

Northwest Europe Canadian Battlefield & Remembrance Tour

**LIBERATION OF HOLLAND
80TH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL EDITION**



FROM PARIS TO AMSTERDAM

APRIL 21 - MAY 7, 2025 (17 DAYS)



LiberationTours
THE CANADIAN LEGACY

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Northwest Europe Canadian Battlefield Tour

**Follow the Maple Leaf Route to
the Liberation of Holland: 80th Anniversary**

April 21 - May 7, 2025



In the spring of 2025 our annual Northwest Europe battlefield and remembrance tour will focus upon arguably the last the big anniversary in Europe - the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.

The Liberation of Holland was brought about primarily by the Canadians, a monumental struggle of service and sacrifice in the pursuit of democracy & freedom. Canadians signed up from across our country, joining forces to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to liberate a people they did not know. As many Dutch people of that generation will say, "thank God they came." Meanwhile, back in Canada, the Dutch royal family found refuge in Ottawa, where Princess Margriet was born in 1943.

The Dutch people have never forgotten. Each spring the Dutch send 20,000 tulips to Ottawa, a heartfelt gesture signaling an unbroken friendship. And each spring, Liberation Tours takes Canadians back to Holland to reflect, remember, and in particular to follow in the footsteps of those who served - some of whom fell in battle and are forever laid to rest in Dutch soil.

Now, 80 years later, you will become part of this enduring connection between our two nations. It will be an experience of admiration and respect - a truly emotional journey. There is no better place to be a proud Canadian than Holland in the spring.



OUR SIGNATURE TOUR

*Juno Beach Dieppe Battle of the Somme
Vimy Ridge Passchendaele The Menin Gate
Battle of the Scheldt Arnhem Camp Westerbork
May 4 at Holten Canadian War Cemetery
Liberation Day in Amsterdam
and more ...*





Sunday April 20

For many of our travelers it is departure day, for the overnight transatlantic flight to France. Some travelers may choose to leave for Europe sooner to extend the start of the trip - let us know if we can quote you on pre-tour accommodations. Guests who have other travels already in progress, or guests from other points of origin including the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere, will meet the start of the tour on Day 1 in Paris.

Day 1 - Monday April 21

In the mid-afternoon all clients can check into the group hotel. In the meantime, luggage is stored in the hotel baggage lock-up. Today you are free to explore Paris, an amazing city of history and monuments. In the evening we gather in the heart of Paris for our Welcome Dinner, to share a glass and set the stage for our special journey. Overnight Paris. [D]

Day 2 - Tuesday April 22

Depart for the Normandy coast to consider pre D-Day 'Atlantic Wall' defenses including the Longues-sur-Mer coastal gun battery; tour the Memorial Pegasus Museum followed by a walk to the Café Gondrée. Overnight Bayeux. [B]

Day 3 - Wednesday April 23

Morning walk along the sands of Juno Beach, followed by a tour of the Juno Beach Centre including the German bunkers; see Canada House on the beach at Bernières-sur-Mer; visit the coast at Saint-Aubin, and Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. Overnight Bayeux. [B,L]

Day 4 - Thursday April 24

Visit additional Canadian monuments inland from Juno Beach, including Buron and Abbey Ardennes; onward north for the evening. Overnight Dieppe. [B]

Day 5 - Friday April 25

Tour the Dieppe main beach to consider Operation Jubilee, followed by visits to the beaches at Puits and Pourville; Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery. Overnight Amiens. [B]

ITINERARY

Day 6 - Saturday April 26

Walk the fields of the Battle of the Somme at the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Park; visits to the Thiepval Memorial, Lochnagar Crater and the monument at Courcellette. Overnight Arras. [B,L]

Day 7 - Sunday April 27

The morning is dedicated to Vimy Ridge including walking the trenches and tunnels; visits to points of interest near Vimy, then onward to Belgium. Overnight Ieper (Ypres). [B,L]

