2017

Normandy

PRESS PACK

www.normandy-tourism.org
Contents

How to get to Normandy  
What’s on in 2017?
  Summer in Le Havre  3
  The train to the Mont-Saint-Michel  6
  Honfleur Normandy Outlet opening  8
  Normandy, land of inspiration  9
  Shedding new light on medieval Normandy  13
  Normandy, Land of Liberty  15
Food & drink in Normandy  17
Outdoor activities  19
Well-being breaks in Normandy  23
New accommodation  25
Calendar of events  29
Press contacts  35
Travelling to Normandy

If you fly from Helsinki, Copenhagen, Oslo or Stockholm to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, you’ll either have to rent a car to travel to Normandy or take a taxi to one of the Paris’ train stations.

From Paris-Saint-Lazare station you can travel to Giverny, Rouen, Le Havre, Deauville, Caen and Cherbourg.

From Paris Montparnasse station you can travel to the Mont-Saint-Michel, Argentan and Granville.

From Paris Gare du Nord station you can travel to Le Tréport via Beauvais.

Map of Normandy
What’s on in 2017?

Event: A summer in Le Havre, 5 months of festivities to mark the 500th anniversary of the port and city

The 500th anniversary of Le Havre will see the city and port come alive like never before, with festivities and special events taking place from 27 May to 5 November 2017. All across the city, from the historic docks to the shopping district and the beach, art exhibitions, street parades, theatrical performances and boat races will be taking place over five months, making for a summer to remember.

During the entire summer season, the whole of the city and its port will come alive with art installations, street parades, concerts and exhibitions.

The festivities will begin on 27 May with an impressive opening ceremony orchestrated by the Art Point M Collective, the team behind the popular N.A.M.E electronic music festival that takes place every year in Lille. The event will be a spectacular celebration of all things cultural, with festivities extending all the way from the upper town in the hills to the beach.

The highlight of the summer will be the return from 7 to 9 July of the Royal De Luxe Company’s impressive giant mechanical marionettes for a unique show which will take place throughout the entire city.

On 8 October, the closing ceremony will be a huge public get-together and visual spectacle. An interactive digital installation will also be unveiled as a new landmark for the city and will act as a permanent legacy of the anniversary celebrations.

A summer of art

27 May – 20 August 2017: Pierre and Gilles at André Malraux Modern Art Museum (MuMa)

The MuMa will host an exhibition dedicated to the artist couple Pierre and Gilles, born in 1950 in Roche-sur-Yon and in 1953 in Le Havre respectively. This exhibition will display 80 works from the 1970s to this day, and will invite visitors to wander into the weird and wonderful world of these enfants terribles of the art world through paintings and photographs.

www.muma-lehavre.fr/en/exhibitions

9 September - 8 October 2017: Monet’s masterpiece returns to Le Havre

Claude Monet’s Impression, Sunrise, which gave its name to the Impressionist movement, returns to the city where it was originally painted in 1872. During a one-month exhibition at the MuMa (Modern Art Museum), visitors will be able to view the painting alongside a selection of works by Eugène Boudin, William Turner or Raoul Dufy.

www.muma-lehavre.fr/en/exhibitions
The Temple of 5,000 Wishes in the Japanese Garden

Created in 1992, the Japanese Garden in Le Havre is a symbol of the link between the ports of Le Havre and Osaka. Usually accessible by reservation only, the garden will be open to the public throughout the 500th anniversary celebrations for everyone to enjoy its exotic treasures. The BaZooKa arts company will build a dynamic art installation in the garden: a floating Zen temple where visitors will be invited to make a wish.

31 August – 3 September 2017: Final Stage of the Tall Ships Regatta

The Tall Ships Regatta, officially known as Rendezvous 2017, will stop over in Le Havre for its final stage. The race, which brings together 40 of the largest heritage ships in the world, will set sail in April 2017 from Greenwich in the UK and will travel to Portugal, Bermuda, the USA and Canada, before heading to Le Havre on 31 July. This huge event, which is free of charge and open to the public, will take place around the Vatine, Eure and Vauban areas of the port of Le Havre. Visitors will be able to board the ships and celebrate the city’s maritime heritage by attending parades, concerts and firework displays. [www.sailtraininginternational.org/events/2017-canada-150-tall-ships-regatta](http://www.sailtraininginternational.org/events/2017-canada-150-tall-ships-regatta)

6-9 July 2017: Royal de Luxe street parade

July will also see the highly anticipated return of the iconic Nantes-based Royal de Luxe street theatre company and their giant puppets, which always draw hundreds of thousands of spectators. Famous for their large-scale outdoor performances and their taste for the unorthodox, this free show will take place in public spaces throughout the city, and is a spectacle not to be missed.

Enjoy art and music at the Gare Maritime

Usually closed to the public, the Gare Maritime (old ferry terminal) in Le Havre will be open throughout the summer. During the day, the bar and restaurant will host a daily arts programme. At night, this space will transform into a club and on four weekends over the summer (dates and acts are yet to be confirmed) it will host electro events organised by the Art Point M Collective, founders of the popular N.A.M.E electro festival which takes place every year near Lille. [www.uneteauhavre2017.fr/en](http://www.uneteauhavre2017.fr/en)
Le Havre was founded by King François I in 1517 to establish a major port for his kingdom. In 1562 it was given to Queen Elizabeth I of England under the terms of the Treaty of Hampton Court. However, by 1563 it was again the property of the French. Under Napoleon it became a first class naval port, while in the First World War it was a landing area for British expeditionary forces. During World War II the city suffered much damage and 5,000 civilians died. The Germans blew up the docks before their surrender in September 1944.

Since its foundation in the beginning the city has never stopped reinventing itself throughout the centuries. Severely bombed at the end of World War II, Le Havre was one of the worst affected cities in Europe. A visionary architect was put in charge of the post-war reconstruction of the city: Auguste Perret. He was one of the world’s pioneers in using concrete, a material he favoured not only for its structural stability, but also because he maintained he could achieve a uniform effect with it. Often debated, mostly misunderstood, his work finally received the recognition it deserved in 2005 when Le Havre’s city centre was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Today, the city is popular with contemporary architecture lovers, who come to admire Saint-Joseph Church and its 110 metre high steeple, Oscar Niemeyer’s Volcano or Les Bains des Docks, a modern swimming complex designed by Jean Nouvel.

**Le Havre’s unmissable sites:**

**Saint Joseph’s Church**

Designed by Auguste Perret, the construction of Saint Joseph’s Church began in 1951 and was completed after his death by his working group in 1957. Dedicated to the memory of the victims of the bombings, Saint Joseph’s Church is symbolic of this reconstruction period in Europe, and stands out as one of the architectural masterpieces of the 20th century.


**Musée André Malraux, or MuMa**

The splendid location of the Musée d’Art Moderne André Malraux, or MuMa, in the port of Le Havre, looking from the Seine estuary out to sea, plus its modern, glass-sided architecture, made the use of light of primary importance and the major challenge in this museum’s reorganization. The permanent collections cover four centuries of European art, from the 17th to the 20th. The modern period is especially well represented, with a staggering array of works painted by artists originally from the Normandy coast (such as Boudin, Monet and Dufy) or attracted to it by the quality of its light. In fact, MuMa boasts the largest collection of Impressionist works in France after Paris.

[www.muma-lehavre.fr](http://www.muma-lehavre.fr)

**The Perret Show Flat**

This show flat is designed to help visitors understand how Perret and his working group rehoused the city’s inhabitants after World War II. This fully furnished show flat provides an insight into what modernity looked like post war, and the architectural innovation that led to Perret’s city becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Perret’s vision was to give the people of Le Havre optimum comfort, with large bright living spaces in quiet neighbourhoods.

What’s on in 2017?

