



Channel Crossings

May 31 - June 10, 2007

Paris, Normandy & the Channel Islands

Medieval cities, quaint towns, gothic cathedrals—we'll experience all this and more, in a journey that crisscrosses the English Channel, taking us from the islands of Jersey and Guernsey, across the beaches of Normandy, to the beauty of Monet's gardens and the elegance of Parisian boulevards. In between, we'll take in some of the finest seaside attractions that England and France have to offer.

We'll begin on the beautiful shores of Jersey, Britain's southernmost Channel Island and a quiet respite from the world; we'll also take in the sights of its sister island, Guernsey. These lovely islands offer a range of experiences, from wildlife sanctuaries to military museums to breathtaking scenery. From here, we take a ferry to the northern coast of France, stopping in the lively



Monet's house at Giverny

seaside town of St.-Malo, and exploring magnificent Mont St.-Michel, one of the wonders of the Western world.



Omaha beach

On the 63rd anniversary of D-Day, we'll explore the beaches at Normandy, with time also to view the extraordinary tapestry at Bayeux. Then it's off to Paris, the City of Light, and the heady excitement of one of the world's great romantic cities—with a local guide to introduce the splendors of Notre-Dame, Sacré-Coeur, and the Louvre, and free time to follow your own interests. It's a visit that spans a spectrum of experiences—from the drama of medieval villages, to the broad vistas of seaside towns, to the cosmopolitan beauty of city life, with all of their attendant architectural, artistic, and gastronomic masterpieces—truly a feast for the senses!

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land only (no airfare included): **\$3870**
Single supplement: **\$590**

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

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 9 nights accommodation in first-class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Breakfast daily; 1 lunch; 5 table d'hote dinners.
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director throughout.
- Airfare:** One-way ticket from London to Jersey.
- Trains:** First-class Eurostar ticket from Paris to London.
- Expenses:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.



Gorey Castle, Jersey





Thursday, May 31. Evening departure from U.S. for your overnight flight to London.

Friday, June 1. Arriving in London, we'll connect to Jersey, Britain's most southerly Channel Island. Temperate year round, the island has a unique English/French flavor and jet-set/family resort character. Scattered around the island are early Neolithic carvings, remnants of a medieval heritage, and every kind of attraction, from Elizabeth Castle to golden beaches. After checking in, there will be time to explore before we gather for a welcome dinner. **(D) Overnight: Jersey**

Saturday, June 2. This morning we'll discover some of Jersey's sites together, including Mont Orgueil's medieval Gorey Castle, built in the 13th century and surrounded by sea and cliffs, and the German Underground Hospital, a series of tunnels built by German forces. You'll have a free afternoon in the capital of St. Helier to explore the town's attractions and shops, which offer

everything from lavender to high-quality jewelry, and at prices generally 15 percent less than found in the rest of Europe. You might also check out the Jersey Museum or Elizabeth Castle, built in the harbor by Sir Walter Raleigh. In the evening, sample a local restaurant—perhaps Season's for its beautiful décor and great food, or Bohemia, Jersey's only Michelin Star restaurant. **(B) Overnight: Jersey**

Sunday, June 3. A day trip to Guernsey, with its heady mix of stunning scenery and layers of history. From bird sanctuaries and orchid fields to a host of museums (Underground Military, German Occupation, shipwrecks, and diamonds!) and what may be the smallest chapel in the world, this island has an array of attractions. St. Peter Port, the capital, is a bustling harbor town with various interesting architectural styles. Tonight, back in Jersey, we'll meet for dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Jersey**



Bayeux's architecture

Monday, June 4. This morning we board the ferry to St.-Malo on the northern coast of France, where we'll explore the town center before continuing on to Mont St.-Michel, the astonishing 11th-century abbey perched on a 264-foot-high rock formation. Then it's on to Caen, the "crucible" of Normandy, which played a strategic role in the Battle of Normandy; its two surviving abbeys are magnificent, revealing hints of the city's past. We'll check in to our hotel and meet for dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Caen**



Harbor in Honfleur

Tuesday, June 5. From D-Day beaches to seaside resorts—this area of France's coast encompasses it all, and today we investigate several of the pretty towns northeast of Caen, an area known as the Côte Fleurie (Flowered Coast). Twin towns divided by the Touques River, Deauville and Trouville compete for the title of Most Extravagant Norman

Town, trendy resorts in the 19th century and still posh today. Heading further east, Honfleur, an artist's haven, is one of the loveliest and most interesting seaside towns on the coast, essentially untouched by WWII, with much of its Renaissance architecture intact. The harbor, old dock, and Ste. Catherine's church are well worth exploration. Returning to Caen, you have a free evening to sample a local restaurant. **(B) Overnight: Caen**

Wednesday, June 6. A full-day excursion to Bayeux to view the extraordinary 231-foot-long tapestry dating from 1077 and commemorating the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings, before continuing on to the D-Day beaches at Normandy, where the deadliest fighting and largest amphibious assault in WWII began 63 years ago today, on June 6, 1944. A free evening to dine out when we return to Caen. **(B) Overnight: Caen**



Notre Dame

Thursday, June 7. From Caen we drive to Giverny to experience Monet's garden paradise, where the artist lived for 43 years. Water gardens, bridges, roses—all create a breathtakingly gorgeous tableau, easily recognized from some of the most famous paintings in the world. With time to visit the gardens and house, we then continue on to Paris, where we'll check in to our hotel and meet for dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Paris**

Friday, June 8. One of the most beautiful cities in the world unfolds at your feet. From the meandering Seine to the Gothic splendor of Notre Dame, a local guide reveals Paris' majesty, concluding with a tour of the Louvre. The rest of the day is free to explore—perhaps the tiny Ile St.-Louis, Rodin's museum, or the Musée d'Orsay. In the evening, sample one of the city's many superb restaurants. **(B) Overnight: Paris**



Mont St.-Michel

Saturday, June 9. We board our first-class Eurostar train from Paris to London, taking lunch on board. With free time back in London, you may choose to revisit old favorites, or opt for shopping along Oxford Street, exploring the British Museum, searching out Bloomsbury bookstores, or any of the myriad delights this fascinating city has to offer. We'll gather in the evening for a farewell dinner. **(B, L, D) Overnight: London**

Sunday, June 10. Morning transport to the airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner