Anglo French Tour | Normandy, Brittany, Channel Islands tour

May 18 2020 to Jun 08 2020

Normandy, Brittany, Channel Islands tour

Odyssey Traveller’s fully escorted Anglo French small group tour is designed for senior or mature travellers and couples or solo travellers are all welcome. The Normandy, Brittany, Channel Islands tour begins by exploring the northwest corner of France. We then cross the English Channel to the tiny autonomous Channel Islands of Jersey, Guernsey, and Sark. The tour finally spends two nights on the historic Isle of Wight before concluding in London, England.
Itinerary of the Normandy, Brittany, Channel Islands tour

Our fully escorted Small group history tour combines the dramatic scenery of Normandy and Brittany with the quirky history and natural beauty of the Channel Islands, including the Isle of Wight.

After an initial night in Paris, we move to the peaceful verdant landscape of Normandy.

Our tour begins in earnest by heading to Giverny, stopping off on the way at Monet’s House and Gardens. After a walking tour of the Gardens, we continue to Rouen where we have time to explore this area. Our coach continues to Bayeux for an overnight stay and dinner at a local restaurant.

Our next stop is Normandy, with its diversity of landscape and rich heritage. Normandy derived its name from the Viking Norsemen who made Rouen their capital. Here, the image of apple orchards, contented cows, cider, and pungent cheese belies a more turbulent past. After the conquest of Britain it became part of the Plantagenet Empire and is now regarded as a typically French region. Normandy’s peaceful pastoral landscape belies its historic conquests and devastating experiences during World War II. Our small group tour also explores Normandy’s D-Day Beaches, museums, and monuments. Here, we learn about how Normandy’s history has been inextricably linked to that of Britain. How its history, heritage, and culture have been influential since the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066. You experience Normandy’s historic cities, its typical villages, its artistic heritage, local produce, and cuisine.

We then travel to Brittany. While here, we experience the strongly separate Celtic culture on a wild seafaring peninsula dotted with mysterious standing stones and dolmens. Other highlights of this educational tour include visits to Brittany’s Standing Stones at Carnac. We also explore the fortified port of Malo and the ancient Concarneau. Before departing for the Channel islands we stop to explore and learn about the iconic World Heritage site the Monastery, Mont St Michel.
Leaving the Carentan peninsula by ferry, we take the short crossing to the Channel Islands of **Jersey** and **Guernsey** boast charming historic ports and towns such as **St Helier** and St Peter. You learn on the Anglo French small group tour that the islands are not part of the United Kingdom but are British Crown Dependencies. They are a delightful mix of English and French culture. While tiny **Sark** is like a medieval hereditary time warp with its formal gardens of La Seigneurie and lack of motor vehicles. Here, we take a walking tour of the Island of Sark, with its strong and quirky history of self-governance.

We also have the chance to see the **Isle of Wight**, a favoured holiday spot for Britain’s royalty in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The Isle of Wight is known for its stunning coastal scenery, its world-famous sailing, and the old world charm of its Victorian seaside resorts. It has a rich history. Queen Victoria had her summer residence and final home, Osborne House, built on the island where we enjoy a private tour of the house whilst staying in the Island before concluding the tour in London.

**Collection of Tours to France to discover**

The Normandy, Brittany, Channel Islands tour is one of more than 10 escorted tours to France offered each year by Odyssey Travel. [This link details all Odyssey’s tours to France for you to view.](https://www.odysseytraveller.com.au) These tours are particularly suited to mature couples as well as the solo traveller who enjoy learning as they travel around this fascinating country.

Odyssey Traveller has more than 140 tours on offer each year across a range of countries and continents.

Head over to our blog for travel tips and [a guide to touring France](https://www.odysseytraveller.com.au)! For more details, click the ‘Top 5’ or ‘Itinerary’ buttons above! If you’re keen to experience this tour, [please call](https://www.odysseytraveller.com.au) or [send an email](https://www.odysseytraveller.com.au). Or, to book,
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Top 5

1. See Brittany’s Standing Stones at Carnac, the fortified port of Malo, and the ancient Concarneau.
2. Explore the Isle of Wight, favoured holiday spot for Britain’s royalty in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.
3. Visit and explore the World heritage site Mont St Michel.
4. Explore Normandy’s D-Day Beaches, museums, and monuments.
5. Experience the French atmosphere of the British Channel Islands.

Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Paris

Overview: Upon arrival in Paris, we will come to the hotel individually. There is time to relax and freshen up before our welcome meeting and dinner, where the tour host will introduce you to the rest of the group.

Accommodation: 1 night at Hotel Relais Monceau or similar.

Day 2

Locations: Paris - Bayeux

Overview: In the morning we depart from Paris, stopping first to visit the Fondation Monet House. We have lunch individually before continuing to Rouen, where we will have time to explore the area with the Tour Leader. Our coach then continues to Bayeux, where we will have dinner at our hotel. Normandy, with its diversity of landscape and rich heritage, derived its name from the Viking Norsemen, who made Rouen their capital. After the conquest of Britain it became part of the Plantagenet Empire, and is now regarded as a typically French region of apple orchards, contented cows, cider, and pungent cheeses. Normandy’s peaceful pastoral landscape belies its historic conquests and devastating experiences during World War II. We will learn about how Normandy’s history has been inextricably linked to that of Britain and how its history, heritage and culture have been influential since the
time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 through to the 20th century. We will experience Normandy’s historic cities, its typical villages, its artistic heritage, local produce, and cuisine.

**Accommodation:** 4 nights at Hotel Churchill or similar.

**Day 3**

**Locations:** Bayeux

**Overview:** Today we will have a city tour of Caen, where William the Conqueror’s favoured residence was located. We will visit the Abbaye aux Hommes and the Abbaye aux Dames, both of which were constructed in the 11th century under the instruction of William the Conqueror and his wife.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Churchill or similar.

**Day 4**

**Locations:** Bayeux

**Overview:** Today we will have a full day touring the D Day Beaches with a battlefield expert, making visits to Omaha beach, the D Day Landing Museum and a German artillery battery.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Churchill or similar.

**Day 5**

**Locations:** Bayeux

**Overview:** Today we will visit the medieval city of Bayeux. First stop is a visit to the see the famous Bayeux Tapestry, the 70 meter long strip of embroidered linen that tells the story of the Norman's conquest of England in 1066. We then transfer to Ducy Vergers de Ducy, where we will taste the regions ciders, juices and calvados.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Churchill or similar.

**Day 6**

**Locations:** Bayeux to Rennes

**Overview:** En route to Brittany we explore the impressive island of Mont-St-Michel
Linked to mainland France via a narrow causeway, the fortified island has had strategic value for over a millennium. Walking up the island's winding streets, the town's architecture survives as the final manifestation of the ideas of feudalism. Tourists first walk past the houses for the fishermen and farmers at the bottom of the island, then up through the twisting commercial district, before climbing past the great halls of the nobility and finally reaching the monastery, perched at the top of the island. We then continue to Rennes, arriving in time for dinner at the hotel.

**Accommodation:** 1 night at Mercure Centre Gare or similar.

**Day 7**

**Locations:** Rennes to Fouesnant

**Overview:** We have a guided tour this morning of Rennes viewing the main historic sights. We travel onto Vannes with free time in the afternoon to explore. Late afternoon we travel onto Fouesnant on the west coast of France in Brittany, with a dinner at the hotel in the evening. Its rugged shores washed by the Atlantic, Brittany has a strong Celtic heritage. It is a wild seafaring peninsula dotted with mysterious standing stones, dolmens, and cromlechs. Bretons have their own language and cuisine, with the Duchy of Brittany not becoming part of France until the 15th century. The gentle scenery of the southern Breton coastline contrasts with the rugged grandeur of the north.

