



BRITTANY & NORMANDY

This relaxed two-centre holiday is based for three nights in the picturesque harbour town of Vannes on Brittany's south coast, and two nights in Courseilles-sur-Mer on Normandy's English Channel coast.

Vannes is beautifully situated at the head of the Gulf du Morbihan, surrounded by inlets and creeks, and it boasts a delightful old town, centred around an ancient cathedral and a warren of narrow mediaeval streets that are a delight to explore with their eclectic range of shops, quaint restaurants and charming cafés.

Courseilles-sur-Mer is a small, popular holiday resort town best known for its wonderful sandy beach that was code-named 'Juno Beach' and saw Allied troops, principally Canadians, successfully start their Normandy invasion in 1944.

THE BRITTANY FERRIES CROSSINGS

Brittany Ferries operate deluxe ferries on the Western Channel that offer a range of excellent facilities including a choice of restaurants and bars, cinema, casino, shops and sun decks.

Going out the group will sail on the 20.15 from Portsmouth to St Malo. Boarding starts at 19.15 and so you have time for dinner, to enjoy a night-cap in the bar and have a good night's sleep before arriving in St Malo the next morning at 08.15. Naturally everyone will have a berth in a 2-berth cabin accommodation with private facilities for the overnight crossing, and lots of people like to be on deck when the ship makes its stately arrival in St Malo's attractive old town port.

Coming home the group sail on the afternoon crossing from Caen to Portsmouth.



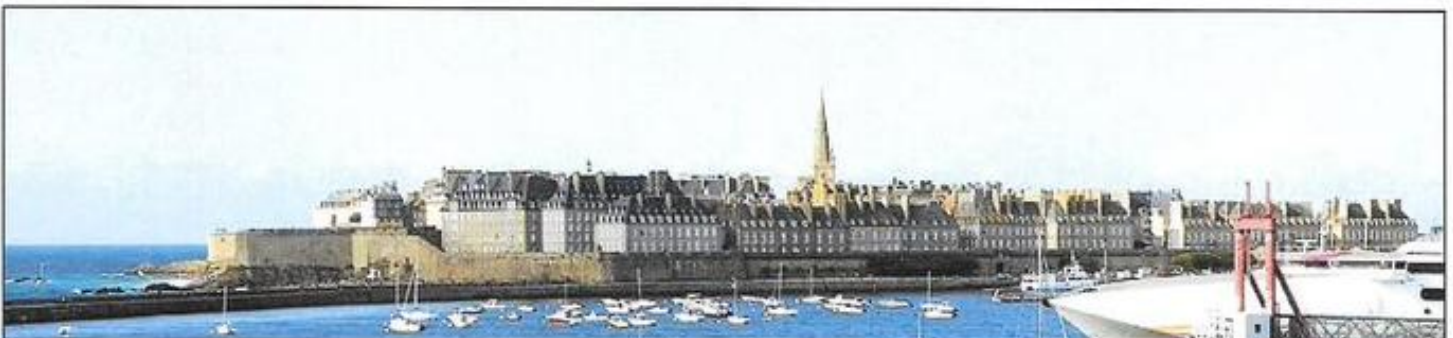
HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

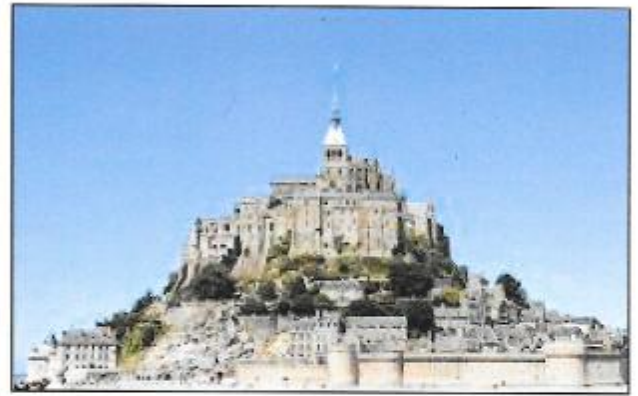
After the free time in Portsmouth and the overnight Brittany Ferries crossing, the first highlight must be the arrival in picturesque **St Malo**. After disembarkation there will be some free time to explore St Malo's wonderful, old walled town, after which the coach will head inland to charming **Dinan**, to coincide with lunchtime. The plan then is to get to **Vannes** by late afternoon, so that there is time to relax before meeting up for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Whilst in Vannes we will be aiming to offer a relaxed mix of independent sightseeing, with trips out to nearby **Auray Market** for its market, the former **U-Boat Pens** at Lorient and the ancient standing stones at **Carnac**.