The train to the Mont-Saint-Michel

A new year-round train service is running now between Paris and the Mont-Saint-Michel. Catch a train from Paris Montparnasse 3 Vaugirard and get off at Villedieu-les-Poêles. From there, a bus will take you directly to the Mont Saint-Michel. The tickets for this route are sold at a fixed price of 27 euros.

www.voyages-sncf.com

The Mont-Saint-Michel becomes an island again during high-tides

The Mont-Saint-Michel and its bay have been classified as UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 1979. More recently, 2015 saw the completion of 10 years of major works to re-establish the maritime character of Normandy’s holy mount topped by its magnificent medieval monastery, isolated in its vast bay. In 2015, during exceptionally high spring tides, the Mont-Saint-Michel became, for brief periods, a truly water-surrounded island once again, for the first time since the 19th century. In 2016, witness this phenomenon again during the highest spring tides, seeing Normandy’s holiest mount in its full magical setting.

Did you know?

Across the year 2016, high spring tides will occur some 33 times on 22 days:


When the tidal coefficient exceeds 110, the sight of the Mont Saint-Michel as an island will be visible twice in a day: early in the morning and in the evening.

Visitor Numbers to the Mont-Saint-Michel

The Mont-Saint-Michel

- the most visited tourist site in Normandy
  - 2015: 2.3 million visitors to the mount
  - 2015: 1.26 million visitors to the Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey itself

Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey

- the most visited site in Normandy that charges an entrance fee
- Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey: ranked 17th most visited cultural site in France
- 46% of visitors to the abbey are foreigners
What’s on in 2017?

The Mont-Saint-Michel – identity card

History

709
Following several apparitions from what he considered to be the archangel Saint Michael, AUBERT, bishop of the nearby hill town of Avranches (and a man later to be made a saint), ordered the building of a chapel on a then deserted rock known as Mount Tombe.

966
Benedictine monks established themselves on this mount, creating a monastery on it.

Circa 1020
The mount’s monastic community decided to remodel the monastery from top to bottom, including building a vast church at the top of the rock in order to welcome the many pilgrims who visited the holy site.

13th century
Magnificent new monastic buildings containing six splendid chambers went up on the rock’s north side. This wing was so stunning; it was immediately named ‘The Marvel’. Pilgrimages here now reached their apogee, making the Mont-Saint-Michel one of the most famous places in the Christian world.

From 1490
Following the collapse of the Romanesque choir end in 1424, a new Flamboyant Gothic choir end would go up, giving the abbey church its very distinctive look.

1791
During the French Revolution, the monks then at the abbey were chased away and the place was turned into a prison. It would serve this purpose right up to 1864.

1874
The Mont-Saint-Michel’s abbey was handed over to France’s fine arts administration, the Beaux-Arts, in order for it to be restored.

1966
To celebrate the monastery’s 1000th anniversary, a provisional community of Benedictine monks was allowed to inhabit the abbey for a few months.

1969
A new, permanent community of monks and nuns following St Benedict’s rule brought stable monastic life back to the Mont-Saint-Michel.

Since 24th June 2001

The Monastic Fraternities of Jerusalem, communities of monks and nuns, began offering a monastic welcome at the abbey once again. They moved into abbey buildings, although these remain the property of the French State, administered by the State heritage body, the Centre National des Monuments Historiques et des Sites.

Honfleur Normandy Outlet, the first designer outlet village in northwest France, is opening in 2017.

At the foot of the majestic Pont de Normandie bridge, on the edge of an historic gem of a port, Honfleur Normandy Outlet will be the first designer outlet village in northwest France when it opens. It will become home to over 100 shops dedicated to fashion and lifestyle, featuring major French and international brands.

Honfleur Normandy Outlet will offer visitors a new-generation shopping experience, with a huge 18,000m² of shops open seven days a week, with 2,000 free parking spaces, plus with many restaurants on site and entertainment laid on for kids...

Given the unique location of this designer outlet village, it was essential that its architecture should match the majestic setting beside the Seine estuary. Rarely has so much care and attention been lavished on the planning of such an exceptional outlet village. Edouard François, a world-renowned architect and urban planner, dreamt up the design.

Thanks to the use of the ‘hill principal’ devised by the architect, greenery will dominate the site. The roofs of the buildings will be covered with plants, the architecture echoing the green hills of the Seine Valley. The paths around the village will encourage people to wander around easily. The plan is medieval in inspiration, as in historic Honfleur, with pedestrianized streets. As well as the designer outlet stores, there will be open, airy squares, plus striking buildings reinterpreting distinctively traditional Normandy architecture. After shopping, or to break up your visit, relax at one of the many cafés and restaurants, perhaps on a terrace right at the water’s edge.

As well as taking the quality of the environment into consideration here, the ecological side is being taken into account too, what with the use of natural materials, the recycling of rainwaters and an emphasis on biodiversity in the planting.

Planned to open in autumn 2017, this up-coming, upmarket designer outlet village aims to become one of the top five in France in its very first year of operation.

Normandy, land of inspiration

New for 2017: Picasso in Rouen

From 1 April to 11 September 2017, three museums in the city of Rouen will display over 200 works and documents by Pablo Picasso’s hand, some never seen before in public. Sculptures, paintings and drawings will be on show at Rouen’s Musée des Beaux-Arts (or fine arts museum), Musée de la Céramique (the city’s celebrated ceramics museum) and Musée Le Secq des Tournelles (the town’s extraordinary wrought iron museum). This one-off, triple exhibition will throw light on the artist’s fascinating but little-known works created when he stayed in Normandy in the 1930s.

In June 1930, Picasso bought the Château de Boisgeloup near the town of Gisors, in the southeastern Normandy county of Eure. While the great artist continued to live in Paris, he often stayed in his Normandy castle and, most significantly, created his first-ever sculpture workshop there. Inspired by his muse at the time, Marie-Thérèse Walter, he experienced an intensely creative period, expressed in paintings, drawings, engravings and even photography.

For the first time ever, this major, combined exhibition will focus on the period when Picasso regularly stayed in Normandy.

The exhibition ‘Picasso at Boisgeloup’ at the Rouen fine arts museum will relate the history of the artist’s Normandy retreat and will evoke his view of the place. The exhibition ‘Pablo Picasso’s Ceramic Sculptures’ at Rouen’s ceramics museum will reveal his innovations in this domain. Lastly, at the Musée des Arts du Fer Le Secq des Tournelles, the exhibition ‘Picasso / González: an iron friendship’ will compare and contrast the two artists’ use of wrought iron in their works.

What’s on in 2017?

The Musée Christian Dior in Granville celebrates the famed fashion house’s 70th anniversary

In 2017, the Dior fashion house is celebrating its 70th anniversary. To mark this, through summer 2017, the beautiful coastal Musée Christian Dior de Granville will present an exhibition on the great designer’s work.

From 1947 to 1957, Christian Dior created 22 haute-couture collections, ceaselessly inventing new lines. Today, almost 60 years after his death, Christian Dior remains one of the best known of any French names around the world.

Boasting of being the only French museum dedicated to a single fashion designer, the Musée Christian Dior is located on the cliffs above the port of Granville, in the family home where Christian spent his earliest years, then, after that, his holidays as a boy. Looking out to sea, surrounded by a remarkable Belle Epoque garden, this seaside villa always remained close to the legendary couturier’s heart and helped inspire him. “My childhood home… I’ve kept the warmest, most magical memories of it. What am I saying? My life, my style, owe practically everything to its setting and its architecture.”

