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Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery (This photo and other illustrations free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)

"FROM NORMANDY TO FLANDERS FIELDS"

A TOUR OF THE CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WARS I AND II

Friday, November 5 to Monday, November 15, 2021

An 11-day thorough exploration of the battlefields of France and Belgium, focusing on the Canadian contributions to Allied victory in Flanders' Fields, at Vimy, the Somme, and of course Normandy. Our participation in the annual Remembrance Day commemoration ib Ypres, hub of Flanders' Fields', will be a highlight! First-class/four-star hotels, excellent meals, and history lectures by your tour escort, Jacques Pauwels or Michael Quinn.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

(Meals included in addition to daily breakfast: L = lunch; D = dinner)

Day 1 - Friday, November 5:

Evening departure from Toronto to Paris. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served during the flight.

Day 2 - Saturday, November 6: (D)

Morning arrival at Paris CDG Airport. Transfer by private coach to the picturesque Normandy seaport of Honfleur, associated with Samuel de Champlain, who sailed from here in 1608 to found the city of Quebec and the colony of New France! Check into our centrally located hotel. Free tine to settle in. Late afternoon exploratory walk, followed by dinner.

Days 3 & 4 - Sunday, November 7, Monday, November 8:

Two full days of sightseeing in Normandy, focusing on the 1944 landing beaches. Among the highlights will be Pegasus Bridge; Juno Beach, the Canadian sector of the landing beaches, with the excellent Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer; the Canadian War Cemetery of Bény-sur-Mer; Arromanches with the remains of the great artificial 'Mulberry' harbour; Ardenne Abbey, where Canadian POWs were executed by SS troops; Bretteville Canadian War Cemetery in the area of the Falaise Gap; Caen, the city of William the Conqueror, carefully rebuilt after being destroyed during the fighting in 1944; and the picturesque town of Bayeux, with its famous Tapestry, a medieval embroidered "comic strip" showing the conquest of England by William, Duke of Normandy. Late afternoons return to Honfleur and free evenings.



Canadian troops disembarking at Bernières - Juno Beach.

Day 5 - Tuesday, November 9: (D)

After breakfast, departure for Dieppe, another Normandy seaport, where Canadian troops landed in August 1942. Visits to both the Canadian Memorial (at the infamous beach) and nearby War Cemetery. On for a drive along the English Channel coast, with wonderful views of the "White Cliffs of Dover" (if weather permits) and a stop in Wimereux, just outside Boulogne, to visit the grave of John McRae, author of the poem "In Flanders' Fields." We also view some remains of the German Atlantic Wall, including a "big gun" emplacement. Continuing via Calais and the entrance to the "Chunnel", we reach Dunkirk, where we walk on the beach that witnessed the evacuation of British troops in 1940. Crossing the Belgian border, we pause near the little seaport of Nieuwpoort and the mouth of the Yser River, where in 1914-1918, the frontline ended with barbed wire stretched across the beach into the North Sea. Our final destination today is Bruges, arguably the best-preserved medieval town in all of Europe. In 1944, the city was liberated by a Canadian Army unit from Manitoba' a feat commemorated by a monument at the entrance to the city, called the Canada Bridge. Accommodation in a charming 4-star hotel, and dinner in a typical restaurant.

Day 6 - Wednesday, November 10:

This morning, leisurely walking tour of old Bruges. Highlights include the Belfry, symbol of the city; the Church of Our Lady; the Gothic Town Hall; Medieval St. John's Hospital; the scenic canals that crisscross the town; the Lake of Love; and the romantic Beguinage. Remainder of the day at leisure. This evening, an *optional* dinner of Flemish culinary specialties during which we will be entertained by musicians specializing in medieval music

but who will also treat us to songs of WW I.

Day 7 - Thursday, November 11: (L) REMEMBRANCE DAY!

This morning we travel by local train to the town of Ieper (French: Ypres), hub of "Flanders Fields," to attend the moving Remembrance Day ceremony at the Menin Gate, the principal British War Memorial in the area. (Please note that our participation is subject to government regulations and permission.) After a group lunch in a typical restaurant, visit to the excellent Flanders' Fields War Museum, located in the famous Cloth Hall, an impressive medieval building destroyed during WW l but carefully reconstructed in following decades (*www.inflandersfields.be*). Also visit to St. George Memorial Chapel with its remembrance memorials and plaques to the fallen before we return to Bruges.

