

Revisit NW Europe

THE TRAIL OF THE MAPLE LEAF

Paris – Rouen – Caen – Juno Beach – Landing Beaches – Bayeux – Honfleur –
Dieppe – Arras – Beaumont-Hamel – Vimy – Ypres – Scheldt Estuary – Ghent –
Fort Breendonk – Holten – Arnhem – Groesbeek – Reichswald – Amsterdam

September 21 – October 04, 2023 (14 days)



Highlights:

- See most of the great historical locations of two world wars, and follow in the footsteps of our Canadian veterans through Normandy, Belgium and Holland, accompanied by a Military Historian.
- Visit the war cemeteries of Bény-sur-Mer, Bretteville-sur-Laize, Dieppe, Essex Farm, Langemark, Tyne Cot, Adegem, Holten, Groesbeek and Reichswald.
- Explore the beautiful cities of Rouen, Caen, Bayeux, Honfleur, Dieppe, Arras, Ypres, Ghent, Arnhem and Amsterdam.



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

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TOM LEPPARD, Military Historian



A native Calgarian, **Tom Leppard** has been passionate about Canadian history since childhood. He holds a graduate degree from the University of Calgary in Canadian military history, has published numerous articles and won several awards for history documentaries – most recently for the “Forgotten Fallen”, which won two Tele awards in 2016.

A history teacher by calling until 2010, he was President of Valour Canada until 2016. Tom is currently enjoying golf and travel. He is married to Karen, has two children and is a dedicated grandfather.



ITINERARY

Day 1 / Thu, Sep 21: DEPART CANADA

Depart for France.

Day 2 / Fri, Sep 22: ARRIVE PARIS – ROUEN – CAEN

After arrival in **Paris**, transfer to **Rouen**, city of Jeanne d'Arc, famous for its half-timbered houses. After a break for lunch in Rouen, continue to **Caen**. (D)

Day 3 / Sat, Sep 23: CAEN

This morning, visit Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer and Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. In Courseulles-sur-Mer, discover the **Juno Beach Centre**, a permanent memorial to all Canadians who served during WWII. In the afternoon, head inland and visit Pegasus Bridge, the Ardenne Abbey and Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery. (B,D)

Day 4 / Sun, Sep 24: CAEN

Today's theme is the defense of Juno and the 12th SS counter attack as you visit Authie, Putot-en-Bessin and Bretteville-l'Orgueilleuse. Then, head to Arromanches and travel along **Normandy's landing beaches** where parts of the Mulberry Harbour are still visible. See Longues-sur-Mer battery and Omaha Beach, and stop in **Bayeux**, home to the famous tapestry depicting the Norman conquest of England in 1066. (B,D)

Day 5 / Mon, Sep 25: CAEN – HONFLEUR – DIEPPE

Visit the impressive **Caen Peace Memorial** – the greatest museum in Normandy. Then, make a brief stop at the picturesque seaside resort of **Honfleur**, from where Samuel de Champlain set sail for the New World. In the afternoon, continue to **Dieppe**. Visit the Canadian War Cemetery and the memorial at **Pourville** which marks the losses of the South Saskatchewan Regiment and Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. (B,D)



ITINERARY

Day 6 / Tue, Sep 26: DIEPPE – ARRAS

In **Dieppe**, discover the small but meaningful museum dedicated to the Dieppe Raid and run by the Jubilee Association. In the afternoon, depart Dieppe and travel to **Arras**. On arrival, enjoy an introductory tour of one of northern France's most beautiful cities with its towering cathedral, Flemish-style arcaded squares and ornate Hôtel de Ville. (B,D)

Day 7 / Wed, Sep 27: ARRAS – SOMME – VIMY – YPRES

Today is dedicated to WWI as you follow the battlefield trail along the **Somme** including Courclette as well as **Beaumont-Hamel**. Continue to Canada's magnificent National Historic site on Hill 70, **Vimy Ridge**. Visit its tunnels and learn about the battle that took place in April 1917 and is such an important milestone in Canada's history at the visitor centre. End the day in **Ypres, Belgium**. (B,D)

Day 8 / Thu, Sep 28: YPRES

Spend a full day in Flanders Fields. See Essex Farm Cemetery, the St. Julien Canadian Monument with Vancouver Corner, John McCrae's field station, Kitcheners' Wood and the German Cemetery at **Langemark**. In the afternoon, discover the impressive **Passchendaele Museum**, a worthy introduction to the war that engulfed the area for so many years. Then, visit **Tyne Cot Cemetery**, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world, with 11,965 graves and a further 33,783 commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing. In the evening, take part in the Last Post Ceremony at the **Menin Gate**. (B,D)

