

 **Central Holidays™**
Group Travel Experiences



THE GEMS OF NORMANDY & THE CHAMPAGNE REGION

9 DAYS/7 NIGHTS

(4) CAEN • (3) REIMS

LAND/AIR FROM JFK - OTHER GATEWAYS AVAILABLE

THE GEMS OF NORMANDY & THE CHAMPAGNE REGION TOUR FEATURES



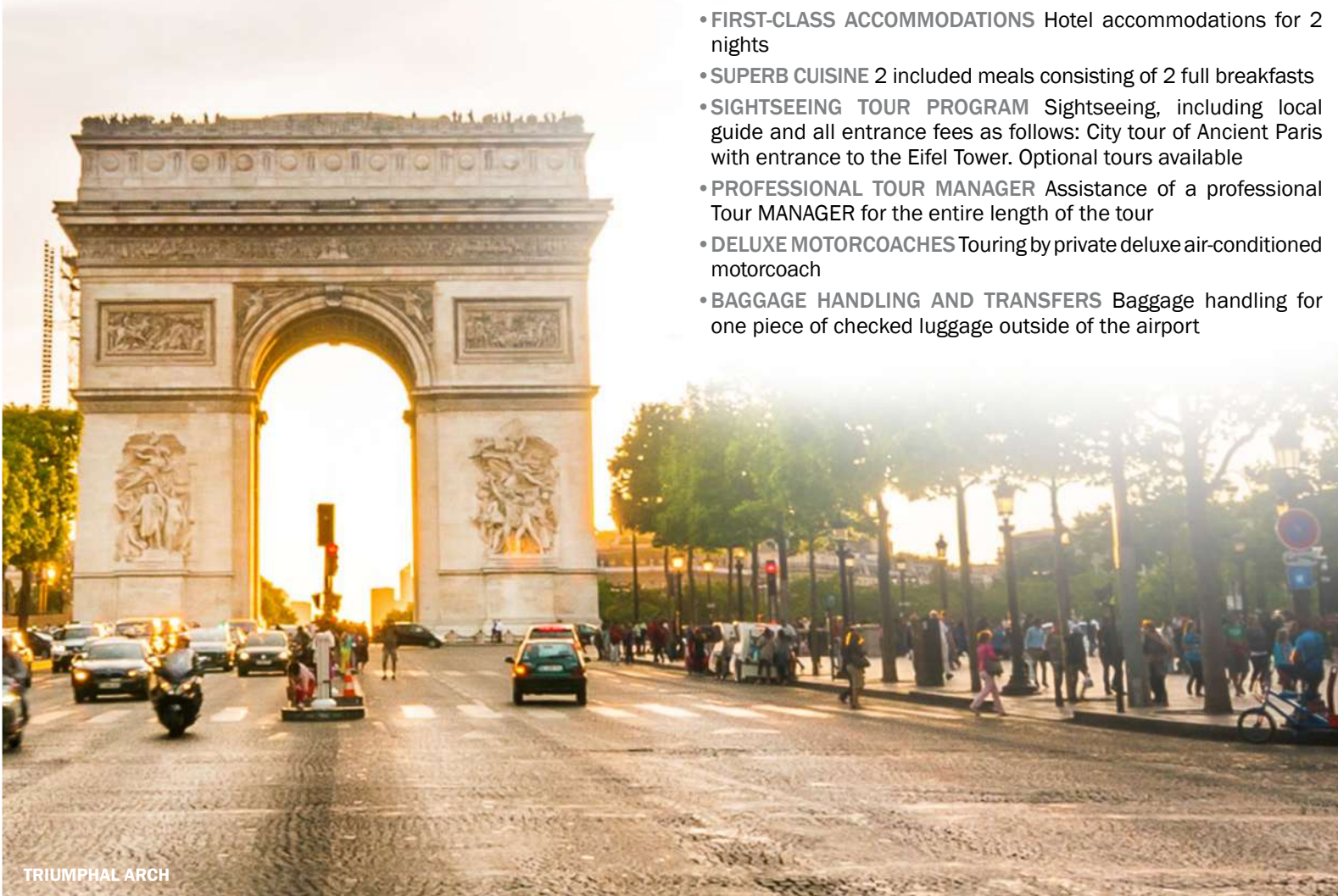
DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the heart of Caen, Normandy's capital • Travel back in time to 1944 as visiting Normandy D-Day sites • Revel in Benedictine abbey of Mont St. Michel • Stroll the postcard-perfect Norman village of Villedieu-les-Poeles • Enjoy a tasting experience of local cheeses and cider at Calvados Christian Drouin Distillery in Pays d'Auge • Join in a walking tour of historic Reims • Sip on France's signature sparkling vintage on a Champagne House Tour • Savor exquisite cuisine at a local restaurant in Reims • Discover Paris, City of Light • Take-in the vistas of Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Elysees, Notre Dame Cathedral, Montmartre's Basilique du Sacré-Coeur, and Eiffel Tower • Bask in the splendors of the iconic Palace of Versailles

