

Season

From end of March to mid-November.

We recommend you to book this tour 3 or 4 months before the departure date if you plan to walk it in summer time. Great demand and few rooms!

Difficulty: grade 2

This tour presents no major difficulty. You walk along the coastal path and there are no prolonged ascents and descents and no steep gradients. Tour for occasional walkers.



Itinerary

8-day and 7-night self-guided walking holidays

Day 1: Arrival at CHERBOURG. Cherbourg began as a military harbor and later became a port of call for the transatlantic liners. Today it serves as a trading and yachting harbor. The city sits upon a gorgeous spot and the Navy saw early on the benefits of using the site for their nautical fleet. Construction began on the dike in 1783, and after 70 years of work, and many difficulties, it was finally completed in 1853. Five years later, Napoleon III inaugurated the harbor. You will spend the day visiting the city, the harbor and the La Roule Fort which dominates the city - Lodging and breakfast in a two-star hotel.

Day 2 : BIVILLE – AUDERVILLE (22 km). Transfer by taxi from Cherbourg to Biville. You are now facing the church built in the 12th century and which is still a place of Pilgrimage. You'll join the Dunes calvary which dominates a huge area filled with dunes along the sea. You'll traverse it to join the Vauville pound, a big marshy area and natural reserve along the sea. This 20 ha fresh water surface, separated from the sea by a bar of dunes, hold many birds and an original vegetation. You'll reach the charming village of Vauville with its church and its castle of the 16th century, surrounded by a very nice botanic garden (more than 600 species). Then, you'll climb the cliffs which dominate the sea and walking in turn on forelands and on little creeks, you'll reach the Nez de Jobourg, a granite spur which faces the channel. The landscape there looks wild, the cliffs are covered with sandy-moor, furzes and ferns and are sometimes broken with narrow valleys opening on little fine-sand beaches lined with many rocks. you'll walk down to the Ecalgrain bay, a spacious beach which stretches out between the cliffs. You'll climb the cliffs once again to reach the Houpret headland, then the small village of La Roche, scheduled as one of the most picturesque in France before reaching Auderville and its 12th century church - Half-board accommodation in a country hotel

Day 3 : AUDERVILLE – LANDEMER (23 km – 7 hour walk). You will continue your discovery of the La Hague region. From Auderville, you will find the charming small harbor of Goury, famous for the octagonal hut which shelters the lifeboats of the SNSM (the French lifeguard society). Here, the landscape changes. The cliffs have flattened into the lands of Cape La Hague. The lighthouse stands in warning to the sailors of the nearness of the Raz Blanchard, where the tide currents cause numerous shipwrecks. You will make your way along the strand fringed with stony areas that come to view when the tide is low. You will then reach the Port Racine, said to be the smallest harbor in France, holding only a few boats. You will continue walking the Saint Martin Cove until you reach the Jardeheu Headland. Once passed the Hable Harbor, you will see green cliffs which, between two forelands, hold little bays and small beaches. The path runs halfway up the hill and offers gorgeous views of this wild and picturesque coast. Finally, you will reach the pleasant little hamlet of Landemer - Half-board accommodation in a one-star hotel

Day 4 : LANDEMER – CHERBOURG (14 km – 3 and a half hour walk). This stage is short so to leave you time to visit Cherbourg, its harbor (boat tours available) or the Cité de la Mer (submarine museum). You will leave the hamlet of Landemer walking along the strand to the Nacqueville Headland and the Querqueville Cove. You will pass around the Querqueville Fort before reaching the Querqueville Bay where you will discover in the distance the pride of Cherbourg, the dikes protected by fortified castles which line the road. You will walk along the bay and discover the remains of the Voëu Abbey (founded in 1145), which is currently under restoration. You will walk in front of the Arsenal and the Chantereyne Yachting Harbour before joining the center of the city. Lodging and breakfast in a two-star hotel.