The exhibition will present memories of the time when the Dior family lived in Granville. The period will be evoked via special set pieces. In each room, a different member of the family will be brought back to life through personal objects and photos. Many haute-couture dresses will also be put on display.

www.musee-dior-granville.com
Impressionist Normandy

In the nineteenth century, a group of experimental artists wanting to break away from the strictures of classical French painting arrived in Normandy. Attracted by the quality of the light and the beauty of the unspoilt countryside, they set up their easels in the fresh air and painted the ever-changing landscape. This was the beginning of Impressionism and Normandy was the birthplace of the movement. Today, visitors from all over the world flock to the region to admire the timeless landscapes alongside the paintings they inspired. [www.normandy-tourism.org/impressionism](http://www.normandy-tourism.org/impressionism)

Le Havre

Scene of Monet’s ‘Impression: Sunrise,’ this was the painting that rocked the 19th century French art world. When an art critic wrote a scathing review of the exhibition in which it was featured, he inadvertently named the new artistic movement. In the 19th century, Le Havre was the chic seaside resort of choice for Parisians with many, Monet included, having a family summer home in the town. [www.lehavretourisme.com](http://www.lehavretourisme.com)

MuMa, André Malraux Museum of Modern Art, Le Havre

The shifting light of Le Havre’s estuary that once inspired Impressionists to paint some of their greatest work, today floods this seafront museum. The museum features the work of Courbet, Corot, Boudin, Monet, Sisley, Pissarro, Dufy, Renoir and Matisse is not to be missed. This is one of the largest collection of Impressionist works in France. [www.muma-lehavre.fr/en](http://www.muma-lehavre.fr/en)

Giverny

Situated on the right bank of the Seine, Giverny is known the world over thanks to its depiction in the many paintings of Claude Monet who lived here from 1883 to his death in 1926. His presence in the village drew numerous artists from all over the world, who contributed to turning the village into a site which even today remains a symbol of Impressionism. [http://fondation-monet.com/en](http://fondation-monet.com/en)

Just a few minutes walk from Monet’s house and gardens, the [Musée des Impressionnismes](http://www.musée-des-impressionnismes.com) has a calendar of temporary exhibitions throughout 2016. [www.mdig.fr](http://www.mdig.fr)

Rouen

Ideally located on the Seine between Paris and the Normandy coast, the Impressionist artists flocked to Rouen, fascinated by the new industrial sites, the area’s natural beauty and the plethora of unspoiled architectural gems. Rouen’s majestic cathedral would have its moment of glory when Monet consecrated some 30 canvases to its façade, painted at various times of day to capture the changes in luminosity. [www.rouentourisme.com](http://www.rouentourisme.com)

Museum of Fine Arts, Rouen

The Rouen Museum of Fine Arts houses one of France’s most prestigious art collections including paintings, sculptures, drawings and art objects ranging from the 15th century to the present day. The gift of the Depaux collection in 1909 made Rouen’s
Museum of Fine Arts, Caen
One of France’s finest art galleries. Extremely rich collection of 16th to 20th century paintings and an exceptional collection of engravings comprising over 50,000 individual works, presented in alternating themes.

Honfleur
Featured in many of the Impressionists’ paintings, the charming fishing port of Honfleur looks much as it did when Monet was a frequent visitor. Eugène Boudin, forerunner of the Impressionist movement and one of Monet’s greatest influences was born in Honfleur and the museum named after him displays Impressionist works by artists who were born or worked in the town.

La Côte d’Albâtre
This spectacular coastline of chalk cliffs and green pastures stretches from Le Havre eastwards along the coast to Fécamp. Special mention goes to Etretat and its stunning cliff formations including the famous chalk needle immortalised by Monet. Visitors can get a great view of the cliffs by taking an audio-guided tour of Etretat available from the tourist office. www.etretat.net / www.fecamptourisme.com

La Côte Fleurie
The sandy beaches stretching from Cabourg to Honfleur are home to some of the region’s smartest seaside resorts which were equally as popular in the time of the Impressionists. Traditional boardwalks, white-washed bath houses and colourful parasols confer a timeless feel to the familiar scenes painted by artists such as Monet and Boudin.

Caen
William the Conqueror lent the town his favour in the 11th century and commissioned many of the city’s most famous sites including the Abbey aux Hommes and the Abbey aux Dames.
www.caen-tourisme.fr

After a great success in 2016 Normandy Impressionist Festival returns in 2020
Now an established event in Normandy’s calendar and having welcomed more than a million visitors to date, the Festival Normandie Impressionniste returns in 2020. From April to September, Normandy comes alive to the sight and sound of Impressionism with hundreds different projects showcased throughout the region. Exhibits and events will take place throughout the region celebrating not only painting, but other forms of artistic expression influenced by Impressionism: music, dance, theatre, photography and architecture.
Shedding new light on medieval Normandy!
Rouen: two new sound and light shows, on William the Conqueror and Joan of Arc

Rouen’s Notre-Dame Cathedral is illuminated in spectacular fashion every summer thanks to an amazing sound and light show. As night falls, couples, families, groups of locals and numerous tourists gravitate towards the square in front of the cathedral to be moved by the surprising spectacle.

From 3 June to 23 September 2017, two new shows will be projected on the cathedral’s facade. The one will focus on William the Conqueror (in a brand-new creation), the other on Joan of Arc.

Every evening, visitors can enjoy these two novel shows, entitled ‘Guillaume le Conquérant’ and ‘Jeanne(s), for free. It is expected that hundreds of thousands of spectators will enjoy these themed illuminations across the season. Watch the video www.rouentourisme.com

New winter sound and light show at Bayeux Cathedral

In Bayeux, the most famous of Anglo-French medieval works of art will be shown in its original setting, Bayeux Cathedral… thanks to a new-generation sound and light show.

Following on from the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, celebrated in Normandy in 2016, Bayeux Tourist Office will be launching a new winter rendez-vous entitled ‘La Cathédrale de Guillaume’, or ‘William’s Cathedral’.

Conceived specifically for the cathedral, this extraordinary show will relate William the Conqueror’s epic life, using the latest sound and light technologies. The Bayeux Tapestry will rediscover its original setting in the cathedral… thanks to virtual reality techniques, creating a lively, amazingly accurate spectacle. The event will begin with an historical introduction to William the Conqueror’s exceptional destiny, as related by Odo, his half-brother, who became Bishop of Bayeux.

On either side of the nave, running right along the balustrade, where the tapestry was probably exhibited for the very first time after its completion, you will be able to admire the recreation of the Bayeux Tapestry in its entirety. Projections and coloured light effects will also emphasize the stained glass windows and pick out the stunning architectural details in both nave and choir.

Lasting c.15 minutes, the show will be completely free, but will be limited to 200 people per showing. It will be put on in both December 2017 and December 2018.

Watch the video www.bayeux-bessin-tourisme.com
Medieval Normandy!

Named after the Norsemen Viking warriors, the Duchy of Normandy came into being in 911 when the French King Charles the Simple conceded ‘all of the land from the Epte to the sea’ to Rollo, the Viking leader and first Duke of Normandy. The region has had a rich and varied history with iconic characters such as William the Conqueror, Richard the Lionheart and Joan of Arc.

Ornavik Viking Village
Many villages have been named after the Norsemen Viking warriors. To discover life in early Normandy, visit the Viking encampment of Ornavik and immerse yourself in 10th century daily life amongst the craftsmen who reproduce medieval artisan skills. www.ornavik.fr

William the Conqueror
The greatest Norman warrior, William the Conqueror will forever be associated with 1066 and his defeat of the English at the Battle of Hastings thus becoming King of England. Originally known as William the Bastard, on his father’s death he was named the rightful heir to the Duchy of Normandy and went on to become a formidable leader. Follow William’s footsteps and visit his castle at Falaise, the Abbaye aux Hommes and Abbaye aux Dames in Caen and the Bayeux Tapestry that depicts his victory in the Battle of Hastings. www.chateau-guillaume-leconquerant.fr / www.caen-tourisme.fr/en / www.tapestry-bayeux.com

Richard the Lionheart
Duke of Normandy and King of England from 1189 until his death in 1199, Richard I dedicated many years of his life to the Crusades and became known as Richard the Lionheart, or Cœur de Lion, thanks to his reputation as a fearless warrior. He spent much of his time in Normandy fighting to maintain the Duchy’s independence from the French crown. His impressive castle fortress, Château Gaillard, standing over 100 metres high on a cliff above the village of Les Andelys, was built in just one year on a sharp meander of the River Seine and is open to the public. www.lesandelys-tourisme.fr/en

Churches and abbeys in Normandy
At the height of their glory in the fifteenth century, the abbeys and churches of Normandy numbered one hundred and twenty and played a significant role in all areas of society. The sixty that survive today represent a significant architectural heritage and make Normandy one of France’s richest regions in terms of religious art. Details and news about the Normandy abbeys is available on the dedicated website of the Norman Abbey Circuit. www.abbayes-normandes.com

Joan of Arc
French national heroine and Catholic saint, during the Hundred Years’ War, the simple peasant girl led the French army to several important victories, claiming divine guidance. Captured by the English in 1431, Joan was tried, found guilty of heresy and burnt at the stake on what is now the Place du Vieux Marché in Rouen. Built next to the site where she was martyred, the church of Saint Joan of Arc was completed in 1979. www.rouentourisme.com

Historial - Joan of Arc History Museum in Rouen
A new museum project opened on the 21st March 2015. The museum combines a state of the art immersive exhibition space with comprehensive historical content. The visitor becomes a witness and participant in Joan of Arc’s trial, going back in time to the mid-15th century. www.historial-jeannedarc.fr
Normandy, land of liberty

A short history of the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy

Allied Preparations

For many long months, a debate divided the British and Americans on the best strategy for the liberation of Europe. The British, drawn by peripheral operations in the Mediterranean, initially imposed their point of view: hence the series of landings in North Africa (November 1942), Sicily (July 1943) and then the south of Italy (September 1943). The Americans, favouring a more direct attack against Germany, advocated a cross-Channel assault. In exchange for concessions in the Italian theatre, they obtained the agreement of their Allies at the beginning of 1943.

