

Swiss Normandy is an area of Normandy that includes the Orne and Calvados districts, south of the River Seine. Its name comes from the River Orne that flows across the area, making deep gorges and cliffs and so creating spectacular rocky landscapes.

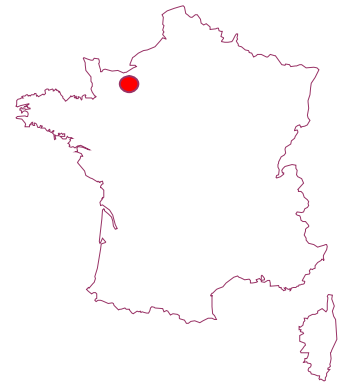
Season

From the middle of April to middle of October.

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 in an undulating terrain and there are no prolonged ascents or descents and no steep gradients. Tours for occasional walkers. It's easy to follow the path marked with yellow or red and white splashes



Itinerary

6-day and 5-night self-guided walking holidays

Day 1 : Arrival at PUTANGES PONT ECREPIN, a small city formed by the union of two ancient villages located on opposite banks of the Orne River. A walk through the city will reveal wonderful old residences and the famous bell-tower reflecting in the river –

Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel near the Orne River.

Day 2 : PUTANGES - LA FORET AUVRAY (19 km). You ascent the first hills surrounding Putanges and walk to the Ragondanges lake. You will make your way along the bank for several kilometres to the dam. Trough the forest you will head to the former medieval village of Saint Aubert. Next to a ford on the Orne bank, you will see the only preserved remains of the village church. You will continue through the meadows and arrive at La Foret Auvray, a lovely little Norman village built around its church and two symmetric covered-markets.

Dinner, night and breakfast in chambre d'hôtes (guest house) in the village

Day 3 : LA FORET AUVRAY – PONT D'OUILLY (18 km). You will leave the village and, crossing through the Normandy countryside, arrive at La Roche d'Oêtre (the Oêtre Rock), a marvellous site overlooking the winding and particularly wild Gorges of la Rouvre. You will then make your way along the Méandre du Rouvrou (le Rouvrou loop) before regaining and following the Orne River to Pont d'Ouille, traversing Le Mesnil Hubert.

Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel

Day 4 : PONT D'OUILLY – CLECY (19 km). Throughout the day, you will follow along the Orne River and its meanderings, keeping along banks or climbing to the surrounding heights, and will cross little hamlets and characteristic villages. Towards the end of the day, you will climb the Roches des Parcs (Parcs Rocks), a rocky bar which overlooks the Orne Valley, and descend again towards Clécy, destination of this stage.

Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel

Day 5 : CLECY – THURY-HARCOURT (23 km). You will cross the Orne River once again and the pleasant village of Vey to climb the Rochers de la Houle (La



Houle Rocks) and the Pain de Sucre hill. From the path running along the crests, you will have gorgeous views of the Orne Valley and, further on, the Norman bocage. You will then descend to the banks of the Orne and make your way, along the banks and through the countryside, to the village of Saint Martin de Sallen and the Saint Joseph Chapel. Finally, you will reach Thury-Harcourt and its château. The most courageous of you might do the Boucle de Hom, one of the Orne's loops which closes on itself.

Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel. (all facilities in the room)

Day 6 : THURY HARCOURT. Tour ends after breakfast.

Access to and from

Outward journey from Paris

By train : The nearest station is Argentan, with several trains each day from the Paris St Lazare station. Taxi transfer to Putanges.

By car : Take A 12 motorway from Paris to meet RN12 road. In Verneuil-sur-Avre, continue along N26 road to Argentan, and then D15 road to Putanges.

Where to park : Parking on a square by the hotel in Putanges

Inward journey

By train: From Thury bus or taxi to reach Caen rail station

Getting back your car : taxi to Putanges

From and to UK

It's easy to cross the channel by ferry reach Caen from Portsmouth. Then, direct trains to Argentan and taxi to Putanges - To return, buses from Thury to Caen



Accommodation

4 nights with accommodation in 2-star hotels or chambres d'hôtes (guest house) on half-board basis

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

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

Not included

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

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