From Vannes the group drives to **Normandy** via the spectacular **Mont St Michel**, where there will be an extended lunch visit. Again the plan will be to arrive at the hotel in **Courseilles-sur-Mer** by late afternoon, so that there is time to relax before meeting up for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

In Normandy visits include a **cheese maker**, a **cider farm**, **Bayeux**, **Liseiux**, **Arromanches** (Gold Beach).





THE 4* BEST WESTERN VANNES CENTRE & LA CREMAILLIERE (COURSEILLES-SUR-MER)

The 4* Best Western Hotel Vannes Centre offers a high standard of comfort and is very handily situated, being only 300m from the delightful old town. All the air-conditioned rooms offer private bathroom, satellite television and mini-bar / fridge. The hotel also boasts it's own restaurant and a small outdoor terrace for fine weather. There is also a fitness room which is free to hotel guests.

The La Cremailliere is located in Courseilles-sur-Mer. Its restaurant overlooks the lovely sandy beach while the purpose built 3 star hotel sits behind the restaurant. Undoubtedly, the key attraction of staying at this hotel is the excellent restaurant with its first class food and panoramic views over the town's lovely sandy beach. But La Cremailliere also offers three star comfort in well-designed, functional rooms with private bathrooms and multi-channel tvs to include the BBC and other English speaking channels.



OUTLINE ITINERARY

Saturday - After leaving Alton at 12.00, the coach heads for Portsmouth where the afternoon will be free, after a visit to the D-Day Museum, and before reporting for the overnight Brittany Ferries service to St Malo. Naturally, everyone will have a cabin with private facilities.

Sunday - The ship docks at 08.15 and it is popular for people to be watching on deck as the ship enters the picturesque port of St Malo. After disembarkation the coach drives 20km inland to the charming and historic walled town of Dinan. Here there will be time for sightseeing before the group continue their journey to Vannes to arrive by mid-afternoon. Once checked-in, the remainder of the afternoon is completely free until the group sits down together for a 3-course dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

Monday - Slowing the pace the group visit the nearby delightful town of Auray, travelling via the scenic coastal route. The afternoon is free in Vannes, with one idea being a boat trip around the Gulf de Morbihan. Come the evening, you will find that Vannes offers a great choice of restaurants & cafes, although you can choose to pre-book dinner in the hotel's restaurant - see booking form.

Tuesday - Today's programme features two diverse sightseeing elements, the former Nazi Submarine Pens in Lorient and 'Les Alignments' the pre-historic standing stones of Carnac. The coach will return to the hotel at the end of the afternoon so that there will be time to relax before sitting down to dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Wednesday - Departing the hotel in the morning the coach will drive to Courseilles-sur-Mer, stopping for an extended visit to the imposing Mont St Michel to arrive at the hotel with time to relax before meeting up for dinner.

Thursday - Today the group explore the fertile Norman countryside with a programme that combines Liseiux, a cheese producer and a cider farm. The coach will return to the hotel with time to relax before meeting up for dinner.

Friday - As the ferry does not depart until 16.30, we will have the opportunity to visit Arromanches (Gold Beach) and charming Bayeux before reporting at the docks. The anticipated time of arrival back in Alton is 23.00 - 23.15.

EXACTLY WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Luxury coach throughout
- Outward overnight crossing via Portsmouth / St Malo
- 2 berth inside cabin accommodation
- Three nights at the 4* Best Western Vannes Centre
- Two nights at the 3* La Cremailliere
- Continental style buffet breakfast every morning in the hotels
- Evening meals on two of the three nights in Vannes
- Evening meals on both nights at La Cremailliere
- Full sightseeing programme
- Visits to a Cheese maker and a Cider Farm
- Visits to Dinan, Mont St Michel & Dinand & Bayeux
- Homeward ferry crossing via Caen to Portsmouth

Optional Supplements

- Single supplement £180
- 2 berth outer cabin with twin beds - £40pp

