



MADETOEXPLORE.EU

THE NORMANDY ROAD

*From Giverny to
Mont-Saint-Michel*

7 stops · ~450 km · by campervan



1

GIVERNY

Eure — Monet's house and gardens

WHAT YOU SEE Claude Monet lived here from 1883 until his death in 1926. His house and gardens, with the water-lily pond, are why people come. The camper parking is in front of the area of museums dedicated to Monet.

BY CAMPERVAN Camper parking at 41 Chemin du Roy, by the Monet museums, with no water or emptying. One listing gives up to 16 places, vehicles of up to 11 m and a stay of at most 24 hours; reviews say many people sleep there. The main car park has a height barrier: enter on the coach side.

GETTING THERE The gardens are a few hundred metres away: one listing says 200 m, another 12 minutes on foot to Monet's house. A safe cycle path leads from here to Vernon.

Giverny → Rouen, 67 km down the Seine · ~1 h by camper.

2

ROUEN

Seine-Maritime — the cathedral city

WHAT YOU SEE Notre-Dame Cathedral, which Monet painted in a series of canvases, dominates the old town. Joan of Arc was tried and burned here, in 1431.

BY CAMPERVAN Camper parking on the Seine quay, at Rue Sainte-Amélie: about 10 places, no services, a little noisy at night (reviews). Alternative: the marina area, in Darse Barillon, with ~20 places, water, emptying and electricity; water and emptying can be used only during the harbour office's opening hours.

GETTING THERE From the Seine quay you reach the centre in ~20 minutes on foot or 8 minutes by bike; bus 11 goes to the centre. From the marina it is 15 minutes by bike.

Rouen → Étretat, 89 km west, then north through the Pays de Caux · ~1½ h by camper.

3

ÉTRETAT

Seine-Maritime — the chalk cliffs

WHAT YOU SEE Chalk cliffs that drop steeply into the Channel, with natural rock arches. They inspired painters and writers, Monet among them. The cliffs are part of the Grand Site Falaises d'Étretat – Côte d'Albâtre.

BY CAMPERVAN The Espace Maupassant area, 73 rue Guy de Maupassant: about 30 places, water and emptying, maximum 72 hours, next to the municipal campsite. Bivouacking on the cliffs is forbidden. If it is full, the Villainville area, 7 km away, has 18 places at opening, to be extended to 39, and a bus to Étretat (line 21).

GETTING THERE From the area the cliffs are ~1.5 km away: 15–20 minutes on foot; a bus stops in front of the area. The Grand Site recommends public transport, bicycle or the GR21 for walks, and on the cliffs you keep to the marked paths, away from the edge.

Étretat → Honfleur, 44 km, across the Seine estuary · ~1 h by camper. You probably cross on the Pont de Normandie, which has a toll: check the rate beforehand.

4

HONFLEUR

Calvados — the old harbour

WHAT YOU SEE An old harbour on the Seine estuary, facing Le Havre; the composer Erik Satie and the humorist Alphonse Allais were born here. A trail of fourteen stops follows fourteen painters, and the church of Sainte-Catherine has two naves roofed with a vault shaped like a ship's hull.

BY CAMPERVAN The municipal area at the Bassin de l'Est (Quai de la Cale): ~230 unmarked places, open all year, with water and emptying. Reviews say the equipment is worn (sockets that do not work, broken water points), and every exit from the car park is final and requires paying the package. Alternative: Camping-Car Park La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur, 3–4 km from Honfleur; the official data are below.

GETTING THERE From the Bassin de l'Est area the old harbour is ~800 m away, 10 minutes on foot. From La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur you reach Honfleur only by bike.

OFFICIAL DATA Camping-Car Park La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur · 54 Route du Banc, 14600 La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur. · read on 6 October 2026

Honfleur → Arromanches, 112 km west, past Caen · ~2 h by camper.

5

ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS*Calvados — the artificial harbour*

WHAT YOU SEE In the bay of Arromanches you can still see the remains of the artificial harbour the Allies built after the landings of June 1944. The circular cinema Arromanches 360 shows films about the Battle of Normandy.

BY CAMPERVAN Area with water and emptying, no electricity, next to the Arromanches 360 cinema: 60 places (Bayeux–Bessin tourist office).

GETTING THERE The cinema is next to the area. From here, Omaha Beach and the American cemetery are ~20 km away; for the rule on sleeping in the area, see Bayeux.

| Arromanches → Bayeux, 11 km.

6

BAYEUX*Calvados — the Tapestry*

WHAT YOU SEE The Bayeux Tapestry, embroidered in the 11th century, tells of the conquest of England by William the Conqueror. Notre-Dame Cathedral, from the 11th–12th centuries, dominates the old town, preserved almost whole. Bayeux is also the natural base for the D-Day beaches of June 1944.

BY CAMPERVAN Two camper car parks, 10 minutes on foot from the centre (tourist office): by the Battle of Normandy Museum (Boulevard Fabian Ware) and Parking Trébucien (Rue Pierre Trébucien: 28 places, vehicles under 8 m). Reviews mention the noise of the ring road. The municipal campsite Bords de l'Aure has 56 places for campers, between 5 April and 2 November.

GETTING THERE The Tapestry, the cathedral and the military cemetery are reached on foot from the car park by the museum. Omaha Beach and the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer are 23 km away: a day trip, not a place to sleep. On the classified Omaha site camping and caravan parking are forbidden; for campers the rule is checked on the spot.

| Bayeux → Mont-Saint-Michel, 127 km south-west: the longest leg of the route · ~2½ h by camper.

