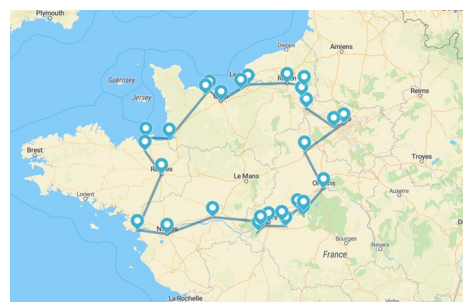




France, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route through Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley

The "Route through Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley" calls at some of the most emblematic places in France. Drive around some of the most beautiful regions of northern and central France. Awaiting you are iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum or the Palace of Versailles; magical places like Mont Saint-Michel (World Heritage Site by UNESCO); vibrant cities such as Paris, Saint-Malo, Nantes, Angers, Tours, Orleans and Chartres; rural villages full of tradition where life is a leisurely affair; landscapes that seem to be plucked from a painter's palette and which make the route linking Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley a real treat. Many reasons will encourage you to undertake this fascinating route through a countryside dotted with history, art and palace intrigues. The "Route through Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley" tour encompasses some of the most popular itineraries in France. On a single tour, you'll cover legs of itineraries as famous as the "Impressionism Route", where you'll discover some of the most important works of Monet and other leading figures from this school of art; the "Normandy Landings Beaches Route", which will take you back to D-Day (6 June 1944); and the "Châteaux of the Loire Route", where you'll admire the luxury and opulence of the French Renaissance represented in magnificent castles such as Azay-le-Rideau, Villandry, Chenonceau, Amboise, Blois, Cheverny and Chambord. The "Route through Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley" tour is also a journey through the heart of France, its exquisite cuisine and fine wines. The ideal excuse to sample delicacies such as oysters, black truffles, cheese or foie gras in typical bistros. Feel the "bon vivant" spirit and enjoy the simple pleasures of life!



URBAN

**Departure date:** Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Dublin, Shannon, Cork

### Travel details

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## DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - PARIS

Flight departure from the city of origin to Paris and rental car pick-up.

Your adventure begins here!

One of the most visited destinations in the world, the "city of light" will surprise even the most experienced traveller. Venue of several universal exhibitions and considered one of the worldwide epicentres of art, design and good taste, the French capital embraces the traveller in a magical atmosphere. Feel the "bon vivant" spirit and enjoy the simple pleasures of life, sat at the table of its charming cafes, typical bistros, or chic world-renowned restaurants...

The "Route through Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley" is also an emotional, scenic, culinary and wine-tasting tour that introduces visitors to a symphony of flavours, textures and colours.

Not forgetting the country's excellent wines!

Paris has a lot to offer. With 137 museums, 8,000 pavement cafes and 300 kilometres of catacombs, the city bowls travellers over with a vast cultural and leisure agenda that suits all tastes and budgets. Head up the Eiffel Tower and pinch the sky with your hands! And at nightfall, discover why it's known worldwide as the "City of Love".

Overnight stay in Paris.

## DAY 2 · PARIS - VERSAILLES - PARIS

In the morning, we'll head to one of the city's charmingly decorated cafés to savour some freshly ground coffee accompanied by delicious croissants and fresh baguettes. Full day at your leisure to explore the tremendous city of Paris and its surroundings.

The French capital is home to hundreds of hidden corners full of history and legends waiting to be discovered at a leisurely pace. Must-visits include museums like the Louvre, the Orsay or the Pompidou; neighbourhoods such as Montmartre, where you can have your caricature painted on the bustling and creative Place du Tertre; temples of extraordinary beauty such as the Notre Dame, Sainte Chapelle or the Royal Basilica of Saint Denis; urban parks such as Bois de Vincennes or the Jardin des Tuileries; and hidden treasures like its catacombs or cemeteries such as the Père-Lachaise, the resting place of historical figures such as Molière, Chopin and Balzac.

