



*The Traveling Professor Presents*

## **PARIS AND THE NORMANDY INVASION BEACHES with MONT ST-MICHEL**

### **TENTATIVE ITINERARY**

#### **Day 1**

Travelers depart from their home airport and join the rest of the group in Paris. Later that afternoon, meet with your tour leader and our small group of travelers. After a brief introduction enjoy an overview of Paris with a relaxing cruise down the Seine River. With the Eiffel Tower sparkling in the background, sail past the Louvre, Notre Dame, and Orsay down the center of Paris.

#### **Day 2**

After breakfast, depart Paris via train to Bayeux, our headquarters in Normandy. Upon arrival, check in, have lunch, and go on a professionally guided walking tour of Bayeux along with a visit to the famous Bayeux tapestries. Charming Bayeux provides good dining, shopping, and other historic attractions.

#### **Day 3**

This morning we start the tour where it all began, Pegasus Bridge. Follow in the footsteps of the British attackers to walk across the bridge to Café Gondrée, the first structure liberated on D-Day. Madame Gondrée, who lived there as a 5-year old girl, tends to customers to this day. We plan on visiting the nearby Commonwealth cemetery, Sword and Juno beaches, the site of Ouisterham Casino and the Commandos Memorial. Finish up at Arromanches and the Mulberry artificial harbor. Our professional tour guide tells the stories you've never heard before of the strategy, bravery, and leadership that made the invasion a success.

#### **Day 4**

American paratroopers jumped into Normandy the night before the land invasion. Soon after, gliders crash landed into the countryside. We visit those sites and hear unbelievable stories of bravery by heroes like Private Charles DeGlopper at La Fiére and Major Dick Winters at Brecourt Manor. We have special permission to visit the grounds at Brecourt Manor. A visit to Sainte-Mère-Église brings us up close and personal with the battle. It is on to Utah Beach to put our feet on the same sand the heroes did when the landing ramps dropped and they were given the orders to "go". A visit to the new Utah Beach Museum, with a private tour, is the best display of equipment, aircraft and weapons used in the battle. We go on to visit the bomb craters, pillboxes, and cliffs of Pointe du Hoc where Lt. Col. James Rudder and 225 Rangers overcame unbelievable resistance to take the enemy. No visit is complete without entering the Church of Angoville-au-Plain, still bearing the scars of war. Hear the tale of two American medics responsible for perhaps the greatest acts of mercy on that fateful day. If time permits, there is a visit to the German cemetery at La Cambe.

#### **Day 5**

Our last and most memorable day on the beaches. Begin by visiting the gun emplacement at Longues-sur-Mer. Then it is onto the sands of "Easy Red" at Omaha beach. If like the others who have visited, you will be frozen in stunned silence while facing the same landscape from the viewpoint our men faced when they exited the landing craft and hit the beach. Everyone always asks, "how did they do it?" Our professional guides tell of the courage, incredible daring and risks taken to overcome what seemed like an impossible task. No description can be given of a visit to the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. Words cannot express the emotions brought about when confronted with the monuments, crosses, and Stars of David honoring the fallen. Our last visit is to Vierville Draw, "Dog Green" sector. It was here the National Guard unit from Bedford, Virginia landed and faced brutal resistance as the first wave of invaders. The "Bedford Boys" proportionately took the greatest sacrifice of any unit in the invasion. See the pillboxes, guns, and obstacles confronted on the way to victory. Hear the descriptions of courage and grit while standing on the hallowed ground where the fighting took place.

### **Day 6**

Mont St-Michel is truly one of the wonders of the world. Perched on a rocky islet about half a mile off the Norman coast, the ancient abbey rises above the clouds in a stunning setting. Our private vans provides round-trip transportation with a guide as well as admission to the abbey.

### **Day 7**

It's getaway day. We are scheduled to take the train back to Paris St. Lazare station (2 ½ hour trip). Please schedule airline departure for after 2 pm. Options are available for those wishing to spend more time in Paris or to stay in Normandy to visit Mont St. Michel.

## **ABOUT OUR TOURS**

Since each tour is planned with traveler input, your tour may be slightly different. We always add in "off the itinerary" sites of interest. Adjustments may be made for crowd management, weather, special events, or conditions beyond our control.

We travel with to 8-15 people. This offers the opportunity to do what we want to do, on our own schedule. We have access to places those big bus tours simply cannot get to. We provide all local transportation as well as admission to those sites listed on the itinerary.

Breakfast is included each morning at all hotels. Every day we plan a relaxing lunch and dinner. Please join us or go out on your own - we are glad to offer our best recommendations.

Our guide is with us during the day. Tour leaders are with the group 24/7. Unless otherwise noted, we ask travelers to be ready to go at 8:30 a.m. for a full and active day of touring.

Did you know someone who participated in the D-Day invasion? Send us as much info as possible (name, company, state of residence) and we will do our best to research and report back to you.

Well before departure date, each traveler is supplied with a "final" detailed itinerary along with a complete and detailed information packet. It has advice on packing, money matters, passports, weather, etc. We make sure travelers are well-prepared.

**For complete information on this tour including dates and pricing at  
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