



LWRA Battlefield Tour in Northwest Europe
and the Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of
Bergen op Zoom

Paris to Amsterdam: France – Belgium – the Netherlands
October 16 – 29, 2024 (14 days)

Good Day:

I have been associated with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment for over 42 years and in that time have picked up a lot of military history and in particular that of the Regiment. I have had the good fortune of speaking with many veterans and historians along the way. I have designed this tour to highlight the Allied contributions to victory in both World Wars in Northwest Europe. Make no mistake, this will be a busy two weeks but in that time we will have covered a lot of ground and gained a better understanding of our history.

Ineke Brinkman, Direct Travel's agent and organizer of Lincoln and Welland Liberation tours for a few decades, graciously offered to come along and look after all the admin details for us. This will free me up to concentrate on the tour and help guide you through this voyage. Ineke has put together a real good package that is very competitive in comparison to other tours. Have a look for yourself. This tour has portions that are tailored to the Lincoln and Welland Regiment which makes it even better for us.

If interested, Members and Friends of the Regimental family are advised to you fill out the booking form as soon as possible so we can get this trip squared away at the best possible prices.

Regards,

Chris Cincio, Vice President, Lincoln and Welland Regiment Association

Itinerary:

Depart on **Tuesday October 15, 2024** from Toronto airport or another Canadian gateway for your flight to Paris from Toronto and other gateways. All meet at a central meeting point at the Paris, Charles de Gaulle airport on Wednesday **October 16 which is tour day 1**.

Day 1 Wednesday, October 16

PARIS AIRPORT – BAYEUX (270 km – 3:30h)

A coach and driver are ready to take us to Normandy.

We visit **Pegasus Bridge**, the canal bridge captured on the early morning of D-Day. It is on display in a museum park. We then proceed to **Merville Battery**: the coastal artillery battery in Normandy, France, which was built as part of the Germans' Atlantic Wall to defend continental Europe from Allied invasion. Overnight in Bayeux.

Day 2 Thursday, October 17

BAYEUX – JUNO BEACH (29 km – 0:35h) – ARROMANCHES (14 km – 0:20h)

Beny sur Mer Canadian War Cemetery, containing predominantly Canadian soldiers killed during the early stages of the Battle of Normandy. Later we shall proceed to Juno Beach, one of five allied beaches of the Normandy landings on 6 June 1944. The beach spanned from Courseulles, a village just east of the British beach Gold, to Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, and west of the British beach Sword. From **Bernieres sur mer** we'll move on to **Mulberry Harbour**, temporary portable harbour developed to facilitate the rapid offloading of cargo needed post landings.

Later in the day we visit the **Arromanches Museum**. The Landing Museum (D-Day Museum) of Arromanches, Normandy explains the technical prowess used in the (pre)fabrication of the artificial port of Arromanches. Our last stop of the day will be **The Longues-sur-Mer Battery**, a World War II German coastal artillery battery approximately 1 km north of the village of Longues-sur-Mer in Normandy. Overnight in Bayeux.

Day 3 Friday, October 18

BAYEUX – OMAHA BEACH (24 km – 0:40h) – UTAH BEACH (42 km – 0:45h) - BAYEUX

U.S. Cemetery St. Laurent, located in Colleville-sur-Mer, covers 172.5 acres and contains the graves of 9,387 of our military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the D-Day landings and ensuing operations. **Omaha Beach**. Today, the beach is dotted with the remains of German bunkers. Behind the beach is the Musée Mémorial d'Omaha Beach, also documenting the invasion. Nearby, the **Overlord Museum** displays WWII tanks, artillery and dioramas.

Next to **Pointe Du Hoc** promontory with a 35-metre cliff overlooking the English Channel on the northwestern coast of Normandy. Pointe du Hoc was the location of a series of German bunkers and suspected artillery positions. **Ste. Mere Eglise**; a town itself is steeped in D-Day history. The church in the town, opposite the airborne museum, is a shrine to the D-Day airborne drops. Today's last stop will be at **Utah Beach**. Overnight in Bayeux.

Day 4 Saturday, October 19

BAYEUX – CAEN (28 km – 0:30h) – BRETTEVILLE SUR LAIZE (24 km – 0:30h) - BAYEUX

Visit to the **Caen Memorial**: museum and war memorial commemorating World War II and the Battle for Caen. More generally, the museum is dedicated to the history of the twentieth century, mainly focused on the fragility of peace. **Abbey D'Ardennes**, a Premonstratensian monastery founded in the 12th century, where The Ardenne Abbey massacre of Canadian Soldiers by the SS occurred during the Battle of Normandy. **Tilly la Campagne** the Regiments' first major baptism of fire and the advance down the Caen-Falaise Road. **Bretteville Sur Laize Cemetery** containing predominantly Canadian soldiers killed during the later stages of the Battle of Normandy in the Second World War. Last visit of the day will be **Butcher Hill**. Overnight in Bayeux.

