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Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery

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“FROM NORMANDY TO FLANDERS FIELDS”

A TOUR OF THE CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WARS I AND II

14 days, Thursday, November 3, to Wednesday, November 16, 2016

A thorough exploration of the battlefields of France and Belgium, focusing on the Canadian contributions in Flanders' Fields, at Vimy, the Somme, Mons, and of course Normandy, but also including Verdun and other “killing fields” of the Great War. An unforgettable Remembrance Day commemoration in Flanders' Fields will be an absolute highlight! Excellent hotels and meals, and history lectures by your tour escort, Michael Quinn.

**Tour price: \$ 3,545.00 CAD from Toronto, based on double occupancy:
Single room supplement: \$ 695.00 CAD
(Pay entire tour by cheque and save \$125.00)**

PROPOSED ITINERARY

(Meals included in addition to daily breakfast: L- lunch; D- dinner)

Day 1 - Thursday, November 3:

Evening departure from Toronto to Paris with Air Canada. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Friday, November 4: (D)

Early morning arrival in Paris, and transfer by private coach to the village of **Rethondes**, near Compiègne, for a visit to the “Glade of the Armistice,” featuring the (reconstructed) railway car that served as Marshal Foch's HQ, in which the Germans surrendered on November 11, 1918 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glade_of_the_Armistice). On via Soissons to the historic city of **Reims**, where we check into the centrally located superior 3-star Hotel

Continental, (<http://www.grandhotelcontinental.com/fr/index.php#index.php>). Free time to settle in before a late afternoon short walking tour of this attractive city, including the magnificent Gothic Cathedral, carefully restored after its destruction during the First World War. Dinner in the hotel's fine restaurant.

Day 3 - Saturday, November 5:

Full-day excursion to **Verdun**, the quintessential French "killing field" of World War I. Our sightseeing program includes the infamous fort and the massive ossuary of Douaumont, the "Trench of the Bayonets", the old town of Verdun itself, and the *Voie Sacrée* ("Sacred Way"), the only road through which supplies could reach the besieged city during the terrible battle that was fought there in 1916 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Verdun). Return to Reims in the late afternoon and evening at leisure.



Douaumont Ossuary and Cemetery

Day 4 - Sunday, November 6: (D)

After breakfast we visit the "war room", where General Eisenhower accepted the German surrender at the end of the Second World War, on May 7, 1945. Then we leave Reims to explore the **Chemin des Dames**, a ridge dotted with memorials, cemeteries and artifacts associated with the 1917 murderous spring French offensive that triggered mutinies within the French Army. On to **Vimy** for a comprehensive tour of the stunning Canadian Memorial and Battlefield Park including a guided tour of the underground tunnel complex and trenches. In the afternoon, a visit to the massive French Ossuary and Cemetery of **Notre Dame de Lorette** as well as the Franco-British and German cemeteries in **La Targette**. Late afternoon arrival in the charming town of **Arras**, capital of the Artois region, where we check into the comfortable Holiday Inn Express. Evening stroll to admire the elegant facades of the Grand' Place before dinner in a typical brasserie.

Day 5 - Monday, November 7: (D)

This morning we follow the Canadian army's line of advance at the end of the Great War via **Cambrai** to **Mons**, the town just across the Belgian border where the British fought their first battle in 1914 and which was taken by Canadian troops during the very last hours of the war, on the morning of November 11, 1918. Visit to St.

Symphorien Cemetery, with the graves of soldiers of the three nations – Canada, Britain, and Germany - that were involved in the two battles of Mons, including the grave of the Great War's first British and last Canadian soldier to die, the latter only minutes before the cease-fire went into effect. After lunch, we continue to the **Battlefield of Waterloo** to view the famous Lion Monument and the historic inns that served as headquarters to Wellington and Napoleon. Dinner and overnight in the Best Western Hotel County House in Brussels (<http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/BE/Brussels-hotels/BEST-WESTERN-County-House-of-Brussels/Hotel-Overview.do?propertyCode=92611>).

< *Grave of G. L. Price, last Canadian killed in the Great War (Photo J. Pauwels)*



Day 6 - Tuesday, November 8:

Following breakfast, panoramic city tour of the Belgian capital, including the Royal Palace, the Palace of Justice, and of course the magnificent Grand' Place. Also visit to the War Museum with its fabulous collection of weapons, uniforms, and airplanes of both World Wars. The remainder of the day is free to enjoy Brussels on your own. Your host will suggest attractive options such as a visit to the superb Museum of Ancient and Modern Art, shopping in the Galeries St. Hubert, tasting waffles or chocolates...and all sorts of fine dining opportunities!

