

Nebraska Leadership Alumni

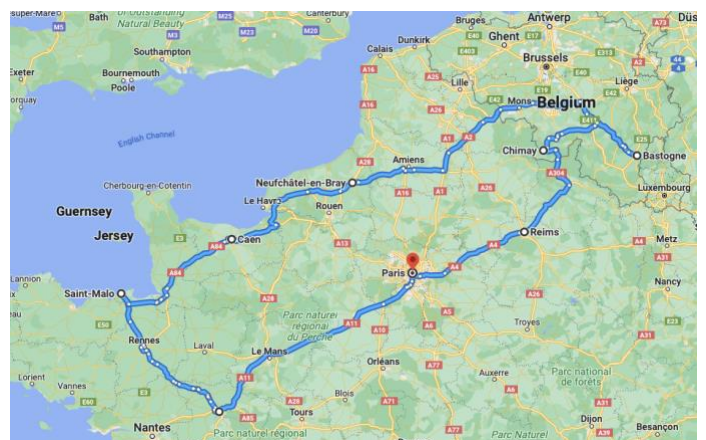


Beaches of Normandy & France Farm Tour

D-Day Beaches of Normandy – Coastal Agriculture – Breadbasket of Europe – Protected Designation of Origin – Champagne Region – Loire Valley

August 2025

Visit the breadbasket of Europe. Brittany is one of major agricultural producers in France and exhibits some of the most up to date farming systems, transportation and manufacturing. Dairy and livestock production are the pillars of the ag economy, but vegetable production, cider and other fermented drinks, and seafood are also important contributors. Over 56% of the land is used for agriculture. Wheat and rapeseed are major cereal crops grown in Northern France. Normande cattle now outnumber Holstein. They are known as dairy cattle due to their high milk fat content, but also used a beef cattle for their marbling.



1308 E. Central Ave., Bentonville, AR 72712, USA
Toll free: 800-758-2042 www.agtoursusa.com

Itinerary



Day 1 Depart for Paris

Depart Omaha on your international flight to Paris (one transfer). *Meals: On Plane*

Day 2 Paris Panorama

Morning arrival in Paris. Proceed through baggage claim. You will be met by your Trump Tours escort and your motor coach. Enjoy a two hour **panorama tour of Paris**. You will see Notre Dame, Champs Elysees Avenue, Arc de Triomphe, Sacre Couer cathedral and Montmartre and the Eiffel Tower. Short meeting with the US Foreign Ag Service for overview of French agriculture and US relations. Welcome Dinner. Overnight Paris. *Meals: On Plane, Dinner*

Day 3 Loire Valley

The **Loire Valley, a Unesco World Heritage site**, has been named by National Geographic as one of the fifty "Places of a Lifetime." Tour a mushroom farm. In the Middle Ages, the limestone cliffs were quarried to build the gothic cathedrals and other medieval structures. This created a network of underground galleries just the right temperature for harvesting mushrooms. Continue to Castle Villandry on the Loire. The Loire was the playground for kings. They built their summer homes in this lush valley and thus have left a legacy of beautiful castles. Villandry was built in 1536 and was one of the last great Renaissance castles built on the banks of the Loire. Its gardens, unique in Europe, are laid out on three levels. Continue to Angers. Dinner included. Overnight Angers *Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Day 3 Rennes

This morning visit the Angers College of Agriculture. Meet with a professor to learn about agriculture in France and European Union policy. Lunch on own. This afternoon visit a Limousin beef cattle ranch. The farmer also has pastures, wheat and corn. Continue to St Malo. Dinner at or near hotel. *Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Day 4 St. Malo / St. Michel

Morning in **Saint Malo**. Wander back to the 16th Century as you explore this city of pirates with its intact fortified walls and



cannons still protecting the village. Time for shopping and sightseeing. Visit the Port of Saint Malo, multi purpose port. Watch the freighters arrive and depart with agricultural goods. 1.3 M tons of goods pass through the port of Saint-Malo (2019). Fertilizers and animal feed are the main commodities that pass through the port, followed by wood and other cereals, meal and salt. Seafood – scallops, spiders, whelks and various fish are a main commodity. Learn about the fishing industry in France and visit a seafood exporter. Over half of France's seafood production is in Brittany. Lunch on own. Continue to one of the most striking sites in Europe, **St. Michel**. Built between the 11th and 16th centuries, the abbey is perched on a rocky islet in the midst of vast sandbanks exposed to powerful tides. It is known as the '**Wonder of the West**', and is a Gothic-style Benedictine abbey dedicated to the archangel St Michael. Continue to Caen for dinner and overnight. *Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Day 5 Caen / Peace Museum

Guided tour of the city of Caen including a visit to the **Memorial for Peace Museum**. This will give us an overview of World War II and, of course, the D-Day invasion. Our local historical guide will be with us for two days to escort us through Normandy where US Troops and its Allies landed on June 6, 1944. Lunch on own. Visit a diversified farm with cereal grains, pastures, dairy cattle, apples and Calvados (apple brandy) production. Dinner and Overnight Caen. *Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Day 6 D-Day Beaches

Visit Omaha Beach Cemetery to participate in a wreath laying commemoration ceremony. There will be time to pay tribute to the many Nebraskans and Americans who lost their lives. 34,250 American troops landed at Omaha and by the end of the day, 1,000 were killed and 1,000 were missing. Continue to Utah Beach to visit the impressive Museum and the beaches. Lunch included. This afternoon visit Point du Hoc. A natural fortress, the Germans built a battery here in anticipation of



