

SAINT
ANSELM
COLLEGE



1889

Echoes of History

Normandy,
Mont Saint-Michel
& Tocqueville

OCTOBER 10-17, 2026

WITH
Optional Pre-Extension to
Paris, October 8-11

Optional Post-Extension to
the Loire Valley, October 17-19

WITH
Hugh Dubrulle,
Professor of History



CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU
(LOIRE VALLEY EXTENSION)



Study Leader

Hugh Dubrulle, Ph.D.

Professor Hugh Dubrulle received his B.A. from Pomona College and his Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Having been a member of the faculty at Saint Anselm College since 2002, his primary teaching interests include modern/contemporary Europe and military history. He is the author of *Ambivalent Nation: How Britain Imagined the American Civil War* (Louisiana State University Press, 2018).

Dear friends,

Step into history and join us on an unforgettable journey honoring the courage and sacrifice of World War II heroes. This immersive tour focuses on the stories of D-Day and the pivotal battles in Normandy that helped shape the course of the war. Together, we will visit key sites and preserved battlefields where Allied forces turned the tide, explore insightful museums, and reflect at moving memorials that vividly bring history to life.

Highlights include Pegasus Bridge, the first ground in France liberated on D-Day by British paratroopers, and Sainte-Mère-Église, where American paratroopers famously descended into battle. At the D-Day landing beaches—including Utah Beach and Omaha Beach—expert guides will share stories of valor and sacrifice, with a poignant visit to the Normandy American Cemetery, the resting place of more than 9,000 American servicemen and women. We will also explore strategic wartime sites such as Longues-sur-Mer Battery, a key component of the Atlantic Wall, and the remarkable Mulberry Harbors, an engineering marvel that enabled the successful staging of the invasion.

Beyond the battlefields, enjoy a scenic excursion to Mont Saint-Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and Château de Tocqueville, the family home of the famous French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville. Optional pre- and post-tour extensions to Paris and the Loire Valley are available for those wishing to explore France further.

Space is limited for this special commemorative tour. Reserve your spot today to embark on a journey of reflection, remembrance, and inspiration. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a veteran, a descendant, or a curious traveler, this tour offers a unique opportunity to honor the past, understand the present, and walk in the footsteps of heroes. We look forward to traveling with you.

Joseph Emmons
Assistant Vice President
Alumni Relations and Engagement



Highlights

VISIT Pegasus Bridge, where British paratroopers made their daring landing on D-Day, securing the first liberated ground in France and opening the way for the Allied advance.

EXPLORE Sainte-Mère-Église, the first town freed by American paratroopers, and hear the unforgettable story of the soldier left dangling from a church pinnacle in the chaos of battle.

EXPERIENCE Mont Saint-Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, whose history and beauty have inspired pilgrims and travelers for over a thousand years.

PAY TRIBUTE at Utah Beach and Omaha Beach, where acts of extraordinary courage changed the course of history, and reflect at the Normandy American Cemetery, the solemn resting place of over 9,000 U.S. servicemen and women.

SEE the remains of the Mulberry Harbors, the ingenious temporary ports that made the massive Allied landings possible and stand as a testament to wartime innovation.



5



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PREVIOUS PAGE: 1. MONT SAINT-MICHEL 2. STATUE DU MÉMORIAL, COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER 3. NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY 4. NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL OF PARIS (PARIS EXTENSION) 5. ARROMANCHE LES BAINS ABOVE: 1. SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE 2. PEGASUS BRIDGE 3. ARROMANCHES LES BAINS 4. CAEN

Itinerary

DAY 1: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

U.S. / Paris, France

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Paris, France. (MEALS ALOFT)

DAY 2: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Paris

Arrive in Paris and transfer to our hotel. This evening, gather for a welcome cocktail and orientation.

