



The Traveling Professor and the Medal of Honor Heritage Center Presents

THE NORMANDY INVASION BEACHES HONORING THE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS OF D-DAY

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Friday, September 18: Day 1

Tour leader Steve Solosky will accompany those already in Paris to Paris CDG airport. There, the entire group will meet those who arrive today. From the airport, a private coach transfers us to the town of Bayeux, our headquarters in Normandy. Once arriving, check in at the historic [Churchill Hotel](#). Rest, relax and get settled in. Let's get to know each other, enjoy dinner, and talk about the exciting days to come. Hotel: [Churchill Hotel](#).

Saturday, September 19: Day 2

Begin by visiting the gun emplacements at the beaches at Longues-sur-Mer. The giant 150mm guns gaze out to sea, ready to obliterate anyone who dared to breach the Atlantic Wall. Hear our professional guide tell us how the enemy reacted with disbelief upon seeing hundreds of invading ships appear on the horizon on the morning of June 6, 1944. Then it is onto the sands of "Easy Red" at Omaha beach. If like the others who have visited, you will be frozen in stunned silence while facing the same landscape from the viewpoint our men faced when they exited the landing craft and hit the beach with enemy fire locked in from all angles. Everyone always asks, "how did they do it?". Our professional guides tell of the unbelievable courage, the incredible daring, and the dangerous risks taken to overcome what seemed like an impossible task. Follow in the footsteps of 1st LT Jimmie Monteith. His courage and valor in taking out decimating enemy resistance is the stuff of legend. Some say that if it were not for his bravery, victory on D-Day may have gone the other way, and you will see why. No description can be given of a visit to the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. Words cannot express the emotions brought about when confronted with the monuments, crosses, and Stars of David honoring the fallen. Visit the final resting places of Monteith, TSGT Frank Peregory, and Brigadier General Teddy Roosevelt, Jr. These are the three Medal of Honor recipients at rest in Normandy. The cemetery visit is highlighted with a special ceremony on behalf of the Medal of Honor Heritage Center. Our last visit is to Vierville Draw, "Dog Green" sector. Here, the National Guard unit from Bedford, Virginia landed and faced brutal resistance as the first wave of invaders. The "Bedford Boys" proportionately took the greatest sacrifice of any unit in the invasion. See the pillboxes, guns, and obstacles confronted on the way to victory. Hear the descriptions of courage and grit while standing on the hallowed ground where the fighting took place. Hotel: [Churchill Hotel](#).

Sunday, September 20: Day 3

Today we arrive at where it all started - Pegasus Bridge. Trace the footsteps of the British glider attackers under the leadership of Major John Howard. He and his men crash-landed next to Pegasus Bridge where the first fighting of D-Day took place. Walk across the bridge to Café Gondrée, the first structure liberated on

D-Day. Madame Gondrée, who lived there as a 5-year-old girl, tends to customers to this day. We plan on visiting the nearby Commonwealth cemetery, Sword and Juno beaches, the site of Ouisterham Casino and the Commandos Memorial. Finish up at Arromanches and the Mulberry artificial harbor. Our professional tour guide tells the stories you've never heard before of the strategy, bravery, and leadership that made the invasion a success. If time permits, we will have a special visit to the privately owned and perfectly preserved Hillman Bunker. Hotel: [Churchill Hotel](#).

Monday, September 21: Day 4

American paratroopers jumped into Normandy the night before the land invasion. Soon after, gliders recklessly plunged into the countryside. We visit those sites and hear astounding stories of bravery by heroes like Medal of Honor recipient Private Charles DeGlopper at La Fiére and Distinguished Service Cross recipient Major Dick Winters at Breccourt Manor. A visit to Sainte-Mère-Église brings us up close and personal with the battle. Our professional guide tells the story of how the invasion unfolded and why the paratroopers were instrumental in the success of Operation Overlord. At Utah Beach step in the same sand the heroes did when the landing ramps dropped into the surf. After landing off-course, the mission was in chaos and on the verge of failure. But it was here that Brigadier General Teddy Roosevelt, Jr. slammed his cane into the sand, rallying his men with the words, "We'll start the war from here". They successfully cut off a German counter-attack that would have probably turned the tide on the American invasion. Of course, Roosevelt was awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership. We go on to visit the bomb craters, pillboxes, and cliffs of Pointe du Hoc where Lt. Col. James Rudder and 225 Rangers overcame incredible resistance to take the enemy. Let's not forget to visit the site and memorial to TSGT Frank Peregory who took it upon himself to assault the enemy and break the logjam at Grandcamp-Maisy. He did it with such daring, valor and bravery, his actions resulted in him being awarded with the Medal of Honor. No visit is complete without entering the Church of Angoville-au-Plain, still bearing the scars of war. Hear the tale of two American medics responsible for perhaps the greatest acts of mercy on that fateful day. If time permits, there is a visit to the German cemetery at La Cambe. Hotel: [Churchill Hotel](#).

Tuesday, September 22: Day 5

[Mont St-Michel](#) is truly one of the wonders of the world. Perched on a rocky islet about half a mile off the Norman coast, the ancient abbey rises above the clouds in a stunning setting. Our private vans provide round-trip transportation with a guide as well as admission to the abbey. Hotel: [Churchill Hotel](#).

Wednesday, September 23: Day 6

It's getaway day. We are scheduled to take the train back to Paris St. Lazare station (2 ½ hour trip). Please schedule airline departure for after 2 pm. Options are available for those wishing to spend more time in Paris or Normandy.

Optional Paris Pre-Tour

For those wishing to arrive in Paris early, there is an optional 3-night, 4-day Paris touring program. It includes 3 nights at the perfectly situated [Grand Balcons Hotel](#) (breakfast included). It is close to attractions and transportation. Each traveler will be given a [Paris Museum Pass](#). It provides free VIP entrance to the best Paris attractions. A transportation pass will also be provided for Paris bus and metro.

Professor Solosky will lead Paris walking tours as described in the program below. Plenty of time will be given to travelers to explore Paris on their own.

Please note that a Paris city tour involves an extensive amount of walking, sometimes on stairs, cobblestone, and uneven surfaces. Travelers will need to get on and off busses and metros. It can be challenging for those with mobility difficulties.

Tuesday, September 15: Day 1

Arrive in Paris and meet tour leader, Professor Steve Solosky. Relax before getting together with the group and enjoying dinner at a local restaurant. Hotel: [Grand Balcons](#).

Wednesday, September 16: Day 2

Today, Professor Solosky, author of "The Traveling Professor's Guide to Paris" will lead us on a walking tour. Stroll over to Île de la Cité to visit the newly-restored Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Conciergerie, and Sainte-Chapelle. Take a break for lunch. The rest of the afternoon is for touring on your own. This evening, be treated to the highlights of the Louvre. Smile back at Mona Lisa. See the power of Winged Victory of Samothrace. View the French Crown Jewels. Admire the classical sculpture of Venus de Milo. Hotel: [Grand Balcons](#).

Thursday, September 17: Day 3

In keeping with the theme of the tour, march over to Napoleon's Tomb. Next door is the War Museum, presenting WWII from the French perspective. We finish with a visit to the Arch de Triomphe and Champs Elysees where American troops paraded upon liberating Paris. Let's leave some free time for you to explore on your own. Hotel: [Grand Balcons](#).

Friday, September 18: Day 4

After breakfast, check out and gather in the lobby of the hotel. We will transfer to the airport and meet the rest of the group.