

Ref : Tour 5

Program : Sword Beach - The Grand Bunker - Pégasus Bridge - Cafe Gondrée - Ranville War Cemetery - Gold Beach - The Artificial harbor of Arromanches (Mulberry B) - The D-day Museum - The German battery of Longues-sur-Mer

Schedules & Pick-up/Drop-off places : Daily departure from your place in Caen & Bayeux

Duration : 8h00

**Rate : From 390€ with entrance fees included for the D-Day museum.**

### **SWORD BEACH**

Sword Beach was one of five beaches in the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944 during the Second World War. This beach was assigned to the Second British Army. It is the only one of the five landing beaches where landed French commandos.

### **THE GRAND BUNKER**

Just only 5 minutes away from Pegasus Bridge, there is a six-storey Grand Bunker observation post that sheltered the former German Army HQ controlling the batteries guarding the Orne Estuary with a real landing craft PA3031 that featured in Steven Spielberg's film, Saving Private Ryan.

### **PEGASUS BRIDGE**

The capture of the River Orne bridge at Ranville and the bridge across the Caen Canal at Bénouville is the most famous mission of the airborne division. In less than ten minutes both bridges had been captured intact. The sea borne reinforcements commanded by Brigadier Lord Lovat, preceded by his bagpiper Bill Millin, were able to cross the waterways to reinforce 6th Airborne Division on the eastern flank. Among these Green Berets, 177 French Commandos commanded by Philip Kieffer.

### **CAFE GONDREE**

Café Gondrée is considered to be the first house liberated in France in WW2. This place contains a café and a small museum shop that sells Pegasus Bridge related material. Arlette Gondrée, who still runs Café Gondrée, was a small child living in the home when it was liberated.

### **RANVILLE WAR CEMETERY**

Ranville was the first village in France to be liberated by Commonwealth soldiers when on the 6th of June members of the 6th Airborne landed by glider and parachute capturing Pegasus and Ranville Bridge as well as the village of Ranville. Many of the Divisions casualties were buried in Ranville War Cemetery and the neighbouring churchyard. The Ranville War Cemetery contains 2,563 burials including Robert Edward Bobby, a 16 years old british soldier and Den Brotheridge, often considered to be the first Allied soldier to be killed in action on D-Day, 6 June 1944

### **GOLD BEACH**

Out of the five designated targets for the Normandy landings, Gold Beach was in the center. The commander of the invasion force for Gold was Lieutenant-General Miles Dempsey and the main assault unit was the British 50th Infantry Division, part of the British 2nd Army. The main regiments used in the attack were the Dorsetshire, Hampshire, East Yorkshire and Devonshire. Along with these regiments was 47th Royal Marine Commandos who were attached to the 50th Division. 24,970 British troops landed on June 6, 1944 at midnight.

#### **THE ARTIFICIAL PORT OF ARROMANCHES (MULBERRY B)**

Located on the Arromanches clifftops, there is a fantastic view on the remnants of the artificial Mulberry B harbor set up by the Allies. You will see a few remains of the artificial port : a floating road, a piece of the unloading platform, pontoons, Phoenix caissons.

#### **THE D-DAY MUSEUM**

This museum goes into fascinating detail about the setting up of the Mulberry Harbour here via displays and animated 3D scale models, together with photographs, film archives and also powerful videos.

#### **THE GERMAN BATTERY OF LONGUES-SUR-MER**

A major constituent of the Atlantic Wall, the Longues-sur-Mer artillery battery includes a firing command post and four casemates, each housing a 150mm artillery piece. Located in the heart of the Allied assault zone, on the top of a cliff overlooking the English Channel, the battery played a strategic role during the Allied Landings on the 6th of June 1944. Some scenes of the movie « The Longest day » were filmed inside the command post. This site is exceptional because this German defense is one of the few remains of the Atlantic Wall still intact. During your tour you will visit the 4 pillboxes -which still house their 6 inch guns- as well as the command post involved in the German counter-offensive.