



Itinerary For a Four Day Study Tour to Normandy & The D-Day Landing Beaches. Prepared For The History Department.

Dates: To Be Confirmed.



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 tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The visit can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The director is able to run the tour 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 Budget**

1, Avenue du Fresne, 14760 Bretteville Sur Odon, France. Tel: +330892684029.

Our hotel lies on the outskirts of the historic city of Caen. All of the sites of Normandy are within easy reach such as the Bayeux Tapestry, D-Day Landing Beaches & Rouen.

There are excellent swimming, ice-skating, bowling and indoor tennis facilities close at hand as well as recreational areas & forests.

This modern hotel offer approximately 70 one, two or three bedded rooms, all with on-suite facilities and televisions. All are serviced daily. The staff at this hotel are particularly friendly & we have found the Hotel Ibis Budget to be a perfect base for our groups visiting the Normandy area.

DAY ONE

<u>07.30</u>	Coach arrives at School.
<u>08.00</u>	Depart School. Onward transfer to Dover.
<u>09.45</u>	Collect food supplies from Booker Cash & Carry, Folkestone.
<u>10.30</u>	E.T.A. Port of Dover. Check in for next crossing.
<u>11.30</u>	Depart Folkestone.
<u>14.00</u>	Arrival at Calais. Onward transfer to The Batterie Todt.

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

14.30 **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.

<u>15.45</u>	Transfer to Caen.
<u>18.30</u>	<u>Dinner at Flunch Restaurant, Caen.</u>
<u>20.00</u>	Transfer to Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen.
<u>20.30</u>	E.T.A. Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen.

DAY TWO

08.00

Breakfast.

09.00

Coach transfer to Pegasus Bridge.

10.15

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.

12.30

Lunch.

13.00

Transfer to Arromanches.

13.30

Visit to The Arromanches D-day Landing Beaches & 6th June 1944 Musuem.

The Invasion Beaches lie only 11 kilometres from Bayeux. Here the visit will be divided into three 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.
3. Visit to The 6th June 1944 Museum.

15.30

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.

16.45

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.

18.00

Transfer to Caen.

18.45

Dinner at the Flunch Restaurant in Caen.

20.00

Transfer to Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen.

21.15

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen.

DAY THREE

08.00

Breakfast.

09.15

Coach transfer to central Rouen.

10.00

Guided Walking Tour of the Ancient City of Rouen.

The Tour Guide 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.

12.30

Lunch.

13.15

Coach transfer to Caen.

14.30

Visit to The Memorial Museum, Caen.

This excellent museum is dedicated to the history of conflict in the 20th Century and particularly World War II. The museum was inaugurated on 6th June 1988 (the 44th Anniversary of D day) by French President Francois Mitterrand. The original building deals primarily with World War II looking at the causes and course of the conflict.

In 1991 a gallery dedicated to the Nobel Peace Prize was added. Three memorial gardens, The American Garden, The British Garden and the Canadian Garden were dedicated to the three main allied nations involved in liberating France. An extension focusing on the Cold War and the search for Peace was opened by President Jacques Chirac in 2002

18.45

Dinner at the Flunch Restaurant, Caen.

20.00

Transfer to Hotel Ibis, Rouen.

21.00

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.

12.45 Lunch at the Blockhaus of Eperlecques.

13.15 **Visit to The Blockhaus of Eperlecques**

Sited within the peaceful forest of Watten is the enormous concrete bunker of Eperlecques, built as a protected factory for the manufacturing of liquid oxygen, rocket fuel & for the assembly, fuelling & launching of V2 rockets. Had the French Resistance not alerted the Allies to the existence & location of this huge blockhaus, the V2 - Hitler's 'retaliation weapon' could have changed the entire course of the war. The plan was to target Britain before improving the rocket to be able to reach the U.S.A. We will have a guided tour of the interior of the Blockhaus as well as a video projection showing items from the Wehrmacht archives about the history of German wartime rocket research.

15.00 **Visit to 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 Calais.

17.00 E.T.A. Port of Calais. Check in for next crossing.

18.15 Depart Calais.

18.45 E.T.A. Port of Dover. Onward transfer to School.
(Local time)

21.30 **E.T.A. School.**

This is a Suggested Itinerary only. Please note that we make hotel & itinerary bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The timings & visits contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of hotel, visits & timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.