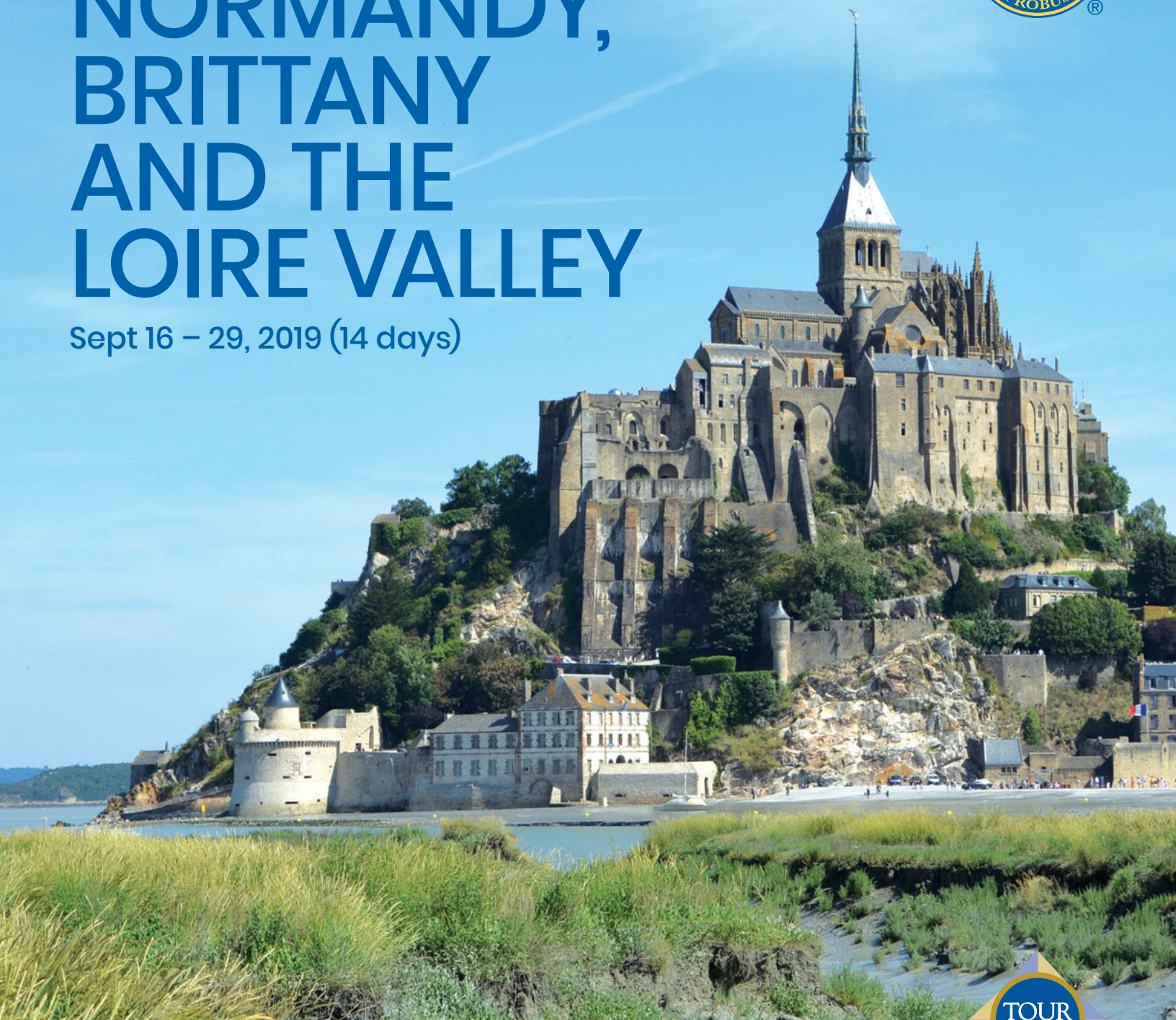


Specially prepared program for the Escarpment Probus Club



NORMANDY, BRITTANY AND THE LOIRE VALLEY

Sept 16 – 29, 2019 (14 days)



TOUR
DESIGN

Come with us this fall and discover, explore, wonder at, and stroll through these most beautiful areas of Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley. Celebrate the French way of life while enjoying a wealth of outstanding heritage and architecture. Linger on a terrace after a fine dinner, marvel at the skill of artists and craftspeople, sample regional delicacies and bring home unique souvenirs from the village markets. So much beauty, in the shadows of so much history, warmed by a lively hospitality makes this a truly unforgettable journey.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 / SEPT 16, 2019 / DEPART CANADA, IN FLIGHT

Our group gathers at Pearson International Airport, Terminal One, for our direct flight from Toronto to Paris.

