



Suggested Itinerary For a Five Day MFL Study Tour to Normandy & Disneyland Paris by Coach. Prepared For The Languages 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 Group 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 tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The tour guide can run the tour according to Group Leader wishes. In this way Group 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



Nights 1 & 2:

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.



Nights 3 & 4:

The Hotel Ibis**

Bd Newton, 77420 Champs sur Marne, Paris, France. Tel. +33164680083.

Located in the university district west of Paris, the Hotel Ibis is conveniently placed for our groups visiting Paris & the surrounding sites.

This modern hotel offers excellent accommodation in twin & triple bedded rooms. Each has television and en-suite bathroom facilities. There is a restaurant and a bar area. We have found the Hotel Ibis to be a friendly and secure base, close to the heart of Paris and within close proximity to the visits of the Ile de France region.

Above all, this is a secure and well-staffed hotel for our groups. Apart from the usual double locks on each door, the hotel is large enough to ensure that all pupils are usually on the same floor, directly next to their supervising staff. In addition there is a 24 hour concierge service.

The manager heads a particularly friendly and helpful staff and we have found the Hotel Ibis to be an ideal base for our groups in this region of France.

DAY ONE

06.30	Coach arrives at School.
07.30	Depart School. Onward transfer to Dover.
11.45	Collect picnic supplies from Booker C&C, Folkestone.
12.30	E.T.A. Port of Dover. Check in for next crossing.
13.55	Depart Port of Dover.
16.00	Arrival at Port of Calais. Onward transfer to Boulogne.

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

16.30 **The Nausicaa Sealife Centre, Boulogne.**

Nausicaa is one of the best sea-life centres in Europe. The huge collection of sea creatures is cleverly presented to make the most of what has become one of our favourite visits. At one point, for example, the pupils will be able to touch and stroke flat fish as they swim by. The visit is enhanced by a video presentation which serves as a build up to the grand finale of the visit - the underwater shark-viewing chamber. There is a shop and a pleasant cafe for refreshments .

Because the sealife centre is located by the shore, pupils will have the opportunity of enjoying recreative activities on the beach.

18.30 **Dinner at the Flunch Restaurant, Boulogne St Martin.**

20.00 Onward transfer to Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen.

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

On Arrival at the Hotel:

Luggage will be unloaded onto the forecourt just outside the main entrance to the hotel. Participants are requested to identify their luggage and take it into the vestibule. Rooms will be allocated and participants given their keys.

DAY TWO

08.00 Breakfast

09.00 Coach transfer to central Rouen.

09.30 **Guided Tour of the old City of 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.

13.00 Coach transfer to the Foret de Cantelou, Rouen.

13.30 **Picnic lunch in the Foret de Cantelou, Rouen.**

We will have our picnic lunch in the picturesque forests high above the city of Rouen, where pupils can view the wild boar & deer which are kept in the small animal enclosure & which also roam freely in the forests nearby.

The picnic lunch on this day will include much locally sourced produce so pupils can try some Camembert cheese, local jambon, fresh fruit & fresh baguettes from the local boulanger.

14.15 Coach transfer to Honfleur.

15.30 **Visit to Honfleur.**

We will visit the beautiful & historic port town of Honfleur, closely associated with the Impressionist movement. The ancient Norman port is lined with art galleries & restaurants. Many pupils enjoy purchasing an ice-cream & visiting the various shops around the port, where the ancient houses & old boats can make for good photographs.

17.30 Coach transfer to Rouen.

18.45 **Dinner at the Flunch Restaurant, Rouen Centre.**

20.00 Transfer to Bowling Alley, Rouen.

20.15

Bowling at The Rouen Bowling Alley.

We combine visits of the greatest interest with recreational activities & pupils will enjoy some bowling in teams of six per lane & with prizes provided for the highest three scorers in the group.

21.30

Transfer to Hotel Ibis.

21.45

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast

09.00 Transfer to Bayeux.

10.00 **Visit to Bayeux High Street.**

Prior to visiting the tapestry we will have time to visit the shops & cafes of Bayeux High Street which is pedestrianised, popular with British groups & which allows pupils a glimpse of a traditional Norman town. Many schools also enjoy visiting the historic cathedral.

11.30 **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.

13.00 Picnic lunch in Bayeux.

13.30 Transfer to Arromanches.

14.00

Visit to 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.

16.00

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 Paris.

20.15

Dinner at the Flunch Restaurant, Paris.

21.15

Onward transfer to Hotel Ibis, Paris.

21.45

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis, Paris. Check-in & allocate rooms.

DAY FOUR

08.00 Breakfast.

09.00 Transfer to Disneyland Paris.

10.00 **Full Day's Visit to Disneyland Paris.**

We will spend the whole day in Disneyland Paris, where participants will be able to ride on the many excellent rides & view the attractions which take place throughout the day. Rides include Thunder Mountain, The Haunted House, The Indiana Jones Ride, Honey I Shrunk The Kids, Star Wars & the largest rollercoaster in the park - Space Mountain. The group can meet to watch the Disney Parade at 15.00.

In order to maximise the amount of time spent within the park, we will enjoy our dinner in the Disney Park before returning to the hotel in the evening.

Please note: there is a supplement of £25 for optional visits to themeparks.

18.00 **Dinner in the Disneyland Park.**

19.30 Onward transfer to Hotel Ibis.

20.30 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis.

For those group leaders who prefer a more authentically Gallic experience, we can organise an alternative day's visit to the excellent Parc Asterix Themepark – a secret that the French like to keep to themselves!

DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast, hotel check-out & loading of suitcases into coach.

09.30 Coach transfer to central Paris.

10.30 **Ascent of The Arc de Triomphe.**

Pupils will have the opportunity to take photographs of the Arc before passing through the pedestrian underpass to get underneath the Arc itself. The Tour Director will explain the names and sculptings on the Arc as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Participants will then mount the spiral staircase to reach the top of the Arc. (There is a lift available for adults.) Inside the monument pupils can explore the museum, visit the shop and see a film show in English. They can then climb up to the outdoor viewing gallery to enjoy a spectacular view over Paris.

12.00 Lunch.

12.30 Transfer to Calais.

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

17.15 Depart Port of Calais.

17.30 E.T.A. Port of Dover. Onward coach 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.