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beach landings. Point du Hoc was bombed three times before the landings. On the morning of the landings, it was showered with artillery fire from the ships. The scars of these bombings are eerily still visible today. Dinner and Overnight Caen. *Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 7 Rouen / Belgium

Continue to a grain cooperative for a tour and an overview of cereal production in France. Continue to visit a dairy and creamery producing Neufchâtel, one of the oldest Normandy cheese with regional certification. In fact, during the Hundred Years' War, the dairy maidens in the Pays de Bray would offer English soldiers this cheese in the shape of a heart as a token of their affection, hence its shape is a heart. This will be a great time to learn about France's PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) program that started many years ago. It is a vital part to the commodities sold throughout Europe today but France was doing this long before the EU was formed. Lunch included. Continue to Belgium. Dinner on own. Overnight Belgium. *Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 8 Bastogne

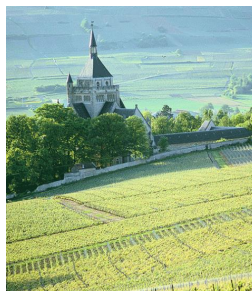
Today will be dedicated to the World War II area known as The Battle of the Bulge. The Mardasson Memorial commemorates the Ardennes Counteroffensive which happened from 16 December 1944 to 16 January 1945, during which many people, soldiers and civilians, lost their lives. The monument keeps the memory alive of the 76,890 American soldiers who gave their life or were injured during the battle. The day will be spent in this area at the impressive Bastogne War Museum. This interactive museum helps visitors understand how important the Battle of Bulge was and also a complete picture of WWII. Lunch included. Dinner on own. Overnight Belgium. *Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 9 Trappist Abbey / Reims

The morning begins with a visit to Chimay, a trappist monk brewery and creamery. Enjoy a guided tour of the grounds including the Abbey's garden and interactive museum. The brewery itself is not open for tours. Chimay's goal is to sell their products, not making a profit and supporting local charities. There are currently only 13 trappist breweries remaining. Tasting of the trappist beer and cheese. Lunch included. Continue to Reims, capital of the Champagne wine area. Visit the wonderful town of Reims Famous for its majestic cathedral where about thirty Kings of France were crowned, Reims has maintained an impressive architectural and cultural heritage: art deco style buildings, Gallo-Roman remains, three UNESCO World Heritage sites with the Tau Palace, Saint-Rémi Basilica and the cathedral. Reims boasts 8 Michelin star restaurants, so perhaps you will try one of them – note reservation needed months in advance. Dinner on own. *Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 10 Reims

Visit a champagne house with a tour and visit to their caves to see how the time honored tradition of hand rotating the champagne bottles is done. Depending on the group's interest, could also arrange a visit to a duck farm that produces fois gras, beekeeper, ham producer and many others. Lunch included. Return to Reims. Dinner on own. *Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*



Day 11 Depart Home

Transfer to Paris airport for flight home. Arrive home on same day. *Meals: Breakfast, Meals on plane.*



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Farming France

SOURCE: AGRESTE
GRAPHAGRI 2020



39% METROPOLITAN
OF FRANCE'S
LAND AREA IS
NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS
(FOREST, MOORLAND, ROCK, ETC.)

WOODLANDS
COVERS 26 MILLION
HECTARES, OR NEARLY
41% OF FRANCE
(2018, METROPOLITAN + OVERSEAS)



52% OF FRANCE'S
LAND AREA IS
FARMLAND
(2019, METROPOLITAN)



1ST EUROPEAN GROWER,
FRANCE
ACCOUNTS FOR **18%**
OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION
MORE THAN GERMANY, ITALY
AND SPAIN



FIELD CROPS
(CEREALS, OILSEED,
PROTEIN, CROPS, BEET...) REPRESENT A LITTLE OVER
45% OF UTILISED
AGRICULTURAL AREA
(2019)

5TH WORLD
WHEAT GROWER
AFTER CHINA,
INDIA, RUSSIA
& USA



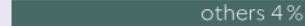
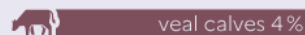
THE FRUIT & VEGETABLE SECTOR
COUNTS **450 000** JOBS
& **75 000** COMPANIES

THE UE'S BIGGEST
CATTLE HERD



18 MILLION
HEAD OF CATTLE
INCLUDING 3.5 M DAIRY COWS

ANIMAL PRODUCTIONS
VALUE (2020)



**BEVERAGES,
WINES & SPIRITS**
ARE FRANCE'S BIGGEST
EXPORT PRODUCTS

FRANCE IS THE **6TH**

GREATEST AGRIFOOD
EXPORTER IN THE WORLD
(2018)



LA FRANCE HAS

437 400

AGRICULTURAL
HOLDINGS (2016)



824 000

PEOPLE LIVE & WORK
ON FRENCH FARMS
(2016)



70% OF THEM
OR **564 000**
ARE FARMERS



1/4 OF HEADS
& JOINT HEADS
OF HOLDINGS
ARE WOMEN

WOMEN **30%**
REPRESENT
OF THE PERMANENT
AGRICULTURAL
WORKFORCE



AGRIFOOD GENERATES
3RD LARGEST TRADE SURPLUS
WITH **€7,8 BILLION**
IN 2019 AFTER CHEMISTRY /
PERFUMES / COSMETICS &
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT

JUNE 2021

