

REMEMBRANCE DAY CENTENNIAL AT VIMY

Attend the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I
November 1, 2018 ~ 14 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$7995 double/twin

\$8690 single



> Please add 0.4% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 12 seats; \$150 on next 8

> **Experience Points:** Earn 158 points from this tour.

Redeem **158 points** if you book by **July 26**.

Includes

- Coach transportation to Vancouver Airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Paris
- Current air taxes, security fees and surcharges
- 12 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Coach transportation for 11 days in France and Belgium
- Expert World War I historian and author, Steve Roberts, accompanying tour for 11 days
- Walking tour of Ypres
- Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing
- Ramparts Military Cemetery
- In Flanders Fields Museum
- Visit to Ypres Salient
- Bayernwald Trenches
- Canadian Memorial at Hill 62
- Saint Charles de Potyze French Cemetery
- Saint Julien Canadian Memorial
- Messines Ridge & Spanbroekmolen Crater
- Irish Peace Tower
- Tyne Cot Commonwealth Graves Cemetery
- Menin Gate with Last Post Ceremony
- Loos Battlefields
- Arras Battlefield with Notre Dame de Lorette Basilica and Neuville St Vaast German Cemetery
- Arras Memorial
- Maison Blanche Farm with tunnels
- Vimy Ridge Memorial
- Carrière Wellington tunnels
- Vis en Artois Memorial to the Missing
- Somme Battlefield with Lochnagar Crater, Ulster Tower, Newfoundland Memorial Park, and Thiepval Memorial
- Courcellette Canadian Memorial
- November 11 ceremony at Vimy Ridge
- Dury Canadian Memorial
- Battlefields of Mons with War Museum
- Transfer from hotel to Charles de Gaulle Airport
- Flight from Paris to Vancouver
- Luggage handling at hotels and airline
- Gratuities to guide-historian and European driver
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- **28 meals:** 12 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 9 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831
Kelowna > 250-762-3435
www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255
Vernon > 250-545-9197
Toll Free > 800-667-9552



100th Anniversary of Remembrance Day

Canada was still a colony within the British Empire at the beginning of the Great War. As Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier said, "When Britain is at war, Canada is at war" and nearly 620,000 Canadians enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, a massive show of support for the small colony with a population of just 8 million. These men and women put forward an incredibly courageous effort that ended up turning the War effort in favour of the Allied forces. Vimy Ridge is famously known as the site of a heroic Canadian victory against a well-protected German defence network, a victory that was had through months of preparation and meticulous execution. The Canadian victories did not stop there though, with impressive battles at Hill 70, Passchendaele, and Amiens, among many other battles that led to the final armistice on November 11, 1918.

However, this did not come without a cost. Close to 61,000 Canadians were killed during the war, and another 172,000 were wounded and this does not account for the many that came home suffering from 'shell shock'. Remembrance Day began after the Great War to remember those of our armed forces who served in our defence and selflessly sacrificed themselves so their fellow Canadians could live better lives.

The year 2018 will be 100 years since World War I ended. This tour has been developed as an educational experience of Canadian involvement in the Great War and includes attending the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. Come and join us and we will remember them.

Our Historian-Guide in France and Belgium has some impressive credentials. Steve Roberts is a Military Historian and Battlefield Guide who specializes in World War I. Steve is a retired soldier and policeman. He has a Master's Degree in British First World War Studies and is a published author on the period. He is actively involved in Battlefield Archaeology on the Western Front and has appeared in several television programs on this subject, such as *Finding the Fallen*, *Trench Detectives*, and *Vimy the 3D Battle*. *The Battle of the Somme, The True Story* is an in-depth study of the film *The Battle of the Somme*, produced in 1916. Steve has been leading tours to the battlefields for over 25 years, regularly guiding adult, military, and school groups. He also specializes in providing bespoke tours based around relatives who served, personalizing these tours in a unique way. Steve has guided many Canadian groups and is very knowledgeable about the battlefields and memorials that are significant for Canadians.

Itinerary

Thursday, November 1: *Meals: L,D*
We drive to Vancouver Airport and stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel. A get-acquainted dinner is included at the Globe Restaurant.

