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MHT'S CATHEDRALS OF NORTHERN FRANCE

6—19 OCTOBER 2024

**NORMANDY—MONT-SAINT
-MICHEL—GIVERNY
MONET'S GARDEN—CAEN—
PARIS—STE-MÈRE ÉGLISE**

**TOUR LEADERS: COL RICH YODER USMC(RET)
MHT'S EUROPEAN HISTORIAN
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COL DAVE WALL, USMC(RET) TOUR LEADER**



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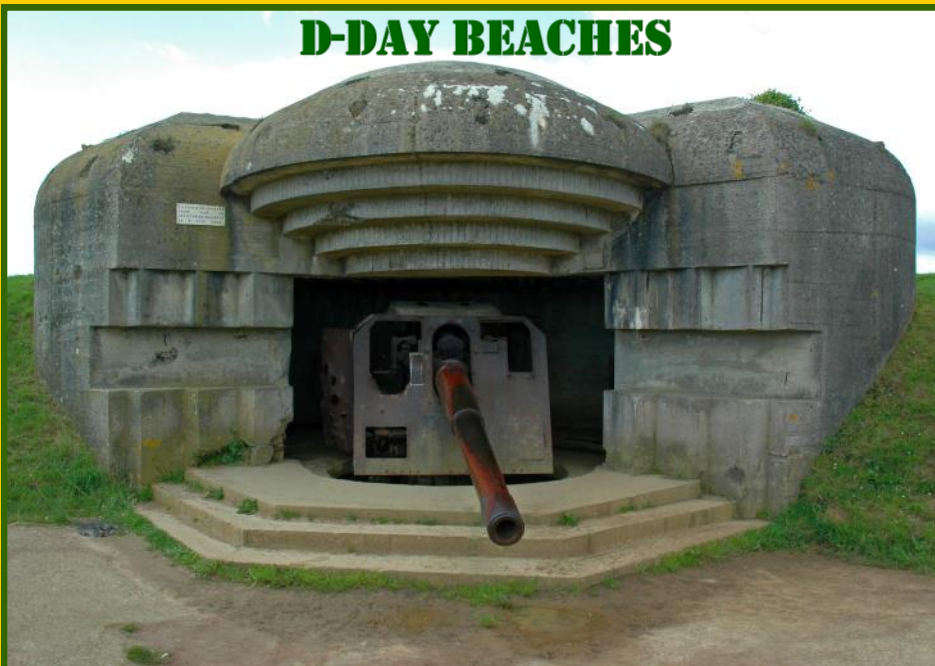
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REIMS CATHEDRAL



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D-DAY BEACHES

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STE MERE EGLISE

The Great Cathedrals of Northern France, Cross Normandy off your Bucket List in 2023! Please join us for a journey back in time to the birthplace of Gothic architecture was the north of France, particularly the northeast quarter of the country; and it is here that the finest of France's gothic cathedrals are to be found; Notre Dame de Paris, Amiens, Reims & Rouen. French gothic cathedrals are noted for their fine "chevets", the semi-circular ambulatory and radiating chapels located behind the choir. Chevets already existed in Romanesque cathedrals, but the architects of the great gothic cathedrals embellished them in new ways.

Famous Cathedrals on the Tour:

Amiens—The largest of the great French gothic cathedrals, with a height under the vault of over 40 meters. The first stone was laid in 1220. Amiens cathedral has some of the finest 13th century gothic sculpture of any cathedral in France. A UNESCO world heritage site.

Reims—It was in the Notre Dame cathedral in Reims that the Kings of France used to be crowned. Reims cathedral remains one of the great examples of French high gothic: having suffered seriously in two world wars, it has been painstakingly restored to its original splendor. It is one of the most visited of France's great gothic cathedrals. A UNESCO world heritage site

Rouen—The cathedral suffered from major damage over the centuries, including lightning strikes, structural collapses, and bombing in the WWII. It remains nevertheless one of the great French medieval gothic cathedrals and is the subject of a world-famous series of paintings by Claude Monet.

