

CANADIAN AIRBORNE FORCES ASSOCIATION

EPIC BATTLES OF WWII TOUR

May 14th - 23rd 2027

Start: Paris, France

| End: Amsterdam, Netherlands

FRANCE ★ BELGIUM ★ NETHERLANDS ★ GERMANY



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CAFA EPIC BATTLES OF WWII TOUR

REGISTRATION
OPEN



Epic Battles of WWII: Following the Canadian Airborne from Normandy to the Rhine

Retrace the extraordinary combat journey of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion through the most decisive airborne campaigns of the Second World War. From the beaches of **Normandy** to the crossing of the **Rhine**, this immersive 10-day battlefield tour follows the Canadian and Allied Airborne through the epic battles that helped liberate Western Europe and hastened the defeat of Nazi Germany. Your journey begins in Normandy, where you'll explore the battlefields of D-Day, the largest amphibious invasion in history. Walk the sands of **Juno Beach**, stand atop the cliffs of **Pointe du Hoc**, visit the remains of the **Mulberry Harbours** at Arromanches, and reflect on the sacrifices made at **Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery**. Follow the remarkable story of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion as they landed in darkness alongside the British 6th Airborne Division to secure vital objectives behind enemy lines. Visit legendary sites including **Pegasus Bridge**, the **Merville Battery**, **Hill 67**, and the **Abbey d'Ardenne**, where the Canadian Garden of Remembrance honours those murdered after capture.



The tour continues into **Belgium** to examine one of the war's most dramatic campaigns—the Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's final and desperate offensive on the Western Front. Explore the battlefields of **La Gleize** and **Malmedy**, where fierce fighting raged through the snow-covered Ardennes during the bitter winter of 1944–45. You'll also visit the legendary **Fort Eben-Emael**, where Germany's daring airborne assault in May 1940 revolutionised modern warfare and demonstrated the strategic potential of elite airborne forces. Crossing into the Netherlands, you'll trace the story of Operation Market Garden, the largest airborne operation ever attempted. Explore the battlefields of Nijmegen and Arnhem, where British, American, Polish, and Canadian forces fought to secure a route into Germany. Visit the outstanding **Freedom Museum**, walk the original drop zones, stand at the famous **John Frost Bridge**, and gain a deeper understanding of the campaign immortalised in *A Bridge Too Far*. At **Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery**, pay tribute to more than 2,600 Canadian servicemen who gave their lives during the liberation of the Netherlands. The journey reaches its climax with **Operation Varsity**, the largest single-day airborne assault in military history and the final combat action of the **1st Canadian Parachute Battalion**. Follow the battalion across the **Rhine** as Allied airborne forces spearheaded the final invasion of Germany, opening the road to ultimate victory in Europe. Throughout the tour, you'll visit iconic battlefields, museums, memorials, and Commonwealth War Cemeteries. Led by expert battlefield historians, this tour provides an in-depth understanding of the planning, courage, sacrifice, and determination that defined the Canadian Airborne and their Allied comrades during the final year of the Second World War. Whether your interest lies in military history, family connections, or the remarkable legacy of Canada's airborne soldiers, this unforgettable journey offers the opportunity to stand where history was made and experience the epic battles of WWII through the eyes of those who fought them.

TOUR SPANS:

May 14 - 23 2027 **Start:** Paris
10 Days / 8 Nights **End:** Amsterdam

- Caen, France – 3 Nights
- Namur, Belgium – 1 Night
- Valkenburg (Maastricht Region), Netherlands – 1 Night
- Nijmegen, Netherlands – 3 Nights

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Follow the story of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion from Normandy to the Rhine.
- Walk the battlefields of Operation Overlord, the Battle of the Bulge, Operation Market Garden, and Operation Varsity.
- Explore Normandy's D-Day landing beaches and Canada's role on Juno Beach.
- Discover the courage and sacrifice of Allied airborne forces through expert battlefield interpretation.
- Visit some of Europe's most significant military museums and memorials.
- Experience the landscapes where the final campaigns of the Second World War unfolded.
- Travel with Canadian battlefield historians and fellow military history enthusiasts.