Friday, November 2: *Meals: B*
Enjoy an extensive buffet breakfast at the Fairmont, then we fly to Paris.

Saturday, November 3: *Meals: L,D*
We arrive in Paris this morning (9 hours ahead of Pacific Time). We meet our coach and historian guide, Steve Roberts, and drive about three hours to **Ypres** (pronounced EE-press) in Belgium. The history of this medieval city is introduced during a short walk. By 1918, Ypres was completely destroyed, reduced to piles of rubble which, Winston Churchill suggested, should remain as a permanent memorial to the fallen of the empire. Fortunately the Belgians disagreed and the process of rebuilding began in 1919. We visit the **Menin Gate Memorial** to the Missing and then walk the historic

ramparts constructed by Vauban in the late 1670s. After passing over the Lille Gate, we visit the adjacent Ramparts Military Cemetery. If time allows, there are optional tours to St. Martin's Cathedral and St. George's Chapel. We stay for six nights at the New Regina Hotel (or similar).

Sunday, November 4: *Meals: B,D*
Our first full day in the Ypres area starts at the **In Flanders Fields Museum**, located in the historic Cloth Hall. The Museum details the story of Ypres and the Salient during the 1914-1918 period. This afternoon, we visit the German trench system at **The Bayernwald** where we learn about the development of trench warfare, the construction methods, and the daily routines of the men who lived in these positions for many days. This is followed by a stop at the **Canadian Memorial at Hill 62** which commemorates the heroic actions of the Canadian Divisions defending the area in June 1916. Other sites are Saint Charles de Potyze French Cemetery and Saint Julien Canadian Memorial.

Monday, November 5:*Meals: B,L*

Today's tour looks at the Canadian experience in the Salient including the 3rd Battle of Ypres in 1915, more commonly known as **Passchendaele**. Visits include the Messines Ridge, Spanbroekmolen Crater, Essex Farm Cemetery, the story of John McRae and his poem *In Flanders Fields*, Irish Peace Tower, Vancouver Corner, and the gas attacks of 1915. We visit Crest Farm and learn of the Canadian capture of Passchendaele. Next is **Tyne Cot**, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world and the grave of John Robertson VC who was killed near Crest Farm. Tonight at the Menin Gate, we attend the **Last Post Ceremony** and arrangements are being made for our group to lay a wreath.

Tuesday, November 6:*Meals: B,D*

Our experience continues at the 1915 **Battlefields of Loos**, site of the first major British offensive in the war and first use by the British of gas as a weapon. Weather permitting, we visit the Double Crassier for an overall panorama of the battlefield before experiencing sites such as Quarry Cemetery, Hohenzollern Redoubt, St Mary's ADS Cemetery, and the Dud Corner Memorial. We hear stories of Captain Bowes-Lyon, Piper Laidlaw VC and My Boy Jack. The day ends with a visit to **Hill 70** and the recently created Canadian Memorial to Canada's forgotten battle fought in August 1917.

Wednesday, November 7:*Meals: B*

We take an excursion away from the battlefields to the beautiful city of **Bruges**. We explore the historic old city and experience Belgian culture and hospitality, sample local beers or chocolates, and spend time investigating medieval back streets and alleyways.

Thursday, November 8:*Meals: B,D*

We spend the day in the Artois region looking at the French and Canadian efforts leading up to the **Battle of Arras**. Visits include the French National Memorial at Notre Dame de Lorette and The Ring of Remembrance which records the names of 537,000 men of all nationalities who fell in this region of France. Later, we visit Cabaret Rouge Military Cemetery, the original burial place of the Canadian Unknown Warrior now resting in Ottawa. Following a stop at the German Cemetery at Neuville St Vaast, we explore the tunnel system located beneath **Maison Blanche Farm**, a home away from home for Canadian troops during late 1916 and early 1917.

