

GRAND ADVENTURE CRUISE - IRELAND, SCOTLAND plus

Elegant & Romantic BRUGGE & Our own Exquisite NORMANDY CASTLE

23 Days \$ 8800 pp Join Greg & Gaye of Finesse Holidays July 27 – Aug 18 2018

Commencing in Paris for our transfer to Normandy, we will have 7 spectacular nights in our own private chateau exploring the Normandy region and of course playing bridge and learning a little as you go. After this adventure we will hop onto our private coach for our 2 hour scenic drive to the fairy-tale medieval town of Brugge for 3 nights. - followed by a British Isles Grand Adventure cruise on the Celebrity Eclipse, which will allow you to explore many parts of the region that you might otherwise never see. Did you know Scotland is surrounded by more than 600 islands and the best way to discover them is on the water? Britain's crumbling castles, rolling countryside and bustling cities date back millennia, making it a great island to explore. From royal palaces, to World Heritage sites, stunning scenic countryside to wild moorland, once you've done this cruise, you'll understand why it's named Great Britain. Main ports of call included are in Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



Included in this Holiday:

- 12 night cruise Amsterdam to Amsterdam includes **taxes** in an **Oceanview Cabin**. Doesn't include gratuities. 5½* Celebrity Eclipse
- 3 nights Brugge 4*.
- 7 nights Private 5* fairy-tale Castle in Normandy.
- All breakfasts, 21 dinners.
- All bridge fees, Workshops.
- All transfers. Doesn't include International flight.
- 4 shore excursions from cruise.
- 5 Land tours with hotels.
- Welcome drinks & Farewell drinks

NORMANDY CHATEAU Bridge Games during the day are usually B4Red while other games are D4Green

July 27	11:00	Transfer time from our hotel to our Normandy Castle visiting Claude Monet's House & Garden along the way.		
	16:00	Bridge Session 1	19:15	Welcome Drinks & Dinner
July 28	10:30	Bridge Session 2	19:15	Dinner
July 29	09:30	Tutorial 1	12:00 Le Mont Saint Michelle Tour	20:00 Bridge 3
July 30	09:30	Tutorial 2	10:30 Guided Tour of Rouen	
July 31	10:00	Bridge Session 4	Teams 15:00	Bridge Session 5 Teams
Aug 01	09:30	Tutorial 3	10:30 Villers Brettoneux Tour	
Aug 02	10:00	Bayeau , Bayeau Tapestry & Normandy Beaches Tour		20:00 Bridge 7
Aug 03	10:00	Depart our hotel for our drive to BRUGGE		

BRUGGE Dinners are at 20:00 Little will be open earlier than this in Belgium.

Aug 03	13:00	Approximate arrival time	16:30	Go for a stroll with Greg & Gaye thru the town
Aug 04	10:00	Tutorial 4 followed by bridge Session 8	15:00	Canal Tour
Aug 05	10:00	Tutorial 5 followed by Bridge Session 9		
Aug 06	10:30	Transfer to Amsterdam for our British Isles cruise		

BRITISH ISLES CRUISE – CELEBRITY ECLIPSE

Aug 06	13:30	Arrival time	17:00	Departure Time
Aug 07	09:30	Bridge Session 11	15:30	Bridge Session 12 (Green)
Aug 08		INVERNESS (No Tour)		
Aug 09	11:00	EDINBURGH (Guided Tour Included – Refer Itinerary)		
Aug 10	09:00	Bridge Session 13 (Green) Short Session		
Aug 11	09:30	Tutorial	10:00	Bridge Session 14 15:30 Bridge Session 15
Aug 12	09:30	Tutorial	BELFAST (No tour included)	
Aug 13	09:00	LIVERPOOL (No tour included)	14:30	Bridge Session 16
Aug 14	10:00	DUBLIN (Guided Tour Included) Refer Itinerary		
Aug 15	09:15	Bridge Session 17	12:30	CORK (Guided Tour Included) Refer Itinerary
Aug 16	11:30	GUERNSEY (Guided Tour Included) Refer Itinerary		
Aug 17	09:30	Tutorial	10:00	Bridge 15:00 Bridge Session 18
Aug 18	09:00	Transfer Time for those travelling to Amsterdam Airport.		