VICTORIA PALACE HOTEL OR SIMILAR

DAY 3: MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Pegasus Bridge / Bayeux / Caen

Today, we head to Normandy, starting with a visit to the iconic Pegasus Bridge. Captured by British paratroopers, this strategic crossing became the first ground liberated in France and was crucial in securing the eastern flank of the Allied

invasion. After lunch at a local restaurant, we move on to Bayeux for a guided walking tour and a visit to the Memorial



Museum of the Battle of Normandy which shows the full scope of military operations carried out across Norman soil during the summer of 1944. Later, we head to nearby Caen to check in at our hotel. MERCURE CAEN CENTRE PLAISANCE OR SIMILAR (B, L)

DAY 4: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Sainte-Mère-Église / Tocqueville / Utah Beach

At the heart of the Airborne operation, we'll visit the historic town of Sainte-Mère-Église, the first to be liberated by American paratroopers. Here, you'll learn the dramatic story of the night drop that changed history—including the famous moment when a paratrooper's chute snagged on the church steeple, leaving him suspended for two hours. Our visit includes time to explore the excellent Airborne Museum, which honors the men of the U.S. Army's 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. We'll then continue to Tocqueville for a guided tour of the former home of Alexis de Tocqueville, the celebrated French political philosopher. Finally, we'll head to Utah Beach, the westernmost Allied landing site, where the U.S. 4th Infantry Division broke through German defenses. The museum here is built atop a German bunker and features compelling exhibits on the landing, including an original B-26 bomber and moving personal artifacts. MERCURE CAEN CENTRE PLAISANCE OR SIMILAR (B, L)

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Mont Saint-Michel

We will spend the day at Mont Saint-Michel, a medieval village perched on

a rock in the middle of a bay shared by Normandy and Brittany, with constantly shifting tides that give it a mythical dimension. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the history of the abbey dates back to 708. It is peppered with anecdotes and legends from centuries, inspiring artists and pilgrims along the way. Occupied by German forces during WWII, it was used as both a tourist attraction and observation point for German soldiers. It was famously liberated by a single American soldier accompanied by two British reporters. Following lunch on your own, we'll return to Caen for the remainder of the day at leisure.

MERCURE CAEN CENTRE PLAISANCE OR SIMILAR (B)

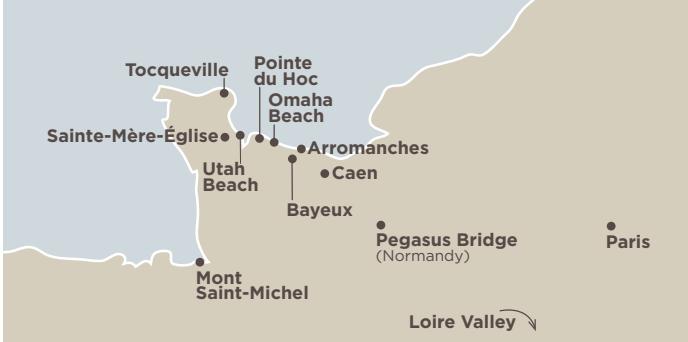
DAY 6: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Pointe Du Hoc / Omaha Beach / Arromanches

Today we'll visit the historic site of Pointe du Hoc, where the 2nd U.S. Ranger Battalion scaled dramatic cliffs while under heavy fire to destroy a German gun battery threatening the whole U.S. landing operation. Bomb craters, bunkers, and dugouts remain visible today.

Continue to nearby Omaha Beach, where the 1st and 29th





Infantry Divisions landed. Infamous for the fierce fighting and high casualties experienced by American troops on D-Day, we will learn about the plight of the first waves and hear stories of the brave GIs who eventually secured the area, paving the way for the liberation of Western Europe. Just behind Omaha Beach is the Normandy American Cemetery, the final resting place of more than 9,000 American servicemen and women. This sacred place, run by the American Battle Monuments Commission, is the most visited D-Day site in Normandy. We will also visit the Longues-sur-Mer German artillery battery, a critical component of the Atlantic Wall. Perched on cliffs overlooking the English Channel, its command post and four casemates—each still containing its original 150mm gun—testify to its strategic importance on D-Day. Our full-day tour ends in Arromanches at the site of the Mulberry Harbors. This remarkable engineering feat enabled the Allies to build artificial ports within days of the landings, providing a safe staging area for men and supplies that fueled the campaign across France. MERCURE CAEN CENTRE PLAISANCE OR SIMILAR (B, L)

