



Normandy to the Liberation of Holland

HONOURING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION

Normandy - Somme - Vimy - Flanders - Holland

APRIL 26th - MAY 10th 2020

Destinations: Normandy, Dieppe, WW1 Somme/Vimy/Ypres, Holland

Tour Dates: Apr 26 - May 10th, 2020

Duration: 14 Nights, 15 Days

Flight departure: [Apr 25] **Flight return:** [May 10]

Flight departure [your major gateway] > [Paris], **Flight Return** [Amsterdam] > [Home]

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The Daily Itinerary



Arrival into the City of Light - Paris



A visit to the Juno Beach Center in Normandy

-- Saturday Apr 25th

Depart from [Toronto's Lester B Pearson Airport](#) on your overnight flight to [Paris CDG](#). [Dinner and breakfast will be served onboard]

Day 1 - Sunday Apr 26th

Upon your arrival into [Paris CDG](#), you will be met by your Tour Manager and Coach Driver before our journey to [Normandy](#). We begin our orientation with a visit to [Pegasus Bridge](#) where the 6th British Airborne landed, captured and liberated the first house on D-Day, the [Café Gondree](#). We continue to [Aubin-sur-Mer](#) along the shores of [Juno](#) for our hotel check-in to enjoy a relaxed afternoon before our [group welcome dinner](#). [Overnight - Aubin sur Mer 2* Superior Class Centrally Located or similar (B, D)]

Day 2 - Monday Apr 27th

Today we will explore the [Canadian battlefields](#) of [Normandy](#), including visits to the [Queens' Own Rifles House](#) - the first house liberated by Canadian forces - and the [Juno Beach Center](#), to explore the beaches,



A visit to Beny-sur-Mer Canadian Cemetery



Exploring the seaside town of Dieppe



Beaumont Hamel - largest preserved battlefield in the world

museum, and bunkers. Enroute today, we will also visit **Abbayes des Ardennes**, to see the Canadian Memorial Garden, as well as **Point 67**, to discuss the devastating Battle of **Verrieres Ridge**. We end the day with a solemn visit to the **Beny-sur-Mer Canadian Military Cemetery**. Tonight, we return to **St. Aubin** for our dinner and overnight. [Overnight - Aubin sur Mer 2* Superior Class Centrally Located or similar (B, D)]

Day 3 - Tuesday Apr 28th

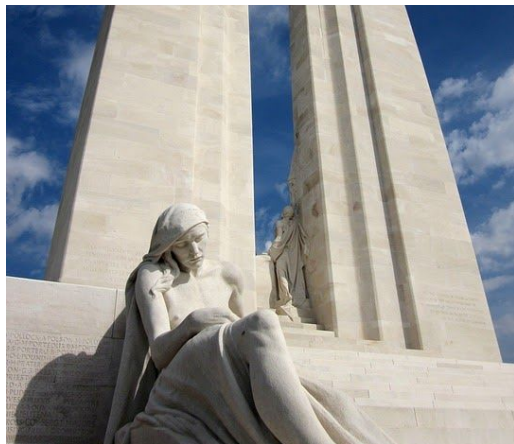
Today we say our farewells to Normandy and head along the French coast to the seaside resort town of **Dieppe**. Here, we will explore the **Blue Beach** at **Puys** to view the gun emplacements on the cliff tops, which, on Aug 19, 1942, were responsible for such terrible Canadian casualties. We will also visit the **Dieppe Canadian Cemetery** before travelling to the main landing beaches of **Red** and **White** on the Dieppe seafront. In the late afternoon, we continue our drive to the City of **Arras**, in the North of France, for our check-in and overnight. [Overnight - Arras 4* Centrally Located or similar (B, D)]

