

# *Road to Vimy*

A CANADIAN JOURNEY THROUGH  
NORTHWEST EUROPE

France,  
Belgium & the  
Netherlands



**SPECIAL  
TRAVEL  
INTERNATIONAL**

May 12 - 25, 2027

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## Meet Your Canadian Military Historian



### Tom Leppard

A native of Calgary, Tom Leppard has dedicated much of his life to bringing Canadian history to life. He holds a graduate degree in Canadian military history from the University of Calgary and has published widely, earning multiple awards for his work as a historian and documentary writer. His film *The Forgotten Fallen*, which honours overlooked Canadian war heroes, received two prestigious Telly Awards in 2016.

A gifted educator, Tom spent many years as a history teacher before serving as President of Valour Canada, a national organization dedicated to preserving and sharing Canada's military heritage. Today, he brings together his lifelong passions for history, travel, and storytelling by leading journeys that offer meaningful insight into Canada's wartime legacy.

Tom is married, a proud father of two, and a devoted grandfather. With his warm style, thoughtful perspective, and deep knowledge, he offers travellers a compelling and personal connection to the places and stories that shaped Canada's history.

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## Highlights

- Commemorate the 110th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge, honouring one of Canada's defining First World War victories.
- Walk the D-Day beaches of Normandy, including Juno Beach and the Juno Beach Centre.
- Reflect on Operation Jubilee in Dieppe, one of Canada's most sobering wartime chapters.
- Visit the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel, including the Newfoundland Memorial and Thiepval Memorial.
- Experience Ypres and the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.
- Follow Canada's Liberation Route into the Netherlands, from the Scheldt to Groesbeek and Amsterdam.

## Tour Costs in Canadian Dollars

**\$6,795\***

**Per Person, twin-share**

**\$1,595**

**Single Supplement**

**\*This tour requires a minimum of 25 travellers to proceed. Please do not book your flights until the departure has been officially guaranteed.**

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## 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
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Local taxes and service charges

## Not Included

- International Flights
- Travel Insurance (Please contact our office)
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature



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# Itinerary

ROAD TO VIMY  
12 - 25 MAY 2027

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Day 01</b><br>May 12, Wed: | <b>Depart Canada</b><br>Begin your unforgettable journey as you board your overnight flight to Paris, ready to explore the crossroads of golf, heritage, and Canadian history.                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Day 02</b><br>May 13, Thu: | <b>Arrive Paris - Caen</b><br>Arrive in Paris and begin the journey toward the Caen area. En route, visit the Caen Memorial Museum, one of France's leading museums dedicated to peace, conflict, and the events surrounding the Second World War. Continue to the hotel for check-in and dinner. (D)                   |
| <b>Day 03</b><br>May 14, Fri: | <b>Caen</b><br>Begin the day at Pegasus Bridge before continuing to Canada's D-Day landing sector. Visit Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, Courseulles-sur-Mer, Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, and the Juno Beach Centre. Later, continue inland to the Abbaye d'Ardenne and Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery. (B,D) |
| <b>Day 04</b><br>May 15, Sat: | <b>Caen</b><br>Explore key sites connected to the defence of Juno Beach and the 12th SS counterattack, including Authie, Putot-en-Bessin, and Bretteville-l'Orgueilleuse. Continue to Arromanches to view the remains of the Mulberry Harbour, then visit the Longues-sur-Mer Battery and Omaha Beach. (B,D)            |



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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Day 05</b><br>May 16, Sun: | <b>Caen - Honfleur - Dieppe</b><br>Travel north toward Dieppe, stopping in the beautiful harbour town of Honfleur, known for its colourful waterfront, artistic heritage, and connection to Samuel de Champlain. Continue to Dieppe and enjoy time to explore this historic seaside town before dinner. (B,D) |
| <b>Day 06</b><br>May 17, Mon: | <b>Dieppe - Arras</b><br>Spend the morning exploring the story of Operation Jubilee, including the main beach, Pourville, the Canadian War Cemetery, and the Jubilee Museum. Later, continue to Arras, a beautiful Flemish-style city and gateway to the battlefields of Northern France. (B,D)               |
| <b>Day 07</b><br>May 18, Tue: | <b>Arras - Somme - Arras</b><br>Today's journey focuses on the First World War and the Somme. Visit the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, one of the most moving Canadian sites in Europe, and pay tribute at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. Return to Arras, with dinner at leisure. (B)          |
| <b>Day 08</b><br>May 19, Wed: | <b>Arras - Vimy Ridge - Ypres</b><br>Visit the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, one of Canada's defining First World War moments. Continue into Belgium and visit the Passchendaele Museum before arriving in Ypres. (B,D)                  |
| <b>Day 09</b><br>May 20, Thu: | <b>Ypres</b><br>Spend a full day exploring the Ypres Salient, where Canadian soldiers played a significant role during the First World War. Enjoy lunch at a local cheese factory before attending the moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in the evening. (B,L)                                      |



