

# AEROPLANE

**"AEROPLANE MONTHLY" AVIATION TOUR**  
(in association with Ian Allan Aviation Tours)

**LA FERTÉ-ALAIS AIR SHOW; PARIS;  
MUSÉE DE L'AIR ET DE L'ESPACE MUSEUM; MONT ST-MICHEL;  
DEAUVILLE; 65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY & WWII MUSEUMS OF NORMANDY**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2009**

At the delightful grass aerodrome of Cerny, in the countryside south of Paris, lies the famous aircraft collection of "l'Amicale Jean-Baptiste Salis": to many enthusiasts it is the French equivalent of our very own and unique Shuttleworth Collection, as there are close similarities to that era of aviation and that special Old Warden atmosphere.

Stars of the show include the long-awaited debut of Christophe Jacquard's Flug Werk FW190A-8/N, painted in the colours of Oberleutnant Horst Hannig, Staffelfkapitan of 2./JG2 who was shot down over Caen in Normandy on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1943: the 1,000<sup>th</sup> 'kill' for the Biggin Hill Spitfire Wing! And, Tom Wathen's California-based Caudron C.460 racer reproduction which has been freighted across the Atlantic. For full details see the May issue of *Aeroplane*, page 6.

We also visit the French national aviation collection in the Musee de l'Air et de l'Espace – a truly unrivalled collection of aviation artefacts, memorabilia and flying machines from the first balloons to modern jets.



After a night-stop in Mont St-Michel, we spend a week in beautiful Normandy, staying in the well-known French holiday resort of Deauville, visiting some of the major museums connected with D-Day which took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944; details of all the museums we will be visiting may be found on [www.battlefieldsww2.50megs.com](http://www.battlefieldsww2.50megs.com)

2009 is the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and there are a number of commemorative events being held, including several mass parachute drops; our REVISED itinerary includes 3 of the 4 planned civil and military drops which all take place around Sainte Mere Eglise in the Omaha and Utah beaches area. Please see website [www.visitnormandy.wordpress.com](http://www.visitnormandy.wordpress.com) for details of all the current events.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the schedule of events has changed somewhat since we first planned this tour last year, the most disappointing of which is that there is no airshow. Also, and perhaps reflecting the low-key participation of the UK authorities, major events like the mass parachute drops, are taking place much further to the west, around the towns of Sainte Mere Eglise and Carentan in what was the American zone of operations (Utah and Omaha beaches). Please note that all events are confirmed at this time (28<sup>th</sup> March) but are subject to change by the organisers.

In order to attend the para drops we have extended the tour by one day, and we now return to the UK on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June. To cover the additional costs (hotel, coach charter etc), the tour price has increased slightly.

We understand that, sadly, this could be the last official anniversary of D-Day involving actual participants, owing to the veterans' increasing age and decreasing numbers.

Travel is by de-luxe, 25-seater air-conditioned coach, from London's Victoria Coach Station, and we cross over to France through the "Chunnel". In Paris we stay at the Carlton's Hotel in the Montmartre district, with its many cafés and restaurants all within a short walking distance, as is the beautiful Sacré-Coeur church.

Join us for what promises to be a delightful blend of aviation, history and sightseeing.

## **PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local)**

### **DAY 1: FRIDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> MAY: D-DAY -8**

Between 11:30 and 12:00 please meet Tony Harmsworth, Assistant Editor of *Aeroplane* magazine, together with Graham Dinsdale your Ian Allan Tour Manager and fellow enthusiasts, at London's Victoria Coach Station. At 12:00 sharp our coach departs for the Channel Tunnel Rail Terminal at Folkestone, and at 15:00 we whizz through the "Chunnel", in 35 minutes, to France!

Arriving in Calais at 16:35 (local time), we drive down the French motorway to Paris (with a short stop to stretch our legs en-route), and we should arrive at the Carlton's Hotel in Montmartre at around 20:00.

We stay 3-nights on a bed and breakfast basis. The hotel is situated close to the Moulin Rouge and the Sacré-Coeur; some bedrooms have views of the Sacré-Coeur itself, however, from the hotel's rooftop terrace there are fabulous views looking out over Paris. Do not forget to go there during your stay. There are 2 Metro stations within a 300 yards walk of the hotel with services to the main boulevards, department stores, the Champs-Élysées, Porte de Versailles etc. You will be pleased to know that using the Metro is very, very easy.