We recommend a trip out to Versailles to discover its grandiose Palace, where for a moment you'll dream of being a courtier in the reign of Marie Antoinette.

At the end of the day, soak up the city's vibrant nightlife.

Overnight stay in Paris.

## DAY 3 · PARIS - NORMANDY (GIVERNY - LES ANDELYS - LYONS-LA-FORÊT - ROUEN - HONFLEUR - DEAUVILLE)

Departure from Paris towards the small village of Giverny. Boasting timeless charm and perched on the banks of the Seine, this beautiful French town is famous worldwide thanks to its bright light masterfully captured by impressionist Claude Monet. Stroll around the Maison et Jardins de Claude Monet, the house-museum where this brilliant artist painted works as famous as his "Water Lilies" series or "Japanese Footbridge". If you're interested in art, the town's Impressionist Museum is a great chance to discover more works by Monet and other prominent painters.

Onward journey through the beautiful region of Normandy. After passing through Les Andelys, a pocket-sized and photogenic town dotted with chestnut-lined avenues housing stately mansions and crowned by the magnificent Château Gaillard (built by Richard the Lionheart), we'll arrive at Lyons-la-Forêt, one of the most idyllic villages in France. Located amid one of Europe's most beautiful beech groves, it bestows picture-postcard views that inspired Gustave Flaubert in his famous novel "Madame Bovary".

Our next stops will be in the medieval Rouen, the historic capital of Normandy and a true living museum, and the lovely Honfleur, one of the most visited cities in France. And from charming towns like Honfleur to other aristocratic ones such as Deauville. If you have time, we suggest crossing the Normandy bridge to reach Le Havre, beautifully rebuilt after World War II, and the pretty village of Etretat. Admiring the sunset from the cliffs is a unique experience. Onward to Deauville, where we'll enjoy its fun and exclusive nightlife.

Overnight stay in Deauville.

#### DAY 4 · DEAUVILLE - TROUVILLE - "D-DAY" LANDING BEACHES ROUTE (CAEN - ARROMANCHES - LONGUES-SUR-MER - BAYEUX - OMAHA BEACH) - MONT SAINT MICHEL - SAINT-MALO

We'll set out from Deauville, dotted with boutiques, luxury hotels and pristine gardens, to embark upon one of the most moving parts of the journey.

After arriving in Trouville, another beautiful coastal town separated from Deauville by a bridge, we'll drive for around an hour to Caen, a perfect starting point for visiting the historic landing beaches, which became known after D-Day (6 June, 1944), a key date in the course of World War II when the Allies landed to set Europe free from Nazi occupation.

We'll drive along a startling coastline of spirited waters and fine sand beaches, framed by cliffs and a huge sky that fades into the horizon, providing a thought-provoking backdrop to accompany the many monuments and museums. (Note: we're going to recommend a full itinerary, so you can choose the stops that best suit your tastes). In Caen you can visit the Memorial - Un Musée pour la Paix (Peace Museum), the ideal place to learn more about D-Day and the context of that fateful military confrontation. Onward journey to Arromanches, a coastal town located at the epicentre of the landing area. There, if you have time, you can visit the remains of the temporary harbour, the Musée du Débarquement and the Arromanches 360° Cinéma Circulaire. We'll continue westwards to Longues-sur-Mer, where you can see part of the impressive German artillery: two 150mm-calibre navy guns preserved in their casemates and which fired out their ammunition that historic day. Having arrived in Bayeux, you can visit the Musée Mémorial de la Bataille de Normandie, which displays photographs, personal testimonies and footage of that day. If you have time, we recommend visiting the Gothic cathedral and admiring La Tapisserie, a stunning historical tapestry from the eleventh century. We'll end this route along the landing beaches in Omaha Beach (Colleville-sur-Mer), a place that today symbolises the courage and sacrifice of D-Day and where the landing was on the verge of being called off. The heavy losses that the American troops suffered here earned it the nickname Bloody Omaha. The beaches here contain the Memorial to the Brave sculpture and the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, the largest US cemetery on European soil. We'll end the landing beaches tour on the Pointe du Hoc promontory, where you can walk among bomb craters and the remains of artilleries.

