

***75th Anniversary of D-Day
& Normandy Battlefield Tour***

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY
Monday, 3rd – Tuesday, 11th June, 2019

Undoubtedly the main attraction of this tour is the coming together of the largest number of DC-3s/C-47s since World War Two!

We will see them on the ground, in the air - and doing a mass parachute drop! As of 1st September 2018 at least 27 Daks will be participating - with more expected! The "US D-Day Squadron" alone will be sending at least 18 Dakotas: Incredible!

This fabulous 9-day tour around France starts in Paris before continuing to Normandy and the main Allied battle sites immediately prior to, and after, the D-Day landings of 6th June 1944. 2019 will be the 75th - and last - official commemoration of the D-Day Landings.

We have provisional confirmation of a fabulous pleasure flight in one of the participating Dakotas and, subject to air traffic control on the day, we hope this will be at low level along the invasion beaches of Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha and Utah. This is an option so please advise your interest on your booking form.

Among the places we visit in Paris and Normandy are:

- Musee Air et Espace, Le Bourget
- Merville: The Merville Battery Museum
- Benouville: Pegasus Bridge (*pictured right*)
- Ouistreham: Museum of the Atlantic Wall
- Caen Normandy Memorial and Museum
- Arromanches: 360 Museum
- The Landing Museum
- Port En Bessin: Musee des Epaves Sous Marines du Departement
- Sainte Mere Eglise: Musee des Troupes Aeroportees
- 75th Anniversary of D-Day Airshow, Caen
- Arrival of the Daks at Caen Carpiquet airfield
- Mass Para Drop

We will visit the lovely town of Sainte Mere Eglise. This was in the American area of operations and its centre was the scene of savage fighting (and a memorable part of that epic film "The Longest Day"). It is also home to the Airborne Museum.



The itinerary will travel at a relaxed pace, staying several days in beautiful Paris and Normandy with plenty of sightseeing opportunities for non-aviation minded persons, everyone is free to do as much - or as little - 'aviation' as they wish!

The tour starts in Paris: it is here that you will meet your Global Aviation Tour Manager and fellow enthusiasts on the 3rd June. There are excellent flight connections between Australian Capital cities. Contact us and we will arrange your flight with our vast flight network to provide the best flight experience to Europe.

Admission is included to all the museums and visits in France, as appropriate.

We travel around Normandy and Paris in a deluxe, air-conditioned coach and stay in quality & comfortable hotels in Normandy and Paris on a bed and breakfast basis. Our small group exclusive tours offer personalised service throughout by our well-travelled and experienced Tour Manager.

June 2019 will be an extremely busy month in Normandy; in addition to the D-Day Anniversary the area is also hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup soccer tournament and, in Le Havre, there is the World's Gathering of Tall Ships. Very nearly all the hotels within a 100 mile radius of Normandy were fully booked by January 2018! We have to hand back all un-sold rooms by 1st January 2019. **Therefore, it is essential that you book your place on this tour no later than December THIS YEAR.**

Following this tour why not join us in Germany on the amazing 70th Anniversary Berlin Airlift & Sinsheim and Speyer Museum Tour. The Museums have over 200 aircraft on display. Our tours are designed for travel at a level to suit all ages.

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local)

DAY 1: MONDAY, 3rd JUNE

Travel to Paris. Book your flights with us and any pre and post tours in Europe.

After the usual arrival procedures please transfer to the Oceania Paris Roissy CDG Hotel on their complimentary coach service. In the reception area please meet your Global Aviation Tour Manager and check-in to your room. You stay one night on a bed and breakfast basis.

A get together for everyone to meet each other will be held this evening.

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 4th JUNE

At 09:30 we transfer by private coach the few miles to one of the greatest collections of aircraft anywhere in the world: the Musee Air Espace at Le Bourget Airport. We are there for when the doors open at 10:00. There is a gift shop and café on-site.

At 14:00 we set off for the small town of Lisieux in Normandy, about a 2½ hour drive to the west. We will have a 'comfort break' en-route. On arrival we check in to the 3-star Comfort Hotel Cathedrale Lisieux situated in the town centre where we stay 6 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. There is no on-site restaurant or bar as there are plenty next to, and in the streets surrounding the hotel.

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, 5th JUNE

At 09:00 we depart for Benouville/St-Aubin-d'Arquenay, site of the famous glider landings at Pegasus Bridge! See photo on page 1. We have time to call in at the equally famous café for (optional) refreshments.

We spend the afternoon at Caen Carpiquet airfield: the armada of Dakas are scheduled to arrive from Duxford between 16:30 – 17:00. We plan to be on the airfield to take our photographs; if not, then we will park up on final approach to the landing runway.

At 19:00 we watch the scheduled mass parachute drop!

