

28 February 2025

Dear student

BATTLEFIELD TOUR – NORMANDY, FRANCE 30th March -3rd April 2026

For the purposes of this document Battlefield Tour will be known as 'BFT'.

INTRODUCTION

A small group of students will take part in a BFT of World War 2 sites, centred around the Normandy Invasion, 1944. This will take place 30th March -3rd April 2026.

The purpose of this activity is to give students the opportunity to visit battlefield sites and learn about tactics, strategy and the experiences of soldiers from the period. Activities, events and sites include:

- Commonwealth and American War Grave cemeteries
- Museums
- Battle sites

The tour will be predominantly led by Rob Cooke. **Students** will be expected to research and deliver short talks on given topics. These will take place at relevant points during site visits.

ITINERARY

Timings at the various sites will remain flexible, but the daily start time will be fixed at 0900. The outline itinerary is as follows (this may change):

	AM	PM	Evening
Monday 30 March 26	Travel to accommodation 17 seat minibus Cross-Channel ferry	Arrive accommodation Local acquaint & initial BFT sites	General brief and house rules - Staff
Tuesday 31 March 26	Day 1 The Airborne Drops & German Defences Museums		
Wednesday 1 April 26	Day 2 Planning, Logistics and Seaborne Invasion. Gold & Sword Beaches Museums		
Thursday 2 April 26	Day 3 Point du Hoc Omaha Beach (<i>Saving Private Ryan</i>) Museums		
Friday 3 April 26	Return to CWA 17 seat minibus		

An additional note will be issued a week before we depart, with exact timings.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

To keep costs low, all members of the BFT will be accommodated in a house secured by CWA with ([Booking.com](https://www.booking.com)). The accommodation link is below:

[Accommodation Link](#)

Food is on a self-catering basis. We will be making daily visits to supermarkets for you to make purchases. There will be opportunities to 'eat out' at a restaurant/café at points during the trip.

PASSPORT & MONEY

PASSPORT – Extract from the UK Foreign Office:

To enter France (and all Schengen countries) your passport must:

- have a 'date of issue' less than 10 years before the date you arrive. Passports issued after 1 October 2018 are now valid for only 10 years, but for passports issued before 1 October 2018, extra months may have been added if you renewed a passport early.
- have an 'expiry date' at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave.

MONEY – You must carry enough money to cover the costs of food and any other personal costs.

As a suggestion:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| • Box of cereal & 2 litre of milk | | £4 Total |
| • Packed lunch >£10/ day | | £50 |
| • Evening meal (if eating out) | >£40 without drinks | £160 week |
| • Evening meal (if eating in) | >10 | £40 |

MEDICAL

Students **MUST** be in possession of an in-date Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)-link: <https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>. It is unlikely that students or staff will be required to pay for medical services at a hospital. However, the same may not be true for private medical facilities.

PAYMENTS

The cost of this trip is £450 per student, on a **first come first served** basis. Payments can be made in full or by instalment. Instalments are on or before the following dates:

- Immediate **securing** deposit of £150. This is non-refundable as it pays for the ferries & accommodation.
- Final balance payment of £300 by 31st January 2026.

Included in the price are the visits to the battle sites, entry to museums, accommodation and transport. Food is NOT included in this price.

CANCELLATION

If you are required to remove your name from the trip, after the first payment, you will forfeit your deposit. The only way this can be recovered is by finding a replacement student for the trip. Once their deposit has been received (and required subsequent payments at the time of exchange), then CWA will arrange reimbursement of your payments to the original payment card.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payments can be made via the Online Store once the system is enabled. Look out for **Battlefield Tour – Normandy/France**.

Card payments, only, are accepted. If you experience issues with the payment system, please call Student Services on 01553 815271. If you are paying by instalment, please enter the amount you wish to pay and follow the process on-screen.

CONDITIONS OF THIS TRIP

DISCIPLINE. Trips of this nature do not usually involve disciplinary issues. A full briefing regarding discipline will be provided by staff prior to departure. In addition:

1. All remaining work must be submitted, assessed and graded as complete before departure. **Under no circumstances will students be permitted to attend with outstanding assignments. The academic element of the course must be completed.**
2. Knives, drugs or alcohol related incidents will result in students being sent home (police involvement or not (see note 4, below)).
3. **Students will not be permitted to consume alcohol during this trip.**
4. In the event of a gross disciplinary issue involving the police, and where the individual cannot return with the main group on 3 April 2026, due to police custody reasons, it will be the responsibility of the individual or parent to collect/ pay for the individual's continued accommodation (if the student must remain in country) and return journey.
5. Students refusing to take part in any of the activities will not be entitled to a refund but will be required to travel with the rest of the group on a daily basis. Those individuals will remain in the vicinity of the minibus during visits.
6. Any negligent damage to private property is liable to replacement or repair by the student.
7. Any costs incurred for medical attention will be liable for payment by the individual or parents/guardians at the time of treatment, unless otherwise directed by the medical provider. This may be required over the telephone from the medical centre/ hospital at the time.
8. Any inability to pay for food will result in the parent/guardian providing the payment at the time of the service.

KIT & PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Students are permitted a large bag or suitcase and a daysack (for daily use (packed lunch, waterproof etc)). Provision of personal equipment and food are the responsibility of the individual. Security of personal equipment is the responsibility of each individual.

Kit List

Holdall bag/suitcase

Lunch box

Daysack

Clothing for 5 days

Waterproof jacket*

Waterproof trousers*

Comfortable footwear suitable for an outdoor activity.

Sun hat & gloves

Money for food (Lunch x5, Evening meal x5, Breakfast x4)

Warm jacket/fleece*

Wash kit, towel and personal hygiene (including personal toiletries). Please bring a pack of travel Kleenex for toilet paper – just in case...

Female sanitary items

Knife, fork & spoon (for packed lunch choices)

Sunglasses

Sun cream/block

Relaxed clothing around the house.

Personal comforts

Personal medication

Note. The journey will take approximately 11-12 hours (with 1h 45m ferry crossing). Please ensure you have sufficient comforts for the trip, music, video, books, etc.

*The Normandy Spring weather may be cold or warm. Temps are averagely between 5° and 15°, with appx 9 days of rain in April. The coast will also be windy, so extra care should be taken when preparing personal clothing.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about this trip using the contact details below.

Yours sincerely

Rob Cooke

BFT Trip Organiser

Public and Protective Services

T: 01553 815 765

E: rob.cooke@cwa.ac.uk