

NORTHWEST EUROPE CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD & REMEMBRANCE TOUR



FROM PARIS TO AMSTERDAM

APRIL 21 - MAY 6, 2024 (16 DAYS)

www.LiberationTours.ca



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Northwest Europe Canadian Battlefield Tour

**from the Normandy Shores
to the Liberation of Holland**

April 21 - May 6, 2024



Embark on a journey of wonder and discovery as you walk in the footsteps of our Canadian soldiers, who left their mark of service and sacrifice upon a far away landscape in the pursuit of democracy & freedom.

Our Northwest Europe battlefield tours are the most comprehensive of their kind - pilgrimages to the Canadian battlefields of WWI and WWII where Canada came of age as a nation and forged a legendary reputation as the army to be called upon for some of the most difficult and challenging battles of the wars. Canadians signed up from across our country, joining forces to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to liberate a people they did not know. Many are forever laid to rest in foreign soil.

You'll stay at quality hotels throughout, selected for their great location and service. Your tour also includes free time to enjoy a little culture. And you'll 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 for an unforgettable journey of remembrance through France, Belgium and the Netherlands.



OUR SIGNATURE TOUR

*Juno Beach Omaha Beach Pegasus Bridge
Dieppe Beaumont-Hamel Courcellette Thiepval
Vimy Ridge Hill 70 Ypres Passchendaele
Tyne Cot Essex Farm St. Julien Menin Gate
Groesbeek The Scheldt Arnhem Holten
Paris Amsterdam and more ...*





Saturday April 20

For many of our 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 - Sunday April 21

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. Overnight Paris.

Day 2 - Monday April 22

This is your second free day at leisure to explore La Ville Lumière - The City of Light. In the late afternoon 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. [B,D]

Day 3 - Tuesday April 23

Depart for the Normandy coast to consider pre D-Day 'Atlantic Wall' defenses including the Longues-sur-Mer coastal gun battery; tour the Memorial Pegasus Museum followed by a walk to the Café Gondrée. Overnight Bayeux. [B,L]

Day 4 - Wednesday April 24

Morning walk along the sands of Juno Beach, followed by a tour of the Juno Beach Centre including the German bunkers; see Canada House on the beach at Bernières-sur-Mer; visit the coast at Saint-Aubin, and Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. Overnight Bayeux. [B,L]

Day 5 - Thursday April 25

Visit British landing zone at Gold Beach and the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches, including the Musée du Débarquement; Omaha American Landing Beach; Pointe-du-Hoc; La Cambe German War Cemetery. Overnight Bayeux. [B,L]

ITINERARY

Day 6 - Friday April 26

Free morning to relax and unwind; afternoon visit to Abbey Ardenne, then north along the coast. Overnight Dieppe. [B]

Day 7 - Saturday April 27

Tour the Dieppe main beach to consider Operation Jubilee, followed by visits to the beaches at Puy and Pourville; Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery. Overnight Amiens. [B]

Day 8 - Sunday April 28

Walk the fields of the Battle of the Somme at Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Park; visits to the Thiepval Memorial, Lochnagar Crater and the monument at Courcellette. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

Day 9 - Monday April 29

The morning is dedicated to a visit at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, standing proudly on the highest point of Vimy Ridge. In the afternoon we visit points of interest nearby, then drive north over the border to Belgium for the first of two nights. Overnight Ieper (Ypres). [B,L]

Day 10 - Tuesday April 30

We will tour the Ypres Salient with visits to Hill 62, the Passchendaele, The Brooding Soldier at St. Julien, Essex Farm, and Tyne Cot Cemetery; free afternoon in Ieper to relax and explore; optional evening attendance at the inspiring Last Post Ceremony. Overnight Ieper (Ypres). [B]

Day 11 - Wednesday May 1

Explore the Breskens Pocket with visits to the Leopold Canal, Eede, Hickman's Bridge, the monuments at Hoofdplaat and more, along with a special visit to the Canada-Poland Museum in Adegem. Overnight Vlissingen. [B,L]

Day 12 - Thursday May 2

Discover the Scheldt Estuary campaign as we make visits in Woensdrecht, Bergen op Zoom, and more. We also stop at the rarely-visited monument at Kapelsche Veer, then carry onward to the Dutch-German border. Overnight Groesbeek. [B,L]

