

Normandy & the Loire Valley



Classic & Contemporary Gardens of Normandy and the Loire Valley September 12 - 23, 2022

Join Thomas Hobbs, Vancouver BC nurseryman, author and garden designer, and Northwest Horticultural Society escort Gillian Mathews as we discover some of France's exceptional gardens in Normandy and the Loire Valley. Begin your journey in the lovely village of Chantilly, a perfect spot from which to drive into the verdant countryside of Normandy, stopping first at Monet's famous gardens of Giverny. Make your home base in Rouen: a delightful Norman town filled with historical half-timbered buildings. Enjoy daily excursions to an array of different gardens and the charming village of Honfleur. You'll also visit the remarkable Mont St Michel, and stay four nights in the Loire Valley, where the kings and queens of France saw fit to build their magnificent chateaux and gardens. And we'll visit the International Garden Festival at the Chateau de Chaumont! Join NHS on this remarkable journey that will be the perfect blend of beautiful gardens, historical highlights, culinary specialties and the French joie de vivre!



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

1 Night Chantilly
4 Nights Rouen
2 Nights Bayeux
4 Nights Tours

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

International Garden Festival, Chateau de Chaumont ♦ Gardens of Chateau de Villandry and Chenonceau ♦ Monet's Gardens, Giverny ♦ Jardin Plume ♦ Wine and cheese tastings, Loire Valley ♦ Honfleur ♦ Mont St Michel ♦ Omaha Beach and American Cemetery

IT'S INCLUDED!

- Travel with Thomas Hobbs and your NHS escort, Gillian Mathews*
- All entrance fees to gardens, chateaux, museums, and all activities listed in itinerary
- Fully guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions Guide
- Wine and cheese tastings
- Historic walks of Rouen, Honfleur, Mont St Michel abbey
- 11 nights of accommodation in superior 3 or 4-star hotels
- Transportation from Chantilly to the Loire Valley via private coach
- All breakfasts plus 13 additional meals
- All gratuities for drivers, guides and all those assisting group activities and meals

TRIP FACTS

12 Days/ 11 Nights

\$4895 per person double occupancy (land only) based on a minimum of 17 guests

\$1195 Single Supplement

Trip officially begins in Chantilly on Sept 12, 2022 (Guests must depart the USA by Sept 11 in order to arrive on Sept 12). Trip ends in the Loire Valley on Sept 23, 2022.

NOT INCLUDED: International airline tickets, airline luggage fees, beverages with meals (other than coffee, tea and water), any meals not mentioned, room/mini-bar service, gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, items of a personal nature and anything not listed in the "It's Included" section above.

WAYS TO SAVE: Earthbound and NHS travel alumni save \$100 per person ♦ Reserve before February 1, 2022 and save \$100 per person ♦ Pay final balance by check and save \$100 per person



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RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS

A \$500 per person deposit (or a deposit transfer) is due at time of sign up. New deposits made after September 1, 2020 are refundable until 100 days prior to departure. Deposits or payments made within 100 days of departure are not refundable. Final payment is due 75 days before departure.

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS...

DAY 0: Sunday, Sept 11 – Depart home country for France

You will need to depart no later than today in order to arrive in France by September 12. The journey begins in Chantilly, conveniently located just 20 minutes north (via taxi) of Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, and about 30 minutes by train from Paris' Gare du Nord (North train station). Home to a lovely chateau and gardens, Chantilly is a convenient and serene place to start this garden tour. If you plan to spend time in Paris pre-tour, simply book a train ticket to Chantilly Gouvieu train station on the afternoon of September 12, and take a 10-minute taxi ride to the hotel from there.

DAY 1: Monday, Sept 12 – Bienvenue à Chantilly!

Our journey officially begins this evening at 6PM for a "Welcome to France" dinner in Chantilly. Early arrivals may wish to visit the Chateau de Chantilly independently.

