Carolina Alumni TRAVEL



Duration
8 days

Activity Level
Moderate

Journey Type
Land
Solo-Friendly

Normandy ~ Honfleur

May 1-9, 2027

Starting from $4,645/pp

Discover Normandy's proud traditions, dramatic history and authentic cuisine on this marvelous seven-night journey! Unpack once and set out to pay tribute to the sacrifice and valor of the Allied forces on D-Day. Visit Arromanches, Omaha Beach, the Normandy American Cemetery and other iconic sites associated with the pivotal World War II operation. Admire some of France's greatest treasures, including the magnificent Mont-Saint-Michel and renowned impressionist art by Degas, Monet and Renoir. Plus, you'll savor flavorful wines with lunch at a stately, 10th-century castle and sample Normandy's acclaimed Calvados apple cider brandy on an estate. Throughout your travels, experts share illuminating insights to enrich your experience.





Day-by-Day Itinerary

Normandy | Honfleur

Air Program: 9 days/8 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program: 8 days/7 nights

Breakfasts: 7

Lunches: 3

Dinners: 3

Receptions: 2

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

- A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.
- This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.
- Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Please note, excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches.

Mild: Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour

Moderate: Walk 1-3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50-100 stairs; stand 1-2 hours

Active: Walk 3+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 2+ hours

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Paris, France. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: CDG.

Day 2 Paris, France | Honfleur

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

R | D

Arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. Proceed through immigration and then to the baggage claim area to retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the Arrivals Hall, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer and check in to the first-class Hôtel Mercure Honfleur, a picturesque harbor town on the Seine River estuary where it meets the English Channel. Please note that if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Welcome Reception & Dinner. This evening, meet fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception at the hotel, followed by dinner at one of Honfleur's outstanding restaurants, sampling the town's celebrated cuisine.

Day 3 | Honfleur

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | D

Enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel each morning and begin your day ready to explore.

Historic Honfleur Walking Tour. Set out on a guided walk through Honfleur, the quintessential French port town that has long inspired artists such as Claude Monet, Gustave Courbet and Eugène Boudin. In the mid-19th century, these painters were drawn to the harbor's fleeting interplay of light and color, setting up their easels near the hilltop Ferme Saint-Siméon. Working "en plein air," they captured the region's ephemeral beauty, giving rise to the École de Honfleur—a vibrant artists' colony whose innovative approach to landscape painting helped shape the Impressionist movement.

As you stroll, soak in the maritime charm of Honfleur's 17th-century Vieux Bassin, where the Seine meets the English Channel. Between the 16th and 18th centuries, the town flourished as a thriving trading port and a springboard for exploration—most notably, in 1608, when Samuel de Champlain set sail from Honfleur to found Quebec City. Walk along the colorful harbor, lined with tall, narrow timber-framed houses built by affluent families, each home proudly overlooking the bustling docks.

Wander the maze of side streets and squares, alive with cafés, galleries and artisan shops, and discover Honfleur's storied landmarks. Step inside the wooden Église Sainte-Catherine, crafted by 15th-century shipbuilders. Its striking inverted-boat-hull roof and hand-hewn timber construction, created without the use of saws, pay tribute to the town's enduring maritime heritage. (Moderate)

Free Time: Enjoy a leisurely lunch and spend the afternoon exploring Honfleur at your own pace. The region boasts an enduring tradition of exceptional cheeses, nourished by the rich milk of Normande cows. Sample world-renowned varieties, such as Camembert de Normandie, Neufchâtel and Pont-l'Évêque, paired with crusty bread and a glass of crisp, local apple cider. Stroll along the Seine Estuary through Honfleur's public gardens to the charming town beach or ascend the Pont de Normandie to witness sweeping panoramic views.

Enrichment: The French Resistance. Delve into the origins of the French Resistance, learning about its leaders and the courageous patriots who fought to liberate their country.

This evening, reconvene with your fellow travelers for a delightful dinner at a local restaurant, reflecting on the day's discoveries and the town's enduring charm.

