



Education
First
**Educational
Tours**

SPIES, PLANES & VIMY



VIMY RIDGE 2012
NATIONAL STUDENT REMEMBRANCE TOUR

11 DAYS

SPIES, PLANES & VIMY

England • France • The Netherlands • Belgium



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.

Countries visited:

England • France • The Netherlands • Belgium

Program Fee includes:

Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director

Transportation: Round-trip flight • Deluxe motor coach • Ferry

Accommodations: 9 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms

Meals: European breakfast and dinner daily

Sightseeing tours (5): London (2) • Canterbury • Paris • Amsterdam

Visits to special attractions (10): Imperial War Museum • Cabinet War Rooms in the Churchill Museum • Canterbury Cathedral • Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial • Bletchley Park • Kent Battle of Britain Museum • Vimy Memorial • Ypres Salient Flanders Fields Museum • Bergen Op Zoom Canadian War Cemetery • Anne Frank House

Visits to special ceremonies (2): Vimy Ridge 95th Anniversary Commemoration • Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate

This tour must depart from Canada on April 3, 2012.



The majestic Vimy Memorial took 11 years to build and serves as an inspiring landmark.

Day 1: Travel

Travel • Board your flight and travel to Europe.

Day 2: London

Arrival in London • Arrive in London, once the epicentre of the vast British Empire.

Take a walking tour of London • Stroll through the heart of London on a walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. These shadowy waters gave the city its name, which derives from Llyn-Dyn, Celtic for “city of the lake.” Walk along the Strand and see the spot considered to be London’s geographic centre; all measurements of distances to London end here. Enter Trafalgar Square and pause at Nelson’s Column, built to commemorate his 1805 victory in the Battle of Trafalgar. Continue on to Leicester Square, where duelists once fought to the death. Then saunter through London’s tiny Chinatown. Your walk ends at chic Covent Garden, where you’ll enjoy watching street performers (or “buskers”) amuse the lively crowds. (The exact walking route may vary, depending on your hotel location and the day’s other activities.)

Day 3: London

Take a guided tour of London • A local guide leads you on a panoramic tour of London. Head to Hyde Park Corner, located at the southeast corner of Hyde Park, one of London’s largest parks. Pass Speaker’s Corner, where anyone with something to say is invited to speak his or her mind. At bustling Piccadilly Circus, the intersection of five busy streets, check out the bright lights and big-city displays before heading to Trafalgar Square. Snap a photo

of the Houses of Parliament and continue along London’s South Bank for views of the famous Tower of London and London Bridge. Stroll across the Millennium Bridge for an orientation of St. Paul’s Cathedral, the magnificent 17th-century Baroque church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Finally, witness a London tradition – the Changing of the Guard (subject to scheduling).

Visit the Imperial War Museum London • Founded in 1917, the Imperial War Museum in London was created to honour the memory of British Soldiers and record the history of the British Empire during wartime. The museum maintains artifacts such as personal and official wartime documents, photos, videos and oral history recordings. It also houses military vehicles on display to the public.

Visit the Cabinet War Rooms in the Churchill Museum • An underground complex used by Britain’s government as a command and control centre during the Second World War, The Cabinet War Rooms are a part of the Imperial War Museum in London. You’ll see where life and death decisions were made on a daily basis by the highest levels of Britain’s government during the war.

Day 4: London

Visit Bletchley Park • See Bletchley Park, where Allied spies battled against Germany in one of the period’s vital ‘secret wars’. Though many of the most famous battles in the Second World War took place on land, in the air or on the sea, one of the most important actually happened in the darkness of the shadows. At Bletchley Park, men worked day

and night to crack the all important Enigma code used by Germany's forces to communicate. By cracking the complex code, the Allies were able to listen in on German communications and plan effective countermeasures. However, if the Allies made their knowledge obvious, the Germans would simply change their method of communications and the Enigma code would become a worthless relic. Imagine the importance of knowing exactly what your enemy planned as soon as they decided upon a course of action! The value of the work at Bletchley Park can't be overstated. Visit this place, where the direction of the Second World War changed and the advantage swung to the Allies. See the rooms and the artifacts actually used by the men and women that worked so hard, without recognition to make a difference in the war's outcome.

Day 5: Kent • Canterbury

Visit the Kent Battle of Britain Museum •

After the disastrous evacuation of British forces from Dunkirk, things looked truly bleak for Britain. The country stood alone in Europe against the forces of Nazi Germany and its Axis allies. Germany decided to break British resistance once and for all using superior air forces to wipe out the RAF and take command of the skies over England. The ultimate goal was an invasion of the British mainland and a

stranglehold on all of Europe. But the British had other plans and one of the most famous battles of the entire Second World War would result. The Battle of Britain showed the remarkable stubbornness of the British people as well as the pilots flying in the RAF, including pilots from Canada. During the summer and fall of 1940, Germany sent wave after wave of fighters and bombers toward England, and one after the other they were turned back in defeat. Germany tried everything, including attacking Britain's cities to maximize civilian casualties and destroy public morale. It didn't work. All told, Britain's Royal Air Force claimed 2,698 kills in the air battle, against 1,023 fighter planes lost. The ratio was almost three to one, a truly remarkable feat. After the battle, Winston Churchill spoke the famous words, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few". The Kent Battle of Britain Museum houses artifacts of this singular air war, including the Spitfire fighter plane, made famous during the battle.

Take a tour of Canterbury • Your tour director will show you historical Canterbury, including the town's magnificent Gothic church, Canterbury Cathedral. The headquarters of the Church of England is the burial place of King Henry IV and Edward the Black Prince. It's also famous as the site where four of King Henry II's

knights murdered Archbishop Thomas à Becket in 1170 for his refusal to obey the king. Pilgrims eventually flocked to Canterbury to visit Becket's shrine, inspiring Chaucer to write *The Canterbury Tales* in 1387.