The Landings of June 6th 1944

The battle began shortly after midnight on 6th June 1944 with the first parachute drop of British troops between the Orne and Dives rivers. It was then the turn of American parachutists to jump over the Cherbourg Peninsula at the other end of the sector. RAF heavy bombers pounded the most dangerous artillery batteries of the Atlantic Wall. At dawn, the Germans were astonished to discover that the sea was covered by boats. This was Operation Neptune, the beginning of Operation Overlord and the liberation of Europe had begun. At 5.45am, the fleet opened fire on the German defences. At 6.30am, the first waves of the American assault arrived at Utah and Omaha beaches. In the British and Canadian sectors, the attack was launched an hour later on account of the time difference of the tide. By the evening of the 6th June, 20,000 vehicles and 155,000 soldiers, including parachutists, had made the landfall. Losses of those killed, wounded, or unaccounted for were in the region of 10,000 men, a number significantly lower than predicted. With the exception of Omaha Beach where the battle continued and victory took a long time to come, the Atlantic Wall was broken and the Allies penetrated some 10 kilometres inland.

The Battle of Normandy

The Battle of Normandy lasted almost three months - much longer than Allied plans had foreseen. Despite the battle for the extension of the bridgehead having been won in 10 days, the Port of Cherbourg was only captured after a fierce struggle at the end of June. July was the darkest month for the Allies. British and Canadian troops were held back outside Caen by German armoured divisions, and the town was not fully liberated until 19th July. During this time, the American advance stalled in the Cherbourg Peninsula, bogged down by fighting from hedge to hedge, and experiencing great difficulty in capturing Saint-Lô on July 18th. All this changed at the end of July, with the success of Operation Cobra which allowed the Americans to push on relentlessly against the enemy defences, and sweep towards Brittany and the Loire. At the beginning of August, the failure of the German counter-attack ordered by Hitler at Mortain precipitated the rout of the axis armies, threatened with encirclement and partly wiped out
in the Falaise-Chambois pocket at the end of the same month, after three
days of light fighting. For the survivors, nothing remained but to evacuate
the rest of Normandy, re-cross the Seine, and withdraw in the direction of
Paris and Germany.

**The Atlantic Wall**

The attack on the USSR, on June 22nd 1941, and the unexpected resistance put up by the Red Army,
forced the German command to dangerously weaken the Western Front by drawing off increasing
numbers of troops. In December 1941, the entry of the United States into
the war increased the fear of an Allied landing. In that same month, it
persuaded Hitler to strengthen his defences by ordering the construction
of the Atlantic Wall. This gigantic undertaking, entrusted to the Todt
Organisation, began in 1942. It was still not fully completed in 1944, despite
the efforts made by Field Marshall Rommel, who, from the end of 1943
had been given responsibility for the entire sector from the Low Countries
to the Loire. It involved building 15,000 structures along the entire coast of
the North Sea, the Channel and the Atlantic – an operation that needed
450,000 workers, 11 million tons of concrete, and 1 million tons of steel
reinforcements. Contrary to the impression created by German
propaganda, the “Wall” was not a continuous barrier. In essence, it
consisted of four elements: fortresses, coastal artillery batteries, defensive
works close to the beaches and obstacles on beaches themselves, as well
as inland. Numerous vestiges of the Atlantic Wall – in various states of preservation – are still visible
along the length of the Normandy coast. Behind the “Wall”, more than 700,000 men were massed.

**New for 2017: NORMANDY VICTORY MUSEUM, opening its doors
in spring 2017**

Between Omaha Beach and Utah Beach, close to the town of Carentan, the new Normandy Victory
Museum will lead you from the D-Day landings to victory, taking you via the hedgerows of traditional
bocage normand countryside and through places deeply involved in the protracted Battle of
Normandy. The museum has been created on the back of 30 years of research. It includes 17
realistically recreated scenes or set pieces, covering a surface area of 1,500m², with period films and
photos adding to the atmosphere. This unique place is located on a former American airfield, the A10
strip.

The main attractions: Simulators of: tanks, fighter planes, parachute jumps and helicopter rides.

Tank tours. A bar and restaurant done out in 1940s style, accessible to all.

**Unforgettable visits**

Lively educational sites will help better understand this remarkable chapter of
history.

Find the whole list of sites and monuments related to the D-Day and Battle of
Normandy by downloading the brochure on our website: [www.normandy-dday.com](http://www.normandy-dday.com)
With 600 kilometres of coastline providing an abundance of fresh seafood and lush green countryside covered with apple orchards, dairy farms and distilleries, Normandy is truly a food lover’s paradise. The region is home to some of France’s most famous products such as Camembert, Calvados and crème fraîche and many of the region’s products have been designated the Appellation d’Origine Contrôlée (A.O.C.) label, recognition of their quality.

**Apples and Pears**

In addition to the delicious apple tarts that feature in every pâtisserie, the Normans have devised some excellent ways to use their plentiful crops of apples and pears. Normandy is the second major cider region in France and the only region that still produces Poiré (Perry) - a light refreshment made like cider but using pears instead of apples.

**Route du Cidre**

This 40 kilometre route signposts around 20 producers who will open their cellars and share their production secrets with visitors. Driving through the Pays d’Auge you’ll pass pretty villages, imposing châteaux, manor houses and half-timbered cottages. bit.ly/cider-route

**Calvados** is Normandy’s most famous apple spirit and is made from over 200 specially grown varieties of apple that range from sweet to bitter. The fruit is pressed to produce a dry cider which is distilled and then transferred to oak barrels for the ageing process. The ‘trou normand’ is a time-honoured Norman tradition that involves drinking a shot of Calvados between courses to cleanse the palate and stimulate an appetite. Today the ‘trou normand’ often comes in the form of a fresh apple sorbet laced with Calvados.

**Seafood**

Normandy’s 600 kilometres of coastline host some of France’s most important fishing ports. From lobster to oysters and from scallops to herring, Normandy’s cuisine is irresistible to any seafood-lover!

Low-tide fishing on foot – Along the miles of sand dunes of the Cotentin Peninsula, low tide reveals great expanses of sand and rock pools where you can find cockles, mussels and crabs in abundance. Join a guided outing and learn how best to fish for your supper!

Local Markets are always fun and colourful and they are the best way to sample the local produce. For a listing of regional market days, please visit the page of the Normandy Tourist Board’s website: bit.ly/normandymarkets

**Cooking courses** are a great way to learn traditional Norman dishes and impress your friends back home. You’ll find some recommended courses here: bit.ly/cookingcoursescalvados

**Cheese and Dairy Produce**

Famous for its dairy produce, Normandy is home to four of France’s favourite cheeses, all carrying the prestigious A.O.C. quality-certification: Camembert, Livarot, Neufchâtel and Pont-l’Évêque.

