

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

Regimental Tour of WWI & WWII

Battlefields in NW Europe

Paris - Rouen - Caen - Honfleur - Dieppe - Arras - Ypres - Vimy - Arnhem - Amsterdam

April 24 - May 7, 2025 (14 days)



EXCLUSIVE INVITATION TO ALL SEAFORTHS:

Members of the Battalion, P&D, Association, Patrons, Cadets and your families are encouraged to participate

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Participate in celebrations commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands
- In depth on the ground study of Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele battlefields
- See many of the great historical locations of two world wars, and follow in the footsteps of our Canadian veterans through France, Germany, and Holland, accompanied by Military Historians.
- Visit important war cemeteries like Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, Bény-sur-Mer, Pourville and Tyne Cot
- Explore the beautiful cities of Caen, Arras, Ieper, Arnhem and Amsterdam.

CO LCol Kent Wickens



I am really looking forward to this tour for the opportunity to walk the same ground our predecessors did...less the bullets, bombs, and dysentery. The history of the Seaforths in NW Europe is long and proud, spanning two world wars. The itinerary has us looking at some of the major battles on our colours; Ypres, Somme, Arras, Vimy,

Passchendaele, Apeldoorn. Additionally, we will visit some significant battle sites for Canada and our allies: Normandy, Caen, Dieppe, Arnhem. The tour will culminate with our participation in Dutch Remembrance Day ceremonies and with the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Amsterdam festivities. I was on the battlefield tour that followed the Seaforths through Italy last May and was very impressed with the knowledge and context provided by our historical team of Karen Storwick and Chief Warrant Officer Deans. We got the orders that were presented on the day and then physically walked the ground. That connection, that experience, is one I will never forget. I will be there and strongly urge those who can join us to do so.

Tom Leppard, Military Historian



Tom will be our primary historian on the bus providing the historical overview.

A native Calgarian, **Tom Leppard** has been passionate about Canadian history since childhood. He holds a graduate degree from the University of Calgary in Canadian military history, has published numerous articles and won several awards for history documentaries – most recently for the “Forgotten Fallen”, which won two Tele awards in 2016.

A history teacher by calling until 2010, he was President of Valour Canada until 2016. Tom is currently enjoying golf and travel. He is married, has two children and is a dedicated grandfather.

Karen Storwick, Military Historian



Karen Storwick, MSM inspired by the death of her great-uncle in Italy during the Second World War, is passionate about the preservation of Canadian Military History, honouring Canadian veterans and raising awareness of their dedication and sacrifice. Since 2006 she has travelled with over 70 veterans and their families on these pilgrimages, coordinated six plaques and monuments honouring Canadians in Italy and partnered in the unveiling of five others with her Italian colleagues.

As well as her work at The Military Museums in Calgary, Karen belongs to a group of historians, both Canadian and European, working toward the common goal of commemorating unmarked battlefields in Europe. As a volunteer, she assists in the coordination of annual Veteran's Pilgrimages and Commemorative Ceremonies in Italy, producing plaques and fundraising to cover costs for the monuments. In 2012 Karen was awarded the Veteran's Affairs Commendation Medal for her work in the development of the Mural of Honour and the preservation of Canadian history in Italy. In 2017 she was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division) and in 2022, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Karen will be acting in a support role for this tour. As a liaison and historian she will be providing contextual information leading up to the tour.

ITINERARY

Day 1 / Thu, Apr 24: DEPART CANADA

Departure from Canada for France

Day 2 / Fri, Apr 25: ARRIVE PARIS – ROUEN – CAEN

After arrival in Paris, transfer to Rouen, city of Jeanne d'Arc, famous for its half-timbered houses. After a break for lunch in Rouen, continue to Caen. (D)

Day 3 / Sat, Apr 26: CAEN

This morning, visit Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer and Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. In Courseulles-sur-Mer, discover the Juno Beach Centre, a permanent memorial to all Canadians who served during WWII. In the afternoon, head inland and visit Pegasus Bridge, the Ardenne Abbey and Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery. (B,D)

Day 4 / Sun, Apr 27: CAEN

Today's theme is the defence of Juno and the 12th SS counter attack as you visit the Battery at Merville, Authie, Putot-en-Bessin and Bretteville-l'Orgueilleuse. Then, head to museum at Arromanches and travel along Normandy's landing beaches where parts of the Mulberry Harbour are still visible. Time permitting see Longues-sur-Mer battery and Omaha Beach. (B,D)

