



The timeless charms of
NORMANDY

With its long sandy beaches, lush interior and rich history, Normandy has always offered an idyllic French fix. But this year, **Gillian Thornton** finds plenty of new reasons to visit too »

The harbour at Honfleur has inspired artists and musicians with its beauty

IMAGE © SHUTTERSTOCK

“NORMANDY’S ICONIC ATTRACTIONS NEVER LOSE THEIR CHARM: SANDY BEACHES, WOODED VALLEYS, AND SCULPTED CLIFFS ”

Cruise into Caen-Ouistreham with Brittany Ferries and admire the shores of Ouistreham and Lion-sur-Mer as they curve westwards in a tantalising arc of golden sand. Families relax over picnics, a far cry from the events of 1944 when this tranquil spot was codenamed Sword Beach, and Allied soldiers – my father amongst them – landed here at the start of Operation Overlord.

Today, Normandy’s five D-Day beaches – Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword – are once again places to relax and have fun. But for many, they bring back poignant memories. Our family was lucky. My 20-year-old father survived the war, met my mother, and was able to tell us his story, but so many Allied troops died on Normandy’s beaches with no permanent memorial.

This year, however, the British Normandy Memorial will be inaugurated at Ver-sur-Mer on June 6, 77 years after the events of D-Day, or *Jour J* to the French. Built on the hillside above Gold Beach, the columns are inscribed with the names of 22,442 servicemen and women who lost their lives during the Battle of Normandy between June 6 and August 30, 1944. Also recorded are the men and women from other nations around the world who fought under British command



Clockwise from above: Omaha Beach, one of the D-Day landing sites; Percheron horse power; the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer; the monument to the US Rangers who captured the gun batteries at Maisy on June 9, 1944; inset, Norman cattle; Les Rhumbs Christian Dior museum; Saint-Céneri-le-Gérei, one of the Plus Beaux Villages de France; historic Rouen; the pretty town of Bellême; the statue of William the Conqueror at Falaise



or who were attached to the British armed forces, as well as members of the British Merchant Navy and civilians in France.

This summer will also hopefully mark the start of a friendly invasion of France by overseas holidaymakers after the travel restrictions of the past year.

Normandy has been closely linked to England since William, Duke of Normandy arrived in Hastings in 1066 to stage a successful takeover bid. America too can claim historic ties: Walt Disney’s ancestors were from D’Isigny in Calvados and counted themselves amongst the Duke’s most loyal supporters.

NEW CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

Normandy’s iconic attractions never lose their charm: the sandy beaches, wooded valleys, and sculpted chalk cliffs beloved by Impressionist painters such as Monet, Sisley and Pissarro; heritage towns like Caen and Rouen, Honfleur, Bayeux and Dieppe; and the lush *bocage* landscape of apple orchards and meadows, grazed by Normandy’s native brown-and-white cows and the finest of equestrian bloodstock.

Nothing is ever far away in this enchanting region, so it’s easy to spend half a day exploring coast or countryside, and the other half at a museum or gallery. And whilst the world has been closed to holidaymakers for the best part of the past 12 months, Normandy has



been busy opening new cultural attractions, revamping old ones and organising a roster of fascinating exhibitions.

The major literary event of the year is the bicentenary of the birth of Gustave Flaubert, one of France’s most famous and influential writers. Set in his home town of Rouen, Flaubert’s debut novel, *Madame Bovary*, is the tragic story of a woman living beyond her means. Initially banned for obscenity after it was serialised in 1856, it went on to become a modern classic. Find out more about Flaubert and his works through exhibitions, tourist trails and other commemorative events across the region.

Another literary legend in the spotlight this year is Marcel Proust, 100 years after he won the coveted Prix Goncourt for the second volume of his nine-volume epic, *À la Recherche du Temps Perdu*. The resort of Cabourg on the Calvados coast was the author’s favourite holiday retreat and April 2021 saw the opening of the Marcel Proust Museum – La Villa du Temps Retrouvé – which showcases the Belle Époque period here on the Côte Fleurie.