After an intense morning, we'll hit the road again to discover one of the true treasures of this trip: Mont Saint-Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and considered one of the most famous places in France.

Known as "The Marvel", the bay and the eleventh-century abbey rise out from a magical tidal island linked to the coast by a road. You must leave your car at one of the car parks and from there walk or take a free shuttle bus to the island. (Note: Opening hours of the Abbey: September to April: 9.30 am to 5.00 pm // May-August: 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. Closed: 1 January, 1 May and 25 December).

We'll round off the day in the coastal town of Saint-Malo, in Brittany.

Overnight stay in Saint-Malo.

#### DAY 5 · BRITTANY (SAINT-MALO - DINAN - RENNES - SAINT-NAZAIRE - NANTES)

Famous for being the notorious port-of-call for pirates and intrepid adventurers, Saint-Malo is today a beautiful walled city graced with an elegant harbour and beautiful beaches to enjoy the sun and the vibrant atmosphere. Behind the walls is one of the most interesting old towns in French Brittany. Back on the road for a 35-minute journey to Dinan, a wonderful medieval town on the River Rance that has become famous for its historic and artistic heritage.

After lunch, we'll set off for Rennes. The capital of the region captivates the traveller with a stunning historic quarter and unique landmarks such as the Place de la Mairie, the Opera House and the Parliament of Brittany. You're in the ideal place to taste the best crêpes washed down with a bolée (bowl) of craft cider.

After recharging batteries, we'll get back on our tour. Our next stop will be Saint-Nazaire, gateway to the Loire estuary. A pretty coastal city, located north of Nantes, where you'll find elegant harbours and around twenty beautiful beaches. And then we'll hit Nantes! A vibrant city with an attractive leisure and entertainment agenda. Since the nineties, this city has constantly been reinventing itself, becoming one of the most creative and artistic cities in the whole of France. Must-do: take a ride on one of the 12-metre mechanical elephants.

Overnight stay in Nantes.

## DAY 6 · NANTES - ANGERS - TOURS

We'll start the day by exploring Nantes, the ancient capital of Brittany and a city full of contrasts. Birthplace of Jules Verne and 2013 European Green Capital, Nantes provides the traveller with treasures such as the magnificent Château des Ducs de Bretagne; charming squares such Graslin, Royale and du Commerce; shopping areas like Passage Pommeraye; and unique places like the islands of Feydeau and Versailles... With art as a backdrop, the cultural landscape of the city covers all kinds of creations: from gigantic machines to revamped old buildings adapted to contemporary needs. Anything can happen in Nantes. Just a leisurely stroll will let you discover interesting galleries and amazing samples of urban art. On with our journey. A little over an hour away is the city of Angers, where you'll marvel at magnificent châteaux. The slate quarries around the city, which helped build most of the roofs of the city centre, earned it the nickname "Black City". Our last stop today will be Tours. Located an hour and a half away from Angers, it welcomes the traveller into its universe of medieval streets and half-timbered houses. On the lively terraces of Place Plumereau, we can taste the excellent wines produced in the Touraine region, savour the famous Rillons and Rillettes (charcuterie) or the typical Tarte Tatin, and soak up a typical medieval atmosphere. Overnight stay in Tours.

