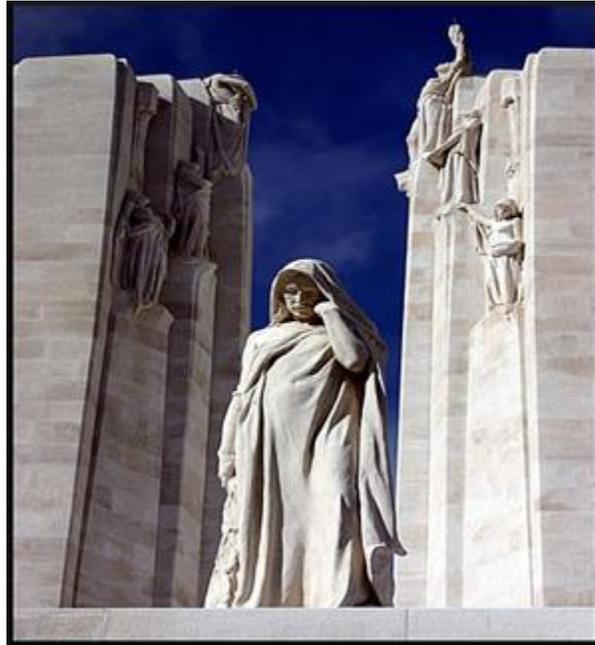


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*Detail of the Vimy Memorial
(Photos by J. Pauwels or free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)*

“VIMY CENTENNIAL I - 1917-2017”

A COMPREHENSIVE TOUR OF THE CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WARS I AND II IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM

12 days, Tuesday, April 4 to Saturday, April 15, 2017

An extensive exploration of the battlefields of France and Belgium, focusing on the Canadian contribution in Flanders' Fields, the Somme, Mons, Normandy, and of course Vimy Ridge, where the commemorations on April 9 will constitute one of the tour's highlights! Excellent first-class hotels, meals, and history lectures by your tour escort, Jacques Pauwels, author of a number of books on both World Wars, including a study of the role of the Canadian Army in the liberation of Belgium, a recent book on WW I, and an international best-seller on WW II, 'The Myth of the Good War.'

Tour price, based on “land only” and double occupancy: \$3,275 (Canadian) - Single room supplement: \$ 745
A non-stop return flight from Toronto to Brussels is available at the *all-inclusive* group rate of \$798.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Day 1 – Tuesday, April 4: Around 6PM, departure from Toronto to Brussels on the non-stop flight of SN Brussels Airlines. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Wednesday, April 5: Arrival at Brussels Airport around 7:30AM. You will be taken on a panoramic tour of the capital of Belgium and of the European Union, including all the important sights: the Atomium, emblem of the city since the World Exposition held here in 1958; the Cinquantenaire Complex with its “Arc de Triomphe”; the Royal Palace; St. Michael’s Cathedral, the imposing Palace of Justice; and of course the magnificent Grand Place, one of the most beautiful square in the world! Afterwards we check into the Holiday Inn near Brussels Airport. The rest of the day is at leisure. (*Tour members arriving too late to participate in the city tour, e.g. on account of individual flight arrangements, may be able to visit Brussels in the afternoon, taking advantage of the convenient rail connection between the airport and downtown Brussels contact Caroline at Pauwels Travel if you are interested.*)

Brussels’ famous Grand Place >

Day 3 - Thursday, April 6: Departure after breakfast. We motor via the Battlefield of Waterloo to Mons, the Belgian town close to the French border where, at least from the British perspective, the Great War’s fighting started and ended. Visit to St. Symphorien Cemetery, with the graves of soldiers of the three nations – Canada, Britain, and Germany - that were involved in the two battles of Mons, including the grave of the Great War’s first British and last Canadian soldier to die, the latter only minutes before the cease-fire went into effect. Continue to Kortrijk (French Courtrai), strategically located near the Belgian-French border, on the cusp of the battlefields of the Great war in both countries. Check into the centrally located 4-star/first-class Parkhotel, and free time to settle in (www.parkhotel.be). Dinner in the hotel’s fine restaurant.