And if you’re addicted to the Netflix series *Lupin*, inspired by Maurice Leblanc’s 19th-century novels about gentleman burglar Arsène Lupin, you’ll want to visit places connected to the original stories around Rouen and the Seine Valley, Le Havre and Dieppe. »



“THE VÉLOMARITIME CYCLE ROUTE PASSES MANY OF NORMANDY’S MAJOR LANDMARKS, INCLUDING MONT-SAINTE-MICHEL AND THE D-DAY LANDING BEACHES”

IMAGE © SHUTTERSTOCK
Mont-Saint-Michel is one of Normandy's most compelling sights

AD PAGE

I've always loved the way France breathes new life into atmospheric old buildings, from episcopal palaces to industrial premises. In stylish Deauville, a short drive east of Cabourg, an old Franciscan monastery has morphed into Les Franciscaines Museum to house a museum, auditorium and media library. Expect five thematic zones, all linked to Deauville and its history, as well as paintings donated by artist André Hambourg.

Of course Normandy isn't just about coast and countryside, and 2021 offers a chance to get beneath the surface of some local industries too – sometimes literally. The Souterroscope slate mine at Caumont-sur-Aure, 35km from Caen, hasn't been worked for over a century but visitors can don a hard hat and head 30 metres below ground on a journey of discovery.

One of the four underground rooms has recently been renovated with the latest museum technology and includes an extraordinary collection of giant crystals and semi-precious stones.

Or step into the lives of the coal miners at Le Molay-Littry, where the Musée de la Mine reopens this year with a wealth of new exhibits including models, machinery and a replica mining gallery.

Something a little more contemporary? Then head to Vire where tableware manufacturer La Maison Degrenne has launched 90-minute guided tours of the production facility, finishing up in the factory shop where you can buy cutlery, crockery and kitchenware.

Also at Vire, the art and history museum has been completely revamped to show the transformation of the town from the Middle Ages through to its reconstruction after World War II.



NORMANDY | GREAT DESTINATIONS

Above: Unwinding over a drink on the terrace in the delightful port town of Honfleur

PEDALLING AND PAINTING

Clean air and open spaces will attract many visitors to Normandy this summer and for those who like to explore on two wheels, the launch of the Vélomaritime cycle route will be particularly welcome. Stretching for 870 miles, it runs along the coast from Roscoff in Brittany through Normandy to Dunkirk in Northern France, and is now fully signposted. Take your own bikes over on the ferry or hire some locally.

This scenic cycle way passes many of Normandy's major landmarks, including Mont-Saint-Michel and the D-Day landing beaches, chic Deauville and the picturesque old harbour at Honfleur. Hop off your bike to visit Fécamp, home of Benedictine liqueur and a »

A TASTE OF NORMANDY



From left: The sumptuous home of Benedictine in Fécamp; you'll fall in love with romantic Neufchâtel cheese; you're in the heart of cider country in Normandy

With offshore waters rich in fish and shellfish, and verdant countryside for grazing cattle and sheep, Normandy offers the best of land and sea.

CHEESE Visit the Maison du Camembert for the story behind this iconic cheese, first produced at Camembert in 1791 www.maisonducamembert.com Normandy's other cheeses are equally delicious. Try Livarot, Pont-l'Évêque and, for a romantic dinner, the irresistible heart-shaped Neufchâtel.

IMAGES © GILLIAN THORNTON

APPLES AND PEARS Follow the picturesque Route du Cidre across the Calvados countryside around Cambremer; through enchanting villages. Meet producers and buy cider, pommeau (apple liqueur) and calvados (apple brandy) as well as farm-fresh apple juice. Visit the Calvados Experience at the oldest calvados distillery, Père Magloire, at Pont-l'Évêque www.calvados-experience.com Look out too for pear cider or *poiré*, especially around Barentan in the Orne.

BOUDIN NOIR Black pudding is the speciality of the Perche and in particular, the pretty market town of Mortagne where every retailer has his own recipe and the annual Foire au Boudin brings fans from far and wide. Watch out for members of the *confrérie*, or brotherhood, in their ceremonial robes.

SCALLOPS Port-en-Bessin and Dieppe are Normandy's largest scallop fishing ports, but this king of shellfish is celebrated with music, entertainment

and street food at various coastal towns in autumn. Look out for Coquilles Saint-Jacques de Normandie on menus, the native variety with a Red Label quality badge.

BENEDICTINE In 1863, a Fécamp wine merchant found a lost recipe created by Benedictine monks in the early 16th century, recreated the drink, and commissioned a flamboyant turreted mansion in its honour. A tour of the lavish interior ends, of course, with a *dégustation*.