Friday, November 9:*Meals: B,L,D*

We depart Ypres and travel south to the Canadian Memorial site at **Vimy Ridge**. During visits to the trenches, the Visitor Centre, and the Memorial (if accessible), we learn about the Canadian Corps success on April 9, 1917 and their heroic efforts to storm the ridge. Next, we go into Arras and explore the **Wellington Tunnels** under the city. At Monchy Le Preux, we hear about the men of the Newfoundland Regiment who held the village against overwhelming odds. We finish the day at the **Vis en Artois Memorial to the Missing**. We stay three nights in the Amiens area at Campanile Centre Gare or similar.

Saturday, November 10:*Meals: B,L,D*

Today's stops look at the Canadian effort on the Somme in 1916. We visit the site of the **Lochnagar Mine explosion** on July 1, then go to Beaumont Hamel Memorial Park to hear the story of the gallantry of the Newfoundland Regiment on that same day. The **Ulster Memorial Tower** commemorates the heavy losses suffered by the 36th Ulster Division on July 1, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Lunch is included at the Auchonvillers Tea Rooms with a kitchen demonstration. At the **Courcelette Canadian Memorial** and ADANAC Cemetery, we learn about the actions of Canadian Divisions in September and October 1916. Next we have an opportunity to handle the uniforms and weapons of the day at **Thiepval Memorial**, the largest Commonwealth Memorial to the Missing in the world.

Sunday, November 11:*Meals: B,L*

We return to the **Vimy Memorial**. At 11 am, 100 years to the day, we commemorate the exact moment that the guns fell silent. Details about the service have not been released, as of printing this brochure 11 months prior. Following the service and dependent on timing, we either return to Amiens or maybe include additional visits in the local area.

Monday, November 12:*Meals: B,D*

Departing Amiens, we travel north to look at the Canadian Corps actions in 1918. Starting with the breaking of the Drocourt - Queant Line east of Arras, we follow the Corps as they advanced towards Cambrai during August and September 1918. At the **Dury Canadian Memorial**, we learn of the tactics which enabled the Canadians to breach the German lines, fight their way forward, cross the Canal Du Nord, capture Bourlon Wood, and subsequently Cambrai. After lunch and some free time in Cambrai, we drive to **Mons** and stay overnight at Best Western Casteau Resort.

Tuesday, November 13:

Meals: B,D

On our last day, we go to the **Battlefields of Mons**, visiting the sites of the first shots of the war near Casteau and the point reached by the Canadian Corps on November 11, 1918. We see the memorial to Private George Lawrence Price, 28 Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force who was shot at 10:57 am, minutes before the armistice, then pay respects at his grave in St. Symphorian Cemetery. Next is the **Mons War Museum**. This afternoon, we

head back to Paris and stay overnight at Hotel Ibis near Charles de Gaulle Airport. A farewell dinner is planned when we contemplate the significance of 100 years of Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Wednesday, November 14:

Meals: B,L

We fly from Paris to Vancouver. Our coach is waiting for the drive to the Interior with a meal stop on the way.

Tour Notes:

Currency & Fare Changes: The Euro is used in France and Belgium. Gratuities have been paid for all included meals, your guide-historian, and your European driver. As this tour has been planned and priced 11 months before departure, exchange fluctuations between the Canadian dollar and the Pound (a British company with expertise on World War I battlefields is handling our arrangements) could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. The flight has been priced based on current taxes and fuel prices, and there could be changes to these amounts.

Documentation: A valid passport is required. There are no border controls between France and Belgium. A visa is not required.

Triples are not available on this tour due to the different sizes of hotel rooms.



Activity Level: Due to the historic nature of this tour, it will be necessary to regularly climb stairs, walk on uneven surfaces, and walk one kilometre or more at a time. Rooms in some hotels may be reached by some stairs after riding the elevator. Sometimes the coach cannot drive all the way to an attraction. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. The coach cannot carry a scooter. There can be longer walks in Vancouver and Paris airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. Please consider these mobility issues prior to booking this tour. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, driver, and historian-guide have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense. Travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 26, 2018. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 12 seats and \$150 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 26.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 25, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From May 26 to July 26, the cancellation charge is \$500 per person. From July 27 to August 24, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From August 25 to September 26, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After September 26, there is no refund.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo credit: Veterans Affairs, Government of Canada

e-points: This tour earns 158 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until July 26.

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