

VIMY RIDGE DAY CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD & REMEMBRANCE TOUR

FRANCE, BELGIUM, ENGLAND

APRIL 4-15, 2023 (12 DAYS)

www.LiberationTours.ca



LiberationTours
THE CANADIAN LEGACY





LiberationTours
THE CANADIAN LEGACY

Vimy Ridge Day Canadian Battlefield Tour

the battlefields of The Great War
plus a visit to Juno Beach

April 4-15, 2023 

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. And 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 several days to visit to the WWII D-Day landings and Juno Beach, and then moves back in time to visit all fourteen of Canada’s Great War monuments in France and Belgium. This includes the “Trail of the Caribou,” featuring the five monuments in western Europe dedicated to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. You will be part of a typically all-Canadian group, mostly couples, and almost always an even 50/50 mix of ladies and gentlemen, from all walks of life.

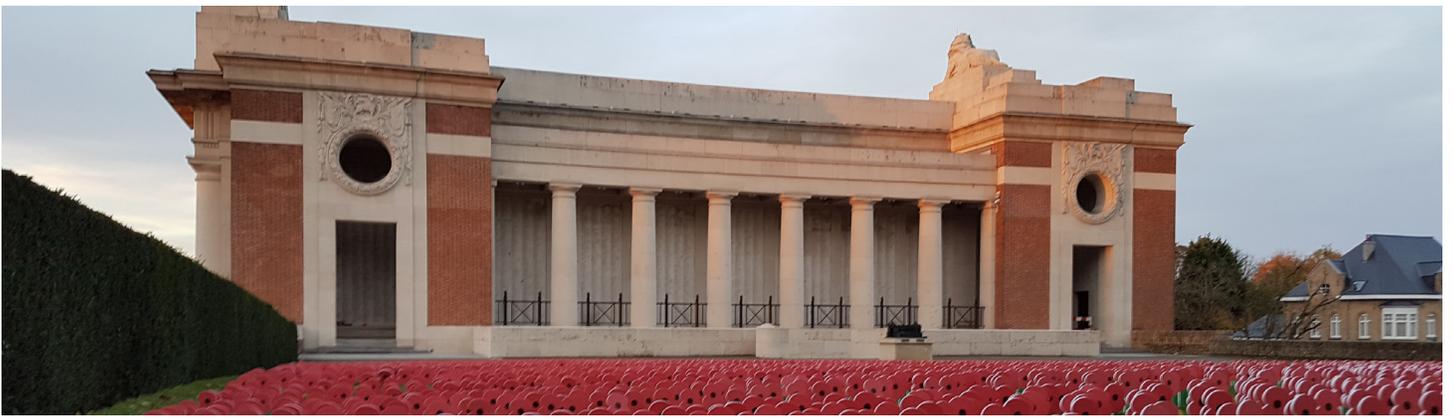
Join us on Vimy Ridge on April 9th, to commemorate the battle and honour all those who served our country in The Great War.

106 



- Vimy Ridge on April 9th
- All nine of Canada’s Great War Memorials
- Five 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, the burial location of the first and last soldiers to die in WWI
- Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres
- Juno Beach & the Abbey Ardenne





Monday April 3

For many of our Canadian travelers it is departure day, for the overnight transatlantic flight to France. 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 Paris.

Day 1 - Tuesday April 4

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 Paris, an amazing city of history and monuments. In the evening we gather in the heart of Paris for our Welcome Dinner, to share a glass of wine and set the stage for our special journey. Overnight Paris. [D]

Day 2 - Wednesday April 5

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

Day 3 - Thursday April 6

Morning stroll along 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 continue to eastern sectors of Juno to hear the stories of the Canadian landings 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 4 - Friday April 7

Visit the garden at Ardenne 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 a brief lunch, 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]

ITINERARY

Day 5 - Saturday April 8

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 opening hours of the attack; we pause for lunch in the midst of the battlefields, then visit the towering 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 6 - Sunday April 9

Join with fellow Canadians on Vimy Ridge, on the 106th Anniversary of the hard-won victory; visit points of interest near Souchez, then pause for lunch to toast the boys of Vimy; visit the Hill 70 Memorial in Loos-en-Gohelle, which marks Canada's 'forgotten victory' of 1917. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

Day 7 - Monday April 10

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 8 - Tuesday April 11

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 9 - Wednesday April 12

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

Day 10 - Thursday April 13

Visit the final resting place of LCol John McCrae, after which we take the Eurotunnel to London for a final two nights stay. Overnight London. [B,L]

Day 11 - Friday April 14

Enjoy a full free day in London, a city of great monuments waiting to be discovered. In the evening we gather with new friends a final time, for our Farewell Dinner. Overnight London. [B,D]

Day 12 - Saturday April 15

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.



LiberationTours
THE CANADIAN LEGACY

additional details and pricing at
www.LiberationTours.ca



THE TOUR.

Juno Beach

Stand on the very spot where Canadians stormed the beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Your visit includes a guided tour of the beaches and the German bunker situated in the dunes out front, followed by a tour inside the Juno Beach Centre.



Vimy Ridge

For the first time, all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force will fight 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. We also visit the nearby monument to the 'forgotten victory' at Hill 70.



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

Beaumont-Hamel is forever etched into the memory of Newfoundlanders. They are the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and 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. Their battleground is renowned as one of the best preserved WWI sites in all of France.



THE TRIP.

Paris

There's so much to see at your leisure including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, The Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Les Jardins du Luxembourg, Pere Lachaise Cemetery, Versailles ... the list goes on. Many clients choose to come early to Paris early, for more sightseeing opportunities, because the list is so long!



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. The daily Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate is a very special highlight.



Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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.



London

You will round out your special tour with two nights in the amazing city of London. It's 17th century pubs, historic bridges, grand palaces and many historic sites will provide you with a long list of things to see and do. It is one of the great capital cities of Europe.



WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY ...

"Phil and John host a terrific historical journey, one that every Canadian should make. Adding the personal family stories to the historical context, although emotional, created a living story of my father and his experiences during WW2. Thank you to Phil and John for their expertise in arranging such a wonderful tour!"
- Heather Caldwell, ON

"Phil and John make great efforts to fulfill each person's requests to give them the best experience possible. In my case I wanted to hunt down a relative's grave site with minimal information available to me by inheritance. They located the 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, ON

"Wonderful Canadian WW1 and WW2 battlefield tour. Well organized, nice hotels, great food. Made us proud to be Canadians."
- Jerry & Lorraine Berg, AB

"This was a memorable tour. We found the sites, especially in France and Belgium, but also Holten in Netherlands, to have been very well chosen, well explained, with appropriate time given to Phil's presentations and allowed for personal visitation and reflection. That Margaret and I received so many benefits from the experience is down to the tour's leaders for your selections of sites, your sharing of information and the good humour with which you both handled all aspects of the trip. Thank you." - Richard & Margaret Griffiths, YT

Your guide will be Liberation Tours' chief historian **Phil Craig**, professional actor and Co-Founder of the Georgina Military Museum.



LiberationTours
THE CANADIAN LEGACY



INCLUDED

- Eleven 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 Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport on April 4, 2023 and dropped off to London Heathrow Airport on April 15, 2023; all other travelers are responsible for their own 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: December 19, 2022
- 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

\$5850

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

\$1400

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)



LiberationTours
THE CANADIAN LEGACY

Contact your favourite Travel Agent or:

Liberation Tours
208 Carrick Avenue, Keswick, ON
1-833-252-0001
booking@liberationtours.ca