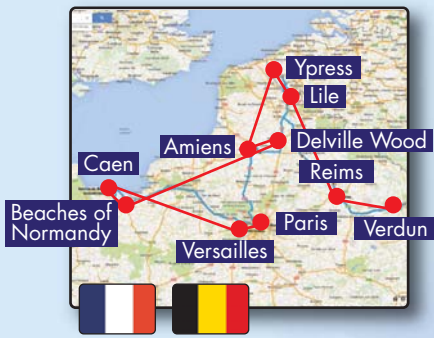


12-day World War I Historical Tribute Tour to France & Belgium

"Lest We Forget"

Remembering Delville Wood - 1916



Included

- International **Flights**.
- 9 nights **hotel accommodation**.
- Daily **breakfast**.
- English speaking **tour guide**.
- All transfers in **private coach transfers**.
- **Transport passes**.
- Entrance **fees and tickets**.
- **Meet and assist** at airport on arrival and departure.
- Handy travel

Tour Highlights

Verdun Verdun City Tour, World Peace Centre, Great War Centenary Exhibition, Voie Sacrée Supply Route Markers, Quai de Londres, Charlemagne, Fort Douaumont, Ossuary of Douaumont, Bayonet Trench, Mort-Homme Monument, Montsec Memorial, Place Stanislas, Destroyed Village of Fleury, Place d'Armes, Riems Champagne Cellar.

Ypres Battlefield Area Passchendaele Memorial Museum, Flanders Field & Museum, Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate, Tyne Cot Cemetery, Langemark German Cemetery, Arras, Wellington Tunnels, Amiens, Amiens Cathedral.

Somme Battlefield Area Delville Wood Battlefield Memorial Site, Delville Wood Centenary Day Parade, Vimy Ridge Battlefield & Memorial, Thiepval Memorial, La Boisselle, Lochnager crater, Beaumont-Hamel, Newfoundland Memorial, Villers-Brétonneux, Franco-Australian Memorial.

WW2 Normandy Area Caen, Arranches-les-Bains, German WW2 Gun Battery, Colleville-sur-Mer United States Cemetery, Ste Mere Eglise, John Steele Monument.

Paris Palace of Versailles & Gardens, City Tour, Champs Elysees, Eiffel Tower, The Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre.

What's the plan

Day 1: South Africa - Paris Depart South Africa for your flight to Paris, France.

Day 2: Paris Arrive in Paris, meet your local guide at the airport and transfer directly to the Verdun region - the sight of some of the fiercest fighting during The Great War.

Verdun was the site of a major battle of the First World War. One of the costliest battles of the war, Verdun exemplified the policy of a "war of attrition" pursued by both sides, which led to an enormous loss of life. Verdun was the strongest point in pre-war France, ringed by a string of powerful forts, including Douaumont and Vaux. By 1916, the salient at Verdun jutted into the German lines and lay vulnerable to attack from three sides. The historic city of Verdun had been a Gallic fortress before Roman times and later a key asset in wars against Prussia, and Falkenhayn suspected that the French would throw as many men as necessary into its defence.

Day 3: Verdun Today, kick off the tour with a visit to the **World Peace Centre**. Here you will enjoy the **Great War Centenary Exhibition**. Then take a city tour of Verdun to see the main memorials and war sites, including the markers of the '**Voie Sacrée**' - the vital supply route into Verdun that helped to keep troops alive during the battle, and transport wounded soldiers out. Also stop to view the **Quai de Londres** and the impressive monument topped by **Charlemagne**. In the afternoon, tour nearby battlefield sites, including **Fort Douaumont** and the Ossuary of Douaumont, and the well-preserved **Bayonet Trench**.

The Douaumont ossuary is a memorial containing the remains of soldiers who died on the battlefield during the Battle of Verdun in World War I. It is located in Douaumont, France, within the Verdun battlefield. It has been designated a "nécropole nationale", or "national cemetery". During the 300 days of the Battle of Verdun approximately 230,000 men died out of a total of 700,000 casualties (dead, wounded and missing). The battle became known in German as The Hell of Verdun, or in French as L'Enfer de Verdun, and was conducted on a battlefield covering less than 20 square kilometres.