Day 5 Sunday, October 20 BAYEAUX – ST. LAMBERT SUR DIVES (47 km – 1h) – MONT ORMEL (64 km – 1:10h) - HONFLEUR (77 km – 1:20h)

Our day begins in **St. Lambert Sur Dives** where the 4th Canadian Armoured Division fought tenaciously in the closing stages of the Battle of Normandy to close the Falaise pocket. Major David Vivian Currie of the South Alberta Regiment won his Victoria Cross at this location while commanding SAR and L & W troops. Finally a visit to **Hill 262 Mont Ormel** an area of high ground above the village of Chambois. This high ground dominated the valley of the Dives River and was the last possible escape route of the trapped German Seventh Army. This was the final stage of the Battle of Falaise Pocket and the Normandy Campaign. Overnight in Honfleur.

Day 6 Monday, October 21 HONFLEUR – CRIQUEBEUF SUR SEINE (87 km – 1h) – DIEPPE (86 km – 1:15h)

Today we visit **Criquebeuf Sur Seine** where the Lincoln and Welland Regiment seized the crossing and were the first Canadian Troops across the Seine River.

Later we move towards **Dieppe**, Operation Jubilee and the Dieppe Raid, an Allied amphibious attack on the German occupied port of Dieppe in northern France, during the Second World War. Overnight in Dieppe.

Day 7 Tuesday, October 22 DIEPPE – BEAUMONTO HAMEL (169 km – 2:15h) – VIMI RIDGE (65 km – 1h) - YPRES (133 km – 2h) - YPRES

Beaumont Hamel, location of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment's attack along the Somme River on July 1, 1916. **Thiepval Memorial** opened in June 2016 to mark the centenary of the 1916 Battle of the Somme. The Visitor Centre and Museum are located a short distance from the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme and the Thiepval Anglo-French Cemetery.

Vimy Ridge where the Canadian victory was a defining moment in Canadian military history. Canadian troops also earned a reputation as formidable, shock troops because of this stunning success. Overnight in Ypres.



Day 8 Wednesday, October 23 YPRES – PASCHENDAELE (22 km – 0:30h) - YPRES

First stop of the day will be at the **Essex Farm LCol John McRae memorial**

and cemetery. There are 1,204 dead commemorated, of which 104 are unidentified.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and has an area of 6,032 square meters. **The Brooding Soldier St. Julien;**

is a Canadian war memorial and small commemorative park located in the village of Saint-Julien, site of the first gas attack in April, 1915. **Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves**

Commission burial ground for the dead of the First World War and a Memorial to the Missing in the Ypres Salient. It is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world, for any war. **Passchendaele**, the Third Battle of Ypres in the fall of 1917. **Sunset ceremony at Menin Gate.** The fallen are remembered to this day in a simple ceremony that takes place every evening at sunset. All traffic through the gateway in either direction is halted, and two buglers (on special occasions four) move to the center of the Hall and sound the Last Post. Overnight in Ypres.



Day 9 Thursday, October 24

YPRES – CANADA WAR MUSEUM (92 km. – 1:15h) – MOERBRUGGE (22 Km. – 0:30h) - BRUGES

We visit the **Canada War Museum** a memorial museum dedicated to World War II in Flanders. It displays realistic scenes that make the mobilization, occupation and liberation palpable. Also on display is a panorama of the battle of the Leopold Canal. Nearby is **Adegem Cemetery.** In the last week of September 1944, the Allies held the city of Antwerp, but the Germans held both shores of the Scheldt

estuary, so that the port of Antwerp could not be used. The task of clearing the southern shore of the estuary was allotted to the 3rd Canadian Division, aided by the 4th Canadian Armoured Division. Most of the men buried at Adegem died during the operations for the clearance of the south bank of the Scheldt. **Moerbrugge**, a village in the Belgian province of West Flanders, in the municipality of Oostkamp. It was the site of a bridgehead gained by the L&W Regiment and ASH of C. Critical in the Canadian 4th Armoured Division's crossing of the Ghent- Bruges Canal during the Battle of the Scheldt in September 1944. Overnight in Brugge.

