THE ARTS SOCIETY CRANLEIGH

Presents

HAUTS DE FRANCE

WHAT'S INCLUDED

5 days / 4 nights' duration
Thursday 10th—Monday 14th September 2026
Return executive coach travel from Cranleigh
Return short channel ferry crossings
4 nights half board
4* Aiden T'aim Hotel in Margny les Compiègne

PRICES & SUPPLEMENTS

Minimum 25 persons **£1199pp** two share
Single supplement **£149** (4 nights) - max. 14 rooms
Deposit **£200pp** (non-refundable/ non-transferable)
Balance due in full by the **10.07.26**
**For Insurance policies issued pre 31.12.25*
Optional Travel Insurance ***£44pp** (under 79 yrs)
***£66pp** (80-89yrs), ***£99pp** (90-94yrs)
+ £5pp admin fee (email) or £10pp (posted)
Admin fee applies to each policy

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Historic Arras**
- **Chantilly - Chateau Guided Tour, Condé Museum, Dressage Presentation, Electric Train, Gardens + Lunch**
- **Beauvais + Cathedral of Saint-Pierre, Astronomical Clock**
- **Gerberoy - Beautiful Village**
- **Compiègne + Castle**
- **Pierrefonds—Medieval Village & Castle**
- **Les Hortillonnages Boat Cruise**
- **Amiens – Old Town + Lunch**

HOW TO BOOK

Complete the attached booking form and return with your non-refundable deposit & Insurance premium + handling fee if required to: **Simply Groups, Dalton House, 1 Hawksworth St, Ilkley, LS29 9DU**
Tel: 01943 605999
info@simplygroups.co.uk
Any queries contact Simply Groups as above or email:
Gwen Wright: visits@tasc@gmail.com

Chantilly Chateau

Gerberoy

Pierrefonds

Les Hortillonnages

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Sample Itinerary

Thursday Day 1 – Departing Cranleigh around 7am, a comfort break will be made en route to Dover for the ferry crossing to Calais. Arriving in France we head south, a comfort break will be made in the historic + picturesque City of **Arras** before continuing on to your hotel in **Margny les Compiègne** in Picardy, where dinner is included tonight.

Friday Day 2 – Breakfast included before travelling to **Beauvais**, a grandiose city brimming with culture and character. We begin by visiting the stunning grand **Cathedral of Saint-Pierre,** a one-of-a-kind monument and a masterpiece of Gothic-style art! The 13th-century Gothic choir is the highest in the world, from where you can admire the light streaming through stained-glass windows. It also houses a collection of religious art objects and two astronomical clocks, bearing witness to the historical significance of the cathedral for the town and France as a whole. This masterpiece of accuracy stands inside a 12m high and 6m wide Roman-Byzantine casing and is made of 90,000 mechanical pieces, 52 dials and 68 automatons, all perfectly synchronised. Included is an audio-visual informative display of the **Astronomical Clock,** a fascinating experience.
Afterwards, you can choose either **free time** to explore the town centre or you might choose to visit the adjacent **MUDO-Musée de l'Oise** (free entrance), housed in the former episcopal palace & residence of the bishops of Beauvais, the counts of the city, and peers of France. This beautiful architectural ensemble was built at the foot of Beauvais Cathedral in the 12th century by Henri de France, the king's brother and today houses a fascinating art collection and exhibitions. Lunch can be purchased whilst here before this afternoon's visit to **Gerberoy,** one of the '**140 most beautiful villages in France'**, protected as a classified site. There will be free time to explore this small medieval village lined with timber-framed houses and flower-strewn balconies. Hotel dinner included .

Saturday Day 3 – Breakfast included. Today is a fairly leisurely day, as we begin in **Compiègne** with a little free time to visit the typical **French market** before walking to the **Castle** (entrance included). Built by Louis XV and Louis XVI, and remodelled by both Napoleon I and Napoleon III, the Château de Compiègne was a centre for court life. The originality and beauty of this, the biggest neo-classical palace in France, and the quality of its interior décor and furnishings make for a unique ensemble. Alongside Versailles and Fontainebleau, this historic place is one of the three largest royal and imperial residences in France. Take time afterwards to explore the beautiful 'English style' gardens before free time in the town centre where lunch can be purchased. This afternoon's included excursion is to nearby **Pierrefonds,** with a visit to the picturesque & fairytale-style castle, or you may choose **free time** to relax & explore this village at your leisure. Hotel evening meal included.

Sunday Day 4 – Breakfast included. Today is a full day dedicated to **Chantilly,** beginning with an included **guided tour** of the chateau's **Condé Museum**, which houses France's 2nd largest collection of period paintings after the Louvre. You will also visit the Large Suites, Chapel and the Reading room. **A set lunch** is included in the heart of the chateau in the restaurant under vaulted ceilings of the former kitchens. This afternoon begins with a unique **presentation on dressage** in the Great Stables (subject to schedule). This includes a 30-minute presentation during which you will learn about the techniques and secrets of dressage. You may then choose to **visit the grounds & gardens**, of which there are three. The French-style garden created by André Le Nôtre in the 17th-century, the Anglo-Chinese Garden from the 18th-century and the English Garden from the 19th-century. Today concludes with a **35-minute journey by electric train** with **audio commentary** through the park & estate grounds. Hotel dinner included.

Monday Day 5 – Breakfast included. Retracing our steps, a stop will be made in the historic city of **Amiens**, starting with an included 45-minute **boat cruise** of **Les Hortillonnages** (market gardens). This is a unique network of ancient canals peppered with island gardens, located on the edge of the city. This vast patchwork of market and floral gardens covers 1.6sq miles and is criss-crossed by more than 40 miles of small canals. Walking in to the town centre, you will have the opportunity of visiting the **largest gothic-style cathedral** in France, followed by an **included restaurant lunch** in the **medieval St Leu** district, the oldest part of the city with its many small & colourful houses. Continuing north to Calais for an early evening crossing, you will be returned to your original departure point this evening.

Simply Groups reserve the right to make minor changes to this itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control.
Medium-level walking involved for this itinerary, including multiple stairs, cobbled roads and some steep pathways.

The **4* Aiden by Best Western T'aim Hotel** is situated in Compiègne and has a terrace, a coffee shop/café, a garden and an indoor pool & hammam. Bedrooms are modern with a chic atmosphere and all have showers (no baths). Rooms are air-conditioned and equipped with a desk, armchair, safe, TV, phone, Nespresso & Kettle + hair dryer. *(drinks + tea / coffee after dinners not included)*