110TH ANNIVERSARY

BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

TOUR



APRIL 6 - 15 2027

10 Days / 9 Nights
With Option for Extension

Start: Brussels, Belgium **End**: Paris, France

FLANDERS - VIMY - SOMME - DIEPPE - NORMANDY - PARIS

You keep the history that comes with this monumental journey alive.

the Battlefield tours '86

The Battlefield Tours is Canada's first and official leading tour operator for Canadian battlefields and the country's longest-running, all-Canadian specialist in battlefield travel. For more than 30 years, we have proudly escorted Canadian veterans and their families, honouring their service, preserving their stories, and connecting generations to the places where history was made.

thebattlefieldtours.ca

1 - 833 - 828 - TOUR (8687)

info@thebattlefieldtours.com

110th Anniversary Tour of the Battle of Vimy Ridge



This original Canadian battlefield tour is anchored by attendance at the 110th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 2027—a defining moment in Canadian history marking 110 years since the Canadian Corps captured Vimy Ridge in 1917.

This commemorative battlefield tour is anchored around the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge (1917–2027)- a defining moment in Canadian history. Traveling through **Belgium** and **France**, the journey traces Canada's First World War experience from the early battles of the **Ypres Salient** and **Passchendaele** to the decisive actions of 1917 and the Last 100 Days.
The emotional heart of the program comes on April 9, with attendance at the official **110th Anniversary Commemoration** at the **Canadian National Memorial at Vimy Ridge**. Standing on the preserved battlefield during this milestone anniversary offers a rare opportunity for reflection on sacrifice, unity, and the legacy forged when all four Canadian divisions fought together for the first time.
The tour continues through the **Somme** and then into the landscapes of the Second World War- from **Dieppe** to the beaches of **Normandy-** connecting Canada's wartime story across generations. Thoughtfully paced and deeply reflective, this journey is both a historical exploration and a meaningful act of remembrance, marking 110 years since **Vimy Ridge** became a symbol of Canadian nationhood.

THIS TOUR SPANS:
Two Counties in Europe: France & Belgium.
Top Locations: Flanders, Vimy, Somme, Arras, Ypres, Dieppe, Normandy, Paris.

Overnight Cities
- Ypres, Belgium – 2 nights (April 6–7)
- Arras, France – 2 nights (April 8–9)
- Dieppe, France – 1 night (April 10)
- Caen, France – 3 nights (April 11–13)
- Paris CDG, France – 1 night (April 14)

Total: 9 nights / 10 days

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- **Vimy Ridge 110th Anniversary Commemoration:** Attend the official ceremonies at the **Canadian National Vimy Memorial** on April 9, 2027, honouring the courage and sacrifice of Canadian soldiers in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.
- **Exclusive Access - Maison Blanche Tunnels:** Enjoy a rare opportunity to explore the historic underground chalk tunnels near Vimy Ridge, normally closed to the public, and discover original carvings and inscriptions left by Canadian soldiers in 1917.
- **Ypres Salient & Flanders Battlefields:** Visit **Essex Farm** Cemetery, the **Brooding Soldier Memorial at St. Julien**, **Langemark German Cemetery**, and significant Canadian First World War sites.
- **Passchendaele & Canadian Front Lines:** Explore **Tyne Cot Cemetery**, the **Passchendaele Museum**, **Crest Farm Memorial**, **Hooge Crater**, and the preserved trenches at **Hill 62**.
- **Last Post Ceremony** - **Menin Gate:** Attend the moving evening ceremony in Ypres, a longstanding tribute to those who gave their lives during the First World War.
- **Canada's Last 100 Days of WWI:** Trace the Canadian Corps' final offensives through **St. Symphorien Cemetery**, **Cambrai**, and **Bourlon Wood**, including the **Canal du Nord** battlefield.
- **The Somme Battlefields:** Discover the **Thiepval Memorial**, **Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park**, **Lochnagar Crater**, and the underground **Somme 1916 Museum** in Albert.
- **Dieppe Raid** - August 19, 1942: Follow the Canadian landings at **Blue Beach (Puys)**, **Green Beach (Pourville)**, and **Red** and **White Beaches**, with a visit to **Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery.**
- **Normandy D-Day Landings:** Explore **Pointe du Hoc**, **Omaha Beach**, the **American Military Cemetery**, German coastal defences, and the historic **Mulberry Harbour** at **Arromanches**.
- **Canada's Normandy Campaign:** Visit the **Juno Beach Centre**, **Queen's Own Rifles House** at **Bernières-sur-Mer, Verrières Ridge**, and **Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery**.
- **Bayeux & the Liberation of Normandy:** Discover the **Battle of Normandy Museum** and gain insight into the Allied campaign to liberate Western Europe.
- **Canadian Memorials & Airborne Operations:** Visit the **Canadian Memorial Garden at the Abbaye d'Ardenne** and **Pegasus Bridge**, commemorating the British airborne landings.
- **Paris** - City of Light: Enjoy a panoramic orientation tour of Paris, a scenic Seine River cruise past iconic landmarks, and a special farewell dinner to conclude the journey.

