



**Educational  
Tours**



# ***Canada's Battlefields***

**Mike Cameron**

## **Canada's Battlefields**

A private tour designed by Mike Cameron, in conjunction with EF Customized Tours

**Requested departure date: Saturday, April 23, 2016**

*(Dates below are subject to change. Required date flexibility of 2 days on either side of requested departure date)*

**Day 1**

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

*Board your flight to Paris!*

**Day 2**

**Sunday, April 24, 2016**

**Arrive in Paris and transfer to Vimy**

*Overnight in Vimy Region*

**Day 3**

**Monday, April 25, 2016**

### **Visit Essex Farm**

This small and sometimes overlooked place remains a moving and important First World War site for Canadians. Essex Farm is the location where Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae penned the famous and haunting war poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The advanced dressing station where McCrae was stationed remains remarkably intact and shares the site with a small commonwealth cemetery.

### **St. Julien Memorial**

Make a stop at this impressive memorial, which is located at the site where Canadian troops withstood the first German gas attacks in April of 1915. The memorial measures almost 11 meters in height and is topped by a granite carving of a brooding Canadian soldier.

### **Memorial Museum Passchendaele**

Formerly the "Streekmuseum," this re-opened in 2004 as the "Memorial Museum Passchendaele." It is housed in the old Zonnebeke chateau in the heart of the 1917 Passchendaele battlefield and tells the story of the fighting in this area during the four years of the war. You will see many photos, uniforms and artifacts on display, and a reconstructed trench and WWI dugout.

### **Walking Tour of Ypres**

#### **In Flanders Fields Museum**

This award winning museum is located in the eastern end of the beautiful and grand Cloth Hall in Ypres. Focusing on the horrors of war, this interactive museum invites participants to engage emotionally in the presentation of the past.

#### **Attend the "Last Post Ceremony" at Menin Gate**

Experience a unique and moving nightly ceremony to honour the dead of WWI. At exactly 8 pm up to six members of the regular buglers from the local volunteer Fire Brigade step into the roadway under the memorial arch and play the Last Post, followed by a short silence and Reveille. The Last Post Ceremony has become part of daily life in Ieper (Ypres) and the local people are proud of this simple but touching tribute to the courage and self-sacrifice of those who fell in defence of their town.

*Overnight in Vimy Region*

**Visit to Vimy Ridge Historic Site incl. visit to tunnels & trenches**

Walk along Vimy Ridge, where in 1917, Canadian troops came together to accomplish what larger British and French forces had failed to do, and what would become a defining moment in the first World War. See where these brave soldiers charged over the ridge, marching under continuous, heavy fire and cleverly isolating the German troops in their dugouts. A towering, white marble monument now marks Hill 145, the place where the capture of Vimy Ridge ended in a bayonet charge against machine-gun nests. Learn more about this stunning victory that Brigadier-General A.E. Ross called “the birth of a nation.”

**Beaumont Hamel War Memorial**

This morning you will have a guided visit of the Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, built to commemorate and honour all of the soldiers from Newfoundland and Labrador who were killed during the First World War. Opened in 1925, the memorial features a 15m bronze caribou overlooking the battlefield and remaining trenches. The site also includes an excellent visitors' centre which details the story of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. As the largest memorial site of the six memorials erected by the Government of Newfoundland following the First World War, it is an immersive, contemplative, humbling and emotional experience for all who visit.

**Transfer to Normandy**

Transfer to Normandy, location of many of the battles that turned the course of World War II. Despite its connection with major military events, Normandy is also a region of scenic beauty with elegant landscapes and patchwork fields as well as the majesty of its two major towns-Caen and Rouen.

*Overnight in Normandy Region*

**Visit to Juno Beach Centre**

Visit Juno Beach Centre, the first memorial of its kind for Canadian veterans of WWII. The Centre was conceptualized by Canadian veterans who fought in the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy and stands at Courseulles-sur-Mer, the site of the invasion. The Centre is an educational facility designed to teach Canadians more about Canada's role in the war, whether on land, sea or air.

**Beny-sur-Mer Canadian Cemetery**

Honour our fallen soldiers and airmen at Beny-sur-Mer Cemetery, which houses the graves of over 2,000 Canadians.

