



Education First

## College Study Tours

A large, olive-green WWII tank is displayed on a paved promenade overlooking the ocean. The tank's turret is prominently featured, with the number '55' painted in white. A plaque on the turret provides historical information. The tank is surrounded by greenery and a paved walkway. The sky is clear and blue.

# WWII & THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

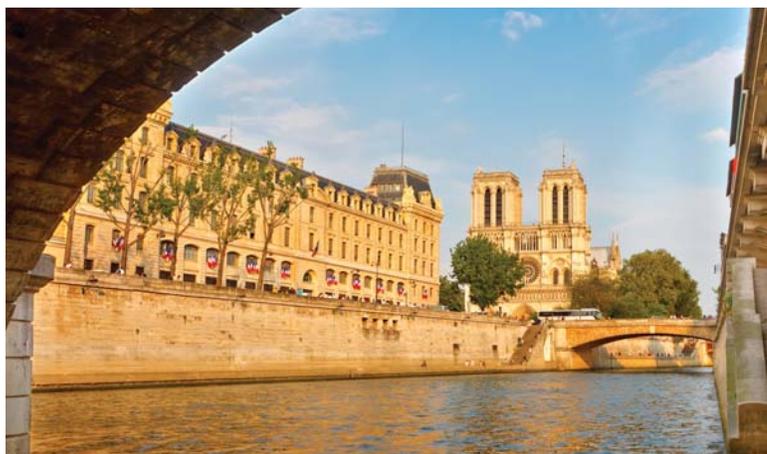
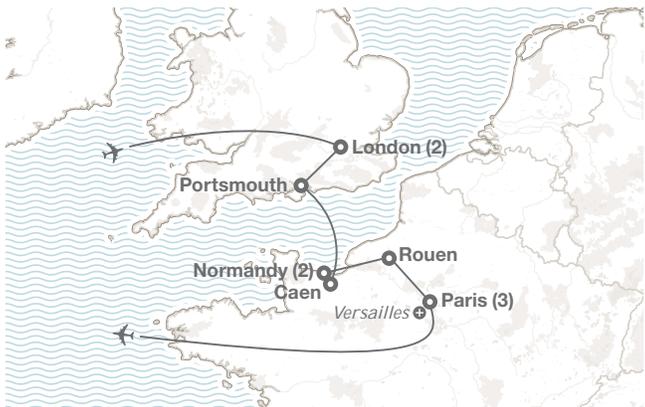
# WWII & THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE

Almost 70 years after V-E Day, the story of the Allied victory in World War II is still being stitched together in classrooms and lecture halls across the country—and the war's European hosts themselves tell the most complete version of all.

Starting in London, itself the victim of heavy Axis bombing, you'll visit all the hallowed battlegrounds and critical sites our forefathers did as you march towards Paris. Go deep into Allied leadership at the still-intact subterranean command center from which Churchill and his advisors "directed the war." Get your bearings in the Map Room, then take the

English Channel by sea and Normandy by foot. Nothing can simulate the experience of wading up to the French shores during Operation Overlord, but the eerie quiet that remains—which seems to echo off the massive cliffs—offers as much insight as the expert there.

Put context to the decisions that turned the war, and see where heroes were made, lost and remembered all at once. With opportunities for reflection (none more sobering than the endless white crosses at the American Cemetery) the whole way, Paris may just feel even more remarkable.



### Day 1: Fly to England

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to London.

### Day 2: London

**Arrive in London:** Welcome to London. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own. Your professor may also use this time to focus on coursework.

**Explore London:** Take in a bit of Europe's largest capital by foot, starting at Trafalgar Square. You'll pass Leicester Square, the center of West End entertainment, and Covent Garden, famous for its markets.