DAY 4: D-DAY ~ THURSDAY, 6th JUNE

Today is a rest day for the Dakas and their air and ground crews, so departing our hotel at 09:00 we first visit Arromanches and the 360 Museum: not your usual 'museum', this is a cinema unique in Normandy, and one of only a handful like it in Europe, with views of 360° - you stand in the middle and watch the film unfold all around you on 9 huge screens arranged in a circle.

After lunch (at your own expense) we go to 'Gold' beach, one of the British invasion beaches, and also the site of one of the two Mulberry Harbours (*pictured right*). We also visit The Landing Museum.



DAYS 5 & 6: FRIDAY, 7th & SATURDAY, 8th JUNE

These 2 days are 'public access' days to Carpiquet airfield to see all the aircraft and the scores of assembled veteran military vehicles.



On one of the days we will have our optional pleasure flight over Normandy. Exact day/time to be confirmed when details are known.

We will visit the small coastal town of Ouistreham and the incredible Museum of the Atlantic Wall - the Grand Bunker which is located just a stone's throw from Sword Beach and inside the old German headquarters which was in charge of the gun batteries covering the entrance of the River

Orne and the vital canal. The 52ft high concrete tower has been fully restored to how it was on the morning of the 6th June 1944.

Then to a primary objective of D-Day: a redoubtable part of the German army's defences, the Merville gun battery. Situated between Ouistreham and Cabourg, it is one of the most iconic sites of the invasion. Bombed on several occasions leading up to the Landings without effect, it was neutralised by the 9th battalion of British Parachute Regiment after a murderous assault during the night of June 5th/6th.

Onwards, to Caen: to the Normandy Memorial whose exhibition space deals exclusively with the invasion of Normandy, a key episode in the liberation of Europe. For the first time ever they cover every detail both of the invasion itself and the ferocious fighting which took place in and around the town in the weeks and months following the Allied landings.

DAY 7: SUNDAY, 9th JUNE

This morning we drive west across Normandy to the pretty little town of Sainte Mere Eglise.

It was here, on the morning of 6th June 1944, that mixed units of the US 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne Divisions occupied the town in Operation Boston, giving it the claim to be one of the first towns to be liberated in the invasion. The early landings, at about 01:40, resulted in heavy casualties for the paratroopers due to some buildings in town being on fire, illuminating the sky and making easy targets of the slowly descending men. The wind blew some of them into the fires. Many were hanging from trees and utility poles and were shot before they could cut themselves loose from their 'chutes.



A well-known incident involved paratrooper John Steele of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment: his parachute caught on the spire of the town church, and he could only watch in horror at the carnage below. He hung there limply for 2 hours pretending to be dead, before he was inadvertently shot in the foot and the Germans heard him moan and took him prisoner. Incredibly, he later escaped from the Germans and re-joined his unit! This was one of the memorable events featured in that classic film "The Longest Day".

Opposite the church is the excellent "Musée des Troupes Aéroportées" with a Waco Glider and a C-47.



It is time to relax and explore the village, taking the opportunity for lunch (at your own expense) at one of the many cafes.

Next stop is the American invasion beach "Utah" where; at the Utah Beach D-Day Museum is an original B-26 Martin Marauder bomber, one of only 6 known examples (*pictured left*).

Our final visit of the day is to the Musée des Epaves in Port-en-Bessin which is a unique and amazing array of American tanks and armoured fighting vehicles (AFVs), and other items recovered from the seabed off the American's 'Omaha' beach.

DAY 8: MONDAY, 10th JUNE

We spend the morning/early afternoon at Caen Carpiquet airfield: it's departure day for the fleet of Dakotas as they head off for Wiesbaden in Germany, at the start of their journey to Berlin where they are scheduled to arrive on the 15th June.

At 14:00 we return to Paris, arriving 3 hours later at the 3* Hotel Magellan situated in the residential 17th arrondissement and a 15-minutes pleasant stroll from the Arc de Triomphe. The hotel has a bar but no restaurant - but there are plenty of eating options within easy walking distance. We stay overnight on a bed and breakfast basis.

DAY 9: TUESDAY, 11th JUNE

This morning we depart for Charles de Gaulle Airport for your flight home or to another interesting destination.

Whilst waiting for our luggage we bid each "au revoir" – until we meet again!

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- ⇒ Transfers and travel in de-luxe, air-conditioned coach
- ⇒ 8 nights accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- ⇒ Continental breakfast each morning
- ⇒ Admission to all museums and collections as stated
- ⇒ Services of an Global Aviation Tour Manager 24/7
- ⇒ Tour Apparel
- ⇒ Coach driver's gratuity

NOT INCLUDED

- ⇒ Flights to/from Paris
- ⇒ Optional sightseeing flight in a DC-3
- ⇒ Meals, other than those stated
- ⇒ Any unforeseen, additional charges for taking photographs and/or video
- ⇒ Travel Insurance
- ⇒ Personal expenditure, for example, telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc.
- ⇒ Admission to any additional museums other than those stated in the itinerary
- ⇒ Tips and gratuities (other than for the coach driver)