THE ORIGINAL FALL TOUR

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 3 2026

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

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The Original Fall Tour

This is the original Canadian battlefield tour—first of its kind, escorting Canadians from Canada to tour the battlefields of Europe in 1986—built upon throughout the years while maintaining a simple goal: an extraordinary introduction to some of the most significant Canadian battlefields and memorials of the First and Second World Wars.

On this original tour program, you will experience a comprehensive and immersive introduction to both world wars that shaped our recent history. Explore the connections between these conflicts and gain a deeper understanding of their lasting impact on the world today. This journey is led by our senior Historian and Guide, Glenn Edmonds, and includes time spent with some of our trusted and respected local battlefield experts.

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- A visit to **Vimy Ridge**.
- Explore the Canadian and American beaches of the famous Normandy D-Day invasions in WW2.
- **Beaumont Hamel**: The largest fully intact, First World War battlefield in the world. It has been kept as it was and maintained by Canada.
- Visit the seaside town of **Dieppe** and take in where so many Canadians fought and died in what was called Canada's largest casualty day in WW2.
- Witness the breathtaking **Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate** led by the dedicated Ypres Fire Department & World Community honouring those who fought in the Great War.
- View the German Cemetery of **Langemark** as well as **Lochnagar**, one of the Great War's largest craters.

Itinerary

Day 1: Thursday, September 24th
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: Friday, September 25th
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 Passchendale. 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: Saturday, September 26th
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: Sunday, September 27th
The Battlefields of 1917: Vimy Ridge & Hill 70
Today we take a tour to **Vimy Ridge Memorial Park**. It was on Hill 145, on April 1917, that Canada truly became a nation in the eyes of the world. Its troops combined and stormed Vimy Ridge after all other allied forces had failed to do so. We will tour the tunnels, trenches and memorial, as well as the new interpretation centre, which opened in Spring 2017 for the 100th Anniversary. Enjoy a locally prepared **picnic lunch** en route. In the afternoon, we continue to see the new **Canadian Memorial at Hill 70**. Here we will be discussing the Battle of Hill 70 - sometimes dubbed as “Canada’s Forgotten Battle”. When our explorations of the battlefields are through, we head back to Arras to explore the French city at our own pace. With its many shops, cafes and restaurants, take the time to also enjoy dinner with a surprise this evening.
Overnight: Arras
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 5: Monday, September 28th
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.
Overnight: Dieppe
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 6: Tuesday, September 29th
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: Juno Beach
Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 7: Wednesday, September 30th
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 Harbors in Arromanches** before heading back to Courseulles for another evening meal together.
Overnight: Juno Beach
Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 8: Thursday, October 1st
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: Juno Beach
Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 9: Friday, October 2nd
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: Saturday, October 3rd
Group Flight Departure
This morning after breakfast we transfer to Paris’ Charles du Gaulle International Airport for our group flight departure home, [or take a personal travel extension to Paris/Brussels/Amsterdam]. 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.
- **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, 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

2026 Pricing

$ 4770.00 CAD
Land Only, per person, based on **Double Occupancy** (two people sharing a room Double or Twin bed configuration available)

$ 5755.00 CAD
Land Only, **Solo Traveller,** the additional cost if traveling on your own (one person in the room)

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

All prices are in Canadian Dollars

Balance due 60 days prior to the tour:
July 24th, 2027

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 18 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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