Day 8 - Monday April 28

Tour the Ypres Salient with visits to Hill 62, the Crest Farm monument at Passchendaele, The Brooding Solider at St. Julien, Essex Farm, and Tyne Cot Cemetery; free afternoon in Ieper to relax and explore; evening Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Overnight Ieper (Ypres). [B]

Day 9 - Tuesday April 29

Tour sites of the Battle of the Scheldt, including the Leopold Canal & Breskens Pocket, with visits to various monuments in northern Belgium and southern Holland. Overnight Middelburg / Vlissingen. [B,L]

Day 10 - Wednesday April 30

Visit the Calgary Monument at the Walcheren Causeway, and the Sherman Tank monument in Woensdrecht; visit Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery and the Kapelsche Veer Monument. Overnight Apeldoorn. [B,L]

Day 11 - Thursday May 1

We'll head to the far north, and visit several small monuments in the Delfzijl coastal region marking some of the final battles to free Holland, including the little villages of Wagenborgen and Holwierde. Overnight Groningen. [B,L]

Day 12 - Friday May 2

Morning tour of Camp Westerbork, a transit camp through which many Dutch citizens of the Jewish community were sent to the notorious camps in Germany and Poland. Overnight Groesbeek. [B,L]

Day 13 - Saturday May 3

Begin at the foot of the iconic John Frost Bridge and the infamous Operation Market Garden. The afternoon is kept free for a possible ceremony at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery hosted by Veterans Affairs Canada (tbc). Overnight Groesbeek. [B,L]

Day 14 - Sunday May 4

Remembrance Day in the Netherlands, featuring the annual commemoration service at Holten Canadian War Cemetery in the morning and a national pause at 8pm for two minutes of silence across all of the Netherlands. Overnight Delft. [B,L]

Day 15 - Monday May 5

Liberation Day, with a Farewell Lunch followed by a cruise on the UNESCO World Heritage canals. Overnight Amsterdam. [B,L]

Day 16 - Tuesday May 6

Free day at your leisure to explore the beautiful capital city. Overnight Amsterdam. [B]

Day 17 - Wednesday May 7

This morning is departure day for those returning home - buffet or box breakfast is included, depending on departure time from the hotel. Some travelers may choose to remain in Europe longer to extend their trip - let us know if we can quote you on post-tour accommodations to enjoy extra time in Amsterdam. [B]

Itinerary is subject to minor change prior to departure. Minor variances are also possible during the actual tour based on the need to adapt to circumstances we may encounter during our travels.



THE TOUR.

Juno Beach

Stand on the very shore where Canadians stormed the beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Learn how the Canadians made it further inland than any other allied force. Your visit includes a guided tour of the beaches and a tour of the Juno Beach Centre. It's a little piece of Canada on the French coast.



Vimy Ridge

The ground that could not be taken and held ... until the Canadians came. For the first time, all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force will fight together, and their success of April 1917 resonates still to this day. See what many consider the most beautiful of all the war monuments, including a must-see guided tour of the tunnels.



Passchendaele

It's been called the ugliest fight of both World Wars. It's October 1917 and the Canadians will suffer gas attacks, infested trenches, misery. And yet they will once again prevail. What was then a barren, muddy landscape is now a quiet, lovely countryside. You'll see where they fought, and where John McCrae wrote his famous poem.



Beaumont-Hamel

Many Canadians don't know the name but Beaumont-Hamel is forever etched into the memory of Newfoundlanders. It was here in July 1916 that a thousand soldiers climbed up out of the trenches and into the gunfire, and were almost completely wiped out. They are the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and their battleground is renowned as one of the best preserved WWI sites in all of France.



THE TRIP.

Paris

Enjoy some time unwinding as you absorb Paris in the spring! There's so much to see, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Pere Lachaise, Les Jardins du Luxembourg, the list goes on ...



Ieper (Ypres)

Enjoy a little free time for shopping and a lot of great food, or perhaps a walk along the old city rampsarts and cobblestone streets. Here you'll often cross paths with other battlefield tourists from Canada. The evening Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate is a very special highlight of any visit to Ieper.



