

BATTLEFIELDS OF EUROPE TOUR 2014

TOUR DATES: AUGUST 18 - 29

THE 100TH Anniversary of the first shots of the Great War



My name is John Hetherington and I have been teaching history in North Bay since 1987. I have always been very interested in military history. Since 1983 I have spent most of my summers backpacking throughout the world exploring ancient and modern battlefields. I have also had considerable experience traveling through areas that have been ravaged by civil war. I have been making trips to Europe each year since 1991 to study the battlefields of the First and Second World Wars. In 1997 I also began leading groups of students on battlefield tours throughout Europe. The route and sites that I have selected for this tour will provide all participants with an educational and memorable experience that will last a lifetime. This tour will focus on some of the main campaign areas of the Canadian, British and American Armies that fought in Belgium and France during the First and Second World Wars. We will be visiting museums, memorials and military cemeteries as well as the actual sites where these battles took place. There will also be opportunities to inspect bunkers and trench systems as well as meet some interesting people along the way. Special emphasis will be directed towards highlighting the various battle tactics employed by the Allied Armies while fighting in Western Europe during the campaigns of 1914 to 1918 and 1939-1945. All participants will be provided with a detailed dossier of the areas that we will be visiting one month prior to the departure date. This will include a comprehensive reading and map package designed to provide a more complete knowledge of the battle sites that we will be visiting. At each stop we will receive a full explanation regarding the significance of each site. Visiting the actual battlefields will allow everyone to gain a greater appreciation of each campaign. The sites selected for the tour will allow participants to develop a greater understanding of the tactics, strategies and weapons used during both wars. This experience is also intended to give all participants a greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by all soldiers who served in Western Europe during the First and Second World Wars.



ITINERARY & TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1:

Flight

Toronto - Paris. Overnight service to Paris.

DAY 2:

Arras

Wellington Caves, Cabaret Rouge and Neuville St Vaast cemetery Overnight Arras, France.

DAY 3:

Vimy Ridge and Battle of the Somme:

Lochnager crater, Beaumont Hamel battlefield, tank memorial, Vimy Ridge, Overnight Mons, Belgium.

DAY 4:

In Flanders Fields

Tour of the Mons battlefield, Overnight Ypres, Belgium..

DAY 5:

Breskens Pocket

Essex Farm Cemetery. "John McCrae" Vancouver Corner memorial, Langmarck, Passchendale, Last Post ceremonies. Overnight Ypres, Belgium.

DAY 6:

Atlantic Wall

Todt gun battery Audinghen, John McCrae grave. Overnight Boulogne sur Mer, France.

DAY 7:

German Secret Weapons/Dieppe

Dieppe raid tour. Overnight Dieppe, France.

DAY 8:

Dieppe & Bayeux

Battle of Normandy museum. Overnight Bayeux, France.

DAY 9:

Normandy Eastern Approaches

Merville battery, Pegasus Bridge museum, Juno Beach, Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Mulberry Harbour, Longue gun battery. Overnight Bayeux, France.

DAY 10:

Normandy Western Approaches

Ste. Mere-Eglise, American War Cemetery at Omaha Beach. Overnight Bayeux, France.

DAY 11:

Bayeux to Paris

Brettevillesur Laize Canadian war cemetery, St Lambert sur dives, Vimoutiers Tiger Tank. Overnight Paris, France.

DAY 12:

Flight

Morning departure from Paris to Toronto.

Tour Escort: John Hetherington History Teacher & Battlefield Guide North Bay, Ontario.

For additional details contact: jhetherington@cogeco.ca or historyguy62@hotmail.com or phone 705-497-3992

PRICE: \$3,350. pp (double occupancy) single supplement upon request

Price Includes:

- Hotel accommodations. (7nts) ● Youth Hostel accommodations. (2nts)
- Meals: daily breakfast and full dinner or plate supper in the evening. ● All ground transportation by luxury touring coach.
- (washroom equipped) ● Roundtrip air transportation Toronto - Paris return.

Not Included:

- Airport taxes, security fees, fuel surcharges, additional \$555. ● Travel insurance. ● Beverages and items of personal nature.
- Lunches, entrance fees, tips to driver and guides, ● photo packages etc.

Organized by:



VERSTRAETE TRAVEL & CRUISES

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2014 GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

BOOKING PROCEDURE:

Please complete and sign the booking Form. Send it (along with deposit) directly to: Verstraete Travel 14845 Yonge St. Suite 300, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6H8

DEPOSIT:

\$700.00 per person. The deposit is non-refundable and due at time of booking. Your insurance premium is also due at this time.

FORM OF PAYMENT

Cheque payable to: Verstraete Travel & Cruises.

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD:

There is a \$95.00 pp surcharge for payment by credit card.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Deposit is due at time of booking with your selected insurance premium.

Final Payment: Due: June 01. 2014

BOOKING DEADLINE:

All reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Since we are limiting the number of participants, we recommend that you book as soon as possible.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend the purchase of Non Medical or All Inclusive insurance.

The rates are outlined on the Booking Form.

PASSPORTS:

It is your responsibility to make sure that you have a **valid passport**. It must be valid for at least 6 months after your departure date. Canadian passport holders do not need a visa. If you are travelling with a non-Canadian passport it is your responsibility to inform our staff so that they can advise you of entry requirements.

PRICING:

All prices are based on minimum group size, current exchange rates and supplier quotations. In the event that significant changes take place due to circumstances beyond our control, we reserve the right to adjust the prices.

Minimum Group Size: 20

CANCELLATION:

If you have to cancel, you must inform Verstraete Travel in writing. The cancellation penalty is based on the date your cancellation is received. Cancellation penalties are shown in the chart below:

- Deposit is non-refundable.
- 6 months - 2 months prior to departure - 50%,
- 2 months or less prior to departure - 100%

FINAL ITINERARY & TRAVEL DETAILS:

It is anticipated that all the final details will be included in the travel documents and distributed

21 days before departure. Due to the nature of the tour program we reserve the right to make changes and substitutions wherever necessary.

REFUNDS:

Refund requests must be received in writing within 60 days of the date of the cause of cancellation. Please allow four to six weeks for processing.

UNUSED TOUR ARRANGEMENTS:

Portions of tour arrangements, or any other service or feature of the package which are not used are neither refundable nor exchangeable.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Verstraete Travel, hereinafter called the "Operator" and/or its agents and suppliers of services, assume no responsibility for injury, death, damages, loss or delay incurred by any person in connection with the tour, or by reason of any event beyond the control of the Operator, or loss occasioned by neglect, default, strike, war, hostility, civil disturbance or resulting directly, or indirectly, from acts of God. The Operator reserves the right to withdraw any or all packages at any time should conditions warrant, to refuse to accept or retain any person as a participant, to alter or cancel the itinerary whenever the Operator deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the members of the tours. Verstraete Travel reserves the right to make any and all changes at anytime, as they deem necessary.

FUEL SURCHARGES: Due to volatility and high oil prices, airlines can implement fuel surcharges at any time without notice. Should this occur, these surcharges will be passed on to you.

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