

National Museum of the US Army



Operation Overlord: 75th Anniversary of D-Day

ITINERARY

September 16 – Depart the U.S.

Depart the U.S. on international flights to London.

September 17 – Arrival in London

Upon arrival in London, check into our centrally located hotel. The afternoon begins with a visit to the Churchill War Rooms, a fortified bunker deep underneath Whitehall from which Winston Churchill directed the British war effort. Wander through the rooms—and the adjacent Churchill Museum—and examine maps, telephones, and items from Churchill's life. Gather for a welcome reception and dinner tonight.

Meals: Reception, Dinner

Hotel: Millennium Bailey's or similar

September 18 – Bletchley Park, London, England

This morning, immerse yourself in a world of intrigue and espionage at Bletchley Park and discover the story behind the Enigma code breakers, who successfully deciphered the encryption used by the Wehrmacht. After lunch, return to central London and explore the decks of the H.M.S. *Belfast*, now part of the Imperial War Museum. Enjoy a talk by our expert before spending the evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Millennium Bailey's or similar

September 19 - Portsmouth / Normandy, France

This morning, travel south to Portsmouth. At the D-Day Museum, examine the Overlord Embroidery—a stunning, handcrafted depiction of the D-Day events that stretches some 270 feet—and see a replica of the map General Eisenhower used to plot Allied positions. This afternoon, cross the English Channel to Normandy by ferry. Settle into our hotel tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Manoir de Mathan

September 20 - Sainte-Mère-Église / Utah Beach / La Cambe

Explore the village of Sainte-Mère-Église, where the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division paratroopers dropped from the sky in a hail of gunfire on the night of June 5. View the church steeple upon which one unlucky paratrooper was entangled for hours, and visit the village's remarkable museum. Continue to Utah Beach, site of one of the two American amphibious landings in the early hours of D-Day. Stop for lunch at Le Roosevelt, a restaurant built around a former German bunker just steps from the historic beach. This afternoon, pay a visit to the German war cemetery at La Cambe.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel: Manoir de Mathan

September 21 - Pointe-du-Hoc / Arromanches

One of the most dramatic sites along the Normandy coastline is Pointe du Hoc, where U.S. Rangers used hooks and ropes to scale cliffs some 100 feet high in order to destroy key German gun positions. Walk along cliff-top pathways still cratered by mortar blasts, and venture into the concrete bunkers from which German forces unleashed a barrage of artillery fire. Travel to Arromanches, where a Mulberry Harbour still rises out of the surf—one of the few remnants of the prefabricated concrete harbors that assisted in landing Allied supplies. Visit the Arromanches Landing Museum, as well as the Pegasus Memorial Bridge and Museum—dedicated to the men of the 6th British Airborne Division.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel: Manoir de Mathan

September 22 - Omaha Beach / Colleville-sur-Mer / Bayeux

Wander along Omaha Beach, site of the bloodiest fighting of the invasion day, then visit the Overlord Museum. At the American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, pay your respects to fallen heroes by laying a wreath. Take in the poignant sight of row upon row of small white grave markers stretching across acres. Gather for a special farewell reception and dinner as a group this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel: Manoir de Mathan

September 23 - Paris / U.S.

This morning, transfer to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for your flight home.
Meals: Breakfast

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Millennium Bailey's Hotel, London: 2 nights

This sophisticated 4-star hotel is centrally located in Kensington, London. Close to museums, fine dining, and shopping, the famous Harrods Department Store is only a 15-minute walk away. Beautifully restored in 2016, the 19th-century town house combines modern amenities with classic Victorian features like a winding staircase and stained-glass windows. Bedrooms are spacious and include complimentary luxury toiletries, hair dryers, bottled water, coffee, and tea. Wireless internet access is available throughout the hotel.

Le Manoir de Mathan, Normandy, 4 nights

Le Manoir de Mathan is a delightful country inn located in the heart of the Normandy countryside. It is well placed for visiting the D-Day beaches and related sites. This rural boutique property offers comfortable rooms full of character from the exposed beams and stonework to the warm fabrics and furnishings. The hotel has a gourmet restaurant (at the sister property of Ferme de la Rançonnière) offering regional specialties in a rustic and authentic setting. There are also pleasant outdoor spaces and gardens for guests to enjoy.