Bayeux—This Cathedral, also known as Cathedral of Our Lady of Bayeux is a Roman Catholic Church located in Normandy. A national monument and was the original home of the Bayeux Tapestry. The cathedral is in the Norman-Romanesque architectural tradition.



No sleeping in foxholes!

MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS is proud to offer another in our series of signature European Cultural Tours. Tour Leaders and Historians will combine to make your trip the most enjoyable, relaxing, entertaining and educational experience possible. We welcome your phone calls, letters or e-mails to discuss your tour with one of our Battlefield Specialists. Call us at 703-590-1295 we look forward to hearing from you!

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 – Oct 6 – Departure. We depart the US in the afternoon and arrive in Paris the following morning. We gather at our airport hotel for rest before an evening briefing and welcome aboard. **Hotel: CDG Hilton**

Day 2 – Oct 7 – Arrival in France.

Arrive in Paris this morning. We gather at our airport hotel for rest before an evening briefing and welcome aboard. **Hotel: CDG Hilton**

Day 3 – Oct 8 – Oisne-Aisne Cemetery & Reims.

After breakfast we depart for Reims with stops at the Oisne-Aisne Cemetery and the Aisne-Marne Cemetery and church. We continue with a stop at Bel-



Tour Price: \$ 5,295*

(Based on Double Occupancy)

Single Room Supplement: \$ 1,395*

Tour Price Includes:

4–Star Hotel Accommodations at Reims, Caen, Amiens, Rouen, Normandy & Paris

*

Air-conditioned deluxe motor coach with onboard restroom

*

Emergency Medical Insurance

*

Meals as indicated in itinerary

*

Historical trip information packet, containing maps & other tour information.

*

Admission fees to all sites, museums and special attractions listed

*

Services of experienced Tour Leader and English-speaking local guides.



Airfare not included: Get your own or Book Optional MHT Airfare: Round-trip economy or business class airfare from your hometown to Paris CDG price quoted upon registration!

* - Price based on € conversion rate at final billing

leau Wood before arriving in Reims. We spend the afternoon in the town square visiting Notre-Dame de Reims famous the location for the coronations of the kings of France. After checking in to our hotel we will have a group dinner at a local restaurant. B/D...Holiday Inn
Hotel: Holiday Inn Meals: Breakfast (B)/Dinner (D)

Day 4 – Oct 9 – Soissons & Amiens.

After breakfast we check out of the hotel and travel to Soissons. We visit the Cathedral Saint-Gervais Saint-Protais and the ruins of Abbaye Saint-Jean-des-Vignes. We have lunch and travel to the Armistice clearing of Compeigne. From there we travel to Amiens and check into our hotel. After dinner we visit the cathedral to see the light show. **Hotel: Mercure Meals: (B/D)**



Day 5 – Oct 10 – Compeigne & Rouen.

We begin our day visiting the Cathedral Notre-Dame d'Amiens followed by seeing the Jules Verne house. After lunch we travel to Rouen. We take a short city tour visiting the memorial where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake and the adjoining church named for her. We check in to the hotel and are free to enjoy dinner in one of the local restaurants, like La Couronne. First opened in 1345, it became the inspiration for Julia Child's career. **Hotel: Mercure Rouen Centre Meals: (B)**



Day 6 – Oct 11 – Rouen & Honfleur.



Best Western Moderne-Caen

After breakfast we check out of the hotel and head for the Rouen Cathedral. (A stroll through the quaint old streets of Rouen, in Upper Normandy, feels like a walk back in time. **Cathedral Notre-Dame.** In the heart of the old town, it is one of the largest and most impressive Gothic cathedrals in France. The cathedral's main structure was built in the 13th century but the building was not completed until the 16th century.) From there we travel to Honfleur. After lunch we tour Saint Catherine's church and then visit a Calvados distillery on the way to Caen. **Hotel: Best Western Moderne Meals: (B/D)**

Day 7 – Oct 12 – Pegasus Bridge & Caen.

