

Northern France Tour April-May 2024

Normandy, Brittany, Paris and the Loire Valley

Versailles, France



Royal Chapel Ceiling, Palace of Versailles



Entrance, Palace of Versailles



Sculpture, Palace of Versailles (Apollo and the Nymphs)



Latona's Fountain, Palace of Versailles



Apollo's Fountain, Palace of Versailles

Chartres, France



Our Lady of Chartres Cathedral



Our Lady of Chartres Cathedral



Exterior Sculptures, Chartres Cathedral



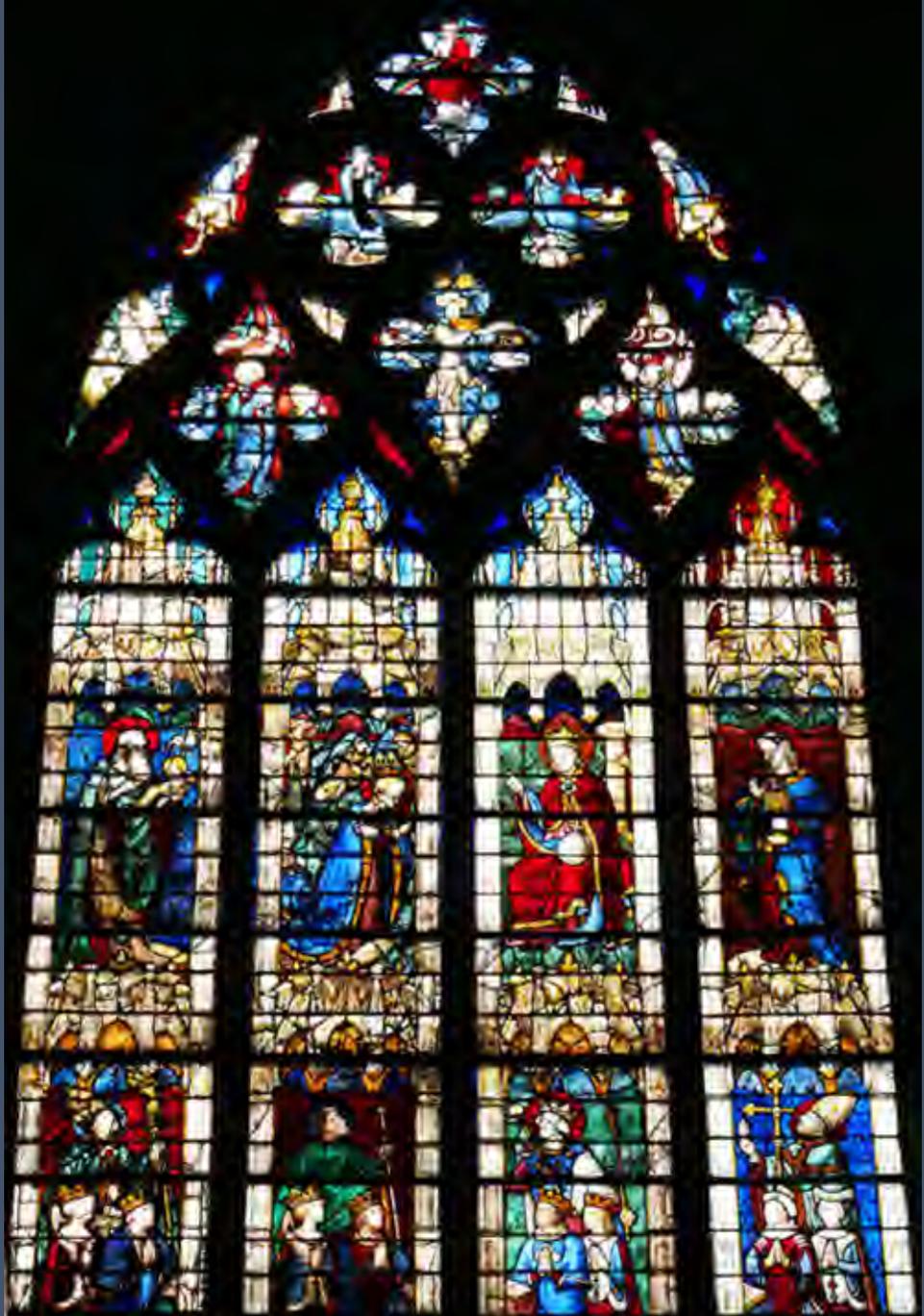
Exterior Sculptures, Chartres Cathedral



Exterior Sculptures, Chartres Cathedral



Exterior Sculptures, Chartres Cathedral



Stained Glass Windows, Chartres Cathedral



Stained Glass Windows, Chartres Cathedral



