



Varsity Travel
THE SCHOOL TRAVEL EXPERTS

***Itinerary For a Three Day Study Tour to The D-Day
Landing Beaches, Normandy. Prepared For
Mr N. Chamberlain, Rosebery School, Whitehorse Drive,
Epsom, Surrey KT18 7NQ***

Dates: 15th - 17th July 2019



The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The tour guide is able to run the tour according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.



ACCOMMODATION



The Hotel Ibis Budget**

1, Avenue du Fresne, 14760 Bretteville Sur Odon, France. Tel: +330892684029.

Our hotel lies on the outskirts of the historic city of Caen. All of the sites of Normandy are within easy reach such as the Bayeux Tapestry, D-Day Landing Beaches & Rouen.

There are excellent swimming, ice-skating, bowling and indoor tennis facilities close at hand as well as recreational areas & forests.

This modern hotel offer approximately 70 one, two or three bedded rooms, all with on-suite facilities and televisions. All are serviced daily. The staff at this hotel are particularly friendly & we have found the Hotel Ibis Budget to be a perfect base for our groups visiting the Normandy area.

DAY ONE

- 05.45 Coach arrives at Rosebery School.
- 06.15 Depart Rosebery School. Onward transfer to Folkestone.
- 07.45 Collect food supplies from Booker Cash & Carry, Folkestone.
- 08.30 E.T.A. Eurotunnel Terminal, Folkestone. Check in for next crossing.
- 09.35 Depart Folkestone.
- 11.12 Arrival at Calais. Onward transfer to The Batterie Todt.
(Note: Continental time is one hour in advance of British time)
- 11.45 **Visit to The Batterie Todt Gun Emplacement.**
- This huge fortified gun emplacement was a key part of the formidable 'Atlantic Wall' German fortifications that protected the Channel coast from the threat of an Allied invasion. We will have a guided tour of this gun battery both above & below ground. On a clear day, the U.K. coastline is clearly visible & it is easy to imagine Hitler scanning our coast through binoculars on his visit to the gun in 1943. In the network of concrete tunnels underneath the battery, pupils will see the crew's sleeping quarters, the officers' quarters, the munition areas & the power turbine that moved the huge cannon above. There are many original Nazi artefacts such as guns, flags, uniforms & a collection of anti-Allied propaganda which the Director of Studies will translate for pupils. This visit is very worthwhile & helps illustrate why the Allied invasion had to be further south in Normandy, where the Germans were less prepared for an attack.
- 13.00 Picnic lunch.
- 13.45 Transfer to Caen.
- 18.00 **Dinner at Flunch Restaurant, Caen Herouville.**
- 20.15 Transfer to Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen.
- 20.45 E.T.A. Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen. Check in & allocate room keys.

DAY TWO

- 08.00 Breakfast.
- 09.15 Transfer to Arromanches.
- 10.00 E.T.A. Coach park, Arromanches. Walk into central Arromanches.
- 10.30 **Visit to The 6th June 1944 Musuem.**

This excellent museum lies overlooking the D-Day Landing Beaches & includes lots of artefacts from the historic days of the IIWW invasion. We will have a talk by one of the museum guides using reference to the beaches outside & a large interactive map. We will then view a film about the D Day Landings.

- 11.30 **Picnic lunch & Recreational Time on Arromanches beach.**

We will enjoy a picnic lunch on Arromanches beach. After lunch, students may enjoy some recreational time on the beach for football, sandcastles etc. Still resting on the beach are the floating pontoon supports from 6th June 1944, from when the British soldiers stormed the beach in the face of fierce machinegun fire from the concrete German bunkers.

- 13.00 Walk to The 360 Degrees Circular Cinema, Arromanches.

- 13.30 **Visit to The 360 Degrees Circular Cinema, Arromanches.**

Pupils will view a surround-vision film illustrating the events of 6th June 1944 using original footage & sound. This is a powerful experience & helps students imagine what happened on this site during the D-Day Landings. There is a good shop & viewing point at this site.

- 14.45 Walk to Coach Park, Arromanches.

- 15.15 E.T.A. Coach park. Transfer to Longueville.

- 15.45 **Visit to The German IIWW Gun Batteries, Longueville.**

The German Gun Batteries at Longueville formed part of the formidable Atlantic Wall defences against an Allied invasion. The gun batteries remain largely intact & the iron gun barrels remain pointing out to sea as they had during the war. Some of the gun batteries show evidence of having been fought over & others contain plaques commemorating the regiments that successfully captured them on D Day. We will have time to explore the five huge gun emplacements before walking towards the sea to view another defensive gun platform.

- 16.30 Transfer to Bayeux.

