



Normandy Cycling 8 Days

Summary

Length

8 days/7 nights,

Dates

Any start date between May 1 and October 31

We recommend you to start your tour on a Friday to see the market held in Bayeux every Saturday.

July and August are the high season and it can be very crowded. If you're planning to travel in July or August be sure to book early.

Level

Daily distance averaged 55 km (35 mi)

Terrain is rolling hills with flat stretches

"Thank you for such a wonderful experience and providing us for a memorable vacation. Normandy is a beautiful area and we couldn't have planned the experience any better."

D. Coyle

Journey to a place steeped in history and art. Explore Bayeux, where the world-famous tapestry tells the story of William the Conqueror's invasion of England in 1066. Then head along the D-Day beaches, the scene of another invasion centuries later. Explore seaside resorts graced by elegant villas and follow in the footsteps of the Impressionists who flocked here in the 19th century. Feast on fruits de mer and sip Calvados, Normandy's famous apple brandy.

Itinerary



Day 1

Arrival in Bayeux, the first French town to be liberated in 1944. Arrive early enough to explore its beautiful medieval centre.

Our area manager will give you the bikes and a briefing for the tour.

Day 2

Take time to see the Bayeux tapestry, a remarkable piece of embroidery telling the tale of William of Normandy's conquest of England in 1066. Then pedal south through the pretty countryside to the Abbaye de Mondaye, rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries. Continue to the Château de Balleroy, built in the 17th century and purchased in 1970 by the late Malcolm Forbes. Return to Bayeux.

Day 3

Today head for the Landing Beaches. Visit Arromanches, with the vestiges nearby of the artificial harbour built by the British, and the German artillery battery at Longues-sur-Mer, the only coastal battery that has kept its guns. Finally, arrive at Omaha Beach, the scene of a terrible battle, vividly recreated in the movie Saving Private Ryan. The military cemeteries are

moving memorials to the heroism that took place here. Stay overnight in a hotel just metres from Omaha Beach or a B&B in the countryside.



Day 4

Visit more D-Day sites along the coast today or follow a route that takes you along quite country roads further inland. Whichever option you choose, your destination is the village of Crépon, known for its fortified manor houses.

Day 5

Cycle to Cabourg, a seaside resort developed in the second half of the 19th century. Marcel Proust stayed here often and left a vivid evocation of life in Cabourg in *À l'Ombre des Jeunes Filles*. Stroll along streets lined by magnificent villas and on the promenade along the beach. If you want to treat yourself to a luxe upgrade for only two nights, this is the place to do it. You'll stay at the Grand Hotel de Cabourg, right on the seafront.



How to get there?

You start in Bayeux, about 225 km west of Paris.

Access is by train. There are several direct trains every day and the trip usually takes around two hours.

The tour ends in Honfleur, which has no train station.

The most convenient way to depart is to take a taxi to Le Havre, where there are both air and train connections to other destinations.

Taxi transfers can be set up for you in advance, but you would pay directly on site. Public buses connect you to Deauville and Le Havre train stations.

Itinerary

Day 6

On a day ride you head south into the Pays d'Auge, an area of pastures, thatched cottages, and farms that produce cider, calvados, and Camembert, for which Normandy is famous. You'll be able to sample some of these and other delicious produits du terroir in Beuvron-en-Auge, designated one of the plus beaux villages de France.

Day 7

Follow the Côte Fleurie, travel in the footsteps of the Impressionist painters drawn here by the magical light and the sea. Arrive in Honfleur, once the haunt of artists such as Arthur Boudin and Claude Monet and home to composer Erik Satie. It was from Honfleur that Samuel de Champlain set sail on the voyage of discovery that resulting in the founding of Québec in 1608.

Day 8

Take time for a final stroll around Honfleur before departing for your next adventure.

Accommodation

Classic



Hotel Churchill, Bayeux

Located on a pedestrian street in the heart of old Bayeux with the Tapestry just next door and the Cathedral a few steps away. The staff is exceptionally helpful and friendly.



Hotel Mercure Omaha Beach, Omaha Beach

With a pretty countryside setting this is a great base to explore the D-day beaches. There is a fitness room, sauna, *hammam* and heated outside swimming pool.



Ferme Hotel La Ranconniere, Crepon

This former farm has been restored to a quaint hotel, while maintaining the rustic feel. Cozy rooms have exposed beams and stonework, each personalized with period furniture.



The Price includes:

- 7 nights hotels
- All breakfasts and 2 dinners
- Use of a top quality 21-speed hybrid bike complete with handlebar bag, pump, and all the necessary accessories for changing flats. We recommend that you bring your own helmet for safety and hygiene reasons
- Detailed route instructions and map
- Area Manager available throughout the tour

Accommodation

Classic



Le Cabourg,

Cabourg

Centrally located in the heart of Cabourg in a quiet area, the hotel is only 150 metres from the beach. There is a small garden in the back.



L'Ecrin,

Honfleur

This elegant historic house and garden make a restful place to stay within easy walking distance of Honfleur. The rooms have maintained their late 19th century design and style of the time.

Luxe



Chateau de Sully,

Bayeux

Between Bayeux and the Normandy beaches, this 18th century château has elegant interiors and seven acres of greenery. The hotel boasts a swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi and tennis court.



Le Cheneviere,

Port-en-Bessin

The 18th-century château stands elegantly in a 2 hectare walled garden and 12 hectares of parkland beyond. Each room has a garden view and all are individually decorated.



Ferme Hotel La Ranconniere,

Crepon

This former farm has been restored to a quaint hotel, while maintaining the rustic feel. Cozy rooms have exposed beams and stonework, each personalized with period furniture.



Grand Hotel de Cabourg,

Cabourg

This beachfront hotel is on the promenade in front of the English Channel, in the town centre. Relax in the comfortable and spacious rooms where the French author Proust once stayed.



Ferme St. Simon,

Honfleur

This was a retreat for painters such as Monet, Sisley, Courbet, Boudin and Jongkind. The hotel has been beautifully restored with tastefully decorated rooms. There is a gourmet restaurant and spa.