Day 9 / Fri, Sep 29: YPRES – BATTLE OF SCHELDT – GHENT

Depart Ypres and explore the **Scheldt** area. See the Leopold canal, the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery and visit the museum at Maldegem. After a break for lunch, continue to **Ghent**, and enjoy a brief introductory tour of this fairly small but vibrant city prior to checking into your hotel. (B,D)



Passchendaele Memorial Gardens © Visit Flanders

Day 10 / Sat, Sep 30: GHENT

Today proceed into the **Scheldt Estuary** and tour the area north of the city including Breskens Pocket, Walcheren Island and Westkapelle. (B,D)

Day 11 / Sun, Oct 1: GHENT - FORT BREENDONK - HOLTEN - ARNHEM

Depart Ghent and stop at **Fort Breendonk**, a former military installation which served as a Nazi prison camp during the German occupation of Belgium. Then, drive to Holland and stop at the **Holten** Canadian Cemetery before continuing to the Arnhem area. In Oosterbeek, visit the **Airborne Museum**, dedicated to the Battle of Arnhem. (B,D)

Day 12 / Mon, Oct 2: ARNHEM - GROESBEEK - REICHSWALD - ARNHEM

After a photo stop at Frost Bridge, visit the Canadian Cemetery at **Groesbeek** before driving to Germany. Explore **Reichswald** Forest War Cemetery, the largest WWII Commonwealth Cemetery. On your return journey, cross the Rhine at Wesel and Xanten. Cross it again at Emmerich before heading back to **Arnhem**. (B,D)

Day 13 / Tue, Oct 3: ARNHEM – AMSTERDAM

Today, travel to **Amsterdam** and embark on a canal cruise. Enjoy a walk down the Damrak before checking into your hotel. In the evening, join fellow travellers for a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Day 14 / Wed, Oct 4: DEPART AMSTERDAM – ARRIVE CANADA

Transfer to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol for your flight(s) home. (B)



Grastei Ghent © Visit Flanders



L'Abbaye-aux-Hommes, Caen © CDT Calvados, Atout France



Liberation of Holland © VND

TOUR COSTS in CAD*

Per person, twin-share **\$4,990**

Single supplement **\$1,290**

*based on a group size of 25 travellers

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in superior tourist class hotels
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. Military Historian, local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Special visits
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Local taxes and service charges

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
Canada – Paris; Amsterdam – Canada
- Travel insurance
(please contact our office for a quote)
- Drinks with meals
- Hotel portorage
- Items of a personal nature

AIR OPTIONS

Please contact our office for a quote.

You may also purchase your own flights (book on points etc.) and meet us at the hotel.



Amsterdam

RESERVATION FORM

REVISIT NW EUROPE - THE TRAIL OF THE MAPLE LEAF

September 21-October 4, 2023

Please complete this form and return it to us with your deposit of \$500.00 per person. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill'). Travel insurance is optional but strongly recommended.

	TRAVELLER #1	TRAVELLER #2 <small>(if different address/payment method than Traveller #1, please fill out a separate booking form)</small>
Title (Mr / Mrs / Ms etc.)		
First name		
Middle name(s)		
Last name		
Date of birth (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
City + country of birth		
Passport #		
Passport expiry (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
Passport issuing country		
Preferred first name (for name tag)		
Dietary restrictions		

ADDRESS

Street:	
City:	Province/State:
Postal code:	Country:
Cell #:	Home #:
Email:	

TRAVEL PREFERENCES

Accommodation: Single* Double Twin Sharing with:

*Please contact us if you would like to be paired up with another traveller and we will do our best to assist. If we are unable to arrange a twin-share, you will be accommodated in a single room and invoiced accordingly.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Next of kin's name:	Next of kin's phone #:
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TRAVEL INSURANCE

I/we would like to receive a travel insurance quote. I/we have arranged my/our own travel insurance.

PAYMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> Please make cheques payable to:	SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Send an e-transfer to:	sti@sticanada.com
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa / MasterCard / American Express	(a 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card)
Card #:	Expiry date:
Name on card:	Amount to be charged: \$

I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$500 pp deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$1,000 pp due by March 31, 2023
Balance due by July 21, 2023
Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). **Deposits are non-refundable.** The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until Mar 30, 2023	\$500
Mar 31 – Jul 20, 2023	\$1,500
From Jul 21, 2023	100%

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



Ypres © Thierry Caignie-Westtoer



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