Transportation: Air Canada

Tentative flight schedule: Sept 16 / AC 832 / Toronto – Paris / depart 7:20pm / arrive 8:10am on Sept 17

DAY 2 / SEPT 17, 2019 / PARIS – BAYEUX (D)

We are welcomed at Paris airport by our local tour manager and deluxe coach. Your tour manager will be accompanying the group over the next 14 days. After collecting our luggage, you can relax on the coach as we head for Bayeux. Free time en-route for lunch on your own.

This afternoon, we visit the medieval city of Bayeux which boasts a rich architectural heritage. We will see Notre-Dame Cathedral, situated in the heart of the medieval city; the Bayeux Cathedral is a gem of Norman architecture, remarkably well preserved. Bayeux retains beautiful timber-framed houses, mansions flanked with towers, vast town houses and elegant private residences.

We will visit the famous Bayeux Tapestry. There are few 11th century artworks as famous as the legendary Bayeux Tapestry, which is so well known that it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage 'Memory of the World.' Measuring almost 70 meters long, the elaborate tapestry features an epic 58 scenes, each carefully embroidered with colored wool yarns onto a linen backdrop. The tapestry, remarkably preserved despite being almost 1000 years old, has been on public display in the French Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux since 1983, becoming a hugely popular attraction for visitors to Normandy. The museum also features exhibits and visual media detailing the Tapestry's fascinating history.

After our visit, we check into our hotel for the next three nights.

Dinner this evening at hotel or local restaurant.

Accommodation: Novotel Bayeux Hotel or similar (3 nights)

DAY 3 / SEPT 18, 2019 / HONFLEUR – DEAUVILLE – CÔTE FLEURIE (B, D)

We start our day with breakfast at our hotel. We depart this morning for Pont l'Évêque to visit a distillery of Calvados (with Calvados tasting, cider, perry, pommeau and Pont l'Évêque cheeses, Livarot and Camembert). A delightful guided tour. Free time en-route for lunch on your own.

After lunch we have a guided tour of Honfleur which is the prettiest port of all Normandy. It is a city well known as the home of many artists since the 19th century. Then, our road continues on the Côte Fleurie to go through the small seaside resorts of Trouville, Cabourg and Deauville. This is a holiday resort area which owes its worldwide reputation as much to the luxury and refinement of its facilities as to the elegance of its events: horse racing or the American Film Festival. But the attraction of the sea, the boardwalks and its calendar of festivities must not make us forget the richness of Deauville's heritage.

We return to our hotel for dinner.



Bayeux Tapestry



Honfleur, France

DAY 4 / SEPT 19, 2019 / BAYEUX – CAEN – BAYEUX (B, D)

In the morning, we enjoy a guided tour of the Caen Memorial that will take you to the heart of 20th century history. We visit several rooms retracing the history of life under the Occupation, the D-Day Landings, and many other highlights of this period of France. We then head to Juno Beach Centre, a museum and cultural centre, which opened at Courseulles-sur-Mer on June 6, 2003. The Centre presents the war effort made by all Canadians, civilian and military alike, both at home and on the various fronts during the Second World War, as well as the manifold faces of contemporary Canadian society. The Minister of Canadian Heritage has designated the Juno Beach landing site to be a site of national historic significance to Canada. On the way back, stop at the Canadian Cemetery of Bény Sur Mer. It is one of the two Canadian military cemeteries in Normandy. Together, they house the bodies of 4,800 soldiers who fell during the fighting in the summer of 1944. The gravestones illustrate the essential role played by Canadian troops in the liberation of France and north-western Europe. Our route continues to the Pointe du Hoc, symbol of the courage of Colonel Rudder's 225 Rangers who, on the morning of June 6, 1944, climbed this cliff. We return to Bayeux for time at leisure this afternoon.

Dinner included this evening.

DAY 5 / SEPT 20, 2019 / BAYEUX – MONT ST. MICHEL – ST. MALO (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel this morning. Farewell to Bayeux as we head to Mont St. Michel. Medieval monk Aubert (later the sainted bishop of Avranches) was visited by a seemingly impossible vision from Archangel Michael, instructing him to build a monastery atop a rock cut off by tides twice a day. Over many centuries, his vision was made reality, and Mont St. Michel is now the second-most-visited site in France, after the Eiffel Tower. We have allowed ample time to gain access to the Monastery itself. There are some "longish" stairways (as in maybe 3 flights together) with landings etc. There are also places to stop on the steps to take a break as you climb upward. Free time in the village for lunch on your own.

