

The Back Roads of Western France

Exploring Brittany, Normandy, and the Fairytale Loire

May 21-31, 2021

Escorted by Jennifer Nangle, Bursch Travel Baxter

Inclusions

9 night accommodations, private guide, first class coach transportation, admission fees per itinerary, 9-breakfasts, 7-dinners, luggage service

Our Guide

David Harper is an expert on the Third Reich and WWII history. Based out of Berchtesgaden, Germany; he has been operating local and international tours on these subjects since 1986. His passion and experience has excelled him as a leading authority on these subjects. He is an author, philosopher, musician and lecturer.

*\$4199 per person including
nonstop air from Minneapolis*



Bursch Travel
jennifern@burschtravel.com
7837 Excelsior Road, Suite 100,
Baxter, MN 56425
218-829-1976 or 800-950-4707
www.burschtravel.com

Tour Itinerary

Friday, May 21 We depart the United States, arrive Paris, France.

Saturday, May 22 Upon arrival in Paris, David will assist us in boarding our firstclass coach for a transfer to the Calvados region. Our first stop is in the quiet countryside near **Giverny** that the renowned **artist Claude Monet** chose this as his residence and place of work. Diverting a stream and employing six full-time gardeners, Monet created a garden of beauty around his home, a source of inspiration for numerous paintings, many considered to be his best. Our next stop is at the pretty hamlet of **Beuvron-en-Auge**, followed by a visit to the impressive **Basilica of Saint Therese in Lisieux**. Early evening, we check into our centrally located Hotel Moderne in the heart of Caen. A dinner will be served near the hotel. Overnight near Caen. **Focus of the day:** *Monet's world, the story of Saint Therese of Lisieux and Introducing Normandy.* **D**

Sunday, May 23 After breakfast, we take a full-day excursion: first to Utah Beach and the D-Day Landing Museum of Ste Marie-du-Mont, then, passing through the 101st Airborne paratroopers' drop-zone, to the village of Ste Mère l'Eglise where we have time for lunch and to visit the Airborne Museum. Late afternoon we continue to the famous Pointe du Hoc, site of a savage battle. Dinner of regional specialties in town and overnight Caen, Normandy. **Focus of the day:** *The Airborne Divisions' Role in D-Day.* **B D**

Monday, May 24 After breakfast, we leave for Arromanches where we visit the 360-degree circular cinema above the former artificial harbor. We have free time for lunch before continuing to the German defense bunkers at Longues (as seen in *The Longest Day*) and, finally, the Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. Dinner on our own this evening. Overnight Caen, Normandy. **Focus of the day:** *The D-Day Landings and the "Greatest Battle Ever Fought".* **B**

Tuesday, May 25 After breakfast we visit the pretty town of Bayeux, stopping first at the world-famous William the Conqueror "tapestry", then to visit the cathedral and enjoy free time in town. In the afternoon we visit the "Men's Abbey" in Caen housing William the Conqueror's tomb. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore Caen. Dinner will be served near the hotel. Overnight Caen. **Focus of the day:** *William the Conqueror* **B D**

Wednesday, May 26 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel to travel southwards to the **Mont St. Michel**. Iconic in its fame, this solitary rock at the land's end is crowned by a monumental abbey. A pilgrimage sight for 1,000 years, its church at the summit is a unique architectural masterpiece and offers stupendous views for miles around. Mont Saint Michel has the highest tides in continental Europe with a difference in water level of 50ft. When the tide is out, nearly 100 sq miles of sandy bay are revealed. This evening we check into our seaside Hotel de l'Océan near Concarneau. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight Concarneau. **Focus of the day:** *Mont Saint Michel and introducing Brittany.* **B D**

Thursday, May 27 After breakfast, we head north to the unique **village of Locronan**, its streets lined with blue-grey granite houses. This scenic location – popular with French filmmakers – became an important place of pilgrimage to St. Ronan, an Irish monk who arrived here as a missionary in the 7th century. Locronan also became the sailcloth supplier for the rest of Europe from the 15th century onward; the village church, dedicated to St. Ronan, has retained its Renaissance atmosphere. Late morning we'll drive into the historically rich town of **Quimper**. Here we'll have free time to take in the atmosphere of the colorful covered produce market and the busy old town center with its stunning cathedral. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon we'll return to Concarneau to discover its attractive and bustling 'Ville Close' (walled town). The **Ville Close**, set on a tiny islet of the estuary, is only accessible via a bridge leading into the outer defenses. After crossing an inner moat, we'll gain access to this impregnable town with its narrow, stone-paved streets and old crooked houses. Plenty of shopping opportunities await us here, as well as two manufactures of local specialties: chocolates, meringues and gateaux Bretons. This evening we'll savor regional specialties at our hotel. Overnight Concarneau. **Focus of the day:** *Agriculture, arts & crafts, food & drink in Brittany* **B D**