Day 4 - Wednesday Apr 29th

Today will be spent on the battlefields of the **Somme**. We start underground, at the **Musee Somme 1916** in the Town of **Albert**. We continue to explore the largest preserved battlefield in the world, at **Beaumont Hamel** - dedicated to the Royal Newfoundland and Labrador Regiment who lost so many men on that first day of battle. After enjoying a locally made picnic lunch at the **Old Blighty Cafe** we will view the **Lochnagar Crater**, the largest man-made, non-nuclear crater in the world. We will also see the **Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval**, the **Tank Monument** at **Pozieres** and the Canadian monument at **Courcelette**. This evening, we return to the gothic city of **Arras**, with time to explore the city and enjoy dinner on our own. [Overnight - Arras 4* Centrally Located TBC (B)]

Day 5 - Thursday Apr 30th

Today we will visit the **Canadian Memorial** at **Hill 70** to commemorate the Battle of Hill 70 - oftentimes dubbed



Vimy Ridge Battlefields & Memorial



The Last Post Ceremony in Ypres, Belgium



Ypres - the City for Peace & surrounding Salient

as “Canada’s Forgotten Battle”. In the afternoon, we continue to **Vimy Ridge Memorial Park**. It was here, at Hill 145, on April 1917, that Canada truly became a nation in the eyes of the world. Its troops combined and stormed Vimy Ridge after all other allied forces had failed to do so. We will tour the tunnels, trenches and memorial, as well as the brand new interpretation centre, which opened in Spring 2017 for the 100th Anniversary. When our explorations of the battlefields are through, we continue on to **Ypres** the City of Peace. After checking into our hotel we will enjoy an early group meal together in the heart of **Ypres’ Grote Markt**. Tonight, at 8PM, we will witness the iconic and historic **Last Post Ceremony**, at the **Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing**, led by the leper Fire Department & the Last Post Association. This daily act of homage is among the most memorable acts of remembrance that we will witness on our tour.
[Overnight - Ypres 4* Centrally Located TBC (B, D)]

Day 6 - Friday May 1st

Today we explore the **Ypres Salient** of WW1. We begin our introduction with a visit to **Essex Farm**, the place where John McCrae wrote the famous poem “In Flanders Fields”. We will also visit the **Tyne Cot Commonwealth Cemetery**- the largest Commonwealth Cemetery, of any conflict, in the world. We then discuss the **Battle of Passchendaele**, with visits to the **Crest Farm Memorial**. We continue further to explore the **German Cemetery of Langemark**, and the ‘**Brooding Soldier**’ at **St Julien**, marking the place of the first gas attacks against the 1st Canadian Corps. Lastly, we take a visit to the **Hooghe Crater**, and **Hill 62** - a small area of the original battlefield and part of the Canadian Front Line. This evening, we return to **Ypres** where you can enjoy exploring and dining in Ypres at your own pace.
[Overnight - Ypres 4* Centrally Located TBC (B)]

Day 7 - Saturday May 2nd

Today we drive north to **Holland**, as we continue to follow the First & Second World War story in Western Europe. Enroute, we explore the mobilization, occupation and liberation of **Flanders** through lively dioramas at the



The John Frost Bridge, Arnhem



A visit to the Keukenhof Gardens



Canadian Ceremony in Holten

Canada Poland Museum. Upon our arrival into **Arnhem**, we will see the **John Frost Bridge**, (A Bridge Too Far). As we drive to our hotel along the Benedendorpsweg we will see some of the main sights of the Battle of Arnhem including the **Stationsweg**, the **White House**, **Hackets Hollow**, the **Kate ter Horst house**, **Lonsdale church**, and the **original Railroad Bridge**. We arrive in time for some rest and relaxation before our "**Welcome Dinner**", where we will have the opportunity to meet other Canadian traveling companions.[Overnight - Van der Valk Hotel, Arnhem or similar (B, D)]

Day 8 - Sunday May 3rd

After breakfast this morning, we make the drive to **Lisse** to visit the **Keukenhof Gardens**, home to Europe's largest garden, home to 7 million tulip bulbs planted annually. After the war, the Dutch people and their Royal family expressed their thanks to Canada by sending thousands of tulip bulbs to Ottawa. The Gift of Tulips became a yearly tradition. Approximately 10,000 of the bulbs from the Keukenhof are gifted to Canada each year. After our visit to the gardens, we return to **Arnhem** for our dinner and overnight.