In the afternoon, stop at Cancale for a tasting of oysters, famous all over the world and to stroll in a small fishing port to see the houses glued to each other. We end our visit with a sort walk to the tip of the Grouin to admire the view. This rocky outcrop, the ultimate limit before entering the Bay of Mont Saint- Michel, is a magnificent observatory, exposed to the wind. Breathtakingly beautiful, the site offers one of the widest panoramas in Ille-et-Vilaine. We continue on to St Malo where we spend the next three nights. Dinner this evening is included.

Accommodation: Oceania St. Malo Hotel or similar (3 nights)

DAY 6 / SEPT 21, 2019 / DINAN – DINARD – ST. MALO (B, L)

Following breakfast, we depart for Dinard by water bus. We visit the seafront and Casino. Dinard was a seaside resort popular with the English in the 19th century and also was once a small fishing town. Here are magnificent villas and mansions influenced in style by the Anglo-Saxons. We visit Dinan, a city of art and history in the heart of the Rance Valley. Its past is reflected in its remarkable medieval architecture. A relaxing walk through the pretty little port on the Rance and Rue de Jerzual will allow you to see the city from all angles. Lunch is included today at a quaint restaurant in Dinard. We return back to St. Malo for a guided walking tour of the city, one of the most visited cities of Brittany. The bay contains many rocky islets and offers stunning walks between the sea and the villas of the early 20th century Saint-Malo. You will enjoy our walk on the old ramparts, the cathedral Saint-Vincent and the old Saint-Malo. Enjoy some free time in the city this afternoon.

We return to St. Malo. Evening on your own.



Mémorial de Caen



Château de Dinan

DAY 7 / SEPT 22, 2019 / JERSEY ISLAND (B, D)

An exciting day so enjoy your breakfast before we head to the pier. Just a stone's throw from Normandy, is the Jersey Islands where they speak English and drive to the left! We take the ferry across to the largest island, the Island of Jersey. Our coach tour of Jersey starts as we head west towards the picturesque harbour village of St. Aubin. We carry on along Jersey's south coast, taking in the spectacular cliff-top views at Noirmont, the breath-taking St. Brelade's Bay, and driving on to Corbière, whose rugged scenery and iconic white lighthouse have made it one of the most photographed spots on the Island. Past the 5-mile stretch of St. Ouen's Bay, the coach will then drive the stunning north coast, through leafy little roads and tucked away bays until you hit St Catherine. Next is a picturesque stop in Gorey, a pretty harbour village with the magnificent Mont Orgueil Castle.

We enjoy free time for lunch and shopping in the capital city of St. Helier.

This afternoon we visit the Jersey War Tunnels; this most famous site of World War II of the Anglo-Norman island of Jersey is now transformed into a museum. It describes the five years of occupation of the only part of the British Crown that was conquered by Hitler. It was an underground military hospital which was dug in almost 3 years by German occupation troops. At the end of the day, return to St. Malo by ferry.

Dinner included back in St. Malo.



Jersey Island

DAY 8 / SEPT 23, 2019 / VANNES – GULF OF MORBIHAN – MÉGALITHES – VANNES (B, L, D)

After breakfast an early departure for Saint Suliac, a lovely town on the banks of Rance River, one of "The Most Beautiful Villages in France". With a stunning view over the Rance estuary, Saint Suliac sits in a beautifully unspoilt landscape. The impressive steeple of Eglise de Saint-Sulia rises loftily above an old cemetery that represents a unique kind of churchyard in Haute Bretagne. The church is set in the centre of a maze of narrow alleyways lined with fishermen's houses and low granite walls. Paths from the village lead to a variety of delightful attractions, the tide mill, the old salt marshes, and the standing stone of Chable and intriguing remains of a Viking camp.

Then, we follow the panoramic road on the Gulf of Morbihan, an emblematic place of South Brittany belonging to the club "the most beautiful bays of the world"; will offer you a unique show where land and sea mingle in changing landscapes. This gulf is a real inland sea sheltered from the ocean, dotted with many islands: the island of monks, the island of Arz, Gavrinis, as well as innumerable islands. Lunch at local restaurant en-route.

This afternoon we visit of the episcopal city of Vannes, with its medieval streets, its half-timbered houses, its mansions, its cathedral and its ramparts.