< Grave of G. L. Price, last Canadian killed in the Great War (Photo J. Pauwels)

For more pictures of Pauwels Travel’s 2014 battlefield tour, see: <https://plus.google.com/photos/112007961211927448869/albums/6081916973145443425?banner=pwa>

Day 4 - Friday, April 7: Today we first visit the Caribou Memorial in Kortrijk, commemorating the Newfoundland Regiment’s role in the fighting here at the end of WW I. Then we cross into France and motor a short distance to Vimy for a comprehensive tour of the stunning Canadian Memorial and Battlefield Park with its trenches, tunnels and shell craters, including a guided tour of the underground tunnel complex and trenches. Afterwards we visit the massive French War Cemetery and amazing new “Ring of Memory” memorial at Notre Dame de Lorette as well as the

Franco-British and German cemeteries in La Targette. Return to our hotel in Kortrijk in late afternoon. A group lunch is included today.

Day 5 - Saturday, April 8: Today we tour Flanders’ Fields, the World War I battlefields zone in Belgium, stretching from the French border to the North Sea. Visits to the town of Ieper (Ypres), with the Menin Gate Memorial and the Flanders’ Fields Museum, located inside the town’s emblematic Cloth Hall; the Canadian Memorial in Passchendaele, in whose muddy fields Canadian troops fought an epic battle in 1917; Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world; the Brooding Soldier Monument, commemorating the men who fell during the first gas attack in 1915; Essex Farm Cemetery, where John McRae composed his famous poem; the German War Cemetery of Vladslo, site of the poignant Käthe Kollwitz sculpture “The Mourning Parents”; and the little seaport of Nieuwpoort, at the mouth of the Yser River, where in

The Brooding Soldier



1914-1918 the frontline ended with barbed wire stretched across the beach and into the salty water of the North Sea. Dinner in a restaurant in the old town of Ieper, and afterwards we attend the daily Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, a tradition since the early 1920s! (www.greatwar.co.uk/events/menin-gate-last-post-ceremony.htm). Late return to our hotel in Kortrijk.

Day 6 - Sunday, April 9: Today, on the 100th anniversary of the great battle, we attend the official commemorations at Vimy Ridge (www.vimyfoundation.ca/vimy-100). Group lunch or dinner today.

Day 7 - Monday, April 10: Departure from Kortrijk after breakfast. We tour the region of France that witnessed the 1916 Battle of the Somme, with sights such as the Newfoundland Caribou Monument (and adjoining information centre) at Beaumont-Hamel; the Ulster Tower; the massive British Memorial of Thiepval; and the Canadian Monuments of Courcellette and Le Quesnel (www.ww1battlefields.co.uk/somme.html). On for dinner and overnight to the picturesque and historic seaport of Honfleur, in Normandy, whence Samuel de Champlain sailed for Canada in 1608 to found the city of Quebec and the colony of New France. Dinner and overnight in the 4-star/first-class Hotel Mercure (<http://www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-0986-mercure-honfleur-hotel/index.shtml>).

Day 8 - Tuesday, April 11: Today we tour the Normandy Beaches that witnessed the landing of Allied troops on D-Day, June 6, 1944. We focus on the Canadian sector, Juno Beach, where we visit the towns of Bernières and Courseulles, the Juno Beach Centre, and Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, and Ardenne Abbey, where some Canadian POWs were killed by SS troops. Stops will also be included at the remains of the artificial Mulberry Harbour in Arromanches, the famous Pegasus Bridge, and the town of Caen. Return to Honfleur in late afternoon and free evening. No group dinner.



Canadian troops disembarking at Bernières, Juno Beach

Day 9 - Wednesday, April 12: Departure from Honfleur after breakfast. We cross the Seine Estuary near Le Havre via the amazing Normandie Bridge (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pont_de_Normandie) and motor to the seaport of Dieppe, scene of Operation Jubilee, a controversial Allied raid against the German Atlantic Wall in 1942, which cost a lot of Canadian lives. Visit to the landing beach, the Canadian Memorial, and the Canadian War Cemetery. On to Boulogne and the nearby village of Wimereux to pause at the tomb of John McCrae (www.webmatters.net/cwgc/wimereux.com.htm). A little further, in Audinghen, a village on Cape Gris Nez, we stop to see the big German guns used to shell Dover, visible (on a clear day) on the other side of the narrowest stretch of the English Channel! Then we continue via the coastal highway to Calais and Dunkirk, the Belgian border, and Bruges, arguably the best preserved medieval town in all of Europe. We enter the city via Canada Bridge, so named because it was also used by the Canadian troops (Manitoba Dragoons) when they liberated this city in early September 1944. Dinner and overnight in the centrally located 4-star/first-class Hotel Portinari (<http://www.portinari.be/EN/HM>).