**Fish and chips dinner:** Finish your first day in London with England's most famous dish—fish and chips.

### Day 3: London

**WWII-themed sightseeing tour of London:** With your guide, begin in Grosvenor Square, home to Eisenhower's military headquarters during the war. Continue on through the bright lights of Piccadilly Circus to snap photos of Parliament and London Bridge. Then, pay a visit to St. Paul's Cathedral before witnessing a London tradition—the Changing of the Guard (subject to scheduling).

### Imperial War Museum, Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms

This museum trifecta offers insight into the everyday challenges of modern warfare, the life of Winston Churchill and the workings of Churchill and his cabinet during World War II.

### Day 4: Portsmouth | Day ferry

**Travel to Portsmouth:** Journey to Portsmouth, the only island city in the United Kingdom and the headquarters of the British Navy for 500 years.

**English Channel crossing:** This afternoon, board a ferry headed across the English Channel to Caen, France where you'll spend the night.

### Day 5: Normandy

**Sightseeing tour of the beaches of Normandy:** From Caen, visit the backdrop for the largest seaborne invasion in history. See Omaha Beach, where the worst fighting took place, and continue to Pointe du Hoc, the 320-foot cliff scaled by Allied troops to suppress the German attack. At Arromanches, you'll see another key battleground before visiting the moving Caen Memorial. Complete your tour at the hauntingly serene American Cemetery, where nearly 10,000 American soldiers are buried, their graves marked with endless rows of white crosses.

### Day 6: Rouen | Paris

**Travel via Rouen to Paris:** En route to Paris, behold the wonder of the architecturally breathtaking city of Rouen. You'll step inside the stunning Rouen Cathedral, which was severely damaged by Allied bombs in 1944.

**Explore Paris:** Once you've arrived in Paris, you'll embark on a walking tour of the city's Latin Quarter, which is famously home to the Sorbonne.

**Notre Dame Cathedral:** Admire the stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings of one of the world's most beautiful churches.

### Day 7: Paris

**Sightseeing tour of Paris:** Today, your tour guide introduces you to the treasures of Paris. Begin with the Arc de Triomphe, which in grand fashion pays tribute at once to France's military conquests and its fallen soldiers. Then, travel the path of countless military parades down the elegant Champs-Élysées before a stop at the inimitable Eiffel Tower.

**Shoah Memorial:** Pay a visit to Paris' moving Holocaust museum and memorial, which has earned international renown since its opening in 2005. Among many stirring exhibitions is the Wall of Names, which is cut from stone straight from Jerusalem. Comprised of three separate walls, the piece is inscribed with the names of 76,000 French Holocaust victims. The Memorial is also home to an impressive archive of information on the Holocaust tragedies.

### Day 8: Paris

**Free day in Paris:** Make the city your own during your free time today. You might choose to savor a croissant at a local café, or grab some friends and visit the stately public gardens. With WWII history all around you, in world-class museums and impressive monuments, there's plenty for you to see and do.

📍 **Versailles:** Nobody does decadence like Louis XIV, and there's no better testament to this than Versailles. Under the direction of the Sun King, the château that began as a modest hunting lodge exploded into one of the largest palaces on earth. On your optional excursion to this lavish estate, explore the State Apartments of the king and queen and the magnificent Hall of Mirrors.

### Day 9: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

## INCLUDED ON TOUR:

-  Round-trip flights on major carriers
-  Full-time Tour Director
-  Land and water transportation
-  Hotels with private bathrooms
-  Light breakfast daily; 4 local dinners
-  **Sightseeing tours**  
London; Normandy Beaches; Paris; Rouen
-  **Entrances**  
Imperial War Museum; Cabinet War Rooms; Caen Memorial; Rouen Cathedral; Notre Dame; Shoah Memorial
-  **Optional**  
Versailles

### Additional Information:

This tour can be combined with WWII & the March Across Germany for a 16-day comprehensive examination of WWII from both sides of the battlefield.

Call your Tour Consultant or visit [efcollegestudytours.com/WWXA](http://efcollegestudytours.com/WWXA) to see how to start enhancing.

— the easiest ways to —

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