



PLACES OF INTEREST

HISTORY *continued*

of Normandy suffered further as the effects of the Black Plague caused catastrophic damage to the population. The English were eventually expelled from France in 1453 as the war came to an end.

The country faced a number of political, cultural and social challenges over the next few centuries. The Reformation led to battles over freedom of beliefs; a series of Monarchs, from Louis XIV to Louis the XVI, thrust the country into costly wars which later culminated into the French Revolution; and Napoleon Bonaparte and his nephew Napoleon III, embroiled France in a number of conflicts to claim lands under the French flag.

The region of Normandy once again became a battle ground during WWII when on June 6, 1944, Allied forces consisting of US, British and Canadian troops began 'Operation Overlord', and landed on the coast for the famous D-Day invasion. With the help of the French Resistance, Paris was liberated on August 25 and the downfall of Hitler and the Nazi Party began gaining speed.

Places of Interest

1 The Church of the Trinity (St-Trinité) is the city's best known basilica and combines a number of architectural influences, including Gothic and Baroque. Although the main tower of the church dates from the 1820's, the interior is comprised of 400 year old decorations along the upper gallery. The basilica also houses painted wood carvings depicting scenes from the life of Christ. (Open 8:30 am - 7:00 pm daily.)

2 Emmanuel Liass Park is a haven of greenery located close to the heart of the city. The park is home to an abundance of blooming plant life, including azaleas and rhododendrons. Some sub-tropical species, such as camellia, thrive in the mild coastal climate.

3 Thomas Henry Museum houses works by Jean François Millet, Hubert Robert and the Italian artist Angelico. (Open 9:00 am – noon and 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am – noon and 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm on Sunday. Closed Monday. Admission Charge.)

4 The Fort du Roule is perched on a hilltop 325 feet (100m.) above the city, offering panoramic views of Cherbourg and the English Channel. Located within its ramparts is the **Musée de la Guerre et la Libération** (Liberation Museum), which documents the Allied landing during WWII. (Open 10:00 am – 6:00 pm daily. Admission Charge.)

Beyond Cherbourg

Bayeux is a medieval town located along the banks of the River Aure, which flows through its center. Bayeux is well traveled by tourists, who come to the region to visit the 11th century Cathedral Notre-Dame and the Bayeux Tapestry, a 230 foot long (70m.) embroidered cloth depicting the conquest of England by William the Conqueror.

Barfleur is a small, yet busy fishing port, best known for its picturesque setting of stone houses located along a sheltered bay. From the small harbor William the Conqueror launched his assault upon England during the 11th century.

Cap de la Hague marks the tip of the continent, its weather beaten cliffs descending into the English Channel. Visitors can view the Channel from the Goury Lighthouse, located along the cliffs.

Nez de Jobourg is Europe's highest cliff. At 416 feet (127m.), the cliff juts out along the winding coast along the western coast of the Cotentin peninsula.

Saint Vaast la Hougue is an idyllic harbor front town favored by tourists. Its relaxing atmosphere and small population offers a view of Normandy that is untouched by past wars. The brightly painted fishing boats fill the harbor with color.

Caen dates back to the 11th century, when William the Conqueror chose the city as his official residence. Today the city is home to the Musée pour la Paix, also known as the Memorial Museum. The museum's displays track the causes and events leading to both World Wars and its audio/visual exhibits convey facts and information about Normandy's darkest hours.

Saint Mere l'Eglise was the first town to be liberated by Allied forces. During the invasion an American paratrooper named John Steele was entangled around the town's church spire as he landed. It was several hours before he was released. Today, there is a paratrooper permanently affixed to the church spire.

SHORE EXCURSIONS For information concerning tour options, content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bartering: Not a way of life in France.

Tipping: Generally service will be included in the bill, however, it is customary to leave a few coins. For taxis, a 10% gratuity is normal.

Local Cuisine: Cherbourg, located on the Cotentin Peninsula, has a wide range of fresh seafood to choose from, including trout, sole and skate. Many dishes in this area are flavored with cider or Calvados (reminiscent of an apple brandy). Both Veal and Rabbit are popular delicacies, the French are also partial to Lamb which is usually cooked on the pink side. France is well-known for its delicious pastries. Other typically French cuisine includes Escorgot (snails), and Coq-au-Vin (Chicken braised in red wine).

Drink Specialties: Apart from the wines produced in France, Calvados, a locally produced apple brandy is the thing to try. Pommeau is another local drink made from Calvados and cider.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The main shops in Cherbourg are located on the pedestrian streets of Gambetta, Marechal Foch, Albert Mahieu, and Boulevard Schuman. Shops generally open from 9:00 am - noon, 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Items of interest include locally produced cheeses and Calvados, a locally produced apple brandy. Locals claim that this region produces one cheese for every day of the year. Camembert, Pont l'Eveque, and Livarot are some of the more popular cheeses.

US Dollars are rarely accepted, however, many tourist oriented shops and larger stores accept major credit cards.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.® cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

Local banks can also exchange currency and are usually open from 9:00 am - noon and 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, closed on weekends. Exchange Bureaus remain open until 6:00 pm.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main Post Office is located on Rue de l'Ancien Quai, ph: 02.33.08.87.01. (Open from 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - noon Saturday.)

Telephones are available at the post office and operate on local telephone cards and coins. Phone calls can be placed with your personal calling card using the following access codes.

AT&T: 0800-99-0011 / MCI: 0800-99-0019 / SPRINT: 0800-99-0087

TOURIST INFORMATION The main Tourist Information Office is located on Quai Alexandre III **5**, Tel.: (33) 2.33.93.52.02. Open 9:00 am – noon and 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – noon on Saturday. Closed Sunday. There will also be an information kiosk inside the terminal building on the pier.