



WSO Military Interest Tour II

From the Royal Palace in Brussels to the memorials built to commemorate the brave of WWII to the Eiffel Tower in Paris; this tour will leave you in awe of not only humankind's architectural abilities, but also our resilience in face of conflict and unrest.



YOUR
ADVENTURE
AWAITS

9 days/8 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Brussels

Welcome to Belgium! Today you will arrive at Brussels Airport. You will be transferred into the capital of Belgium for a guided city tour by coach and on foot. See the main sights of Brussels such as the Royal Palace, home to the Belgian king. Continue to see the city's law courts which were built in Neo-Classical style. The size of the Palace of Justice exceeds the size of the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. You will see the Guild halls, the Town hall and the famous "Manneken Pis" (also known as Little Julian). You can enjoy your lunch on your own at the Great Market Square. In the afternoon you will be transferred to your hotel for check in. Dinner and overnight in Brussels area. (D)

Day 2: Arnhem area

After breakfast you will depart for the Netherlands. Your first stop will be at the National Liberation Museum in Groesbeek. The museum is located in the place where Major-General James M. Gavin landed with the 82nd Airborne Division on September 17th 1944. Tour the museum together with a guide of the museum. You will see the secret closet for hiding and playing Radio Orange, the Human rights wall, Bird's eye-view model of Operation Market Garden and the Diorama of the Waal crossing. Afterwards you will pay a visit to the Canadian Military War cemetery where a wreath can be placed at the grave of the unknown soldier. ***In the evening attend the WSO concert in Arnhem.*** Dinner on your own and overnight in Nijmegen. (B)

Day 3: Arnhem area

This morning you will travel to Oosterbeek, famous for 'Operation Market Garden', Field Marshall Montgomery's ill-fated plan to reach Berlin in 1944. You will visit 'Huize Hartenstein' General Urquhart's (Commander of the 1st British Airborne Division) headquarters in September 1944. 'Huize Hartenstein' nowadays houses the Airborne museum, devoted to the Operation Market Garden. It contains memorabilia of the parachuting of the Airborne troops in the Oosterbeek area. General Urquhart's headquarters has been reconstructed in a cellar. On your way to Nijmegen you will stop at the memorial to the Royal Canadian Engineers who evacuated the surviving airborne troops across the Rhine River. You will travel onwards to Nijmegen where you will have lunch on your own. Afterwards you will see the bridge over the Waal River. This bridge also known as the John Frost bridge, famous for the movie 'A Bridge Too Far'.

Day 4: Rotterdam

This morning you will travel to Rotterdam. Upon arrival enjoy a guided city tour of Rotterdam. You will see some of the buildings that have escaped the bombing of WWII and modern architecture like the Markthal (Market Hall), the Cube houses and many more. The city is the birthplace of Erasmus, the famous Dutch philosopher and theologian. During your visit you will note that the university and downtown bridge are both named after him. Afterwards you will explore Rotterdam by boat and view the impressive skyline from the water. Lunch included on board. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. ***In the evening attend the WSO concert in Rotterdam.*** Dinner on your own and overnight Rotterdam area. (B/L)



Day 5: Ypres area

After breakfast travel to the Southwest of Belgium to explore the sites of WWI. You will learn about the course of WWI here during a visit of the Flanders Field Museum in Ypres and Tyne Cot Cemetery. Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world with 11956 graves and a visitor centre, you will also see the Brooding Soldier Memorial dedicated to 2000 Canadians who were killed during the first chemical attack and the Canadian Memorial at Crest Farm which commemorates the fallen Canadians during the 3rd Battle of Ypres. Dinner and overnight in Kortrijk. (B/D)

Day 6: Caen

This morning you drive to Vimy Ridge where you will visit the Education Centre. See artifacts, photos and films on Canada's involvement in WWI. Outside the Education Centre the restored trenches can be visited with a student guide (upon availability and depending on the weather). Afterwards you will head for Normandy. After lunch on your own you will visit Café Gondrée and the Pegasus bridge. The bridges of Ranville and Bénouville were recaptured in the early hours of the night of the 5th to the 6th of June 1944 by the British 5th Parachute Brigade, whose emblem was Pegasus. The bridge over the canal was renamed Pegasus Bridge in memory of this great military feat. Travel onwards to the Canada House, one of the most iconic buildings in Canadian military history. It was one of the first houses liberated by Canadian soldiers on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and has since become a familiar historic landmark, standing in the backdrop of the many black-and-white photographs showing troops landing on the sands of Bernières-sur-Mer. Dinner on your own and overnight in Caen area. (B)

Day 7: Paris

Today a local guide will take you to several important historical D-Day sites starting with a visit of Beny-sur-Mer Canadian Military Cemetery. After this memorable and moving visit you will tour the D-Day Landing Beaches, Longues-sur-Mer Gun Battery and the Juno Beach Centre. Here you will get an overview of the events on June 6th, 1944 known as Operation Overlord. In the afternoon you will depart Normandy for Paris, where you will arrive early in the evening. Dinner and overnight in Paris. (B/D)

Day 8: Paris

Get your cameras ready for a coach tour of the most photogenic city on earth. A local guide will show you the treasures of Paris, including views of the Opera Garnier, Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees, the Eiffel Tower and Place de la Concorde. Afterwards, you will visit the Paris Catacombs, here you go underground to the place where in the 18th century, the city started to "store" human remains as cemeteries were getting full and prone to disease. Afterwards enjoy a worthwhile visit of the Louvre museum where you will have a guided tour of the most famous exhibits like the Mona Lisa of Leonardo da Vinci and the Venus by Milo. In the evening head for the riverbank for a cruise on the Seine River including a farewell dinner. Dinner and overnight in Paris. (B/D)

Day 9: Departure

Coach transfer to Paris Charles de Gaulle International Airport for your flight home. (B)

Details

Trip dates:

02 – 10 May, 2020

Trip price:

CA\$3070 per person, land only, based on double occupancy

CA\$4175 per person, single supplement

(B) Breakfast

(L) Lunch

(D) Dinner

Trip Code:

INCLUDED

- Eight nights' accommodation at 4-star hotels, based on double occupancy with private facilities on the room
- Daily breakfast
- Tour escort throughout the program
- Private deluxe coach according to the program
- Whisper systems throughout the tour
- Lunch cruise in Rotterdam
- Meals as per the itinerary, no drinks included
- Seine River cruise, including one glass of wine
- Guided city tour of Brussels by coach and on foot
- Guided visit of the National Liberation Museum in Groesbeek, plus entrance fees



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- Visit to the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, including wreath-laying
- Guided city tour of Rotterdam by coach and on foot
- Full day specialized D-Day and WWII guide in Normandy
- Guided city tour of Paris
- Guided visits of the Louvre Museum and Paris Catacombs, plus entrance fees
- Entrance fees into: Airborne Museum, Flanders Field Museum, Vimy Ridge, Pegasus Bridge Museum, and Juno Beach Centre

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Concert tickets
- Gratuities
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature

TOUR NOTES

Contact [Natalie Rozière Hébert](#) for more information

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