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ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LAND SURVEYORS

12 DAY TOUR TO FRANCE & BELGIUM

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 9, 2019 (tentative)

Preliminary Itinerary - September 28, 2018

Note: It is the responsibility of all participants to be in possession of the correct documentation to travel out of the country. Failure to do so will result in participants being denied entry/boarding and returned home at the expense of the individual.
Canadian Citizens require a valid passport (authorities at your destination require that passports are valid for **3 MONTHS** beyond your return date). Ellison Travel & Tours recommends passports are valid for 6 months beyond your return date. Non-Canadian travellers should contact Ellison Travel & Tours at traveldocuments@etravel.com so we can check entry and transit requirements and confirm that they have the correct travel documentation and/or visa requirements.

Day 1 – DEPARTURE TO FRANCE

M

- *transportation to the airport is on your own*
- **meet as a group at Toronto Pearson International Airport**
- **locate your Ellison Tours tour manager and check in at the airline counter**
- *groups are requested to check in 3 hours prior to scheduled departure for International flights*
- **scheduled departure on your flight to Paris, France**
- **meal** served on board the aircraft

Day 2 – ARRIVAL PARIS AND ON TO ARRAS

M/D

- **meal** served prior to landing
- *change watches to local time of destination*
- **scheduled arrival at Paris Charles de Gaulle International Airport**
- **proceed through Passport Control, collect luggage and clear Customs**
- **meet your local coach and driver**
- **depart for your first stop at Beaumont Hamel**
- attacking on the first morning of what was to be known as the Battle of the Somme, July 1st, 2016, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment suffered grievous casualties here. Tour the battlefield that has been left much as it was on that fateful day.
- continue on to the city of **Arras** and enjoy lunch in the beautiful town centre
- arrive at your **centrally located hotel** and check in for a **2 night stay**
- **meet in the hotel lobby and depart to the restaurant**
- **welcome group dinner**
- following dinner, for those still in the mood for sightseeing, you may wish to join your tour manager for a walk into the centre to admire the beautifully backlit squares at night
- **retire to your rooms for the evening**

Day 3 – VIMY

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- **meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby**
- **board your coach and depart for the short transfer to the site that needs no introduction to Canadians: Vimy Ridge.** Spend the morning communing with the iconic Vimy Memorial, the creation of Walter Allward, featuring the names of 11,285 Canadians who died in France during World War I and have no known grave.

- after visiting the monument, take time to visit the trenches and tunnels on site and to tour the newly built interpretive centre
- after your memorable morning return to Arras with time for lunch and perhaps some shopping
- in mid-afternoon, re-assemble as a group and take the short trip outside Arras to visit the German military cemetery, Neuville St Vaast, final resting place of 44,000 German casualties of the war, and Notre Dame de Lorette, with in excess of 40,000 French dead
- return to Arras for your second night and enjoy dinner on your own in the town centre
- take care of any incidentals prior to check-out tomorrow

Day 4 – TO YPRES

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check-out
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby
- load coach and board
- bid adieu to Arras and depart for **Ypres, Belgium**
- arrive in time for lunch in the beautiful town centre, dominated by the impressive Cloth Hall
- at first visit, it is all but impossible to believe that the town of Ypres was levelled during the fighting in the Ypres Salient during the First World War
- after lunch on your own in one of the fine restaurants in the square, take time to check the shops, in particular, the fine chocolate shops Ypres has to offer
- in mid-afternoon, re-assemble in front of the Cloth Hall and pay a **self-guided visit** to the **In Flanders Fields Museum**, housed in the hall
- after your visit, walk as a group to your nearby **hotel**
- meet the coach to gather your luggage and check in for a **two night stay**
- **group dinner**
- after dinner you may enjoy the ambience of the main square at night, or you may pay a visit to the Menin Gate to observe the ceremony of which your group will be a part the following evening