Many farms welcome visitors to sniff out the history and take a tour. For more information on farm visits please visit: www.normandy-tourism.org. The A.O.C. butter and cream produced at Isigny-sur-Mer are renowned for their distinct flavour - the local cream is best known as crème fraîche and is a favourite in Norman cuisine. For those with a sweet tooth, the salted Caramels d’Isigny are a Norman delicacy not to be missed!

**Le Serendipity, cocktail created by Colin Field, Chef Barman of Ritz Paris. Recipe:**

- 2 cl of Calvados
- 3 cl of apple juice
- 5 cl of Champagne
- 2 tbsp fresh mint leaves
Unique in France: a museum dedicated to poiré, or perry (pear cider)

In Normandy, apples are at the top of the tree, of course. However, pears are up there too! The pear is the emblematic fruit of the areas around Domfront and Mortain, in western Normandy. And the pear cider, or perry, produced in these parts has been awarded Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée status thanks to its great taste and originality.

The Musée du Poiré is the only place in France dedicated to this distinctive drink. Located in converted farm buildings within the Normandie-Maine Regional Natural Park, between the town of Alençon and the island of the Mont Saint-Michel, the museum has been completely renovated.

It reopened in June 2016. On the new route around the museum, enjoy modern, fun presentations, highlighting the surprising collections, showing how techniques for making perry have evolved. Over 450 objects bear witness to the importance of cider-making in Normandy.

The museum is surrounded by a unique, huge orchard, counting over 100,000 trees, representing some 100 varieties of traditional regional apple and pear trees.

Inside the visitor centre, an area is dedicated to providing tourist information and to putting on cultural events, with a rich and varied year-round programme including specifically tailored workshops for young and old alike. These cover themes such as making natural fruit juices and following traditional methods. There’s something for all tastes here and the shop offers a large choice of regional produce.


Gourmet tours at the Château de Beaumesnil

Located midway between Paris and Deauville, the Château de Beaumesnil provides an exceptional example of Louis XIII architecture.

A listed historic monument, this fine home, with its distinctive brick and stone patterning, offers a rare example of the 17th-century Baroque style. The château also contains a rich collection of beautifully bound historic books. The building is surrounded by a moat and French-style grounds extending across 50 hectares.

New this year: the château’s kitchens are being brought back to life thanks to themed events. The tour ‘Château des Gourmands’ offers visitors the chance to delve into the history of gastronomy and the art of fine dining.

Demonstrations of toffee making, plus tastings of the sweets, will be put on in these historic kitchens. Children can also take cookery lessons with the P’tits Chefs workshops organized here.

Outdoor activities

Cycling in Normandy

Normandy offers more than 500 kilometres of designated cycle paths making it an ideal way to soak up the local atmosphere and the great outdoors whilst taking in the sights. Each of the cycle routes have been broken down into sections so you can dip in and out of them and easily find something to suit your interests and ability. www.normandy-tourism.org/cycling

Veloscenie - Paris to the Mont-Saint-Michel

With over 600 kilometres of cycle-friendly roads and pathways, the Véloscénie route is the perfect way to take in some of France’s most iconic sites including the Eiffel Tower, Chartres cathedral, the Mont-Saint-Michel and many other hidden gems of the Normandy countryside. The route is accessible to cyclists of all ages and abilities and can be split up into 8 different stages which differ in length and difficulty. www.veloscenic.com

D-Day beaches to the Mont-Saint-Michel

This 225 kilometre cycle route, broken down into six sections, takes you from the world famous D-Day Landing Beaches to the iconic Mont-Saint-Michel. The route alternates between green ways and quiet country roads, making it safe for the whole family to enjoy. Set off from either Utah Beach or Arromanches and retrace the steps of the allied soldiers, and take in the UNESCO heritage sites of the Bayeux Tapestry and the Mont-Saint-Michel. www.dday-montsaintmichel-bybike.com
L’Avenue Verte – London to Paris
Opened in 2012 to coincide with the Olympic Games, this cycle route was designed to allow cyclists to travel all the way from London to Paris along a secure and signposted 600 kilometre route. Many sections of the route are on traffic-free roads and dedicated green ways so that families, novices and experienced cyclists alike can cycle undisturbed. Setting off from London, cyclists head to Newhaven where they can catch a ferry over to Dieppe. The route then winds through the Normandy countryside, along the Seine Valley and on to Paris, from where it is possible to catch the Eurostar back to London. www.avenuevertelondonparis.co.uk

Tour de Manche
The European cross-Channel network of cycle routes, Cycle West, proposes two routes that travel through Normandy and three counties in the south west of England: Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. In Normandy, the 225 kilometres of green ways in the Manche will take you through hedgerows and bocage landscape, the Natural Regional Park with its wetlands, the waterfalls at Mortain and finally, to the unmissable medieval landmark of the Mont-Saint-Michel. en.tourdemanche.com

La Vélo Francette Cycle Route
A new cycle route from the ferry port of Ouistreham to the Atlantic Coast of La Rochelle has been inaugurated in June 2015, offering 400-miles of some of France’s most beautiful countryside through Normandy, the Loire Valley and Poitou-Charentes. www.lavelofrancette.com

The coastal cycle route
This cycle route, which is part of the European EuroVelo 4 route linking Roscoff to Kiev, when completed, will allow you to follow the Norman coastline from the Mont-Saint-Michel to Le Tréport. The coastal cycle route already offers many viewpoints and places to visit along the Alabaster Coast from Le Tréport to Le Havre, as well as along the “mother-of-pearl” and “flowered” coasts between Cabourg and Ouistreham and along the coastline of the Chebourg peninsula from Carentan to Cherbourg continuing a little further inland to Coutances. www.seine-maritime-tourisme.com/en / www.calvados-tourisme.co.uk www.manche-tourism.com/en/hikings
Petite Reine: a new way of discovering Normandy, by electric bike

Petite Reine is a company offering you the chance to discover Normandy’s highlights on an electric bike. You will be accompanied on your tour by a guide who is passionate about the region and well versed in presenting its points of historical interest.

Using an electric bike makes it easy to take bucolic country tracks to reach Normandy’s most significant sights.

Around Bayeux and along the D-Day landing beaches

Hugo Guillochin is a young, bilingual, French-English guide from Normandy who is passionate both about history and cycling. Since June 2016, he has been accompanying visitors on electric bikes on discovery outings around the medieval heart of the city of Bayeux and on slow trips along the historic shorelines of the D-Day landing beaches...

...or then again, around the Bay of the Mont-Saint-Michel

This unique cycling trip allows you to ride along the last kilometres to the Mont Saint-Michel for an unforgettable arrival there by bike.

Looking across the great Bay of the Mont-Saint-Michel, take in the exceptional views of land and sea merging, before heading on for a tour of the holy mount itself, under your own steam!


On the garden front
New in Etretat: cliff-edge gardens

Dramatically located on Etretat’s highest cliff, the novel Jardins d’Etretat opened to the public last September.

Back in 1905, landscape gardener Auguste Lecanue and actress Madame Thébault boldly planted a tree on the Falaise d’Amont. It was the first step in the creation of the Jardins d’Etretat.

Today, these gardens have found a new lease of life, thanks to the work of landscape architect Alexandre Grivko. In his creations, he has sought to respect the relationship between man and nature. The search for a sense of harmony has resulted in remarkably complex, as well as aesthetically pleasing, gardens.

These gardens are divided into several parts, all combining the themes of nature and the coast. For example, the Avatar Garden, created out of holly, transports visitors to New Zealand, a country where the people live in such close harmony with nature. In the Element Garden, the carefully trimmed shrubs reflect the movement of the ocean, its tides, its waves and more. At the heart of these fantastic gardens, discover sculpted plants with simplified, futuristic shapes, forming a poetic, artistic tour.

In 2017, further gardens will be opened to the public, adding to the attractions here.

www.etretatgarden.fr
Golfing in Normandy

Normandy is a land where the golfer is king!

With 40 golf courses stretching the length and breadth of the region, it is a major European destination for all golf enthusiasts.

Designed by some of the biggest names – Tom Simpson, Bill Baker, Yves Bureau, Fred Hawtree, Robin Nelson, Colt and Alison – these courses can be found in some exceptionally fine locations: by the sea, on cliff-tops, amid sand dunes, in woodland and among the hedgerows of the rolling Normandy countryside.

