

DAY 1: LONDON, ENGLAND

Arrive at Heathrow Airport (LHR) in London and transfer to our centrally located hotel. The afternoon begins in the Churchill War Rooms, a fortified bunker deep underneath Whitehall from which Winston Churchill directed the British war effort. Wander through the rooms—and the adjacent Churchill Museum—and examine maps, telephones, and items from Churchill's life. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dinner.

Meals Included: Dinner

Accommodations: Conrad St. James Hotel

DAY 2: LONDON

Set out on a tour of London's WWII highlights, passing historic monuments such as Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey along the way. Explore the decks of the H.M.S. Belfast, now part of the Imperial War Museum; and visit Norfolk House, where much of the planning for D-Day took place.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Accommodations: Conrad St. James Hotel

DAY 3: PORTSMOUTH

This morning, immerse yourself in a world of intrigue and espionage at Bletchley Park and discover the story behind the Enigma code breakers, who successfully deciphered the encryption used by the Wehrmacht. Later, travel south to Portsmouth and take a tour of Southwick House, the former headquarters of the Allied commanders.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Southampton Harbour Hotel

DAY 4: NORMANDY, FRANCE

This morning, cross the English Channel by ferry. Visit the Pegasus Memorial Bridge and Museum—dedicated to the men of the 6th British Airborne Division. Then walk in the footsteps of thousands of soldiers at Juno Beach and Gold Beach, two of the five landing points for the Allied invasion. Take in the German artillery battery at Longues-sur-Mer, built by the Wehrmacht at a strategic point overlooking the English Channel—and later disabled by Allied bombardments.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel Le Normandie Barriere or Mercure Omaha Beach

DAY 5: SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE/SAINTE-MARIE-DU-MONT/UTAH BEACH

Explore the village of Sainte-Mère-Église, where the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division paratroopers dropped from the sky in a hail of gunfire on the night of June 5. View the church steeple upon which one unlucky paratrooper was entangled for hours, and visit the village's remarkable museum. Continue west to La Fièvre bridge, site of an important D-Day battle led by the 82nd Airborne Division. Visit a memorial established in memory of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division—known as E or Easy Company—which eliminated a German artillery position at Brécourt Manor during a pivotal moment in the invasion. Then venture into the field where Easy Company Commander Thomas Meehan and his crew perished when their C-47 crashed under enemy fire—an event dramatically recounted in Stephen E. Ambrose's *Band of Brothers*. After lunch, explore Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, one of the first villages to be liberated in the D-Day invasion. Continue to Utah Beach, site of one of the two American amphibious landings in the early hours of D-Day, and take an afternoon tour of its museum.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel Le Normandie Barriere or Mercure Omaha Beach

DAY 6: D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

On the anniversary of D-Day, attend a commemoration ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial overlooking Omaha Beach. In attendance will be surviving WWII veterans, heads of state, senior military officers, and other dignitaries.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel Le Normandie Barriere or Mercure Omaha Beach

DAY 7: POINTE DU HOC/COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER

One of the most dramatic sites along the Normandy coastline is Pointe du Hoc, where U.S. Rangers used hooks and ropes to scale cliffs some 100 feet high in order to destroy key German gun positions. Walk along cliff-top pathways still cratered by mortar blasts, and venture into the concrete bunkers from which German forces unleashed a barrage of artillery fire. Wander along Omaha Beach, site of the bloodiest fighting of the invasion day. Trace the history of the Vierville Draw, which was a German stronghold and an important objective for Allied forces to clear, and see remnants of German bunkers

and fortifications along the Atlantic Wall. Later, pay a visit to the American Military Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, taking in the poignant sight of row upon row of small white grave markers stretching across acres.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Hotel Le Normandie Barriere or Mercure Omaha Beach

DAY 8: BAYEUX/PARIS

Visit the 11th-century Cathedral of Bayeux, a gem of Norman-Romanesque architecture, and see the Bayeux Tapestry. This afternoon, drive to Paris and gather for a farewell dinner.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Hôtel Edouard VII

DAY 9: PARIS

After breakfast, transfer to Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) for your flight home.

Meals Included: Breakfast