



THE GREAT WAR CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS TOUR TO

# Belgium & France

April 1 - 11 , 2025 | 11 Days



Ypres's Menin  
Gate Memorial

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

  
**WorldwideQuest**  
Alumni Expeditions





Welcome to a journey through the poignant landscapes of the First World War, where history echoes through the fields, trenches, and villages of Northern France and Belgium.

Our expedition takes in the key sites of the Canadian campaigns, paying homage to the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought on the front lines. Our route takes us to the many important sites where Canadians fought as we follow the story of the Saskatchewan Regiment 46th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Forces (CEF).

We visit the hallowed grounds of Passchendaele in Belgium, attend the Last Post Ceremony at Ypres' Menin Gate, lay a wreath at Victoria Cross award Hugh Cairns' grave and tour the Armistice Museum in Compiègne Forest. Among the striking battlefield memorials are the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, the Newfoundland Memorial Park in Beaumont-Hamel, and the plaques at the Amiens Cathedral.

Your guide for the trip, Julian Whippey, is accredited within the Guild of Battlefield Guides and a member of the British Commission for Military History. His specialist subjects include the 1918 Advance to Victory and the lesser-known battles of 1915 in which he lost two family members. You will find him as congenial as he is knowledgeable.





## Signature Moments

- ② Attend the Last Post Ceremony at Ypre's Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing
- ② Visit the striking St. Julien Canadian Memorial (the "Brooding Soldier")
- ② Visit the grave of Hugh Cairns VC DCM, sergeant in the 46th (South Saskatchewan) Battalion
- ② Tour the sites associated with the Somme 1916 including the memorial to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at Beaumont-Hamel
- ② Visit the Canadian National Vimy Memorial

## Our Route



# Detailed Itinerary

## Tuesday, April 1: Arrive Paris

Arrive in Paris where our local representative provides a transfer to our hotel in the heart of the city. Meet this afternoon for a reception at the hotel, followed by dinner and brief talk about tour.

*Overnight: Paris*

*Meals: Dinner*

## Wednesday, April 2: To Ypres

Travel by private coach to Ypres, noting Great War highlights en route. The Belgian city of Ypres, our base for the next three nights, was the point through which Canadian soldiers passed in April 1915 to take a section of trench in the deadly Ypres Salient. View sites of the First Battle of Ypres this afternoon. Guests may choose to join the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate this evening.

*Overnight: Ypres area*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

## Thursday, April 3: Ypres 1915 and 1916

Continue our exploration of the area including sites related to the 2nd Battle of Ypres. Visit the St. Julien Canadian Memorial (the “Brooding Soldier”), one of the most striking battlefield memorials on the Western Front, commemorating those who died during the first gas attacks of the war. Other visits today include the Essex Farm Cemetery and John McCrae’s field hospital, and the Hill 62 Canadian Memorial (Sanctuary Wood). Guests may again choose to attend the Menin Gate Ceremony, a daily act of remembrance begun in 1928.

*Overnight: Ypres area*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

St. Julien Canadian Memorial



© James Wolley

## Friday, April 4: Ypres 1917

Begin the day at Memorial Museum Passchendale located in the historic Chateau of Zonnebeke. The museum tells the story of the war in the Ypres Salient. Then follow in the footsteps of the Canadian units, ascending to the Passchendale monument. Up on the Passchendale Ridge is the memorial to the 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion, the Nova Scotia Highlanders, set in the fields where they fought in the last days of October 1917. Visit the craters and Tunnels at Hill 60, the Messines battlefield, the Irish Peace Tower, the Toronto Avenue cemetery, and the Tyne Cot cemetery. Back in Ypres, visit the St. George’s Memorial Church containing memorials to the fallen in the form of stained glass windows, bells, kneelers, plaques, and standards.

*Overnight: Ypres area*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Zonnebeke Chateau



## Saturday, April 5: To Mons, Onwards to Arras

Hugh Cairns VC DCM, was a sergeant in the 46th (South Saskatchewan) Battalion during the Hundred Days Offensive when he was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery. We visit the sites of the “Battle of Valenciennes” and his grave in Auberchicourt military cemetery. We also visit the Saint Symphorien military cemetery where the first (John Parr, Britain) and last (George Price, Canada) soldiers to die in World War One are buried. Our guide will discuss the 100 Days campaign as we travel onward to Arras for a three night stay.

*Overnight: Arras*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*



## Sunday, April 6: Arras

The Battle of Loos Hill 70 was an important Canadian victory and the first major action fought by the Canadian Corps under a Canadian commander. We'll visit the site and see where the Canadians fought at Festubert and Givenchy in little-known battles of 1915 where they lost nearly 3,000 soldiers. Visit the HQ and Workshops of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Arras to observe the process of headstone making and learn about grave and site maintenance.

*Overnight: Arras*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

## Monday, April 7: Vimy

The day is devoted to a study of the Battle of Arras including the tunnel networks, flanking actions, and lines of advance to the ridge. Start at Notre-Dame-de-Lorette French military cemetery and the Artois ring of remembrance for views of the Souchez valley. Visit the Canadian National Vimy Memorial on the site of the combat that occurred in 1917. The Visitor Education Centre here provides illustrations of Canada's and Newfoundland's participation in the war.