Day 5 / Mon, Apr 28: CAEN – HONFLEUR – DIEPPE - ARRAS

Today we travel to Dieppe where we spend the day analyzing the battle. We will visit the Canadian War Cemetery and the memorial at Pourville which marks the losses of the South Saskatchewan Regiment and Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Travel to Arras. (B,D)

Day 6 / Tue, Apr 29: ARRAS - SOMME - ARRAS

Today is dedicated to WWI as you follow the battlefield trail along the Somme including Courclette as well as Beaumont-Hamel. (B,D)

Day 7 / Wed, Apr 30: ARRAS - VIMY - YPRES

Today we will spend the day in Vimy - visiting Canada's magnificent National Historic site on Hill 70, Vimy Ridge. We will walk the grounds, and participate in a "tactical exercise without troops" to learn about the battle that took place in April 1917 which is such an important milestone in Canada's history. End the day in Ypres, Belgium. (B,D)

ITINERARY

Day 8 / Thu, May 1: YPRES

Spend a full day in Flanders Fields. See Essex Farm Cemetery, the St. Julien Canadian Monument with Vancouver Corner, John McCrae's field station, Kitcheners' Wood and the German Cemetery at Langemark. In the afternoon, discover the impressive Passchendaele Museum, a worthy introduction to the war that engulfed the area for so many years. Then, visit Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world, with 11,965 graves and a further 33,783 commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing. In the evening, take part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. (B,D)

Day 9 / Fri, May 2: YPRES - BATTLE OF WATERLOO - YPRES

This morning we will leave the 20th century briefly to explore the history of the Battle of Waterloo. We finish the day in the city of Mons to talk about the last 100 days of the First World War. (B,D)

Day 10 / Sat, May 3: YPRES - ARNHEM

Depart YPRES for Achterveld to take part in Truce ceremony. Then travel to Arnhem area to visit the Airborne Museum. Overnight in Arnhem (B,D)

Day 11 / Sun, May 4: ARNHEM - LIBERATION FESTIVITIES - ARNHEM

Remembrance Day in Holland. In the morning, the Regiment will participate in Liberation Festivities and after lunch we will visit the site of the crossing of the IJssel River, following the path of the Seaforth Highlanders in the Liberation ending the afternoon in the town of Achterveld where the Allies signed the truce which led to Operation Manna. (B,D)

Day 12 / Mon, May 5: ARNHEM - LIBERATION FESTIVITIES - ARNHEM

We will participate in the activities commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Dutch Liberation. (B,D)

Day 13 / Tue, May 6: ARNHEM - AMSTERDAM

Today, travel to Amsterdam and embark on a canal cruise. Enjoy a walk down the Damrak before checking into your hotel. In the evening, join fellow travellers for a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Day 14 / Wed, May 7: AMSTERDAM - CANADA

This morning we travel to the airport for our flight home (B)

Minor adjustments may need to be made to our programme due to the scheduling of local events and security arrangements for ceremonies.

REGISTER TODAY

2 Ways to Register

1. Scan the QR Code

OR

2. Visit our website sticanada.com/sea25



GROUP FLIGHT OPTION

We will offer a group flight option based on the tour dates from Vancouver - Paris and Amsterdam - Vancouver.

You may also purchase your own flights (book with points etc) and meet us at the hotel.

Should you wish to make your own flight arrangements, extend etc., availability and costs change continuously. If you wish to secure specific flights at a certain cost, you will have to book/pay for your flights at the same time.

TOUR COSTS in CAD*

*based on a group size of 32-40 travellers and currency exchange rate applicable at the time of printing (June 2024)

Per person, twin-share	\$4,990
Single supplement	\$1,250

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in superior tourist class hotels
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. Military Historian, local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Special visits
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Local taxes and service charges

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare Canada – Paris; Amsterdam – Canada
- Travel insurance
Ensure you have sufficient coverage or contact our office for a quote
- Drinks with meals
- Hotel portorage
- Items of a personal nature



FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

FOR SERVING MEMBERS:

\$800 per person (pp) deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$1500* pp due by November 15, 2024
Balance due* by February 15, 2025

***Less amount paid by Regimental funds**

FOR ALL OTHERS:

\$800 per person (pp) deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$1500 pp due by November 15, 2024
Balance due by February 15, 2025

Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until Nov 15, 2024	\$800 pp
Nov 15, 2024 – Feb 14, 2024	\$2,300 pp
From Feb 15, 2025	100% non refundable

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

Tel: 780-756-5535 or 1800-665 0998

Email: sti@sticanada.com website: www.sticanada.com