- **ROUND TRIP AIR TRANSPORTATION** Air transportation from New York
- **FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS** Hotel accommodations for 7 nights
- **SUPERB CUISINE** 10 included meals consisting of 7 continental breakfasts and 3 dinners
- **SIGHTSEEING TOUR PROGRAM** Sightseeing, including local guide and all entrance fees as follows: Full day guided tour of Caen, a full-day tour of Bayeux and its tapestry and cider distillery, Full day excursion to the Normandy Beaches (Us landing sites), Omaha Beach and museum, Reims City tour and a tour of Epernay and the champagne region including tasting. Optional tours available
- **CULTURAL DISCOVERY SERIES** Our program encompasses cultural connections, in-depth learning on the local economy and social systems, and interaction with locals such as a visit to the artisans' workshops in the Villedieu-les-Poeles, and champagne tasting
- **PROFESSIONAL TOUR DIRECTOR** Assistance of a professional Tour Director for the entire length of the tour upon arrival to Paris
- **DELUXE MOTORCOACH** Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- **BAGGAGE HANDLING AND TRANSFERS** Baggage handling for one piece of checked luggage outside of the airport

OPTIONAL PARIS EXTENSION TOUR FEATURES

- **FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS** Hotel accommodations for 2 nights
- **SUPERB CUISINE** 2 included meals consisting of 2 full breakfasts
- **SIGHTSEEING TOUR PROGRAM** Sightseeing, including local guide and all entrance fees as follows: City tour of Ancient Paris with entrance to the Eiffel Tower. Optional tours available
- **PROFESSIONAL TOUR MANAGER** Assistance of a professional Tour MANAGER for the entire length of the tour
- **DELUXE MOTORCOACHES** Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- **BAGGAGE HANDLING AND TRANSFERS** Baggage handling for one piece of checked luggage outside of the airport



TRIUMPHAL ARCH

**DAY 1 DEPART USA**

Depart the USA on an overnight flight to Paris to begin your adventure in France. Meals and refreshments are served onboard.

DAY 2 ARRIVE IN PARIS, FRANCE/ CAEN - CITY TOUR  (D)

Welcome to France's capital, Paris, known as the "City of Light." After clearing customs and immigration, you will be met by your Aventura World tour representative. Then you will travel to your spectacular home base of Caen for a magical 4-night stay. Get to know this enchanting place on an insightful city tour upon arrival. Discover the heart of Caen, Normandy's capital, and explore its history, from The Castle of William the Conqueror, the duke of Normandy and see the archaeological remains of William's palace, known as the Vieux Palais (Old Palace), as well as The Church of St-Pierre. This evening you will enjoy an included dinner at your hotel.

DAY 3 CAEN - NORMANDY D-DAY TOUR  (B)

Rise and shine with a delectable breakfast at your hotel before heading out on a full-day excursion with your tour escort and specialized Battlefield Guide to tour the Normandy D-Day sites. Delve into the history of the Arromanches clifftops where the Allies set up two artificial Mulberry harbors. Here you will also see the British military artifacts from the Caen Mémorial collection. The day takes you further along to The Normandy American Cemetery established by the U.S. First Army on June 8, 1944, as the first American cemetery on European soil in World War II, where many who lost their lives in the D-Day landings and ensuing operations are buried. Take time to reflect at the Walls of the Missing, situated in the semicircular garden on the east side of the memorial that features 1,557 inscribed names. Next, we will head to Omaha Beach Memorial Museum. The Museum was founded in memory of all those young men who died in 1944 at the site where the American naval landing took place.

DAY 4 CAEN OR OPTIONAL ST MICHEL TOUR  (B)

Wake to this glorious day with a full breakfast at your hotel before enjoying a day at leisure or embarking on an optional excursion to Mont St. Michel and the village of Villedieu-les-Poëles. Get ready to revel in the mesmerizing tidal island of Mont St. Michel. For centuries one of Europe's major pilgrimage destinations, this holy island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site showcasing its famed gravity-defying Benedictine abbey. Next, it's on to Villedieu-les-Poëles. This stunning historic village is famous for its time-honored copper pots and pans production. Its name means the "village of the frying pans." Its postcard-perfect, cobblestone streets are lined with charming shops featuring beautiful doorways adorned with flowers in copper pots selling the town's famed wares.

DAY 5 CAEN - MEMORIAL MUSEUM- BATTLE OF NORMANDY  (B,D)

Start your day with breakfast at your hotel, and then head out to visit A few miles from the landing beaches, the Normandy Battle Memorial Museum shows visitors the key stages of the conflict, the day-by-day advancement of the forces involved. This is an essential stop before visiting the memorial sites of the summer of 1944. Next, enjoy a tour of Calvados Christian Drouin Distillery, a family-run traditional distillery located within a group of half-timbered 17th-century buildings in the heart of the Pays d'Auge. With your guided tour, you will discover the cider press, the pot still, the aging cellars, and the manor. You can also stroll through the orchards and discover the former distilling room, the wash house, and the bread oven. The visit includes tasting local cheeses and their cider, calvados, and pommeau. Tonight, you will savor dinner at your hotel.