*Overnight: Arras*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

## Tuesday, April 8: To Amiens: Somme 1916

Tour the sites associated with the Somme 1916; the bronze caribou memorial to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at Beaumont-Hamel, the Thiepval memorial, one of the largest in the world, bearing the names of more than 72,000 soldiers missing during the fighting, the Delville Wood South African memorial, and the Tank Corps memorial close to the site where tanks first went into action with the British Army. Visit the site of the Battle of Courcellette, where Canadians went into battle with these tanks and the Adanac cemetery. The end of the day brings us to Amiens.

*Overnight: Amiens*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Thiepval memorial



© Farfwhah



© Tetri L.

## Wednesday, April 9: Somme 1918 and the advance to victory

Travel out of the city to the Drocourt-Queant Line, another mark for the Canada Corps' very successful Hundred Days, where seven Victoria Crosses were awarded to Canadian troops. The Museum of the Great War at Perrone combines the historic castle with a modern gallery displaying thousands of objects recreating an international vision of the conflict. Finish the day at the Amiens Cathedral, one of the finest medieval Gothic churches in the world, with a memorial to the Canadian Corps which, along with the Australian Corps, in August 1918 spearheaded an attack east that would lead to the end of the German occupation of France and Belgium.

*Overnight: Amiens*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

## Thursday, April 10: Toward Paris

Travel towards Paris today, visiting the Armistice Museum in Compiègne Forest where the Armistice of 1918 was signed in a railway carriage. The museum displays archives relating to the signing and the historic carriage. Enjoy dinner together this evening to mark our historic trip.

*Overnight: Compiègne Area*

*Meals: Dinner*

## Friday, April 11: Departure

Transfer from to Charles DeGaulle Airport for your flight home.

*Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this detailed itinerary are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.*



© Jean de l'Auxois

WW1 Tank at Armistice Museum in Compiègne

## Tour Details

**Tour Cost (per person): C\$5695**

*Includes all taxes and gratuities*

Single Supplement: C\$1295

*If you are travelling alone and you are willing to share, we will match you up with an appropriate roommate. If we cannot, the single supplement will apply. This will be collected at 90 days prior to departure.*

### Group Size:

25 – 35 participants

### What's Included:

- Airport transfers on tour start and end dates
- Accommodations based on double occupancy in three star plus/four star hotels
- Ground transportation by private coach
- All activities as described in the detailed itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites visited with the group
- Services of English-speaking specialized guides
- Meals as specified in itinerary
- Gratuities for guides, driver, hotel services, and included meals
- All taxes
- Fully escorted by our Tour Director

### Not Included:

- Return airfare from your home to join the tour
- Fuel surcharge (if applicable)
- Travel insurance
- Airport transfers, outside of tour start and end dates
- Beverages with meals (other than included wine)
- Items of a personal nature
- Additional transportation required due to any emergency or other situation
- Any item not mentioned in "What's Included"

### Payment Details:

A non-refundable deposit of C\$750 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second deposit of C\$2000 will be required 6 months prior to departure. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.



# What to Expect



## Joining Instructions

### Arrival: Tuesday April 1, 2025

Guests will be met on arrival at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport and transferred to our Paris hotel. Please do not make any flight arrangements until we confirm the time of the arrival transfer. Please let us know if you would like to arrive in Paris in advance of the tour start date.

### Departure: Friday, April 11, 2025

The tour concludes with a single included transfer to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. Please contact us to verify timing of this transfer prior to making any flight arrangements.



## Weather

The weather in Belgium and Northern France will be springlike. We can expect temperatures ranging from 15°C during the day to 5°C at night. We may encounter some light rain.



## Transportation

We will travel in a 45 seater air conditioned coach.



## Travel Documents

You will require a passport for your trip to Ecuador. Please make sure it is valid for six months after the date of your return home. A visa is not required for Canadian or US passport holders at this time.



## Accommodation

Hotel details to be advised. All hotels will be in the 3 star plus/ 4 star category. All rooms with private bathroom.



## #SafeTravels

Worldwide Quest has been awarded the World Travel and Tourism Council's #SafeTravels Stamp for adopting health and hygiene global standardized protocols. [Learn more.](#)



## Level of Activity: Moderate

We will be exploring battlefield sites (uneven terrain) and walking on cobblestone streets. Good firm walking shoes, and perhaps a trekking pole for extra balance, will maximize your enjoyment of this trip.



## COVID-19 Entry and Travel Requirements

All travellers should be prepared to comply with local regulations. Please refer to these websites for current requirements:

**France:** <https://www.diplomatiegouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coming-to-france-your-covid-19-questions-answered/>

**Belgium:** <https://canada.diplomatiebelgium.be/en/travel-belgium>

**Canada:** <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>

## Additional Info

### Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946). See full details [here](#)

### Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable; however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing. See full details [here](#)

### Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance, including emergency medical evacuation, coverage is mandatory on all our tours.



## How to Book

Please contact the Worldwide Quest office for more information and to secure your booking.

**1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666**  
**[travel@worldwidequest.com](mailto:travel@worldwidequest.com)**



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