



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 Battlefields 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

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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, Béný-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 Memorial, 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

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.
- **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.

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



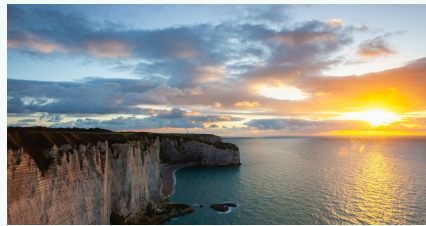
Day 5: Tuesday April 6th

Normandy Beaches

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."

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 Puits**, 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

We'll spend the day exploring the **Somme**, starting with a visit to the **Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval** and then the preserved battlefield park at **Beaumont Hamel**, dedicated to the Royal Newfoundland & Labrador Regiment, who suffered heavy losses on that first day of battle. In the afternoon, we'll continue to the **Lochnagar Crater**, one of the largest craters on the Western Front, as well as a visit to the site of Courcellette as well as the site of the very first use of tanks in warfare.

Overnight: Arras

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Friday April 9th

Vimpy 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 **Hooze 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 Leper 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.

Tour Pricing

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Questions? We are here to help:

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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.
- **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
- A specially curated tour **resource package** is included, Custom Itinerary (PDF Printable), featuring detailed daily battlefield maps, period photographs, original archival audio recordings, and additional historical materials.
- **All service fees**, surcharges, fees, and departure taxes

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 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.

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