HISTORIC SITES VISITED

- Juno Beach Centre,
- Pegasus Bridge Museum
- Abbaye d'Ardenne
- Point du Hoc,
- Omaha Beach (Colleville-sur-Mer)
- Longue-sur-Mer Battery
- Arromanches
- December 44 Museum in La Gleize
- Fortress Eben-Emael
- Arnhem (John Frost Bridge),
- Airborne Museum Hartenstein,
- Arnhem Drop Zones
- Operation Varsity Battlefields



Day 1 | Friday, May 14th 2027

Depart Canada

Depart Canada to Paris, beginning your journey in the footsteps of the Canadian Airborne. For travellers who have purchased our airfare package, we will depart Toronto on **Air Canada Flight AC872** at 20:30 hrs for our overnight flight to **Paris**. Sit back, relax, and prepare to begin an unforgettable journey following the story of the Canadian Airborne through France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.
Meals included: Dinner, drinks & breakfast served onboard

Day 2 | Saturday, May 15th

Arrival in France – Welcome to Normandy

Upon arrival at **Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport**, we will be met by our private coach before travelling west to the historic city of **Caen** in the heart of Normandy. Upon arrival in Lower **Normandy**, we will have an opportunity to visit **Hill 67** which was a key tactical high point south of **Caen** fought over by Canadian forces during the Battle of Normandy and overlooking **Verrieres Ridge**. It served as a vital strategic strongpoint and launch site for Allied offensives in the summer of 1944. We then have an opportunity to visit **Abbey des Ardennes**, where we visit the **Canadian Garden of Remembrance**, the site of the execution of 20 young Canadian POWs by Kurt Meyers SS troops. This evening, we'll gather for a welcome reception at our hotel, providing an opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and tour hosts before beginning our exploration of the Canadian Airborne story. We will spend the next three nights at the [Holiday Inn Caen-Epron](#) 3★ ★ ★
Meals Included: Lunch & Dinner
Overnight: Caen

Day 3 | Sunday, May 16th

Juno Beach & Canada's D-Day Story

We begin today at the **Juno Beach Centre**, followed by a visit to the **Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery**. 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." We will then travel the short distance to **Pointe du Hoc** to understand the courage and objective of Rudder's 2nd Ranger Battalion.
Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch
Overnight: Caen, France

Day 4 | Monday, May 17th

In the Footsteps of the Canadian Airborne

Today is dedicated to the remarkable story of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion on D-Day and the hard-fought Normandy campaign that followed. We will trace the battalion's actions from their parachute drop in the early hours of 6 June 1944 through the fierce fighting that helped secure the Allied bridgehead and pave the way for the liberation of Northwest Europe. Our journey includes a visit to the **Merville Battery**, where the Canadians were to protect the left (southern) flank of the 9th Battalion, afterwards seizing a position astride the **Le Mesnil** crossroads, a vital position at the centre of the ridge.

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We then visit the iconic **Pegasus Bridge**, one of the most celebrated objectives of D-Day, along with the **Pegasus Memorial Museum**, where original artefacts, personal stories, and the famous bridge itself bring the airborne assault vividly to life.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch
Overnight: Caen, France

Day 5 | Tuesday May 18th

From Normandy to the Ardennes

Today we bid farewell to Normandy as we journey east into the picturesque **Ardennes** region of **Belgium**, following the route taken by Allied forces during the liberation of Europe. While much of the day is spent travelling through the beautiful French and Belgian countryside, there will be time to appreciate the changing landscapes and reflect on the campaign that carried the Canadian Airborne beyond Normandy. Upon arrival in the historic city of **Namur**, the remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure to relax, explore the charming riverside city, or simply unwind before the next stage of our battlefield tour. Tonight we stay at the **Mercure Namur** 4 ★ ★ ★ ★
Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch
Overnight: Namur, Belgium

Day 6 | Wednesday, May 19th

The Battle of the Bulge & Fort Eben-Emael

Today we explore the dramatic story of the Battle of the Bulge. Our journey takes us through the historic towns of **La Gleize** and **Malmedy**, where fierce fighting unfolded amidst the snow-covered Ardennes in the winter of 1944–45. Later, we visit the legendary **Fort Eben-Emael**, once considered Europe's most formidable fortress. Here, an audacious assault by German airborne troops in May 1940 forever changed military history and demonstrated the revolutionary potential of airborne warfare. This evening, we cross into the **Netherlands** for our overnight stay in the Maastricht region at the [Hotel Valkenburg by Mercure](#) 4 ★ ★ ★ ★
Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch
Overnight: Valkenburg, Netherlands

Day 7 | Thursday, May 20th

Operation Market Garden

Today we travel north to **Nijmegen**, our final base for the tour, where we begin exploring the story of **Operation Market Garden**—the ambitious Allied airborne offensive of September 1944. As we trace the fighting around Nijmegen, we will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges Allied airborne and ground forces faced in their attempt to secure a route into Germany. Highlights of the day include a visit to the outstanding **Freedom Museum** which tells the story of the liberation of the Netherlands, followed by time at **Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery**, the largest Canadian war cemetery in the country and the resting place of more than 2,600 Canadian servicemen and women. We will spend the next three nights at the [Mercure Nijmegen Centre](#) 4 ★ ★ ★ ★ our base for exploring the final airborne operations of the Second World War.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch
Overnight: Nijmegen, Netherlands

Day 8 | Friday May 21st

Arnhem – A Bridge Too Far

Today we explore the battlefield of Arnhem, where the British 1st Airborne Division fought one of the most famous and courageous actions of the Second World War during Operation Market Garden. We will follow the story of the airborne assault from the original landing zones to the iconic **John Frost Bridge**, where determined defenders held out against overwhelming odds. Our day includes visits to the original drop zones, the outstanding **Airborne Museum at Hartenstein**. Through expert interpretation and visits to these historic sites, we will gain a deeper appreciation of the courage, sacrifice, and legacy of the airborne forces who fought in this pivotal campaign.

