

France – Normandy



Trip Summary

Emotions run high on this spectacular visit to Normandy. Our easy-going route leads to a string of seaside ports and resorts, rich with mariners' tales and world famous local seafood. Take time to wander through picturesque traditional villages, enjoy sweeping coastal views, and have fun on the beach. We'll also visit historic sites as the Bayeux tapestry, the D-Day beaches, and other war memorials. This region offers a rare look at traditional France, in early times, during WWII and today. Don't miss it!

Itinerary

Day 1: St-Vaast

We meet in Paris in the morning and begin the day with a transfer to the picturesque harbor town of St-Vaast • After enjoying a lunch, join your guide on your first bike ride! • This short afternoon ride on a traffic-free bicycle path gives you the opportunity to try out the bikes • We will also walk on the coastal dike and along St-Vaast's lively port • Tonight, join your guides and fellow travelers for a grand welcome dinner at Restaurant France et Fuchsia • *(L, D) Overnight at Hotel de France et des Fuchsias*

Day 2: St-Vaast

Today's bike ride takes us to Barfleur, a charming fishing port with granite houses dating back to the 17th century • Before reaching Barfleur, we proceed on foot along the Grand Randonnée hiking trail to Pointe de Barfleur • We pause en route for a delicious picnic lunch • Earn some great views by climbing 233 feet to the top of the lighthouse at Pointe de Barfleur, it's one of the tallest in France • Those who prefer to stay on their bikes can make their way back to St-Vaast on a spectacular route through rolling woodlands and pastures • Spend the night strolling around St-Vaast and dining at one of the many amazing restaurants • *(B, L) Overnight at Hotel de France et des Fuchsias*

Day 3: Bayeux

Fuel up with a warm breakfast before saddling up for another breathtaking ride • Visit the seaside resort at Quinéville en route to WWII locations in Ste-Mère Église • Once we reach the coast again, we proceed on foot along the sandy beaches until the Utah Beach Museum and memorials, where there's ample time to take in the sights • *(B, D) Overnight at Chateau de Sully*

Day 4: Bayeux

A short transfer will take you from Bayeux to the German military battery at Pointe du Hoc • At Omaha Beach we will begin our walk along the coast • Stop for a delicious meal near Omaha Beach before finishing the rest of your hike at the American military cemetery • End the day visiting the colorful Bayeux tapestry, over 76 yards in length, embroidered with vivid illustrations of William the Conqueror's conquest of England • Tonight stroll in the lovely old town of Bayeux, with its half-timbered houses and fine shops before we dine informally on pizza, pasta and salad • *(B, L, D) Overnight at Chateau de Sully*



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Day 5: Bayeux

Get ready for a day of rich history as you head out for a loop ride to nearby WWII sights and experience a 360 degree war documentary • The route includes Gold Beach, the "artificial invasion harbor" at Arromanches, and the German observation post at Longues sur Mer • Later, spend more time in Bayeux and visit the many interesting shops and museums • Enjoy a marvelous farewell dinner, indulging in the region's fine 'surf & turf' specialties • *(B, D) Overnight at Chateau de Sully*

Day 6: Paris

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Paris for your departure home • *(B) No overnight*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Activities

Cycling & hiking:

Day 1 mileage options: cycling 5 / 10 + walking 3
Day 2 mileage options: cycling 12 / 25 + hiking 3 / 5
Day 3 mileage options: cycling 20 / 28 + hiking 3
Day 4 mileage options: hiking 5
Day 5 mileage options: cycling 19 / 29 / 38

Discovery:

Famous sights, renowned resorts and peaceful rural routes blend together here for some of the best cycling in all of France. Ride along the gently rolling Normandy coast to sleepy fishing harbors, sandy beach resorts and D-Day sites. Learn (and taste) the difference between the various choices and sizes of oysters. Read the Bayeux tapestry like a medieval comic book, the best account of the Battle of Hasting, which changed the course of history. Spend ample time at the various war museums, presenting a dramatic view of recent history. Drool at the amazing gourmet store Maison Gosselin in St-Vaast. This is northwestern France in all its glory.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They take the time to explain the local history and daily sightseeing and route options. Each route has been carefully planned to include options to please each traveler's interests. Austin Adventures guides are available to help you select the distance that's right for you and to offer advice and assistance as you desire.

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Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 & 2: Hôtel de France et des Fuchsias

Located in the heart of a traditional fishing town, Saint Vaast la Hougue, at the northeastern corner of Normandy's Cotentin peninsula, Hotel de France et des Fuchsias is home to gourmet food, beautiful scenery in-between countryside and seaside, and a taste of French tradition. Built in a former coaching inn, the Hotel de France is now run by the third generation of the Brix family, who have a very rich cooking heritage; everything is homemade.

Nights 3 – 5: Château de Sully

Step back in time as you enter the gates of this historic French chateau. The beautiful gardens and classic architecture are a perfect complement to the luxurious and relaxing rooms overlooking the beautiful property. Soak in the Jacuzzi, pamper yourself with a massage, indulge in some of the exquisite cuisine, or enjoy one of the many other amenities that Chateau de Sully offers.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Arrival & Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Paris. On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of Grand Hotel Bedford (8th arrondissement) in Paris at 8:30 am. After a transfer to St-Vaast, lunch and briefing, the intro bike ride begins. After breakfast on Day 6, we take you to the airport, train station, or the hotel of your choice in Paris (three hour transfer).

Trip Price

\$3,298 (\$580 single supplement)

Trip Length

6 days / 5 nights

2020 Dates

June 28 - July 3

September 6 - 11

Host City

Paris, France

Airport codes: CDG or ORY

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*For a true taste of Normandy, sample Isigny's
world-famous sweet (or sea-salted) butter*

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.