerary

 Visit the majestic Lisieux basilica and open your heart to "the Little Flower", Saint Therese, one of the greatest mystical saints of the XIXth century.

Lunching and Dining

At Finding France, we strive to provide you with exceptional dining experiences suited to your particulier tastes. If you choose to include meals in your tour*, we will plan out together the types and standing of restaurants that you would like to try so that your experience is unforgettable!



















Example of restaurants and experiences. Non-contractual photos.

*Breakfast is included in the price of all packages; lunch and dinner are optional.

Experience the French "art de vivre"

At Finding France, we offer you a unique selection of elegant boutique hotels.

















Example of accommodation. Non-contractual photo.

Travel in intimate, private groups, starting from 2 persons.

Discover the France of your dreams – from the destinations we offer, you decide which to visit and how long your stay at each should last.

Booking your travel experience through Finding France ensures authentic relationships with local artisans and directly supports the local economy.

A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER...

CLÉMENT DECRÉ

Finding France arose from an intuition that visiting France in a more authentic and friendly manner was possible. Time is precious, and taking the time is the true meaning of leisure.

Whether you travel as a couple, as a family, or with friends, my endeavor to serve comes from the heart.

My goal is for you to create lasting memories – all in your own time.







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Travelling with Finding France helps support local French craftspeople and producers!

STAY SAFE WITH FINDING FRANCE

The health and safety of our guests is of utmost importance to us.

Our private tours are designed to preserve your social bubble against Covid-19.

We implement stringent safety measures to protect you against Covid-19.

Daily disinfection of the vehicle with a virucidal agent, face masks and hydro-alcoholic gel provided everyday, whenever requested. Once you are in France, we pick you up at your doorstep and drop you off after the tour at the location of your choice.

Physical contact is limited to the strict minimum.

Given the constant evolution of the epidemic, we recommend that all guests review their own country's local travel guidance and health advisories, as issued by health authorities, related to this outbreak.

Please click the link below leading to the France Diplomacy website. It details all entrance requirements for foreign travellers:

https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/