AD PAGE



Clockwise from top: The gardens at Giverny, immortalised by Claude Monet; the handsome Jumièges Abbey; relaxing on the quayside at Honfleur

fascinating fisheries museum, as well as the chalk cliffs at Étretat, painted by Claude Monet, perhaps the most revered of all the Impressionist artists.

Monet's glorious garden at Giverny attracts visitors from across the globe so this could be a good year to experience its colourful borders and tranquil lily pond without the usual crowds. You can see how other Impressionists, such as Renoir and Pissarro, tackled floral subjects at the Impressionist Gardens Exhibition, which is running until November 1 at Giverny's Musée des impressionnismes. Giverny is just one unmissable stop on the new long-distance cycle route, La Seine à Velo, which launched this spring. Eventually it will run for 430km between Paris and the Normandy coast at Le Havre and Deauville, passing many places immortalised by the Impressionists, such as Rouen, Jumièges Abbey and Honfleur.

Deauville, meanwhile, boasts new twin towers, 27 metres high, which mark the transition between the town centre and the new peninsula area of La Touques.



IMAGES © SHUTTERSTOCK GILIAN THORNTON

“GIVERNY IS JUST ONE UNMISSABLE STOP ON THE NEW LONG-DISTANCE CYCLE ROUTE, LA SEINE À VELO”

One tower, an obelisk, houses the machinery for the footbridge, while the other offers a panoramic view of the estuary. A restaurant overlooking the yacht harbour is also scheduled.

Many people have discovered the joys of cycling in recent years thanks to the rise of e-bikes, but the latest thing in Normandy is the fat bike, an electric bike with thick tyres which provides visitors with a leisurely tour around Omaha Beach. Two legs or two wheels, no visitor should miss the immaculate American Cemetery and Visitor Centre, set in landscaped gardens on the cliff above the beach.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Away from the coast, Normandy's quiet countryside is perfect, whether you want to get seriously sporty, potter around on foot, or drive between bijou villages. Six are classified amongst Les Plus Beaux Villages de France. Go rock climbing, kayaking and paragliding at Clécy in the Suisse Normande, Normandy's upland region where the Orne cuts through a rocky massif south of Caen, or follow one of the family-friendly walking trails. For inspiration, head to the visitor centre at La Roche d'Oëtre, west of Falaise. »



Clockwise from top: Colourful buildings in Domfront; brace yourself for serious house-envy on the Thatched Cottage Trail; Bagnoles de l'Orne

Normandy also boasts four Regional Natural Parks. In the south of the region, the Normandy-Maine Regional Natural Park comprises the Andaines and Écouves forests and includes historic Domfront, with its ruined medieval castle, and the pretty spa town of Bagnoles-de-l'Orne. Find out more at the Maison du Parc at Carrouges.

To the east, the Perche Regional Natural Park has become a favourite with both Parisian and British weekenders for its slow-food culture, traditional crafts and antiques shops. Dotted with pretty villages and small towns like La Perrière and Bellême, this tranquil area is home to the impressive Percheron draft horse. Find out about carriage drives and other activities at the Maison du Parc in the grounds of the Manoir de Courboyer. And don't miss the equine residents of the Haras national du Pin stud.

Stretching between the east and west coasts of Manche, the Cotentin and Bessin Marshes Regional Natural Park is an area of wetland and *bocage*, or



IMAGES © SHUTTERSTOCK GILLIAN THORNTON

“DOTTED WITH PRETTY VILLAGES, THIS TRANQUIL AREA IS HOME TO THE PERCHERON DRAFT HORSE”

hedgerow landscape, a haven of biodiversity and birding that can be discovered in the Maison du Parc at Carentan. And it's all just a stone's throw from the open sands and D-Day museum at Utah Beach, as well as pretty Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue, which was voted France's Favourite Village in 2019.

Making up the quartet of parks is the Boucles (meanders) of the Seine Regional Natural Park, which stretches for 112 miles between Rouen and Honfleur. The name Seine comes from the Latin word *sequana*, which means 'meandering'. Stop off at ruined abbeys like Jumièges to walk amongst atmospheric stones that have inspired artists from Turner to Corot.

Follow the Fruit Trail, which stretches 62km from Notre-Dame-de-Bliquetuit, and cycle and picnic amongst orchards of cherries and plums, berries, apples and pears – it's glorious adorned with spring blossom, and you can pick up fruit from the farm gate when in season.