Friday, May 28 Late morning, we travel on to one of the wonders of the world, the **megalithic stone alignments of Carnac**. We'll be awed by the thousands of standing stones located at Carnac, representing the most extraordinary group of *menhirs* in the world. These alignments include about 3,000 megaliths, some dating back about 6,500 years, and were probably connected to religious beliefs and rites. The area still harbors an aura of mystery and one can almost feel a lingering presence of unfathomed human intelligence and unexplained engineering achievement. Our next stop is at Rochemenier, a former **troglodyte farming community**. Caves, cut into the tufa cliffs beside the Loire and other limestone-rich areas of Anjou, were, and sometimes still are, used as dovecotes, chapels, farms, wine cellars and even homes. These so-called 'troglodyte' dwellings are extremely old, with some dating back to the 12th century, and have hardly changed over the years. Here we'll tour underground stables, barns, houses and a simple rock chapel. In the evening we check into our centrally-located Hotel Le Londres in Saumur. Dinner near the hotel. Overnight Saumur. **Focus of the day: Neolithic Monuments and Troglodyte Construction. B D**

Saturday, May 29 After breakfast from the buffet, we'll visit **Chateau d'Ussé**, one of the Loire's great castles and known as the inspiration for Charles Perrault's Cinderella fairytale. In the afternoon, we'll visit a **mushroom farm in caves** before touring a **champagne method sparkling wine producer**, followed by tasting. After free time in Saumur, we'll be free to select a restaurant of our own this evening. Overnight Saumur. *Focus of the day: The Kings of France and their Loire Valley Chateaux B*

Sunday, May 30 After breakfast from the buffet, we leave for Paris airport, making a stop en route at the spectacular **Chenonceau Castle** in the Loire Valley. Its construction & history were intrinsically linked with noblewomen whose stories we can discover thanks to audio-guides. Late afternoon we check into the Crowne Plaza near Charles de Gaulle airport where, in the evening, we'll be served a farewell dinner. Overnight Roissy-en-France near CDG Airport. *Focus of the day: Chenonceau Castle. B D*

Monday, May 31 After breakfast, we transfer to nearby Charles de Gaulle Airport and our return flight home to the USA.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TOUR HOST:

Please feel free to contact Jennifer with any questions you may have. jennifern@burschtravel.com

TOUR PRICE:

\$4199 per person including air from Minneapolis. Rates from other departing cities are also available upon request. Single supplement is \$550

RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT:

Early registration is recommended. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person, along with the completed reservation form, is required to confirm your trip. The balance will be due February 10th, 2021.

CANCELLATION:

Cancellations must be received in writing. For cancellations made from time of deposit until February 10th, 2021 penalty is \$500 per person. Tour is non-refundable after February 10th, 2021.

DOCUMENTATION:

A valid passport is required for the trip. Passports can take up to 2 months. Please allow ample time for processing.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:

Optional trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended. Prices are based on total cost of trip and age. Please ask your Bursch Travel representative for more information and pricing. Purchase insurance at the time of deposit to be eligible for waiver of pre-existing conditions.

NOT INCLUDED:

Items of personal nature, such as long-distance phone calls, room service, laundry, meals except as noted in itinerary, and tips.

OTHER:

This tour price is based on prices in effect on ??? and subject to change without notice. Prices are based on a minimum of 12 participants. We reserve the right to make changes in the itinerary should it be deemed necessary. If a price adjustment becomes necessary due to foreign currency exchange and/or additional fuel/security taxes, you will be notified immediately.

RESPONSIBILITY:

All reservations are accepted with the specific condition that Bursch Travel, operator of this tour, acts only as an agent of the hotels, sightseeing contractors, bus operators, airlines and others who provide the actual arrangements, and is not liable for any act, omission, delay, injury, loss or damage, or nonperformance occurring in connection with these arrangements.

The Back Roads of Western France
May 21-31, 2021
Registration

1. Name _____
first, middle & last legal names as they appear on passport

D.O.B. _____
date of birth

Passport # _____ Exp. Date _____

2. Name _____
first, middle & last legal names as they appear on passport

D.O.B. _____
date of birth

Passport # _____ Exp. Date _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Delta Sky Mile Numbers Name #1 _____ Name #2 _____

Check appropriate item: Hotel: 2 beds 1 bed

Roommate (not listed above): _____

Special requests: _____



Bursch Travel

**Bursch Travel
Jennifer Nangle**

jennifern@burschtravel.com

7837 Excelsior Road, Suite 100,

Baxter, MN 56425

218-829-1976 or 800-950-4707

www.burschtravel.com

Travel Insurance: Yes, I wish to purchase optional insurance.
The premium amount has been added to my deposit.

No, I decline cancellation insurance.

Payment: Deposit of **\$500.00** per person:

Check (Please make check payable to Bursch Travel.)

Credit Card # _____

Amount \$ _____ Exp Date _____

Signature: _____