Day 5 – YPRES SALIENT TOUR

B/L

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- this day will be devoted to touring the sites of significance to Canadians in the Ypres Salient
- meet your **local guide** for the day in the hotel lobby after breakfast, board your coach and set out for your incredible and moving day
- in the course of the day, you will visit **Essex Farm Cemetery**, the location where Canadian John McCrae wrote the iconic poem *In Flanders Fields*. In addition, you will visit the beautiful and evocative **Brooding Soldier Monument**, marking the location of the first gas attack in the history of warfare, endured by Canadians, **Tyne Cot Cemetery**, located on the Passchendaele battlefield and final resting place of nearly 12,000 Commonwealth soldiers, more than 8000 of whom are unknown soldiers, and **Langemark German war cemetery**, providing a stark contrast to the Commonwealth cemeteries you have visited.
- in the course of the day, enjoy a tasty and filling **lunch at the Koklikoo Restaurant**, located in the countryside not far from Passchendaele
- after your tour, return to Ypres for an early supper on your own, before attending the **Menin Gate Ceremony**
- since 1928, with the exception of during the Second World War, every evening at 8 PM a ceremony marking the Commonwealth lives lost in the Salient takes place under the arch of the beautiful Menin Gate; representatives of your group will lay a wreath commemorating those who gave their lives during the horrific fighting that took place on the battlefields you visited this day
- enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure in beautiful Ypres
- take care of any incidentals prior to check-out tomorrow

Day 6 – TO DIEPPE

B/D

- breakfast included at the hotel followed by check-out
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby
- load coach and board
- today your focus switches to World War II as you check out of your hotel and head for the English Channel
- there will be one last WWI stop as you visit the small town of **Wimereux** and the final resting place of Colonel John McCrae, the author of *In Flanders Fields*
- after your brief visit to the gravesite, continue on to the city of **Dieppe**, famous as the controversial target of “Operation Jubilee”
- on August 19, 1942, 6000 men, 5000 of whom were Canadians staged the disastrous raid on the beaches here, costing Canadians 907 dead in a matter of a couple of hours; begin with an overview of the main beaches from a promontory overlooking the beaches
- after lunch in one of Dieppe’s fine restaurants on your own, walk the beaches where so many young Canadians gave their lives that day
- check into your **beach-front hotel** for a **one night stay** and enjoy **dinner** in a local restaurant with the group
- take care of any incidentals prior to check-out tomorrow

Day 7 – D-DAY BEACHES & BAYEUX

B/D

- breakfast included at the hotel followed by check-out
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby
- load coach and board
- depart and make a brief stop at the **Hautot-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery**, the burial site of 943 men and one woman, 707 of which are Canadians killed during “Operation Jubilee”
- after your visit to this uniquely designed cemetery, done by the Germans shortly after the raid, continue along the coast towards the D-Day Beaches
- first, make a stop at the charming sea side town of **Honfleur** for an extended lunch and a chance to walk the streets of this beautiful town, from which Samuel Champlain sailed to Canada.
- re-assemble as a group in the early afternoon to continue your journey, stopping first at **Bernieres-sur-Mer**, where the Queen’s Own Rifles landed on D-Day, meeting some of the staunchest opposition; visit the monuments and the iconic **“Queen’s Own Rifles House”**, featured in so many videos of the D-Day landings
- after your visit, make the short transfer to **Courseulles-sur-Mer**, and pay a visit to the **Juno Beach Centre**
- while there, one of the **young guides** will tour the beaches and the bunkers with you and tell you the story of the landing; after that, pay a visit to the centre and its gift shop and book store
- after a brief stop at the nearby **Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery** to pay respects to the dead on D-Day continue on to the unspoiled medieval town of **Bayeux** with its incredible Romanesque/gothic cathedral and the nearby display featuring the Bayeux Tapestry, telling the story of the conquest of England in 1066
- check into your quaint, **centrally located hotel** for a **three night stay** and enjoy **dinner** with the group in a local restaurant

Day 8 – D-DAY BEACHES

B

- breakfast included at the hotel
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby and then board your coach
- make the short transfer to the town of **Arromanches**, famous as the location of one of the two D-Day portable harbours, “Mulberry B”
- begin at the overview high above the town where the remnants of this, the greatest engineering feat of World War II, can be seen
- then attend a showing at the **Arromanches 360 Theatre** featuring a stunning film depicting the