Or if you prefer, take the Thatched Cottage Trail across the Marais-Vernier marshland. But be warned! The half-timbered cottages with irises on the ridge are guaranteed to instil serious house envy. But of course, that's all part of the pleasure. **FT**

12 ESSENTIAL VISITS IN NORMANDY

Our pick of the must-see towns, historic buildings and other places of interest

For more places to see in Normandy go to www.normandy-tourism.org



HONFLEUR

Impossibly pretty with an inner harbour fringed by houses up to seven storeys high, Honfleur has a fine arts museum named after Monet's mentor; Eugène Boudin who was born here, as was Erik Satie. Check out the wooden church of Sainte Catherine.

www.honfleur-tourism.co.uk



BAYEUX

An embroidery on linen rather than a tapestry, this 11th-century stitching tells the story of William of Normandy's invasion of England in stunning detail. Don't miss the Gothic cathedral or the Commonwealth Cemetery with nearby Journalists' Cemetery.

www.bayeuxmuseum.com



CAEN

This is the home town of William the Conqueror; who was born at Falaise Castle and built his own ducal castle here. He is buried in the Men's Abbey. The Mémorial de Caen on the outskirts is a museum to peace told through the 20th-century conflicts.

www.memorial-caen.fr



GRANVILLE

This busy harbour with a fortified upper town on the west coast of Manche became a fashionable resort in the 19th century. Les Rhumbs, the childhood home of Christian Dior; is now a museum hosting a different exhibition each year.

www.musee-dior-granville.com



ARROMANCHES

You don't need to be a fan of military history to be awed by the remaining sections of floating Mulberry Harbours that litter the beach at Arromanches and rest in a tranquil arc offshore. Discover the story at the fantastic museum on the promenade.

www.arromanches-museum.com



MONT-SAINT-MICHEL

The most visited National Monument outside of Paris, this famous island topped by an abbey is impressive from any angle, but especially from the seabed at low tide. But never go it alone. Join a guided tour to avoid incoming tides and quicksand.

www.cheminsdelabaie.com



D-DAY BEACHES

From the Merville-Franceville battery and Pegasus Bridge, through Arromanches and Pointe du Hoc to the British-owned Maisy Battery and Sainte-Mère-Église, each site has its own story to tell. Be sure to walk those wide golden sands too. Humbling stuff.

www.maisybattery.com



HARAS DU PIN

Built for Louis XIV, 'The Versailles of the Horse' is amongst the most impressive of France's national network of stud farms. Enjoy guided tours of the grounds and stables plus displays of native Percheron on summer Thursdays. E-bike hire.

www.haras-national-du-pin.com



ROUEN

Rouen was loved by Monet and other Impressionists for its beautiful old town around Notre-Dame Cathedral. Don't miss the Gothic belfry; museum dedicated to Joan of Arc; and the Fine Arts Museum with paintings from the 15th century to present day.

www.rouentourisme.com



FALAISE CASTLE

William the Conqueror was born on this site, although the current castle was largely built by his son. Medieval history springs vividly to life with the help of modern technology, including room reconstructions on tablets.

www.chateau-guillaume-leconquerant.fr



LE HAVRE

Rebuilt after World War II by architect Auguste Perret, it is now listed by UNESCO. Visit the Perret show flat; Saint Joseph Church; and the Museum of Modern Art André Malraux, with the second-largest Impressionist collection outside Paris.

www.lehavre-etretat-tourisme.com



AVRANCHES

This hilltop town has views to Mont-Saint-Michel and is home to the Scriptorial, a surprisingly interesting museum of medieval manuscripts. A stone pillar in a green space marks the spot where Henry II was pardoned for Becket's murder.

www.scriptorial.fr >>

WHAT TO SEE AND DO IN NORMANDY

As well as the famous D-Day beaches, there are outdoor adventures, festivals galore and beautiful villages

For more things to do in Normandy go to www.normandy-tourism.org

WAR AND PEACE

The **British Normandy Memorial** at Ver-sur-Mer in Calvados opens to visitors after inauguration on June 6 www.normandymemorialtrust.org. Over in Manche, the **Airborne Museum** at Sainte-Mère-Église near Utah Beach has a new space dedicated to parachutists and aerial combat www.airborne-museum.org.

The **Mémorial de Caen** includes a good overview on the Battle of Normandy and offers specialist tours of key sites (www.memorial-caen.fr).