Physical Activity Level & Mobility Requirements
Our battlefield tours are designed to experience history firsthand. While we include select museum visits, much of our time is spent outdoors exploring historic sites, often on uneven terrain, sandy beaches, grassy fields, steep hills, cobblestone streets, stairs, and pathways.
A moderate amount of walking and good personal mobility are important. At some sites, participants may be standing or walking for 30–45 minutes, while other stops may involve a 10–15 minute walk between the coach and attractions, restaurants, or historical locations.
Although our tours do not involve strenuous hiking, regular walking is an important part of the experience. Unfortunately, **walkers are not permitted on our tours**. Participants who use a cane or walking sticks and otherwise have good mobility should be comfortable participating.
Wheelchair users are welcome provided they travel with a **designated companion or caregiver** who is responsible for operating the wheelchair and providing assistance throughout the tour. Please note that certain battlefield sites may have limited or no wheelchair accessibility due to the nature of the terrain, and alternative arrangements may be necessary at some locations.
If you have mobility concerns or are unsure whether a tour is suitable for you, please contact us at 1-833-828-TOUR (8687) before booking. We would be happy to discuss your individual circumstances and accessibility requirements.

Itinerary

Day 1: Tuesday April 6th

A Warm Welcome to Flanders

Upon your arrival at **Brussels** International Airport, you will be welcomed by your battlefield tour guide, who will escort you to our coach and driver before we tour the short distance to **West Flanders, Belgium**. This afternoon we will take an orientation of the Ypres Salient Battlefields with visits to the **German Cemetery of Langemark**, and the **Brooding Soldier** at **St Julien**, to commemorate the first gas attacks against the 1st Canadian Corps in 1915. We end our introduction with a visit to **Essex Farm Cemetery** the place where John McCrae wrote the famous poem "In Flanders Fields". Lastly, we stop in the medieval city of **Ypres**, also known as the 'City of Peace', for a brief orientation tour, before our welcome dinner together and an early night's rest.

Overnight: Ypres

Meals Included: Dinner

Day 2: Wednesday April 7th

Exploring the Ypres Salient

We begin our day with a visit to the **Tyne Cot Commonwealth Cemetery** - the largest Commonwealth Cemetery, of any conflict, in the world. We will also explore the Battle of Passchendaele, with visits to the **Passchendaele Museum**, in **Zonnebeke**, and the **Crest Farm Memorial**, in Passchendaele. After lunch, we will explore the **Hooge Crater**, and **Hill 62** - a small area of the original battlefield and part of the Canadian Front Line. In the late afternoon, enjoy the chance to explore the historically rich city of Ypres at your own pace. We come together again for an early group meal in the heart of the medieval **Ypres' Grote Markt**. Tonight, at 8 PM, we will witness the iconic and historic **Last Post Ceremony**, at the **Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing**, led by the Ieper Fire Department & the Last Post Association. In this last Centennial Year remembering the First World War, the Last Post Association promises their daily act of homage to be among the most memorable acts of remembrance that we will witness on tour.

Overnight: Ypres

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner



Day 3: Thursday April 8th

Exploring the Last 100 Days of WW1

We say our farewells to Flanders, Belgium this morning and depart for the Northern battlefields of France - but first - we will make a significant stop at the **St. Symphorien Cemetery** near the city of **Mons**. This is where the first and last actions in the First World War took place. Consequently, this is also where the first and last Allied casualties of the Great War are laid to rest. We continue our story of the Last 100 Days with a visit to the city of **Cambrai**, where we will stop for lunch and orientation of the deeply rooted Canadian action, still visible in the scars of the city's architecture. We continue further still, to **Bourlon Wood**, to see the memorial which commemorates the Canadian Corps' crossing at the Canal du Nord on November 11th, 1918. The stairs leading up to the memorial are lined with ancient lime trees that were nursed back to health after having been devastated by shellfire during the battle for Bourlon Wood. We finish our day in the city of **Arras**, where we will enjoy a group dinner together before our overnight.