4: NORMANDY PALACE – PRIVATE USE July 27 – Aug 03

From the Norman invasion of England in 1066 to the D-Day landings of 1944, Normandy has long played an outsized role in European history. This rich and often brutal past is brought vividly to life by the spectacular island monastery of Mont St-Michel; the Bayeux Tapestry, world-famous for its cartoon scenes of 11th-century life; and the cemeteries and memorials along the D-Day beaches, places of solemn pilgrimage. Lower-profile charms include a variety of dramatic coastal landscapes, lots of pebbly beaches, some of France's finest museums, quiet pastoral villages and architectural gems ranging from Rouen's medieval old city – home of Monet's favourite cathedral – to the maritime charms of Honfleur to the striking postwar modernism of Le Havre.

One highlight is a visit to Villers Brettoneaux where on April 24 1918 two brigades of the First Australian Imperial Force recaptured the town from the Germans at a cost of 1200 Australian lives – the town has never forgotten the sacrifice. The Australian War Memorial in France is located just outside Villers Brettoneaux and in front of it, is the graves of 770 Australian soldiers.



The estate consists of a 21,500-square-foot (2,000 m²) Chateau, fully renovated in 2014-2016. An 18th-century hunting lodge, fully renovated in 2014-2015. Farm buildings, A walled orchard and a 125-acre (50-hectare) park: woods, ponds, numerous deer, rabbits and birds. Our chateau consists of 16 Bedrooms and Ensuites with an additional 2 Bathrooms for our Bridge play.



Property Features:

Renovated in 2016, the Castle has a spa, a lift, two swimming pool and cinema!

Two years of renovation have made this Chateau its splendor by reinvigorating its historical elements and giving it contemporary comfort and unique assets. The rooms and suites have king size beds and en suite bathrooms paved with Paros marble floor to ceiling. The garden level is an extravagance, with professional demonstration kitchen, swimming pool (10x3 meters), marble jacuzzi, projection room, saunas, underfloor heating. In the park of 50 hectares, a swimming pool of 20x4 meters.



Tours Include: 1) Le Mont Saint Michelle **July 29**



It's one of France's most iconic images: the slender spires, stout ramparts and rocky slopes of Mont St-Michel rising dramatically from the sea – or towering over sands laid bare by the receding tide. Despite huge numbers of tourists, both the abbey and the narrow alleys below still manage to transport visitors back to the Middle Ages. The bay around Mont St-Michel is famed for having Europe's highest tidal variations; the difference between low and high tides – only about six hours apart – can reach an astonishing 15m. The Mont is only completely surrounded by the sea every month or two, when the tidal coefficient is above 100 and high tide is above 14m. Regardless of the time of year, the waters sweep in at an astonishing clip, said to be as fast as a galloping horse. If you have fitness issues you can see the island by “horse & carriage”

4) Guided tour to Rouen. **July 30**



With its soaring Gothic cathedral, beautifully restored medieval quarter, excellent museums and vibrant cultural life, Rouen is one of Normandy's most engaging destinations.

The city has had a turbulent history. It was devastated by fire and plague several times during the Middle Ages, and was occupied by the English during the Hundred Years War. The young French heroine Joan of Arc (Jeanne d'Arc) was tried for heresy and burned at the stake in the central square in 1431. And during WWII, Allied bombing raids laid waste to large parts of the city, especially south of the cathedral.

2) Villers Bretonneux Tour. Aug 01



In the 1930s an impressively towering memorial was established at the top of the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery to honour the Australian soldiers who fell in France in the Great War. The cemetery is located between Villers-Bretonneux and Fouilloy on the hill (belonging to the latter but overlooking the former) from which the famous night attack was launched. Some 16 km east of Amiens and north of the Roman road to St-Quentin, it rises gently to a plateau overlooking Amiens, the Somme valley and the town. The cemetery contains 2,000 graves, of which 779 are Australian. A further ten Australian casualties of the battle are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux Communal Cemetery.

