THE UNITED KINGDOM to VIMY RIDGE TOUR



APRIL 2 - 11 2027

10 Days / 9 Nights
With Option for Extension

Start: London, UK **End**: Brussels, Belgium

LONDON - BLETCHLEY - PORTSMOUTH - NORMANDY
DIEPPE - ARRAS - YPRES - BELGIUM

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.

United Kindom to Vimy Ridge



Normandy and the sacred fields of France and Belgium, culminating in the 110th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Designed for those seeking a deeper understanding of Canada's role in the First and Second World Wars, this tour combines expert-led interpretation, meaningful memorials, and moments of reflection at some of the most significant sites in modern history.

The journey begins in the **United Kingdom**, where Canada's wartime connections are explored through visits to **Windsor**, **Runnymede**, and London's Blitz-era landmarks. Guests gain insight into intelligence and innovation at **Bletchley Park**, the secret home of the Enigma codebreakers, and honour Canadian service at **Brookwood Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery** and **Aldershot's** Canadian military heritage.

Crossing the **Channel to Normandy**, the tour focuses on Canada's pivotal role on D-Day and in the weeks that followed. Highlights include the **Juno Beach Centre**, **Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery**, **Verrières Ridge**, the **Abbaye d'Ardenne**, and key coastal defenses and landing sites, alongside a powerful visit to **Omaha Beach**.

From Normandy, the tour turns to one of Canada's most tragic chapters at **Dieppe**, walking the beaches and cemeteries that bear witness to the heavy losses of August 19, 1942. The journey then continues into northern France for a once-in-a-generation experience: participation in the **official 110th Anniversary ceremonies at the Vimy Ridge Memoria**l, a defining moment in Canada's national story.

The final days are spent on the **Somme** and in **Flanders**, exploring **Beaumont-Hamel**, **Thiepval**, **Lochnagar Crater**, **Hill 70**, and the battlefields of the **Ypres Salient**. The tour concludes with a deeply moving evening at the **Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate**, a daily act of remembrance that has honored the missing since 1928.

Throughout the program, guests benefit from expert battlefield interpretation, carefully paced travel, and accommodations located close to key historical sites. This is not simply a tour—it is a meaningful act of remembrance, education, and connection to Canada's military legacy.

THIS TOUR SPANS:
Three Counties in Europe: England, France, Belgium
London, Bletchley, Portsmouth, Normandy, Dieppe, Arras, Ypres, Venice

Overnight Cities
London, England – 2 nights
Portsmouth, England – 1 night
Caen, France – 2 nights
Arras, France – 3 nights
Ypres, Belgium – 1 night
Total: 9 nights / 10 days

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- **Windsor & Runnymede**: Explore the royal town and visit the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial and the historic site of the Magna Carta.
- **Imperial War Museum** (in London): Insightful exhibits on both World Wars, the Blitz, and wartime London.
- **Bletchley Park**: Guided tour of the famed WWII codebreaking centre.
- **Brookwood Military Cemetery & Aldershot Museum**: Honouring Canadian soldiers who served and trained in England.
- **Portsmouth D-Day Museum**: Learn about the Allied embarkation for Normandy with an optional visit to the historic shipyard.
- **Normandy Landings**: Walk Juno Beach, visit the Juno Beach Centre, Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery, and key Canadian landmarks including the Queens' Own Rifles House.
- **Arromanches & Omaha Beach:** Understand the scale and sacrifice of D-Day from both Canadian and American perspectives.
- **Dieppe Raid Sites**: Visit Blue Beach, Green Beach, and the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery to reflect on Canada's darkest day of WWII.
- **Beaumont-Hamel & The Somme**: Discover the legacy of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and visit the Thiepval Memorial and Lochnagar Crater.
- **Exclusive Access – Maison Blanche Tunnels** – The Battlefield Tours has been granted special access to these historic underground chalk tunnels near Vimy Ridge, normally closed to the public. Explore where Canadian soldiers sheltered and prepared for the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917, and discover the remarkable carvings and inscriptions they left behind.
- **Vimy Ridge – 110th Anniversary** – Attend the official commemoration ceremonies at the Vimy Memorial.
- **Ypres & the Salient**: Visit Essex Farm, Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Langemark, and Hill 62.
- **Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate**: Witness the poignant daily tribute to the missing of the Great War in the heart of Ypres.

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: Friday April 2nd
Arrival in the United Kingdom
Upon arrival, we'll begin with a brief visit to historic **Windsor**, including stops at the **Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial** and **Runnymede** – the site where the Magna Carta was signed – before continuing on to our hotel for a Welcome Dinner.
Overnight: London
Meals Included: Dinner

Day 2: Saturday April 3rd
London and Bletchley
Today begins with an orientation tour of **London**, including key sites from the Blitz and wartime London. We'll then visit the **Imperial War Museum**, followed by a short journey to **Bletchley Park**, where a guided tour brings to life the once-secret home of the Enigma codebreakers—now a fascinating and dynamic heritage site.
Overnight: London
Meals Included: Breakfast