Holten

Want to feel great Canadian pride? There can be no better place than Holland in the spring. You'll join with other Canadians, Dutch families, and most especially the local school children, in attending the annual remembrance service at Holten Canadian War Cemetery on May 4th.



Amsterdam

You will round out your fabulous trip with two nights in the beautiful city of Amsterdam, arriving on Liberation Day! It's 17th century canals are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You may wish to visit the Rijksmuseum, or the House of Anne Frank, or perhaps you prefer to simply sit at a canal-side café and watch the people go by.



WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY ...

"This trip has so surpassed anything I could have imagined. Your research and attention to detail was impeccable. I took military history courses in university and wish you had been my professor! I will never forget this trip."
- Jackie Hammond, ON

"This tour exceeded my expectations by a mile. John and Phil, you are amazing ... truly professional and very personable, both of you. I look forward to joining another of your wonderful tours in the hopefully not too distant future." - John & Kelly Baker, ON

"Phil was superb! Having learned about the wars in school, Phil made me understand what our soldiers had to go through."
- Mary Kelly Brown, NY

"You guys are top notch. You thought of every comfort, thought through every detail. It could not have been any better." - Shelley Brown, BC

"It was fabulous. I would absolutely go on another John Cannon organized tour ... I feel like you undercharged and over delivered! Amazing would be the word that I would use to describe the tour." - Chris Jobb, BC

"Absolutely fantastic. There is no superlative that would not apply to this tour. Everything was handled perfectly. I really enjoyed how John and Phil mixed with the group. It seemed so obvious that you both enjoyed being with us and that this is a passion for you, not just a business. I really hope I can go on another trip with Liberation Tours." - Anne Dunlop, MB

Your guide will be Liberation Tours' chief historian **Phil Craig**, professional actor and Co-Founder of the Georgina Military Museum.



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INCLUDED

- An expert Canadian Historian, and an expert Canadian Tour Director, both of whom will accompany you on the full tour
- Sixteen nights accommodation in twin or double rooms with private facilities
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with reclining seats, on-board facilities and free mobile Wi-Fi
- Buffet breakfast (cold and/or hot) at the hotel each morning, plus select meals as outlined in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); group lunches and dinners typically include a glass of wine/beer!
- All hotel service charges, local taxes, and entry to sites as per the itinerary
- Gratuities to coach driver and local guides (note: these gratuities are extra on most other tours and can add up to \$200 CAD or more, be sure to compare!)
- Tour package which includes select daily detailed historical battle maps, period photographs, original audio recordings, and more; a complete digital copy of all this is also given to you at the conclusion of the tour!

EXCLUDED

- Airfare - we can provide a quote for flights from any gateway in Canada, to match your own individual preferences based on dates, routes, class of seating, etc; there will be one coach transfer at either end of the tour: from Charles de Gaulle Airport to the hotel in Paris on April 21, 2025 in coordination with the arrival of Air Canada AC872; and from the hotel to Schiphol Airport on May 7, 2025 in coordination with the departure of Air Canada AC809; travelers not utilizing these will be responsible for their own airport transfers
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour accommodations - ask for a quote and extend your stay!
- Travel Insurance Protection - ask us for a no-obligation quote from Manulife!
- Meals other than stated on the itinerary
- Passport & related fees
- Any optional excursion not specifically stated
- Items of a personal nature

NOTATIONS

- Hotels have been pre-booked but are subject to change
- This tour requires a minimum of 20 passengers to operate
- Non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person due upon booking
- Balance of payment due on or before the booking deadline: January 17, 2025
- Liberation Tours will donate on your behalf to Forest Recovery Canada, to make your trip carbon-neutral
- Read Liberation Tours' [Terms & Conditions](#) prior to booking

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE @

www.LiberationTours.ca

ground transportation by:

TRAFALGAR

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