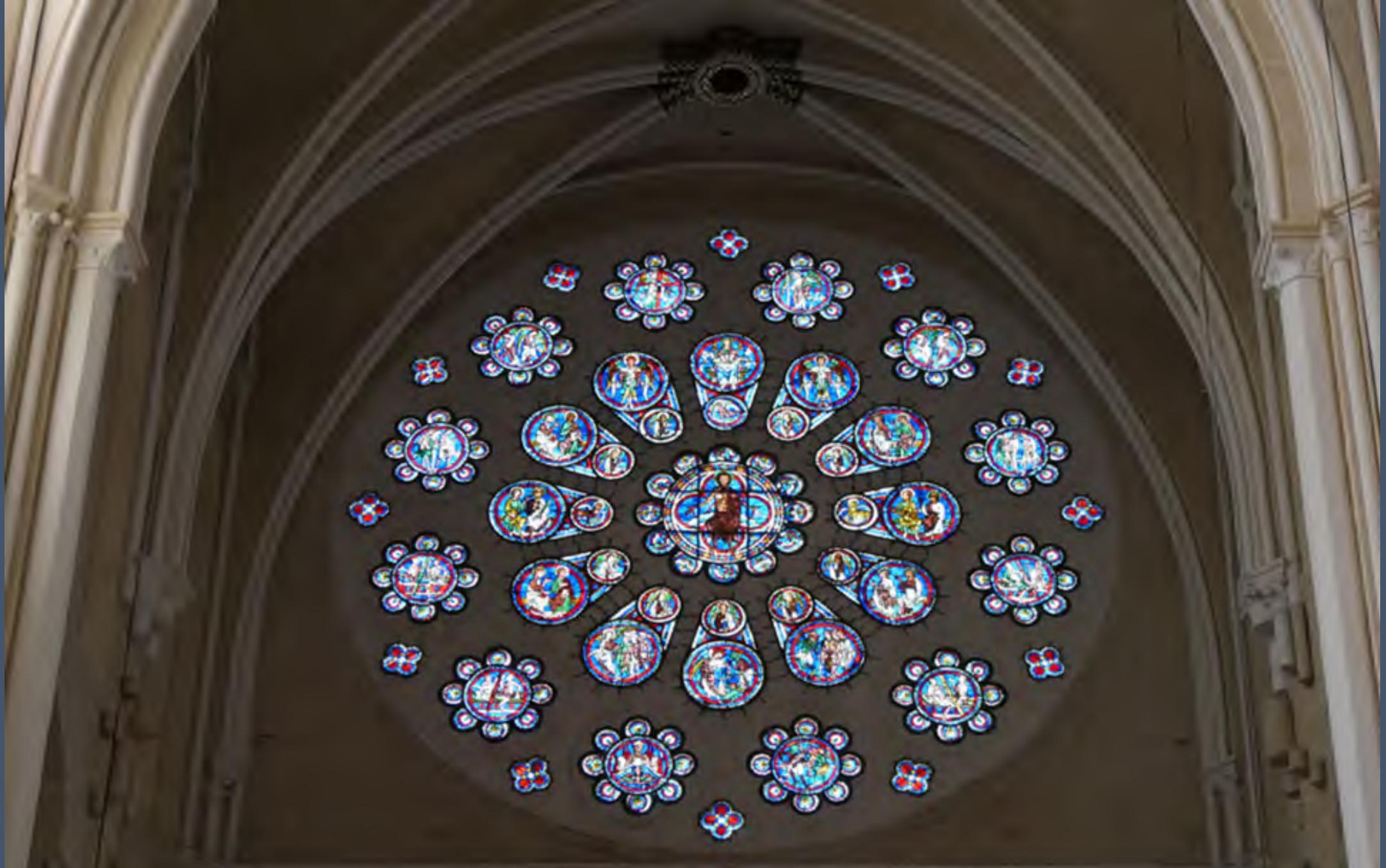
Altar, Our Lady of Chartres Cathedral



Altar, Our Lady of Chartres Cathedral



Interior Sculptures, Chartres Cathedral



Rose Window, Chartres Cathedral



Stained Glass Windows, Chartres Cathedral

French Châteaux and the Loire Valley

Château de Langeais

The château is a 15th-century Gothic castle founded in 992. The now-ruined stone keep is one of the earliest datable examples of a stone keep. After being rebuilt following the Hundred Years' War, it is today one of the best-known examples of late medieval architecture. In December of 1491, the wedding of Charles VIII of France and Anne of Brittany took place at the château.