Day 3: Sunday, April 4th
London to Portsmouth
This morning, we will visit **Brookwood Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery**, the only burial site in England for Canadian military personnel who lost their lives in England and France. From there, we continue to the **Aldershot Military Museum**, housed in the last remaining Canadian barrack room and featuring compelling exhibits from both World Wars. Our day concludes in **Portsmouth** with a visit to the **D-Day Story Museum,** with the option to explore the Historic Dockyard.
Overnight: Portsmouth
Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4: Monday, April 5th
Arrival in France to Normandy
We begin the day with an early morning cross-Channel crossing to **Normandy**. Upon arrival, we will visit the **Canadian Memorial Garden at the Abbaye d'Ardenne** and continue onto **Verrières Ridge**, where the Black Watch endured heavy losses during "Operation Spring." We then head to our hotel to unwind and relax after the day's journey.
Overnight: Caen
Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5: Tuesday April 6th
N**ormandy Beaches**
We begin today at the **Juno Beach Centre**, followed by a visit to the **Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemeter**y.



From there, we explore key sites along the Juno sector, including the **Queen's Own Rifles House** -the first home liberated by Canadian forces on June 6th, 1944. We then visit **La Chaos**, a remarkably well-preserved German offshore battery, before continuing to the remains of the **Mulberry Harbours at Arromanches**. Our day concludes at **Omaha Beach**, where we'll reflect on the immense challenges faced by American forces during the D-Day landings on what became known as "Bloody Omaha."
Overnight: Caen
Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6: Wednesday April 7th
Dieppe
Bidding farewell to Lower Normandy, we turn our attention from the Second World War to one of its most tragic chapters as we journey to the French coastal town of **Dieppe**. Our first stop is **Blue Beach at Puys**, where the cliff-top gun emplacements played a devastating role in the heavy Canadian losses on August 19, 1942. We then visit the **Dieppe Canadian Cemetery** before heading to **Green Beach** at **Pourville** and the main landing sites of **Red** and **White Beaches** along the Dieppe seafront. Later, we travel on to **Arras** for hotel check-in, dinner, and an overnight stay.
Overnight: Arras
Meals Included: Breakfast



Day 7: Thursday April 8th
The Somme
Today, we explore the historic battlefields of the **Somme**, beginning with a visit to the **Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval**, followed by the preserved battlefield at **Beaumont-Hamel**, where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment suffered devastating losses on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916.
We continue to the impressive **Lochnagar Crater**, one of the largest mine craters on the Western Front, before visiting **Courcelette**, where Canadian forces fought a significant battle in September 1916, and the nearby area where tanks were first used in warfare.
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: Arras
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Friday April 9th
Vimy 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. We will have a picnic lunch prepared for you. 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, Picnic Lunch & Dinner



Day 9: Saturday April 10th
In Flanders Fields
Today we explore the battlefields of the **Ypres Salient**. We begin with a visit to **Essex Farm**, where John McCrae penned the iconic poem "In Flanders Fields." From there, we travel north to **Tyne Cot Commonwealth Cemetery -** the largest Commonwealth cemetery from any conflict in the world. Our tour continues with a focus on the Battle of Passchendaele, including stops at the **Crest Farm Memorial in Passchendaele**. We then visit the **German Cemetery at Langemark** and the '**Brooding Soldier'** monument at **St. Julien**, commemorating the first gas attacks on the 1st Canadian Corps in 1915. Further highlights include the **Hooge Crater** and **Hill 62**, a preserved section of the original battlefield and part of the Canadian Front Line. We conclude our day in the medieval city of **Ypres**, known as the 'City of Peace.' Tonight at 8 PM, we'll attend the iconic **Last Post Ceremony** at the **Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing**, led by the Ieper Fire Department and the Last Post Association. This moving daily tribute is one of the most memorable acts of remembrance on our tour. After the ceremony, we'll return to the hotel to prepare for tomorrow's departure.
Overnight: Ypres
Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 10: Sunday April 11th
Depart Brussels
After breakfast we will transfer to Brussels international airport for your return flight home.

ITINERARY

Tour Pricing

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS



Questions? We are here to help:
1 - 833 - 828 - TOUR (8687)
info@thebattlefieldtours.com

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 **AC852** , scheduled to arrive LHR at 9:35 AM **Thursday April 2nd 2027**.
- **Departure Transfer:** from the tour hotel to the airport, coordinated with Air Canada flight **AC 9417** Via FRA, scheduled to depart BRU at 2:30 PM **Sunday, April11th 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.
  - **Ferry crossing:** Portsmouth to Normandy
- **Accommodations** in Superior Tourist Class Hotels throughout (4-5*) 9 Nights.
- **All Entrances** as per your Itinerary
- **Meal Inclusions**
  9 Breakfasts,
  2 Lunch
  7 Dinners (includes a glass of wine or beer)
- 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

2027 Pricing

$ 5380 CAD
Land Only, per person, based on **Double Occupancy** (two people sharing a room Double or Twin bed configuration available)

$ 6380 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 2nd 2027

Final Tour Participant Information Package
February 2nd 2027

The Battlefield Tours is a proud product of

connection custom travel

EXCLUSIONS

- **International Airfare** from Canada
- **UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA):** Mandatory entry requirement for travel to the United Kingdom. All travellers must apply independently and provide proof of approval no later than three months prior to departure.
- **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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