



# NORTHWEST EUROPE CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD & REMEMBRANCE TOUR

The Maple Leaf Route  
from Juno Beach to Amsterdam

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SEPTEMBER 9-20, 2023 (12 DAYS)

[www.LiberationTours.ca](http://www.LiberationTours.ca)



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# Northwest Europe Canadian Battlefield Tour

**The Maple Leaf Route  
from Juno Beach to Amsterdam**

**September 9-20, 2023**



Follow in the footsteps of the Canadians in two Great Wars. This is the most comprehensive tour of its kind - a pilgrimage to the Canadian battlefields of both WW1 and WW2 where Canada came of age as a nation and forged a reputation as the army to be called upon for some of the most difficult and challenging battles.

This tour includes items not found on any other itinerary, including visits to 'Canada's Hundred Days' monuments in Northern France, a chance to see an extremely rare WWI tank, an exceptional visit to the headstone factory of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and much more.

As you travel through the little villages across France, Belgium and the Netherlands you will come upon so many monuments big and small, bearing the maple leaf, leaving you with a feeling of great Canadian pride.

You will be part of a group usually 50/50 women and men, from all walks of life from across the country.

Join us for an unforgettable journey of remembrance through France, Belgium and the Netherlands.



**Juno Beach & the D-Day Landings**

**Beaumont-Hamel & The Trail of the Caribou**

**Vimy Ridge Passchendaele & Flanders Fields**

**Canada's 100 Days The Battle of the Scheldt  
and more ...**





## Friday September 8

For many 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 to spend time in Paris - 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 tour on Day 1.

## Day 1 - Saturday September 9

Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle airport we depart for Normandy. Upon arrival for the first of four nights, guests will have a couple of hours to unpack, rest and recharge. In the late afternoon we gather for our Welcome Dinner, to share a glass and set the stage for our very special journey. Overnight Normandy. [D]

## Day 2 - Sunday September 10

Today we explore the length of Juno Beach, featuring a visit to the Juno Beach Centre. We also stop at Canada House on the beach at Bernières-sur-Mer and the coastal village of Saint-Aubin. Overnight Normandy. [B,L]

## Day 3 - Monday September 11

Day Four takes us to points inland where the allies made decisive gains in the first days after D-Day to ensure a toe-hold on the continent. We visit Buron, Authie and more, with a special visit to the Abbey Ardennes. Overnight Normandy. [B,L]

## Day 4 - Tuesday September 12

We'll visit Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, before carrying onward up the coast with a lunch stop in historic Honfleur. Overnight Dieppe. [B]

# ITINERARY

## Day 5 - Wednesday September 13

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

## Day 6 - Thursday September 14

Walk the fields of the Battle of the Somme at Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Park. The tour also visits the Thiepval Memorial, Lochnagar Crater and the monument at Courcelette. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

## Day 7 - Friday September 15

We spend the morning at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, standing proudly on the highest point of Vimy Ridge. In the afternoon we make a unique visit to the War Graves Commission's factory where soldiers' headstones are carved with meticulous reverence and care. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

## Day 8 - Saturday September 16

We continue our exploration of the WW1 and the importance of the battles in what has become known as 'Canada's 100 Days.' You will also see a rare WWI tank. Overnight Ieper (Ypres). [B,L]

## Day 9 - Sunday September 17

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. Enjoy a free afternoon to relax and explore. Optional evening attendance at the inspiring Last Post Ceremony. Overnight Ieper (Ypres). [B]

## Day 10 - Monday September 18

Explore the Breskens Pocket and the Battle of the Scheldt with visits to the Leopold Canal, Eede, Hoofdplaat, Walcheren and Woensdrecht. We conclude the day at the Canadian War Cemetery. Overnight Bergen op Zoom. [B,L]

## Day 11 - Tuesday September 19

On our final day of touring we explore the final Liberation of Holland with a visit to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. We then gather one final time for a Farewell Lunch, to reflect upon all that we have seen and share great Canadian pride as we raise a glass to the liberators. We then carry onward to Amsterdam for our final night. Overnight Amsterdam. [B,L]

## Day 12 - Wednesday September 20

This morning is departure day for those returning home - a 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. [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](http://www.LiberationTours.ca)



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## 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.



## WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY ...

*"We have travelled extensively around the world but nothing quite compares to this personal journey. The attention to detail was over the top. Every traveler was made to feel very special. It was so much fun. But more importantly, you made us all feel so proud to be Canadian by our sharing family histories. We will remember them."*

- Dawn & Murray McGinnis

*"Thank you for such great passion, and for putting us in the soldiers' shoes. We are also very grateful for your flexibility in modifying one of the days on the tour, so that we could visit the grave of my Uncle Stanley. It's a trip we will not forget!"*

- Mary & Don Lee

*"Liberation Tours took my wife and I on a cultural adventure and dramatic exploration of the Canadian battlefields and war grave cemeteries of Italy. This was military history combined with the best cultural experience Italy has to offer. Every day provided unique surprises and freedom of movement. Flights and bus transport, hotels, baggage handling, gratuities, entry fees to historical sites, and splendid culinary and architectural experiences - all were choreographed with the precision but doled out with an Esprit du Coeur. Liberation Tours offer a large variety of experiences around military history through time and place."*

- Nick Cuberovic

## THE TRIP.

### Europe in the Fall

Enjoy some time unwinding as you absorb the easy pace of Europe in the fall. The weather is fine, most of the tourists are gone, and it's a superb time of year to be on the go - with good food along the way!



### 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.



### 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.



### Amsterdam

You will round out your fabulous trip with a night in the beautiful city of Amsterdam. Its 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 café enjoying coffee while watching the people go by.



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
- 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, 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 September 9, 2023 in coordination with the arrival of Air Canada AC872; and from the hotel to Schiphol Airport on September 20, 2023 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, 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
- Full payment due with booking
- 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**

**\$5420**

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

**\$1275**

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



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