Entrance Drawbridge



Château de Langeais



Gardens and Medieval Keep, Château de Langeais



Village of Langeais with Église Saint-Laurent



Wedding of Anne of Brittany and Charles VIII



Wedding of Anne of Brittany and Charles VIII



Bridge Over the Loire (Pont de Langeais)



View of Château from Medieval Keep

Château Villandry



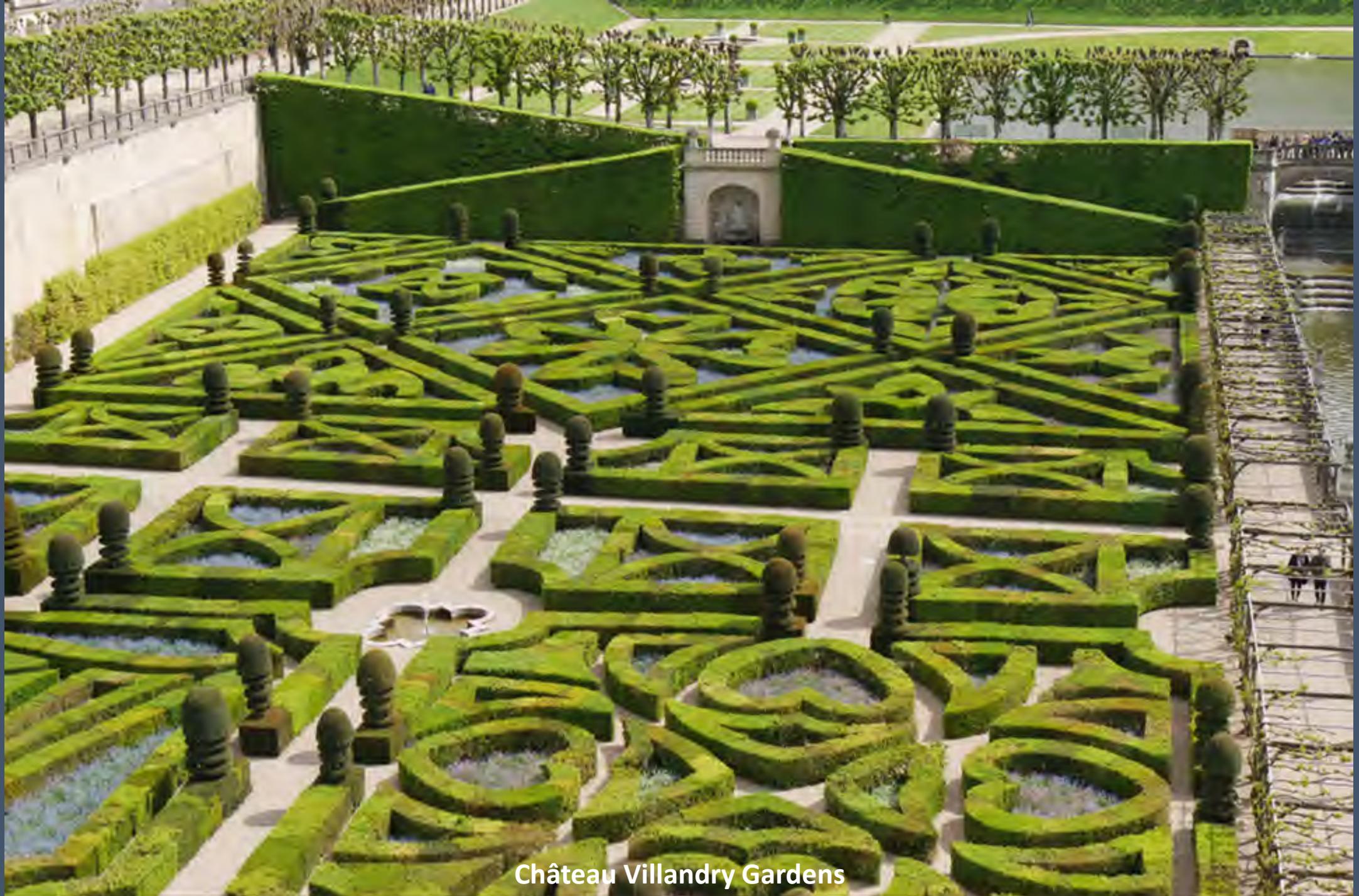
Château Villandry and Gardens



Château Villandry and Gardens



Château Villandry Gardens



Château Villandry Gardens



Église Saint-Étienne de Villandry



Château Villandry and Gardens

Château d'Angers

The Apocalypse Tapestry

The Apocalypse Tapestry was commissioned around 1375 and took 7 years to complete. It originally was 140 m long and 6 m high. Today the surviving part is about 100 m by 4.5 m, displayed since 1954 at the Château d'Angers. The Tapestry depicts the story of the Book of Revelation, describing the battle between Good and Evil.