Overnight: Chantilly

DAY 2: Tuesday, Sept 13 – Giverny, Gardens of the Chateau du Champ de Bataille

We depart this morning for Giverny where you'll have time to wander in the famous gardens of Claude Monet and have an independent lunch in the nearby village. We then head to the Chateau du Champ de Bataille for an afternoon stroll through the gardens designed by Jacques Garcia. Next head to Rouen, your home base for four nights and have an included dinner together. *Overnight: Rouen*



DAY 3: Wednesday, Sept 14 – Rouen Market and the Jardins d'Etréat

Enjoy a guided walking tour in Rouen this morning, with time to wander in the wonderful weekly market where you can grab some lunch, then join the afternoon excursion to the Jardins d'Etréat, designed by Alexandre Grivko, a blend of landscape art and art sculptures, set in a dramatic location overlooking the famous "elephant" rock, sculpted naturally over

centuries by the sea. Enjoy an included dinner this evening. *Overnight: Rouen*



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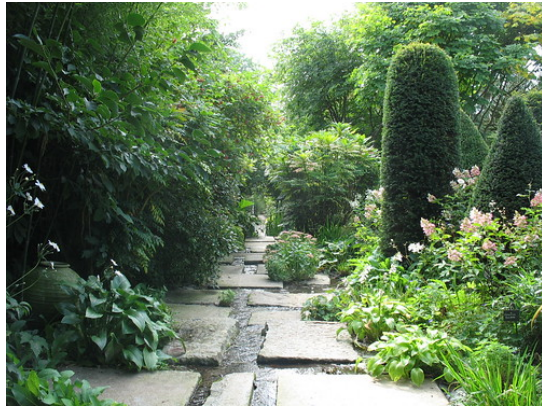
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DAY 4: Thursday, Sept 15 – Gardens of the Chateau de Miromesnil and Bois des Moutiers

We depart today on an all-day excursion to the magnificent Bois des Moutiers, a collaboration of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens. At almost 120 years old, the garden is a superbly maintained, mature landscape. Lunch will be included, and in the afternoon, visit the gardens of the Chateau de Miromesnil, a 16th century castle and walled park with an enclosed classic potager, combining ornamentals, vegetables, fruit



and flowers in the French garden tradition. Return in the late afternoon in time to enjoy an independent evening and dinner. *Overnight: Rouen*



DAY 5: Friday, Sept 16 – Jardin Agapanthe and Jardin Plume

Today we head to the unique Jardin Agapanthe by designer Alexandre Thomas, who calls it his “continually evolving laboratory.” Using decoration, furniture, fountains and animals to bring the garden to life, it’s become a true source of inspiration to all who visit. After lunch, head to Jardin Plume, one of the finest modern private gardens in France today. Designed by the

owners, Patrick and Sylvie Quibell, the garden skillfully combines strong structural elements and naturalistic plantings, to a stunning effect. Return to Rouen for an independent dinner tonight. *Overnight: Rouen*

DAY 6: Saturday, Sept 17 – Honfleur

We make our way to the Norman coast today, stopping for a stroll and lunch in the charming village of Honfleur, birthplace of French composer Erik Satie and oft-painted by artists such as Gustave Courbet, Eugène Boudin and Claude Monet. Enjoy an independent lunch in one of the many eateries here, then drive farther along the coast this afternoon and enjoy a dinner together tonight. *Overnight: Bayeux*



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DAY 7: Sunday, Sept 18 – Chateau de Brecy and Omaha Beach

This morning after breakfast we head to the sumptuous Chateau de Brecy, where we'll be treated to the gardens that date to the 17th century and are thought to have been designed by François Mansart. After free time for lunch, we make our way to the extremely touching American cemetery and visitor center in Colleville-sur-Mer. Its location above Omaha Beach affords the opportunity for a reflective walk along the sand that witnessed the monumental events of June 6, 1944. Return to hotel.