Normandy’s golf courses provide an array of different challenges to all levels of players.

The courses are all open to non-members, and offer both short-breaks and golfing holidays. www.golfnormandy.co.uk
You can download the official Normandy Golf Guide from the website.

Take a short film tour of Normandy’s golf courses: http://youtu.be/V9-QLKhvFA

The Normandy Golf Pass

Available from 9 of the most attractive golf courses in Normandy, the pass allows you to benefit from 3 green fees for 18 holes at a special price (150€ / 4 green fees 190 € / 5 green fees 230 €). After having bought your Normandy Golf Pass in one of the 9 golf courses: Omaha Beach Golf Club (La Mer - Le Manoir), Barrière Deauville and Barrière St Julien Golf Clubs, Amirauté Golf Club, Granville Golf Club, Champ de Bataille Golf Club, Etretat Golf Club and Dieppe Golf Club.

You are free to choose whenever you want to play on the 3 fees you have chosen. This pass is valid for a year, 7 days a week. For more information: http://bit.ly/2c4nZy1

RYDER CUP 2018:

In 2018, The Ryder Cup will be held in Continental Europe for only the second time in its history. Le Golf National in France will be hosting the biennial match.

Being so close to Le Golf National and Paris, playing a round in Normandy couldn’t be simpler.

With a wide range of accommodation, fine cuisine and unrivalled heritage sites like the Mont-Saint-Michel, the D-Day Landing Beaches, Etretat and Deauville, Normandy should be the next golfing destination.
Well-being breaks in Normandy

Take the time to relax fully and deeply. In Normandy, try seawater treatments (thalassotherapy), spas and well-being centres that will make you glow with happiness. We must make special mention here of the Thermes de Bagnoles de l’Orne, in an enchanting, forest-surrounded resort where the spring waters are naturally warm and recognized for their beneficial effects.

Granville: B-Attitude mud spa at the Institut Prevital Thalasso

M is for: mud glorious sea mud; maritime air in a coastal setting; muddy Mont Saint-Michel Bay; and marine water treatments at a balneotherapy centre. B is for a B-Attitude treatment package. This spa break centres around treatments using mud extracted from the sea bed around the îles Chausey archipelago (south of the Channel Islands) and rich in trace elements. Applications of this mud allow the body to reabsorb minerals and can lessen pain from aching joints.

A little extra: the B Attitude package includes, between April and October, a crossing of the Bay of the Mont St-Michel with a specialist guide. www.previthal.com

Deauville: Spa Diane Barrière at the Hôtel Normandy Barrière – a new concept unique in France

The Hôtel Normandy Barrière has opened its Spa Diane Barrière to offer original, innovative, tailor-made treatments in association with Aerial Wellbeing for the Future. This complete programme has been devised by Tom Volf to provide a unique experience. All the treatments are tailor made to individual requirements, using a novel and holistic approach, combining ancient Chinese knowledge of the body’s energy lines and the latest cutting-edge technology. The results leave one detoxified and reenergized thanks to the cognitive, physiological and neuro-sensory effects of the treatments. www.hotelsbarriere.com

Did you know?

Bagnoles de l’Orne is the only thermal spa town in the whole of northwest France. Built beside a romantic lake, hiding in magnificent forests, this charming thermal spa town nestles in the Normandie-Maine Regional Nature Park. With an elegant casino and racecourse as well as its renovated thermal spa centre, Bagnoles-de-l’Orne makes for a deeply relaxing break.
Well-being breaks in Normandy

Apple-based spas – how extraordinarily Norman!

Apples pop up everywhere in Normandy: in beautifully blossoming apple orchards; in cider, Calvados and pommeau, famous alcoholic apple drinks, not forgetting apple juice; and in countless regional recipes. The apple clearly has an especially significant place in Normandy’s gastronomic heritage, but also in its culture more widely. No surprise, perhaps, then, that Normans have thought of using apples and their special qualities for beauty and well-being treatments!

SPA POM AT CONDEAU-AU-PERCHE

In the outbuildings of a château set in a listed village that displays all the charm of the Perche region, this estate’s proprietors have developed a centre dedicated to well-being and the art of living. In harmony with the local surroundings, Spa Pom focuses on the beneficial effects to be derived from apples. Appreciate some unique treatments, plus a hydro-massage pool, a hammam, a spacious sauna and a relaxation room with a special bar providing tea infusions. www.spapom.com

SPOM

In the heart of the gorgeous Pays d’Auge (in the Normandy county of Calvados), famous for its apple orchards, discover this well-being centre dedicated to the apple in all its forms, used for all manner of body treatments such as modelling, exfoliation, wraps and relaxing baths.

Enjoy such pamperings in a converted, half-timbered apple press barn that has been entirely restored using natural materials. Step inside and enter an exceptionally serene world! The treatments are geared to men as well as women and can be enjoyed without moderation! Accommodation in gîtes, or holiday rentals, is available close by. www.spa-spom.com

B’O Spa Thermal

Hidden in the heart of Normandy, in the resort of Bagnoles de l’Orne, renowned for its hot springs, B’O Spa Thermal offers all the delights of Normandy nature combined into one, be it for a day, a weekend, or a longer break. The secretive resort stands in forests close to traditional farmland known as bocage, separated by old hedgerows. As to B’O Spa Thermal, it provides a unique balneotherapy experience. This deeply relaxing well-being centre opens out onto nature. The expert staff are trained in thermal spa treatments and prove extremely attentive. Treatments at B’O Spa Thermal combine the qualities of cider-making apples with the chlorophyll linked with the unique hot natural spring waters found at Bagnoles de l’Orne, all of which will do your whole body a great deal of good. www.bo-spathermal.com
New Accommodation

Orne (southern Normandy): for a country stay in a hunting lodge beside the Perche area.

La Maison du Breuil is a former 19th-century hunting lodge at the entrance to the delightful Perche area, transformed since summer 2016 into a charming gîte (or holiday rental property), offering all modern comforts.

Previously, the place was home to a small antiques shop filled with old objects lovingly collected by the master of the house.

Since June 2016, it has seen a new lease of life, transformed by its cheery proprietor into a joyous, peaceful cocoon of a place to stay, offering 60m² of fine living, available to rent year-round for guests who enjoy the charms of country life, a country garden, and gentle country living.

The aim has been to make the house as enchanting as possible, from the beautifully coloured walls, antique furniture and comfortable beds to the displays of seasonal flowers all around. In winter, draw up the chairs close to the wood-burner, a cup of tea in one hand, a good book in the other, for a heart-warming stay.

Visitors who appreciate antiques can even let themselves be tempted by certain objects and small items of furniture on display that are also up for sale.

Set in a beautiful garden full of seasonal flowers and surrounded by meadows and woods, this country home stands in a truly privileged location.

www.facebook.com/UneMaisonauBreuil

New upmarket hotel at Vaudreuil Golf Course in the Eure

The Domaine de Vaudreuil Golf Course counts among the most prestigious in France. This 18-hole course regularly attracts circuit professionals and hosts major golfing events. Located just 45 minutes from Paris, the 30-hectare estate continues to expand with the opening of a new hotel.

Inaugurated in October 2016, the Grand Slam Hôtel has been set up in a fine, renovated 19th-century building. The 8 rooms are spread across 3 storeys. They are decorated in contemporary designer style, with an overarching theme – golfing legends!

Each room is named after a legendary golf player who has won a grand slam, that’s to say, the world’s four major golfing tournaments: the Masters, the US Open, the British Open and the US PGA – or a player who has got very close to a grand slam!

The setting, the comfort of the rooms, and the overall elegance of the decorations have resulted in this new address being featured among the top choices of the upmarket Hôtels & Préférences brand and club.

www.golfduvaudreuil.com
It took two years of work to restore this little 19th-century house to its full beauty. It stands tucked away in the heart of the port of Arromanches-les-Bains, known across the world as one of the most iconic places associated with the Allied Normandy landings in World War II, as an artificial Mulberry Harbour was towed over from England to be set up here in June 1944.

