Tracing Canada’s History: Remembering the 75th Anniversary of D-Day with York University Alumni

12 days | 15 days with Berlin extension | November 06, 2019—November 17, 2019

Along the coast of Normandy and through the streets of London and Amsterdam, the influence of WWII can still be felt. As you visit memorials, trenches, and museums, you’ll learn about the important role Canadian forces played in the outcome of D-Day. Explore the locations that were the backdrops for pivotal battles and take time to honour the sacrifices made by the Allied soldiers.

Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 6 three-course dinners
- Guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Churchill War Rooms
- Ferry ride across the English Channel
- Juno Beach
- Vimy Ridge Memorial
- In Flanders Fields Museum
- Bergen op Zoom

Tour pace

You will walk for about 2.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and paved roads.

For more information, contact
groupoursite.ca/yorkualumnitravel | 800-742-1731

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to London.

London → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in London
*Included meals: dinner*
Welcome to England! Gather with your Tour Director and fellow travellers at tonight’s welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of London
*Included meals: breakfast*
View the historical buildings and landmarks of England’s vibrant capital on a guided sightseeing tour.
- Step inside the Imperial War Museums to see exhibits focusing on people’s experiences during times of war
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations, weddings, and funerals
- Pass by Wellington Barracks, headquarters for the British Army’s Foot Guards
- Visit the Churchill War Rooms and explore the secret underground bunker that the Prime Minister and his Cabinet met in during WWII

Normandy Region → 3 nights

Day 4: The Normandy Region via Portsmouth
*Included meals: breakfast*
Transfer to Dover and step inside Dover Castle, the largest castle in England. Learn about the evacuation of Dunkirk during Operation Dynamo. Then, board a ferry and cross the English Channel to the Normandy region. Sail along the same waters that the Allied soldiers did prior to the Normandy landings. You’ll dock in the Calais before heading to the Normandy region.

Day 5: Normandy Beaches
*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*
Set out to explore the Normandy region, stopping to uncover historic sites as you go.

- Visit the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, the burial place of many Canadian soldiers who fought during the beginning of the Battle of Normandy
- Enter the Juno Beach Centre
- Explore the seaside town of Arromanches, where you’ll have free time for lunch
- Step inside the D-Day Museum, which highlights the events of June 6, 1944, when Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy

Day 6: Normandy Region
*Included meals: breakfast*
Spend the day visiting memorials and museums throughout the Normandy region.
- Enter the Mémorial de Caen to learn about WWII history and the Battle for Caen
- Honour the soldiers who lost their lives during the Battle of Normandy at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery
- Visit the Coudes-Montormel Memorial and discover the importance of the Battle of the Falaise Pocket

Lille → 2 nights

Day 7: Lille via Dieppe
*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*
Travel to Lille today, stopping en route to visit the town of Dieppe with your Tour Director leading the way.
- See the Canadian Memorial, which chronicles the events of the Dieppe Raid in August of 1942
- Visit the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery, where Allied soldiers killed in the Dieppe Raid were laid to rest
- Later, arrive in Lille and enjoy a free evening.

Day 8: Vimy Battlefields, Beaumont-Hamel & tasting tour of Lille
*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*
Spend the day exploring World War I sites located within the Vimy region on a sightseeing tour with a local guide.
- Visit the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, which honours the sacrifices made by the Royal Newfoundland Regiment
- Enjoy free time for lunch in the city of Arras
- Enter the Vimy Interpretive Centre to see medals and memorabilia from the significant battle
- See the Vimy Ridge Memorial, a national historic site of Canada, and explore the area’s tunnels, trenches, and cemeteries
- Tonight, explore the best of Lille’s culinary scene.
- Walk through the Grand Place, the city’s main square, to view the ornate Vieille Bourse stock exchange building
- Stop at an estaminet, or small restaurant, to try a typical appetizer with beer
- Make your way past the grand Lille Cathedral to a modern brasserie where you’ll enjoy a delicious three-course meal
- End your evening with dessert in a cave bar, paired with the best beer in the city

Brussels → 1 night

Day 9: Brussels via Ypres
*Included meals: breakfast*
Travel to Brussels, Belgium today, stopping en route to visit the Belgian town of Ypres with your Tour Director leading the way.
- See the Tyne Cot Cemetery and pay a visit to the Canadian Hill 62 Memorial at Sanctuary Wood
- Visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, which is on the grounds of a historic château, to learn about the battle that took place there
- Enjoy free time for lunch in Ypres
- Enter the In Flanders Fields Museum, where you’ll discover the impact that WWI had on this region
- Continue on to Brussels and enjoy a free evening in the city.

Amsterdam → 2 nights

Day 10: Amsterdam via Bergen op Zoom & canal cruise
*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*
Travel to Amsterdam today, stopping to visit the city of Bergen op Zoom.
- Learn about the Battle of the Scheldt, an important military campaign for the Canadian First Army during WWII

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Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Amsterdam

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Today’s panoramic sightseeing tour introduces you to Amsterdam’s iconic canals and unique character.

- Walk past the National Opera and Ballet, Jewish Historical Museum, National Holocaust Museum, and Hollandsche Schouwburg war memorial
- Drive through the city center to see Museumplein and Mint Tower
- View Dam Square, home of many landmarks including the neoclassical Royal Palace, the 15th-century New Church, and the National Monument
- Pass the Anne Frank House, where the young diarist and her family hid during World War II
- Stroll by the canals and bridges, taking in the houseboats that dot the banks

Tonight, join your fellow travellers at a farewell dinner.

Day 12: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay in Berlin, Germany.

+ Berlin extension

Add 3 nights in Berlin

Berlin

**Flight to Berlin**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Board your flight to Berlin this morning and take the afternoon to familiarize yourself with Germany’s capital city.

**Sightseeing tour of Berlin**

*Included meals: breakfast*

A local guide introduces you to the monuments of Berlin’s intricate past as well as the signs of its re-emergence as a vibrant cultural centre.

- View the Detlev-Rohwedder-Haus, former headquarters for the Nazi aviation branch known as the Luftwaffe
- See Hitler’s war bunker as well as the Topography of Terror museum, which marks where the SS and Gestapo were once based
- Walk past the Reichstag building to see where the Parliament of the German Empire met from 1871 to 1918
- Discover the Brandenburg Gate, the symbol of a reunited Berlin
- See the Holocaust Memorial and East Side Gallery

**Potsdam**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Potsdam, where American, British, and Soviet leaders drew up plans for the postwar administration of Germany at the Potsdam Conference in 1945.

- Learn about the city’s history as a residence for Prussian Kings and German Kaisers with a local guide
- Walk through Cecilienhof Palace, built by Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany in the early 1900s, and the site of the Potsdam Conference’s iconic photograph of Truman, Churchill, and Stalin
- Visit the historic centre of Potsdam

**Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.