**Accommodation:** 4 nights at Hotel Mona Lisa Cap Coz

**Day 8**

**Locations:** Fouesnant

**Overview:** Today we will enjoy local treats in Benodet, before travelling on to the ancient cathedral city of Quimper for a city tour.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Mona Lisa Cap Coz or similar.
Day 9

Locations: Fouesnant

Overview: Today we will have a guided tour of the megalithic standing stones in Carnac, which are as old as Stonehenge, and explore the Quiberon Peninsula. We then drive on to Lorient, where we will have a guided tour, followed by a visit to the Flore submarine museum. To finish the days activities, we will take an hour-long boat tour of Pleasure Boat Harbour, renowned for its scenic views.

Accommodation: Hotel Mona Lisa Cap Coz or similar.

Day 10

Locations: Fouesnant

Overview: Today we will have a guided tour of the main sights of Concarneau. The town has two distinct areas: the modern town on the mainland, and the medieval walled town Ville Close, which sits on an island and is separated from the mainland by a drawbridge. Having walked through the city, we will take a boat cruise across the town’s beautiful bay. You will then have some free time to explore the artistic village Pont-Aven, before we return for a group dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Mona Lisa Cap Coz or similar.

Day 11

Locations: Fouesnant to Trebeurden

Overview: Today we make the trip from Fouesnant to Trebeurden. We stop off at several points to visit a few of the region's quintessential parish churches in the morning. Continuing our journey in the afternoon, we will also stop to take a tour of the 7 Isles in Perros-Guirec.

Accommodation: 1 night at Hotel Aigue Marine or similar

Day 12

Locations: Dinan

Overview: In the morning we transfer to cote d'Amor, before heading on to Tregastel, where we will visit the local aquarium and delve into
the town's wartime history. Next we travel to Dinan, one of the most attractive and well-preserved towns in Brittany, where we will have a guided tour, followed by dinner in the hotel.

**Accommodation:** 1 night at Hotel Le Challonge or similar

### Day 13

**Locations:** St Helier, Jersey

**Overview:** In the morning we depart Dinan and enjoy a walking tour of St Malo before heading to the port of St Malo where we take our ferry to the Channel Island of Jersey. We will have dinner at the hotel. Measuring less than 120 square kilometres, the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey are smaller than the Bailiwick of Jersey (less than 80 square kilometres) and together with the Bailiwick of Guernsey (less than 80 square kilometres) it forms the grouping known as the Channel Islands. These are separate possessions of the British Crown and are not part of the UK. Their history and culture are influenced by their strategic location between the northern coast of France and the southern coast of England. Formerly under the control of Brittany, invaded by Vikings, and annexed to the Duchy of Normandy, they emerged as miniature self-governing territories. The islands have a seafaring tradition and their trade with the Newfoundland fisheries gave rise to the name New Jersey in the US. Trade further laid the foundations of these attractive islands’ prosperity as well as agriculture (Jersey and Guernsey cows are recognisable the world over), milling, fishing, shipbuilding, and financial services. Each island has its own heritage and patois, but during World War II they were the only part of the British Isles to be occupied by Nazi Germany. Both islands boast charming historic ports and towns such as St Helier and St Peter Port as well as famous former residents like the actress Lillie Langtry (the Jersey Lily) and Victor Hugo, who wrote some of his best-known works while in exile in Guernsey.

**Accommodation:** 3 nights at La Pomme d'Or or similar.

### Day 14

**Locations:** St Helier

**Overview:** Today we will tour the town and port of St Helier. We will visit the Jersey Museum and see the Occupation Tapestry, made to
celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Island’s liberation, this richly coloured tapestry tells the story of life in Jersey during the Second World War. We will make the short journeys to Grouville and Gorey, where we will visit La Hogue Bie site and the dramatic Castle of Mont Orgueil respectively.

**Accommodation:** La Pomme d'Or or similar.

**Day 15**

**Locations:** St. Helier

**Overview:** On Jersey we learn about the island’s history and culture as we explore the capital St. Helier on a guided walking tour. We learn about the occupation of the island with a visit to the Jersey War Tunnels. Built by the Germans during World War II, over 1km of tunnels maze their way beneath Jersey’s surface. We then finish the day with visits to the iconic lighthouse in Corbierre and stop off at the beautiful St Aubins Bay.