**Arromanches**

Visit the seaside town of Arromanches, whose coastline hosted some of the D-Day landings in 1944. As part of the designated 'Gold Beach' area, British troops landed here. Arromanches was also important in WWII as one of the chosen sites for the Mulberry Harbours built by the British forces to aid in the allied invasion of Normandy. The massive concrete blocks can still be seen today.

**Free time at the Normandy Beaches**

*Overnight in Normandy Region*

**Transfer to Paris**

Welcome to Paris, cosmopolitan City of Light. Over the centuries, Paris has grown to become the undisputed center of France, and one of the world's most important cities both culturally and politically. Equally famed for its high fashion, awe-inspiring museums and elegant cuisine, Paris has also been a center of theater, literature and philosophy throughout the ages.

**Walking Tour of Paris**

Your walking tour of Paris centers around the Île de la Cité, considered the birthplace of Paris. This island surrounded entirely by the Seine has been inhabited since the 3rd century B.C. and was the political and religious center of France for centuries. Île de la Cité houses three of Paris' most important buildings: Notre Dame Cathedral; the Conciergerie, Paris' first prison; and St. Chapelle, the Gothic Catholic church.

**Visit Notre Dame Cathedral**

Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as "a vast symphony in stone." However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory. Hugo's novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* helped inspire a 23-year restoration of the cathedral that began in 1841. Step inside to admire the stained-glass rose window and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings.

*Overnight in Paris*

**Guided Sightseeing of Paris**

Discover the city on the Seine during your bus tour. Learn about Paris' origins as a Roman settlement as you pass through the Île de la Cité, where you will also see Notre Dame Cathedral. Pass by the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée, and the École Militaire, where he graduated to Lieutenant. Continue down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde, dedicated to King Louis XV and the site where Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were executed during the French Revolution. Then, head through the Quartier Latin where you will see the world-renowned Sorbonne University, and drive along the Seine for wonderful views of the Musée D'Orsay, the Louvre and the Pont de Neuf, or 'new bridge', which is ironically Paris' oldest. Finally, make a photo stop at the iconic Eiffel Tower, built for the 1889 World's Fair. Learn why this impressive, yet controversial, symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909.

**Optional Excursion: Versailles Palace & Gardens (\$99 pre-tour only)**

Step back into le grand siècle as you experience the opulence of Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Built to be the envy of all Europe, France's most extravagant château continually threatened to bankrupt the national treasury. Here the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. You'll also tour the State Apartments of the King himself and walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors, where France, Spain and England officially recognized the independence of the United States in 1783, and where the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI, was signed. You'll also witness the ornate decor of the Queen's State Apartments, furnished for Marie Antoinette. After your visit inside the palace, be sure to take some time to stroll through the elaborate gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre. Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace.

*Overnight in Paris*

**Transfer to the airport for your return flight**

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you will check in for your return flight home.

*Itinerary is subject to change*

**For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at [www.eftours.ca/bc](http://www.eftours.ca/bc).**



## **Tour Highlights and Details**

### **Overnight stays:**

Vimy Region	(2)
Normandy Region	(2)
Paris	(2)

### **Sightseeing tours led by an expert, licensed local guide of the following:**

Guided Sightseeing of Paris

### **Entrances included to the following sites:**

Memorial Museum Passchendaele  
In Flanders Fields Museum  
“Last Post Ceremony” at Menin Gate  
Vimy Ridge Historic Site incl. tunnels & trenches  
Beaumont Hamel War Memorial  
Juno Beach Centre  
Notre Dame Cathedral

### ***Optional Excursions:***

Versailles (pre-book only) \$ 99

Optional excursion prices are based on 20 paying participants and may be purchased until 50 days prior to departure or on tour at an increased price. The prices of optional excursions are subject to change.

### **Included in the Program Price:**

- Round-trip flights, including fuel surcharges, airport improvement fees, security charges, transfer, arrival, and departure taxes
- Transfers to and from the airport and hotel and between destination cities (as per program itinerary)
- Overnight in hotels with private bathrooms
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director

### **Not included in the Program Price:**

- Customary gratuities for your tour director, local guide and driver
- Porterage
- Personal Insurance
- Beverages and lunches
- Public transportation to free time activities