

# Normandy



**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers



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**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association  
July 6-14, 2024

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

## Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Journey with us to beautiful Normandy, a northern region of France that has played a significant role in the political, religious, cultural and gastronomic development of Western civilization. From your base in the scenic port town of Honfleur, you'll explore historic D-Day sites during the 80th anniversary year and admire remarkable gems like majestic Mont-Saint-Michel and the exquisite Bayeux Tapestry. Along the way, you'll also indulge in some of Normandy's most tantalizing culinary specialties.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to include enriching cultural excursions, preferred access to popular attractions and an engaging educational component. Expert guides and lecturers will provide meaningful context for what you encounter during your travels. You'll also delight in the fellowship of traveling with a small group, plus forge your own path during ample free time.

There's much to experience together in this alluring region! Make plans to be a part of the adventure by reserving your space today.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
Vice President, Alumni & Student Engagement

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

### UNESCO World Heritage

#### Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay



*Cloister, Mont-Saint-Michel*



*View from Mont-Saint-Michel*



# A World of Discovery



Set your sights on an adventure in Normandy that reveals proud traditions, dramatic history, enchanting scenery and culinary delicacies! From the outsized grandeur of Mont-Saint-Michel to the finely stitched threads of the Bayeux Tapestry, you'll appreciate some of France's greatest treasures. And as the world marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, embark on absorbing visits to the beaches, memorials and landmarks of this monumental operation.

Top: Mont-Saint-Michel | Above: Calvados tasting  
Cover: "Spirit of the American Youth Rising from the Waves,"  
Normandy American Cemetery | Mail panel: Honfleur

## Inspiring Moments



- Contemplate the extraordinary bravery of the Allied landing forces as you walk along the **beaches of Normandy**.
- Immerse yourself in **wartime history** with riveting details from expert guides.
- Explore the impact of World War II at the **Caen Memorial Museum**.
- Marvel at stunning **Mont-Saint-Michel** rising spectacularly over the tidal waters.
- Savor a wonderful wine tasting and lunch at a **stately, 10th-century castle**.
- Delight in the local color and tasty cuisine along **Honfleur's picturesque harbor**.
- Follow the epic story embroidered into the acclaimed **Bayeux Tapestry**.
- Sip **Calvados**, Normandy's celebrated cider brandy, on an estate.

ALUMNI CAMPUS  
ABROAD®



Honfleur

## Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Paris, France. 🌐

## Day 2 | Paris, France | Honfleur

Upon arrival, transfer 🔄 to the Mercure Honfleur Hotel. After settling in, gather for tonight's Welcome Reception and Dinner.

## Day 3 | Honfleur

**Historic Honfleur Walking Tour.** Stroll with your guide through this captivating port town that has inspired artists for centuries. From the 16th to the 18th centuries, Honfleur was an important trading seaport and a launching point for exploration. Soak up the maritime charm of the 17th-century harbor, and admire landmarks on its narrow side streets like the wooden Church of Sainte Catherine crafted by 15th-century shipbuilders.

**Free Time:** Set off to see more of Honfleur on your own and find a nice spot for lunch. Be sure to sample Normandy's enticingly fresh cheeses, including the world-class Neufchâtel, Livarot, Camembert de Normandie and Pont-l'Évêque! Enjoy regional specialties at dinner in Honfleur.

## Day 4 | Le Mont-Saint-Michel

**Mont-Saint-Michel.** With one glimpse of Mont-Saint-Michel's striking silhouette rising above the surrounding flat sands, you'll quickly understand why this UNESCO World Heritage site is considered a wonder of the Western world. Tour this intriguing tidal island with your guide, and step inside the tranquil abbey and church that have drawn pilgrims for centuries.

If you'd like, walk on the ramparts to look out over the expansive coastline. *(Active)*

## Day 5 | Caen | Utah Beach | Sainte-Mère-Église

**Le Mémorial de Caen.** At this award-winning museum, expand your understanding of World War II, the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy through thought-provoking exhibits, detailed artifacts and multimedia presentations.

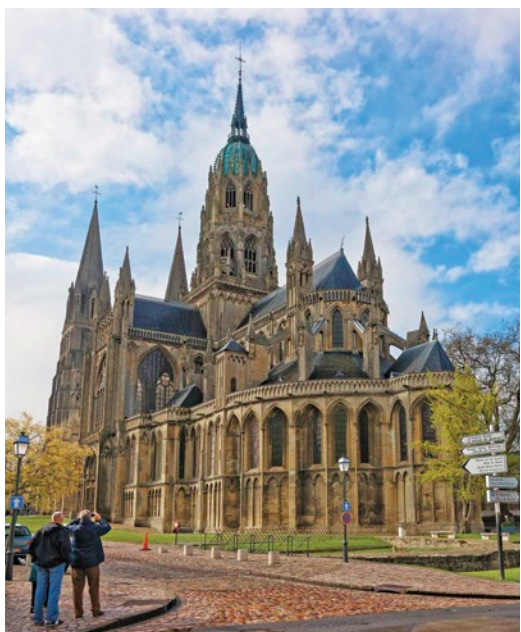
🌐 **AHI Connects | Calvados.** Normandy's apple cider brandy is among the world's finest brandies. Visit an estate that distills Calvados from the apples grown on its orchards. Learn about the process, and then relish a delectable lunch and a glass of smooth Calvados.