**Accommodation:** La Pomme d'Or or similar.

**Day 16**

**Locations:** Jersey to Guernsey

**Overview:** After breakfast we visit Elizabeth Castle, which has stood guard over Jersey for more than 300 years. We will have some free time for more exploring before boarding the ferry to Guernsey, where we will explore the bustling cobble-stoned streets of St. Peter Port. We tour the island and view its soaring cliffs and rural backdrops, before making our way to the hotel for a group dinner.

**Accommodation:** 3 nights at Duke of Richmond Hotel or similar.

**Day 17**

**Locations:** Guernsey

**Overview:** Today we will make our way to the Occupation Museum, which houses a rare collection of original documents and items from the war. We will then continue on to les Vauxbelets, where we will visit the Little Chapel, before having lunch as a group at a local farmhouse.
Accommodation: Duke of Richmond Hotel or similar.

Day 18

Locations: Guernsey

Overview: We will take a ferry to the neighbouring islet of Sark to visit its Seigneurie Gardens, where we take a scenic carriage ride. The island has no cars and has been traditionally run almost feudally by its Seigneur under powers granted by Elizabeth I. There has been some recent reform and Sark now comes under the government of Guernsey, but it is still a fascinating and tranquil place to visit, known for its dramatic seascapes, abundant wildflowers, and seabirds.

Accommodation: Duke of Richmond Hotel or similar.

Day 19

Locations: Portsmouth

Overview: Before we head off to Portsmouth, we have a guided tour of Hauteville House, Victor Hugo’s former home. We also take time to explore the Dorey Centre with entrance to see the Guernsey Tapestry. From Guernsey we take the Ferry to Poole, which takes approximately 3.5 hours. On arrival we’ll transfer to Portsmouth for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: 1 night at Holiday Inn Portsmouth or similar.

Day 20

Locations: Cowes

Overview: After breakfast we take the ferry to Isle of Wight and on arrival enjoy a full day exploring the island. Late afternoon we transfer to Cowes where we stay overnight, where a meal is provided. The Isle of Wight is England’s largest island, separated from the mainland by the Solent. The island is known for its outstanding natural beauty, its world-famous sailing, and the old world charm of its Victorian seaside resorts. It has a rich history, including a brief status as an independent kingdom in the 15th century. Until 1995, in common with Jersey and Guernsey, the island had its own Governor, most notably Lord
Mountbatten. It was home to the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson, and to Queen Victoria, who built her much loved summer residence and final home Osborne House at East Cowes. The island's maritime and industrial history encompasses boat building, sail making and the manufacture of flying boats. The island has some exceptional wildlife and is one of the richest locations of dinosaur fossils in Europe. On the Isle of Wight, we learn about the geology and history of this island with a guided tour to include the historic Victorian seaside resorts of Ventnor and Shanklin. We will see the dramatic coastal scenery of the Needles, the old port of Yarmouth, ancient Carisbrooke Castle which once held Charles I prisoner, Newport, the island’s capital, and Cowes, famed for its sailing regatta.

**Accommodation:** 1 night at Holmwood Hotel or similar.

**Day 21**

**Locations:** London

**Overview:** In the morning we will visit Queen Victoria’s Osborne House and local sights in Cowes with some free time. We take a coach to Fishbourne Port and then take the ferry to Southampton with a coach transfer to London. Our farewell dinner this evening will be in a local restaurant.

**Accommodation:** 1 night at Copthorne Tara or similar.

**Day 22**

**Locations:** London

**Overview:** Our tour concludes after breakfast.

**Accommodation:**

**Inclusions / Exclusions**

**What’s included in our Tour**

- 21 nights hotel accommodation.
- 21 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 10 dinners.
- Touring by comfortable modern coach with ferry links between islands.
• Transport and field trips as indicated.
• Applicable entry fees and services of local guides.
• Services of a Tour Leader.
• Gratuities and necessary tips.
• Detailed tour information booklet.

What’s not included in our Tour

• Return international airfares and departure taxes.
• Comprehensive travel insurance.
• Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.