

# Normandy

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## TRAVEL GUIDE



Oliver's Travels

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YOUR GREAT ESCAPE

History and gastronomy go hand-in-hand in Normandy, making it a great choice if culture and fine dining are what you're looking for in a holiday! There's still plenty on offer besides the food and tales of yesteryear, however – you can take a tour around some of the beautiful inland towns and villages or head to the coast, where you'll find a mixture of wide sandy beaches and rugged, romantic cliffs.

## NORMANDY 101

<b>CURRENCY</b>	EURO	<b>TIME ZONE</b>	GMT +1
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	TWO PIN ROUND	<b>HIGHEST TEMP.</b>	23° C
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	FRENCH	<b>LOWEST TEMP.</b>	2° C
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	112	<b>PEAK SEASON</b>	JUNE- AUG





## TRANSPORT TALK



### BY WHEELS

It's not simply that having a car is by far the easiest way to see Normandy; the region's wonderfully winding coastal and country roads also make driving a joy.



### BY BIKE

With more than 310 miles of cycle paths, pedal-pushing is a memorable way to see Normandy and it's stunning landscape!



### BY TAXI

You'll find taxi services at taxi ranks in and around towns in Normandy, alternatively you can pre book through several taxi companies.



### BY WATER

Cross from Dover to Dunkirk or Calais then drive a couple of hours down the French motorway to reach Normandy. Alternatively sail from Newhaven to Dieppe and save yourself the drive.



### BY AIR

Caen airport has direct flights from Southend and Luton Airport, you can also fly to Dinard with Ryanair. Or, you can fly to Paris from London and take a train the rest of the way.



### BY BUS OR TRAIN

Bear in mind that public transport services in Normandy can be very poor! The trains link major towns and cities but most bus routes do not run between smaller towns. Plan ahead!

# HIDDEN GEMS

## Cap de la Hague

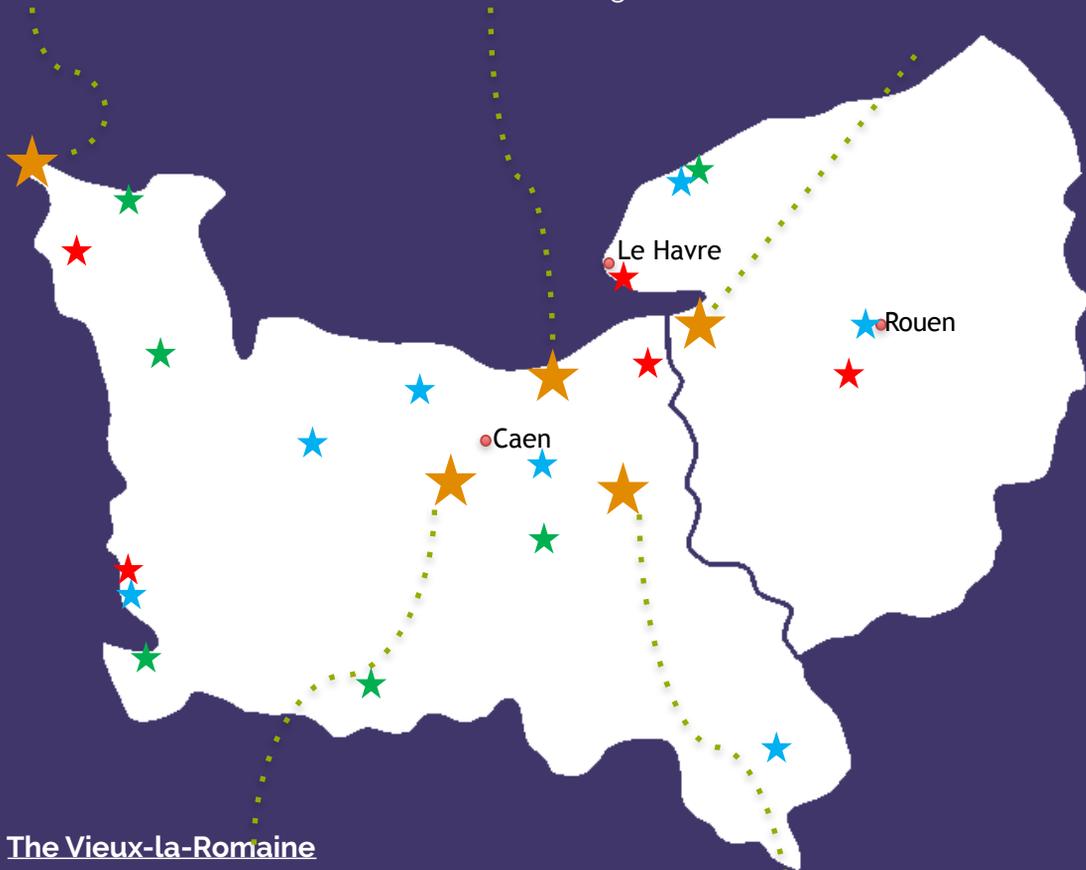
Known locally as '**la petite Irlande**', visitors are spoilt with stunning views and hundreds of miles of tantalising coastal paths.

## Dives-sur-Mer

This seaside city is jam-packed with history, from a medieval market hall to a 13th century church and an ancient coaching inn.