DAY 7: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Caen Memorial / Paris

The Caen Memorial Museum offers an essential journey through the Battle of Normandy and the defining events of the 20th century. Our visit traces the story of World War II, from the rise of fascism and the tragedy of the Holocaust to the Normandy Landings and the hard-fought peace that followed. Immersive exhibits and impactful films vividly bring these moments to life. At the same time, additional galleries examine the Cold War and host thought-provoking temporary exhibitions. After lunch at the museum, we continue to Paris, pausing in the charming village of Giverny. There, we will visit the former home of Claude Monet and stroll through the beautiful gardens that inspired many of his masterpieces, including the celebrated waterlilies. This evening, we gather for a farewell dinner. VICTORIA PALACE HOTEL OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

DAY 8: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Flights To U.S.

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (B)

Please note that the order of activities on the itinerary may change due to local conditions. Alterations in the schedule may occur to allocate time to enjoy visits and to take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION:

Paris, October 8-11

Arrive a few days early to explore the City of Lights, including a visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral, finishing its multi-year restoration following a fire in April 2019. We will also have the opportunity to explore the complex at Les Invalides, originally commissioned in the 17th century by Louis XIV to provide accommodations and hospital care for wounded soldiers. Today, a military hospital still operates there, in addition to multiple museums exhibiting military history throughout the years. We will take time exploring the Musée de la Libération, a World War II history museum dedicated to the liberation of the city and the French Resistance, and see the famous large-scale Waterlilies at l'Orangerie, first offered to the French State by the painter Claude Monet on the day that followed the Armistice of November 11, 1918 as a symbol for peace. The pre-tour extension includes group airport transfer, two nights at the Victoria Palace Hotel in Paris, two breakfasts, two lunches, entrance fees, a private motorcoach, and an English-speaking guide. The extension price is based on a minimum of 10 participants.



OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION:

Loire Valley, October 17-19

Extend your trip to explore the enchanting Loire Valley with a journey through its most iconic châteaus and charming towns. Travel to Chambord for a guided visit of the magnificent Château de Chambord before continuing to Amboise. Visits in Amboise include the Château Gaillard and Leonardo da Vinci's last residence, the Manoir du Clos Lucé, followed by an afternoon tour of the fairytale Château de Chenonceau. The post-tour extension includes two nights at the Hotel Clos d'Amboise or similar, two breakfasts, two lunches, an English-speaking guide, and transfer to Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris. The extension price is based on a minimum of 8 participants.

"When most Americans think about Normandy, they remember the D-Day landing, and rightfully so; this event was pivotal moment during World War II. But Normandy is more than just the landing—it has a long and rich history. Moreover, part of my mother's side of the family originated near Rouen, in the eastern part of the province. That's why I'm excited to participate in a trip that takes you not only to the famous beaches of 1944 but also Alexis de Tocqueville's estate, Mont Saint-Michel, and Bayeux." —HUGH DUBRULLE



CAEN MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Accommodations



Victoria Palace Hotel

Nestled in Paris's historic 6th arrondissement, the Victoria Palace Hotel, offers a blend of classic Parisian charm and modern comfort. Established in 1913 and fully renovated in 2020, the hotel features 92 elegantly appointed rooms. Its prime location provides easy access to cultural landmarks, shopping districts, and public transportation. The hotel also boasts a full-service spa, 24-hour fitness center, and a cozy bar/lounge. Each room is equipped with air conditioning, heating, soundproofing, flat-screen TVs, minibars, and complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi.

Mercure Caen Centre Plaisance

The Mercure Caen Centre Port de Plaisance is a four-star hotel perfectly placed in the heart of Caen and overlooking the marina. Just a few minutes' walk from the pedestrian zone, Château de Caen, and the historic Vaugueux district, the hotel is an ideal base for exploring Caen's rich heritage and the nearby D-Day landing beaches. It offers 126 stylishly refurbished, air-conditioned rooms including complimentary Wi-Fi throughout, a fitness center, bar-lounge, and a bright atrium opening onto garden patios.