17.00

Visit to The Bayeux Tapestry.

During our journey to Bayeux the Director will tell pupils about the city and the tapestry, in particular the Battle of Hastings and the liberation of the city in 1944.

The Tapestry exhibition offers a number of attractions:

1. A model of a Norman soldier on horseback.

Here we talk about the soldier's armour, his saddle and his use of stirrups which had a marked effect on the outcome of the battle.

2. An exhibition illustrating the stages of William the Conqueror's campaign.

There are also life-sized models taken from the tapestry. We will use these to introduce the pupils to the characters involved in the story.

3. A film, in English, describing the campaign.

This lasts for 20 minutes and is very informative and interesting.

4. The tapestry itself.

Participants can use headphones to listen to the story of the tapestry as they view each stage.

5. A spacious shop

This sells an excellent range of postcards, posters, books etc.

18.15

Visit to Bayeux High Street.

Prior to visiting the tapestry we will have time to visit the shops & cafes of Bayeux High Street which is pedestrianised, popular with British groups & which allows pupils a glimpse of a traditional Norman town. Many schools also enjoy visiting the historic cathedral.

19.15

Visit to The Allied Cemetery, Bayeux.

We will pause to pay a brief visit to the graves of those Allied (and some German) soldiers that were killed during the first few days of the Normandy campaign. The youngest person in the cemetery is a 14 year old English private and the northern end of the cemetery contains many German soldiers who were killed in their defence of Bayeux.

19.45

Transfer to Caen.

20.15

Dinner at the Flunch Restaurant in Caen.

21.30

Transfer to Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen.

21.50

E.T.A. Hotel Ibis Budget, Caen.

DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast, rooms checks & loading suitcases into coach.

09.30 Coach transfer to Pegasus Bridge.

10.00 **Visit to Pegasus Bridge.**

In order to prevent the Allied attack on the Normandy Beaches from being defeated by heavy German panzer attacks on the Eastern flank, it was decided that the two bridges spanning the Caen Canal would have to be captured prior to the landing of the main attacking force.

On the night of the 5th June 1944 a force of 181 men landed silently in six Horsa gliders landed 40 yards from their objectives at 16 minutes past midnight. The attackers poured out of their battered gliders, completely surprising the German defenders, & captured the bridge after a 10 minute firefight. The British attackers had time to set up defences in preparation for the inevitable German counter-attack, which came at 02.10 - 2 hours after the gliders had landed. Reinforced by paratroopers, the British troops repelled the attack by the 21st Panzer Division. This highly important battle prevented the Germans from defeating the Normandy liberators & the story was depicted in the film *'The Longest Day'*.

We will visit the Pegasus Bridge Museum & will view the original bridge & the cafe which is run by a lady who was a small child living in the same house during the night of the battle & liberation.

11.30 Coach transfer to Rouen.

13.00 E.T.A. Rouen coach park. Walk to Cathedral Square.

13.15 Picnic lunch in front of Rouen Cathedral.

13.45 **Guided Walking Tour of the Ancient City of Rouen.**

The Tour Guide will conduct a guided visit of the city centre. This will include the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Rue de l'Horloge and the Old Market Place, where Jean d'Arc was burned at the stake. The pupils will sit on the ruins of the original market church while the Tour Director tells the story of the life and death of the Saint. After a coffee break and an opportunity for shopping in the pedestrianised Rue de l'Horloge, the morning's excursions will end with a walk through the medieval streets and alleyways. We will pass the actual courthouse where Jean d'Arc was tried to get to the Old Burial Pits of St. Maclou - closely associated with the Black Death of 1350. The Tour Director will give an account of the Black Death in Rouen and examine the soil for remains of human bone, which often work their way to the surface. Behind a glass sheet the pupils will be able to look into a wall cavity to see a mummified black cat that died in Rouen during the Black Death. Today St. Maclou is one of the most prestigious art schools in France.

14.45

Exploration of Rouen Centre.

Pupils always enjoy visiting the ancient cobbled streets & shops of central Rouen. There are many excellent shops on the main high street & the oldest auberge in France where staff can enjoy a coffee.

15.45

Walk to Rouen coach park.

16.10

E.T.A. Coach park. Transfer to Calais.

18.30

E.T.A. Eurotunnel Terminal, Calais. Check in for next crossing.

19.25

Depart Calais.

19.00

(Local time)

E.T.A. Folkestone. Onward transfer to Rosebery School.

20.30

E.T.A. Rosebery School.

Please note that this itinerary is remains subject to change as it is too early to make the Eurotunnel reservation. We will forward an updated itinerary each time it changes, until eventually we send the Final Itinerary which will then be sent to parents, coach company & tour guide.