Chapel of the Château d'Angers



Château d'Angers Gardens



Château d'Angers Gardens



Apocalypse Tapestry: The First Seal - The Victor Riding a White Horse



Apocalypse Tapestry: The Fourth Seal - The Pale Horse and Death



Apocalypse Tapestry: The Second Trumpet: The Shipwreck



Apocalypse Tapestry: Saint Michael Fights the Dragon



Apocalypse Tapestry: The Dragon Fights God's Servants



Apocalypse Tapestry: Quad Panel



Apocalypse Tapestry: Important Figure Seated Under a Canopy



Apocalypse Tapestry: The Fall of Babylon Invaded by Demons



Apocalypse Tapestry: The Frogs



Apocalypse Tapestry: The Beasts Are Cast into the Lake of Fire

Brittany and Normandy

Cairn de Petit Mont

The Cairn de Petit Mont d'Arzon, located at the port of Le Crouesty, is one of the oldest cairns in Brittany, dating back to around 4600 BC. During WWII German troops built a bunker in one corner of the Cairn.



Entrance to the Cairn de Petit Mont



View of Quiberon Bay from the Cairn de Petit Mont



Scenic View of Mané Vihan in Arzon, France (from Cairn of Petit Mont)



The Cairn de Petit Mont, Arzon on the Gulf of Morbihan



Entrance to the Cairn de Petit Mont

The Walled Town of Vannes

Vannes was originally founded by the Romans in 56 B.C.E. as Darioritum. In the 5th century, after the fall of the Roman Empire, Darioritum is replaced by Venetis and a medieval town developed inside the fortified walls. Today, Vannes, is one of Brittany's most captivating medieval towns known for its winding streets, rampart walks, and half-timbered buildings.