Day 4 | Honfleur | Arromanches | Omaha Beach | Colleville-sur-Mer | Pointe du Hoc

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | L

Enrichment: D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. On your drive to Arromanches, a local World War II expert will provide an illuminating lecture on Normandy's pivotal role in the Allied invasion. Gain a nuanced understanding of the strategic planning, heroic efforts and enduring legacy of the men and women who shaped this critical chapter in history.

D-Day and the Battle of Normandy . Depart the hotel by deluxe motorcoach and journey along Juno and Gold beaches, passing the quaint villages of Cabourg, Merville and Bénouville, and pausing at the iconic Pegasus Bridge. Arrive in Arromanches to explore the Landing Museum, perched above the remains of the Mulberry Harbour, an extraordinary feat of engineering that allowed thousands of troops, vehicles and tons of supplies to reach the beaches each day during Operation Overlord. Through carefully curated artifacts, photographs, documents and multimedia displays, step into the history and strategy of one of the most ambitious military operations in history.

Pause for a shared lunch at a local Arromanches restaurant, reflecting on the morning's discoveries.

Continue to Omaha Beach, where the sands bear witness to the extraordinary courage of Allied forces who advanced under devastating fire across heavily fortified shorelines. In Colleville-sur-Mer, visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, set on a serene bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, where 9,385 graves commemorate those who gave their lives in the invasion and subsequent battles, alongside a memorial garden honoring the missing in action. Conclude your day at Pointe du Hoc, where U.S. Rangers courageously scaled 100-foot cliffs to neutralize German artillery positions that threatened troops landing on Omaha and Utah beaches. (Active)

Return to Honfleur for dinner at your leisure. Choose from charming brasseries and waterfront restaurants renowned for fresh seafood and Norman cuisine. Your AHI Travel Director can provide recommendations.

Day 5 | Honfleur | Upper Normandy | Le Havre

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | L

Château du Bec. Cross the graceful Pont de Normandie, its sweeping cable-stayed structure spanning the Seine, as you travel into Upper Normandy. Your first stop is the privately owned Château du Bec , a 10th-century castle set amid lush woodlands and waterways. Stroll the manicured grounds with one of the owners while discovering the castle's history along the way. (Moderate)

Lunch is served on-site, a buffet of regional specialties accompanied by carefully selected local wines and beers, enjoyed amid the castle's serene park setting.

Le Havre & Musée Malraux of Modern Art. Afterward, continue to Le Havre, a UNESCO World Heritage city rebuilt after World War II under the guidance of Auguste Perret. Take a guided tour of the Musée Malraux (MuMa) , where light-filled galleries showcase one of France's most impressive Impressionist collections. Monet, Degas, Renoir, Pissarro and Boudin are displayed alongside modern architecture that reflects the city's resilience and artistic spirit. (Moderate)

After the tour, return to Honfleur for an evening at leisure, where you can choose from its welcoming cafés and refined restaurants.

Day 6 | Honfleur | Le Mont-Saint-Michel

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B

Le Mont-Saint-Michel . You won't soon forget your first glimpse of the spectacular Mont-Saint-Michel rising like an astounding mirage over the surrounding flat white sands. For centuries, pilgrims have made their way to the abbey perched atop the small granite island off the coast of Normandy. Today, embark on your own pilgrimage as you ascend to the UNESCO-inscribed Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey. Marvel at its Romanesque and Gothic architecture, learn about its centuries-long history as a fortress, monastery and prison, and reflect on its enduring symbolism of faith, resilience, and human ingenuity. (Active)

Free Time: Enjoy some leisure time on Mont-Saint-Michel. Find a spot for lunch on your own and then take in panoramic views from the ramparts, observe the shifting tides, meander through the lively streets and soak up the island's magical atmosphere.

Return to Honfleur and relax after your active day over dinner at leisure.

