



NORMANDY & D-DAY BEACHES

ROAD TRIPS

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Reviews

In the Destinations section:

All reviews are ordered in our authors' preference, starting with their most preferred option. Additionally:

Sights are arranged in the geographic order that we suggest you visit them and, within this order, by author preference.

Eating and Sleeping reviews are ordered by price range (budget, midrange, top end) and, within these ranges, by author preference.

Map Legend

Routes

- Trip Route
- Trip Detour
- Linked Trip
- Walk Route
- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed Road
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian Overpass
- Walk Track/Path

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Cliff
- Wall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Cable Car/Funicular
- Parking
- Train/Railway
- Tram
- Underground Train Station

Trips

- Trip Numbers
- Trip Stop
- Walking tour
- Trip Detour

Route Markers

- E-road network
- National network

Hydrography

- River/Creek
- Intermittent River
- Swamp/Mangrove
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Glacier

Areas

- Beach
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Park
- Forest
- Urban Area
- Sportsground

Symbols In This Book

- Top Tips
- Link Your Trips
- Tips from Locals
- Trip Detour
- History & Culture
- Family
- Food & Drink
- Outdoors
- Essential Photo
- Walking Tour
- Eating
- Sleeping

- Sights
- Beaches
- Activities
- Courses
- Tours
- Festivals & Events
- Sleeping
- Eating
- Drinking
- Entertainment
- Shopping
- Information & Transport

These symbols and abbreviations give vital information for each listing:

- Telephone number
- Opening hours
- Parking
- Nonsmoking
- Air-conditioning
- Internet access
- Wi-fi access
- Swimming pool
- Vegetarian selection
- English-language menu
- Family-friendly
- Pet-friendly
- Bus
- Ferry
- Tram
- Train
- apt apartments
- d double rooms
- dm dorm beds
- q quad rooms
- r rooms
- s single rooms
- ste suites
- tr triple rooms
- tw twin rooms

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Dramatic white cliffs, Étretat (p30)

WELCOME TO NORMANDY & D-DAY BEACHES

Northern France is primed with possibilities – whether that means sampling Norman cheeses, getting close to WWI and WWII history 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 with a long (and turbulent) history that is plain to see. The scars of war can still be traced on the fields of Flanders and the beaches of Normandy. Elsewhere, be awed by the landscapes and villages that inspired artists such as Claude Monet.

NORMANDY & D-DAY BEACHES



2

Monet's Normandy

Explore the landscapes and cities that inspired Monet.