Day 8 - Friday, November 12: (L)

Today we explore the area along the nearby Belgian-Dutch border where the Canadian Army fought the crucial "Battle of the Scheldt" in the Fall of 1944. After short visits to memorials at Moerbrugge and Moerkerke, we stop at the Canadian War Cemetery in the village of Adegem to conduct a personalized memorial service together with members of the local Belgian-Canadian Association who will also join us for lunch and a tour of the nearby Canadian War Museum. Afternoon return to Bruges and remainder of day at leisure.



Detail of the Vimy Memorial

Day 10 - Sunday, November 14: (L)

Day 9 - Saturday, November 13:

Early departure from Bruges to Vimy for a comprehensive tour of the impressive Canadian Memorial, Battlefield Park and Interpretation Centre. On to the Somme Battlefield, scene of General Haig's "Big Push", i.e., the great British offensive launched on July 1, 1916. Sites enroute Newfoundland will include the Caribou Monument and small museum at Beaumont-Hamel; the Ulster Memorial Tower; the massive British Memorial of Thiepval; the Canadian Monument of Courcelette (www.ww1battlefields.co.uk/somme.html). Late afternoon arrival at our hotel in Roissy, located near our Paris departure airport of Charles de Gaulle.

Full-day excursion to the city of Reims for a visit to the "War Room", the venue that witnessed the German surrender at the end of the Second World War, on May 7, 1945. Following a gourmet *Au Revoir* lunch in an elegant country restaurant, we explore the "Glade of the Armistice" in the Compiègne Forest. It features the reconstructed railway car that served as Marshal Foch's HQ, in which the Germans surrendered on November 11, 1918. (*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glade_of_the_Armistice*.) Return to the hotel and evening free to pack your suitcase!

Day 11 - Monday, November 15:

After breakfast, a short transfer (by hotel shuttle service) to Charles de Gaulle Airport in time for the return flight to Toronto.

Tour Price - \$4,195.00 CAD per person from Toronto, based on double occupancy Single room supplement: \$495.00 CAD Land Only: \$3,345.00 per person.

Please note: (1) To be eligible for transfers from Paris Airport to Honfleur, participants must be at the airport to meet the group upon their arrival. Travelling on the same flight as the group is strongly recommended. (2) This is a proposed itinerary and therefore subject to change. Participation in official commemorations is subject to changing local government regulation, which may require us to be flexible.

Included in the tour price are:

- Return airfare in economy from Toronto;
- Accommodation in first-class (four-star) hotels, based on double occupancy; the single room supplement is \$495.00 CAD;
- Land tour transportation via private coach;
- Meals: buffet breakfast daily and a total of *five* full-course dinners or lunches;
- Sightseeing, visits, and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, including admissions;
- Hotel taxes and gratuities;
- Airport lounge pass for air inclusive bookings made more than 90 days prior to departure.

Not included are:

- Meals other than those mentioned above.;
- Beverages with dinners;
- Coach driver's gratuity, 30 Euros (approx. \$45.00 CAD);
- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Travel Insurance: available on an individual basis; please call for rates.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. No deposit will be taken until we know the tour is operating. Once the decision has been made to go or not, registered participants will be notified about the status and if operating offered the opportunity to pay the deposit or withdraw their registration. If a participant decides then to participate, a deposit of \$750.00 (or more depending on the date of confirmation) will be required. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Until a deposit is paid there is no penalty to cancel. Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 61 days before departure:25% of tour cost60 to 31 days before departure:50% of tour costWithin 30 days prior to departure:100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. Pauwels Travel shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.

- 2. I know that tour programs include walking, and may include hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
- 3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.
- 4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
- 5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
- 6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.
- 7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or

disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.

- 8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relate to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.
- 9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT GROUP AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, in **almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection.**

It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff.

If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat (s) for "From Normandy to Flanders Fields" November 05 – 15, 2021. Enclosed is my/our deposit of ______ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.) I will be travelling "Land Only" and will be securing my own airfare_____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1,000.00 followed by the balance invoice due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGE ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR COMPLETION DATE, TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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