**Normandia e Bretagna:tra storia e incanto - 8 giorni**

**Normandy and Britain: between history and enchant – 8 days**

**1st Day: Paris**

Arrival in the persuasive French capital. After the accommodation and dinner in hotel, a tour of the city, intriguing and surprising also by night, to the discovery of the beauties of “Le Ville Lumière”.

**2nd Day: Paris – Rouen – Honfleur – Deauville – Caen (299 km)**

Breakfast and departure to **Rouen**, called by Victor Hugo the city of the 100 bell towers, famous by the Duomo of Notre Dame, one of the most beautiful cathedrals of the world. Its peak is the highest in France, the flèche (arrows) has a highness of 151 m. consecrated in the famous paintings of Calude Monet, the façade seems to be lace and the large Gothic naves leave yoy without breath.

**Curiosity**: in this place there is the heart of **Riccardo Cuor di Leone**, the famous English sovereign which has been told in many novels, famous by his crusades and his unscrupulous braveness. In this cradle of impressionism you can’t miss the picturesque houses of wood in the historic center, the Square of the Old Market and the Street Big Ben with the Palace of Justice and the Gros Horloge, one of the most antique clocks of Europe that in the past marked the rhythms of the city.

**Curiosity**: Rouen was the theatre of torture of Giovanna d’Arco, sentenced to the stake in the 1431 year in the Placede VieuxMarché. Here was also born the writer Gustave Flaubert, the father of Madame Bovary.

In the afternoon we proceed to **Honfleur**, a magical maritime village of the Normandy’s coast with Vieux Bassin, the most loveable place: it is in fact the old port surrounded by colored edifices… you will feel like in a postcard. Next we will take a break in Deauville, an elegant seaside location.

**Curiosity**: this small French village has been an abode for famous persons such as Winston Churchill, Coco Chanele and Gustave Flaubert.

In the evening arrival in Caen for dinner and overnight.

**3rd Day: Caen – Bayeux – Mont Saint Michel (150 km)**

Breakfast and visit of **Caen**, the city of the conqueror Guglielmo; it was him together with his wife Matilde, who constructed a lots of abbeys which still today characterize the city, becoming the distinctive symbol. A must visit are: Abbayeaux Dames and Abbayeaux Hommes, the castles of the Dukes of Normandy and the Museum of Normandy, the Museum Belle Arti and the Museum of the Post.

**Curiosity**: the typical dish of the zone is the tasteful “trippa alla Caen”, prepared with bovine entrails, ox feet and dry cider; it takes a very long cooking (almost 15 hours) in the traditional container of terracotta.

We proceed towards **Bayeux**, where it is possible to admire the tapestry of the queen Matilde, which tells the achievements of Guglielmo the conqueror during the win against England. The city, for its geographic position, is a touristic destination for the visit of the landing in Normandy or the D-Day happened on 6th of June 1944 year. From then the 6th of June 1944 year the General De Gaulle made his first speech of the free French soil. In the evening arrival to Mont Saint Michel, dinner and overnight.

**Curiosity**: the Mont-Saint-Michel has the highest tides of continental Europe it is an unforgettable spectacle! The tide arrives to a speed of a galloping horse with the level of the sea in increase of 15 meters between high and low tide. It is highly recommended to check the tide schedules before go in an adventure in the beaches.

**4th Day: Mont-Saint-Michel – Saint Malò – Tregastel- Brest (327 km)**

Breakfast and a visit of **Mont Saint Michel**. On the island, where it is possible to arrive there by land when the tide is low, rises up one splendid monastic complex in gothic style. We proceed towards one of the most loved destinations in Britain: **Saint Malò** an important British port, once “corsair city”, with its castle and boundary walls.

**Curiosity**: it is a homeland of corsairs, marines and legendary explorers such as Jacques Cartier, who has discovered Canada.

During the journey a break in **Tregastel** just to enjoy in the best landscape of Britain: the coast of pink granite. Then we proceed to **Brest** for dinner and overnight.

Brest has suffered from bombarding in the 1944 year, but today definitely is projected to the future, with its imposing constructions like the bridge of Iroise. Straddling the ELorn, this magnificent asartie bridge is a real technological feat.

**5th Day: Brest – Pen Hir – Quimper (140 km)**

Breakfast and departure to the discover of characteristic villages, known for the “**Calvari**”, typical blinkers and symbol of the Bretone’s architecture. On the coast, at **Pen-Hir**, a break to admire the spectacular tableland of rocks overlooking the sea. In the evening arrival to **Quimper**. Dinner and overnight.

**6th Day: Quimper – Concarneau – Carnac – Angers (348 km)**

Breakfast and departure to **Concarneau**, famous for its fortified village or the “Ville Close”, a city closed in between granite walls. Then we proceed towards the biggest megalithic complex in the world the **Carnac**, when we see the Menhir, over 3.000 megalithic blocks planted vertically in the ground and the Dolmen. Then we proceed to **Angers**. Dinner and overnight.

**Curiosity**: the main monument of the city is the Castle of Anger, a residence of the dukes of Angiò . Surrounded by 17 towers, this impressive fortress is hosting one masterpiece: the famous tapestry of the Apocalypse, of today’s medieval biggest tapestry in the world.

**7th Day: Angers – Lyon (606 km)**

Breakfast and departure to Lyon. During the journey a break at **Chenonceaux**, with a visit of the castle of Chenonceau, which still guards the original furniture of the era and splendid Flemish tapestries.

**Curiosity**: the difference in the spelling of the name of the castle and the name of the village, with the elimination of the last “x” in the first one goes back on madame Dupin, one of the last private owners of the castle who during the period of the Revolution, wanted in this way to underline the difference between the two entities.

In the evening arrival at Lyon. Dinner and overnight.

**8th day: Lyon**

Breakfast and a visit of the historic center of **Lyon**. Here we must visit the historic quarts of Fourviere, Vieux Lyon, Croix Rousse and Presqu’ile. Then we proceed to the return in Italy.

**Curiosity**: the **Party of the Lights** in December every year brings thousands of tourists in Lyon. It is one antique habit, from the night of the 8th of December 1852 year, resulting from a vote of Madonna to protect the city from the plague. From then in occasion of the party of Immaculate, the Lyon people decorate their windows with candles and colorful glasses, and the community lightens up all the city’s main monuments.