4 DAYS

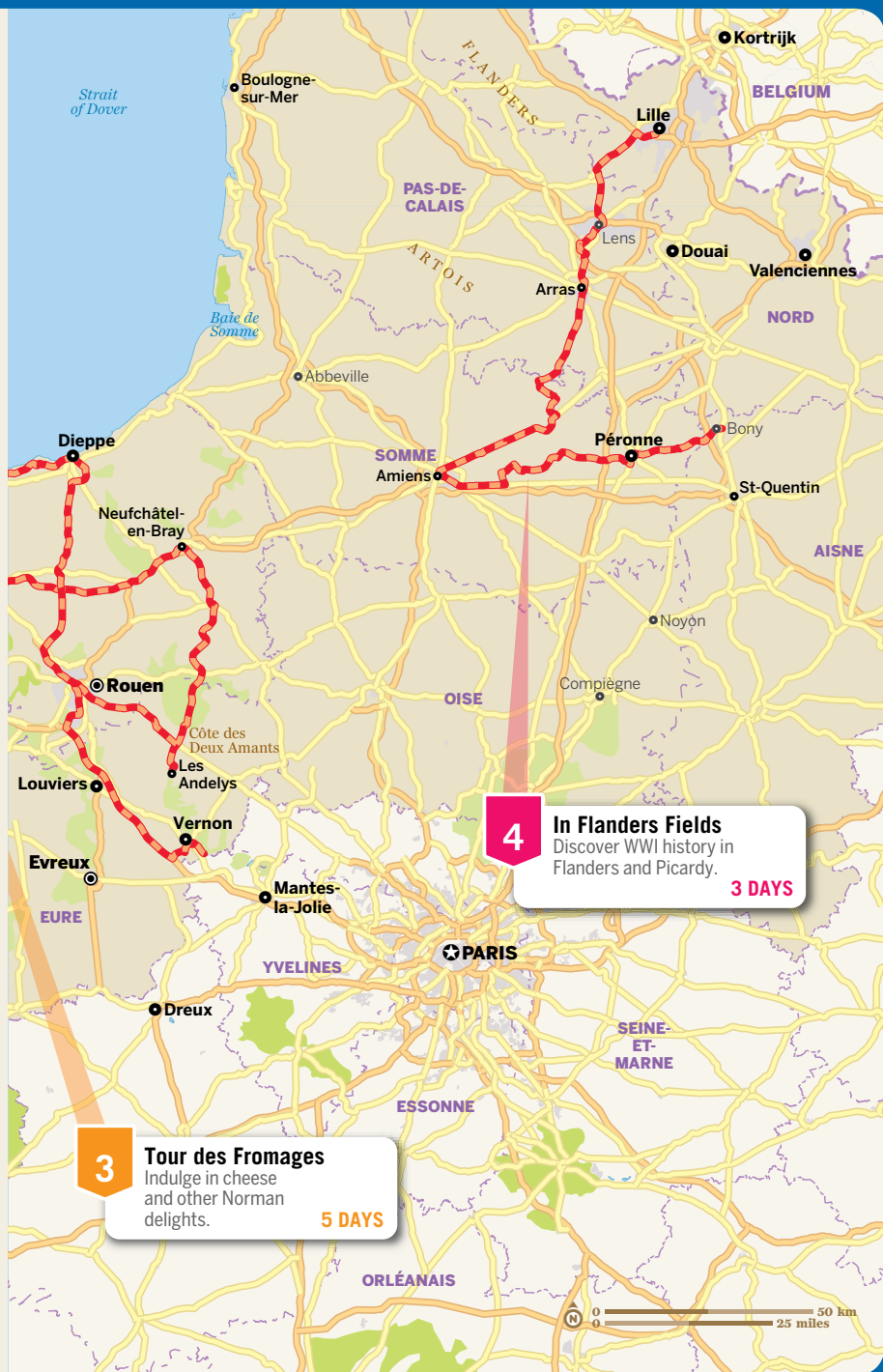
1

D-Day's Beaches

Remember one of the biggest days in military history.

3 DAYS





Strait of Dover

Baie de Somme

Kortrijk

BELGIUM

Boulogne-sur-Mer

PAS-DE-CALAIS

ARTOIS

Lille

Lens

Douai

Valenciennes

NORD

Arras

Abbeville

SOMME

Amiens

Péronne

Bony

St-Quentin

AISNE

Noyon

Compiègne

OISE

4

In Flanders Fields
Discover WWI history in Flanders and Picardy.

3 DAYS

3

Tour des Fromages

Indulge in cheese and other Norman delights.

5 DAYS

PARIS

YVELINES

SEINE-ET-MARNE

ESSONNE

ORLÉANAIS



0 50 km
0 25 miles

NORMANDY & D-DAY BEACHES HIGHLIGHTS





D-Day Beaches (right)

On 6 June 1944 the largest invasion the world has ever seen stormed the beaches of Normandy. Now known as D-Day, it marked the turning point of WWII. See the area on Trip [1](#)

Vimy Ridge (left)

Walk through one of the only surviving trench systems from WWI. See it on Trip [4](#)

Musée d'Art Moderne

André Malraux (top right) This museum in Le Havre contains the best impressionist collection outside Paris. See it on Trip [2](#)

SIMON GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES ©



CITY GUIDE



Île de la Cité, Paris

PARIS

If ever a city needed no introduction, it's Paris – a trend setter, fashion former and style icon for centuries, and still very much at the cutting edge. Whether you're here to tick off the landmarks or seek out the secret corners, Paris fulfils all your expectations, and still leaves you wanting more.

Getting Around

Driving in Paris is a nightmare. Happily, there's no need for a car. The metro is fast, frequent and efficient; tickets cost €1.70 (day passes €6.70) and are valid on the city's buses. Bikes can be hired from 1800 Vélib (www.velib.paris.fr) stations; insert a credit card, authorise a €150 deposit and pedal away. Day passes cost €1; first 30 minutes free, subsequent 30 minutes from €2.

Parking

Meters don't take coins; use a chip-enabled credit card. Municipal car parks cost €2 to €3.50 an hour, or €20 to €25 per 24 hours.

Discover the Taste of Paris

Le Marais is one of the best areas for eating out, with its small restaurants and trendy bistros. Don't miss Paris' street markets: the Marché Bastille, rue Montorgueil and rue Mouffetard are full of atmosphere.

Live Like a Local

Base yourself in Montmartre for its Parisian charm, if you don't mind crowds. Le Marais and Bastille provide style on a budget, while St-Germain is good for a splurge.

Useful Websites

Paris Info (<http://en.parisinfo.com>) Official visitor site.

Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/paris) Lonely Planet's city guide.

Secrets of Paris (www.secretsofparis.com) Local's blog full of insider tips.

Paris by Mouth (www.parisbymouth.com) Eat and drink your way round the capital.



Place du Général de Gaulle, Lille

LILLE

Lille may be France's most underrated major city. This once-tired industrial metropolis has transformed itself into a stylish, self-confident city with a strong Flemish accent. Three art museums, lots of stylish shops and a lovely old town make it well worth investigating.

Getting Around

Driving into Lille is incredibly confusing, even with a good map; just suspend your sense of direction and blindly follow the 'Centre Ville' signs. Lille's buses and two speedy metro lines run until about 12.30am. Tickets cost €1.50; a Pass' Journée (all-day pass) costs €4.

Parking

If you're driving, the best idea is to leave your vehicle at the park-and-ride at Champ de Mars on bd de la Liberté (open from 10am to 6pm or 7pm, closed Saturdays and Sundays, September to March), 1.2km northwest of the

centre. It costs €3.25 a day and includes return travel for five people to central Lille on bus 12.

Discover the Taste of Lille

Lille's proximity to Alsace and Belgium has influenced its cuisine. Cosy *estaminets* (Flemish eateries) serve Lillois specialities such as *carbonade* (braised beef stewed with beer, spiced bread and brown sugar) and *potjevleesch* (jellied chicken, pork, veal and rabbit).

Live Like a Local

Most hotels are within striking distance of the

city centre, but Lille's business focus means many are short on charm. On the plus side, rates drop at weekends.

Useful Website

Lille Tourisme (www.lilletourism.com)
Comprehensive city site.

Road Trip Through

Lille: 4

Destinations coverage:
p82

NEED ^{TO} KNOW

CURRENCY

Euro (€)

LANGUAGE

French

VISAS

Generally not required for stays of up to 90 days (or at all for EU nationals); some nationalities need a Schengen visa.

FUEL

Petrol stations are common around main roads and larger towns. Unleaded costs from around €1.60 per litre; *gazole* (diesel) is usually at least €0.15 cheaper.

RENTAL CARS

ADA (www.ada.fr)

Auto Europe (www.autoeurope.com)

Avis (www.avis.com)

Europcar (www.europcar.com)

Hertz (www.hertz.com)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

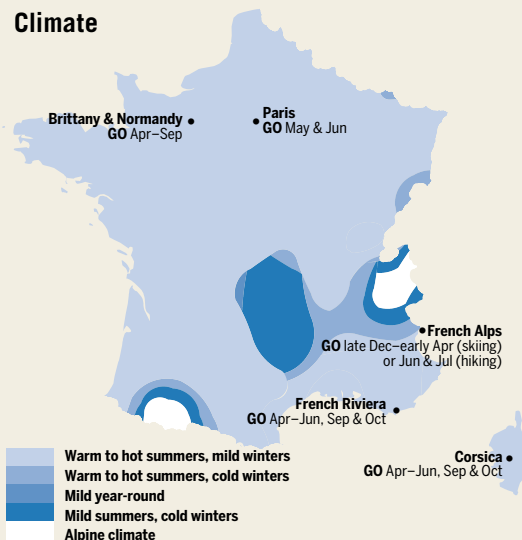
Ambulance (☎15)

Police (☎17)

Fire brigade (☎18)

Europe-wide emergency (☎112)

Climate



When to Go

High Season (Jul & Aug)

- » The main holiday season in France – expect traffic jams and big queues, especially in August.
- » Christmas, New Year and Easter are also busy times to travel.

Shoulder Season (Apr–Jun & Sep)

- » Balmy temperatures, settled weather and light crowds make this an ideal time to travel.
- » Hotel rates drop in busy areas such as southern France and the Atlantic coast.
- » The *vendange* (grape harvest) happens in early autumn.

Low Season (Oct–Mar)

- » Expect heavy discounts on accommodation (sometimes as much as 50%).
- » Snow covers the Alps and Pyrenees, as well as much of central France.
- » Many sights and hotels close down for winter.
- » Late December to March is high season in French ski resorts.

Daily Costs

Budget less than €100

» Double room in a budget hotel: €50–70

» Set lunchtime menus: €10–15

Midrange €100–200

» Double room in a midrange hotel: €70–120

» À la carte mains: €15–20

Top End over €200

» Luxury hotel room: €150–200

» Top-end restaurant meal: menus from €50, à la carte from €80

Eating

Cafes Coffee, drinks and bar snacks.

Bistros Serve anything from light meals to sit-down dinners.

Restaurants Range from simple *auberges* (country inns) to Michelin-starred wonders.

Vegetarians Limited choice on most menus; look out for *restaurants bios* in cities.