Day 10 Friday, October 25 PROVINCE OF ZEELAND – BERGEN OP ZOOM

From Belgium we travel into the Netherlands and visit the **Zeeland Museum**; the Liberation Museum (*Bevrijdings museum*.) Zeeland takes you through the eventful years in the province of Zeeland during World War II. The 'Battle of the Scheldt' is the central thread of this story. **Operation Suitcase** stands for a Canadian offensive led by General H. D. G. Crerar's 1st Army in the area to the north of Antwerp on the Belgian coast with the object of assisting in the isolation of the German forces holding Walcheren Island in October 1944. We also visit the **Wouwe Plantage (De Pin)**; **Bergen op Zoom Cemetery and Lincoln Bridge**. Overnight in Bergen op Zoom.



Bergen op Zoom October 2019

Day 11 Saturday, October 26 BERGEN OP ZOOM

Today's highlight will be the **Concert performed by the Lincoln and Welland Band**. We have some free time to spend in the **Grote Markt** the central square situated in the middle of the old town and surrounded by Saint Gertrude's Church, the Town Hall, Hotel De Draak, Theater De Maagd, and many cafés and restaurants. Overnight in Bergen op Zoom.

Day 12 Sunday, October 27 BERGEN OP ZOOM

Service of Remembrance at the Canadian War Cemetery; continued **Remembrance Day activities** in and around Market Square. Overnight in Bergen op Zoom.

Day 13 Monday, October 28 BERGEN OP ZOOM – GROESBEEK (142 km – 2h) – AMSTERDAM (150 km – 2h)

Operation Elephant Kapelsche Veer; January 26-31, 1945. The Kapelsche Veer – a ferry crossing of the River Meuse (*Maas*) near the village of Capelle in the province North Brabant of the Netherlands. Visit to the **Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery and Memorial** a Second World War Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery, 8 km southeast of Nijmegen. Of the 2,619 burials, the cemetery contains 2,338 Canadian soldiers. Lastly, we visit **Arnhem Bridge (A Bridge Too Far)** across the Maas and **Arnhem War Museum**. Overnight in Amsterdam.

Day 14 Tuesday, October 29

After breakfast we bid farewell to all fellow travelers and transfer to the Amsterdam, Schiphol airport for a flight to Toronto or other Canadian gateway.

Price: \$ 3750 per person, based on twin/double occupancy

Single supplement: \$ 1200 (Limited availability.) Pricing is based on a minimum of 32 participants.

Included in the tour price

- Luxury air-conditioned coach with reclining seats
- Thirteen nights' accommodation in 4-star European-style hotels, with the exception of good 3-star hotels in Honfleur and Ypres, based on double occupancy (twin or double)
- Daily buffet breakfast in the hotel
- All hotel service charges and local tourism taxes
- Full commentary by retired Lieutenant Colonel Chris Cincio with the occasional local destination expert
- Dutch/Canadian Tour Director Ineke Brinkman escorts this group from arrival in Paris, until departure in Amsterdam and takes care of every detail, so you may travel carefree
- Entrance fees to Memorial Pegasus, Arromanches Museum, Caen Memorial, Thiepval Museum, Canada Poland War Museum, Zeeland Museum
- Complete information and travel documents package to be handed out/mailed approx. 3 weeks prior to departure

Excluded in the tour price

- Transfers to/from Toronto airport or other gateways
- Airfare and airport taxes – please contact ibrinkman@dt.com for best schedules and (group) rates
- Allianz cancellation/interruption/medical out of country insurance. Contact Ineke for needs and premium
- Meals and beverages with the exception of the daily included breakfasts
- Gratuities to coach driver and local guides
- Items of a personal nature; optional: pre- and/or post tour travel arrangements

Terms and Conditions

How to book Make a copy of your passport and mail/deliver with the completed booking form including a \$750 per person nonrefundable deposit cheque made payable to Direct Travel or your credit card authorization, c/o Ineke Brinkman, 3 Mountainview Drive St. Catharines, L2T 3H3. The day of receipt confirms your registration. To avoid disappointment and to secure your air seat, we recommend you book now. The premium for the optional but highly recommended insurance is also due at time of booking. Final payment is due no later than Monday July 15, 2024.)

Insurance Direct Travel strongly recommends you purchase insurance protecting you from financial losses in the event you would need to cancel due to medical reasons to yourself or someone in your immediate family. You will be advised of the Allianz premium upon receipt of your registration, as the premium is according to your needs, the duration and price of your package, as well as age.

Cancellations and refunds All cancellations, changes or refund requests must be received in writing and shall be considered in effect as of the date notice is received. Cancellations are subject to the following cancellation penalties:

Deposit: non-refundable. Fee for cancelling between date of registration and July 12, 2024: \$750 per person; cancelling on July 15 or after: 100% non-refundable. If you need to cancel, Direct Travel will refund all money paid towards the tour less the applicable cancellation fee and the insurance premium.