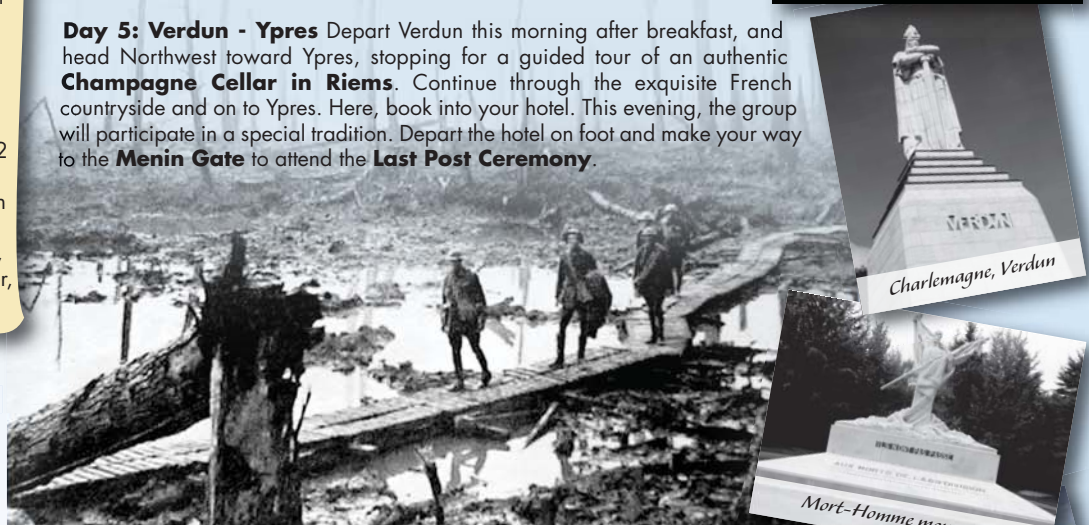
Day 4: Verdun A busy day lies ahead, beginning with visits to the haunting **Mort-Homme monument** and the **memorial at Montsec**. Around noon, transfer to Nancy to visit the **Place Stanislas** later moving on to Fleury to visit the iconic **destroyed village of Fleury**. Transfer to Metz, this afternoon to enjoy a walking tour of the memorials before rounding off with a visit to the **Place d'Armes**.

On the bottom of the statue, Mort-Homme monument, the words "ils n'ont pas passé" (they did not pass) are written. The memorial is a virtual skeleton holding the flag of France in one hand and a lit torch in the other. 10,000 members of the French 36th division died in the area where the statue now stands. The Great War left behind heavy material damage, included the destruction of nine villages, which are today cited in the "order of the Army". The nine villages having "Died for France" and destroyed in 1916 are located in the Charny-sur-Meuse district. Before the war, the regrouped almost 3 000 inhabitants, mostly farmers. They were forced to abandon their villages at the beginning of the battle of Verdun. Sadly for these inhabitants, the material destruction was such that in 1918, they were unable to regain their homes.

Day 5: Verdun - Ypres Depart Verdun this morning after breakfast, and head Northwest toward Ypres, stopping for a guided tour of an authentic **Champagne Cellar in Riems**. Continue through the exquisite French countryside and on to Ypres. Here, book into your hotel. This evening, the group will participate in a special tradition. Depart the hotel on foot and make your way to the **Menin Gate** to attend the **Last Post Ceremony**.



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.
- Lest We Forget*



Charlemagne, Verdun

Mort-Homme monument

Place Stanislas



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The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is a war memorial in Ypres, Belgium dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown.

Day 6: Ypres - Tyne Cot - Arras - Amiens Today, the group continues on with their pilgrimage headed towards Amiens, stopping en-route to see the **Tyne Cot Cemetery, Langemark German Cemetery, Arras, Wellington Tunnels** and the magnificent **Amiens Cathedral**.

