

The Tour

My name is John Hetherington and I have been teaching history in North Bay since 1987. I have always been very interested in military history. Since 1983 I have spent most of my summers backpacking throughout the world exploring ancient and modern battlefields. I have also had considerable experience traveling through areas that have been ravaged by civil war. I have been making trips to Europe each year since 1991 to study the battlefields of the First and Second World Wars. In 1997 I also began leading groups of students on battlefield tours throughout Europe. The route and sites that I have selected for this tour will provide all participants with an educational and memorable experience that will last a lifetime.



This tour will focus on some of the main campaign areas of the Canadian, British and American Armies that fought in Belgium and France during the First and Second World Wars. We will be visiting museums, memorials and military cemeteries as well as the actual sites where these battles took place. There will also be opportunities to inspect bunkers and trench systems as well as meet some interesting people along the way. Special emphasis will be directed towards highlighting the various battle tactics employed by the Allied Armies while fighting in Western Europe during the campaigns of 1914 to 1918 and 1939-1945. All participants will be provided with a detailed dossier of the areas that we will be visiting one month prior to the departure date. This will include a comprehensive reading and map package designed to provide a more complete knowledge of the battle sites that we will be visiting. At each stop we will receive a full explanation regarding the significance of each site.

Visiting the actual battlefields will allow everyone to gain a greater appreciation of each campaign. The sites selected for the tour will allow participants to develop a greater understanding of the tactics, strategies and weapons used during both wars. This experience is also intended to give all participants a greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by all soldiers who served in Western Europe during the First and Second World Wars.



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