### Utah Beach and Sainte-Mère-Église.

The Normandy coastline provided the theater for Operation Overlord, one of history's largest and most complex military operations. In the early hours of June 6, 1944, Allied paratroopers began landing inland, tasked with sealing off German access to the amphibious assault sites. By daybreak, the second phase started as Allied landing forces came ashore on five beaches codenamed Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. As you visit the Musée du Débarquement at Utah Beach, learn gripping details about the planning and execution of the invasion. Travel next to Sainte-Mère-Église, where U.S. paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions landed chaotically amid enemy fire and later secured its strategic crossroads. It was the first French town liberated by the Allies.



Château du Bec



Notre Dame Cathedral, Bayeux

## Day 6 | Château du Bec

**AHI Connects | Château du Bec.** Cross the elegant, cable-stayed Pont de Normandie over the Seine River and make your way to Château du Bec, a 10th-century, privately owned castle. Meet one of the owners and walk through the beautiful, wooded grounds. Then, try some of the region's flavorful beers and wines and indulge in a buffet lunch.

**Enrichment: The French Resistance.** Delve into the Resistance: its origins, leaders and the heroic efforts of the French patriots who fought to liberate their country.

**Free Time:** Select a special place for dinner. Your Travel Director can assist with planning.

Church of Sainte Catherine, Honfleur



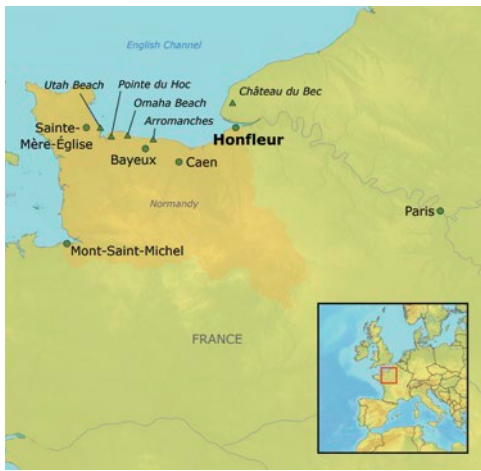
## Day 7 | Arromanches | Omaha Beach | Normandy American Cemetery | Pointe du Hoc

**Enrichment: D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.** Gain insights about the pivotal role that Normandy played during this critical period of the Allied war effort.

**D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.** Begin in Arromanches, where you'll see the site of an offshore mulberry harbor and visit the museum there. These floating harbors enabled the Allies to funnel enormous resources into France to wage war against Hitler. Afterward, walk along Omaha Beach, see the memorial and reflect upon the exceptional courage of the Allied landing forces, who valiantly advanced under devastating fire across the heavily fortified

Normandy American Cemetery





shoreline. Next, visit the Normandy American Cemetery, which contains the graves of 9,387 Americans who died in the invasion and ensuing battles as well as a memorial garden honoring those missing in action. Continue to Pointe du Hoc, where U.S. Rangers scaled 100-foot cliffs to destroy enemy artillery. Hear about this treacherous mission and go inside a German defensive emplacement. During today's excursion, take a break for lunch at a restaurant.

### Day 8 | Bayeux | Honfleur

**Bayeux.** View the renowned Bayeux Tapestry, an embroidered masterpiece nearly 230 feet long with more than 50 scenes related to the 11th-century Norman conquest of England. Later, admire the lovely Gothic details of Bayeux's Notre Dame Cathedral.

**Free Time:** Enjoy time at leisure in Bayeux for lunch before returning to the hotel.

This evening, share stories of your time in Normandy with your fellow travelers at a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

### Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the Paris airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

#### Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

#### Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on and off motor coaches

## Included Features

### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 7 nights in Honfleur, France, at the first-class Mercure Honfleur Hotel.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners; including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Les Braves Monument, Omaha Beach



Bayeux Tapestry



## Accommodations



### **Mercure Honfleur Hotel | Honfleur**



Situated in the heart of historic Honfleur, this modern hotel is close to the charming harbor that has been immortalized in paintings by artists such as Monet and Boudin. Its convenient location offers an ideal base for enjoying Normandy's cultural and culinary delights. Walkable dining venues are moments away. After a lively day of sightseeing, relax in the cozy bar with a glass of the local cider, a Calvados-based cocktail or a fine regional vintage. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



*Mulberry harbor remnants, Arromanches*



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **844-414-0369** or  
visit **<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates †

**July 6-14, 2024**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**July 7-14, 2024**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land Program

<b>Full Price</b>	<b>\$4,245</b>
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<b>Special Savings</b>	<b>\$250</b>
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<b>Special Price*</b>	<b>\$3,995</b>
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\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.  
VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

**Single supplement waived for solo travelers!** This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1759A?schoold=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays





## 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Eighty years ago, one of the largest and most complex invasions in history unfolded along Normandy's coastline. It began on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when more than 160,000 Allied forces arrived by air and sea, landing in territory held by the Germans. Under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Allied troops faced fierce resistance and sustained thousands of casualties, but they succeeded in securing the beaches and later advanced inland to liberate Paris. A tactical and psychological blow to Hitler and his troops, D-Day will be remembered forever as the moment of World War II when the tide began to turn against the Nazis.



### AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

#### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Passenger Service Representative** offers personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

#### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Private John Steele Monument,  
Sainte-Mère-Église

# EXPLORERS

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**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

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- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



**SMALL  
GROUP**  
Maximum of  
28 Travelers

**Normandy's beauty, history and rich culture await you!**

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