[Overnight - Van der Valk Hotel, Arnhem or similar (B, D)]

Day 9 - Monday May 4th

****Ceremony at the Canadian Military Cemetery in Holten****

Today is **Remembrance Day** in the **Netherlands**. After breakfast, we depart for the **Commemoration Ceremonies** at the **Commonwealth Military Cemetery in Holten**. Before returning to our hotel for dinner, we will also get the opportunity to visit the **Liberation Museum** in **Lochem** and the **Canadian Clubhouse**, home to the **005 Canadian Legion** of the Netherlands.[Overnight - Van der Valk Hotel, Arnhem or similar (B, D)]

Day 10 - Tuesday May 5th

****Liberation Parade in Wageningen****

After breakfast, we depart for **Wageningen**, to take part in the **Liberation Parade**, celebrating 75 years since the liberation of the Netherlands. On 5 May 1945 German



A visit to Hotel de Wereld, Wageningen



The Hartenstein Hotel



A visit to Bergen-Op-Zoom Cemetery



Liberation in Groningen

commander general Blaskowitz met with Canadian general Foulkes, here, at the **Hotel de Wereld**. There they negotiated the surrender document for all German forces in the Netherlands. [Overnight - Van der Valk Hotel, Arnhem or similar (B, D)]

Day 11 - Wednesday May 6th

We begin our day with a visit to the **Hartenstein Hotel**, the HQ of the beleaguered Airborne Forces in Operation Market Garden - now a remarkable museum before heading to the city of **Nijmegen** for an orientation tour and lunch. This afternoon, we continue to **Groesbeek** with a visit to the **Liberation Museum**. We finish our day in the **Canadian Military Cemetery of Groesbeek** to pay our respects. [Overnight - Van der Valk Hotel, Arnhem or similar (B, D)]

Day 12 - Thursday May 7th

Today we take the long drive to **Zeeland** to visit the **Liberation Museum of Zeeland and Liberation Park** to discuss the **Battle of the Scheldt**. Zeeland was the hardest-hit province in the occupation, and the effects of the Battle for the Scheldt were felt far beyond. This single operation cost the Canadians more casualties than any other operation during the whole of WWII. After our orientations we head to **Yerseke** to sample some of their world renowned seafood for lunch. We end our day with a solemn visit to the **Canadian War Cemetery of Bergen-Op-Zoom**. Tonight we return to **Arnhem** for our dinner and overnight. [Overnight - Van der Valk Hotel, Arnhem or similar (B, D)]

Day 13 - Friday May 8th

****VE DAY in Europe****

Today marks the 75th Anniversary of **Victory Day in Europe**. After breakfast this morning we will travel up to **Friesland** to visit the important Liberation towns of **Leeuwarden** and **Groningen** - both liberated by the 2nd Division in April of 1945. Both towns will be celebrating the 75th VE day in Europe with local festivities and events. Tonight, we return back at the hotel for our



The Thank You Canada Celebrations in Apeldoorn



Depart from AMS Schiphol, or extend your stay in Amsterdam

Activities on this itinerary may change due to 2019 schedules which are yet to be finalized.

Should you have any questions regarding your flight, insurance, or travel extension options. Please contact us.