Pricing All prices are based on October 2023 exchange rates and supplier quotations. In the event that significant changes take place (3% or more) due to circumstances beyond our control, we reserve the right to adjust the prices. Pricing is based on a min. of 32 participants.

Itinerary International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We reserve the right to withdraw all or part of the tour should conditions warrant and to make alterations in the itinerary and/or accommodation, as may be found desirable for the convenience of the tour members or proper execution of the tour and/or to meet local conditions at the time of travel. The times as listed in the itinerary are approximate times, as all depends upon road circumstances. We appreciate your understanding.

Shared and single accommodation Passengers must indicate at the time of booking whether they want to share a hotel room or if they prefer a single room; there are a very limited number of single rooms. Your roommate, if known, should also be indicated. Triple rooms, while not recommended, can usually be arranged in the hotel rooms. Should it not be possible to find a compatible roommate, then the single person must be prepared to pay the single supplement no later than six weeks prior to departure. **Unused tour arrangements** Portions of tour arrangements, or any other service or feature of the package, which are not used, are neither refundable nor exchangeable.

Documentation/Vaccination and medical requirements. Visit <https://travel.gc.ca> and <https://JoinSherpa.com> for the ever changing and most up to date travel info. A passport needs to be valid until at least 6 months after your return date to Canada, 2024. Canadian passport holders currently need no visas nor proof of negative pre-departure. In the interest of all fellow travelers we strongly recommend that you have been vaccinated no less than 14 days prior to departure. You may be asked to sign a health & safety waiver Covid-19. We must be aware of changing travel regulations and follow these as required.

Travel documentation Tour documents (detailed itinerary, passenger list, hotel information, suggested packing list, etc.) will be mailed and/or handed out three weeks prior to departure.

Responsibility Direct Travel of Ancaster, Ontario acts as an agent for the various companies, owners, and contractors providing means of transportation, accommodation or other services. Direct Travel assumes no responsibility or liability in connection with the

service of any aircraft, vessel, carriage or other conveyance that is used wholly or in part, in the performance of this duty to the passengers. Neither will Direct Travel be responsible for any act, omission or error, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, or any neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets or coupons have been issued. We assume no responsibility or liability for errors or omissions resulting from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantines, sickness, government regulations or any loss or expense resulting from the above contingencies. Expenses for said losses shall be borne by the tour members. TICO reg. # 50023503/nov 23ib

Registration for the LWRA Battlefield Tour in Northwest Europe and the Celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Bergen op Zoom

October 16 – 29, 2024: Paris to Amsterdam

\$3750 per person based on sharing; Single supplement \$1200 (ltd. Availability.) Price is based on min. 32 participants

Name as it appears in passport

1. _____ Date of birth _____
Title First Middle Last Y M D

2. _____ Date of birth _____
Title First Middle Last Y M D

Home Street Address _____ City _____ Prov. _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Passport number: 1. _____ date of issue: _____ place of issue: _____

Passport number: 2. _____ date of issue: _____ place of issue: _____

Aeroplan number 1: _____ Aeroplan number 2: _____

I will be sharing the room with: _____ I wish a single room and pay the supplement (pls circle)

I/we wish to stay longer in the Netherlands or Europe and request a return flight
on.....from.....(additional cost may apply)

I/we require and circle were required:

Cancellation/interruption insurance protection in the event of unforeseen medical circumstances Yes / No

I/we require unlimited emergency medical insurance, baggage, air accident etc. only Yes / No

I/we require flights: October 15th from Toronto or other North American gateways into Paris for an October 16th arrival, October 29th out of Amsterdam and wish to fly economy class, premium economy or business class and would like to be contacted by Ineke once prices become available Yes / No

Special medical diet/allergies/physical needs: _____

Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Relation: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature 1:Signature 2:.....

Deposit: \$ 750 per person; final payment is due no later than July 15, 2024.

Form of payment: cheque made payable to Direct Travel to be mailed or dropped off or pay by visa or mastercard:

Credit card number: _____ Exp:MM/YY _____ 3 digits on back of the card: _____

Name cardholder: _____

Please complete and return to: Direct Travel, Ineke Brinkman, c/o 3 Mountainview Drive, St. Catharines, ON L2T 3H3 or scan and email the completed form to ibrinkman@dt.com; tel. 905.988.1313. Enclosed is a photocopy of the title page from the current passport (s).