



Bandit Masters Golf Trip: Omaha Beach 2012

- Sunday 9th September: fast ferry Portsmouth 15.30hrs – 19.30 Cherbourg.
- Hotel: Hotel Mercure Omaha Beach
- Monday 10th to Thursday 13th: 4 rounds of Golf.
- Friday 14th September: fast ferry Caen 12.15hrs – 14.45 Portsmouth.
- Luddy is unlikely to retain the wooden putter.

Monday & Thursday 11.00: Golf de Omaha Beach

This 3 times 9 hole golfing complex is close to Normandy's famous World War 2 landing beaches, west of Caen and is close to Bayeaux.

The three nines are very different with some splendid views. A Sea course, an Orchard Course, and a Pond course. Combine any 2 for a contrasting round. Start the day with the challenging 18 hole Scottish style links, then continue with a round on the American style 9 hole course. Definitely one of the most rewarding courses in the area. To the left of the clubhouse is hole 9 of "The Pond" course. Just in front of the swimming pool of the Mercure Hotel is the green of hole 9 of "The Sea" course. When teeing off there is water and the fairways of holes 5, 6 and 7 may be seen. Hole 8 is a very beautiful par 3 with many bunkers. Signature Hole: 6th hole, par 4. A tricky dogleg right with large bunkers on both sides of the fairway. This hole is sure to tease all golfers. The green is right on the cliff edge with some spectacular views over the Mulberry Harbour and the D-day Landing Beaches.



The Omaha Beach Golf Club is set in a magnificent setting overlooking the D-Day beaches, close to the Normandy American Cemetery where almost 10,000 American casualties are at the rest, and close to the charming Bayeux and the "artificial Port" at Arromanches. A few of the scenes of Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" were filmed on the golf course which was liberated by the American 1st Division. on June 7, 1944.

Tuesday 11.00: Golf de Caen

Just a few miles outside the centre of Caen this 27 hole course benefits from wooded valleys and open fairways. Good holiday golf. Some interesting challenges, mixed in with other straightforward holes. Not a manicured course, like Deauville for instance, but the greens are good. A public course - way, way better than most in the U.K.



Wednesday 11.00: Golf de Garcelles

Created in 1989, the sublime Garcelles golf course opened its excellent 18 holes in 2001, with nine new holes designed by Yves Bureau. Six holes were built through the woods giving the course a new look. On the front nine the fairways are wide and long but the vegetation gives it a real relief. The variety enables you to avoid monotony and to alternate power & technique, but after that one should then put the driver away and keep with the irons and the putter. The greens at Garcelles are often on high plateaus, Yves Bureau who altered most of this course embellished it with several water hazards and plenty of wooded areas as a trap. However for quite long and narrow par 4s, they do not offer much club choice, the 12th, 13th, 16th & 18th par 5s are all fearsome - with very narrow fairways that you either have to go in or get out of. The end of the course is beautiful with bug trees and splendid views. As the course is a par 70, players of all levels are welcome at Garcelles. The course is neither physical nor tiring. A lot of golfers start at Garcelles with its superb practice range and its compact six holes.



Maps & Distances



Hotel Mercure Omaha Beach

Chemin du Colombier
14520 - PORT EN BESSIN
FRANCE

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Typical Trip Advisor Review:

This was our fourth stay at this hotel, again booked as part of a deal with Brittany Ferries and overall we had a

similar experience to our other visits in that it proved a comfortable base for exploring Normandy. We again found the staff to be polite, helpful and friendly.



This year, our first floor rooms overlooked the pool and were nicely decorated, with free Wi-Fi, flat screen TV, hot beverage facilities, air con. and mini-bar (pay). There were adequate storage options and the bed was nice and firm. There was a separate bath/shower room and a small external balcony with chairs and a table.

The first floor breakfast room benefitted from any early morning sun and the buffet style breakfasts gave a reasonable choice of food. We did use the hotel restaurant one evening and the food, drink and service were all of good quality and the price fairly reasonable too.

Once again the hotel and Port-en-Bessin (around a mile away) provided the ideal base for our holiday and when we return to the area we will certainly consider staying here again.