



sport  
history  
gardens  
beaches  
markets

normandygite.uk.com  
t: 0033 (0)233 46 79 92

# Some Things to do...

places to go, once you are here

## gastronomy...

Normandy is a gastronomic delight - where you can start the day with freshly baked bread and croissants, stop for a lunch of Moules Frites in a local bistro and finish your day with a four course french culinary masterpiece because in Normandy, food is an art form.

Near to Les Hirondelles you are spoilt for choice when it comes to food, from local markets to restaurants and cafés.

The Tuesday market at Villedieu les Poeles is huge and sells everything from plants to copper cooking pots and from shoes to sausages!

The Saturday market at Bayeux is also a treat with fresh flowers, local cheeses, fresh off the boat seafood, fabulous fruit and vegetables and even small stalls where the locals sell their rabbits, chickens, turkeys, geese etc...all very French!

Simple (but delicious) fayre - The Skipper at Hautville plage is open all day for moules, pancakes and omelettes.

Au Pirate in Granville has a more varied menu than we've ever seen - from sandwiches to moules and king size prawns to steak, all washed down with beer, wine or Normandy cider.

Fine dining - Hotelliere du Bon Vieux Temps at Montmartin sur Mer has delicious food which is well presented and although a little pricey, is well worth it!

Of course you can't come to France without trying the wonderful wine, whether you want a tippie while you're here or you want to load the car for home you'll have plenty of choice in the local markets and supermarkets. Whether you prefer a crisp white, a delicate rosé or a full bodied red you will be well catered for.

If you enjoy local cider or the world famous calvados then why not follow "La route du Cidre" (the cider route) - the signs are clearly marked with Route du Cidre and a picture of an apple. The route is about 40 kilometres long and passes the producers of the "AOC Pays d'Auge" cider. You can see how cider is made, taste it and buy it. You'll also get to see some lovely scenery as the route passes from village to village, producer to producer, through narrow lanes in the beautiful Normandy countryside. You can usually find Pommeau (a Normandy aperitif) and Calvados (a Normandy liquer) at the same producers.

## history...

The D Day landing beaches and museums are alive with memories and memorials. Within easy reach of the Normandy landing beaches, we are ideally located for organised tours of the battle sites or more intimate and personal journeys. Whether you have family memories to discover or an historic interest you will find poignant reminders of this region's past around every corner.

Historic Bayeux has an very impressive cathedral and of course, the world famous tapestry. [www.bessin-normandie.fr](http://www.bessin-normandie.fr)

Be transported back to the sights and sounds of William the Conqueror. The first week-end in July the cathedral area is turned into a medieval fayre with a medieval market and costumed parade... locals enter the festival with great attention to detail and when experienced in conjunction with the architecture it delivers "living history" amongst the cobbled alleyways.

From the fifth century until today, the role played by the abbeys and churches of Normandy has been significant, not only spiritually, intellectually and artistically, but also politically and economically. At the height of their glory there were one hundred and twenty in the region, and with their incomparable beauty and magnificence, the sixty which have survived the centuries represent a priceless architectural heritage.

Magical Mont St Michel is one of the best and is about an hour away by car and will astound visitors with its beauty and imposing position. For a really magical treat why not go on one of the Promenade Nocturnes (evening walks) with lighting effects and musicians, these magical walks are unforgettable and are available throughout July to September.

For more information visit [www.abbaye.mont.saint.michel@monuments-nationaux.fr](mailto:www.abbaye.mont.saint.michel@monuments-nationaux.fr)



*The Art of life in Rural France...*



Shirley & Clive Caulfield  
Les Hirondelles  
La Planche Bourdon  
50660 Contrieres  
France

normandygite.uk.com  
t: 0033 (0)233 46 79 92

# More Things to do...

once you're here, what should you do

## nature...

Many forests are literally on our doorstep, to discover on foot, horseback or bicycle. These beautiful forests often have picnic tables and trails. Deer and wild boar roam these local forests and can sometimes be seen in early evening feeding at the roadside. Hedgerows and banks are speckled with primroses, wild orchids, foxglove and campanula and traveller's joy festoon the ancient hedges.