< Members of a Pauwels Travel group at the Canadian Memorial in Dieppe in 2015 (photo by J. Pauwels)



Day 10 - Thursday, April 13: In the morning, leisurely walking tour of old Bruges, with as highlights the main square with the majestic Belfry, symbol of the city, the Church of Our Lady (with a statue by Michelangelo!), the Gothic Town Hall, medieval St. John's Hospital, the scenic canals that crisscross the town, the Lake of Love, and the romantic Beguinage. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner in the hotel.

Day 11 - Friday, April 14: Morning exploration of the nearby area – on both sides of the Belgian-Dutch border - where in the fall of 1944 the Canadian Army fought the “Battle of the Scheldt,” with sights such as the Leopold Canal, the Monument to Queen Wilhelmina's return to Holland, the Canadian War Cemetery in Adegem (with a short ceremony), and the nearby Canadian War Museum, where we will enjoy a group lunch and socialize with members of the Belgian-Canadian Association. Return to Bruges and rest of the day at leisure.

Ceremony at the Canadian War Cemetery in Adegem >

Day 12 - Saturday, April 15: After an early breakfast, transfer to Brussels Airport in time for the late morning departure of our non-stop return flight to Toronto. Lunch and a light snack will be served before the mid-afternoon arrival in Toronto.



Tour price, based on “land only” and double occupancy: \$3,275 (Canadian)

A non-stop return flight from Toronto to Brussels is available at \$798, including all airport taxes, security fees, and fuel surcharges.

Single room supplement: \$745

Included in the tour price are:

- Accommodation in first-class (4-star) hotels, based on double occupancy – single supplement \$745.
- Meals: buffet breakfast daily and a total of *eight* full-course dinners or sometimes full lunches.
- Overland transportation via private coach.
- Sightseeing, visits, and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, including admission.
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.

Not included are:

- All expenses of a personal nature.
- Meals other than those mentioned above.
- Beverages with dinners.
- Coach driver's gratuity, estimated at \$35.
- Travel insurance, please call office for rates.

“Vimy Ridge” Heaven to Hell” a documentary available on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaywRnWrhZI>

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure: 25% of tour cost
45 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. February necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the “Vimy Centennial Tour” of April 4 – 15, 2017.

It is possible to book this tour on a land only basis and book your own flights. If you would like to do so, please indicate here. Book me Land only: _____.

Book me on the Brussels Airways group flights: _____.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1000 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT VALID FOR THREE MONTHS (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

Name as on Passport. Indicate the appropriate title before each name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

NAME(S): _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. “Liz” for “Mary Elizabeth”) _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code: _____

PHONE: Residence) _____ (Business) _____ (Fax/Email) _____

If traveling alone, please indicate your willingness to share accommodations: YES _____ NO _____

SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED: _____ (We will try to find a roommate for those willing to share, but cannot guarantee success in doing so. For single travelers we are not able to match, the single supplement will apply.)

SPECIAL REQUESTS: (Dietary, wheelchair assistance, frequent flyer number, twin beds, etc.) Please list here so we can do our best to assist you. (We will do our best to assist you but cannot guarantee success, especially in the case of requests for specific seating arrangements, since airlines do not normally allow individual seat selections for groups.) All special requests must be made in writing to the office.

I/we agree to the “terms and conditions” attached to the program. _____

Insurance - I/we accept:

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____ or Decline Insurance _____

Signature(s) if declining insurance _____.

If purchasing travel insurance, we require your date of birth:

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

PAYMENT:

Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

Please forward this completed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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