

ENGLAND, BELGIUM & FRANCE

11 Days | European Battlefield Tour

BrightsparkSM

TOUR SNAPSHOT

Discover life on the frontlines during this 11-day battlefield student tour through England, France and Belgium. Discover battlefield beaches, memorial museums and the small towns Canadian Corps succeeded in capturing. This educational tour highlights the history of the First and Second World War and will give your students an experience they will remember forever.

WHATS INCLUDED:



Guided Tours of:
London, Ypres, Caen, Paris, Versailles



Site Visits: Tower of London, Churchill War Rooms, Imperial War Museum, Essex Farm Cemetery, In Flanders Fields Museum, Canadian National Vimy Memorial, Caen Memorial, Juno Beach Centre, Eiffel Tower, Palace of Versailles, Musée du Louvre, Sainte-Chapelle, Champs-Élysées, River Cruise on the Seine



**Local
Tour Leader**



Accommodations
3 Star Centrally Located Hotels



Transportation
Flights, Private Motor
Coach, Public Transportation



Meals
Breakfasts, Dinners





WHY BRIGHTSPARK?

PUTTING YOUR EXPERIENCE FIRST

- **Guaranteed Flights and Hotels** - We confirm the booking of flights and hotels when you submit your deposit to avoid last minute hiccups.
- **Centrally Located Accommodations** - Save hours avoiding long commutes and maximize your time in destination with hotels within the city limits.
- **Private Tours** - Personalize your class trip to suit your needs and be assured that your students will never be joined with another group.
- **Go, Discover, Inspire** - You are not a tourist but a traveler. We will expose you and your students to the soul of the destination and ignite their sense of wonder.

EXPERTS IN STUDENT TRAVEL

Our local partnerships allow for personalized tours that are a hybrid of traditional and unconventional.

95%

OF TEACHERS
LOVE OUR
TOURS

60+

YEARS OF
TRAVEL
EXPERIENCE



WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

24/7 GLOBAL SUPPORT

No matter your destination or itinerary, our state-of-the-art Operations Centre is designed to proactively protect you and your students during your educational trips around the globe. From the best insurance to advanced incident management software to 24/7 emergency assistance we've got you covered.



"Overall experience from start to finish was fantastic. The kids had a great time and will have memories that will last a lifetime/our tour leaders, Phillipe & Adrielle went above and beyond getting to know the students and helping us with special requests. Thank you for everything!"

Gatestone Staff & Students, HWDSB

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Day 1: Board your flight to London

Day 2: London

- Arrive at **London Heathrow Airport** and meet your Tour Leader.
- Experience the city with a **panoramic driving tour** with a local guide. You will see **Westminster Abbey**, which has been the site of coronations since 1044, **10 Downing Street**, the official residence of the Prime Minister and **Covent Garden**.
- Mind the Gap! Your students will get the true London experience with their **1-day London Transport card** for Zones 1 and 2.
- Shine bright like a diamond as you get up close and personal with the Crown Jewels at the **Tower of London**. Discover the various rooms in this centuries old castle that has served as a royal palace, prison and armory.

Day 3: London

- Start the day with a **guided walking tour** around the British capital. You will see the **Palace of Westminster**, more commonly known as the Houses of Parliament, the famous bell in the Elizabeth Tower, **Big Ben**, and **Buckingham Palace** where you may witness the changing of the guards.
- Explore the **Churchill War Rooms**, an underground bunker that sheltered Winston Churchill and his cabinet as they plotted a victory during the Second World War.
- Experience the various exhibits at the **Imperial War Museum**. Discover original objects from WWI and WWII, and learn how these experiences with war affected the soldiers and the rest of the population.

Day 4: Brussels - Ypres

- Choo, Choo! Start your day at **St. Pancras Train Station** for your Eurostar train to Brussels.
- Arrive at **Brussels Midi Train Station** and depart for Ypres.
- Experience **Essex Farm Cemetery**, a burial ground for 1204 soldiers who died during the Second Battle of Ypres. This is also said to be the location where John MacRae wrote his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields.'
- Discover the **In Flanders Fields Museum**, named in reference to the poem, and learn more about the battles that took place in Ypres Salient and WWI in general.
- Walk down **Grote Markt Street** and stop in at Leonidas Chocolate Shop to taste some Belgian sweets.
- **Collect your wreath** for the Last Post Ceremony.