- events of the Battle for Normandy
- descend into the town and spend a few minutes getting a closer view of the remnants of the harbour before boarding your coach for the **Battery at Longues-sur-Mer** a short distance outside of the town; wandering among the still well preserved bunkers will give a clearer view of the formidable German Atlantic Wall
- after your visit, return to Bayeux and take some time for lunch in a local restaurant
- this afternoon you will have a choice. The main part of the group will re-assemble and transfer to nearby Omaha Beach and American Cemetery with its more than 9000 graves. Take time to visit the most hotly contested D-day Beach made famous in the film *Saving Private Ryan*. Those who wish a different experience may wish to stay behind to visit Le Jardin Public de Bayeux, The Bayeux Tapestry, a UNESCO site depicting the conquest of England by William the Conqueror, the beautiful Romanesque/Gothic Cathedral, or perhaps do some shopping and just enjoy the ambience of the town.
- conclude the day with dinner on your own

Day 9 – CAEN & ABBAYE D'ARDENNE

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby and then board your coach
- depart to the marvelous **Caen Memorial Museum**; visit some of the sites in Caen which was more than 80% destroyed in the bombing during the summer of 1944
- take some time to do some shopping in the centre
- depart Caen for a stop to visit the **Abbaye d'Ardenne**, the site of the cold blooded execution of 20 Canadian soldiers in the days immediately following D-Day
- return to Bayeux
- enjoy dinner on your own and relaxing in the town
- take care of any incidentals prior to check-out tomorrow

Day 10 – VERSAILLES & PARIS

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check-out
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby
- load coach and board
- bid adieu to Bayeux and depart for Paris via **Versailles**
- late in the morning, stop first at Louis XIV's famous hunting lodge, turned sumptuous palace, and after having lunch in the old town centre, pay an **audio guided visit** to the **palace and its surrounding, world famous gardens**.
- after your visit, depart for Paris and meet your **local, English speaking guide** for a **panoramic tour** of the highlights of this famous city; on your tour, you will see such sights as the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs d'Elysees, Place de la Concorde, the Opera Garnier, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre and others
- arrive at your **centrally located hotel** and check in for a **two night stay**
- enjoy dinner on your own
- you will each have use of **5 metro tickets** to use to get around in Paris
- **[At this point we could arrange a group visit up the Eiffel Tower should you wish.]**

Day 11 – PARIS

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- today, the last day of your tour, will be a free day in Paris to explore the sites that you are most interested in, with the assistance of your tour manager
- for example, you may wish to visit Notre Dame, for an internal visit of this, most famous of cathedrals; or you may wish to tour the Louvre, with its priceless and timeless collection of great works of art; if more modern art is your focus, the Musee d'Orsay with its 19th and 20th century collection may be your choice
- should you be interested in still more military content, the world famous Musee de l'Armee is a

good choice for the French view on the two wars, and as a bonus, as part of the same admission, you may visit the Tomb of Napoleon, housed under the gilded dome of des Invalides

- or you may just choose to soak up the atmosphere of Paris with a walk up the Champs d'Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe or spend the day in the artist's quarter of Montmartre; whatever you choose, it is sure to be a memorable day
- return to your hotel, freshen up
- this evening (pending availability) enjoy time with French Land Surveyors
- return to your hotel to pack for the journey home the next day
- take care of any incidentals prior to check-out tomorrow

Day 12 – DEPARTURE HOME

B/M

- **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check-out
- meet your tour manager in the hotel lobby
- load you **locally chartered coach** and board
- depart to **Charles de Gaulle International Airport**
- arrive and check in at the **airline counter**
- *groups are requested to check in 3 hours prior to scheduled departure for International flights*
- scheduled departure on your **flight** to **Toronto, ON**
- **meal** served on board the aircraft
- scheduled arrival at **Toronto Pearson International Airport**
- proceed through Passport Control, collect luggage and clear Customs
- Welcome Home!

**B - Breakfast / pB – Packed Breakfast / L – Lunch / pL – Packed Lunch / D - Dinner /
M – Airline Meal / S – Snack - denote meals included in tour cost**

Please advise your group leader in advance of any allergy and/or dietary restriction, so that we can advise our suppliers of the request. Not every location may be able to accommodate allergy and/or meal requirements for unique circumstances.

Itinerary is tentative and subject to final confirmation