Day 6: Paris

Transfer • Board a ferry and travel across the English Channel from Dover to Calais before you head to your final destination of the day, Paris, the City of Light!

Take a guided tour of Paris • Discover the city on the Seine, beginning with the imposing Arc de Triomphe, commemorating Napoleon's Grande Armée. Take a drive down the elegant Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde. Pass the Conciergerie, where prisoners of the Revolution spent their final days, and see Les Invalides, Louis XIV's grand retirement home for wounded soldiers. You'll also see the École Militaire, where Napoleon graduated to lieutenant and was told he'd go far if circumstances allowed. Next, make a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower to marvel at the 6,000-ton centrepiece for the 1889 World's Fair. You'll hear the story of how this impressive – but once highly controversial – symbol of Paris was spared the wrecking ball in 1909. Pass the Opéra Garnier, where the famous Phantom of the Opera haunted his dear Christine, and marvel at Église de la Madeleine, designed as a temple of glory for Napoleon's army. Continue past the geometric gardens of the Tuileries as you make your way to the Place Vendôme, a vast square surrounded by elegant 17th-century façades.

Day 7: Vimy Region

Celebrate the Vimy Ridge 95th Anniversary

• Join thousands of other students, veterans and Canadian government representatives at Vimy Ridge to honour the great sacrifice made by Canada's valiant soldiers during the epic battle that has influenced our country so greatly. Visit the place where the battle took place, 95 years ago to the day. See the trenches where the brave soldiers of the Canadian Corps waited for weeks to 'go over the top' and attack Germany's seemingly impregnable fortified emplacements. See the landscape, still marked from the masses of artillery shells, and where Canadians from coast to coast came together to fight, die and ultimately triumph over a foe that had defeated all others to that point. Today, your group and many others will stand by the Vimy Monument, built so we will never forget and always have a place to pay our respects to the generations of the past that ushered in the birth of our nation.

See Paris' iconic and magnificent Eiffel Tower.



Day 8: Vimy Region

Visit the Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial • Travel to this beautiful monument dedicated to the soldiers of Newfoundland who died during the First World War. The site is located on the ground where the Newfoundland Regiment made their successful attack during the Battle of the Somme.

Visit Ypres Salient Flanders Fields Museum

• Continue your journey through rural Belgium and France with a visit to the Salient Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, named after the poem written by Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, where you'll learn more about the First World War and Canada's role in it. Then travel to Amsterdam, where you'll orient yourself with the city's tranquil canals, charming bridges, lopsided houses and labyrinth-like roads for the days ahead.

Attend the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate

• This monument at the eastern exit of Ypres, Belgium was built to mark one of the starting points to the front line of the First World War. There, you'll witness the Last Post Ceremony, which has honoured those lost in the First World War each night at 8 p.m. since 1928.

Day 9: Amsterdam

Visit the Bergen Op Zoom Canadian War Cemetery

• Pay your respects to the brave soldiers who died liberating Europe from Nazi tyranny. The Bergen Op Zoom Canadian War Cemetery is the final resting place for 968 Canadian servicemen. Many of the dead perished while trying to expel the Germans north of Antwerp during the Battle of the Scheldt.

Day 10: Amsterdam

Take a guided tour of Amsterdam • A local guide shows you Amsterdam's most famous sights on a walk through the city. Pass the Westerkerk (West Church), where the remains of Rembrandt and his son are buried. The church also held the wedding of Queen Beatrix in 1966. Continue to lively Dam Square, a dam around the Amstel River created in the 13th-century to prevent the Zuiderzee Sea from flooding the city. Now this bustling tourist area boasts the impressive Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace), once the home of the Dutch Royal Family;



Visit the beautiful canals of Amsterdam.

the National Monument; and the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church), where members of the Dutch Royal Family are officially inaugurated. See the Begijnhof, a lovely 14th-century courtyard built as a sanctuary for the Begijntes, a Catholic sisterhood. Walk across the lifting bridge to Waterlooplein. Marvel at the views of the Amstel River as you cross the Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge). Although "magere" means skinny in Dutch and the bridge was quite thin when built, legend says the bridge was actually named for the Magere sisters, living on opposite sides of the river, who built the bridge to make it easier to visit each other. Finally, you will see Rembrandtplein, a square packed with terrace cafés, diamond shops, nightclubs and hotels. Enjoy free time in Amsterdam.

Visit Anne Frank House • See where the young Jewish girl hid with her family from the Nazis between 1942 and 1944 and the place where she wrote her poignant diary. When the Germans invaded the Netherlands, persecution of the Jews began immediately. As the terror escalated, the Nazis began deporting Jews east to the

extermination camps. Soon after the occupation began, Anne's father realised the danger his family was in and moved them to hidden rooms at the top of his company's building. In 1944, an informant tipped off the Nazis about the Frank's hiding place and they were sent to concentration camps. Anne, her mother and her sister Margot were transported to Bergen-Belsen, where 100,000 people died throughout the war. Tragically, her mother succumbed to starvation while Anne and Margot both died of Typhus, a disease they contracted due to the horrendous conditions in the camp. Anne's father survived the infamous death camp Auschwitz. He ensured his young daughter's voice would survive by publishing her diary after the war.

Day 11: Home

Travel to the airport, board your flight and return home.

For complete financial and enrolment details, please refer to our booking conditions at eftours.ca/bc

To learn more visit vimyridgetour.ca or call 1-800-263-2806