Day 7: The Somme & Delville Wood Centenary The tour reaches its climax today, with a full-day **Somme Battlefield Tour** and attendance of the **Centenary Parade of the Battle of Delville Wood**, stopping en-route to visit the **Vimy Ridge and Thiepval Memorials**. Pay homage to fallen brothers at Delville Wood – a sacred place remembered for the courage and bravery of the South African soldiers defending it.

The battle is of particular importance to South Africa, as it was the first major engagement entered into on the Western Front by the South African 1st Infantry Brigade, which also contained a contingent of Southern Rhodesians. The casualties sustained by this Brigade were of catastrophic proportions, comparable to those encountered by Allied battalions on the first day of the Somme. On the Western Front, units were normally considered to be incapable of combat if their casualties had reached 30% and they were withdrawn once this level had been attained. The South African Brigade suffered losses of 80%, yet they managed to hold the Wood as ordered. This feat has been described as "... the bloodiest battle hell of 1916."

Day 8: Amiens - Caen This morning, begin with a visit to the **Lochnagar crater** – the site of the largest man-made explosion (and subsequently sound by volume) up to that point in history. Continue on, visiting the **Newfoundland & Franco-Australian Memorials** before heading to **Caen**.

The Lochnagar mine was an explosive-packed mine created by the Royal Engineer tunnelling companies, located south of the village of La Boisselle in the Somme département of France, which was detonated at 7:28 am on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The Lochnagar mine, along with a neighbouring mine north of the village known as the Y Sap mine, contained 24 tons of ammonal. At the time, these mines were the largest ever detonated. The sound of the blast was considered the loudest man-made noise in history up to that point, with reports suggesting it was heard in London.

Day 9: Caen - Paris This morning, fast forward 28 years and find yourself in the midst of one of the most significant sites of the 2nd great conflict of the 20th century – World War 2. Transfer to **Arromanches-les-Bains** on the Normandy coastline, on the Gold D-Day landing beach, stopping to view the claimed-and-proven-to-be indestructible **Mulberry Harbours**. Optional Add-On: Arromanches 360° D-Day Landings Cinema. Carry on, to **Longues-sur-Mer**, explore a monolithic **German gun battery**, before transferring to the American WW2 cemetery at **Colleville-sur-Mer**, the resting place of the soldiers who lost their lives on the Omaha and Utah landing beaches. Here, explore the legacy left behind by American Troops at the **John Steele Monument** and **Paratroopers Church**. Following a day spent on the hallowed turf of Normandy, transfer on to the City of Lights – Paris.

Day 10: Versailles This morning, transfer to the spectacular **Palace of Versailles** where you will enjoy a guided tour of the citadel and her magnificent gardens. Return, later, to **Paris** and enjoy some leisure time, resting tired legs and perhaps doing a spot of shopping for loved ones back home.

Day 11: Paris Enjoy what classic Paris has to offer. Take a tour of this celebrated city including visits to **The Louvre, Champs-Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre** and an unforgettable trip to the **Eiffel Tower** (entrance to 2nd level)*TBC. Following a day spent marvelling at one of the planet's most spectacular cities, transfer to the airport and depart on your overnight flight to South Africa.

Day 12 : South Africa Arrive in South Africa after a wonderful, enriching tour in Paris and Belgium.



Optional Add-Ons

- Full-Day Disneyland Paris
- World War 2 Germany Tour Extension
- UK World Wars Tour Extension
- Italy & Malta World War 2 Tour Extension



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Don't miss this brilliant educational opportunity of touring with the school!

"Travel does what good novelists also do to the life of everyday, placing it like a picture in a frame or a gem in its setting, so that the intrinsic qualities are made more clear. Travel does this with the very stuff that everyday life is made of, giving to it the sharp contour and meaning of art." ~ Freya Stark