The B&B’s proprietors, Anne-Florence and Paul Hontang, are two mad-keen pilots, so it was obvious for them to choose aviation as the theme for their four-room B&B.

Breakfasts are served either in the little inner courtyard or in the lounge, both decorated with the proprietors’ personal collections, including many objects and photos linked with World War II aviation.

D-Day Aviators B&B lies a mere 35 metres from the port, named after Winston Churchill, and makes an ideal spot from which to head out to explore the D-Day landing beaches.

www.facebook.com/ddayaviators

The Manoir de la Queurie for a chic rustic break

A gloriously rustic outbuilding beside this 15th-century manor has been totally renovated, fully respecting the building’s origins, using renewable, organic materials.

Inside, minimalist simplicity brings out the beauty of the architecture, making it easy to appreciate the spaciousness of the place and the mix of light wood and white walls, all bathed in light. Deliberately furnished in sober style, with classic pieces, the two B&B rooms resemble each other, dressed in cream and flesh-coloured linen, with certain features picked out in pearl grey.

Looking out through the tall windows, you may be able to observe a white heron fishing, or a hare stretching its legs and practising some leaps. In summer, the braver among you might sample the delights of a dip in the river, or borrow one of the property’s three kayaks, made available to guests. Keen anglers can try their hand at bagging the Orne’s most prized fish.

To make your stay even more perfect, consider ordering an organic country meal (by advanced reservation only).

www.laqueurie.wordpress.com
La Villa, a very tasty address on Normandy’s Alabaster Coast

Located just a few metres from the beach in the peaceful coastal resort of Mesnil-Val on Normandy’s eastern Côte d’Albâtre, the maison d’hôtes La Villa, an upmarket B&B, offers unbeatable sea views. The grand building was once home to a recreation hall, then it served for children’s group holidays. Now the place has been done up in style to offer 5 refined B&B rooms.

The very cozy lounge with sea views is one particular delight for guests to relish, the indoor heated pool, its waters kept at 28 degrees year-round, another – and guests can use it whenever they wish.

The villa’s owner, a chef by profession, can also provide table d’hôtes dinners by reservation. Xavier prepares the meals in the outsized kitchen, with guests welcome to watch. Sample refined dishes inspired by regional produce, including the likes of fried scallops, chitterling sausage in flaky pastry, Vallée d’Auge chicken supreme, pork fillet with apples and cider, apple tart, or a traditional Normandy douillon (an apple stuffed and wrapped in pastry)... all enough to make your mouth water! You can even sign up for cookery lessons.

www.lavillamesnilval.com

Enjoy the luxury of sleeping on the Seine

The barge ‘Dolce Riva’ has found a new career in its semi-retirement, moored to the banks of the Seine at the pretty historic town of Vernon since 2016, after over 40 years of travelling along the rivers and canals of northeast Europe.

The barge used to transport cereals, but now it has been transformed into luxury floating accommodation, set out over two storeys. Decked out in the spirit of the old-fashioned luxury Mediterranean cruise ships, there are 3 refined, generously proportioned cabins (going from 18m² to 60m²). Each benefits from its own bathroom. There is also a spa area for guests to make the most of.

With its large windows, the main living quarters offer majestic views along the Seine Valley and the surrounding countryside. A grand staircase leads to the lounge, which lies at water level.

Located just 40 minutes from Paris and 10 minutes from Monet’s famed water gardens at Giverny, this barge makes an ideal place in which to relax in such a surprising natural setting. The peace on board is contagious!

www.parisluxuryboat-houseboat.blogspot.fr
New Accommodation

News on new developments at luxury hotels in Normandy

Reopening of the Château d’Audrieu following renovations

Having undergone major renovations, the Château d’Audrieu, a château-hôtel located between the cities of Bayeux and Caen, reopened in spring 2016.

The public areas, for example, have been completely redesigned and redecorated, thanks to architect Philippe de Lanouvelle and interior decorator Evelyne Rousseau respectively.

The hotel offers 29 rooms: 12 classic, 2 for families, 6 deluxe, 5 junior suites and 4 large suites.

The establishment also boasts a restaurant with 3 different dining rooms, plus a bar.

www.chateaudaudrieu.com

L’Ermitage Mont Saint Michel gains its 5th star

Located beside the Bay of the Mont Saint-Michel, L’Ermitage, a former 19th-century posting inn, was renovated and extended in 2011.

Boasting six spacious suites, decked out with discreet elegance, each with a private balcony or terrace and perfectly sound-proofed, this establishment offers the essence of hotel luxury in the Bay of the Mont Saint-Michel.

Thanks to the exceptionally high quality of its facilities, this hotel was awarded 5* classification at the end of 2016!

www.lemms.com
January

The New Years Swim!
1st January swim in Dieppe, Etretat, Fécamp, Deauville... Bold swimmers venture out into the sea at 5°C!

ROUEN: Panorama XXL ‘Rouen 1431, at the time of Joan of Arc’
Until 10 September 2017
In an imposing new circular building in a stunning Seine-side location, marvel at huge paintings by German artist Yadegar Asisi, representing Rouen in Joan of Arc’s time. This is the third 360º vista to be shown at the Panorama XXL visitor centre. This one plunges you into what the great medieval city looked like as Joan of Arc faced one of history’s most famous trials here.
www.panoramaxxl.com

February

Granville Carnival
24th – 28th February – 143rd edition
Normandy’s longest running street carnival has just been added to UNESCO’s list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.”
www.carnaval-de-granville.fr

March

Annual Black Pudding Festival, Mortagne-au-Perche, Orne
18th - 20th March:
Black pudding competition, eating contests, cooking demonstrations and art exhibitions.
http://foireauboudin.free.fr

Tour de Normandie cycle race
21st - 27th March
Cycle race starting this year in Bourg-Achard and ending in Caen.
www.tourdenormandiecycliste.fr

D-Day Race: Juno Beach, Courseulles-sur-Mer, Calvados
25th - 26th March
15 km obstacle race after landing on Juno Beach.
www.ddayrace.com

April

Les Rencontres de Cambremer
29th – 30th April– 23th edition
Food festival celebrating AOC (Controlled Appellation) products.
www.lesrencontresdecambremer.fr
Calendar of events

**24 Heures Motonautiques, Rouen**
30th April - 1st May
Offshore powerboat race on the river Seine.
www.24heuresrouen.com/

**May**

**27 mai Opening ceremony of « A Summer in Le Havre 2017 » Festival**
www.uneteauhavre.fr

**Pablo Picasso Season, Rouen, Seine-Maritime**
Until 11th September
Three major exhibitions of the artists' work held in three different museums.
www.musees-rouen-normandie.fr

**D-Day Festival Normandy in Bayeux, Longues and Port en Bessin**
27th May - 11th June
Selection of free celebrations around the anniversary of D-Day including firework displays and parades.
www.ddayfestival.com

**Jazz Sous les Pommiers', Coutances, Manche**
20th – 27th May
One of France’s most famous jazz festivals, now in its 36th year.
www.jazzsouslespommiers.com/

**June**

**Les Jeudis du Pin, Le Haras du Pin, Orne**
Every Thursday
Splendid horses, including stallions being rode or led, as well as mares and foals, parade to music in the prestigious Cour Colbert at this splendid Ancien Régime stud farm, ordered by Louis XIV and nicknamed ‘the Versailles of Horses’. Enjoy the horse-drawn carriages and dressage too.
www.haras-national-du-pin.com

**'Les Camembertises', Camembert, Orne**
3rd - 5th June:
A taste of Camembert country that’s sure to tickle your taste buds.
www.camembertises.com

**'Fête de la Musique', all over Normandy**
21st June:
The national music day takes place every year on the longest day of the year, and is the perfect night to stay outside and enjoy concerts with friends and family.
www.fetedelamusique.culturecommunication.gouv.fr
July

**The Royal de Luxe company, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime**

7th – 9th July

Marking the return of the company’s impressive mechanical marionettes at the heart of the city.


**'Fête de la mer', Fécamp, Seine-Maritime**

1st – 2nd July

Concerts, shows, street parades and boat blessing.