This morning we break from our routine and visit Pegasus Bridge (**Pegasus Bridge and Museum.** The bridges across the River Orne and the Caen

canal had to be captured and held intact to enable the sea-borne reinforcements to cross) and the museum there. We then travel to the D-Day invasion beaches at Arromanches (**Arromanches.** The remains of one of the two artificial "Mulberry" harbors erected in the landing operation may still be seen.) We then travel to Bayeux to see the cathedral and the famous Bayeux Tapestry (**Bayeux.** The first city of the Battle of Normandy to be liberated, and on 16 June 1944 General Charles de Gaulle made the first of two major speeches in Bayeux in which he made



clear that France sided with the Allies. The buildings in Bayeux were virtually untouched during the Battle of Normandy, the German forces being fully involved in defending Caen from the Allies) before returning to Caen. **Hotel: Best Western Moderne Meals: (B)**

Days 8 – Oct 13 – Omaha Beach & Ste Mer Eglise.

This morning we check out of our hotel and travel to Bloody Omaha Beach (**Omaha Beach** was the most intensely contested beach on D-Day. It is six miles wide – the largest of all the five beaches. The entire beach was overlooked by cliffs which made attacking the area very difficult. You will walk the sands where the liberation of France began) and the American Cemetery, the German Cemetery at La Cambe and on to Pointe du Hoc (**Pointe du Hoc.** The 2nd Ranger Battalion scaled the 100-foot cliffs to eliminate the German heavy guns that could threaten both Utah and Omaha beaches. At a high cost, they successfully defended against determined German counterattacks for two days. The Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument was erected by the French to honor the incredible courage of the Rangers.) From there we see Utah Beach (**Utah Beach.** The westernmost of the five landing beaches. The beach was situated on the east at the edge



Veteran "Bangs" Tosline with "Big Red One" re-enactors at Normandy Cemetery on D-Day.

of a marshland zone which had been flooded by the Germans), and then to Ste. Mer Eglise and visit the famous church (**Ste Mere Eglise.** A site made famous by the film, "The Longest Day." A mannequin of a

paratrooper (played by Red Buttons) hangs from the church spire. **The Airborne Forces Museum** has a C-47 troop transport aircraft that flew in the invasion and a rare WACO glider on display.) We check into our hotel. **Hotel: Saint Mere Meals: (B)**

Day 9 – Oct 14 – St. Lo & Mont Saint Michel.

We have an early breakfast and travel through St. Lo and see the church made famous by the 29th Infantry during WWII. We then drive to spend the afternoon at the ancient citadel and church of Mont-Saint-Michel. Time permitting, we visit the American Cemetery. **Hotel: Mercure Meals: (B/D)**

Day 10 – Oct 15 – St. Lo & Mont Saint Michel.

After breakfast we travel to Lisieux the birthplace of Saint Therese, the Little flower, a doctor of the church. We visit the Basilica of St. Therese, the Chapelle de Carmel and museum, Lisieux Cathedral and the history museum. Check into the hotel for the evening. **Hotel: Villa des Arts Meals: (B/D)**

Day 11 – Oct 16 – Les Ventes & Giverny.

Today we travel through Les Ventes and pay respects to Billie D. and Peggy Harris and the ancient church there. From there we travel to Giverny for lunch and a tour of

Jack Hennessey (USN), a Higgins Boat Coxswain, made seven trips to Omaha Beach on D-Day. This trip was with his wife, daughter & MHT.



Monet's Gardens. From there we travel to Paris and check into our hotel. **Hotel: Montparnasse Meals: (B)**

Days 12 & 13 – Oct 17 & 18 – Paris.

We start by touring Saint Chapelle, the Basilica of Saint Denis and the burial place of kings, Sacre Coeur, St.-Sulpice Church (The Davinci Code), Saint-Eustache Church, St.-Gervais-St-Prottais Church, and St-Paul-St-Louis Church. We will also do a driving tour of the city, visit the Louvre, and other sites as time allows. On the last evening, we will have a farewell dinner. **Hotel: Montparnasse Meals: (B/D)**

Day 14 – Oct 19 – Paris.

Depart Paris for home or spend an optional day seeing the grandeur of the Royal Palace at Versailles.



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★★★★★

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