

THE CINDERELLA ARMY CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD & REMEMBRANCE TOUR

FROM LONDON TO AMSTERDAM

SEP 28 - OCT 14, 2023 (17 DAYS)

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The Cinderella Army Canadian Battlefield Tour

from D-Day to V-E Day
September 28 - October 14, 2023

Follow in the footsteps of 'The Liberators' on this WW2 tour from the D-Day beaches of Normandy all the way to the northern frontier of the Netherlands and V-E Day.

Along the way, we'll discuss the combined efforts of Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army, and the Royal Canadian Air Force to bring about 'the destruction of the German war machine' and restore freedom to the people of Western Europe. Canada played a crucial role, while paying a heavy price along the way.

We begin in England where the troops trained and formed up, and then cross the channel to France just as the lads did in 1944. From here, we follow in their footsteps northeast through Belgium and up into Holland. Important visits along the way include Verrières Ridge and the Falaise Gap, Dieppe, the Scheldt Estuary, The Rhineland, and various sites of the Liberation of Holland.

This tour is ideal for those whose family members who served in WWII, and also those who are simply interested in the fascinating history of this time. It is also a chance for returning travelers to join us again, for some new sites, different places and more amazing experiences. It's time to follow the Canadians and their historic march to victory in Northwest Europe. **Step into history.**





Wednesday September 27

For many of our Canadian travelers it is departure day, for the overnight transatlantic flight. Some travelers may choose to leave for Europe sooner to extend the start of the trip - let us know if we can quote you on pre-tour accommodations. Guests who have other travels already in progress, or guests from other points of origin including the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere, will meet the start of the tour on Day 1 in London.

Day 1 - Thursday September 28

In the mid-afternoon all clients can check into the group hotel. In the meantime, luggage is stored in the hotel baggage lock-up. Today you are free to explore historic London and its incredible array of monuments. In the evening we gather in the heart of the city for our Welcome Dinner, to share a glass of wine and set the stage for our special journey. Overnight London. [D]

Day 2 - Friday September 29

The tour hits on the road, to explore the build-up to D-Day. We pause near the training grounds of Aldershot, then carry onward to the Channel Coast and Southsea Common to see and touch history as if frozen in time. Overnight Southampton. [B,L]

Day 3 - Saturday September 30

Today is a travel day. Just as the lads did in 1944, we'll pack up our kit and set sail across the English Channel - destination, France. Our sailing is from Portsmouth to Ouistreham, a crossing of ~6 hrs. Overnight Bayeux. [B]

Day 4 - Sunday October 1

A morning walk along the sands of Juno Beach starts the day. We will tour the Juno Beach Centre and the German bunkers, and also visit Canada House at Bernières-sur-Mer and the coast at Saint-Aubin. We conclude at Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. Overnight Bayeux. [B,L]

Day 5 - Monday October 2

We'll visit Carpiquet Airport to hear about the battle there, and visit the villages of Buron and Authie. We also pay a solemn visit to nearby Abbey Ardenne where Canadian soldiers were illegally executed in the early days following the allied landings. Overnight Bayeux. [B,L]

ITINERARY

Day 6 - Tuesday October 3

Day Six takes us inland from the coast, where the Battle of Normandy played out in the days and months following D-Day. We'll visit Verrières Ridge, Falaise, St-Lambert-sur-Dives and Vimoutiers, along with time at Bretteville-sur-Laize - the largest Canadian WWII cemetery in France. Overnight Rouen. [B,L]

Day 7 - Wednesday October 4

Today we visit Dieppe and discuss the failed raid of 1942, alongside the triumphant return to liberate the city in 1944. We'll visit all the landing beaches, with free time in between to explore the inner harbour. Overnight Dieppe. [B]

Day 8 - Thursday October 5

Today features a tour of the impressive site at La Coupole, a German bunker complex built to launch V-2 rockets against London. After lunch we stop at the old citadel, to commemorate the Canadians who liberated Boulogne-sur-Mer in early fall 1944. You are then free to explore the historic old town at your leisure. Overnight Boulogne-sur-Mer. [B,L]

Day 9 - Friday October 6

This morning we visit the fascinating Todt Battery, captured by the Canadians in '44. Later we cross over the Dragoons' Bridge into Bruges, where you are free for the balance of the day to explore the "Venice of the North." Overnight Bruges. [B,L]

Day 10 - Saturday October 7

Our first of two days in the Scheldt region includes various Canadian commemorative sites of the Breskens Pocket and the Leopold Canal, including a original Bailey Bridge tucked away in the forest. We also visit Canada-Poland Museum for a special tour and group lunch. Overnight Middelburg. [B,L]

Day 11 - Sunday October 8

We visit further monuments in the Scheldt, where we are joined by one of Holland's top WWII historians. We also visit Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery to pay our respects, and later we stop at the monument at Kapelsche Veer. Overnight Groesbeek. [B,L]

Day 12 - Monday October 9

Today we will dip into Germany, visiting the spot where a Victoria Cross was earned. The day also features two top museums, the Overloon War Museum and the Vrijheidsmuseum (Freedom Museum). Overnight Groesbeek. [B,L]

Day 13 - Tuesday October 10

Into the quiet countryside of the Netherlands we go, to visit a little monument raised by the citizens to honour the Canadians who died liberating their small village. We pause at Holten Canadian War Cemetery in the afternoon. Overnight Rijssen. [B,L]