Day 7 - Wednesday, November 9: (D)

Departure from Brussels after breakfast to Flanders Fields, the Belgian sector of World War I battlefields, stretching from the French border to the North Sea. Visits to the Canadian Memorial in **Passchendaele**, in whose muddy fields Canadian troops fought an epic battle in 1917; Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world; the Brooding Soldier Monument; Essex Farm Cemetery, where John McRae composed his famous poem; the German War Cemetery of **Vladslo**, site of the poignant Käthe Kollwitz sculpture "The Mourning Parents"; and, time permitting, the little seaport of **Nieuwpoort**, at the mouth of the Yser River, where in 1914-1918 the frontline ended with barbed wire stretched across the beach and into the salty water of the North Sea. Late-afternoon arrival in **Bruges**, arguably the best preserved medieval town in all of Europe. In 1944, Bruges was liberated by a Canadian Army unit from Manitoba, entering the town, as we will, via the bridge now known as the Canada Bridge. We check into the centrally located Hotel Zand (www.hotel-zand-brugge.be) and a group dinner this evening in the cozy hotel dining room.

Day 8 - Thursday, November 10:

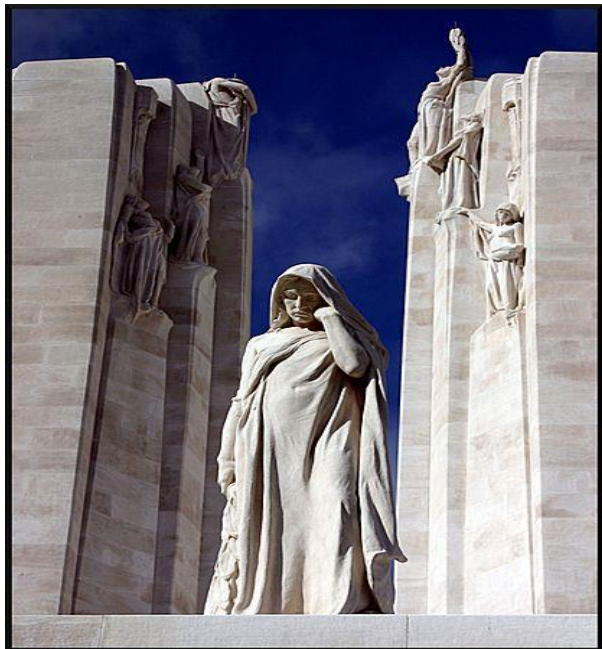
This morning we enjoy a leisurely walking tour of old Bruges. Highlights include the Belfry, symbol of the city; the Church of Our Lady; the Gothic Town Hall; Medieval St. John's Hospital; the scenic canals that crisscross the town; the Lake of Love, and the romantic Beguinage. Remainder of the day at leisure. This evening, an *optional* dinner of Flemish culinary specialties during which we will be entertained by musicians specializing in medieval music but who will also treat us to songs of WW I!



The Brooding Soldier >

Day 9 - Friday, November 11: (L) REMEMBRANCE DAY!

This morning we motor to the town of **Ieper** (French: Ypres), hub of "Flanders Fields," to attend the moving Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Menin Gate, the principal British War Memorial in the area. After a group lunch in a typical restaurant, visit to the excellent Flanders Fields War Museum, located in the famous Cloth Hall, a wonderful medieval building destroyed during WW I but carefully rebuilt in the following decades.



(www.inflandersfields.be). Our last stop of the day before returning to Bruges will be to the St. George Memorial Chapel with its remembrance memorials and plaques to the fallen.

< Detail of the Vimy Memorial

Day 10 - Saturday, November 12: (L)

Today we explore the area along the nearby Belgian-Dutch border where the Canadian Army fought the famous "Battle of the Scheldt" in the fall of 1944. After short visits to memorials at **Moerbrugge** and **Moerkerke** we visit the Canadian War Cemetery in the village of Adegem, located on the banks of the Leopold Canal, and conduct a memorial service together with members of the local Belgian-Canadian Association who will also join us for lunch in the nearby Canadian War Museum. Afternoon return to Bruges and remainder of day at leisure with opportunity to visit the marvelous museums of the Memling or Groening.