Vannes Street Scene



Vannes Street Scene



Clockmaker Sign/Shop, Vannes

PLA
HENR
roi de F



Vannes et Sa Femme Sign



Cathédrale St. Pierre, Vannes



Porte Saint-Vincent, Vannes



Cathédrale St. Pierre, Vannes



Jardin des Remparts, Vannes



Église Saint-Patern, Vannes



Église Saint-Patern, Vannes

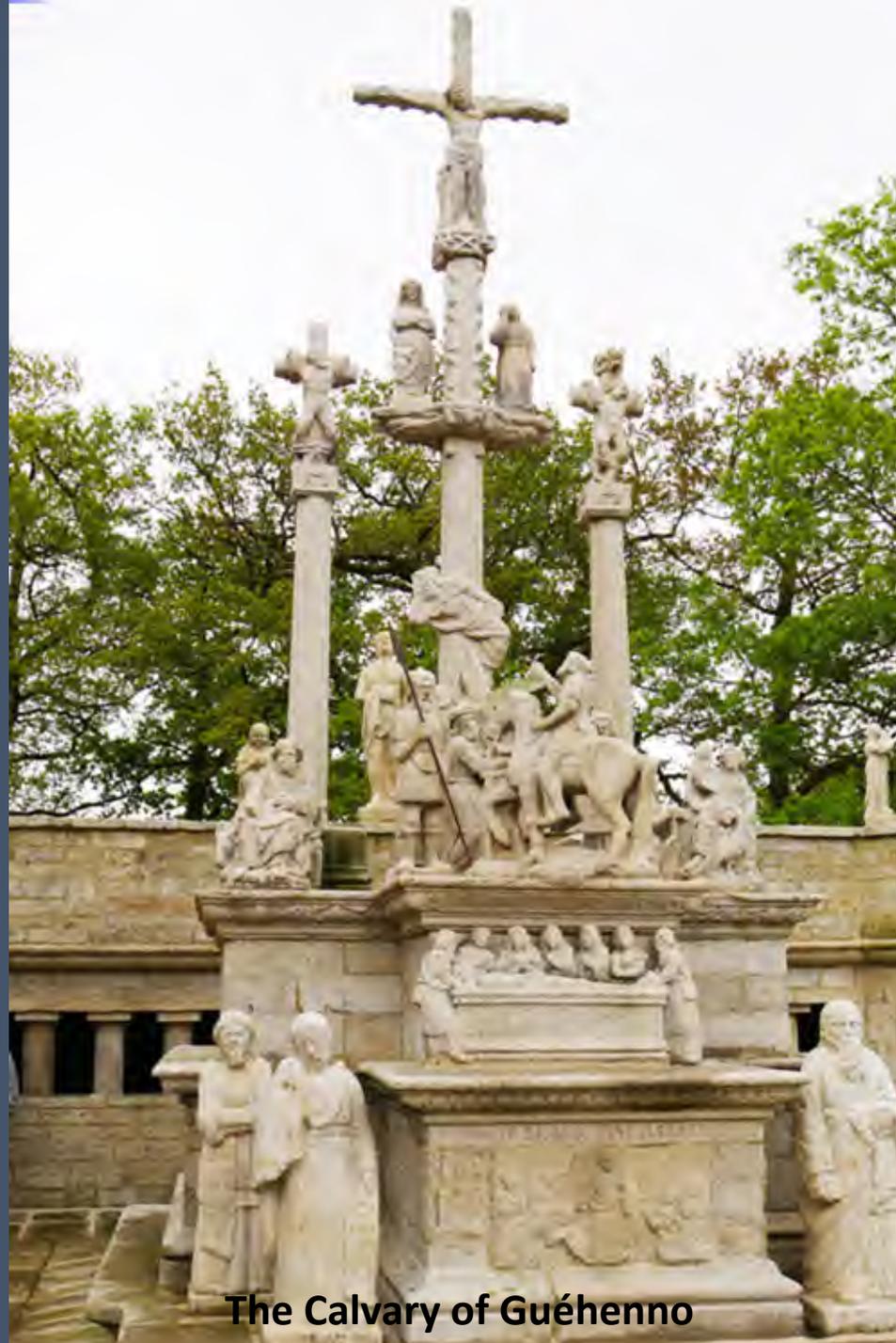


Jardin des Remparts, Vannes

The Calvary of Guéhenno

The Calvary of Guéhenno, dating from 1550, is located in the village of Guéhenno and is considered one of the seven great calvaries of Brittany.

The calvary has three crosses emerging from a large granite pedestal, the central cross being occupied by Jesus Christ whilst the two robbers executed alongside Jesus hang from the two smaller crosses. On each face of the pedestal is a bas-relief depicting a scene from the passion, and a pietà, the Virgin Mary holding the body of Christ which has just been brought down from the cross.



The Calvary of Guéhenno



The Calvary of Guéhenno



The Calvary of Guéhenno, village of Guéhenno, Brittany



The Calvary of Guéhenno, village of Guéhenno, Brittany

Josselin

The Château de Josselin is considered one of the most beautiful castles in Brittany, stronghold of the De Rohan family for over 1,000 years. Today, four of the original nine towers remain after the castle was partially demolished on the order of Cardinal Richelieu in 1692.



Château de Josselin



Château de Josselin



Château de Josselin



The Garden Front of Château de Josselin



Château de Josselin

Basilique Notre Dame du Rancier

Legend says that in 808 a ploughman discovered a statue of the Virgin and attributed his daughter regaining her sight to the Virgin. To celebrate the miracle, a chapel was erected on the site and later developed into a church dating from the 11th century.



Basilique Notre Dame du Rancier, Josselin



Stained Glass Window, Basilique Notre Dame



Altar at Basilique Notre Dame du Roncier

Mont-Saint-Michel is an island set in a bay shared by Normandy and Brittany. In 708, the archangel Michael appeared to St. Aubert, and asked him to build a sanctuary in his name, resulting in the Benedictine Abbey at the top of the Mont.

After the French Revolution, the abbey was abandoned by the monks, and the island was turned into a state prison. In 1863 the prison was closed and the island was opened to the public.

Since 2001 the brothers and sisters of the Monastic Fraternities of Jerusalem have provided a permanent spiritual presence, and today the Abbey remains a renowned center of learning and a destination for vast numbers of pilgrims.



Mont-Saint-Michel



Mont-Saint-Michel



Mont-Saint-Michel



Abbey du Mont-Saint-Michel



Cloister of Mont-Saint-Michel



Cloister of Mont-Saint-Michel



Tower in Mont-Saint-Michel



Staircase to the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel



St. Michel and Bishop Aubert Sculpture, Mont-Saint-Michel



D-Day Academy in Rots, Normandy, is an exhibition of World War II memorabilia in a unique museum setting. The walls are filled with maps, pictures and posters from both sides of the conflict. A historian-guide explains the eclectic collection and encourages visitors to interact with the artifacts.

WW2 Memorabilia, D-Day Academy, Rots, France



WW2 Memorabilia, D-Day Academy, Rots, France



WW2 Memorabilia, D-Day Academy, Rots, France



WW2 Memorabilia, D-Day Academy, Rots, France



WW2 Memorabilia, D-Day Academy, Rots, France



Becky on WW2 Motorcycle, D-Day Academy

D-Day Beaches, Normandy



Artillery Bunker on the Path to Pointe du Hoc, Normandy



Artillery Bunker on the Path to Pointe du Hoc, Normandy



Artillery Bunker on the Path to Pointe du Hoc, Normandy



Artillery Bunker, Pointe du Hoc, Normandy



View from Inside Artillery Bunker at Point du Hoc, Normandy



Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, Normandy



View toward Omaha Beach from Point du Hoc, Normandy



Cliffs and Utah Beach from Point du Hoc, Normandy



Omaha Beach, Normandy



Memorial to the U.S. 29th Div. 116th Inf. Reg. Combat Team, Omaha Beach



Ever Forward

In commemoration of the determined effort by the soldiers of the 29th Division's 116th Infantry Regimental Combat Team who landed the morning of June 6, 1944 on this section of Omaha Beach, known as Exit D-1, to open the Vierville Draw behind you to begin the liberation of Europe.