Day 14 - Wednesday October 11

We tour Camp Westerbork, a transit camp through which many Dutch citizens of the Jewish community were sent to the notorious camps in Germany and Poland. In the afternoon we visit the final battles of Holland in the Delfzijl coastal region. Overnight Groningen. [B,L]

Day 15 - Thursday October 12

Today we gather for our Farewell Lunch, on our way to beautiful Amsterdam for our final two nights. Overnight Amsterdam. [B,L]

Day 16 - Friday October 13

Free day to explore the amazing capital city of Amsterdam. Overnight Amsterdam. [B]

Day 17 - Saturday October 14

This morning is departure day for those Canadians returning home on the optional group flight - buffet or box breakfast is included, depending on departure time from the hotel. Some travelers may choose to remain in Europe longer to extend the end of the trip - let us know if we can quote you on post-tour accommodations. Others guests will depart for home or continue their travels on other routes. [B]

Itinerary is subject to minor change prior to departure. Minor variances are also possible during the actual tour based on the need to adapt to circumstances we may encounter during our travels.

additional details and pricing at
www.LiberationTours.ca



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THE TOUR.

Juno Beach

D-Day ... June 6, 1944. It's often been called 'the beginning of the end', the momentous landing on the shores of continental Europe which would lead to V-E Day eleven months later. Canada's signature place of remembrance is the Juno Beach Centre, your home away from home in France.



Bloody Normandy

The city of Caen was to be captured on the first day, but it would take more than a month to achieve this objective amid heavy fighting. Overall, the Battle of Normandy would prove very costly for Canada, with more than 5000 lives lost. It would be come known as Bloody Normandy.



The Channel Ports & The Scheldt

The Canadians would be given some of the most important objectives of the war, capturing and clearing the channel ports to allow improved supply lines to the allied armies. They would also incur heavy losses, in some of the most bitter and ugly fighting against a tenacious enemy.



The Liberation of Holland

"Thank God they came." So say the Dutch people of their Canadian liberators, who came through their streets in 1944 and 1945 and brought about the restoration of democracy and freedom to a jubilant population - one village at a time. It began a great connection between the Netherlands and Canada which endures these many years, a connection across the Atlantic like no other.



THE TRIP.

London

Enjoy some free time in London, an amazing city of monuments. There's so much to see, including Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, Hyde Park, Covent Garden, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus & Leicester Square, the list goes on ...



War Graves Cemeteries

The war cemeteries are places of serenity. They are immaculately maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which commemorates 1.7 million soldiers, sailors and airmen from two world wars. They are peaceful places, and they beckon you to visit.



Village Monuments

Many small communities have monuments to the Canadians, from France all the way to Holland. We will visit a variety of these - the small yet poignant remembrances to the boys who came through these towns and restored freedom, to great relief and joy.



Amsterdam

In early May 1945 the Allies arrived in Amsterdam, with the Canadians leading the way. Thousands of Dutch citizens poured into the streets, making the advance of the soldiers nearly impossible - it was the sweetest of springs. Enjoy a stroll along the historic 17th century canals, stop for coffee and cake along the water, and feel great Canadian pride.



YOUR GUIDE TEAM ...



Mark Zuehlke, Canada's leading popular military historian and author of the award-winning Canadian Battle Series



Phil Craig, Chief Historian and Co-Founder of Liberation Tours, and Co-Founder of the Georgina Military Museum



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INCLUDED

- Sixteen nights accommodation in twin or double rooms with private facilities
- 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 select meals as outlined in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); group lunches and dinners typically include a glass of wine/beer!
- All hotel service charges, local taxes, baggage handling at most hotels (one bag per person), plus entry fees to sites as outlined in the itinerary
- Gratuities to coach driver and local guides (note: these gratuities are extra on most other tours and can add up to \$200 CAD or more, be sure to compare!)
- Tour package which includes select daily detailed historical battle maps, period photographs, original audio recordings, and more; a complete digital copy of all this is also given to you at the conclusion of the tour!

EXCLUDED

- Airfare
Note: an optional group air booking is available for Canadian travelers, departing from Toronto, details on our website; we can provide a quote for connecting flights from other gateways in Canada; alternatively, we can quote flights for any dates/routes of your preference; travelers on the group flight will be picked up from London Heathrow Airport on September 28, 2023 and dropped off to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport on October 14, 2023; all other travelers are responsible for their own airport transfers
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour accommodations - ask for a quote and extend your stay!
- Travel Insurance Protection - ask us for a no-obligation quote from Manulife!
- Meals other than stated on the itinerary
- Passport & related fees, Covid testing fees (as may be required)
- 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 upon booking
- Balance of payment due on or before the booking deadline: June 27, 2023
- Liberation Tours will donate on your behalf to Forest Recovery Canada, to make your trip **carbon-neutral**
- Read Liberation Tours' Terms & Conditions prior to booking

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE @

www.LiberationTours.ca

ground transportation by:

TRAFALGAR

\$7929

Land Only, per person, based on double occupancy (two people sharing a room)

\$2250

Single Supplement, the additional cost if traveling on your own (one person in the room)

\$500

deposit per person upon booking (all prices in Canadian dollars)



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Contact your favourite Travel Agent or:

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