



“THE LONGEST DAY”
NORMANDY - PARIS
83RD ANNIVERSARY OF
D-DAY SPONSORED BY THE
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN HISTORY
MUSEUM
3 – 12 JUNE 2027

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Omaha Beach, 6 June 1944 - H+5



83rd ANNIVERSARIES OF 1944 EPIC BATTLES! AHP has expanding our D-Day expedition to include the most important sites of the most iconic battle of World War II in the European Theater. Please join us for a journey back in time.

D-Day - June 6th, 1944. It has been 83 years but few events have galvanized a population and stirred the imagination like D-Day. As dawn broke

over the beaches, thousands of real-life “Private Ryans”, British, French, Canadians and Americans, left the relative safety of their landing craft and stormed ashore to begin the Liberation of France starting the march to topple the Third Reich.



AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT is proud to offer another in our series of signature European Battlefield Expeditions on this historic **EIGHTY-THIRD Anniversary of D-Day**. Our adventures include exclusive AHP events, expedition booklet & sites others bypass. Information on the events that are offered on your particular expedition will be included in your registration information packet. All of these things, along with the most experienced staff of Program Directors, Battlefield Expedition Leaders and Historians will combine to make your trip the most enjoyable, 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 **774-478-6791** we look forward to hearing from you!



Expedition Price: \$ 5,654

(Based on Double Occupancy)

Single Room Supplement: \$ 1,535

Expedition Price Includes:

4–Star Hotel Accommodations at CDG-Paris, Caen-Normandy & Paris

*

Air-conditioned deluxe motorcoach with onboard restroom

*

Emergency Medical & Evacuation Insurance

*

Meals as indicated in itinerary

*

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

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Admission fees to all sites, museums and special attractions listed

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Services of experienced Expedition Leaders and English-speaking local guides.

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



Daily Itinerary

Day 1 – 3 June – Departure. Depart your hometown airport for an International Portal for the flight to Charles De Gaulle Airport Paris (CDG). Dinner and a continental breakfast served aboard.

Day 2 - 4 June - Arrival in France. Arrive at CDG and you will be met as you exit customs and escorted to our conveniently located airport hotel. AHP will provide a one night accommodations for two (with breakfast) in our airport hotel the night before your tour formally begins. An early evening complimentary **Wine Welcome** is planned to meet the other D-Day participants. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express CDG Airport.**

Day 3 - 5 June - Paris to Caen.

We will bid farewell to Paris and head for Caen. Before we head to Normandy we make a stop at the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery commemorates the birthplace of US combat aviation & serves as a symbol of the Franco-American comradeship during WWI. This site honors the volunteer US pilots who flew with French squadrons during the Great War. It is the final resting place for 49 of America's first combat aviators & 2 of their French Officers. **Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne, Caen. Meals: Breakfast -Included daily. L & D - On Own (OO).**

Day 4 - 6 June - Normandy D-Day.

In the early hours of June 6, 1944, the American airborne forces successfully executed some of the most difficult and challenging missions of D-Day. Their objectives were to secure the invasion right flank against German counterattacks and secure the causeways off Utah Beach. Our first stop is at **Brecourt Manor**. The 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment's assault by Easy Company on the German howitzer battery that was disrupting the exit leading off Utah Beach was immortalized in the HBO series "Band of Brothers". It is often cited as a classic example of small-unit tactics and leadership in overcoming a larger enemy force. **82nd Airborne Division** paratroopers were to capture objectives in the area west of the Allied amphibious invasion, specifically the town of Sainte-Mère-Eglise & the La Fièvre bridge. **Ste Mere Eglise** was another site made famous by the film, "The Longest Day." A mannequin of a paratrooper hangs from the church spire as "Red" Buttons did in the film. A must see is **The Airborne Forces Museum** that has a C-47 troop transport aircraft that flew in the invasion & a rare WACO glider on display. The **101st Airborne Division's** objectives were to secure the four causeway exits behind Utah Beach to ensure the exit route for the 4th Infantry Division from the beach later that morning. We finish the day at the Caen Memorial & War Museum The memorial is dedicated to the history of violence and intensive, outstanding conflicts in the 20th Century and particularly World War II. The museum was officially opened on June 6, 1988 (the 44th anniversary of D-Day) by the French President François Mitterrand. The original building deals primarily with World War II, looking at the causes and course of the conflict. The museum was subsequently extended with a gallery dedicated to the Nobel Peace Prize was added as were three memorial gardens, The American, The British and the Canadian Gardens were dedicated to the three main allied nations involved in liberating France.

Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne. Meals: B / L&D - OO.