Overnight: Arras

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 4: Friday April 9th

The Battlefields of 1917: Vimy Ridge 110th Anniversary

Today is dedicated to attending the 110th Anniversary of the Official Commemoration Ceremonies at the **Vimy Memorial**. Further information and attendance registration to follow. Our day concludes back in Arras, where you'll have time to explore and enjoy dinner at a unique restaurant with a special surprise.

Overnight: Arras

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 5: Saturday April 10th

Exploring the Somme Battlefields

We will depart from Arras this morning and our day will be spent exploring the **Somme** - making visits to the Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval, as well the preserved battlefield memorial park at **Beaumont Hamel** - dedicated to the Royal Newfoundland and Labrador Regiment who lost so many men on that first day of battle. We will then continue on to view the **Lochnagar Crater**, among one of the largest craters on the battlefields of the Western Front. We will also visit the city of **Albert**, where we will explore the **Somme 1916 Museum**, hidden deep underneath the city's Romanesque Basilica. Then onto the coast for our dinner and overnight.

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS – MAISON BLANCHE TUNNELS

A special highlight of our tour is an exclusive visit to the underground tunnels at **Maison Blanche**, near Vimy Ridge. Normally closed to the public, The Battlefield Tours has been granted special access to this remarkable network of chalk tunnels, where Canadian soldiers sheltered and prepared for the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Here, we will discover the carvings and inscriptions left behind by soldiers more than a century ago—a rare and moving connection to Canada's wartime history.

Overnight: Dieppe

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 6: Sunday April 11th

Dieppe

This morning, we will first explore the **Blue Beach at Puys,** where we can view the gun emplacements on the cliff tops, which, on Aug 19, 1942, were responsible for such terrible Canadian casualties. We will then visit the **Dieppe Canadian Cemetery** before travelling to **Green Beach** at **Pourville**. We will also view the main landing beaches of **Red** and **White** on the Dieppe seafront. Later, we will continue our journey to **Normandy Landing Beaches** for our hotel check-in, dinner, and overnight.

Overnight: Caen

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 7: Monday April 12th

Normandy Beaches

Today we will focus on the D-Day Normandy invasion. We will begin our morning with a visit to **Pointe du Hoc** where the cratered landscape of the German battery, taken by the US Rangers in 1944, can be observed. We will continue to **Omaha Beach** and the American Military Cemetery to discover the appalling difficulties required for landing on Bloody Omaha. After leaving Omaha, we visit **La Chaos,** the German offshore battery, which today sits relatively intact, even after 70+ years. This afternoon, we visit the **Mulberry Harbours** in **Arromanches** before heading back to Courseulles-sur-Mer for another evening meal together.

Overnight: Caen

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 8: Tuesday April 13th

Juno & The Battle of Normandy

We will begin our day with a visit to the **Battle of Normandy Museum in Bayeux**, offering the visitor an illustrative understanding of the decisive actions that were taken in the liberation of Western Europe in 1944. With a refreshed perspective, we head to the Canadian battlefields & beaches of Normandy. Our first stop will be to **Verrieres Ridge** to view the area where the Black Watch suffered severe casualties in "Operation Spring". We continue on to the **Juno Beach Center**, dedicated to the 3rd Division landings as well as Canada's full involvement during World War II. Before heading back for dinner, we will visit the **Queens' Own Rifles House**, the first house liberated by Canadian forces when they stormed the beaches at Juno on June 6th, 1944. Our day will end with a solemn visit to the **Beny-sur-Mer**, **Canadian Military Cemetery**. Dinner on your own this evening.

Overnight: Caen

Meals Included: Breakfast



Day 9: Wednesday April 14th

Journey to Paris

After checking out of our hotel this morning, we will finish our tour of the Normandy region with visits to see the **Canadian Memorial Garden** in the **Abbaye des Ardennes**, as well as **Pegasus Bridge** - where the 6th British Airborne landed, captured and liberated the first house in Europe, the **Café Gondree**. We will then take the journey down to **Paris**. As we drive into the city, enjoy a coach orientation tour with our guide, before a river cruise of the **Seine**. From the panoramic decks, the city's landmarks slowly unfold - the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre-Dame, or the Pont Alexandre III. Tonight, we will enjoy an early farewell dinner together at the Jardin du Notre Dame before checking into our hotel CDG Airport to prepare for our early morning flight departure.

Overnight: Paris

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner



Day 10: Thursday April 15th

Flight Departure

This morning after breakfast we transfer to Paris' Charles de Gaulle International Airport for our group flight departure home, [or take a personal travel extension to Paris/Brussels/Amsterdam].