Day 7 | Honfleur | Bayeux | Caen

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | L

Le Mémorial de Caen. Begin your day at the Caen Memorial Museum, an award-winning institution that offers a compelling exploration of World War II, the D-Day landings, the Battle of Normandy, and the Cold War through informative exhibits, photographs and video footage. The museum presents an international perspective on the Second World War, highlighting its global consequences while emphasizing remembrance, reconciliation and peace. (Moderate)

AHI Connects | Norman Lunch & Calvados Tasting: Venture to Les Vergers de Ducy, a 42-acre estate regarded for its apple orchards and Calvados brandy. Savor a traditional Norman lunch and a tasting of the region's famed Calvados brandy, learning about the centuries-old craft of distillation and the nuanced flavors that make this apple brandy world-renowned. (Mild)

Bayeux. Continue to medieval Bayeux, situated in the lush valley near the Aure River. Visit the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Bayeux, also known as the Cathedral of Our Lady of Bayeux. Marvel at the soaring Gothic vaults, intricately carved portals and stained-glass windows depicting saints, biblical stories and local history. Inside, admire the richly decorated choir and high altar, and explore chapels dedicated to specific saints. (Moderate)

Free Time: After the tour, stroll Bayeux's cobblestone streets, lined with cafés and shops offering souvenirs, artisanal crafts and Norman food and drinks.

Return to Honfleur and choose a café or restaurant for dinner on your own tonight.

Day 8 | Honfleur

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

B | R | D

Free Time: Your final day is entirely yours to explore at leisure. Browse Honfleur's lively markets, wander the harbor and waterfront, or relax at a café over a bowl of freshly prepared moules marinières. Optional visits include the Musée Eugène Boudin , which celebrates the local artist whose landscapes capture the charm of Normandy, or the Musée de la Marine , devoted to maritime history and seafaring traditions. Your AHI Travel Director will offer tailored suggestions for sightseeing, shopping and dining.

Farewell Reception and Dinner. Conclude your journey with a Farewell Reception at the hotel followed by a celebratory dinner at a local restaurant, sharing reflections and memories of Normandy's landscapes, history and culinary delights.

Day 9 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and bid farewell to your fellow travelers and captivating Honfleur.

AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.





What's Included

Program Overview

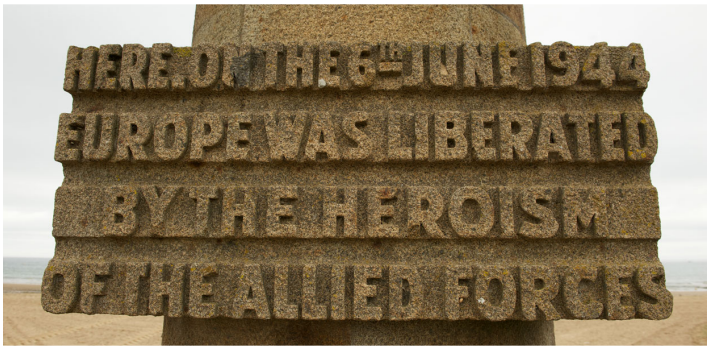
- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 7 nights in Honfleur, France, at the first-class Hôtel Mercure Honfleur.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 receptions and 3 dinners.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

On-site Features

- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.





FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Hôtel Mercure Honfleur

The Hôtel Mercure Honfleur is a modern hotel ideally situated in the historic city center and just steps away from the charming harbor immortalized in paintings by artists like Claude Monet. From this convenient location, explore the intriguing history and culture of Normandy. After a day of enriching excursions, relax in the hotel bar with a glass of the local cider, a Calvados-based cocktail or a fine regional vintage. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Tripadvisor

