



## Battle Sites of France Tour: From Medieval to World War II

8 Nights

01 April 2017 – 31 October 2017



### Summary

Step into the preserved room of Catherine de'Medici where the aroma of the wood-beam ceiling wafts across the fireplace. Notice a unique engineering design decorating a garden and designed by Leonardo da Vinci. Fishing boats wade in the small marina of a charming coastal village. You look over the large cliffs of Normandy and wonder how the allied forces ever made it to the top. Your custom tailored battle sites France tour shows you the unforgettable history of France, from Normandy to the Loire Valley, bursting with imagination, castles, gourmet cuisine, and unforgettable moments.

### Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

### Overview

**Dates:** 01 April 2017 – 31 October 2017  
**Interest:** couples – family – seniors – group  
**Level of Comfort:** 5/5  
**Minimum # of passengers:** 2  
**Maximum # of passengers:** none

### Information about the destination

- **Currency:** Euro
- **Language:** French - English
- **Transportation:** private car or bus
- **Dialing Code:** 33
- **Recommended vaccines:** none
- **Banks & currency exchange:** It is better to exchange currencies before you go

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#### **Day 1: Paris – Honfleur**

Upon arrival at Paris's international airport, meet greet and transfer to Honfleur

The houses have angled, tiled roofs, and you find the quintessential northern French town to be nothing less than enchanting

Rest of the day at leisure

#### **Day 2: Normandy**

In the morning, your guide meets you at your hotel taking you the short distance to Caen, a town founded in the 11th century by William the Conqueror.

The Abbaye-aux-Hommes, the Men's Abbey, was built in the 11th century and remains one of the most important Romanesque buildings in the region. The stone was taken from around Caen. The church has ribbed vaults and rosette windows. Nine towers and numerous spires make an imposing and dramatic façade ascending above the city. The wonderment of the exterior is matched by the splendor of the interior. Each step you take echoes off of the walls, roaming underneath the arched colonnade lining the nave. After lunch, you depart from Caen and continue your tour in the classical city of Bayeux, home to the sensational Tapestry Museum.

#### **Day 3: Normandy**

Today, your guide meets you at the hotel and takes you into the rich contemporary past of the region. At Pointe du Hoc, you arrive at a large grassy area standing atop 100-foot cliffs overlooking the water.

The concrete bunkers around the grasslands are marred with remnants of the battle, including char marks from flamethrowers and bullet holes dotting the walls. It seems hard to imagine the uproarious sounds set by the fighting, when now the coastal breeze sweeps through the air. You can hear the water lapping at the base of the rugged cliffs. A portrait of the past remains strong on the shores of Normandy, continuing to tell the story of what once took place.

#### **Day 4: Private Island View**

Today, you leave behind the town of Port en Bessin and make your way to the unique, tiny island of Mont Saint Michel. At low tide, the water majestically drifts away from the shores leaving a long stretch of textured sand between mainland France and the islet. At high tide, the water can rise to 50 feet, lapping at the raised bluff of the centuries shaped coastline.

The first Benedictine Abbey was constructed on the island in the early 11th century. The Abbey reaches over 320 feet above sea level with 350 steps reaching from the water to the top of the island. During a calm, high tide, the image of the towers reflect in the sea. You can physically see the water rushing back towards the island during the changing of the tide.

Your guide leads you through the marvels of the meandering streets and into the stunning Abbey. The interior tiles add color beneath the length of large stone pillars supporting the archways. Thin, long windows let in slivers of light showing the radiance of the interior..

#### **Day 5: Brittany**

Throughout the region of Brittany, you can find dramatic coastlines and medieval towns alongside thick forests.

In the morning, you find the water around Cancale shimmering with cerulean. The town lies to the east of the famous city of Saint-Malo. The quiet streets become energetic around the fishing port. Cancale is known as the oyster capital of Brittany, noticeable in the numerous restaurants serving rich and unforgettable seafood. A coastal path leads from Pointe du Grouin to Mont Saint-Michel and back again. A chateau peaks over the verdant trees overlooking the coastline. The beach has golden sand beneath the small city wall dividing the water from the road. At low tide, you can see the oyster beds poking out of the water, divided by nets and small walkways for farmers to use stretching over two square miles. Along the

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water you find numerous vendors underneath the traditional blue and white colors of Brittany, vending fresh oysters for locals and visitors to taste. People squeeze lemon onto the fresh catch and let the natural briny zest blend with the light citrus to shape the decadent, yet bright flavor.

#### **Day 6: Angers - Loire Valley**

Your private transfer and guide meet you at your hotel in the morning to whisk you into the sensational countryside of the Loire Valley. Before reaching the valley, you stop in the historical riverside city of Angers, once home to the seat of the powerful Dukes of Anjou. The pedestrian streets meander around the bustling old city with a thriving café culture. Locals sit at tables watching passersby, sipping on espresso, nibbling at fresh baked pastries, and enjoying the theater of life.

You continue to the Doutre neighborhood where students lounge on the banks of the Maine River. The houses radiate in their black and white stone colors. The current of the river brushes the grassy banks. You continue into the Loire Valley and relax in the cool evening air.

#### **Day 7: Loire Valley**

In the morning, your guide leads you to Manoir du Clos Luce where Leonardo da Vinci lived for the final years of his life. The manor stands near the Royal Chateau of Ambrose overlooking the town and the Loire River.

It was in the Chateau that da Vinci finished his celebrated painting of Saint John the Baptist. The monument has been restored to revive the immaculate spirit of the Renaissance. In the artist and engineer's chamber, you can find an immaculate representation of its original décor, from the plush velvet bedding to the theatrical stone hearth. Wooden beams cross the ceiling and an open window lets in the natural light to cool the room. In the garden, a two-level bridge crosses the pond. Numerous drawings and works are displayed on the grounds, showcasing da Vinci's continuous inspiration and thought processes throughout his life.

#### **Day 8: Remarkable Royalty**

In the morning, your guide leads you to the top of a rocky outcrop overlooking the northern bank of the Loire River. The historic Chateau Royal de Blois contains an immense history of France from the Middle Ages to World War II, where a number of meandering medieval streets remain in the heart of town. The chateau watches over the town, near the statue of Louis XII sitting on horseback. You view the impressive structure head on, noticing the four wings edging the large courtyard.

The chateau maintains elements of Gothic, Renaissance, and classical architecture dating back to the 13th century. The bedchamber of Catherine de'Medici, wife of Henry II, has its original décor. An upholstered chair sits near the ornate, rosy bed. Elaborate tapestries drape the walls along with graceful oil paintings. The stone base of the chateau takes the palace to new heights. The mixture of extravagance and power make for an unparalleled visit expressing the lifestyle of true grandeur.

#### **Day 9: Paris**

In the morning, you wake and find the picturesque view of the Loire Valley all around you  
Transfer to Paris' international airport for your departure flight

#### **Prices Include**

Round trip ticket to Paris (economy class)  
Round trip transfer: airport – hotel – airport  
8-night accommodation at hotels  
Meals: daily breakfast  
Tours and excursions as per the program  
Assistance of our representative in France

#### **Prices Exclude**

Airport taxes  
Fuel surcharge  
DIP surcharge \$5/ticket  
Optional Tours  
Visa fees  
Travel insurance

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All other expenses

#### Starting Price Per Person in US\$

Hotel	Double
3* Hotel	4455
4* Hotel	5570
5* Hotel	8695

- *Prices may change without prior notice and subject to availability at time of booking*

#### Flight Schedule

From	To	Flight No	Departure	Arrival
Beirut	Paris	AF 5107	07:55	11:35
Paris	Beirut	AF 5106	13:40	18:55

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CODE: CU-SUM17-BATTLE SITES OF FRANCE TOUR

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