Flights for this itinerary will be available for scheduling and pricing by September 2019 - 11 months prior to the departure date.

dinner and overnight. [Overnight - Van der Valk Hotel, Arnhem or similar (B, D)]

Day 14 - Saturday May 9th

****Apeldoorn Thank You Canada Celebrations****

Today we join in on the **75th Liberation Celebrations** in **Apeldoorn** - home of the 'Thank You Canada' static show. Witness displays of Old Army Cars at the Historic Army camp, and witness the Dutch Schoolboard's "Peace and Freedom" Presentation "Apeldoorn and the war". Throughout the day we will also see various stage performances, and this evening, a static show with various hot air balloons. Tonight we return to our hotel for our dinner and overnight. [Overnight - Van der Valk Hotel, Arnhem or similar (B, D)]

Day 15 - Sunday May 10th

After breakfast, you will be transferred to **Schiphol Amsterdam airport** for our **flights** back to **Canada**. [(B) Meals onboard].

TOUR END

-This itinerary includes ceremonial events and may be subject to changes -

Thinking about arranging a custom pre-tour or post-tour extension to your in Europe? We encourage it!

Should you have any questions regarding your flight, insurance, or travel extension options, we encourage you to reach out to your local travel agent. If you don't have a local agent, contact our host travel agency:

DH TOUR OFFICE

(Office Phone) 905-639-9954

(Toll-Free) 1-888-597-3519 | karen@dhtour.ca

Tour Pricing

\$5,950.00 CAD Land only - per person, based on twin occupancy

\$1,110.00 CAD Single Supplement

Air is available from all major Canadian cities - please contact your Travel Agent for more information

Tour Payment Schedule

Initial Deposit: \$500.00 (of which \$300 is non-refundable) to guarantee your space is due immediately

Your Remaining Balance: Due by Saturday February 15th, 2020 (70 days prior to departure)

All funds will be collected by your agency. If you would like to use your credit card, your travel agent will collect your payment details over the phone after you have registered. DH Tour accepts Visa, Mastercard, and American Express, as well as cash and cheque payments.

Personal cheques can be made to:
"DH Tour"

Attn to: Karen Burwood [Travel Manager]
Mail to: 2319 Fairview St., Suite 609, Burlington ON L7R 2E3

NEXT STEPS

1) Register for the tour by filling out your online Registration Form: bit.ly/normandytoholland75_REGISTER

2) Review our Group Terms & Conditions before booking: thebattlefieldtours.com/terms-conditions

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be provided in writing. You will receive a refund in full, less \$300 per person, up to 70 days prior to departure. Cancellation within 70 days of departure is subject to the following charges:

| 70-31 days prior to departure - 50% of tour cost is non-refundable

| 30-0 days prior to departure - 100% of tour cost is non-refundable

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ☐ Accommodations in Superior Tourist Class (3 - 4 Star Hotels)
- ☐ Full-Time Experienced Battlefield Tour Manager
- ☐ All Entrances as per your Itinerary
- ☐ Executive Motor Coach with Washroom/AC/tea/coffee
- ☐ Breakfast (B) throughout,
- ☐ Some Dinners (D)
- ☐ Online Custom Map Kit & Tour Resource & Info Guide
- ☐ All surcharges, fees, and departure taxes

WHAT'S EXCLUDED:

- ☐ Airfare - this is a land only itinerary
- ☐ Lunches (L), Some Dinners (D) + all drinks with dinner
- ☐ Single Room Supplement
- ☐ Gratuities owed to tour staff (5EUR per person, per day)
- ☐ Portage (luggage handling to your room available upon request)
- ☐ Travel Insurance (please contact your travel agent / DH Tour if you need assistance booking medical or trip cancellation insurance)

TO REGISTER

Click the link below:

bit.ly/normandytoholland75_REGISTER

You will receive an online custom tour info and resource guide about the tour approx. 30 days prior to departure - with all the information you need in preparation for your travels

GROUP TOUR TERMS & CONDITIONS

All Music & Performance Custom Programs are operated by Connection Custom Travel Inc

Contact our office toll free: 1-877-449-6266

Please read our terms & conditions carefully

CONNECTION CUSTOM TRAVEL GROUP TERMS & CONDITIONS

The following information and conditions constitute your binding contract with Connection Custom Tours. Please read all of the information below as it provides conditions relating to both the services of Connection Custom Travel and its suppliers:

Deposits:

To reserve your group space, a non-refundable deposit of **\$300 per person is due to secure your booking**. We accept payment via certified check, wire transfer or money order for your initial deposit. Credit Cards may be taken but an applicable merchant fee is applicable.