Dinner at hotel.

Accommodation: Best Western Plus Hotel Le Roof Vannes or similar (2 nights)



Brescia – Lake Iseo

DAY 9 / SEPT 24, 2019 / LOCRONAN – QUIMPER – CONCARNEAU – PONT-AVEN (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel this morning. Our first stop today is Locronan (one of The Most Beautiful Villages in France), a small town classified as a Historic Monument, due to its architectural quality. It is interesting that these granite buildings regularly provide movie backdrops, such as “A Very Long Engagement” (with Audrey Tautou and Jodie Foster) and Tess (directed by Roman Polansky). Some time to shop here as this village has long been dedicated to weaving.

The day continues with a guided tour in Quimper, the former capital of Cornouaille. Visit the city and its narrow streets lined with half-timbered houses. Then we stop in Concarneau. As well as being France’s third most important fishing port, Concarneau has made its living from the fishing industry for hundreds of years and the town remains an important centre: more than 100,000 tonnes of tuna are caught each year by Concarneau-based boats. The town has other assets that make it a very popular summer resort. The main draw is the quaint ville close (walled town) followed by some lovely sandy beaches and a lively maritime festival in August.

Our last visit is on the “Road to Pont Aven”. For several hundred years Pont-Aven was a quiet port town with an industry based around its watermills and port, then towards the end of the 19th century it also gained a reputation as an art town. The town is still referred to by the local tourist authority as a ‘city of artists’.

Dinner at our hotel this evening.

DAY 10 / SEPT 25, 2019 / NANTES – TOURS (B, D)

Following breakfast at the hotel we join our guide and coach for a tour of Nantes. Nantes strikes a remarkable balance between historical heritage and innovation, in its way of life, economy and culture. Located at the mouth of the Loire River, Nantes is, by nature, a welcoming, creative and forward-looking city. Elegant, bourgeois and dynamic, Nantes seems to have the perfect balance between a rich past and a modern future. Its sweetness of life, its historical heritage, its cultural vitality but also the formidable rehabilitation of the island of Nantes, where the old sheds rub shoulders with residential buildings, attract a record influx of city dwellers and seducing more and more tourists.

Departure for a guided tour of Tours. Capital of France under Louis XI, Tours is the first city of the Loire Valley, the jewel of the “beautiful Touraine”. The inspired city has preserved its old districts, crossed by delightful pedestrian streets where it is pleasant to dawdle, from the cathedral to the Plumereau Place, beautiful Renaissance hotels in the gardens of the priory of St Cosmo, dear to Ronsard, a “prince of poets” (as his own generation in France called him). As you stroll through the city, day or night, you can only admire the freshness and feel of the place. We begin to understand its attraction, not only for tourists, but for the French people themselves, many of whom see it second only to Paris.

Dinner included this evening at our hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel de L’Univers Tours or similar (2 nights)



Locronan



Nantes Cathedral

DAY 11 / SEPT 26, 2019 / TOURS – CLOS LUCÉ – CHENONCEAU – TOURS (B, L)

Old world villages and storybook châteaux bedeck the Loire, once fought over by Gauls, Romans, Visigoths and even Attila the Hun. Today we explore the lovely Loire Valley.

The Château du Clos Lucé (or simply Clos Lucé) is a large château in the city of Amboise, France. In 1516, King Francis I of France invited Leonardo da Vinci to Amboise and provided him with the Clos Lucé, then called Château de Cloux, as a place to stay and work. Leonardo, a famous painter and inventor, arrived with three of his paintings, namely the Mona Lisa, Sainte Anne, and Saint Jean Baptiste. Leonardo lived at the Clos Lucé for the last three years of his life, and died there on 2 May 1519.

Today, the Clos Lucé is a Leonardo da Vinci museum that reflects the prestigious history of the region and includes forty models of the various machines designed by Leonardo. The museum also includes a copy of the Mona Lisa, painted in 1654 by Ambroise Dubois.

What is a troglodyte restaurant? You will have this experience for lunch today.

Then on to Chenonceau, the unforgettable château. This is a castle of Ladies! Château de Chenonceau is defined by an almost uninterrupted succession of women who built, embellished, protected, restored and saved it. The first château was a medieval château dating from the 12th and 13th centuries, of which only the dungeon remains: the Tour des Marques. The château in its current form was built between 1513 and 1517, by Thomas Bohier and his wife, Catherine Briçonnet.

