

REMEMBRANCE DAY CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD TOUR

FRANCE & BELGIUM

NOVEMBER 5-16, 2021 (12 DAYS)

www.LiberationTours.ca



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THE CANADIAN LEGACY



2021 Remembrance Day Canadian Battlefield Tour November 11th at Vimy Ridge

November 11, 1918 at 11:00 in the morning. The eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month. So came to an end "the war to end all wars." The guns finally fell silent, bringing to a close four long years of unspeakable conflict. The Canadians will suffer gas attacks, infested trenches, misery. Yet through it all the Canadian Expeditionary Force will prove to be *the* fighting force which will win them the nickname *shock troops* as they earn important victories at Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens and more. Canada will earn its place as a signatory to the Treaty of Versailles - it is the "Birth of a Nation."

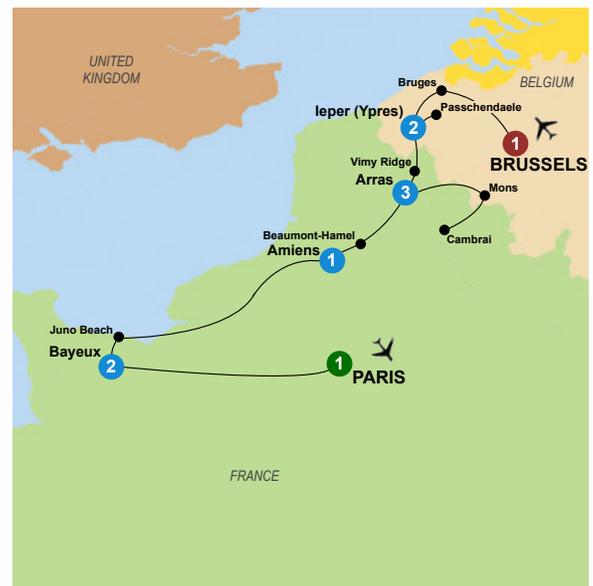
Your pilgrimage begins in Paris, extends to the Normandy coast for a special visit to Juno Beach, and then moves back in time to visit all fourteen of Canada's Great War monuments in France and Belgium - including the "Trail of the Caribou."

Travelers will observe Remembrance Day at Vimy Ridge on November 11th.

You will be part of a typically all-Canadian group, usually an even mixture of men and women. Come to northern France for a truly special Remembrance Day experience, on the 103rd anniversary of the Armistice.



November 5-16, 2021
Twelve Inspiring Days



- Vimy Ridge on Remembrance Day
- All 9 of Canada's Great War Memorials
- All 5 of Newfoundland's Great War Memorials (the "Trail of the Caribou")
- Monument to Canadian Private George Lawrence Price, the last soldier of the British Empire to die in WWI
- St. Symphorien Cemetery, Mons, the burial location of the first and last soldiers to die in WWI
- Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres
- Juno Beach & the Ardennes Abbey





Itinerary

Day 1 - Friday November 5

Depart from Canada for your overnight transatlantic flight to Paris, except for those who may choose to depart sooner to extend their trip.

Day 2 - Saturday November 6

Arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport, proceed to downtown Paris to drop baggage; free day to explore Paris; evening Welcome Dinner in the heart of the city, to share a glass of wine and set the stage for our special journey. Overnight Paris. [D]

Day 3 - Sunday November 7

Morning departure for the Normandy coast to consider WW2 and pre- D-Day, featuring a visit to the fascinating German defensive position at Merville Battery; group lunch with wine followed by a private tour of Chateau de Creully. Overnight Bayeux. [B,L]

Day 4 - Monday November 8

We walk the sands of Juno Beach at Courseulles-sur-Mer, with story telling and much reflection; tour inside the Juno Beach Centre; lunch in Courseulles, then to eastern sectors of Juno to hear the stories of the Canadians at Bernières-sur-Mer and Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, including a special stop to see the iconic "Canada House;" Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. Overnight Bayeux. [B,L]

Day 5 - Tuesday November 9

Visit the garden at Ardennes Abbey near Caen, where Canadian soldiers were illegally executed in the few days following the D-Day landings; travel up the coast to historic Honfleur for lunch at leisure, following which we say goodbye to Normandy and continue our journey northeast into France as we move back in time to World War One. Overnight Amiens. [B,L]