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

Day 5 - 7 June - Normandy D-Day.

After breakfast, we visit the **Overlord Museum**. This privately-owned museum just outside the Cemetery gate chronicles the period of the Allied landing until the liberation of Paris. The collection was assembled by someone who was both a witness to the conflict & involved in the reconstruction of Normandy.

Personal items from individual soldiers & armored fighting vehicles from the six armies in Normandy are presented in set displays showing over 35 vehicles, tanks and guns. We move to the famous cliffs of **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.

Next up is **Utah Beach**, the westernmost of the five landing beaches. The beach was situated on the east at the edge of a marshland zone which had been flooded by the Germans. Only four causeways could be used to cross this marshland & reach inland. The **4th Infantry Division's** objective,

supported by airborne landings of the 82nd & 101st Airborne Divisions, was to secure a beachhead on the Cotentin Peninsula. The division only lost 197 men during the day & by the night of June 6th,

20,000 men & 1,700

vehicles were ashore. It was for his actions that day that Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Assistant Division Commander, earned the division's first Medal of Honor. The **Utah Beach D-Day Museum** is built on the very beach where the first American troops landed. A restored, original B-26 "Marauder" bomber is among the displays. After lunch, we walk the intriguing **Maisy Battery**, The fight for the capture of the battery lasted days between a German Regiment & paratroopers of the 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne & rangers of the 5th Bn. The battery disappeared until 2005 as US Army Engineers bulldozed it over with earth, allowing it to remain unseen for over 60 years. **Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne. Meals: B / L&D - OO.**

Day 6 - 8 June - Normandy D-Day.

Our day in Normandy starts with the famed **Pegasus Bridge & Museum**. The bridges across the River Orne & the Caen canal had to be captured & held intact to enable the seaborne reinforcements to cross. The result was textbook example of a successful operation. Next stop is the **German Merville Battery**. The gun battery had to be put out of action. The 100mm caliber guns could fire down on to Sword Beach & the Allied fleet off the coast. Although successful, it was a nearly disastrous operation. On display is a restored C-47 aircraft from

La Fiere Airborne "Iron Mike"



French Schoolchildren celebrate

D-Day. Before lunch we see **Arromanches**. The remains of one of the two artificial "Mulberry" harbors erected in the landing operation may still be seen.

Lunch OO at **Port-en-Bessin**. A picturesque fishing port that was home to one of the 'Pipelines Under the Sea' (PLUTO) pumping stations. After lunch we walk the **Longes-sur-Mer** German coastal defense battery, probably the best remaining example of such a battery in Normandy. The rest of the day is used to explore **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 79 years ago. **29th Infantry Division**. Our tour will include the seawall, bunkers, & other German defenses along the beach. The western half of the beach was assigned to the untested US 29th Infantry Division. Vierville Draw where the 29th landed was featured in both "The Longest Day" and "Saving Private Ryan." **1st Infantry Division** was assigned the eastern half of Omaha Beach. The battle-hardened "Big Red One" stormed ashore and began fighting for its life on a strip of beach near Coleville-sur-Mer that had been marked the "Easy Red" on battle maps. Slowly, spurred by the individual heroism of many individuals, the move inland got



underway. Also at Omaha Beach in Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, we see the **American Indian Monument**, a sculptured granite turtle, a tribute to the 175 American Indian soldiers who struggled up this shore on D-Day so they are never forgotten. **Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne. Meals: B / L&D-OO.**

Day 7 - 9 June - Normandy D-Day.

After breakfast we visit the renowned American Cemetery at Coleville. We have a stop before lunch at **Utah Beach** and the "**Big Red One**" **1st Infantry Division Monument**. After lunch we have a fun stop at the **Cavados Distillery** for a tasting. We also get to see the **Tomb of William the Conqueror**. Tonight is an AHP Group Dinner in Caen. **Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne, Caen. Meals: B & D / L - OO.**

Day 8 - 10 June - Drive to Paris.

We depart for Paris, on the way we will stop at the "**Armistice Clearing**" near Compiegne & a walk through the small museum housing a sister coach to Marshal Foch's "**Surrender Carriage**" where WWI essentially ended & where the French capitulated to Hitler in June 1940. In a way, it is the place where WWI ended & WWII began. We drive on to the "**City of Light**." **Hotel: Mercure Paris Centre. Meals: B / L & D - OO.**

Day 9 - 11 June - Paris.

Free day to tour Paris. **Hotel: Mercure Paris Centre. Meals: B / L & D - OO.**

Day 10 - 12 June - Paris Departure.

Individual departure to the airport for your return flight to the USA, arriving same day. **Meals: B.**



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