



## *Itinerary for a Five Day History Study Tour to Normandy.*

*Dates: To Be Decided.*



*The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the holiday itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The visit will be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The director is able to run the holiday according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.*

### **ACCOMMODATION**



**The Hotel Ibis\*\***

**Rouen Sud Zenith, Rouen. Tel: 00 33 235660363**

Our hotel lies on Rouen's left bank near to the Parc des Expositions. It is close to the shopping area of St. Sever & the heart of the Old City of Rouen is within a 5 minute drive along the river.

There are excellent swimming, ice-skating, bowling and indoor tennis facilities close at hand as well as forests above the city where we have our picnics.

A modern hotel, the Ibis offers 90 one, two or three bedded rooms, all with on-suite facilities and televisions. All are serviced daily. There are conference rooms, a stylish restaurant, lifts and a lounge bar.

# DAY ONE

- 07.30 Coach arrives at School.
- 08.00 Depart School. Onward transfer to Folkestone.
- 10.00 E.T.A. Eurotunnel Terminal, Folkestone. Check in for next crossing.
- 11.00 Depart Folkestone.
- 12.35 Arrival at Calais. Onward transfer to Rouen.

(Note: Continental time is one hour in advance of British time)

16.00 **Guided Walking Tour of Ancient Rouen.**

The Tour Director will conduct a guided visit of the city centre. This will include the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Rue de l'Horloge and the Old Market Place, where Jean d'Arc was burned at the stake. The pupils will sit on the ruins of the original market church while the Tour Director tells the story of the life and death of the Saint. After a coffee break and an opportunity for shopping in the pedestrianised Rue de l'Horloge, the morning's excursions will end with a walk through the medieval streets and alleyways. We will pass the actual courthouse where Jean d'Arc was tried to get to the Old Burial Pits of St. Maclou - closely associated with the Black Death of 1350. The Tour Director will give an account of the Black Death in Rouen and examine the soil for remains of human bone, which often work their way to the surface. Behind a glass sheet the pupils will be able to look into a wall cavity to see a mummified black cat that died in Rouen during the Black Death. Today St. Maclou is one of the most prestigious art schools in France.

18.00 **Dinner at Flunch Restaurant, Rouen.**  
[www.flunch.fr](http://www.flunch.fr)

19.30 Onward transfer to Hotel Ibis.

20.15 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

On arrival at the hotel: Participants are requested to identify their luggage from the forecourt and take it into the hotel vestibule. Rooms will be allocated and participants given their keys.

## DAY TWO

- 08.00 Breakfast.
- 09.00 Coach transfer to Pegasus Bridge.
- 10.30 **Visit to Pegasus Bridge.**

In order to prevent the Allied attack on the Normandy Beaches from being defeated by heavy German panzer attacks on the Eastern flank, it was decided that the two bridges spanning the Caen Canal would have to be captured prior to the landing of the main attacking force.

On the night of the 5th June 1944 a force of 181 men landed silently in six Horsa gliders landed 40 yards from their objectives at 16 minutes past midnight. The attackers poured out of their battered gliders, completely surprising the German defenders, & captured the bridge after a 10 minute firefight. The British attackers had time to set up defences in preparation for the inevitable German counter-attack, which came at 02.10 - 2 hours after the gliders had landed. Reinforced by paratroopers, the British troops repelled the attack by the 21st Panzer Division. This highly important battle prevented the Germans from defeating the Normandy liberators & the story was depicted in the film *'The Longest Day'*.

We will visit the Pegasus Bridge Museum & will view the original bridge & the cafe which is run by a lady who was a small child living in the same house during the night of the battle & liberation.

- 11.30 Transfer to Bayeux.
- 12.45 Lunch in Bayeux.
- 13.00 **Visit to The Bayeux Tapestry.**

During our journey to Bayeux the Director will tell pupils about the city and the tapestry, in particular the Battle of Hastings and the liberation of the city in 1944.

The Tapestry exhibition offers a number of attractions:

- 1. A model of a Norman soldier on horseback.**  
Here we talk about the soldier's armour, his saddle and his use of stirrups which had a marked effect on the outcome of the battle.
- 2. An exhibition illustrating the stages of William the Conqueror's campaign.**  
There are also life-sized models taken from the tapestry. We will use these to introduce the pupils to the characters involved in the story.
- 3. A film, in English, describing the campaign.**  
This lasts for 20 minutes and is very informative and interesting.
- 4. The tapestry itself.**

Participants can use headphones to listen to the story of the tapestry as they view each stage.

**5. A spacious shop**

This sells an excellent range of postcards, posters, books etc.

We will then return to the coach which will be waiting for us in a conveniently located special coach park.