Final Payment:

Full and final payment for your group program with Connection Custom Travel is due 70 days prior to departure. Full Payment is due immediately for reservations made within 70 days prior to departure. If payment isn't made by the due date, Connection Custom Travel will assume that you have cancelled your group booking and cancellation charges may be applicable.

Cancellation Policy:

Our cancellation policy is based on outside suppliers and third parties contracted for this group booking. All cancellations must be received in writing. Refund in full, less \$300 per person, will be made up to 70 days prior to departure. Cancellation within 70 days of departure is subject to the following charges:

| 70-31 days prior to departure - 50% of tour cost

| 30-0 days prior to departure - 100% of tour cost

Please be aware that clients are subject to any cancellation fees assessed by our suppliers including hotels, airlines, and certain entrances used in the itinerary. We strongly recommend that your individual travellers purchase trip cancellation insurance which is available for coverage of expenses with cancellation due to illness or accident. In the event a participant must cancel their trip, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

Refunds:

No refund is made for unused travel services or any portion hereof, nor is the value of the unused services exchangeable for alternative arrangements.

Documentation including Passport & Visa:

It is the responsibility of your travellers to determine what documentation is necessary for travel to each country. Connection Custom Travel will assume no responsibility whatsoever for passenger(s) denied carriage by the Air Carrier, or refused entry into any country. Please check with the appropriate consulate or embassy for the latest visa requirements.

Changes on Itineraries:

Connection Custom Travel

(a) If we cancel your travel program

Connection Custom Travel reserves the right to change or cancel your booking in accordance with operating requirements or circumstances beyond our control. We will give you reasonable notice thereof, in the circumstances, and where available, will offer you a comparable alternative. If an alternative does not exist/not accepted - you will be entitled to either a full refund of monies paid by you to us or a direct transfer of travel credit on to another customized program.

(b) If we change the pricing of your program

Prices are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs & taxes. Connection Custom Travel reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Connection Custom Travel also reserves the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it to make alterations in the itinerary or with the tour inclusions as it deems necessary or desirable. Connection Custom Travel is subject to pass any expenditures or losses caused by delays or events beyond its control.

(c) If we change activities on your itinerary

Itineraries and arranged sightseeing are expenditures or losses caused by delays or events beyond its control. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned, but alterations may occur after the final itinerary has been issued. Should this unlikely event take place Connection Custom Travel will notify each passenger holding a deposit on the program. The itinerary will be automatically updated to reflect revisions on the Connection Custom Travel website.

Client Changes & Penalties

(a) In the event of a name change There is no penalty for name changes, a name change for accommodation can be done at any time, unless group air fare arrangements are requested in the booking.

(b) Changing the dates or components of an itinerary An itinerary date or change of itinerary components will require a re-quote for the group's entire program and pricing breakdown. In the event of a date or itinerary change, a new agreement must be drafted, as your original contract will be null and void. Please refer back to our Cancellation Policy when cancelling any dates or room nights once a deposit has been paid.

(c) Changing # of room nights on an itinerary In the event of a change in room nights required (ie. number of nights your group will be accommodated at a given property) outside of our parameters [pricing breakdown] a re-quote on the program & changes to the original contract will be required. A new agreement must be drafted, as your original contract will be null & void. Please refer back to our Cancellation Policy when cancelling room nights after a deposit has been received.

Client Responsibility:

(a) Your travellers It is the responsibility of the client to provide Connection Custom Travel with all registration information required per registered traveller [this includes: DOB, Medical Requirements, Allergies, and any additional notes or alternative arrangements the traveller may have which pertain to the tour. Connection Custom Travel requires this information 45 days prior to departure.