Day 5 : CHERBOURG - COSQUEVILLE (20 km – 5 and a half hour walk). You will begin the day with a visit of the Cité de la Mer, situated on the historic site of Maritime Transatlantic train station. During a visit of one of the first French nuclear submarines, you will discover the passionate history of submarines and the mysterious world that exists in this, the deepest aquarium in Europe. You will then leave Cherbourg and follow the coast by way of the Cape du Heu, Brick Cove, and the cove and port of Cap Lévi. You will know you have arrived at Cap Lévi, as it sits at the foot of a

lighthouse. You will follow the strand to the Plage du Vick (Vick's Beach), where you will turn away from the sea to arrive in Cosqueville and your hotel - Half-board accommodation in a country hotel with all conveniences.

Day 6: COSQUEVILLE – BARFLEUR (19 km – 5.15 hour walk). You will return to the seaside and continue yesterday's walk along the strand. For several kilometres you will walk along vast sandy stretches where scattered boulders lie visible at low tide in a solitary landscape of wild beauty! You will pass the Neville Cape, a sandbar that juts into the sea, and arrive at the pond and the cape of Gattemare, where rises the Gatteville Lighthouse. At 75 meters in height, it stands as the second-tallest in France. You will pass the Barfleur Foreland and the Flicmare Harbor to arrive in the fishing port of Barfleur, well-known during the Middle-Ages. Bed & breakfast in a house near the harbour

Day 7 : BARFLEUR – SAINT VAAST LA HOUGUE (17 km – 4 and a half hour walk). From Barfleur to the Saire Foreland, the coast is nothing but rocky banks, sometimes interrupted by brief sandy stretches. Once across the La Saire River, you will follow along the Saint Vaast road, a long, sandy harbor road only accessible at low-tide, to arrive in the fishing and pleasure port of Saint Vaast. Sitting just opposite is the Ile de Tatihou, which we highly recommend visiting - Half-board accommodation in a guesthouse with all conveniences.

Day 8 : SAINT VAAST. Tour ends after breakfast.

Access to and from

Outward journey from Paris

By train : Cherbourg is easily reached from Paris St Lazare.

By car : Follow the A14 motorway From Paris to Caen then N13 road to Cherbourg.

Parking : Several free unguarded car parks in Cherbourg, one pay guarded parking. Return to Cherbourg by taxi or by regular bus to Valognes and train to Cherbourg

Inward journey to Paris

By train : bus to the Valognes train station. Trains to Caen and Paris

Getting back your car: bus to Valognes and train to Cherbourg or taxi to Cherbourg

From and to UK

It's easy to cross the channel by ferry or train and reach Cherbourg from Portsmouth and Poole

Accommodation

3 overnight stops on a B&B basis at Cherbourg and Barfleur. On these nights an evening meal can be obtained close by.

4 overnight stops in 1or 2 star hotel or guesthouse on a half-board accommodation.

Accommodation is normally in large bed or twin-bedded rooms, with en-suite facilities (at least shower, washbasin and toilet) when available, which is 95% of the time. However, you can stay in remote spots or small villages where there is little or no choice of accommodations and where facilities may be limited. In this case, you will share a bathroom or shower room and toilets with some other people on the same storey.

Picnic lunches are not included in the tour but are available from the hotel on request the previous evening, alternatively picnic materials can be bought at the stop village or at each of the towns and villages along the route. We indicate in the route notes where there are suitable restaurants or cafés for lunch stops. We recommend you to carry food and drinks if there are none convenient to the trail.

Included

- Twin share accommodation with private facilities
- Baggage transfer between hotels (except for STD option)
- Route notes and maps
- 4 dinners
- Emergency phone number (8:00am to 7:00pm every day)

Not included

- Visa fees, transportation fees to and from the walk area
- Insurance (strongly recommended on all trips)
- Transfers except those mentioned above
- Drinks
- Additional meals
- Spending of personal nature e.g. laundry, souvenirs, phone calls,...



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