

**CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS TOUR
2016 OR 2017
NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM & FRANCE
10 DAYS 9 NIGHTS**

+ Education & Culture + Nature & Sustainability + Community & Relation + Body & Health

Day 1 - Arrival in Amsterdam

Highlights: Orientation tour of Amsterdam!

- Morning – Upon Arrival in Amsterdam your tour manager and coach driver will welcome you.
- Afternoon – Discover Amsterdam the “Venice of the North” with local guide. See the most important sites like The Jordaan, the world famous Canal Belt, Dam square, The Begijnhof and Western Church.
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Amsterdam surroundings



Day 2 - Amsterdam

Highlights: See where Anne Frank and her family hid during WWII!

- Morning – visit the Anne Frank House and learn how Anne Frank and her family hid from the Nazis for years during WWII. The museum preserves the hiding place, has a permanent exhibition on the life and times of Anne Frank, and has an exhibition space about all forms of persecution and discrimination. +
- See the city from another perspective – explore Amsterdam during a canal cruise
- Rest of the day at leisure for own arrangements
 - *Optional: visit Van Gogh Museum or Rijksmuseum*
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Amsterdam surroundings



Day 3, - The Hague

Highlights: Enjoy biking in a Dutch Heritage Windmill Park!

- Morning – travel to The Hague (approx. 60 km – 1 hr)
- View the International Court of Justice, the main judicial body of the United Nations. +
- Visit Kinderdijk, a famous 17th century Dutch heritage windmill park. Explore this UNESCO World Heritage park by bicycle. + + +
- Afterwards continue to Bruges (approx. 185km – 2,5 hrs)
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Bruges surroundings



Day 4, - Bruges and Ypres

Highlights: See the WWI trenches in Passchendaele!

- Morning – Explore the city of Bruges by horse and carriage. The ornate Historic Center of Bruges has changed very little in the last 500 years and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. +
- Belgium is famous for its chocolate! Visit a typical Belgian Chocolatier where you will learn how couverture chocolate is made from a cocoa +
- Afternoon – continue to Ypres (approx. 120km – 1,5 hrs)
- Visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele in Zonnebeke with a great example of a bunker system. +
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Attend the last post ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial which takes place every day of the year at 8:00pm. Lay down a wreath to commemorate the brave soldiers who lost their lives in the Flanders Fields. +
- Overnight in Ypres surroundings



Day 5 – Ypres to Somme

Highlights: Visit the Canadian memorials of Vimy and Beaumont-Hamel!

- Morning – explore the interactive “In Flanders Fields Museum” and learn about the horrors of WWI. The museum is as devoted to the promotion of peace as it is to the remembrance of war. +
- Afterwards continue to Amiens in the Somme region (approx. 160 km – 2,5 hrs driving in total)
- Afternoon – Visit the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, a memorial to all Canadians who served their country in battle during the Great War. Discover the preserved First World War trenches, tunnels and craters during a guided tour by an expert +
- Afterwards continue to the Newfoundland Memorial in Beaumont-Hamel encompassing the grounds over which the Newfoundland Regiment made their unsuccessful attack on 1 July 1916 during the first day of the Battle of the Somme. +
- Stop at the largest crater made by man, the Lochnagar Memorial Crater dedicated to peace, fellowship and reconciliation between all nations
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Amiens surroundings



Day 6 - Normandy

Highlights: Honour the heroes of the Dieppe Raid in 1942!

- Today travel to Caen in the Normandy region (approx. 300km – 4 hrs driving in total)
- Stop in Dieppe and visit the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery containing Canadian and British soldiers who were killed during the Dieppe Raid in 1942. +
- Afterwards continue to Caen.
- Visit the Memorial Museum in Caen, whose mission is to remember the military operations of June 6th, 1944 and the full impact of WWII. Visit an exhibition about the Cold War and peace perspectives around the world. +
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Caen surroundings



Day 7 - Normandy

Highlights: Discover the Memorials on the Normandy landing beaches!

- Morning - travel to the coast to see the beaches where the allied forces invaded the European mainland on D-Day, June 6th in 1944.
- See Arromanches on "Gold Beach" where British and Commonwealth battalions landed. Visit the D-Day Museum: In the gallery of working models, directly overlooking the remnants of Mulberry B, an expert guide will tell the remarkable story of this artificial port, from its design and construction to its subsequent use. +
- Afternoon - Continue to "Juno Beach" and discover Juno Beach Centre, Canada's Second World War museum and cultural centre located in Normandy, France. The Centre pays homage to the 45,000 Canadians who lost their lives during the War, of which 5,500 were killed during the Battle of Normandy and 359 on D-Day. +
- On the way back to Caen stop at the Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, containing predominantly Canadian soldiers killed during the early stages of the Battle of Normandy in the Second World War. +
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Caen surroundings



Day 8 - Normandy to Paris

Highlights: Discover the landmarks of Paris!