(b) Your arrival & departure information If the client requires land-only group arrangements, Connection Custom Travel requires the flight itineraries for each passenger 30 days prior to arrival. This flight information should include their arrival & departure dates & times, the name of the airline, airline number, and arriving & departing airport codes.

Notice:

Living standards and practices as well as conditions and standards differ country to country.

Connection Custom Travel Responsibility:

Connection Custom Travel purchases transportation, hotel accommodation, tour and ferry passage, restaurant and other services from various suppliers who are not members of the Connection Custom Travel specialist team. Connection Custom Travel is issued and subject to all tariffs, terms & conditions under which all transportation, [including airlines, coach, bus or car] hotels, tour and ferry operators, restaurants, and other services are contracted.

Limits on Responsibility:

Participants agree not to hold Connection Custom Travel responsible for any loss, injury or damage to any person, property or otherwise in connection with any accommodation or transportation, due to 'Acts of God', any incident at sea, fire, breakdowns in machinery or equipment, acts of governments or authorities, de hure or e facto, wars declared or threatened, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, defaults, delays, cancellations or any causes beyond which Connection Custom Travel can control. Connection Custom Travel cannot be named responsible for any loss of damage resulting from improperly issued visas or other documents. Travellers will receive a refund of any monies paid less reasonable expenses incurred by us in respect to your booking.

Connection Custom Travel purchases transportation, hotel, and other lodging accommodations, restaurants, ground handling and other services from various independent suppliers. As a result Connection Custom Travel is not liable for any negligent or willful act of any such person or entity or of any third person.

Responsibility of the Traveler:

There may be times when the Connection Custom Travel manager/host/representative has to make a decision in your best interest or for the best interest of the group. You agree to comply with the authority and decisions of the appointed manager and the laws of the country in which you are traveling. If you do not comply or if, in the tours manager's opinion, you are not compatible with the general enjoyment and well-being of the other members on the trip, or the smooth operation of the journey itself; we reserve the right to refuse to let you continue participating in the group program. We do not tolerate the possession or carriage of illegal or restricted substances (drugs). You must agree that your fellow travellers and Connection Custom Travel staff have the right to travel/work in a safe environment. Any threats to their safety, well-being, or inappropriate behaviour by you, whether verbal or physical will be taken extremely seriously and may result in the immediate termination of your vacation. In either event, you will be responsible for your own repatriation and related costs, having no claims against us.

Should you have a complaint in respect to your travel program, you should inform the Connection Custom Travel director on site during the course of your journey. If the matter cannot be resolved despite Connection Custom Travel on-site representative's best efforts to do so, your complaint should be made in writing to Connection Custom Travel as soon as it is reasonably possible. If you choose to write Connection Custom Travel via e-mail or online, please provide us with your home address so we might be able to send you a direct reply in writing.

Risks:

There are certain inherent risks in adventure travel where applicable - these might include, but are not limited to, hiking, walking, safaris, climbing injuries, altitudes, all contact with animals, inaccessibility to medical attention and difficulty in evacuation from remote locations in the case of a medical emergency. The passenger assumes all risks of personal injury, death, or property damage that may arise out of the events like those advised or warned against.

The payment of a reservation on a tour or customized itinerary shall constitute consent to all of Connection Custom Travel provisions in the terms & conditions.

Questions? Contact us:

Your Tour Operator: The Battlefield Tours as
operated by Connection Custom Travel
Samantha COWAN - (Mobile) 647-746-9862
samantha@thebattlefieldtours.com



Your Travel Agency: DH TOUR
Representative: Karen Burwood - (Office Phone)
Tel: **1-888-597-3519** or **905-639-9954**
Fax: **905-639-9120**
Email: dhtour@dhtour.ca



Our Address:
2319 Fairview Street,
Suite 609
Burlington, ON
L7R 2E3



Our websites:
www.dhgrouptours.com
www.thebattlefieldtours.com