7

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL*Manche — the abbey in the bay*

WHAT YOU SEE The Benedictine abbey stands on a rock, 80 m high, in a bay with some of the largest tides in Europe; the Mont has been a UNESCO site since 1979. The village has four museums, among them the Maritime Museum, which explains the tides.

BY CAMPERVAN Camping-Car Park Beauvoir, Route du Mont Saint-Michel, 50170 Beauvoir: 180 large, paved and delimited places. In your navigation, search for Beauvoir (Manche), not Beauvoir-sur-Mer in the Vendée. The official data are below. Alternatives: the Servon area, with 32 places and a view of the Mont, and the official car park P8, reserved for campers and without services; sources do not agree on whether you can sleep there.

GETTING THERE From the area, the operator puts the Mont at 3 km: ~25 minutes by bike on the cycle path along the Couesnon, on foot or by shuttle.

OFFICIAL DATA Camping-Car Park Beauvoir (Mont-Saint-Michel) · Route du Mont Saint-Michel, 50170 Beauvoir. · read on 6 October 2026

| End of the route. The bay has more areas along its shore, at Avranches, Carolles, Granville and Saint-Pair-sur-Mer.

THE ROUTE IN BRIEF

Distance	~450 km, from Giverny to Mont-Saint-Michel
Driving time	~8 h in all, without stops
Recommended length	6–7 days
Stops	7
Countries	FR
Terrain	plain and coast, no mountain passes
Direction	east to west, down the Seine and then along the coast
Best months	May–Jun · Sep

GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Omaha Beach is not a place to sleep: on the classified site, camping and caravan parking are forbidden.

At Giverny, the main car park has a height barrier: enter on the coach side.

At Étretat, bivouacking on the cliffs is forbidden; if the area is full, Villainville, 7 km away, has a bus to Étretat.

A WEEK ON THE ROUTE

Day 1: Giverny in the morning, then 67 km to Rouen.

Day 2: Rouen.

Day 3: Étretat.

Day 4: Honfleur.

Day 5: 112 km to Arromanches, then Bayeux.

Day 6: A trip to Omaha Beach, then 127 km to Mont-Saint-Michel.

Day 7: Mont-Saint-Michel.

In 6 days: Étretat and Honfleur in a single day (44 km).

WHEN TO GO

Ideal: May, June and September.

Possible: March, April, July, August and October. In summer, Étretat, Honfleur and Mont-Saint-Michel are the most crowded.

To avoid: November to February. The campsite in Honfleur is open only from 1 April to 1 October, the one in Bayeux from 5 April to 2 November, and the marina area in Rouen has reduced hours in winter; the area in Honfleur and the car parks in Bayeux run all year.

FRANCE

Motorways: the A13 and the Pont de Normandie are tolled; between stops you can use the departmental roads.

Emission zones: several French cities have low-emission zones and require the Crit'Air sticker, even with a foreign plate; you order it only from the French state's official site, certificat-air.gouv.fr. Check each city's website before you leave to see whether you enter a zone.

The Camping-Car Park network: at Mont-Saint-Michel (Beauvoir) the area is Camping-Car Park, and at Honfleur La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur is the alternative. You enter with an access card or from the app. For stays of up to 5 hours, their official page gives a package with all services; the current rate is there. The other places are municipal, private or car parks.

BY BIKE

Giverny – Vernon: a safe cycle path.

Beauvoir – Mont-Saint-Michel: a path along the Couesnon, ~25 minutes.

Rouen: from the Seine quay to the centre: ~8 minutes.

Can I do the route in the opposite direction?

Yes. The places to sleep do not depend on direction. If you start from Mont-Saint-Michel, the first leg is the longest: ~127 km to Bayeux.

What if the area is full?

At almost every stop there is an alternative: Rouen (the marina area or the quay car park), Étretat (Villainville, 7 km away), Honfleur (La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur, 3–4 km away), Bayeux (the Bords de l’Aure campsite) and Mont-Saint-Michel (Servon or car park P8).

Can I sleep near Omaha Beach?

Not on the classified Omaha site: camping and caravan parking are forbidden there, and for campers the rule is checked. You visit it from Bayeux or Arromanches, 20–23 km away.

Is cycling worth it?

Yes, in three places: from Giverny to Vernon, from Beauvoir to Mont-Saint-Michel and on the Seine quay in Rouen. At Honfleur, the Camping-Car Park area La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur is linked to town only by bike.

Is it a good route with children?

Largely yes: the Butin beach at Honfleur, the beaches and cliff walks at Étretat, the cycle paths at Giverny and Mont-Saint-Michel. On the cliffs you keep to the marked paths, away from the edge.

How current are the details?

The addresses, GPS, pitches and rates of Camping-Car Park (Beauvoir and La Rivière-Saint-Sauveur) were read on their official site on 6 October 2026, dated beside them. The rest comes from documentary sources: tourist offices, municipalities, guides. The rates are dynamic, and pitches, hours and conditions change: check them before you leave.

THE RULE OF THE ROAD

*“A story every few dozen kilometres.
The camper leaves you close to it —
the last kilometre is on foot or by bike.”*

Documentary check: October 2026. Places, hours and conditions change — check them before you leave.