Day 6 - Wednesday November 10

We venture into the countryside to consider the Battle of the Somme, first at Beaumont-Hamel where the Newfoundland Regiment was nearly wiped out in the first few hours of the attack; pause for lunch in the midst of the Somme battlefield region; see the impressive Thiepval Memorial, the largest Commonwealth war memorial in the world; also visit the Canadian WW1 memorials at Le Quesnel and Courcellette, and the Newfoundland memorial at Gueudecourt; visit Lochnagar Crater. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

Day 7 - Thursday November 11

Remembrance Day - stand on Vimy Ridge with fellow Canadians from across the country; points of interest near Souchez along with a delicious lunch with wine; visit the new Hill 70 Memorial in Loos-en-Gohelle, which marks Canada's 'forgotten victory' of 1917. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

Day 8 - Friday November 12

Continue our exploration of the WW1 memorials in the French countryside, learning the importance of the battles involving Canada and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at Masnières and Monchy-le-Preux, and at Bourlon Wood and Dury, where Canada once again distinguished itself and individual acts of bravery earned numerous Victoria Crosses; mid-day group lunch in historic Cambrai. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

Day 9 - Saturday November 13

Drive north across the border into Belgium, visit new monument to Canadian George Lawrence Price ... the last soldier of the British Empire to die in The Great War; time for lunch in the beautiful city of Mons; visit St. Symphorien Cemetery, the burial location of the first (John Henry Parr, Britain) and last (George Lawrence Price, Canada) soldiers to die in WW1. Overnight Ieper. [B,L]

Day 10 - Sunday November 14

Tour the Ypres Salient with visits to the battlefields and CEF memorials at Passchendaele (Crest Farm), St. Julien (The Brooding Soldier) and Hill 62; visits to Essex Farm, Tyne Cot Cemetery and more; free time in Ieper in the afternoon; Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Overnight Ieper. [B,L]

Day 11 - Monday November 15

Visit the beautiful town of Bruges, often called the 'Venice of the North.' Farewell lunch along the way. Overnight Brussels. [B,L]

Day 12 - Tuesday November 16

Return flight from Brussels, except for those who may choose to extend their stay. [B]

Itinerary is tentative at this time and subject to change. Final details to be published in summer '20.



Reg. No. 2780622

complete details & pricing at
www.liberationtours.ca



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The Tour.

Vimy Ridge

The ground that could not be taken and held ... until the Canadians came. It was the first time all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force fought together, and their success of April 1917 resonates still to this day. See what many consider the most beautiful of all the war monuments, including a must-see guided tour of the tunnels.



Passchendaele

It's been called the ugliest fight of both World Wars. It's October 1917 and the Canadians will suffer gas attacks, infested trenches, misery. And yet they will once again prevail. What was then a barren, muddy landscape is now a quiet, lovely countryside. You'll see where they fought, and where John McCrae wrote his famous poem.



Beaumont-Hamel

Many Canadians don't know the name but Beaumont-Hamel is forever etched into the memory of Newfoundlanders. It was here in July 1916 that a thousand soldiers climbed up out of the trenches and into the gunfire, and were almost completely wiped out. They are the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and their battleground is renowned as one of the best preserved WWI sites in all of France.



Juno Beach

Stand on the very shore where Canadians stormed the beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Learn how the Canadians made it further inland than any other allied force. Your visit includes a guided tour of the beaches and a tour of the Juno Beach Centre.



What our Clients Say ...

"We were amazed. This was the most seamless and well planned trip we have been on. The places we visited can only be called awesome. John & Phil were amazing, and the others on the tour awesome as well. Thanks for all the hard work that goes into making things so smooth - met some new friends and had an amazing time."
-Brent & Laurie Schick, Regina SK

"After considering a battlefield tour for years I was delighted to find one focused on the Canadian experience. Liberation Tours are great people who definitely know their Canadian military history. Wonderful to visit so many places that I had read about for years."
-Jeremy Lammi (M.A. Military History), Coaldale AB

"This tour is a must. It is both awe-inspiring and humbling. Well planned and laid out by two men who are not only knowledgeable but passionate about the experience they are delivering. It included many sites that were significant, but off the beaten path and known only to those who were students of the conflict and the areas. A once-in-a-lifetime experience!"
-Randy & Marilyn Kilpatrick, Winnipeg MB

"Phil and John make great efforts to fulfill each person's requests to give them the best experience possible. They located my uncle's grave and took me there and also researched records on how he was killed. For me it was a quest to do this and they made it happen. They truly care about each person's interests!"
-Daniel Rankin, Burlington ON

The Trip.

Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries

The war cemeteries of Europe, from both the First and Second World Wars, are places of peace and respect. They are immaculately maintained by CWGC staff around the world, with a majority of those cemeteries in northern France and Belgium.



Ieper (Ypres)

Ypres was completely destroyed during WWI, but the citizens of Ypres rebuilt their proud town brick by brick. Enjoy a little shopping and a lot of great food, or perhaps a walk along the old city ramparts and cobblestone streets. Here you'll often cross paths with other battlefield tourists from Canada, the USA and Great Britain.



Holten

Want to feel great Canadian pride? There can be no better place than Holland. The Canadian army were the primary liberators of this small nation in WWII and citizens of Canada are always greeted with immense warmth.



Your guide will be Liberation Tours' lead historian **Phil Craig**, Professional Actor and Co-Founder of the Georgina Military Museum.



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Included in your Package

- Ten nights accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in Trafalgar First Class Hotels (*European standards*)
- Premium airport departure lounge at the start of the tour for those booked on the group flight via Toronto
... an exclusive benefit not offered by other battlefield tours
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with reclining seats, on-board facilities and free mobile Wi-Fi
- Buffet breakfast (cold and/or hot) at the hotel each morning, plus selected lunches & dinners as outlined in the itinerary
- All hotel service charges, local taxes, baggage handling of one bag per person, plus entry fees to sites included in the itinerary
- Gratuities to Coach Driver, Trafalgar Agent and Local Guides **included!**
(important note: these costs are extra on most other tours and can add up to \$150 CAD or more at the end of your trip, be sure to compare!)
- Group pick-up from Charles de Gaulle Airport on November 6, 2021 and group flight drop-off to Brussels Airport on November 16, 2021
(all non-group flight travelers are responsible for their own airport transfers)

Excluded

- Airfare: optional group air booking available
- Meals other than stated on the itinerary
- Travel / Cancellation / Medical Insurance
- Passport & related fees
- Any optional excursion not specifically stated
- Items of a personal nature

Notations

- Hotels have been pre-booked but are subject to change
- This tour requires a minimum of 20 passengers to operate
- Non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person due with booking
- Balance of payment due no later than August 5, 2021
- **All deposits & payments are non-refundable.**
- Read Liberation Tours' Terms & Conditions from prior to booking



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Ground Travel Handled By

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pricing available on our website:

www.LiberationTours.ca



Terms & Conditions

- 1. Deposits & Final Payments:** A Deposit is required at the time of booking in order to secure a place on the trip. A Final Payment is required on or before the final payment deadline to ensure your place on the trip is fully vested. Deposits and Final Payments, once paid, are non-refundable.
- 2. Insurance:** In consideration of No.1 above Liberation Tours strongly recommends the purchase of Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance, plus out-of-country medical coverage, etc. You can obtain a quote from Manulife Insurance via our booking agent, or from Sanderson Insurance via our website, or from your favourite local travel or insurance agent. You could also check your credit card provider in case you have coverage by purchasing your trip on your credit card.
- 3. Itinerary:** Every effort is made to deliver the itinerary of a given tour as outlined on the website and within the published literature, however due to circumstances beyond our control (including but not limited to weather, construction, passenger illness, mechanical breakdown, civil unrest, etc.) Liberation Tours reserves the right to alter the published itinerary by substituting where possible alternate venues and/or sightseeing locales so as to make the best possible accommodation under the circumstances.
- 4. Hotels:** All hotels listed on the itinerary have been pre-booked at time of publishing. Whereas Liberation Tours will do its utmost to prevent our pre-booked hotels from 'booking out' we cannot accept responsibility for this eventuality. Similarly, there may be occasions where Liberation Tours is not able to secure our contract hotels due to conferences, sporting events etc. in which case a hotel of similar standard will be booked. Liberation Tours reserves the right to accommodate within 80 km of locations listed on the attached itinerary.
- 5. Food Allergies:** Some tours may include one or more pre-booked group meals. For such meals Liberation Tours will make every effort to accommodate food allergies that you declare to us in advance, however please be aware that such accommodations cannot be entirely guaranteed. Our responsibility will be limited to requesting of the restaurant(s) to provide a safe, allergy-free meal and to extend to you whatever the restaurant can offer. Failing this, should you find it necessary to substitute one of these pre-booked meals in some alternate way (ie different restaurant, hotel meal, etc) you will need to be responsible for cost of same. Liberation Tours regrets we cannot refund or otherwise transfer the value of pre-booked meals.
- 6. Coach Seating:** We employ a seating rotation program whereby all clients are shuffled through the coach to new seats daily, thereby ensuring everyone has an opportunity to be seated in different areas of the coach and also providing for different neighbours across the aisle. Requests to be accommodated in a fixed seat location must respectfully be declined.