What to Expect

This specially curated journey is open to alumni, family, and friends of Saint Anselm College who share an interest in World War II history—particularly D-Day and the Battle of Normandy—along with France's rich culture, cuisine, and broader history. Together, we'll explore iconic sites that bring to life the events and experiences of the war and their lasting impact on the world. The tour is moderately active, involving some walking over uneven ground. Typical daytime temperatures in Normandy range from the mid-50s to the low 60s °F, making for comfortable touring, though mornings and evenings can be cooler—ideal for a light jacket or sweater. Since weather in the region can be unpredictable, we suggest bringing an umbrella or light rain jacket. To enjoy this experience fully, bring a spirit of adventure, a willingness to explore historic landscapes, and an openness to discovery. Travel will be by private, comfortable coach, with accommodations in welcoming four-star hotels.

Questions

For questions or new reservations, contact Royal Adventures, info@royaladventures.com or 925-820-6260 or 1-800-453-4754.

Air Arrangements

U.S. Domestic and international flights are not included in this program. The estimated roundtrip airfare from Boston, Massachusetts, to Paris, France in October is approximately \$1,200 (coach class). Airfares are subject to change. A recommended flight itinerary will be made available to registered passengers departing from and returning to Boston. Valerie Wilson Travel is the preferred provider for airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 1-800-447-3560. For international flights, you are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local agent, online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

Land Program Costs

MAIN PROGRAM COST	.....	\$6,590
(Per person, double occupancy)		
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	.....	\$1,350
OPTIONAL PRE-EXTENSION TO PARIS	.....	\$3,495
(Per person, double occupancy)		
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	.....	\$595
OPTIONAL POST-EXTENSION TO LOIRE VALLEY	.....	\$4,150
(Per person, double occupancy)		
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	.....	\$795

SAMPLE COACH INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE

ROUNDTRIP BOSTON TO PARIS, FRANCE	.....	\$1,200
(Not included, quoted separately, subject to change)		

AIRFARE: International airfare roundtrip from Boston, MA to Paris is not included. Estimated airfare is approximately \$1,200 (coach class) as of September 2025. Airfares are subject to change. A recommended flight itinerary will be made available to registered passengers departing and returning from Boston.

Program Cost Includes

Deluxe four-star accommodations • Meals as specified in the itinerary • Wine with included meals • English-speaking Tour Director/ Guide throughout • Airport transfers on recommended flight itinerary • Baggage handling • Entrance fees • Presentations • Transportation by private motorcoach • Service charges and taxes • Gratuities to local guides, drivers and restaurant staff • Pre-departure information • Leadership

Program Cost Does Not Include

U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately) • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, snacks, email, fax, or telephone calls • Alcoholic beverages aside from included wine with included meals • Dishes or beverages not included with meals • Room service • Passport fees • Individual/Private transfers • Medical expenses • COVID testing or quarantine expenses • Travel or evacuation insurance • Optional extensions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Airport taxes and/or security fees • ETIAS authorization fees • Fuel surcharges • Tip to the Tour Director is not included, and is at the passengers' discretion

**The price of the trip is based on the exchange rate with the Euro as of September 2025. If there is a significant change in the Euro in relation to the U.S. dollar, the price may need to be adjusted.*

Terms & Conditions

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT

To reserve a space on this program, a \$1,000 per person deposit is required, plus \$200 per person for the optional pre-extension to Paris and \$200 per person for the optional post-extension to Loire Valley, if applicable. Please either mail, email, or fax your registration form. If you wish to submit your registration online, please visit <https://royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/Saint-Anselm-College-Normandy-2026/book> or scan the QR code on the reservation form with your smartphone camera. Initial deposits may be charged to a credit card. Final payment is due June 30, 2026, and must be paid by check or wire transfer only. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing. CST #2009579-40.