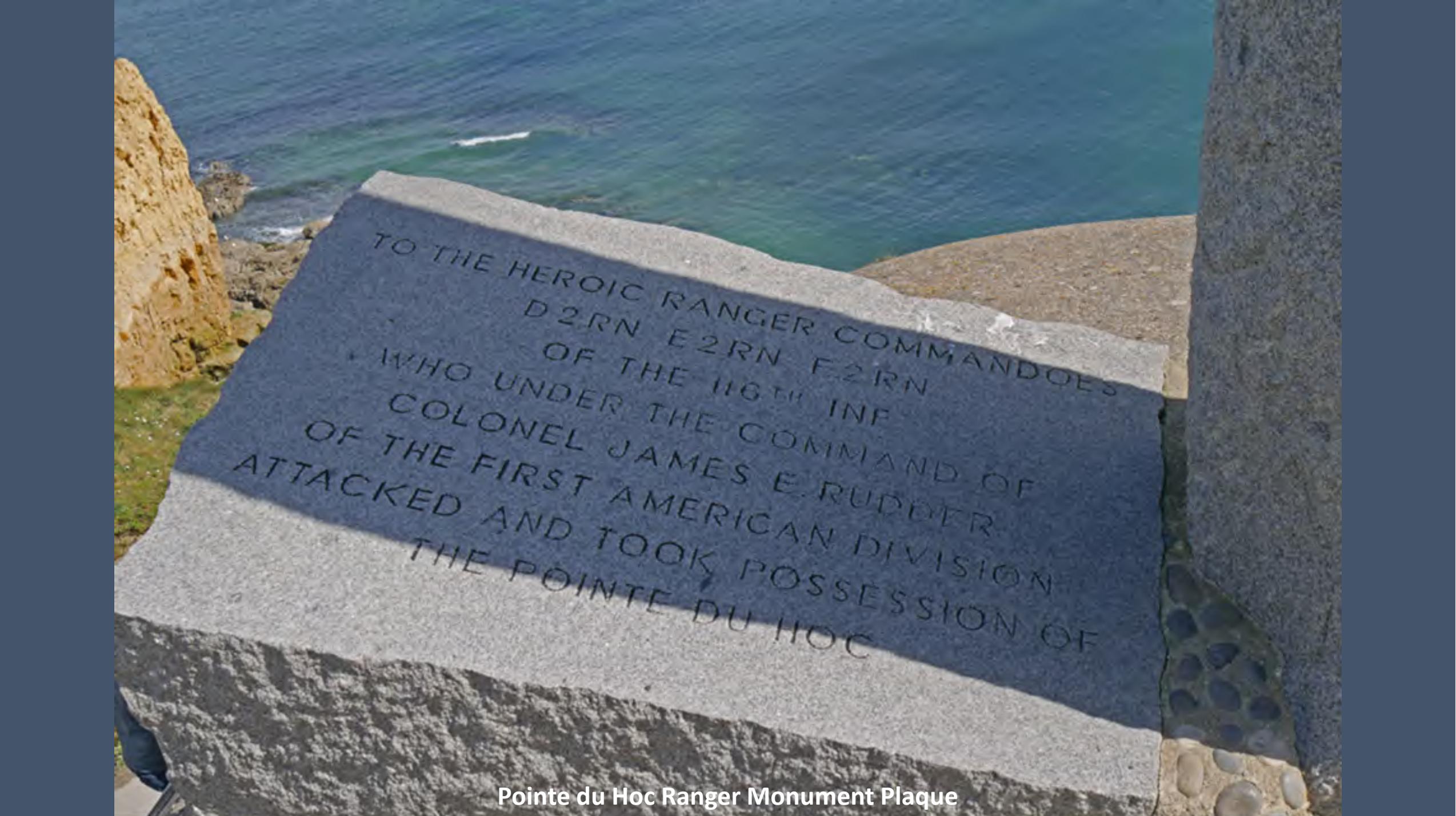


Toujours devant

En mémoire des efforts déterminés des soldats de la 116^{ème} Equipe de Combat du Régiment d'Infanterie de la 29th Division qui ont débarqué le matin du 6 juin 1944 sur cette portion d'Omaha Beach, connue comme la Sortie D-1, pour ouvrir le chemin de Vierville, derrière vous et commencer la libération de l'Europe.