Overnight: Bayeux

DAY 8: Monday, Sept 19 – Mont St Michel to the Loire Valley

Wear your best and most comfortable walking shoes today as you will join the modern pilgrims in the climb up to the abbey of the Mont St Michel this morning. Tour the abbey with a local guide and have time for independent exploration and lunch. Next depart the Mont for the Tours, situated between the Cher and Loire Rivers, where you'll settle in the lovely Chateau Belmont and have an included dinner this evening. *Overnight: Tours, Loire Valley*



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DAY 9: Tuesday, Sept 20 – Chateaux of Villandry and Clos Lucé



Spend the morning in the delightful gardens of Villandry, one of the last chateaux to be built during the Renaissance. Ever since it's construction in 1532, outstanding gardens have embellished the building. Today the gardens of Villandry are organic (since 2009) and a reinvention of the original, from their layout to the choice of vegetables. We'll go to Amboise for lunch together and enjoy a visit to the Clos Lucé, the last home of Leonardo

DaVinci. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon and evening to rest or visit some of the shops or other nearby sights. *Overnight: Tours*

DAY 10: Wednesday, Sept 21 – Chateau of Chenonceau and Wine Tasting

The loveliest and most popular chateau in the Loire, Chenonceau gracefully arcs over the Cher River. Diane de Poitiers, mistress of both the chateau and Henry II, planted extensive flower and vegetable gardens laid out in four triangles on the right-hand side of the castle while Diane's rival and wife of Henri II, Catherine de Medici, created her garden on the left-hand side of the castle. The gardens have much evolved since their 16th century origins, and you'll have plenty of time to visit both the chateau and the grounds. Lunch will be included today, in addition to a wine tasting of the locally-produced wines.

Overnight: Tours

DAY 11: Thursday, Sept 22 – Gardens of Chaumont-sur-Loire

Today is dedicated to a visit of the Chateau of Chaumont and the annual International Garden Festival. Since 1992, the International Garden Festival has been a laboratory for contemporary garden and landscape design worldwide. We'll allow plenty of time to fully explore these gardens that are sure to be a highlight! This afternoon, enjoy a bit of free time before we meet up for our gala farewell dinner. *Overnight: Tours*

DAY 12: Friday, Sept 23 – Tour officially ends

The tour ends today after breakfast. If you have an early flight, we recommend an overnight in Paris on September 23 to ensure an easy connection. Otherwise, there are many trains a day leaving Tours for Paris or Roissy/Charles de Gaulle airport. The journey takes 2-3 hours, depending on the train and connections. *Bon voyage!*



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*- Itinerary Subject to Change -
2 hosts based on a full group of 24 guests-



QUESTIONS & RESERVATIONS

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Info@earthboundexpeditions.com



Carbonfund.org

Proud Partners Since 2008

Environmental Commitment

Through Earthbound's proud partnership with the Carbonfund.org, Earthbound Expeditions makes annual donations so as to help offset a guest's carbon footprint associated with international flights for Earthbound Expeditions tours.

These funds will be used to purchase and retire third-party validated and verified carbon offsets in voluntary carbon offset projects around the world, but these offsets only will neutralize some of our travelers' commercial flight emissions. Earthbound Expeditions makes a donation to the Carbonfund for every sign up.

Learn more about the Carbonfund [here](#).



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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Health Matters: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations, and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. To make the most of your journey and participate in the various planned group activities, you should be able to be on your feet and walk unassisted for two to three hours (often over uneven cobblestones or pathways) with frequent standing. Transportation will be by foot, train and private bus. If you have questions about the physical requirements for your journey, please email or call our travel office.

Concerts, Festivals and Events: If (for any reason) the organizers of a scheduled concert, festival or event cancel or postpone a planned activity with little or no notice, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to secure a similar event or secure another concert(s). Strikes, unscheduled delays, lack of funds and acts of God are beyond the control of Earthbound Expeditions. Cancellation of an event, festival or concert is not cause for refund.

Hosted Journeys: If a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Reservations: A \$500 deposit or deposit transfer is required to secure your space. Please call our travel staff with any questions or to confirm your reservation 800-723-8454.

Terms & Conditions: Please read Earthbound Expeditions full terms and conditions [here](#).

About Earthbound Expeditions: With over 200 tailor-made journeys created, we are proud to be America's premier public radio travel provider. Since 2004, we are honored to have provided 20+ unique, tailor-made classical adventures for travelers to Europe, Africa, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, Cuba, Central, North and South America.



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