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & snacks served onboard.





Tour Pricing

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Questions? We are here to help:

1 - 833 - 828 - TOUR (8687)

info@thebattlefieldtours.com

Toronto I Saskatoon

INCLUSIONS

- An expert **Canadian historian** and a professional Canadian **tour director** will accompany the group for the full duration of the tour.
- **Transportation throughout** the tour is provided by a premium, air-conditioned motor coach featuring spacious reclining seating, facilities, and complimentary mobile Wi-Fi for passenger convenience.
- **Arrival Transfer:** from the airport to the commencement of the tour, coordinated with Air Canada flight **AC826**, scheduled to arrive BRU at 7:50 AM (07:50) **Tuesday April 6th 2027**.
- **Departure Transfer:** from the tour hotel to the airport, coordinated with Air Canada flight **AC873**, scheduled to depart CDG at 12:40 PM (12:40) **Thursday, April 15, 2027**.
- These transfers are included for participants travelling on the designated dates and flights. Travellers arriving or departing on different dates or flights, or choosing not to use the scheduled group transfers, will be responsible for arranging and covering the cost of their own transportation to link up with the tour or make their onward travel connections.
- **Accommodations** in Superior Tourist Class Hotels throughout (4-5*) 9 Nights.
- **All Entrances** as per your Itinerary
- **Meal Inclusions**
  9 Breakfasts
  2 Lunches
  8 Dinners
- A specially curated **Tour Resource Package** is included, available in both printable PDF and digital formats, including a customized tour app for convenient access throughout your journey. Featuring detailed daily itineraries, battlefield maps, period photographs, original archival audio recordings, and additional historical materials, these resources allow you to explore and follow your day-to-day tour information in whichever format suits you best—whether on your smartphone, tablet, desktop, or in print.
- **All service fees**, surcharges, fees, and departure taxes

Pricing

$ 5,287 CAD
Land Only, per person, based on **Double Occupancy** (two people sharing a room Double or Twin bed configuration available)

$ 6,252 CAD
Land Only, **Solo Traveller,** the additional cost if traveling on your own (one person in the room)

$500 Deposit
per person upon booking
(non-refundable)
Payable by Credit Card, Interac e-Transfer, Cheque

All prices are in Canadian Dollars

Balance due 60 days prior to the tour:
February 6th, 2027

Final Tour Participant Information Package
February 6th, 2027

The Battlefield Tours is a proud product of

connection custom travel

EXCLUSIONS

- **International Airfare** from Canada
- **Lunches & extra meals** and drinks not specified on the itinerary
- **Gratuities** Gratuities for the coach driver and guides are not included in the tour cost and should not be assumed. We believe gratuities are a personal gesture, offered at the traveler's discretion and based on the level of service and experience received, rather than a fixed or automatic charge built into the program, as is often the case with other tour operators.

Not Included / Available Upon Request

- **Airfare**: We are happy to arrange flights from any Canadian gateway, customized to your preferred dates, routing, and class of service. Travellers may choose to depart earlier, extend their stay at the end of the tour, or continue onward to additional destinations-air arrangements can be tailored to suit your individual travel plans.
- **Pre- and Post-Tour Accommodation**: Optional hotel nights before or after the tour are available upon request.
- **Travel Insurance**: Comprehensive travel insurance is not included; no-obligation quotes are available through Manulife upon request.
- **Extra Meals**: Meals not specifically listed in the itinerary.
- **Optional Activities**: Any optional excursions or activities not explicitly outlined in the itinerary.
- **Personal Expenses**: Items of a personal nature, including laundry, beverages, and souvenirs.

PLEASE NOTE

- **Physical Activity Level:** As with all our tours, the focus is on experiencing the battlefields firsthand. While we include select museum visits, much of our time is spent outdoors, walking on sandy beaches, grassy fields, uneven terrain, and cobblestone streets. Participants should be prepared for a moderate amount of walking throughout the tour, including periods of standing.
- **Unfortunately, our tours are not suitable for individuals who require walkers**. Participants who use **wheelchairs must travel with a designated companion** who is responsible for operating and assisting with the wheelchair throughout the tour. Please be aware that certain battlefield sites may have limited accessibility due to the nature of the terrain.
- Hotels have been pre-booked; however, should a change be required, accommodations will be of the same star rating or higher.
- **A minimum of 20 passengers is required for the tour to operate.**
- **A non-refundable deposit of $500 CAD per person is required at the time of booking**.

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