

## Five day French Trip 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

08.30 - Leave Kettlewell's yard, and drive to Baldock 'Extra' Services on A1 (2 hrs).

11.15 – Drive to RAF Museum, Hendon (45 mins).



15.00 – Drive to Travelodge Hotel, Portsmouth for overnight stay (2 hrs)



All rooms have Tea/Coffee making facilities and Private Bathrooms. Restaurant 'Sovereigns' a Hungry Horse outlet is on site.

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

07.15 – Leave Travelodge Hotel and drive to Ferry Terminal Portsmouth (2 miins)

Catch 08.15 Brittany Ferry Portsmouth to Ouistreham (Caen) (6 hrs)



*Ferry leaving Portsmouth  
Ouistreham*



*Ferry arriving at*

Brittany Ferries 'MV Normandie' is 27,542 tonnes, and cruises between 18 and 20 mph. The ship runs the daily route from Portsmouth to Ouistreham and has a number of restaurants. It is suggested we have both breakfast and lunch whilst on board. The ship is fully stabilised, which should give us a smooth passage, even in a slight swell. The sister ship on the route is the Mont St Michel. This vessel is larger at 33,000 tonnes and has upto date dining facilities.

15.30 – Drive to Pegasus Bridge (Bénouville) - (10 mins)



17.45 – Drive to Hotel Mercure – Caen Port – (15 mins) – (approx. 18.00)



### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>**

09.30 - Leave hotel and drive to Bayeux to see tapistry in Bayeux Museum



10.30 - Drive to Pointe du Hoc landing area. (arrive 11.00)



*Monument*

*Point du Hoc*

*U S Ranger*

12.00 – Drive to American Cemetery at Omaha Beach (arrive 12.30)



13.15 - Drive east along coast to Arromanches via German Longues-sur-Mer Gun Battery (arrive 13.45)



14.45 – Drive to Arromanches Museum (arrive 15.00)



16.30 - Drive along coast via Gold, Juno and Sword beaches to Bill Millins (The Mad Piper of Normandy) statue. (arrive 17.30)



17.45 - Drive back to Hotel (arrive 18.15)

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup>**

09.30 – Drive to Merville Battery Museum (arrive 10.00)



11.00 – Drive to Honfleur (arrive 12.00) – (Free Time inc. Lunch)



14.00 – Drive to Domaine Dupont Calvados Centre for Tour and Tasting



15.45 – Drive to Falaise along the Calvados Trail

16.30 – Drive back to Hotel through the Falaise Gap

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>**

09.30 – Check out of Hotel

Free time in Caen (suggest lunch)



14.00 - Drive to Ouistreham for return Ferry (16.15 hrs arriving Portsmouth 21.15)

21.30 – Return to Retford, (stopping on route for comfort break at Baldock) arriving 00.30 hrs approx.

### **Important Information**

1. This is the third revision of our proposed trip to Normandy next May. If you want any inclusions to visit a specific cemetery in the area or to visit a special location, this is the time to say, so I can add that to the itinerary.
2. At the moment, we intend to visit five excursions which are free of charge. These are visiting the RAF Museum at Hendon; The American Landing Area at Point du Hoc; The American Cemetery at Omaha Beach, The German Gun Battery at Longues-sur-Mer, and a visit to Honfleur, the port of departure for William the Conqueror, when he invaded England.
3. The five excursions which we have to pay for are visiting the Airborne Museum at Pegasus Bridge; The Bayeux Tapestry in Bayeux; The Arromanches Invasion Museum; The Merville Battery Museum and the Domaine Dupont Calvados/Cider Farm, where we have a tour and tasting.

4. This tour will be our most ambitious to date. The lessons learnt in our two previous tours have been noted, with our longest trip on the bus, being the ride home from Portsmouth on Saturday evening. We shall break this journey at Baldock Services on the A1.
  
5. Some people have expressed concern about travelling on the Brittany Ferries Ship. Both the MV Normandie and MV Mont St Michel are over 27,000 tonnes and are fully equipped with stabilisers, designed to keep the passage as smooth as possible. Both have a number of cafes and restaurants, along with shops.
  
6. The Travelodge in Portsmouth has only recently been built, and is just two minutes from Brittany Ferries Portsmouth Terminus. It has a restaurant, which is run (I think) by Green King Breweries. If so the menu will be full and interesting.
  
7. The Hotel Mercure (Centre Port de Plaisance) is a four star hotel, right in the Old Town Centre of Caen. In the immediate area of the hotel you will find many bars and restaurants.
  
8. As yet we don't know the final numbers who want to go, so it's difficult to come up with an exact costing. However the price will be somewhere between £475 and £499. At this stage I am just taking the names of those people who have shown interest. I shall probably start taking £250 deposits per person in October, with the balance paid by the end of February next year. We have to pay Kettlewells by 1<sup>st</sup> march, to comply with their terms and conditions.