The smaller Crucifix Corner British Military Cemetery just east of the town, in the shadow of a motorway embankment, contains the graves of Australian, British and French metropolitan and colonial troops, the former including many Australians who fell in the area in fighting, which moved further to the east only on 8 August 1918. The victory gained at Villers-Bretonneux on the third anniversary of the Gallipoli landings is yearly commemorated by Australians. In 2008, to mark the ninetieth anniversary, the Australian and New Zealand Anzac Day dawn service was held for the first time on the Fouilloy Hill, as well as the traditional one held on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

2) D-Day Beaches Tour. Aug 02



Code-named 'Operation Overlord', the D-Day landings were the largest seaborne invasion in history. Early on the morning of 6 June 1944, swarms of landing craft – part of an armada of more than 6000 ships and boats – hit the beaches of northern Normandy and tens of thousands of Allied soldiers began pouring onto French soil. The majority of the 135,000 Allied troops who arrived in France that day stormed ashore along 80km of beaches north of Bayeux code-named (from west to east) Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. The landings on D-Day – known as '*Jour J*' in French – were followed by the 76-day Battle of Normandy, during which the Allies suffered 210,000 casualties, including 37,000 troops killed. German casualties are believed to have been around 200,000; another 200,000 German soldiers were taken prisoner. About 14,000 French civilians also died.

3) Bayeux Tapestry. Aug 02



The world's most celebrated embroidery depicts the conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066 from an unashamedly Norman perspective. Commissioned by Bishop Odo of Bayeux, William's half-brother, for the opening of Bayeux' cathedral in 1077, the 68.3m-long cartoon strip tells the dramatic, bloody tale with verve and vividness.

After departing our Villa in Normandy we take a scenic drive to one of our favourite cities.

Brugge in Belgium.

3: BRUGGE – BELGIUM – HOTEL JAN BRITO AUGUST 03 - 06

If you set out to design a fairy-tale medieval town, it would be hard to improve on central Bruges (Brugge in Dutch). Picturesque cobbled lanes and dreamy canals link photogenic market squares lined with soaring towers, historic churches and old whitewashed almshouses. And there's plenty of it. To really enjoy Bruges, you must stay overnight (day trippers miss the fabulous evening floodlighting) and its best to visit midweek.



Nestled in the heart of Bruges is the 16th century, 4-star Hotel Jan Brito, a short stroll from Burg and Market Square. The historic hotel has a peaceful courtyard, a bar with a fireplace, and breakfast is served in the Baroness' former library. The Jan Brito's grand rooms are fitted with air-conditioning, cable TV, en-suite bathrooms and free wifi. Hotel Jan Brito won 2 Haute Grandeur Global Hotel awards 2016, they won Best Family Hotel of Belgium and Historical Hotel of Belgium.

Included: Canal tour and walking tours and bridge with workshops.



2: BRITISH ISLES CRUISE CRUISE - 5½* CELEBRITY ECLIPSE

DAY	DATE	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Monday	Aug 06	Amsterdam		17:00
Tuesday	Aug 07	At Sea		
Wednesday	Aug 08	Inverness, Scotland	07:00	17:00
Thursday	Aug 09	Edinburgh, Scotland	09:00	
Friday	Aug 10	Edinburgh, Scotland		18:00
Saturday	Aug 11	At Sea		
Sunday	Aug 12	Belfast, Northern Ireland	09:30	20:00
Monday	Aug 13	Liverpool, England	07:00	15:30
Tuesday	Aug 14	Dublin, Ireland	05:30	23:59
Wednesday	Aug 15	Cork, Ireland	10:30	18:00
Thursday	Aug 16	Guernsey, Channel Islands	10:30	18:00
Friday	Aug 17	At Sea		
Saturday	Aug 18	Amsterdam	06:00	Disembark



Wednesday Aug 08 INVERNESS - SCOTLAND:-



Inverness is a city on Scotland's northeast coast, where the River Ness meets the Moray Firth. It's the largest city and the cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands. Its Old Town features 19th-century Inverness Cathedral, the mostly 18th-century Old High Church and an indoor Victorian Market selling food, clothing and crafts. The contemporary Inverness Museum and Art Gallery traces local and Highland history.

Thursday Aug 09 EDINBURGH - SCOTLAND: **Guided Tour Included**



As the capital of Scotland, Edinburgh's dramatic architecture, elegant squares, and grand buildings, make this city rich in culture and history. Visit the medieval and reformation-era buildings of the Old Town, or view the world's finest examples of Georgian structures in the New Town. There are several museums to take advantage of, including the five National Galleries that hold seasonal exhibitions, ancient portraits and paintings, and various works of photography. Enjoy a panoramic view of the city on Arthur's Seat, a legendary volcanic formation atop the hills of Holyrood Park. Edinburgh Castle stands as a dominant figure of the city's skyline, and is the Scotland's second most popular landmark.