29th Div. Memorial Plaque



TO THE HEROIC RANGER COMMANDOES
D 2RN E 2RN F 2RN
OF THE 116TH INF
WHO UNDER THE COMMAND OF
COLONEL JAMES E. RUDDER
OF THE FIRST AMERICAN DIVISION
ATTACKED AND TOOK POSSESSION OF
THE POINTE DU HOC

Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument Plaque

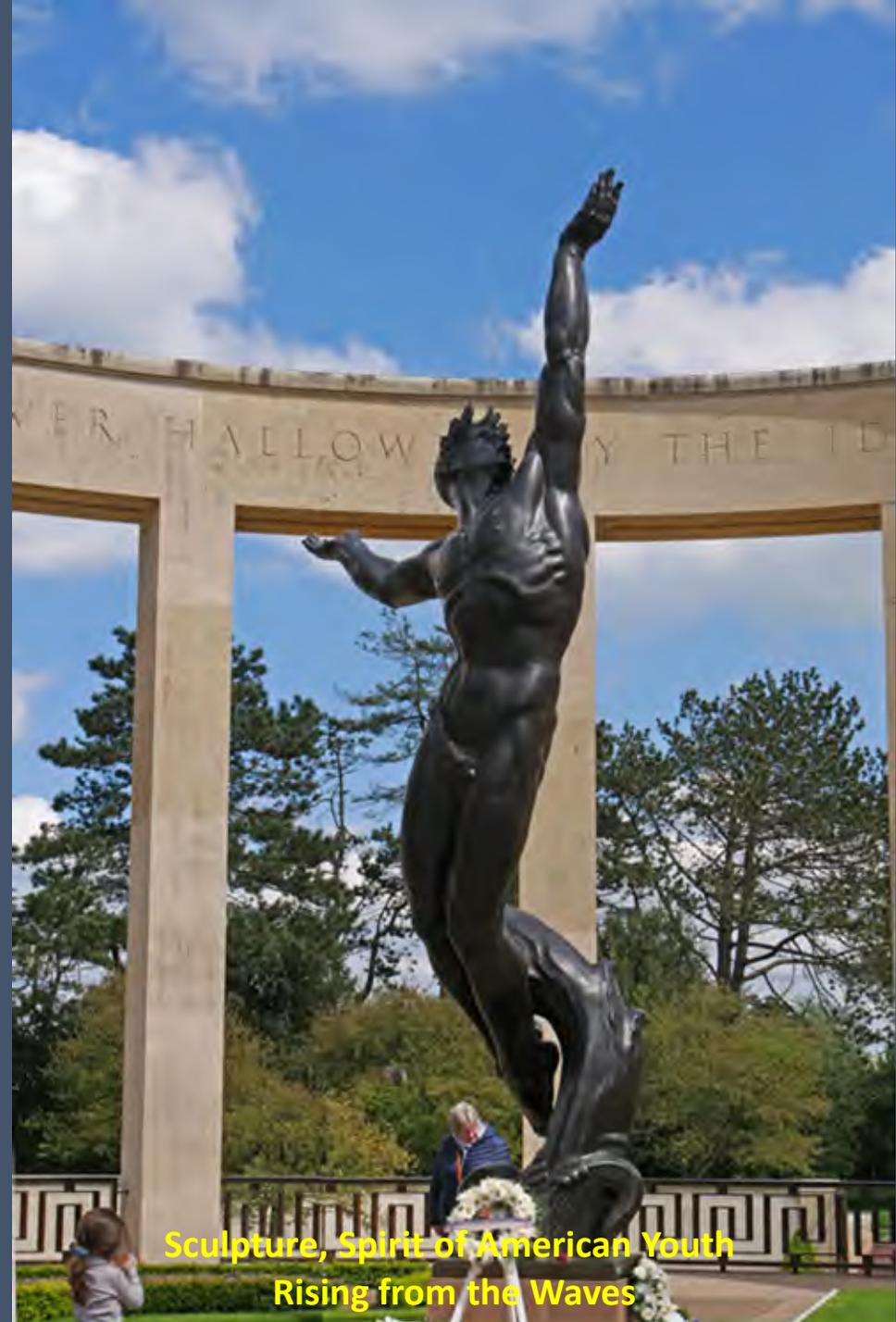


Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument, Normandy

Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial is a World War II cemetery and memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, that honors American troops who died in the Normandy landings and the Battle of Normandy that followed. *[Wikipedia]*

Situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach, the site contains the graves of 9,389 American War Dead, most of whom died during the landings and ensuing operations.



Sculpture, Spirit of American Youth
Rising from the Waves



Reflecting Pool, Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France



Reflecting Pool, Normandy American Cemetery



Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial

Claude Monet's Gardens Giverny, France

Monet's house and gardens in Giverny, France, is the second most visited tourist site in Normandy. The site consists of the home, flower garden and the Japanese-inspired water garden.