- Morning - Travel to Paris (approx. 240km - 3hrs)
- Afternoon - A French guide will join you for an orientation of the city Ernest Hemingway called "a moveable feast." Discover the most famous sights of Paris like Notre Dame Cathedral, the Opera Garnier, the Champs Elysees and the Arc the Triomphe!
- Visit the historic Montmartre area, a haven for artists and writers before WWI. Marvel at the white Basilique du Sacre Coeur, which is the second highest point in Paris. Take some time to discover this area's treasures in small groups.
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Paris surroundings



Day 9 - Paris

Highlights: See the city of lights from the top of the Eiffel Tower!

- Morning - Explore the magnificent Chateau de Versailles. Built during the reign of Louis XIV, the Sun King, it was the seat of the royal court from 1682 to 1789, when the French Revolution put an end to the monarchy. On 28 June 1919 the Treaty of Versailles was signed in the Hall of Mirrors and ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers.
- Afternoon - Visit Les Invalides, with a guide and discover the Army Museum. You also have access to the Dome Church, the tomb of Napoleon I as well as the Charles de Gaulle Monument
- Afterwards admire a dazzling view of Paris! There's only one place to go: take the elevator up to the top of the Eiffel Tower (899 feet) which was built for the 1889 World's Fair to commemorate the French Revolution.
- Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant
- Overnight in Paris surroundings



Day 10 - Departure

- Private coach transfer to the airport

Pricing (these rates are not valid for the Easter weekend 15-17 April 2017)

Program Cost per person: CAD \$2169.00

Price based on a minimum of 20 paying participants in triple/quad rooms, with 2 accompanying persons free of charge in single rooms

Program Cost per person: CAD \$1999.00

Price based on a minimum of 25 paying participants in triple/quad rooms, With 3 accompanying persons free of charge in single rooms

Program Cost per person: CAD \$1879.00

Price based on a minimum of 30 paying participants in triple/quad rooms, With 4 accompanying persons free of charge in single rooms

Single Room Supplement: CAD \$459.00

Prices subject to change. This is a quote only, no services have been confirmed. Quote applies to participants under the age of 18.

INCLUSIONS

- Transfers from/to airport on arrival/departure day
- Transport by high quality private motor coach as described in the program
- Accommodation in 3*** hotels in triple/quad rooms with shower and/or bathtub, toilet
- Half board treatment (2 course meals incl. 1 soft drink)
- All scheduled sightseeing and activities
- Tour Manager (if option is chosen)
- 24 hour assistance by Merit Representatives
- Daily quality checks and status reports
- Tips

EXCLUSIONS

- Travel to and from destination (e.g. flight or train tickets)
- Single room supplement
- Any activities not specifically mentioned in the program
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses, e.g. drinks, laundry, phone calls...

Included Plus activities + + + + and entrances:

- Guided city tour of Amsterdam
- Anne Frank House: entrance and introduction +
- Canal Cruise in Amsterdam
- International Court of Justice visitor center +
- Bike tour at Dutch heritage windmill park + + + +
- Horse and Carriage Ride in Bruges +
- Chocolatier visit and demonstration +
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele: entrance and guided visit +
- In Flanders Fields Museum: entrance and introduction +

- Menin Gate Memorial: last post ceremony including a wreath to lay down +
- Canadian National Vimy Memorial: guided tour +
- Newfoundland Memorial Beaumont-Hamel +
- Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery +
- Memorial Museum in Caen: entrance and self-guided tour +
- D-Day Museum: entrance and guided tour +
- Juno Beach Centre: entrance to museum and Juno Park +
- Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery +
- Guided city tour of Paris
- Montmartre and Sacre Coeur Basilica
- Palace of Versailles (Palace and Gardens)
- Les Invalides: Army Museum (incl. guide), Dome Church and tomb of Napoleon I
- Eiffel Tower: tickets to 3rd floor

**PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL TODAY TO DISCUSS YOUR
CUSTOMIZED GROUP BATTLEFIELDS TOUR!**



Email: rjeffery@merittravel.com Phone: 403-708-3605 Fax: 403-282-9233
www.merittravel.com Office: 180 MacEwan Student Centre, University of Calgary T2N 1N4
Toll-Free: 1.866.341.1777 Ext. 7364

Email: kryks@merittravel.com Phone: 780-439-3096 x 7365 Fax: 780-439-9414
www.merittravel.com Located upstairs at 8103 104 St, Edmonton, AB T6E 4E4
Toll-Free: 1.866.341.1777 Ext. 7365