## Honfleur

Discover a picturesque port town, best known for its waterfront houses with slate-covered façades, and the largest and most beautiful wooden church in France.



## The Vieux-la-Romaine

Situated just 15 miles from Caen, this is an archaeological site of the wealthy Roman city of Aregenua. Excavations began in 1697 – 45 years before those at Pompeii – and it is still turning up ancient titbits to this day.

## Château de Crèvecœur

This perfectly-preserved medieval jewel offers 10 centuries of local history. You will find a manor house sitting atop a mount, flanked by a courtyard of half-timbered farm buildings and a chapel; all wrapped in stone walls and surrounded by a moat.

- ★ Hidden Gems
- ★ Picks for Kids
- ★ Best Activities
- ★ Foodie Delights



## TOP PICKS FOR KIDS

### Delve into the Deep



Want something a bit more hands on to engage the whole family? [La Cité de la Mer](#) is a maritime museum with a difference, thanks to the interactive Titanic exhibition and a full-size submarine.



### Get Snap Happy



If water-dwelling creatures will get the kids interested head to [Alligator Bay](#), where you can watch alligators and crocodiles get fed and even get up close and personal with tortoises and snakes!



### Sweet Treats



Normandy has plenty of sweet treats on offer that'll help the kids develop their foodie side. To make a whole day trip out of sampling some of Normandy's delicious treats, head to [Lait Douceur!](#)



### Take to the skies



There's no better way to see the splendour of the spectacular Normandy countryside than from the air! If you're looking for a company to go with, [Montgolfières de Falaise](#) arrange flights across the region



### Play all Day



As well as treetop rope courses, [Woody Park](#) offers an 'Olympiad' of unusual sports, from sumo wrestling in inflatable suits to Gladiators-style joust. . you might even struggle getting the kids out!



### Head into Nature



One of the best ways to get away from it all is by strolling around [Le Parc de Saint Symphorien des Monts](#), full of lovely plants and flowers, lakes, woodland and all kinds of wildlife. And kids will love the pony rides!



# MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR KIDS





## CROWD-PLEASERS: BEST ACTIVITIES

### Set Sail



You could take to the seas and visit the small group of islands known as Chausey they are close to the channel islands but part of France – [Vedette des Îles Chausey](#) runs regular ferries across.



### Tales of Normandy



And while you're exploring the coast, you'll doubtless come across reminders of Normandy's lively history. Take a tour with [the D-Day Historian](#) Paul Woodadge, who will tailor your tour specially to your interests.



### Enjoy the Ride



And if you're up for something that's more on the lazy side! [ByCyclo](#) are based in Rouen and offer electric rickshaw rides around the city, with your guide filling you in on local knowledge!



### Take a Food Tour



Etienne at [La Compagnie des Terroirs](#) will take your off the beaten track to show you the best of the countryside's produce, focusing on cheeses and cider. And better yet the tour will even pick you up!



### Sip Tasty Drinks



Indulge in one of Normandy's foodie treats at [Bénédictine Palais](#). Bénédictine is a prized liqueur made from a special herbal blend, and the palatial castle in which it's distilled is as rewarding for its history.



### Take a Break



And finally, if you want to relax in style head to one of Normandy's rejuvenating spas. [Spa Pom](#) is found in Le Perche Regional Nature Park, so you know that your surroundings are going to be peaceful.



# MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR GROUPS





## BEST FOODIE DELIGHTS



### Wilde Kitchen

Benoîtville's [Wilde Kitchen Cookery School](#) offers courses to help you get to grips with some classic dishes from the area, and takes trips to markets and farms to grab yourself some ingredients.



### Restaurant Gill

[Restaurant Gill](#) in Rouen should be high on your list if you're looking for classic French cookery done exceptionally well, with indulgent seafood and classically refined dishes such as roasted pigeon.



### Christian Drouin

You can get right to the heart of Normandy by indulging in one of its most famous exports – calvados. This apple brandy is one of the region's most prized products. Learn all about it at [Christian Drouin](#).



### Jean-Luc Tartarin

If you're looking for fine dining, you'll want to pay a visit to [Restaurant Jean-Luc Tartarin](#) in Le Havre. It's not only been awarded an impressive two Michelin stars, it's interior is seriously impressive too!



### Dishes to try

Keep your eyes peeled for **Agneau de pré-salé** – lamb reared in Normandy's salt marshes. Or try **Tripes à la mode de Caen**, which is tripe stewed in cider, and representative of the region's culinary style.



### Picorette

For something a bit more rustic, [Picorette](#) in Granville is a fantastic tea shop with a truly dazzling choice of teas, cakes and pastries as well as some more filling choices in the restaurant.



# MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR FOODIES





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Our extensive [blog](#), Oliver's Journal has got tons of information and inspiration on locations across Europe and the Caribbean. It's a one-stop shop for family-friendly holiday fun, the best group activities, foodie finds and a good dose of adventure. If you found this travel guide useful, (we hope you did!), you can find a whole host more on the blog, too!

At Oliver's Travels we don't do ordinary. From [luxury villas in normandy](#) and [large holiday homes in the UK](#), to traditional [Italian villas](#) and [Caribbean villas with private pools](#), we have something for everyone, everywhere.



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