### **DAY'S 2 & 3: SATURDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY, 31<sup>st</sup> MAY: D-DAY -7 & -6**

At 07:00 we depart for a full day at the La Ferté-Alais Air Show which takes place on the beautiful grass aerodrome of Cerny, located in the rolling hills of the countryside to the south of Paris.

We will not decide which day is spent where until our arrival in France, taking into account the local weather forecast!

The other day will be free to enjoy as you wish in the French capital.

### **DAY 4: MONDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE: D-DAY -5**

At 09:30 we depart for our visit to the Musée de l'Air et de l'Space at Le Bourget – simply one of the best aviation museums in the world, with its large and unique collection of early balloons and aeroplanes, up to the more modern "heavy metal" types.

The Museum also has a good aviation shop, and a small café.

Early afternoon we drive across France to the famous and inspiring town of Mont St-Michel. Our hotel tonight is the Hotel Formule Verte, ideally located at the mainland end of the causeway across to the island, with superb views of the Mont (pictured below). Evening dinner and breakfast is included.



### **DAY 5: TUESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE; D-DAY -4**

In the morning we explore at leisure the narrow, medieval streets of Mont St-Michel.

At noon we drive to the small Normandy village of Ste Mère-Eglise (you may recall the film "The Longest Day", and US paratrooper Private Steele landing on the church roof and dangling over the fire-fight going on below him in the village square). St Mère-Eglise was at the heart of the American Airborne operations on D-Day; the excellent "Musée des Troupes Aéroportées" was formed in their memory, and comprises two main buildings just off the main square and opposite the famous church. The story of the American Airborne is told via hundreds of artefacts and photographs, there are two films, and original examples of a Waco Glider and a C-47 Transport aircraft.

Outside are tanks, half-tracks and guns. Website [www.musee-airborne.com/eng/page.php?page=4june](http://www.musee-airborne.com/eng/page.php?page=4june)

There is also time at leisure in this delightful village.

We then drive to the popular French seaside resort of Deauville and our hotel for the next 5 nights: the 3\* L'Augeval, consisting of 2 exceptional and remarkable listed villas with character, whose architecture is typical of the Normandy Coast. It looks out on to the racecourse, and is a short walk from the town centre and the beach.

It offers 42 bedrooms and a relaxation area with sauna, hammam and hydro-jet table. There is also a bar, open fireplace, table tennis and billiards. Under the beautiful stone vaults of the dining room, you will enjoy "an inventive cuisine inspired by fresh sea fish and local Normandy produce". In fine weather, meals can be served on the terrace facing the swimming pool.



## DAY 6: WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE: D-DAY -3

Today we visit the Musée des Epaves in Port-en-Bessin which houses a staggering array of American tanks recovered from the seabed on the Omaha Beach sector. These range from Sherman DD tanks, swamped as they came ashore through rough seas on D-Day, to M7 Priests and Sherman bulldozers which were knocked out and sunk in LSTs. Many other items from ships and landing craft of all types are on display, along with personal items of soldiers found in some of the vehicles. A truly remarkable, and unique, museum.

Driving on to Arromanches, we visit the 360 Museum; although not quite a museum, this cinema is unique in Normandy, and one of only a handful like it in Europe. The view is 360 degrees - you stand in the middle and watch the film unfold all around you on nine huge screens arranged in a circle. The film - "The Price of Liberty" - mixes wartime footage with modern shots of the battlefield, many of them taken from unusual perspectives - such as from a helicopter over Omaha Beach, on board a DUKW and from the top of a Sherman tank as it drives through the Bocage. The sound is fantastic!

## DAY 7: THURSDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE; D-DAY -2

A free day to enjoy the delights of Deauville. Website: [www.deauville.org](http://www.deauville.org)

## DAY 8: FRIDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE: D-DAY -1

Our first visit today is to the famous Pegasus Bridge at Benouville/St-Aubin-d'Arquenay. The museum tells the story of 6th (Airborne) Division on 6th June 1944 - D Day. It replaces the old museum that used to be alongside the Pegasus Café. Inside are many artefacts, uniforms, weapons and vehicles connected with the fighting, as well as an excellent film show.

The highlight of any visit is being able to walk across the original Pegasus Bridge (pictured), which is preserved in the grounds of the museum, after it was replaced some years ago. We also visit the famous café.



