



Holiday Itinerary

## Walking the D-Day Beaches of Normandy - 5FWNV

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### **Day One**

We make our way to the port of departure and coach interchange where you will join your tour coach for the crossing to the Continent. Upon arrival in France we head to our hotel in Normandy for a four-night stay.

### **Day Two**

**Walk 1:** Our first walk starts on Sword Beach where the men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division landed on D Day. We see the remaining German defences, and where the 1<sup>st</sup> South Lancashires came ashore. We follow the route inland to Hermanville War Cemetery, and the Hermanville well, where for many weeks the entire water supply for British forces was drawn from. We then walk out to the Hillman Bunker complex, captured by the Suffolk Regiment.

**Walk 2:** In the afternoon we begin on Juno Beach at Bernieres-sur-Mer, seeing the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada house, and then following the Canadian assault inland to Tailleville, where Canadian soldiers fought hand to hand among a huge German bunker complex built into the houses of the hamlet and chateau. We end with a visit to the Canadian War Cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

### **Day Three**

**Walk 3:** We start at the huge American War Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach, the bloodiest battlefield on D Day. We walk down to the area where the 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Division – The Big Red One – came ashore seeing the German bunkers and memorials, before walking their beachhead. We move on to Les Moulins, seeing the area where the men of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division landed with appalling losses, and finish at the ground around the Vierville Draw, immortalised in 'Saving Private Ryan'.

**Walk 4:** After lunch we travel to St Mere Eglise and look at US Paratroop operations. We start at the Iron Mike Memorial at la Fiere, and walk across the marshland to Cauquigny, and then down to 'Timmes Orchard', where airborne troops held out for four days, ending with the story of the fighting for the key village of Amfreville.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

### **Day Four**

**Walk 5:** We start on the right flank of Gold Beach at Asnelles, seeing where the 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshires landed suffering some of the highest British casualties on D Day, and follow the landing beach to where the Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) came ashore. We follow their route inland to the gun battery where CSM Stan Hollis was awarded the Victoria Cross, and end at Crepon where the Green Howards memorial is located. We spend lunchtime in Arromanches. In the afternoon join us on an **optional** visit to Pegasus Bridge, scene of the glider landing of 2<sup>nd</sup> Oxs & Bucks, seeing the bridge, the Gondree Café and visiting the Pegasus Memorial Museum.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

**Optional Excursions:** • Visit to Pegasus Bridge.....€15 or £13.25