





Paris & Northern France

FROM THE BOULEVARDS OF PARIS TO THE CLIFFS OF BRITTANY, northern France is primed with possibilities – whether that means touring Champagne’s vineyards, sampling Norman cheeses, admiring art in Metz or simply moseying around Rouen’s old town. And with its abundance of coast and countryside, it’s a pleasure to drive, too.

It’s a region whose long (and turbulent) history is plain to see. Two thousand years of royalty, renaissance and revolution have left their mark on the streets of Paris, while the scars of war can still be traced on the fields of Flanders and the beaches of Normandy. Elsewhere, cathedrals and châteaux hint at the splendour of a bygone age, and experimental art museums point to an equally flashy future.

Paris & Northern France



Classic Trip

1 Essential France 2 Weeks

Tick off the mustn't-misses on this epic cross-country adventure. (p39)

2 A Toast to Art 7 Days

Visit art galleries in Lens and Metz, then get lost in old Strasbourg. (p51)

3 Tour des Fromages 5 Days

Fatten yourself up on this tour of Normandy's creamy cheeses. (p59)

4 In Flanders Fields 3 Days

The ghosts of the Great War still linger on the battlefields of northern France. (p67)

Classic Trip

5 Champagne Taster 3 Days

Taste your way around the cellars of Champagne on this fizz-fuelled trip. (p75)

6 Alsace Accents 3 Days

Alsace's rich cuisine and crisp wines combine on this eastern road trip. (p85)

Classic Trip

7 Unesco Treasures 10 Days

From Gothic cathedrals to papal palaces, take a tour through France's World Heritage Sites. (p93)



- 8 Monet's Normandy 4 Days**
Investigate the origins of impressionism, from Étretat's cliffs to Monet's lily garden. (p105)

Classic Trip

- 9 D-Day's Beaches 3 Days**
Follow the course of the WWII invasion on Normandy's beaches. (p113)

- 10 Breton Coast 8 Days**
Brittany's coastline is all about big beaches and wild views. (p123)



DON'T MISS

Centre Pompidou-Metz

It's hard to know here which is more avant-garde – the architecture or the art. Take in this groundbreaking gallery on Trip **2**

Vimy Ridge

Walk through one of the only surviving trench systems from WWI on Trip **4**

Musée Bartholdi

Visit the Colmar home of the man who made Lady Liberty – and see a life-sized model of the statue's earlobe – on Trip **6**

Distillerie Christian Drouin

Taste two of Normandy's top tipples – Calvados and cider – at this traditional distillery. Refresh yourself on Trip **3**

Musée d'Art Moderne André Malraux

This museum in Le Havre contains the best impressionist collection outside Paris. Soak it all in on Trip **8**