Then to the Museum of the Atlantic Wall: situated inside a Fire Control Bunker at Ouistreham, which overlooks Sword Beach, this museum tells the story behind the Atlantic Wall defences along the Normandy coastline. The museum has recreated what the bunker once looked like inside in 1944, with original equipment, and mannequins in uniforms of the garrison. There are also photographs and maps on display, and in the upper level the large rangefinder is still in situ. From here you can enjoy fabulous views on to Sword Beach and east to the Orne estuary. Outside is a German 88mm Flak (AAA gun), various tanks and armoured fighting vehicles, plus other larger artefacts from Atlantic Wall defences and bunkers.

Our third visit of the day is to the Musée de la Batterie de Merville; the Merville Battery was attacked by the 9th Bn Parachute Regiment on D-Day, and the museum tells the story of their operations and the later Commando action. The main displays are in one of the casemates, but you can also walk all round the site and enter the others.

## DAY 9 - SATURDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE: D-DAY

The morning is free.

We depart the hotel at 12:00 for Carentan, 80 miles to the west, with time at leisure in the town until the planned parachute drop scheduled for 18:00.

At 18:30, or thereabouts, we return to Deauville arriving back at the hotel around 20:30.

## DAY 10: SUNDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE: D-DAY +1

At 08:00 we set off for the Sainte Mere Eglise/La Fiere area where 2 mass para drops are scheduled to take place: the first at 12:00 from several civil-owned Douglas C-47s, and a second at 13:00 from several modern military transport aircraft who will drop 550 airborne troops and 50 sky-divers.

At approximately 13:30 we set off for Dieppe where, depending on traffic, we should arrive around 18:00. Before checking into our hotel we will stop by the seafront memorial to the Dieppe landing.

We stay the night in sea-view rooms at the Hotel de l'Europe, on a bed and breakfast basis. Ideally located in the heart of the town overlooking the beach, aquatic centre, the spa "Les Bains de Dieppe", casino and castle, and a few steps from the picturesque harbour. Website: [www.hoteldieppe.com](http://www.hoteldieppe.com)



On 19<sup>th</sup> August 1942 over 6,000 troops, predominantly Canadian, supported by large British naval and Allied air force contingents made, what turned out to be a disastrous, amphibious assault on Dieppe. The objective was to seize and hold a major port for a short period, both to prove it was possible and to gather intelligence from prisoners and captured materials while assessing the German response.

No major objectives of the raid were accomplished, and 3,623 (60%!) of the 6,086 men who actually made it ashore were either killed, wounded, or captured. The Allied air forces failed to lure the Luftwaffe into open battle, and lost 119 planes, while the Royal Navy suffered 555 casualties.

The catastrophe at Dieppe later influenced Allied preparations for other, larger amphibious landings in North Africa, Sicily, Italy - and Normandy (Operation Overlord).

### **DAY 11: MONDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE: D-DAY +2**

At 08:30 we depart for Calais. However, subject to the owner opening up for us, we plan to visit the "Site de V1 Val Ygot" in nearby Ardouval. One of several hundred V1 launch sites, construction started around Christmas 1943 but thanks to repeated interference by the Allied air forces, it never fired a rocket in anger!

Arriving at the Eurotunnel Terminal by 12:45 we depart through the 'Chunnel' at 13:50 and should arrive at London Victoria Coach Station at approximately 16.30 UK time.

We then wish each other farewell, or even "au revoir" – until the next time!

### **TOUR PRICE PER PERSON**

£1,425.00	Based on sharing a twin bedded room, on a bed and continental breakfast (and one Evening Dinner) basis
£ 425.00	Single room supplement

## **TOUR PRICE INCLUDES**

- ⇒ All transfers and transportation from London's Victoria Coach Station by de-luxe, air-conditioned coach
- ⇒ Folkestone-Calais return on the rail services of Eurotunnel
- ⇒ 10 nights accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- ⇒ Continental Breakfast each morning
- ⇒ Evening Meal at hotel in Mont St Michel
- ⇒ Admission to La Ferte Alais Air Show
- ⇒ Admission to all aviation and military museums as stated in the itinerary
- ⇒ Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager

## **NOT INCLUDED**

- ⇒ Meals, other than those stated as being an included item
- ⇒ Travel Insurance – see General Information for details
- ⇒ Personal expenditure, for example, telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc.
- ⇒ Admission to any museums other than those stated in the itinerary
- ⇒ Any optional flights arranged on-tour
- ⇒ Gratuity for the coach driver – a collection will be made on-tour
- ⇒ Other tips and gratuities

### CHANGES TO THE FINAL ITINERARY

Unforeseen World events, changes in the geo/political situation, no-notice or minimum notice changes due to operational reasons may result in the itinerary being amended. Whilst we will keep you fully informed, Ian Allan Travel Ltd cannot be held responsible for any visit or tour being cancelled due to world events, or circumstances, beyond our control.