## DAY 7 · TOURS - CHÂTEAUX OF THE LOIRE ROUTE (AZAY-LE-RIDEAU - VILLANDRY - CHENONCEAU - AMBOISE - LE CLOS LUCÉ - BLOIS)

Now for the first of two legs that will take us through the picture-perfect Loire Valley. Today follows the "Châteaux of the Loire Valley" tour from Azay-le-Rideau to Blois. At the wheel, following the course of the famous River Loire, you'll discover beautiful landscapes, royal intrigues, magnificent châteaux surrounded by dreamlike gardens, lush forests, flower beds full of colours that change with the seasons... Off we go! This is the land of fine wine and exquisite cuisine where architecture and nature mark out one of the most beautiful regions of Europe. (Note: we're going to recommend a full itinerary, so you can choose the stops that best suit your tastes). We'll start in the peaceful village of Azay-le-Rideau, with its charming mill perched atop a bridge and its romantic castle. About 40 minutes away is Villandry, where its fabulous castle stands in some of the most emblematic gardens of the valley. Next destination is Chenonceau, where we'll discover the town's beautiful château, also known as the Ladies' Castle because of the six prominent women who inhabited it over the course of five centuries. Its genuine structure, refined finishes and exquisite gardens make it a really intriguing place. Titles that could well describe the magnificent Royal Castle of Amboise. Located on the south bank of the Loire, for centuries it was the resting place of royals residing in Blois. Nearby is Le Clos Lucé, an elegant country house that welcomed Leonardo da Vinci among its illustrious guests. Our last stop today will be Blois. Its old quarter has a medieval layout and steep mansion-lined streets which lead up to the château. Several French kings left their mark here. Opposite the castle is La Maison de la Magie, an interesting museum that lets you delve into the history of magic. Have a go at performing some tricks! Overnight stay in Blois.

## DAY 8 · CHÂTEAUX OF THE LOIRE VALLEY ROUTE (BLOIS - CHEVERNY - CHAMBORD) - ORLEANS - CHARTRES - PARIS

We'll continue exploring the beautiful Loire Valley, heading back in time to the opulent universe of the French Renaissance, the era in which the aristocratic elite constructed majestic palaces and mansions that are still admired around the world today. Onward journey to Cheverny, where we'll find one of the most elegant palaces of the valley, thanks to its seventeenth-century furniture and manicured gardens crisscrossed by canals and decorated with cedars. Known worldwide as Tintin's Castle, its design inspired Captain Haddock's residence Marlinspike Hall. We'll end the "Châteaux of the Loire Valley" tour by visiting Chambord, a jewel in the crown and one of the most beautiful examples of Renaissance architecture you'll find en route. On the way back in Paris, and provided you have time, you can stop off at some of France's most emblematic cities. You choose whether to stroll around the attractive medieval city of Orleans, birthplace of Joan of Arc and where every corner pays homage to the patron saint of France; or soak up the charms of Chartres, where we recommend visiting its imposing cathedral which houses the Voile de la Vierge (Our Lady's Veil). Overnight stay in Paris.

## DAY 9 · PARIS - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Paris.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Paris.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Deauville.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Deauville.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Saint-Malo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Saint-Malo.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Nantes.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Nantes.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tours.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tours.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Blois.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Blois.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in France direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

Paris



Versailles



Giverny



Les Andelys



Lyons-la-Forêt



Rouen



Honfleur



Deauville



Caen



ArromancheslesBains



Bayeux



Mont-Saint-Michel

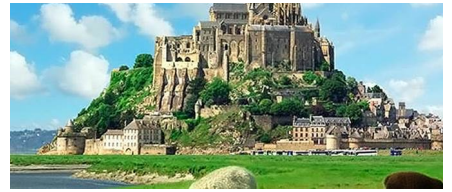




Saint-Malo



Dinan



Rennes



Saint-Nazaire



Nantes



Angers



Tours



Azay Le Rideau



Villandry



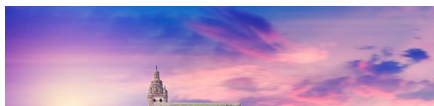
Chenonceau



Amboise



Blois





Cheverny



Mont - Près - Chambord



Orléans



Chartres



## Important remarks

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- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.