DAY 6 CAEN/ REIMS  (B)

Adventure is on the agenda today after breakfast at your hotel as you depart Caen and transfer to Reims. Along the way, take in the scenic views and stop in Rouen, famous for its half-timbered buildings and breathtaking gothic cathedral that was the subject of many of Claude Monet's paintings. After your tour, continue to Reims in the spectacular Champagne region for a splendid 3-night stay. Welcome to Reims, meticulously restored after WWI and again following WWII; Reims is endowed with handsome pedestrian boulevards, Roman remains, art-deco cafes, and a flourishing fine-dining scene. This city is the most important center of Champagne production and a good base for gaining a culturally rich experience and exploring the Champagne trail.





DAY 7

**REIMS – CITY TOUR - EPERNAY
& CHAMPAGNE TOUR**


Have breakfast at your hotel before embarking on a tour of the historic city of Reims, including the entrance to Reims Cathedral. Your day of exploration features a visit to the village of Epernay, home to the country's second-largest concentration of major Champagne houses, including Moët & Chandon, De Castellane, Mercier, and Pol Roger – all situated along the Ave. de Champagne. Take time to visit a Champagne House, such as Moët & Chandon, where you will be taken on a journey through the galleries where the bubbles come to life. Visit the cellars and partake in a glass of champagne. Whether it is your first champagne sip, or you are rediscovering the Moët Impérial created in 1869, the House leads you into the world of unique style. Cheers!

DAY 8

REIMS


Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and then bask in a day at leisure or join an optional excursion to discover the Gems of Reims. Our first stop is the Palace of Tau, the former residence for French monarchs, previously occupied by the Archbishop of Reims, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1991, the Palace (Palais du Tau is one of Burgundy's critical historical landmarks. The palace's name comes from its distinctive "T" shape (tau is the Greek equivalent of "T," and its history dates back to the 6th century. Then continue on a walking tour to discover Art Deco in Reims. Many towns in France were built in the art deco style from 1920 to 1940, but Reims is considered the capital of French art deco. Reims was damaged in the First World War, so the town had to be rebuilt afterward. See the Carnegie Library and the Boulingrin covered market and many facades of buildings. This evening, reminisce with your travel companions and new friends on the moments of a lifetime you have shared throughout your trip to France during your included farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Reims.

DAY 9

**REIMS TO USA OR EXTEND YOUR STAY
WITH AN OPTIONAL PARIS EXTENSION**


Savor breakfast at your hotel and transfer back to Paris for your flight home.

OPTIONAL PARIS EXTENSION

DAY 9

REIMS/PARIS - CITY TOUR


After breakfast at your hotel, get ready to savor the "joie de vivre" – the joy of living – in Paris today! Whether you're a fashionista, history buff, lover of the arts, or wish to enjoy fabulous food and wine at a sidewalk café, Paris awaits with all its splendors. First, you will embark on a concise sightseeing cruise on the Seine River. Then, join in a half-day panoramic Paris tour. You will be mesmerized by its famed attractions, including such sites as the Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Elysees, Notre Dame Cathedral, Montmartre's Basilique du Sacré-Cœur, and the Eiffel Tower, with entrance to the top included.

DAY 10

PARIS OR OPTIONAL VERSAILLES TOUR


Today, enjoy a free day to enjoy the endless discoveries in this singular, magical, and majestic city. Let your imagination wander as you stroll the streets of this capital, brimming with the imprints of those who shaped the history of France: Joan of Arc, Louis XIV, Louis XVI, and Napoleon Bonaparte. Or enjoy an optional half-day tour to the Palace of Versailles. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Versailles is one of the most outstanding French 17th-century art achievements. Louis XIV transformed his father's (Louis XIII's) old hunting pavilion when he installed the Court and government here in 1682. After that, a succession of kings continued to add to the palace until the French Revolution. Today, Versailles boasts an impressive 2,300 rooms.

DAY 11

PARIS TO USA


Today, enjoy a free day to enjoy the endless discoveries in this singular. After breakfast at your hotel, you will be transferred to Paris airport for your flight home enriched with cherished memories to share and enjoy Normandy's magic, the champaign region, and Paris.

Please note: Though rare, it may be necessary to substitute hotels and adjust itineraries at the guide's discretion due to local conditions.

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL EASY 1 2 3 4 5 ACTIVE
Mobility Advisory:

This trip is listed as a 4 out of 5, for active physical mobility. On a daily basis, travelers will be expected to walk, unassisted, at a moderate steady pace, occasionally over difficult terrain such as uneven cobblestones. Travelers will also be expected to be able to get on and off various means of transportation, unassisted.


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