Day 11 - Sunday, November 13:

Departing from Bruges, we return to France and motor to the **Somme Battlefield**, scene of General Haig's "Big Push", i.e. the great British offensive launched on July 1, 1916. Sites will include the Newfoundland Caribou Monument (and adjoining Interpretation Centre) at **Beaumont-Hamel**, the Ulster Memorial Tower, the massive British Memorial of **Thiepval**, and the Canadian Monument of **Courcelette** (www.ww1battlefields.co.uk/somme.html). In mid-afternoon we arrive at the Normandy port of Dieppe, where, in August 1942, Canadian troops suffered many losses on its beach during Operation Jubilee, an Allied test raid against the defences of the German Atlantic Wall. After visits to the Canadian Memorial on the infamous beach and the Canadian War Cemetery we continue to the picturesque and historic seaport of **Honfleur**, whence Samuel de Champlain sailed for Canada in 1608 to found the city of Quebec and the colony of New France. Accommodation in the Ibis Styles Hotel (www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-8124-ibis-styles-honfleur-centre-historique/index.shtml), and dinner at leisure.

Day 12 - Monday, November 14:

Full-day tour of the **Normandy Beaches** that witnessed the landing of Allied troops on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Focus will be on the Canadian sector, **Juno Beach**, with the towns of **Bernières** and **Courseulles**, the Juno Beach Centre, Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, and Ardenne Abbey, where several Canadian POWs were executed by SS troops. Stops will also be included at the remains of the artificial Mulberry Harbour in **Arromanches**, the famous **Pegasus Bridge**, and the town of **Caen**. Return to Honfleur in late afternoon.



Canadian troops disembarking at Bernières, Juno Beach

Day 13 - Tuesday, November 15: (L)

Departure from Honfleur after breakfast. We motor to **Rouen**, Normandy's capital, for a leisurely stroll through its old town, including the market square where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake in 1431. After a gourmet *Au Revoir* lunch in a traditional restaurant, we continue to Hotel Campanile in Roissy, near **Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport** (www.campanile.com/en/hotels/campanile-roissy). The evening is free to pack your suitcase, but it may also be possible to take a sidetrip (by suburban train) to Paris!

Day 14 – Wednesday, November 16:

After breakfast, transfer (by hotel shuttle service) to Charles de Gaulle Airport in time for the departure of our return flight to Toronto with Air Canada. Lunch and a light snack will be served before the afternoon arrival.

Tour price: \$ 3,545.00 CAD from Toronto based on double occupancy:
Single room supplement: \$ 695.00 CAD
(Pay entire tour by cheque and save \$125.00)

Included in the tour price are:

- Economy class return flight with Air Canada from Toronto to Paris.
- Accommodation in superior tourist-class (3-star) hotels, based on double occupancy; the single room supplement is \$ 695.00 CAD.
- Meals: buffet breakfast daily and a total of *seven* full-course dinners or sometimes full lunches.
- Overland transportation via private coach.
- Sightseeing, visits, and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, including admission.
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.

Not included are:

- *****The standard combination of airport taxes/security fees/fuel surcharges, presently (March 2016) \$594.00 CAD, but subject to change.**
- Meals other than those mentioned above.
- Beverages with dinners.
- Coach driver's gratuity, estimated at \$35.00 CAD.
- All expenses of a personal nature.
- Travel insurance, available upon request.



Approaching the Menin Gate in Ypres on Remembrance Day

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 90 days to 46 days before departure: | 25% of tour cost |
| 45 to 31 days before departure: | 50% of tour cost |
| Within 30 days prior to departure: | 100% of tour cost |

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. February necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ___ seat(s) on ““From Normandy to Flanders' Fields” from November 3 – 16, 2016.
Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on Group flights _____ or land only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1000.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER RETURN DATE TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

PASSPORT NAME(S): Please indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. “Liz” for “Mary Elizabeth”) _____

ADDRESS _____

Postal Code: _____ PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin _____ double _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here. **Please be advised that due to Airline policies, individual seat selection is not always available on group fares and cannot be guaranteed by our agency.** We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package \$ _____ Non-medical Package \$ _____

Other \$ _____ **OR** Decline Insurance _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security

Code: _____ Signature: _____

“I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment”.

Date _____ **Signature(s)** _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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