Sunday Aug 12 BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND -



Belfast is Northern Ireland's capital. It was the birthplace of the RMS Titanic, which famously struck an iceberg and sunk in 1912. This legacy is recalled in the renovated dockyards' Titanic Quarter, which includes the Titanic Belfast, an aluminium-clad museum reminiscent of a ship's hull, as well as shipbuilder Harland & Wolff's Drawing Offices and the Titanic Slipways, which now host open-air concerts.

Monday Aug 13 LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND



Liverpool is a maritime city in northwest England, where the River Mersey meets the Irish Sea. A key trade and migration port from the 18th to the early 20th centuries, it's also, famously, the hometown of The Beatles. Ferries cruise the waterfront, where the iconic mercantile buildings known as the "Three Graces" – Royal Liver Building, Cunard Building and Port of Liverpool Building – stand on the Pier Head.

Tuesday Aug 14 DUBLIN, IRELAND

- Included tour with guide



Dublin, capital of the Republic of Ireland, is on Ireland's east coast at the mouth of the River Liffey. Its historic buildings include Dublin Castle, dating to the 13th century, and imposing St Patrick's Cathedral, founded in 1191. City parks include landscaped St Stephen's Green and huge Phoenix Park, containing Dublin Zoo. The National Museum of Ireland explores Irish heritage and culture.

Wednesday Aug 15 Cork, Ireland

- Guided Tour Included



Cobh serves as the gateway to Cork, which is approximately 15 miles away. There is a train service from the port of Cobh to the center of Cork. Shop for Irish linen, tweeds, hand-knit woolens and Waterford crystal along Patrick Street, or try some Irish soda bread at a local pub. Visit St. Finbarr's Cathedral or the Fota Wildlife Park, located just outside town.

Thursday Aug 16 Guernsey, Channel Islands - Guided Tour Included



St. Peter Port is situated on a hillside overlooking the harbor of the Island of Guernsey. Rows of brightly painted houses, granite stairs and cobbled lanes climb the hill, providing great views of the port and the medieval castle. Visit Victor Hugo's house. The author made this seaport his home for 14 years.

Transfer to Amsterdam Airport:

OPTIONAL EXTRA

Greg & Gaye are flying to Rome hoping on a mini bus or 2 for Private use and driving to a very quaint medieval area of Cortona. We will spend 7 nights here in a 5* Villa & will include all tours and breakfasts dinners, along with the flight and transfers. The price will be approximately \$ 2350. Please enquire if you are interested. We currently have 4 people. The Villa is 10 Bedrooms and magnificent.

8: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS: Recommended Flights Flight details to be adjusted**SYDNEY**

Departs	15:00 (26 th)	SingaporeA	SQ 222,336	Sydney	Arrives 07:30 (+1)	Paris	30 kgs.
Departs	11:15 (18 th)	SingaporeA	SQ 323,241	Amsterdam	Arrives 16:50 (+1)	Sydney	30 kgs

MELBOURNE

Departs	15:40 (26 th)	Singapore	SQ 228,336	Melb	Arrives 07:30 (+1)	Paris	30 kgs.
Departs	11:15 (18 th)	Singapore	SQ 335,207	Amsterdam	Arrives 20:10 (+1)	Melb	30 kgs

BRISBANE

Departs	14:30 (26 th)	Singapore	SQ 236,336	Bris	Arrives 07:30 (+1)	Paris	30kgs.
Departs	11:15 (18 th)	Singapore	SQ 323,265	Amsterdam	Arrives 16:45 (+1)	Bris	30kgs

PERTH

Departs	17:10 (26 th)	Singapore	SQ 214,336	Perth	Arrives 07:30 (+1)	Paris	30 kgs.
Departs	11:15 (18 th)	Singapore	SQ 323,213	Amsterdam	Arrives 12:50 (+1)	Perth	30 kgs

ADELAIDE Stopover in Paris Required

Departs	21:50 (25 th)	Emirates	EK 441,73	Adelaide	Arrives 13:30 (+1)	Paris	30 kgs
Departs	15:20 (18 th)	Emirates	EK 148,440	Amsterdam	Arrives 20:05 (+1)	Adelaide	30 kgs