

# Normandy



**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers

SPONSORED BY

**SDSU** Alumni

April 10-18, 2027

Other dates available upon request

# SDSU Alumni

**Dear SDSU Alumni,**

Looking for your next adventure? I invite you to join fellow Aztecs on an unforgettable journey to Normandy, a beautiful region in northern France. Unpack once and set out from your base in the scenic port town of Honfleur to explore this special region of France.

Along the way, you'll visit historic D-Day sites and experience iconic landmarks like Mont-Saint-Michel, as well as remarkable works by impressionist masters such as Monet, Degas and Renoir. Plus, enjoy immersive experiences at a 10th-century château and a Norman estate and indulge in Normandy's authentic cuisine and renowned Calvados brandy.

This thoughtfully designed itinerary blends cultural exploration with time to relax and explore independently. Expert guides and lecturers will add depth and context to each experience, making the journey even more meaningful.

Most importantly, this is a chance to connect with fellow Aztecs, sharing new experiences and creating lasting memories.

Space is limited, so I hope you'll consider being part of this incredible adventure.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Dathe '95  
Executive Director, SDSU Alumni

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## UNESCO World Heritage

### Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay

*View from Mont-Saint-Michel*



*Cloister, Mont-Saint-Michel*



# Discovery begins here



Set your sights on an adventure in Normandy that reveals proud traditions, dramatic history, enchanting scenery and culinary delicacies! Pay poignant visits to the beaches, landmarks and memorials of the monumental D-Day operation. Discover captivating Honfleur and be awed by Mont-Saint-Michel's silhouette rising from the sands. Plus, witness world-renowned art by impressionist masters, and savor lunch, wine and brandy tastings at atmospheric venues!

Top: Mont-Saint-Michel | Above: Calvados apple cider brandy  
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 **Normandy's beaches**.
- Delight in the local color and tasty cuisine along **Honfleur's picturesque harbor**.
- Savor lunch and a wine tasting at a stately **10th-century castle**.
- Venture to **charming Bayeux** to visit its magnificent Norman-Gothic cathedral.
- Discover the impact of World War II at the **Caen Memorial Museum**.
- Sip **Calvados**, Normandy's celebrated cider brandy, on a Norman estate.
- Feel the sea breeze during a walk along the cliffs of **Étretat**.
- Experience the **UNESCO World Heritage site** of **Mont-Saint-Michel**, a marvelous tidal island.



Honfleur

### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Paris, France. 🌍

### Day 2 | Paris, France | Honfleur

Arrive and transfer 🔄 to the hotel for check in. Meet and mingle with your fellow travelers at this evening's Welcome Reception at the hotel, followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

### Day 3 | Honfleur

**Historic Honfleur Walking Tour.** Stroll with your guide through this captivating port town that has inspired artists for centuries. Honfleur was an important trading seaport between the 16th and 18th centuries. Soak up the maritime charm of the 17th-century Vieux Bassin harbor, surrounded by high, narrow half-timber houses. Stroll the narrow side streets and squares past cafes and artisan shops and admire landmarks, such as the wooden, 15th-century Church of Sainte Catherine, crafted by shipbuilders.

**Free Time:** Find a café for lunch and explore more of Honfleur at your leisure.

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

Savor regional specialties together for dinner at a local restaurant in Honfleur tonight.

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

**Enrichment: *D-Day & Battle of Normandy.***

Learn about the critical role Normandy played during this crucial period of the war effort while aboard the coach en route to Arromanches.

**D-Day & the Battle of Normandy.** Journey along the coast and stop at Pegasus Bridge, captured by the Allies on D-Day. Tour the Arromanches Landing Museum and see the remains of an artificial, offshore mulberry harbour, a feat of engineering built by the Allies to facilitate the rapid unloading of resources, including troops and supplies, into France.

Break for lunch and continue to Omaha Beach. See the poignant Le Braves Memorial and the Signal Monument, honoring the courageous soldiers who landed there on D-Day to advance under devastating fire across the heavily fortified shoreline to overcome German troops.

Then, in Colleville-sur-Mer, pay a poignant visit

*Normandy American Cemetery*





to the Normandy American Cemetery. Set on a beautiful bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, the cemetery contains 9,385 graves of Americans who died in the invasion and subsequent battles, as well as a tranquil memorial garden honoring those missing in action.

Visit Pointe du Hoc, where U.S. Rangers scaled 100-foot cliffs to destroy German artillery. Understand the treacherous mission and see a German defensive displacement.