14.30 **The Allied Cemetery, Bayeux.**

We will pause to pay a brief visit to the graves of those Allied (and some German) soldiers that were killed during the first few days of the Normandy campaign. The youngest person in the cemetery is a 14 year old English private and the northern end of the cemetery contains many German soldiers who were killed in their defence of Bayeux.

15.00 Transfer to Arromanches.

15.30 **The Arromanches D-day Landing Beaches.**

The Invasion Beaches lie only 11 kilometres from Bayeux. Here the visit will be divided into two parts:

1. An inspection and explanation of 'The Mulberry Harbour'.
2. Recreation on the beach. We usually hold a sandcastle competition with ice-creams as prizes.

17.00 Transfer to Caen.

18.00 **Dinner at the Flunch Restaurant in Caen.**

19.30 Transfer to Hotel Ibis, Rouen.

21.00 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Rouen.

## DAY TWO

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Coach transfer to Caen.

11.00 **Visit to the Memorial Museum, Caen.**

This is generally regarded as one of the most comprehensive D-Day Landings Museums in the world. It is a modern museum built over what was the Command Centre of the German defences after the D-Day Landings. The museum uses sophisticated technology to illustrate Europe's descent into the Second World War, the Occupation of France, the D-Day Landings, the Holocaust & the Liberation. This museum is enhanced by a good cafeteria, shop & library facilities.

13.00 Lunch.

14.30 **Visit to The American Cemetery, Omaha Beach.**

The Americans showed considerable bravery in securing Omaha Beach. The history has become well known as a result of Steven Spielberg's film 'Saving Private Ryan' which outlines the capturing of this exact beach as well as events in the ensuing Battle of Normandy. We will visit the awe-inspiring American Military Cemetery at Colleville before following the steep footpath, past several monuments, down to the beach itself, where amateurs with metal detectors still find shrapnel, buttons and bullets even today.

16.30 **Visit to The German IIWW Gun Batteries, Longueville.**

The German Gun Batteries at Longueville formed part of the formidable Atlantic Wall defences against an Allied invasion. The gun batteries remain largely intact & the iron gun barrels remain pointing out to sea as they had during the war. Some of the gun batteries show evidence of having been fought over & others contain plaques commemorating the regiments that successfully captured them on D Day. We will have time to explore the five huge gun emplacements before walking towards the sea to view another defensive gun platform.

17.00 Transfer to Caen.

17.45 **Bowling at the Caen Bowling Alley.**

Pupils will enjoy bowling at the Caen Bowling Alley in teams of seven per lane. Prizes will be provided for the highest scorers.

19.00 Transfer to Flunch Restaurant, Caen.

19.30 Dinner at the Flunch Restaurant in Caen.

21.00 Transfer to Hotel Ibis, Rouen.

22.15 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Rouen.

## DAY FOUR

08.00 Breakfast & loading of luggage into coach.

09.00 Onward transfer to The Pas de Calais Region.

12.00 **The Batterie Todt Gun Emplacement.**

This huge fortified gun emplacement was a key part of the formidable 'Atlantic Wall' German fortifications that protected the Channel coast from the threat of an Allied invasion. We will have a guided tour of this gun battery both above & below ground. On a clear day, the U.K. coastline is clearly visible & it is easy to imagine Hitler scanning our coast through binoculars on his visit to the gun in 1943. In the network of concrete tunnels underneath the battery, pupils will see the crew's sleeping quarters, the officers' quarters, the munition areas & the power turbine that moved the huge cannon above. There are many original Nazi artefacts such as guns, flags, uniforms & a collection of anti-Allied propaganda which the Director of Studies will translate for pupils. This visit is very worthwhile & helps illustrate why the Allied invasion had to be further south in Normandy, where the Germans were less prepared for an attack.

13.00 Lunch.

13.30 Transfer to Mimoyecques.

14.30 **The V3 Base - The Fortress of Mimoyecques.**

This was to be the base of the V3 secret weapon, constructed by thousands of slave labourers camped on the exposed hills near Marquise. The 25 enormous guns that were to be used at this site would have been an incredible 130 metres long & would have been the largest guns in the world. They would have had the capability of firing high-impact missiles on London every 12 seconds. Constructed in a last-ditch attempt to try to halt the impending defeat of Nazi Germany in 1943-44, this base was never completed & was largely destroyed by the Allies on 6th July 1944 using special bunker-busting bombs deployed from the air. We will enter the network of tunnels carved into the chalk hillsides to visit the caverns inside.

16.00 Transfer to Eurotunnel Terminal, Calais.

16.30 E.T.A. Eurotunnel Terminal, Calais. Check in for next crossing.

17.30 Depart Calais.

18.00 E.T.A. Folkestone. Onward transfer to School.  
(Local time)

**20.15** **E.T.A. School.**