- Attend the **Last Post Ceremony** at the Menin Gate to pay your respects to those who died protecting their town. Lay your wreath as the bugles play a moving tribute.

Day 5: Vimy - Beaumont-Hamel - Courcellette - Arras

- Start the day at the **Canadian National Vimy Memorial**, an impressive monument that commemorates the sacrifice of Canadian soldiers who disappeared or died during the First World War.
- Descend 20 feet below the ground to the **Wellington Quarry**. Here you will learn about the thousands of men who lived in these tunnels underneath Arras during the First World War.
- Visit the **Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial** to see the bronze caribou dedicated to the Dominion of Newfoundland soldiers who lost their lives during World War I. You will get a panoramic view of these well-preserved trenches to get a good idea of battlefield life.
- Arrive in **Courcellette**, a small town that played a large part in WWI. You will learn how the Canadian Corps succeeded in capturing the town and will visit the **Courcellette Canadian Memorial**.

Day 6: Honfleur - Caen

- Begin the day travelling to Caen.
- Stop at **Honfleur** to explore this charming city. You will see the **harbour**, the **Old Honfleur Basin** and **Saint Catherine's Catholic Church**, a unique building whose aisles look like the hulls of overturned boats.
- Continue on to Caen.
- Visit the **Caen Memorial**, where you will be guided through an interactive museum that focuses on the events that led to WWII.

Day 7: Bernières - Villons - Beny-sur-Mer - Courseulles-sur-Mer - Arromanches-les-Bains - Bayeux - Caen

- Discover the **Ardenne Abbey** where your guide will explain the tragic events that took place here on June 7th, 1944.
- Stop in to **Villons** where you will learn the history of this area and why the Canadian Troops nicknamed it "**Hell's Corner**."
- Visit the **Canadian Military Cemetery** in **Bény-sur-Mer** and pay respect to the soldiers killed during the early stages of the Battle of Normandy.

START PLANNING NOW!



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- Head over to the village of **Bernières** where you will see **Canada House**, one of the first homes to be liberated by the Canadians on June 6th, 1944.
- Explore the **Juno Beach Centre** to see several exhibits that mark the efforts of Canadian soldiers during World War II. You will also see **Juno Park** and part of the famous **Atlantic Wall**.
- Explore an **underground bunker**, German Command Post, tunnel and Observation Post that served as a German strong point against the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.
- Visit **Gold Beach** in **Arromanches-les-Bains** to learn about the man-made harbor that helped the allied troops succeed in the Normandy Invasion.
- Travel to **Bayeux**.
- Experience the famous **Bayeux Tapestry** at the **Musée de la Tapisserie de Bayeux**. This massive piece of embroidery was created in 1066 and tells the story of the Battle of Hastings.
- Return to **Caen** for the evening.

Day 8: Paris

- Travel to **Paris**.
- Welcome to the City of Lights! Climb into your motor coach and set off on a **3-hour panoramic tour** of the city where you will discover the famous monuments you've only seen in photos.
- Enjoy living like a Parisian with a 3-day **metro pass** for zones 1-3.

Day 9: Paris

- Start your day with a special audio guide tour of the **Musée du Louvre**. A Nintendo 3DS will lead you through this maze to see the iconic Mona Lisa, and other masterpieces along the way.
- Make your way to the reverse pyramid at the **Carrousel du Louvre** on your free time.
- Enjoy a 3-hour guided tour of the **City of Lights**. You will meet in the gardens of the **Palais-Royal** and continue on to see the **Place de la Concorde**, where King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were publicly executed, the **Tuileries** and the lively **Latin Quarter**.
- Visit **Sainte-Chapelle** and discover the beautiful stained glass windows of this gothic church.
- Feeling daring? Soar to the top of the **Eiffel Tower** for breathtaking views of the city.

Day 10: Versailles - Paris

- Head to the train for a trip to **Versailles**.
- Enjoy a 2-hour tour of the **Palace de Versailles**. Your guide will take you through the history as you wander through the **Grand Apartment**, the **Hall of Mirrors** and the **King and Queen's suites**.
- Get lost in the stunning **gardens of Versailles**, which are landscaped in the French style, and date back to the reign of Louis XIV.
- Return to **Paris**.
- Stroll down one of the most famous streets in the world, the **Champs Elysées** and see the stunning **Arc de Triomphe**.
- All aboard! Savour the last bit of Paris as you listen to a commentary while **cruising** down the Seine River on a **bateau-mouche**.

Day 11: Depart to the airport for your flight home

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