In this book, price symbols indicate the cost of a two-course set menu:

€	less than €20
€€	€20–40
€€€	more than €40

Sleeping

Hotels France has a wide range of hotels, from budget to luxury. Unless indicated otherwise, breakfast is extra.

Chambres d'hôte The French equivalent of a B&B; prices nearly always include breakfast.

Hostels Most large towns have a hostel operated by the FUAJ (Fédération Unie des Auberges de Jeunesse).

Price symbols indicate the cost of a double room with private bathroom in high season unless otherwise noted:

€	less than €80
€€	€80–180
€€€	more than €180

Arriving in France

Aéroport Roissy Charles de Gaulle (Paris)

Rental cars Major car-rental agencies have concessions at arrival terminals.

Trains, buses and RER

To Paris centre every 15 to 30 minutes, 5am to 11pm.

Taxis €50 to €60; 30 minutes to Paris centre.

Aéroport d'Orly (Paris)

Rental cars Desks beside the arrivals area.

Orlyval rail, RER and buses

At least every 15 minutes, 5am to 11pm.

Taxis €45 to €60; 25 minutes to Paris centre.

Mobile Phones

Most European and Australian phones work, but turn off roaming to avoid heavy data charges. Buying a French SIM card provides much cheaper call rates.

Internet Access

Wi-fi is available in most hotels and B&Bs (usually free, but sometimes for a small charge). Many cafes and restaurants also offer free wi-fi to customers.

Money

ATMs are available everywhere. Most major credit cards are accepted (with the exception of American Express). Larger cities have *bureaux de change*.

Tipping

By law, restaurant and bar prices are *service compris* (include a 15% service charge). Taxis expect around 10%; round up bar bills to the nearest euro.

Useful Websites

France Guide (www.franceguide.com) Official website run by the French tourist office.

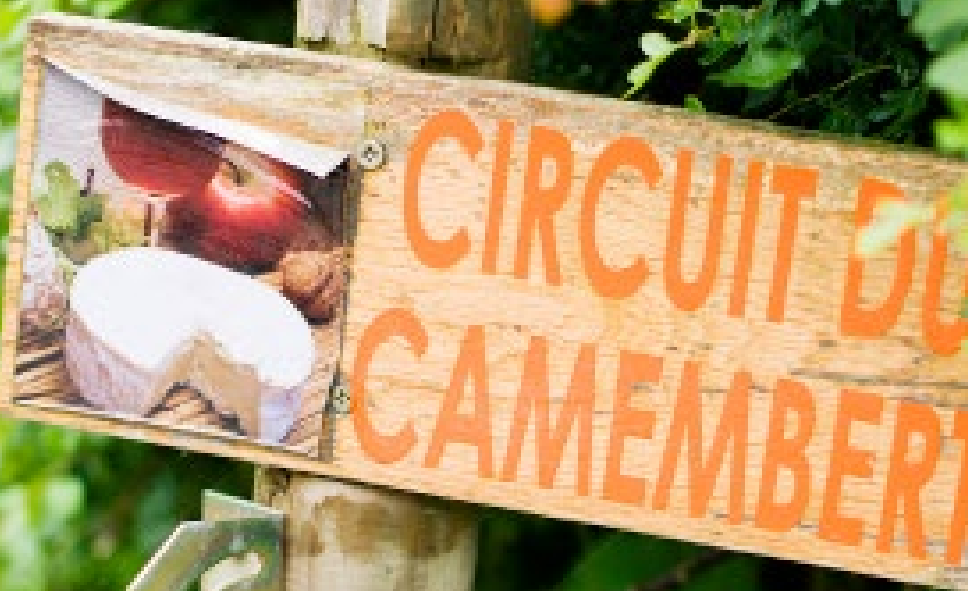
Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/france) Travel tips, accommodation, forum and more.

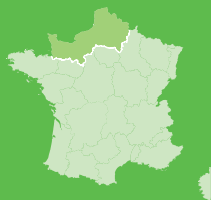
Mappy (www.mappy.fr) Online tools for mapping and journey planning.

France Meteo (www.meteo.fr) The lowdown on the French weather.

About France (www.about-france.com/travel.htm) Tips for driving in France.

For more, see Road Trip Essentials (p104).





Road Trips

1

D-Day's Beaches 3 Days

Follow the course of the WWII invasion on Normandy's beaches. (p17)

2

Monet's Normandy 4 Days

Investigate the origins of impressionism, from Étretat's cliffs to Monet's lily garden. (p27)

3

Tour des Fromages 5 Days

Fatten yourself up on this tour of Normandy's creamy cheeses. (p35)

4

In Flanders Fields 3 Days

The ghosts of the Great War still linger on the battlefields of northern France. (p43)

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