## Itinerary

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| <b>Day 10</b><br>May 21, Fri: | <b>Ypres - Bruges - Ypres</b><br>Travel to Bruges, one of Belgium's most beautiful cities, known for its medieval architecture, scenic canals, cobblestone streets, and charming historic centre. Return to Ypres for dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)                                                                    |
| <b>Day 11</b><br>May 22, Sat: | <b>Ypres - Arnhem</b><br>Depart Ypres and follow the story of the Battle of the Scheldt, when Canadian forces helped open vital supply lines to Antwerp. Visit areas including Adegem, Maldegem, and Flushing before continuing to Arnhem for check-in and dinner. (B,D)                                                     |
| <b>Day 12</b><br>May 23, Sun: | <b>Arnhem - Groesbeek - Amsterdam</b><br>Begin with a photo stop at Arnhem's famous John Frost Bridge, then continue to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery to honour the Canadians who fought in the liberation of the Netherlands. Travel onward to Amsterdam for a canal cruise, followed by hotel check-in and dinner. (B,D) |
| <b>Day 13</b><br>May 24, Mon: | <b>Amsterdam</b><br>Enjoy a free day to explore Amsterdam at your own pace. You may wish to visit the Anne Frank House, Dam Square, the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, or simply enjoy the city's canals, cafés, and neighbourhoods. This evening, gather for a farewell dinner. (B,D)                                    |
| <b>Day 14</b><br>May 25, Tue: | <b>Depart for Canada</b><br>After breakfast, transfer to the airport and depart Europe with unforgettable memories of iconic battlefields, and a journey shared with fellow Canadian travellers. (B)                                                                                                                         |

**Some itinerary items may change due to local circumstances. We trust that the final program is inline with what the theme of the tour is all about**



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## FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

**\$1,500 per person deposit due at time of booking**  
**2nd installment of \$2,500 pp due by August 14, 2026**  
**Balance due by February 26, 2027**

Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days before 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 Special Travel). Deposits are non-refundable. The following scale of charges will apply per person when cancellation is received before departure:

|                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Until Aug 13, 2026</b>          | <b>\$1,500</b>             |
| <b>Aug 14, 2026 – Feb 13, 2027</b> | <b>\$4,000</b>             |
| <b>From Feb 25, 2027</b>           | <b>100% non-refundable</b> |

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

### TRAVEL INSURANCE:

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



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## FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

Special Travel acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. Special Travel 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, war, acts of terrorism, 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:

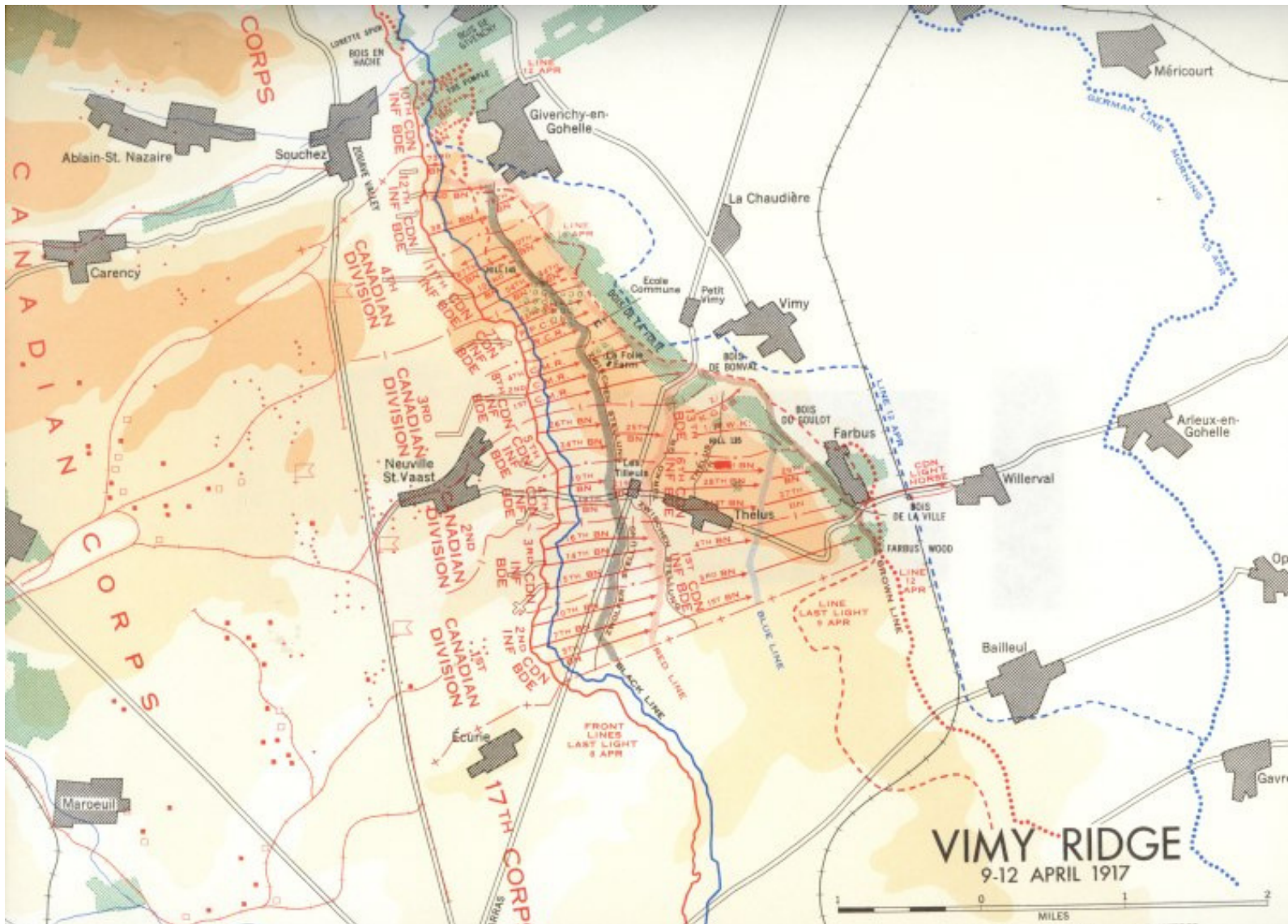
Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between 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.



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