Amazing tasting of world-famous white wines and high-quality sparkling wines made from Chenin this afternoon.

We return to Tours for evening and dinner on your own.



Clos Lucé



Château de Chambord

DAY 12 / SEPT 27, 2019 / TOURS – CHAMBORD – CHARTRES – PARIS (B)

With 77 staircases, 156 m frontage, 282 fireplaces and 426 rooms, the Château de Chambord is one of the greatest architectural masterpieces of the Renaissance, famous for its famous double-story staircase. The harmony of the building bears the imprint of Leonardo da Vinci, although the master died in 1519, a few months before the start of the gigantic construction site by King Francis I. The castle is surrounded by a vast park and French gardens restored in 2016–2017. Lunch on your own.

Transfer to Paris and stop in Chartres. Visit the Chartres Cathedral, probably the most beautiful cathedral in France. It is a milestone in the development of Western architecture because it employs all the structural elements of the new Gothic architecture: the pointed arch, the rib-and-panel vault; and, most significantly, the flying buttress. Because most of the 12th and 13th century stained glass and sculptures survived, Chartres Cathedral is one of the most completely surviving medieval churches.

Continue to Paris.

Accommodation: 34B Hotel or similar (2 nights)

DAY 13 / SEPT 28, 2019 / PARIS (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Panoramic tour of Paris with the main monuments, the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre Museum, the Bridge of Alexandre III, Cathedral Notre-Dame, Avenue des Champs Élysées, Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Paris. This afternoon, you have free time to wander the streets of this magnificent city, window shop or sit in a café and watch the world go by.

Tonight we celebrate with a final farewell dinner. There is nothing more French, or more specifically, Parisian, than an evening meal in one of the city's many French Brasseries. Sitting on a cozy banquette or on an open terrace, eating, drinking and people-watching is one of the most cherished past-times in France. A brasserie has a relaxed setting, offering contemporary cuisine and regional products. Celebrated artists, writers, and musicians frequented many of these traditional Paris restaurants and many owners have done their best to retain that old-Paris glamour. We see this is a great venue to share the memories of our last 12 days in France.



Arc de Triomphe Paris

DAY 14 / SEPT 29, 2019 / DEPART PARIS (B)

Breakfast at hotel before we transfer to the airport for our return flight home.

Transportation: Air Canada

Tentative flight schedule: Sept 29 / AC881 / Paris – Toronto / depart 11:00am / arrive 1:00pm

END OF TOUR

B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner



PRICING & TERMS

PACKAGE RATE (CAD\$, PER PERSON):

CAD\$4,850 per person based on double occupancy
CAD\$1,160 for single supplement

INCLUSIONS:

- Roundtrip flights from Toronto to Paris and Paris to Toronto
- 12 nights accommodation at hotels with daily breakfast
- 3 lunches and 9 dinners as per itinerary including water, coffee/tea, and 1 glass of wine
- An English speaking local tour manager for the whole duration of the program
- Tours and transfers including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Water bus to Dinard, and roundtrip ferry St. Malo – Jersey Island – St. Malo
- Porterage at hotel wherever available (1 piece of luggage per person)
- All gratuities for local guides and drivers
- All local taxes

EXCLUSIONS:

- Airport departure taxes. Currently \$650 per person
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Optional travel insurance

AIR CREDIT:

If you wish to arrange your own air from Toronto to Paris and Paris to Toronto, an air credit of CAD\$350 per person will be deducted from the tour cost. And above mentioned airport taxes will not be applicable.

Please contact us for air deviation, premium economy or business class upgrade surcharges.

SPECIAL NOTE:

- Names provided at time of booking MUST be an exact match to your passport.
- You must have a passport valid for at least 6 months after your return date.
- If you wish to purchase optional travel insurance with us, it MUST be purchase prior to final payment date. Please contact us for a quotation.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:

At time of booking:	\$750 per person
Second deposit:	\$750 per person due March 08, 2019
Final payment:	remaining balance due June 07, 2019

CANCELLATION TERMS:

Between time of booking & Mar 07, 2019:	\$750 per person
Between Mar 08 & Jun 06, 2019:	\$1,500 per person
Between Jun 07, 2019 & date of departure:	100% of total cost

PROGRAM DESIGNED IN CONJUNCTION WITH JOANNE MILLICHAMP,

Email: jmillichamp@hotmail.com or call 289-878-2969.

To book this program, please complete the Booking Form and email, mail or fax to Tour Design.

Photo Credit: CRT Normandie



TOUR DESIGN

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