- 7. Group Air Seating:** Clients who choose to take seats with the group air booking should note that, while every effort is made to seat couples together, it cannot be guaranteed that they will sit side-by-side. Group air bookings are such that seat selection is usually not offered, and that seats are not always guaranteed as side-by-side, rather whatever free seats are available on that flight as determined by the airline. Please be prepared for the possibility that you will not sit together. Requests to be seated together should be made at the check-in desk at the airport, or otherwise a request can be made with in-flight cabin crew.
- 8. Individual Bookings for Air Travel, Hotels, etc:** Clients who plan to arrange their own air travel (ie. not reserving a seat with the group air booking), or extra hotels before/after the tour, should not make any non-cancellable bookings prior to the booking deadline. Once the booking deadline has passed and the tour is officially a 'go' with the minimum required number of passengers, individual bookings can then be made!
- 9. Passport & Visa:** Canadians do not require a visa to travel to countries within the *Schengen Area* for stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period. If you leave the Schengen Area and return within the same 180-day period, the previous stay will count against the permitted 90 days. Complete details can be found at <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/schengen-area> . The Schengen Area includes Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

A tourist visa is also not required for the United Kingdom (for stays of six months or less). Complete details can be found at <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/united-kingdom> .

It is the responsibility of each client to obtain a valid passport, and to obtain any visa(s) (where necessary) for countries to be visited other than those listed above. Please ensure you have the relevant documentation required. Liberation Tours will not accept responsibility for clients who do not have a passport and the appropriate visas. Any interruption in travel to the client resulting from lack of proper documentation will be at the client's expense.

- 10. Surcharges:** Prices may be subject to a Surcharge to cover any unexpected costs over which Liberation Tours has no control, including but not limited to fuel surcharges, government taxes and country visas. The Surcharge shall not exceed 7% of the Land-Only booking price and shall, if needed, be applied no later than the date of final payment. If a Surcharge of more than 7% is necessary clients may, at their option, cancel their booking and receive a full refund of any payments made, with no penalties. No Surcharges shall be applied after the booking deadline.



11. Baggage: Maximum baggage allowance on motor coach tours is one large suitcase per person, plus a small hand luggage item (ie. backpack/satchel) which can be stored in the shallow overhead bin inside the coach cabin. All hand luggage must be carried personally aboard the coach. Although the Tour Manager and Coach Driver supervise the transfer of luggage to and from the motor coach and every effort is made to handle luggage as carefully as possible, Liberation Tours cannot assume liability for loss, theft or damage due to breakage, fire, water, etc. Porterage is available at most hotels, although it is often the case that clients will need to port their own luggage between the coach and the hotel lobby. Some hotels do not offer porterage and thus clients will need to handle their own luggage.

12. Responsibility: You acknowledge and agree that Liberation Tours (the "Organizer") acts solely as an organizer of the tours outlined in this brochure and as such is a middle-person between you and the carriers, hotels, tour operators and other service/product providers which form part of this tour. Consequently, Liberation Tours shall not be held liable for the services rendered, and/or the products offered, by such third-party providers. Liberation Tours shall not be liable and assumes no risk for the obligations, or any default or negligence, of third-party providers and for any damages including, among other things, damages due to delay, cancellation, loss of goods, sickness, injury, accident, quality of services, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, disappointment, acts of God or force majeure. The Organizer reserves the right to make any changes before or during the tour for the comfort and enjoyment of the clients.

The Organizer reserves the right to decline any person as a member of the tour at any time before or during the tour should such person's presence be considered, at our sole discretion, detrimental to the interest, comfort or enjoyment of the other tour members. Persons leaving the tour during operation will not receive a refund of unused services.

13. Itinerary: All tour itineraries are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Tour managers and/or historians designated for a particular tour are subject to substitution where deemed necessary.

14. Acceptance: Liberation Tours, its agents and all clients agree that conditions set out herein are part of the terms between the client and the Organizer. Acceptance of the ticket for the tour or any deposit given to the Organizer's agents represents acceptance by the client of all the aforementioned Terms and Conditions.