



PARIS, NORMANDY & THE LOIRE

Adventures in Northwest France MAY 26TH - JUNE 4TH 2016

From the heady allure of the Left Bank to the rolling beaches of Normandy to the lush beauty of chateau country; an ever-changing panorama unfolds as we travel through some of the loveliest regions of France.

Beginning in Paris, the romantic City of Light, we'll roam the winding streets and expansive boulevards, taking in the archetypal Parisian sights and sounds—the Gothic splendor of Notre Dame, the charm of Ile St. Louis, the soaring Tour Eiffel, the Arc de Triomphe, and the unparalleled Louvre Museum.

Heading to Normandy, we'll visit Monet's Giverny, marvel at magnificent Mont St. Michel, one of the wonders of the Western world, explore the D-Day Beaches and view the extraordinary tapestry at Bayeux.

Continuing on to the Loire Valley, we'll sample a selection of stunning medieval and Renaissance chateaux, scattered around the countryside. From the romance of Chenonceau arching across the Cher River, to the staggering grandeur of Chambord, a Renaissance masterpiece, and all of their many intricate gardens, here is an experience of magnificence that reveals itself day by day.



THE CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU



MONT ST. MICHEL

This spring, when the "Garden of France" is in full bloom join Discover Europe on a truly memorable adventure in northwest France.

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$4180
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 950

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	8 nights accommodation in First Class Hotels All hotel taxes and service charges included
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Continental breakfast daily, 4 dinners
GUIDES:	DISCOVER EUROPE tour director throughout, local guide in Paris
EXPENSES:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

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THURSDAY, MAY 26TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH - Your arrival at Paris, Charles de Gaulle Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After checking in, there will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. We'll gather this evening for a welcome dinner. **(D)** **Overnight: Paris**

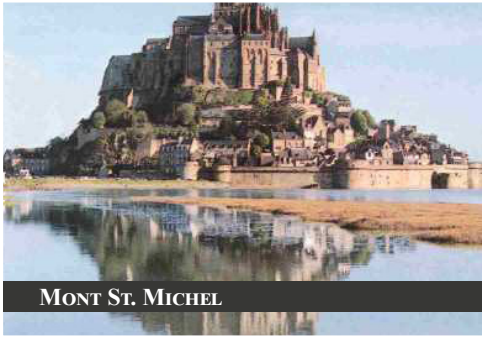
SATURDAY, MAY 28TH - From the meandering Seine, its strongly delineated Left and Right Banks lined with booksellers, to the staggering Gothic splendor of Notre Dame, to the delicate filigree of the Tour Eiffel, Paris

comes to life in a swirl of superlatives. Our morning tour takes us through medieval streets that vie with sleek chic as we plunge into the ever-changing panorama of a vital, vibrant city that lives up to its romantic reputation, with highlights that include the celestial heights of Sacre Coeur, the wide boulevards of the Champs-Elysees, and the giddy majesty of the Arc de Triomphe. We end at the Louvre, where a local guide introduces us to the array of masterpieces within. For lunch, you may decide to sample café life, and the rest of the day is free to explore. In the evening, sample one of the city's many superb restaurants—your time in the City of Light will fly by. **(B)** **Overnight: Paris**



MONET'S HOUSE

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH - Leaving Paris, we drive to Giverny to experience Monet's garden paradise, where he lived for 43 years. Water gardens, bridges, roses—all create breathtakingly gorgeous tableaux recognizable as some of the most famous paintings in the world. With time to visit the gardens and house, we then continue on into the heart of Normandy, where we'll check in to our hotel and meet for dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Normandy**



MONT ST. MICHEL

MONDAY, MAY 30TH - Our morning begins with a visit to view the extraordinary 231-foot-long Bayeux tapestry dating from 1077 and commemorating the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings. We'll then continue on to the D-Day beaches at Normandy, where the deadliest fighting and largest amphibious assault in WWII began 72 years ago, almost to the day, on June 6, 1944. A free evening to dine out when we return to our hotel. **(B)**

Overnight: Normandy

TUESDAY, MAY 31ST - Our morning will be spent at nearby Mont St. Michel, the astonishing 11th-century abbey perched on a 264-foot-high rock formation. During the highest tides, the island is surrounded by water, which can rush in at incredible speeds; during low tide, the flats provide food for the world's only herd of salt-water-plant-eating sheep. We'll

explore the island, abbey, and main streets and shops, and have time for lunch before continuing on to the Loire Valley, where we'll check in to our hotel in Amboise with time to freshen up and relax before dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Amboise**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1ST - With its delicate light and mild climate, the Loire Valley is often considered the most quintessentially French of all regions. Medieval and Renaissance chateaux are scattered across the countryside, and we begin our day with a visit to the jewel of Amboise, the 15th-century Chapelle St.-Hubert, that allegedly contains the tomb where Leonardo da Vinci is buried. From here, we'll tour the nearby Manoir du Clos-Luce, where Leonardo lived for the last three years of his life. The rest of the day is free to sit back and enjoy this charming town on the banks of the Loire. **(B)** **Overnight: Amboise**

THURSDAY, JUNE 2ND - This morning we'll visit the Chateau de Chenonceau, arguably the most romantic chateau in France. Built by women for women, this gem of Renaissance architecture spans the Cher River on a series of graceful arches. In the afternoon we visit the largest and most dramatic of the Loire chateaux, Chambord is a Renaissance masterpiece on a grand scale—440 rooms, a fireplace for every day of the year, intertwined staircases, and a project that demanded the labor of almost 2,000 workmen. Time permitting, we'll return to our hotel via the exceptionally pretty town of Blois, and have a chance to wander its steeply winding streets lined with half-timbered medieval buildings. We return to our hotel in Amboise for a free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Amboise**



OMAHA BEACH

FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD - On our way back to Paris we'll stop for the ultimate Gothic experience—Chartres Cathedral. Here, the transcendent beauty of medieval stained glass combines with soaring archways to create one of the great mystical experiences, and writer Malcolm Miller (if available) offers fascinating insights into the secret life of the cathedral. On our return to Paris there will be time to catch up on some last-minute shopping before we gather for a farewell dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Paris**

SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH - Morning transport to Charles de Gaulle Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)** **Overnight: Home**

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **D** - dinner