

FRANCE & BELGIUM: World War Battlefields

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart for Brussels

Day 2: Arrive **Brussels**. Depending on arrival time you will enjoy a city sight-seeing tour.

Day 3: Full day to enjoy the sites of Brussels. Almost every building in the small 15th century town square, Grand Place a Unesco World Heritage Site, are historically significant. See the Town Hall, the St Michael and Gudula Cathedral, the Royal Palace of Laeken and the Royal Palace. The Atomium is a tall structure built for the 1958 World's Fair. The Manneken Pis is a fountain of a child urinating and is the symbol of the city. See also the Brussels Central the ancient market place. Make sure you try some of the famous Belgian Waffles and french fries found in one of the local "friteries"



Day 4: During WWI, **Ypres** was the center of intense and sustained battles between German and Allied forces. Visit **Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Passchendaele Canadian War Museum**. The Menin Gate Ceremony commemorates British soldiers who fell during WW1 and who have no known grave. See the Canadian St. Julien Memorial for those who died during the first gas attacks of WWI. Also visit the Langemark German Cemetery. Then to **Flanders Fields Museum** located in Cloth Hall in Ypres. Then to **Vimy Ridge**. In 1922 the government of France gave Canada Vimy Ridge in perpetuity. The Vimy Ridge Monument has the names of those Canadians listed as missing and presumed dead in France during WWI.

Day 5: Depart for **Juno Beach Center** for a visit. The center located in Normandy recognizes Canada's military and civilian contributions during the WWII. The men who fell on the beaches and in the bitter bridgehead battles are buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery which, despite its name, is near the village of Revers. The cemetery contains 2,049 headstones enclosed by pines and maples.



Day 6: Morning to visit **D Day Beaches**. The D day landings were the largest military operation in history and were followed by the **Battle of Normandy** which would lead to the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation. The most brutal fighting took place along the coastline known as **Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches**. Visit **Arromanche, Pointe du Hoc, Longues Sur Mer, the American Cemetery and Mulberry Harbor**. Afternoon to **Mt St Michel**, a massive Benedictine Monastery of great influence in the 12th and 13th centuries. The Mont is a soaring ensemble of buildings in a hodge podge of architectural styles sounded at its base by a jumble of buildings that house the few people who live there. Equally impressive is that at low tide the Mont looks out on to bare sand but at high tide the huge expanse of tideland is completely surrounded by water.

Day 7: Drive to **Paris** with a stop in **Dreux** to visit its castle. Meet your guide for an orientation city walking tour. Later, your guide will leave you in the Latin Quarter. At one time only Latin was spoken here! Today it is brimming with cafes, restaurants, little bookstores, and tourist shops. Visit **Notre Dame Cathedral**.

Day 8: Today a guided visit to the **Louvre**. This former Royal Palace, transformed by the Revolution into a museum, lays claim to the title of "most beautiful museum in the world." Then see Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome and Palais Royale. Walk the Champs Elysee, Ave de Montaigne, Rue du Faubourg, and Saint Honore, widely cited as the most fashionable streets in the world. See the Arc de Triomphe. Tonight ascend the Eiffel Tower.



Day 9: Visit **Versailles**. See the Grand Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, King's and Queen's suites, and other sights. Return to Paris and see the famous cabaret, **Moulin Rouge**. Walk the Boulevard Clichy to Montmartre, one of the most picturesque and lively quarters of the city. Climb or take the funicular up to **Sacre Coeur**, a beautiful white basilica, magnetically towering from the highest point in Montmartre. Tonight a Seine Cruise.

Day 10: Day to enjoy Paris. Today visit Les Invalids to see the magnificent gilded dome church with the imposing Tomb of the Emperor Napoleon. Or perhaps the Musee D'orsay or the Catacombs or the Opera Garnier.

Day 11: Au revoir Paris. Unfortunately you head home today.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Brussels return from Paris
- Coach transfers
 - o Brussels – airport transfer
 - o Paris - airport transfer
 - o 4 day coach tour depart Brussels arrive Paris with stops as per itinerary
- Assistance upon arrival in Brussels
- 9 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 9 breakfasts
- 4 dinners
- Guided tours
 - o Brussels city tour
 - o Paris city tour
- Entrances
 - o Passchendaele Canadian War Museum
 - o Flanders Fields Museum
 - o Juno Beach Center
 - o Mt St Michel
 - o Dreux Castle
 - o Guided visit to the Louvre
 - o Seine River Cruise
 - o Eiffel Tower
 - o Versailles with audio guides
 - o Les Invalids