Meals Included: Breakfast
Overnight: Nijmegen, Netherlands

Day 9 | Saturday, May 22nd

Operation Varsity & Farewell Dinner

Our final day on the battlefields is dedicated to **Operation Varsity**, the largest single-day airborne operation in history and the final combat action of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. We will follow the battalion's role alongside the British 6th Airborne Division as they crossed the Rhine in March 1945, helping to open the way for the Allied advance into the heart of Germany and the final defeat of Nazi forces. This evening, we gather for a special farewell dinner, reflecting on the remarkable journey we have shared while honouring the courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of the Canadian Airborne.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner
Overnight: Nijmegen, Netherlands

Day 10 | Sunday, May 23rd

Departure from Europe

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Europe as we transfer to **Amsterdam Schiphol Airport**. For travellers who have purchased our group airfare package, we will depart on **Air Canada Flight AC809**, departing Amsterdam at 12:35 hrs for our return journey to Canada. For those extending their European adventure, Schiphol Airport offers convenient rail and air connections to destinations throughout Europe. As our journey comes to an end, we leave with a deeper appreciation of the courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of the Canadian Airborne, having walked the battlefields where history was made.

Meals Included: Breakfast

TOUR END - OPTION TO EXTEND



TOUR PRICING

Questions?

We are here to help

1 - 833 - 828 - TOUR (8687)

info@thebattlefieldtours.com

INCLUSIONS

- **Airfare:** Purchase of Land & Air Package Return Toronto>Paris/Amsterdam>Toronto
- **Transportation:** 50 Seater Executive Coach, Private coach transportation throughout the itinerary
- **Driver Expenses:** Meals/ Accommodation & Gratuities
- **Meals:** Welcome & Farewell Dinners, Daily Buffet Breakfasts, Lunches (6)
Freshly prepared packed lunches daily
- **Accommodations:** in Superior Tourist Class Hotels throughout 3-4 ★ 8 Nights.
- **Taxes & Service Fees:** Air/Land Tour taxes, local tourism levies and service fees (ALL merchant credit card processing fees)
- **All Entrances:** Juno Beach Centre/Pegasus Bridge Museum/December 44 Historical Museum - La Gleize/Fortress Eben Emael / Airborne Museum – Oosterbeek)
- **Tour Resource Package:** A specially curated tour resource package is included, Custom Itinerary (PDF Printable), featuring detailed daily itinerary, battlefield maps, period photographs, original archival audio recordings, and additional historical materials.
- **Tour Extension Planning:** Pre- and post-tour planning services for travellers wishing to extend their journey, including accommodation, airfare, and personalized travel arrangements by travel advisor at The Battlefield Tours a product of Connection Custom Travel

EXCLUSIONS

- **International Airfare** from Canada (Purchase of LAND ONLY PROGRAMME)
- **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.

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

****ROOMMATE (Twin Occupancy):** Accommodation for two participants sharing one room with two separate beds, where available. Roommate requests are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If a suitable roommate cannot be matched, the applicable single supplement will apply.

PLEASE NOTE

- **Physical Activity Level:** As with all our tours, the focus is on experiencing the battlefields firsthand. While we do include select museum visits, much of our time is spent outdoors, often walking on sandy beaches, grassy fields, and cobblestone streets. Please be prepared for a moderate amount of walking throughout the tour.
- If you use a wheelchair or have mobility concerns, we kindly ask that you review our Wheelchair Policy in advance.
- 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.

PACKAGES & PRICING

\$5,345 CAD

Airfare* & Land Tour Programme

Departure from Toronto*

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

\$6,320 CAD

Airfare* & Land Tour Programme

Departure from Toronto*

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

ROOMMATE (TWIN Occupancy). 2 Persons in one room sharing TWO bed(s) configuration available

\$3,855 CAD

Land Tour Programme Only

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

\$4,830 CAD

Land Tour Programme Only

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

ROOMMATE (TWIN Occupancy). 2 Persons in one room sharing TWO bed(s) configuration available

***we are pleased to provide airfare quotes from other major Canadian cities upon request**

\$500 Deposit*

per person upon booking
(non-refundable)

***Deposit is fully refundable if the minimum number of participants required to guarantee the tour departure is not met.**

Payable by Credit Card or Interac e-Transfer All prices are in Canadian Dollars

Balance due 60 days prior to the tour: Monday, March 15th 2027

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

