

Parks, gardens and castles in Normandy

A perfect itinerary for gardener's clubs



Gardens of the Saint Michel Priory, Normandy

Day 1: Paris – Giverny - Rouen

Leave Paris with our garden specialist tour guide and drive to **Giverny** to visit Monet's garden. The French impressionist painter planted this brightly colored garden with a wide variety of flowers which became his favourite model and which he painted in every season of the year. In the lower part of the garden near the Epte valley, the water garden is enriched with water lilies giving an oriental accent to the worldwide reputation of the artist's work. The premises have been restored in 1979 and attract art friends from all over world.

Continue by a visit of the nearby Park of the **Castle of Saint Just** with outstanding pools, water-mirror, cascade and water staircase. If time permit we visit **Evreux Cathedral** and drive to **Rouen**. Evening dinner and overnight in Rouen

Day 2: Rouen – Clos du Coudray – Vandrimare - Rouen

Breakfast at hotel and guided tour of **Rouen** and visit of the famous Cathedral. Then drive north of Rouen to Etainpus and visit of the **Clos du Coudray garden** presenting a flower mosaic of over 5000 varieties of plants. Next visit is the **park of the Castle of Vandrimare** near Fleury. Welcome by the owner who guide us through the park and the orangery. Dinner and overnight in Rouen.

Day 3: Rouen – Dieppe – Varangeville – Vesterival - Rouen

After breakfast drive to **Dieppe** former port on the spice and ivory road. Visit of the church overlooking the alabaster coast. Continue to **Varangeville** at the end of the alabaster coast and visit of the **Park of the Bois de Moutier** with 12ha of Rhododendrons and azaleas in a vast park stretching down to the sea. Created by Guillaume Mallet in the year 1900, it reflects the impression of the continuous changing environment. Optional visit of the Varangeville chapel with the **window glasses of Braque**. Then visit the **Garden Vasterival** created by the passionate **Princess Sturdza** with an extraordinary botanical diversity. Return to Rouen for evening dinner and overnight.

Day 4: Rouen – Canon – Brecy - Caen

Breakfast and drive to **Caen** along the coast. Short sightseeing of Caen with the statue of Joan of Arc and the ruins of Williams the Conqueror. **Lunch in a country inn** with Normandy specialities and cider. Afternoon visit of the **Park of the castle of Canon**. Created between 1768 and 1783 by Elie de Beaumont, it is a mixture of French and English style garden. Wonderful avenues leads through 13 different gardens. Or alternatively visit of the **Garden of the Castle of Brecy**, an Italian style garden of the 17th century with unique embroideries. Evening dinner and overnight in Caen.

Day 5: Caen – Bayeux – Nacqueville – Martinvast - Cherbourg

Breakfast at hotel and drive to **Bayeux**, further to Arromanches, along Omaha Beach to **Cherbourg**. Visit of the **park of the castle of Nacqueville** and its English park spread with water mirrors, fountains, waterfalls around the castle planted with rhododendrons, azaleas and hydrangeas. Our day ends with the visit of the magnificent **park of the Castle of Martinvast** with composition of meadows, woodland, ponds, cascades and follies, including an 18th century obelisk. Dinner and overnight in Cherbourg.

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Day 6: Cherbourg – Mont Saint Michel – Bagnoles de l’Orne

After breakfast visit of the **garden of Vauville**, tropical oasis along the see surrounding the castle with a sub tropical atmosphere. Then visit the **Christian Dior Garden** in Granville. The famous designer created for his mother this original and elegant park with edges, flowerbeds and cliff plants. We continue to the **Mont Saint Michel**. After a visit of the abbey we drive to **Bagnoles de l’Orne**, a quaint spa resort located in the so called **Swiss Normandy**. Dinner and overnight in Bagnoles de l’Orne

Day 7: Bagnoles – Carrouge - Sassy – Prieuré Saint Michel Bagnoles

Breakfast and departure through the romantic landscape of the swiss Normandy to the historical **Chateau de Carrouge**, impressive medieval castle in the middle of a 10ha park. Visit of the castle and continue to the **Chateau de Sassy** with its French style park created in 1910 by Audiffret-Pasquier with elegant parterres of embroidered box hedges. **Picnic lunch** with Camembert cheese, cider and Calvados. Afternoon visit of the **Gardens of the Saint Michel Priory**. Stroll between arbour hedge and apple trees protecting quaint gardens created in 1984 by garden designer Louis Benech. Return to Bagnoles de l’Orne for **farewell dinner** and overnight

Day 8 :Bagnoles de l’Orne - Paris

Drive back to Paris

Our services

- 7 x hotel overnight and breakfast (3 x Rouen, 1 x Caen, 1 x Cherbourg, 2 x Bagnoles de l’Orne)
- 7 x dinner at hotel within half board
- 1 regional lunch in a farmhouse near Caen including ½ bottle cider per person
- 1 x picnic lunch with French baguette, camembert, cider and calvados
- Private mini van or mini bus according to the number of participant from Paris to Paris
- Garden specialist tour guide from Paris to Paris
- Garden presentation by garden owner when available
- All admission in gardens, parks and castles as per programme



Park of the Bois de Moutiers