Your attention is drawn to the Booking Conditions in our 2008/9 Aviation Tours brochure and on the reverse of the Booking Form.

### PAYMENT FOR "AEROPLANE MONTHLY" TOURS

A deposit of £250.00 per person per tour should accompany your Booking Form, with any cheque being made payable to "Ian Allan Travel Ltd". The balance is due 10 weeks prior to the tour's departure. Please see your Booking Confirmation/Invoice for the exact date. Please note that a reminder of the payment date will not be sent. Passengers who booked prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 will benefit from an early booking discount of £50.00 per person which will be deducted from the final invoice.

### FCO CONSULAR ADVICE

The FCO's consular service is a major operation. Every hour of every day consular staff around the world are advising and helping British nationals. We suggest you visit [www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo](http://www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo) for up-to-date passport, visa and security information on the destination you intend visiting.

In addition, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) provide an Information Line, telephone: 0901 201 505 (calls currently charged at 50p per minute).

### PASSPORTS AND VISAS

A visa is not required for entry into France by British/EU nationals. However, you must take your passport with you.

### HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Currently there are no known compulsory health requirements for visiting France. For the latest information we recommend you consult your doctor or local health centre.

### MEALS

Meals are not included in the price of our tours unless they are included within the room rate as we realise that not everyone wants three meals a day. Please see itinerary inclusions for specific details.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

For citizens of the United Kingdom, Ian Allan Travel Ltd are able to offer competitive and comprehensive insurance cover. However, if you do not wish to take out our insurance, you must ensure that comparable or greater cover is taken. The number of your Insurance Policy should be written, if known, on your Booking Form at the time of making the reservation, but no later than the date when final payment is due. A copy of the policy must be forwarded to Ian Allan Travel Ltd.

Individual insurance policies are arranged through CoverMore Insurance Services Limited; the premiums for which will vary according to your circumstances. Full details are available on request.

These policies also include cover for non-scheduled flights, i.e. pleasure flights, where the aircraft is licensed and insured to undertake such flights, and where a payment is made.

## **DRESS CODE**

Out of respect and courtesy to our hosts all our visits to aviation museums and aircraft collections/operators will observe a 'casual but smart' dress code. T-shirts, jeans, shorts, flip-flop type footwear etc., are not acceptable; open-necked shirts (golf, polo, etc.) long or short-sleeved, with slacks/long trousers are perfect. T-shirts, shorts, jeans etc. may be worn at all other times.

Any member of the group who dresses inappropriately will not be able to join his fellow enthusiasts on these visits.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Photography is allowed at all the aviation museums we are visiting.

## **FLEXIBLE ITINERARY**

We are very happy for enthusiasts to take time away from the printed itinerary to pursue their own interests during multi-day stays in the same place, so long as they inform the Tour Manager. It will be the individual's responsibility to ensure that they re-join the group in the hotel at the stated time on the day of departure, and no responsibility can be accepted by Ian Allan Travel Ltd for any missed departure nor the consequences of any action where independent arrangements are made.

## **OVERSEAS ENTHUSIASTS**

For enthusiasts residing outside of the UK who would prefer to join the tour in France, instead of departing from London with the main group, please contact us for a quotation.

## **CONNECTING FLIGHT/RAIL/COACH SERVICES FROM AROUND THE UK**

Each 'Aeroplane' tour can only operate once it has received a minimum number of bookings, therefore, we strongly recommend you do not make any non-refundable connecting flight, rail or coach reservations until you have spoken with Ian Allan Aviation Tours (Telephone: 01932 255627).

We can offer special rates for National Express coach services to London's Victoria Coach Station from most UK towns and cities. Please ask for details.

## **OPTIONAL PLEASURE/SIGHTSEEING FLIGHTS ~ DISCLAIMER**

Should you decide to undertake any pleasure/sightseeing flights which have not been offered or sanctioned by us, Ian Allan Travel Ltd will not be held liable for any injuries or death resulting thereon.

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