Pricing

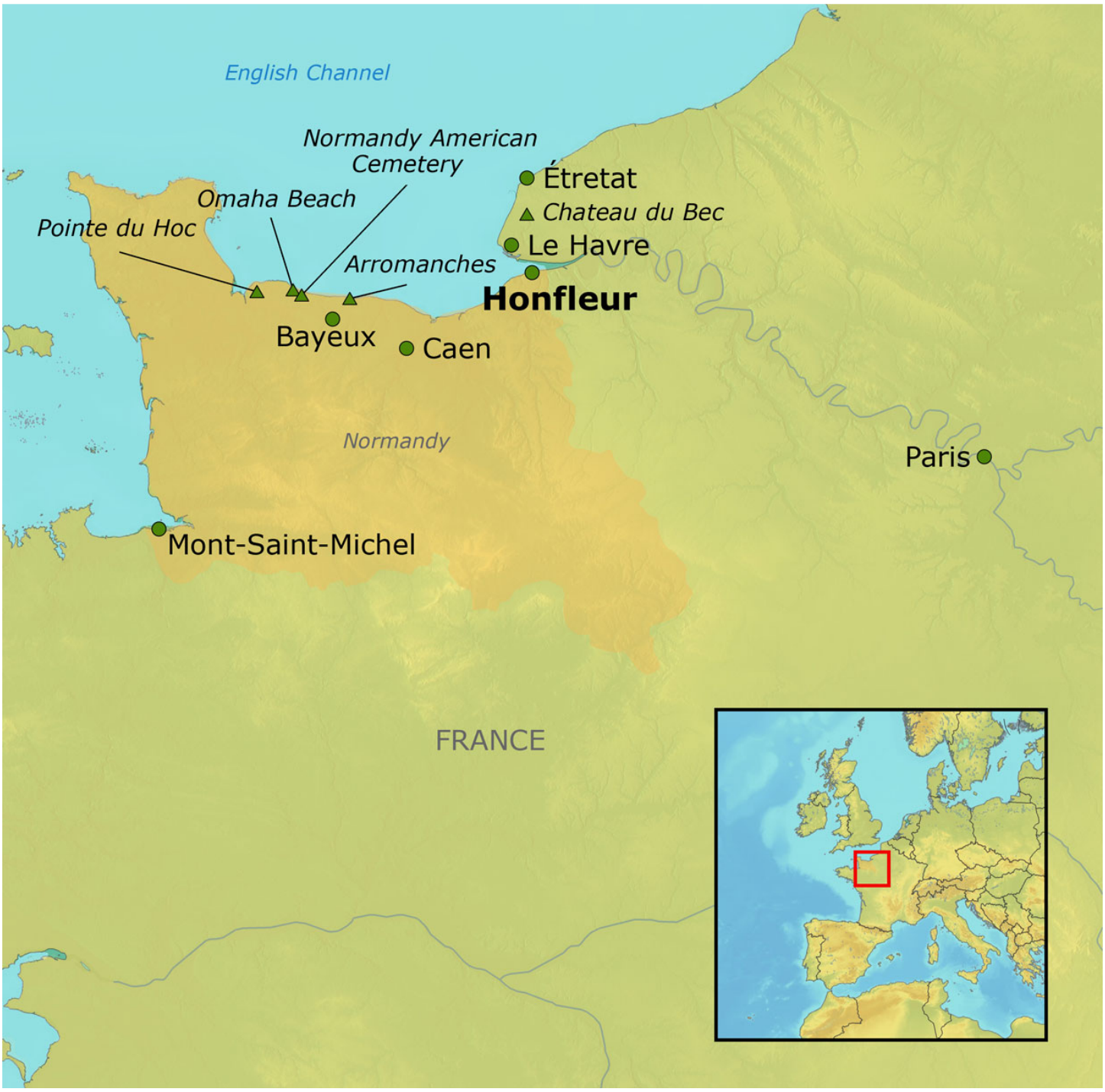
$250 Full Payment Discount expires December 2, 2026
$250 Special Savings expires November 27, 2026

Trip Price (USD)

Base Price	**$4,645**
Special Savings (Expires November 27, 2026)	**-$250**
Full Payment Discount *	**-$250**
Special Price	**$4,145**
You Pay	**$4,145 per person**

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


English Channel
Normandy American Cemetery
Omaha Beach
Pointe du Hoc
Arromanches
Étretat
Chateau du Bec
Le Havre
Honfleur
Bayeux
Caen
Normandy
Paris
Mont-Saint-Michel
FRANCE