TOUR SIZE This tour is exclusively designed for Saint Anselm College alumni, family and friends on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 15. Should the minimum not be met, we reserve the right to levy a small group surcharge.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be received in writing by Royal Adventures from the participant. Cancellations received on or before June 30, 2026, are eligible for a refund less a \$500 per person cancellation penalty. Cancellations received after June 30, 2026 are subject to 100% penalty of all deposits and payments, regardless of booking date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

TRAVEL INSURANCE We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance as the cancellation penalty in this brochure will apply. Trip cancellation insurance can be purchased through our recommended provider Travel Insured International, [CLICK HERE](#) to get a quote or call 1-800-243-3174 and mention Royal Adventures #53140. Most insurance plans need to be purchased within 14 days of paying the initial deposit in order to waive pre-existing medical conditions as well as to purchase "Cancel for Any Reason" insurance.

QUESTIONS For questions or new reservations, contact Royal Adventures, info@royaladventures.com 1-925-820-6260 or 1-800-453-4754.

RESPONSIBILITY Royal Adventures (CST #2009579-40), its owners, and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and Saint Anselm College and Royal Adventures and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability therefor. Saint Anselm

College and Royal Adventures assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, quarantine, force majeure, animal or insect bites, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Saint Anselm College and Royal Adventures reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty, in which case participants will be issued a full refund, except in the case of a *Force Majeure Event*. A *Force Majeure Event*, in relation to this tour, shall mean any circumstances beyond our control, including, but without limitation, to acts of God, explosion, flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance, sickness, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, government intervention or other unforeseeable event. Saint Anselm College and/or Royal Adventures shall not be deemed to be in breach of these terms and conditions or otherwise be liable to you, and shall not provide any refund, by reason of delay in performance, withdrawal of the tour or by nonperformance of any of our obligations hereunder to the extent that any such delay or nonperformance is due to any *Force Majeure Event*. Limitations on travel arising from the COVID-19 pandemic shall be considered a *Force Majeure Event*. If this tour is affected by a *Force Majeure Event*, Saint Anselm College and Royal Adventures shall be entitled to, and may in their sole and absolute discretion, vary, or postpone the dates of any itinerary, departure date or other arrangements in relation to this trip. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a tour member or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, security surcharge, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Neither Saint Anselm College nor Royal Adventures accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket. The air ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release, an assumption of risk, and a hold harmless agreement.

Echoes of History: Normandy, Mont Saint-Michel & Tocqueville

OCTOBER 10-17, 2026



Reservation Form

For the ease of registering online, please visit
<https://royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/Saint-Anselm-College-Normandy-2026/book>
or scan the QR code listed.

If you prefer to mail your registration, please complete the form below and return it to Royal Adventures with deposit check (if applicable) payable to "Royal Adventures" at: Royal Adventures, 9 Crow Canyon Ct, Ste 205, San Ramon, CA 94583

Enclosed is my deposit of \$ _____ \$1,000 per person to hold _____ place(s) on *Normandy, Mont Saint-Michel & Tocqueville*, plus \$200 per person for the pre-extension to Paris and \$200 per person for the post-extension to Loire Valley, if applicable, departing October 10, 2026, with Saint Anselm College. Final payment is due June 30, 2026, and must be paid by check or wire transfer.

NAME AS ON PASSPORT _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

NAME AS ON PASSPORT _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL(S) _____

MOBILE PHONE _____ OFFICE PHONE _____

FAX _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay by check made out to "Royal Adventures" OR
 Please charge my deposit for a total of \$ _____ to:
 AMEX VISA MasterCard Discover

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP DATE / SEC CODE _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

Double 1 Bed Double 2 Beds
 Single (*limited availability*)
 I will share accommodations with _____

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION TO PARIS

I/We wish to join the Paris pre-tour optional extension, October 8-11, 2026

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION TO THE LOIRE VALLEY

I/We wish to join the Loire Valley post-tour optional extension, October 17-19, 2026

I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ROYAL ADVENTURES
Exceptional Educational Journeys

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1889



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Mont Saint-Michel
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