

The Back Roads of Western France

Exploring Brittany, Normandy, and the Fairytale Loire

May 3-13, 2022

Escorted by Jennifer Nangle, Bursch Travel Baxter

Inclusions

9 nights accommodation, private guide, first class coach transportation, admission fees per itinerary, 9-breakfasts, 8-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 since 1986. His passion and experience has excelled him as a leading authority on these subjects. He is an author, philosopher, musician and lecturer.

\$3199 per person land only



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

Tuesday, May 3 We depart the United States, arrive Paris, France.

Wednesday, May 4 Upon arrival at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, David will assist us in boarding our coach for a transfer to the **Loire Valley area**. En route we'll make a stop at the spectacular **Chenonceau Castle on the water**, a good example of the royal chateaux built in the Loire Region. After checking into our hotel in Saumur on the Loire River, we'll be served a welcome drink and a dinner of regional specialties. Overnight at the historic Hotel Anne d'Anjou in downtown Saumur. **D**

Thursday, May 5 After breakfast from the buffet we visit the dreamlike **Chateau d'Ussé**, one of the Loire's great castles and known as the inspiration for Charles Perrault's Cinderella fairytale. We'll also tour a **mushroom farm in caves** before touring a **champagne method sparkling wine producer**, followed by tasting. This evening we'll be served dinner in a typical French bistro in town. Overnight Saumur. **B D**

Friday, May 6 After breakfast from the buffet, we'll visit Rochemenier, a former **troglodyte farming community**. Caves, cut into the tufa cliffs beside the Loire and other limestone-rich areas of Anjou, where, 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. We then travel on to see one of the world wonders, the **megalithic stone alignments of Carnac**. Here we'll be awed by the thousands of standing stones 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 two-night base in Brittany is at the small family-run Hotel de l'Océan just outside the charming seaside resort of **Concarneau**. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight Concarneau. **B D**

Saturday, May 7 After breakfast from the buffet, we take an excursion 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 and its bishops' palace. 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 a dinner of regional specialties at our hotel. Overnight Concarneau. **B D**

Sunday, May 8 After breakfast from the buffet, we check out of the hotel to travel northward 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. Early evening, we check into our hotel in Normandy's delightful Calvados Region, our base for the next four nights. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight Hotel Mercure, Caen. **B D**

Monday, May 9 After breakfast from the buffet, we head out first to **Utah Beach**, a success story on D-Day. The newly upgraded **museum at Ste-Marie-du-Mont** provides us with an excellent overview of the D-Day landings. We'll then visit the recently extended **Airborne Museum at Ste Mère Eglise**, displaying some WWII aircraft. Later in the afternoon, we'll continue to the impressive battle site of the **Pointe du Hoc** where American casualties during the epoch landings were proportionately the highest. On the way back to Caen, we'll stop to visit the **German military cemetery** at La Cambe where over 21,000 war dead are laid to rest. A dinner of Norman dishes will be enjoyed near the hotel. Overnight Caen. **B D**

Tuesday, May 10 After breakfast, we leave for **Arromanches** where we'll experience the 360-degree circular theater, featuring original footage of the **D-Day landings**. We'll also visit the **Landing Museum in Arromanches** before enjoying free time for shopping and lunch in this bustling village. Our next visit on the Normandy coastline is at the well-preserved **German gun emplacements** seen in the film classic The Longest Day. We'll then pay our respects at **Omaha Beach** and the **US military cemetery** at Coleville that also offers informative insight into the history of the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy. This manicured graveyard is the final resting place for close to 10,000 US soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the fight for freedom. Dinner will be on our own this evening Overnight Hotel Mercure, Caen. **B**

Wednesday, May 11 After breakfast from the buffet, we visit **Bayeux**, where we'll be able to admire the incredible, 220-ft-long, 12th century "**tapestry**" recounting the victory of **William the Conqueror**, a remarkable event that celebrated its 950th anniversary a few years ago. We'll then have free time to explore this pretty town with its **stunning cathedral and shopping street**. In the afternoon we'll visit William the Conqueror's grave in Caen's great Abbaye Aux Hommes, followed by free time in downtown Caen. A dinner of Norman specialties will be served near the hotel. Overnight Hotel Mercure, Caen. **B D**

Thursday, May 12 After breakfast, we bid farewell to the Calvados region and head towards Paris airport. Our first stop will be in the pretty village of **Beuvron-en-Auge**, famed for its half-timbered houses. We then continue to **Monet's gardens near Giverny**. Claude Monet chose this quiet part of the Norman countryside 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. After checking into Hotel Crowne Plaza at the airport, we'll be served dinner at the hotel. Overnight Paris **B D**

Friday, May 13 After breakfast, we transfer to nearby Charles de Gaulle Airport and our return flight home to the USA. **B**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TOUR HOST:

Please feel free to contact Jennifer with any questions you may have.

jennifern@burschtravel.com

TOUR PRICE:

\$3199 per person land only. Roundtrip flights not included. 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 1, 2022.

CANCELLATION:

Cancellations must be received in writing. For cancellations made from time of deposit until February 1, 2022 penalty is \$500 per person. Tour is non-refundable after February 1, 2022.

DOCUMENTATION:

A valid passport with at least 6 months validity from date of return 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:

Roundtrip flights, items of personal nature, such as long-distance phone calls, room service, laundry, meals except as noted in itinerary and gratuities.

OTHER:

This tour price is based on prices in effect on 04/01/2021 and subject to change without notice. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 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 3-13, 2022
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: _____