[www.fecamptourisme.com](http://www.fecamptourisme.com)

**'Sorties de Bain’ Festival, Granville, Manche**

6th – 9th July

Street art festival.

[www.sortiesdebain.com](http://www.sortiesdebain.com)

**Le Mont-Saint-Michel by night**

July – August

Night-time tours, musical concerts and light shows throughout the summer

[www.ot-montsaintmichel.com](http://www.ot-montsaintmichel.com)

**BAYEUX: Fêtes Médiévales, or medieval festivities**

24th June – 3rd July:

The Fêtes Médiévales de Bayeux celebrated their 30th anniversary last year. Featuring medieval-inspired events across the first weekend in July, these festivities are always hugely popular. Royal jesters, jugglers, knights and people practising medieval crafts fill the city’s magnificent historic streets.


**Sound and light show on Rouen Cathedral (at dusk)**

3rd June - 25th September

Come nightfall in summer, this sound and light show projected onto the front of Rouen Cathedral draws the crowds. In fact, admire two different shows, one on William the Conqueror, the other on the Vikings.

[www.rouentourisme.com](http://www.rouentourisme.com)

**Festival de Beauregard en Herouville Saint-Clair**

7th July – 9th July

Now one of France’s major pop-rock festivals, held on beautiful castle grounds with international artists.

[www.festivalbeauregard.com](http://www.festivalbeauregard.com)
SEES: Festival des Musilumières at Sées Cathedral
1st July – 16th September
The Musilumières show focuses on the little city of Sées’s majestic cathedral, a pure Gothic masterpiece from the 13th century. Lights, images and music help explain the work of generations of builders and decipher the signs and symbols inscribed across the masonry and windows, reviving the wider memory of the cathedral.
http://www.musilumieres.org/

August

Festival « les Traversées Tatihou », Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue, Manche
10th – 22nd August
Folk music festival which takes place at low tide when the island of Tatihou is accessible on foot.
www.tatihou.com

«Jazz en Baie» festival, from Genêts to Granville, Manche
2nd - 13th August: Jazz festival along 14 miles of the Mont-Saint-Michel Bay.
www.jazzenbaie.com

Tall Ships Regatta, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime
31st August – 3rd September
Final stage of the world-famous race.
www.sailtraininginternational.org ○ www.lehavretourisme.com

September

American Film Festival, Deauville, Calvados
1st – 10st September
One of the country’s most famous film festivals, with premiere screenings of the latest US film releases and big stars on the red carpet.
www.festival-deauville.com

'Sun Impression(s)', Le Havre, Seine-Maritime
9th September – 8th October
"Impression Soleil Levant", Claude Monet’s masterpiece, returns to its birthplace, alongside a selection of paintings by Boudin, Dufy or Turner.

Fête du Fromage, Neufchâtel, Seine-Maritime
16th – 17th September
Neufchatel Cheese festival with tastings, food markets, street parades and competitions
www.ot-pays-neufchatelois.fr
October

A Summer in Le Havre - Anniversary Day, Le Havre
8th October
The closing ceremony will be a major rendez-vous around a digital and interactive artistic masterpiece, which will become a permanent symbol of the involvement of the local population in the 500th anniversary celebrations.

Fête de la Coquille St Jacques, or scallop festival in Villers-sur-mer
28th October – 29th October
Relish this huge scallop market, including tastings and cookery demonstrations. The scallop fraternity parades in costume and organizes a ceremony to welcome new members to the club. Fanfares, other musical events and folk dances add to the ambiance. There’s a broader culinary market too, plus a craft fair.
www.villers-sur-mer.fr

Festival coquillages et crustacés, or shellfish festival in Granville
30th September – 1st October
Granville is built on a dramatic headland, with harbours lined up below the historic town centre. In fact, Granville boasts of being the leading shellfish port in France. Whelks, cockles, clams, scallops and more are given pride of place as top chefs cook up a storm with them. As well as tastings and cookery demonstrations, enjoy other entertainments too. Some 35,000 visitors come each year

Herring and Scallop Festivals: Le Treport, Fecamp, Etretat, Dieppe, Saint Valery en Caux
28th October – 26 November
The air is filled with tempting smells from barbecues and fish markets. Improvised songs ring out, mingling in the air. Incredible, but surely undeniably true stories of happenings on the high seas can be heard being told around numerous bowls of cider, all the fun of these exceptionally friendly events shared by genuine sea-dogs and sailors for one night!
www.fecamptourisme.com o www.seine-maritime-tourisme.com

November

Transat Jacques Vabre, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime
27th October – 5th November
13th edition of the most famous two-handed transatlantic race. The departure will take place on the 5th of November.
www.transat-jacques-vabre.com o www.lehavretourisme.com
Calendar of events

‘Festival Le Goût du Large’, Port-en-Bessin-Huppain, Calvados
11th November - 12th November
“A taste for the open sea” scallop and seafood festival
www.bayeux-bessin-tourisme.com

‘Fête du Hareng’, Fécamp, Seine-Maritime
25th November - 26th November
Herring festival around the port.
www.fecamptourisme.com

December

Rouen Givrée’, Rouen
December (dates to be confirmed)
Christmas market together with festive events in the city centre.
www.rouentourisme.com

‘Hivernales de Falaise’, Falaise
December (dates to be confirmed)
A festive atmosphere takes over the whole city of Falaise.
www.falaise-tourisme.com

Illuminated towns and villages in the Bocage
1st December - 1st January 2018
The Bocage landscapes, around Domfront and Flers, are all lit up for Christmas.
www.ot-domfront.com
Press Contacts

UK & Ireland - Fran LAMBERT
fran.lambert@atout-france.fr
Tel.: +44 207 061 66 37
Mobile: +44 7801 922 183

European markets and overseas markets – Emilie URSULE
e.ursule@normandie-tourisme.fr
Tel.: +33 (0)2 32 33 94 06
Mobile: +33 (0)6 47 57 30 13

Website: www.normandy-tourism.org

Press trips
In partnership with the Atout France offices, the Normandy Regional Tourist Board can organise individual press trips for journalists on request, subject to availability. Don’t hesitate to contact us with requests you may have for press trips to Normandy.
Join us on Facebook @normandy.tourism, Twitter @Normandy and Instagram @tourisme_normandie

Photo library
The photos used in this press pack are the exclusive property of the Normandy Regional Tourist Board, so please note that it is forbidden to copy or otherwise use the visuals presented in this press pack, for any usage whatsoever.
In order to help you find pictures to illustrate your articles, you can download the images available via our online photo library: http://mediatheque-crt-normandie.keepeek.com/

Departmental Tourist Board Press Contacts

CALVADOS
8, rue Renoir
F- 14054 Caen Cedex 4
www.calvados-tourisme.com

Armelle Le Goff
Tel. : 0033 (0)2 31 27 90 37
armelle.legoff@calvados.fr

EURE
Hôtel du Département
Boulevard Georges Chauvin
CS 10367
F- 27003 Evreux Cedex
www.eure-tourisme.fr

Capucine d’Halluin
Tel. : 0033 (0)2 32 62 84 32
capucine.dhalluin@eure-tourisme.fr

MANCHE
Maison du Département
98 route de Candol
F- 50008 Saint-Lô Cédex
www.manchetourisme.com

Sophie Bougeard / Claire Larquemain
Tel. : 00 33 (0)2 33 05 96 08
sophie.bougeard@manche.fr
claire.larquemain@manche.fr

ORNE
Tourisme 61 – Hôtel du Département
27, boulevard de Strasbourg – CS 30528
F- 61017 Alençon Cedex
www.ornetourisme.com

Carole Rauber
Tel. : 00 33 (0)2 33 28 83 66
rauber.carole@orne.fr

SEINE-MARITIME
28 rue Raymond Aron – BP 52
F- 76824 Mont-Saint-Aignan Cedex
www.seine-maritime-tourisme.com
www.seinemaritime-attractivite.com

Ivan Saliba
Tel. : 00 33 (0)2 35 12 16 18
ivan.saliba@sma76.fr