## gardens...

The Dior garden at nearby Granville is a delight, stroll through the gardens and smell the roses!... the flower beds contain small boxes on poles that you lift the lids and smell the Dior perfume that is created with the flowers within that bed. The house is where Christian Dior once lived and is a treasure of Dior original couture and many historic photos of glamorous people from the world of film and royalty that have worn Dior gowns.

[www.musee-dior-granville.com](http://www.musee-dior-granville.com)

Jardin D'Argences is just 5 minutes down the road and is lovely. Open every day from 2pm.

If you combine a passion for horticulture with an interest in architecture, the fine parks and gardens in Normandy's chateaux will not disappoint you, ranging from imposing medieval strongholds to peaceful half-timbered residences with thatched roofs. Normandy is adorned with "Chateau et Manoirs", many of which are illustrations of Norman military architecture from days gone by when English kings were Dukes of Normandy. Good examples are the castles of Caen and Falaise

Refreshing your spirit amid the beautiful parks and gardens... your imagination will take you back three hundred years when linden trees were first planted at the "Château de Bosmelet", or two hundred years when a cedar sapling was planted at the "Château de Miromesnil" and for art lovers and gardeners alike, gaze at Monet's favourite spot in the gardens of Giverny.



## the great outdoors...

We are within an easy drive of several interesting coastal towns and there are many unspoilt sandy beaches nearby. The beach at Hautville sur Mer has sand as far as the eye can see in both directions and is ideal for small children to play and collect shells, without the trappings of the usual fun fairs and penny arcades. There are lollypops and ice creams, coffee and doughnuts.... At Granville you can walk the cliff tops and see the German battlements and strong-holds, with guns from WW2. There are aquariums at Granville and La Cite de la Mer in Cherbourg. [www.aquarium-du-roc.com](http://www.aquarium-du-roc.com) or [www.citedelamer.com](http://www.citedelamer.com)

## shop 'til you drop...

At the ever stylish Deauville, with names such as Dior, Louis Vuitton, Chanel and Hugo Boss, or stroll along the promenade where the beach huts are named after famous film stars. Deauville also holds regular horse races and hosts the American film festival. Although it's 1 3/4 hours away from Les Hirondelles it is a wonderful place to spend the day as it is stylish France at its best. [www.deauville.org](http://www.deauville.org)

Just 7km away from your Normandy gite is the beautiful cathedral town of Coutances with its elegant shops, public gardens, theatre, bars and restaurants. And of course, the world famous Jazz Festival is held here every May. Jazz sous les Pommiers (Jazz under the Apple Trees) where its been know for the British musician Andy Sheppard to be cooking up a storm on his saxophone while a Michelin starred chef is literally cooking too - and as the saxophone hits the last notes, the chef completes his fois gras poele aux asperges and presents it to the admiring audience with a flourish. [www.jazzsouslespommiers.com](http://www.jazzsouslespommiers.com)

We love Granville where we can combine our shopping trip with a favourite eating place, Au Pirate. Avranches has a Carrefour mall with super cafeteria and boutiques.

## for the children...

When younger children need to work off some energy a visit Festy Land near Caen, vikings, jousting, rope walkways, pirates and dinosaurs are enough to keep anyone busy for the day. [www.festyland.com](http://www.festyland.com)

Champrepus is a super Zoo near to Villedieu. Allow plenty of time to get around as it's so big and it's not just the animals; there's the rope walk, scrumptious food at the cafeteria, as well as the usual kids food. There is also a children's play area, with bouncy things, climbing frames and slides which makes for a lovely day out for all of the family. [www.zoo-champrepus.com](http://www.zoo-champrepus.com)

All of this is just a fraction of what's on in Normandy, come and discover more.

*The Art of life in Rural France...*