The Mémorial de Caen is a good place to learn about the Battle of Normandy

Download the **Medieval Normandy** visitor guide from www.normandie-tourisme.fr for sites connected with iconic figures such as William of Normandy, Richard the Lionheart and Joan of Arc.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

CYCLING **Vélomaritime** www.lavelomaritime.com; **La Seine à Vélo** www.laseineavelo.fr; and **Fatbike** to discover Omaha Beach www.eolia-normandie.com

WATERSPORTS Cherbourg hosts the finish of the iconic biennial **Rolex Fastnet Race** for the first time www.rolexfastnetrace.com. New watersports activity centre, **Le Cano**, at Ouistreham www.centre-activites-nautiques-ouistreham.fr

NEW CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

Bicentenary of **Gustave Flaubert**, especially around his home town of Rouen www.flaubert21.fr **Impressionist Gardens Exhibition** (April 1 – Nov 1) www.mdjg.fr **Les**



Normandy has plenty to offer for outdoorsy types, whether on land or water



It's safest to walk across to Mont-Saint-Michel in a guided group to avoid high tides and other dangers



Domfront, with its medieval castle ruins, is in the Normandy-Maine Regional Natural Park

Franciscaines Museum, Deauville, www.lesfranciscaines.fr; **La Villa du Temps Retrouvé** (Marcel Proust Museum), Cabourg www.cabourg.fr; **Guy Degrenne** factory tours at Vire www.degrenne.fr; **Musée de la Mine** www.ville-molay-littry.fr and the **Souterrscope des Ardoisières** www.souterrscope-ardoisieres.fr

GREAT OUTDOORS

All kinds of adventure sports are on offer in Normandy's rugged upland region, the **Suisse Normande** www.ornetourisme.com. For the four **Regional Natural Parks**, visit: www.parc-naturel-perche.fr; www.parc-naturel-normandie-maine.fr; www.pnr-seine-normande.com; and www.parc-cotentin-bessin.fr

ANIMALS AND NATURE

New garden classified **Jardin Remarquable** www.jardinsalbizia.com. Children in tow? Don't miss **Champrépus Zoo** www.zoo-champrepus.com and the new farm animal collection at **Domaine de Ouézy** www.ferme-pedagogique.fr. View the **Cotentin marshland** on a new electric boat tour www.decouvertemarais.com from Carentan-les-Marais. And explore the oceans through **L'Océan du futur**, which opened in 2019 at Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg – it boasts 17 aquariums and 18 interactive spaces. www.citedelamer.com

BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES

Six Norman villages are classified **Les Plus Beaux Villages de France**:

the beach resort of **Veules-les-Roses** (Seine-Maritime); **Lyons-la-Forêt** (Eure); **Le Bec-Hellouin** with its half-timbered houses (Eure); **Beuvron-en-Auge** in the Pays d'Auge apple region (Calvados); the medieval port of **Barfleur** (Manche); and the painters' paradise of **Saint-Céneri-le-Gérei** (Orme).

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

JUNE **D-Day commemorative events** will be held all along the coast on June 6; **Romantic film festival**, Deauville. **JULY** **Medieval Festival**, Bayeux; **Son-et-lumière**, Falaise. **AUGUST** **Mackerel festival**, Trouville-sur-Mer; **Medieval Festival**, Crèvecœur-en-Auge and Falaise. **SEPTEMBER** **American Cinema Festival**, Deauville (3-12); **Shrimp Festival**, Honfleur. **OCTOBER** **Les Equidays**, equestrian events throughout Calvados.

All details correct at time of going to press – please check before you travel for the latest. >>



The picturesque Veules-les-Roses, one of France's Plus Beaux Villages

AD PAGE

WHERE TO STAY AND EAT IN NORMANDY

Our choice of hotels and restaurants to make your trip even more pleasurable



HOTELS

5* Hôtel Le Saint-Delis, Honfleur
New Relais & Château hotel in former home of painter Henri de Saint-Delis, part of Le Havre Fauve Group of artists. Three interconnected houses from 17th century with nine elegant rooms, each with steam shower and some with balneotherapy bath.
www.hotel-saint-delis.fr



Le Saint-Delis in Honfleur was once home to artist Henri de Saint-Delis

4* Les Jardins de Coppelia, Honfleur

New hotel with 27 rooms and suites, all individually decorated, in manor house or garden annexe close to the pool. Reserve by digital tablet for the gastronomic restaurant and spa.
www.jardins-coppelia.com