Claude Monet's Gardens



Claude Monet's Gardens, Giverny



Claude Monet's Gardens, Giverny



Claude Monet's Gardens, Giverny



Claude Monet's Gardens, Giverny



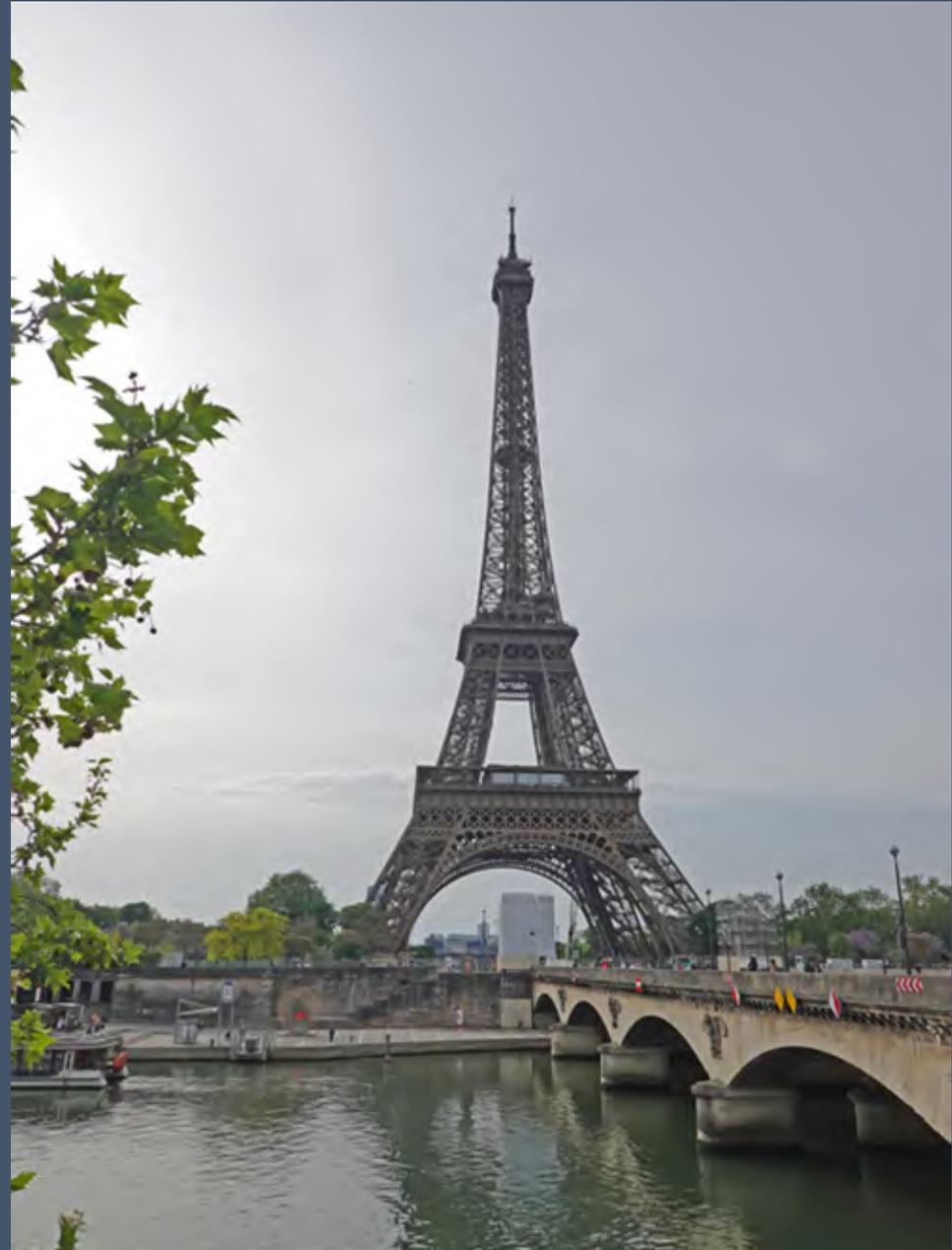
Claude Monet's Gardens



Claude Monet's Gardens

Paris, France

A day to explore Paris, starting with a morning bus tour including several tourist stops (May 1, a holiday, no traffic!!), In the Afternoon, a Metro ride to take a river cruise along the Seine.



Claude Monet's Gardens



L'Arc de Triomphe, Paris



Monsieur Happy at L'Arc de Triomphe, Paris



Façade Detail, L'Arc de Triomphe



Façade Detail, L'Arc de Triomphe



Becky & Jim, Eiffel Tower, Paris



Palais des Tuileries and Jardins des Tuileries, Paris



Pont Alexandre III from the Seine, Paris



Pont Alexandre III Sculpture Detail, from the Seine, Paris



Louvre from the Seine, Paris



Statue (Apollo Riding Pegasus) on Guichets Lesdiguières, Paris



Notre Dame, from the Seine, Paris



Notre Dame, from the Seine, Paris



Notre Dame, from the Seine, Paris



La Tour Eiffel from the Seine, Paris