#### Day 5 | Étretat | Château du Bec

**Étretat & Château du Bec.** Cross the Seine River estuary on the Pont de Normandie, which was the world's longest cable-stayed bridge when it opened in 1995. It remains the longest bridge in France. Continue to Étretat and its famed white cliffs, which inspired Delacroix, Courbet, Monet and Matisse, among others. See the Porte d'Aval rock arch and L'Aiguille, the needle of rock jutting out of the ocean. Next, visit the Château du Bec, a 10th-century castle on a wooded 35-acre Norman estate. One of the owners will

Étretat



welcome you to their home during your visit of the home and grounds. Then, relish lunch and local wines in this idyllic setting.

#### Day 6 | 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 captivating tidal island is considered a wonder of the Western world. Visit the tranquil abbey that has drawn pilgrims for centuries. Marvel at its Romanesque and Gothic architecture and contemplate its place as a symbol of faith and resilience. *(Active)*

**Free Time:** Find a café for lunch on your own and relish some free time to meander along the ramparts or the charming, lively streets.

#### Day 7 | Caen | Bayeux

**Caen Peace Memorial.** At this award-winning museum, gain an international perspective of World War II, the D-Day landings, the Battle of Normandy and the Cold War. View artifacts, photographs and video footage that focus on the war's global impact and the importance



of remembrance, reconciliation and peace.

**AHI Connects | Norman Estate Lunch & Calvados Tasting.** Normandy's apple cider brandy is among the world's finest. Visit an estate that distills Calvados from the apples grown on its orchards to learn about the process. Then, sit down to a delicious lunch with a tasting of smooth Calvados.

**Bayeux.** Journey to Bayeux to visit its Notre Dame Cathedral, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Bayeux, consecrated in 1077 and considered a masterpiece of Norman Gothic architecture. Then, enjoy time at leisure in this little town to explore its charming boutiques and cafés.

## Day 8 | Honfleur



**Free Time:** Your final day is yours to plan! Visit nearby museums, such as the Musée Eugène Boudin; stroll through local markets and along the sea walls; or savor lunch as you take in the local scene from a waterfront café.

This evening, raise a toast to your enriching 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.

## Activity Level

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/off motor coaches and boats

## 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.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **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.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

*Church of Sainte Catherine, crafted by 15th-century shipbuilders*



# Normandy & D-Day

Over 80 years ago, one of history's most significant, complex invasions 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. It was a tactical and psychological blow to Hitler and his troops, and D-Day will forever be remembered as the moment of World War II when the tide began to turn against the Nazis.



Château du Bec



# 2027 | Departure Details

## Program Dates

**Travel dates** † **April 10-18, 2027**

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

**Tour dates\*** **April 11-18, 2027**

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

## Land Program

**Full Price** **\$4,645**

**Special Savings** **\$500**

**Special Savings Price\*** **\$4,145**

**\*This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$250 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

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://sdsu.ahitravel.com/destinations/2012A?schoold=204>.

## 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 before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

## AHI Travel Expertise

**Travel Consultants** guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

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

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

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



# Accommodations



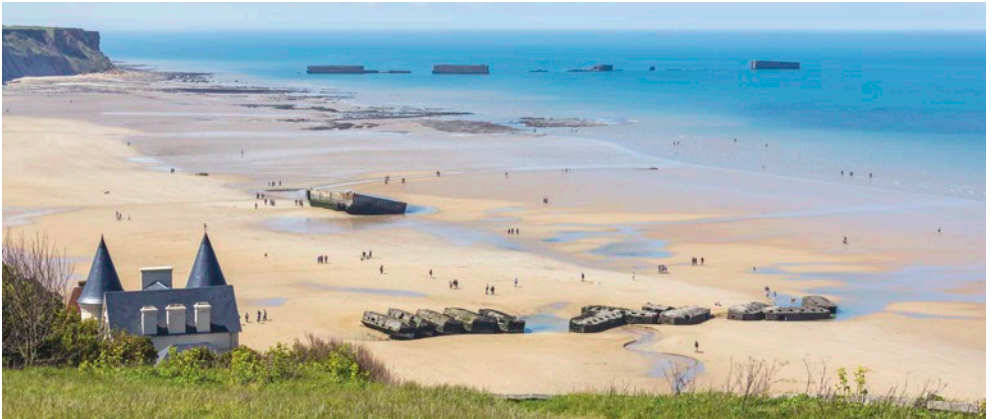
## Mercure Honfleur Hotel | Honfleur



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.



*Remains of a mulberry harbour, Arromanches*



## Book your journey today!

800-323-7373

[www.sdsualumni.org/travel](http://www.sdsualumni.org/travel)

# SDSU Alumni

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