Day 13 - Friday May 3

First we stand at the John Frost Bridge in Arnhem, "A Bridge Too Far," to review the now infamous Operation Market-Garden. Our morning continues with stops at several towns and villages to learn about their joyous liberation in the spring of 1945, including some free time at lunch. In the afternoon we make an visit to the brilliant Freedom Museum. Overnight Groesbeek. [B,L]

Day 14 - Saturday May 4

Remembrance Day in the Netherlands, including attendance at the annual Remembrance Service at Holten Canadian War Cemetery in the morning and an evening pause at 8pm for two minutes of silence. Overnight Amsterdam. [B,L]

Day 15 - Saturday May 5

Today is Liberation Day. Enjoy a full free day at your leisure to explore one of Europe's great capital cities. Overnight Amsterdam. [B]

Day 16 - Monday May 6

This morning is departure day for those 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 to enjoy extra time in Amsterdam. Others guests will depart for home or continue their travels on other routes. [B]



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Reg No. 50025639

additional details and pricing at
www.LiberationTours.ca

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.



THE TOUR.

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. It's a little piece of Canada on the French coast.



Vimy Ridge

The ground that could not be taken and held ... until the Canadians came. 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 in Europe, a symbol of peace.



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.



THE TRIP.

Paris

Enjoy some time unwinding as you absorb Paris in the spring! There's so much to see, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Les Jardins du Luxembourg, the list goes on!



Ieper (Ypres)

Enjoy a little free time for 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 United Kingdom and more. The evening Last Post Ceremony is a very special highlight of any visit to Ieper, a tradition that continues since 1928.



Holten

Want to feel great Canadian pride? There can be no better place than Holland in the spring. You'll join with other Canadians, Dutch families, and most especially the local school children, in attending the annual remembrance service at Holten Canadian War Cemetery on May 4th.



Amsterdam

You will round out your fabulous trip with two nights in the beautiful city of Amsterdam. It's 17th century canals are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You may wish to visit the Rijksmuseum, the House of Anne Frank, or simply sit at a canal-side cafe and enjoy watching the people go by while sipping coffee.



WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY ...

"This trip has so surpassed anything I could have imagined. Your research and attention to detail was impeccable. I took military history courses in university and wish you had been my professor! I will never forget this trip."
- Jackie Hammond, ON

"This tour exceeded my expectations by a mile. John and Phil, you are amazing ... truly professional and very personable, both of you. I look forward to joining another of your wonderful tours in the hopefully not too distant future." - John & Kelly Baker, ON

"Phil was superb! Having learned about the wars in school, Phil made me understand what our soldiers had to go through."
- Mary Kelly Brown, NY

"You guys are top notch. You thought of every comfort, thought through every detail. It could not have been any better." - Shelley Brown, BC

"It was fabulous. I would absolutely go on another John Cannon organized tour ... I feel like you undercharged and over delivered! Amazing would be the word that I would use to describe the tour." - Chris Jobb, BC

"Absolutely fantastic. There is no superlative that would not apply to this tour. Everything was handled perfectly. I really enjoyed how John and Phil mixed with the group. It seemed so obvious that you both enjoyed being with us and that this is a passion for you, not just a business. I really hope I can go on another trip with Liberation Tours." - Anne Dunlop, MB

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



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INCLUDED

- An expert Canadian Historian, and an expert Canadian Tour Director, both of whom will accompany you on the full tour
- Fifteen 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, portage at select 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 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 - we can provide a quote for flights from any gateway in Canada, to match your own individual preferences based on dates, routes, class of seating, etc; there will be one coach transfer at either end of the tour: from Charles de Gaulle Airport to the hotel in Paris on April 21, 2024 in coordination with the arrival of Air Canada AC872; and from the hotel to Schiphol Airport on May 6, 2024 in coordination with the departure of Air Canada AC809; travelers not utilizing these will be responsible for their own airport transfers
- Portage at select hotels
- 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
- 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: January 20, 2024
- 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

\$7220

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

\$2110

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:

Liberation Tours
2-291 Main Street, Suite 202
Wasaga Beach, Ontario L9Z 0E8

1-833-252-0001
booking@liberationtours.ca