4* Le Paquebot, Villerville

Decorated in Art Deco style, each of the 16 rooms or 'cabins' has a sea view and terrace at this new hotel in Villerville, classified as a Calvados Character Village. Dine in the restaurant or enjoy a seafood platter in your cabin.
www.lepaquebot.fr

2* Le Clos Normand, Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer

Reopened in April after a complete refurbishment by the new owners. Panoramic beach view from all rooms. Gourmet bistro cuisine and extensive cocktail menu.
www.closnormandhotel.com

Le Relais d'Horbé, La Perrière

Newly opened near Bellême in the Perche Regional Natural Park with four individually decorated suites and three bedrooms. Seasonal menu. Private garden, craft shop, and deli.
www.lerelaisdhorbe.fr

Château Saint-Gilles, Guéron

Close to Bayeux, an 18th-century property with 22 bedrooms, studios, and apartments set in extensive parkland. Facilities for cyclists.
www.chateau-saintgilles-bayeux.com



Hotel du Tribunal in Mortagne offers both hotel and gourmet restaurant

3* Hôtel du Tribunal, Mortagne

Boutique hotel and gourmet restaurant in adjoining properties from 16th and 18th centuries in heart of the Perche Regional Natural Park
www.hotel-tribunal.fr

CHAMBRES D'HÔTES

Le Castel Saint-Léonard, Falaise

New owner Charles Vatinel has refurbished the downstairs salons and three bedrooms of this late 18th-century château in stunning *Siècle des Lumières* style.
www.castelsaintleonard.com

Ô Saisons, Ô Châteaux, Mézidon-Canon

Five bedrooms in U-shaped château, which is a classified Monument Historique, built in the 18th-century between Caen and Lisieux. Partial private hire is an option.
www.osaisons-ochateaux.com

La Rose de Ducey, Ducey-les-Chéris

Stylish 19th-century property in village close to Mont-Saint-Michel. Two guest bedrooms, plus an enclosed garden stocked with roses.
www.gites-de-france-manche.com

Château de Chantore, Bacilly

Two suites and three bedrooms in elegant 18th-century château close to Avranches. Large wooded park with



Breakfast at the 18th-century Château de Chantore is a stylish affair

lake, camellias and rhododendrons. There is also a gîte sleeping five.
www.chateaudechantore.com

Maison Maleyrand, Mortagne-au-Perche

New B&B in period town house restored to 18th-century glory. Original Louis XV features. Three double en-suite rooms furnished with rare *objets d'art*.
www.maisonmaleyrand.com

RESTAURANTS

La Vraie Vie, Caen

Small restaurant run by Parisian-trained chefs Elodie and Matthieu, opened November 2019. Emphasis on organic, local ingredients with cheese

from Matthieu's brother at La Crémierie des Baratineurs. Pâtisseries are a speciality.
www.restaurant-lavraievie.fr

La Voile Blanche, Ouistreham

Opened in summer 2020 above the Accostage restaurant and specialising in fish and shellfish. Eat indoors or on the shady terrace with glorious views over the beach.
www.lavoileblanche-ouistreham.fr

L'Aigue Marine, Villers-sur-Mer

New bistro and wine bar opened by the owner of La Villa d'Eaux. Dine in on local produce from sea and land, or take away a picnic.
www.laiguemarine.fr

La Contremarche, Granville

Built into the walls of the 19th-century fish market in the historic upper town. Local seasonal produce.
www.lacontremarche.fr



La Vraie Vie in Caen puts the emphasis on organic, local ingredients

NORMANDY ESSENTIALS

GETTING THERE

BY FERRY

Portsmouth to Cherbourg, Caen-Ouistreham or Le Havre, and from Poole to Cherbourg with **Brittany Ferries** (www.brittany-ferries.co.uk). Newhaven to Dieppe with **DFDS Seaways** (www.dfds.com)

BY TRAIN

Regular services from Paris Gare Saint-Lazare and Gare Montparnasse www.ter.sncf.com/normandie

BY AIR

Normandy is surrounded by three international airports – Paris Charles de Gaulle, Paris Orly, and Nantes International.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.normandy-tourism.org



FIVE DEPARTMENTAL TOURIST BOARDS

www.calvados-tourisme.com

www.manchetourisme.com

www.ornetourisme.com

www.eure-tourisme.fr

www.seine-maritime-tourisme.com