100th Anniversary of WWI
THE GREAT WAR-1916
21 May—1 June 2016
Plus American Battlefields of 1918 & Devil Dogs at Belleau Wood

Are YOU in this?

MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS, INC
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depth, the American Army’s involvement in 1917-18. Come with us and walk the ground to learn why THE GREAT WAR happened, where it was fought, how it was fought and what affect it had on world history.

Our MHT Tour Leaders: Gary Andrejak is a retired USAF LtCol. and a decorated combat pilot in the Vietnam War. For the past 14 years he has organized and led MHT tours which have taken him to 26 countries and territories around the world. We are pleased to welcome Mark Typinski as the newest member of the MHT team. Mark served 10 years in the Marine Corps and is currently working for a government agency. His assignments have included embassy duty in Europe and the Middle East. He speaks French and is a dedicated student of WWI who has explored the WWI battlefields on foot many times.

Daily Itinerary

Sat 21 May (Day 1) Departure. Individual departures from USA to France.


Mon 23 May (Day 3) Flanders & Battles of Ypres. Depart Paris for Ypres. Here we will meet Gil Bossuyt, our Belgian guide for the next three days. Gil is an experienced guide with a comprehensive knowledge of the WWI battles, terrain and the personal stories of the men who fought here 100 years ago. He offers a unique insight to the epic battles in this area with aerial views, trench maps and vintage photographs. The perfect place to start is Hill 62, where in 1916 the Canadians suffered high casualties during the German assault to take this important high ground overlooking Ypres. We move on to the site of the first gas attack by the Germans and Essex Farm with the grave of the youngest British soldier and the place where John McCrae penned the famous "In Flanders Fields." Next is Tyne Cot British Cemetery — the largest British Commonwealth Cemetery in the world with 11,957 buried (nearly 70% of whom are unknown). This evening, we will gather in Grote Market Square to attend the moving performance of “Last Post,” by the Ypres Fire Brigade at the Menin Gate Memorial, a nightly occasion since 1929, interrupted only by the German occupation during WWII. Overnight: Ypres. Hotel: Novotel Ieper Centrum Flanders Fields. Meals: (B/L)

Tue 24 May (Day 4) Ypres Salient and the Somme. We depart Ypres and tour southern battlefields of Flanders including: Hill 60 (site completely restored for visitors in 2015) and the “Pool of Peace” crater at Wijtschate, where the “underground war” will be explained. The last stop in Belgium is at Ploegsteert where the famous “Christmas Truce” took place in 1914. On the way to Amiens we will have a stop at the impressive Canadian Memorial to the missing at Vimy. We will also visit the French military cemetery, Notre Dame de Lorette. Next to this cemetery we find the “Ring of Remembrance” (2014), a monument with bronze plaques listing 600,000 names of men and women who were killed in Northern France. Overnight: Amiens. Hotel: Mercure Amiens Cathedrale. Meals: (B/L)

Wed 25 May (Day 5) The Somme. Full day tour of the July-Nov 1916 Somme battlefields, to include: Albert and its cathedral with underground museum; Lochnagar Crater created by a huge mine explosion under the German lines; Thiepval, the largest British War Memorial in the world and Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park containing preserved trenches and war-scarred landscape. The Somme is infamously remembered for the British disaster of 1 July 1916 where they suffered 60,000 casualties in less than one day. We will visit various sites representative of that attack: Serre, Devonshire Trench, Carnoy Cemetery, Mash Valley and Sunken Lane. At each, Gil will explain the events and

It has been called THE GREAT WAR and THE WAR TO END ALL WARS. We know it as WORLD WAR I. It began in 1914 and ended with an armistice at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. The cost...37 million casualties, including 117,000 dead and 205,000 wounded Americans. The Great War was fought in hundreds of places around the world and involved 35 nations. It was truly the first global war. 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of two of the more infamous bloody battles...Verdun and the Somme. One year...two battles...the loss of over two million French, British Commonwealth, and German soldiers! Military Historical Tours, Inc. is pleased to offer our legacy tour of the battlefields of this world-changing war. MHT’s tour explores the Western Front from end-to-end, 1914-1918. While the Somme and Verdun form the “bookends” of our “1916” tour, we will also cover, in

Tour Price: $3,495*
BODO - Based on Double Occupancy
Single Room Supplement: $695*
Tour Price Includes:
* First-Class Hotel Accommodations
* Air-conditioned deluxe motorcoach
* Meals as indicated in itinerary
* Historical Trip information packet, containing maps & other information
* Admission fees to all sites, museums and special attractions listed
* Emergency Medical & Evacuation Insurance
* Services of experienced Tour Directors & English-speaking local guides
Airfare Not Included: Optional MHT Round-trip economy airfare from your hometown airport to CDG Paris available upon request (price subject to confirmation at time of booking.) Business class is also available.

* - Price based on € current rate of exchange
Thurs 26 May (Day 6) Reims. This morning we bid farewell to Gil, we will strike out for Reims. En-route we will visit the “Armistice Clearing” in the Compiegne Forest where the negotiations that essentially ended WW I were held in 1918 and where Hitler made the French capitulate to Germany in 1940. In a small museum there is an identical railroad car to that of Marshal Foch’s “Surrender Carriage,” which contains the actual furnishings from the original coach that was removed by the Germans to Berlin during WW II and later burned by Nazi SS troopers to prove its recapture by the Allies. Following lunch on your own in the very pleasant small town of Pierrefonds, and a photo op of the beautiful hillside castle overlooking town, we will drive through the Soissons battlefield which many experts consider to be the turning point of the war. The Germans never gained another foot of ground in the war. We will follow the July 18-19, 1918, advance of the American 2d Division, quite arguably the finest division in the American Expeditionary Forces. It was unique in that it had one Army brigade and one Marine brigade. We end the day at our centrally located hotel in Reims, the Champagne wine-growing region capital. Overnight: Reims. Hotel: Holiday Inn Reims Centre. Meals: (B)
wonders of the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Opera, the Basilica de Sacre Coeur in Montmartre, the Marais, or take an optional tour to Versailles. Or, you can just sit on a bench on the Champs Elysees or at a table at the Cafe de la Paix on the Place de la Opera and watch the world go by.


An Optional Tour. If you are not max’d out with museum visits, there is an additional one that we highly recommend. It is the superb Museum of the Great War in Meaux, a 30 minute train ride from Paris, accompanied by one of your tour leaders. The museum, which opened in 2011, presents an excellent recap of our tour of the Western Front. The museum is designed as a journey through time. You start in another world of the late 19th century and the 1870 Franco Prussian war, and move through to 1914. The second section, from the 1914 to the 1918 Battles of the Marne, reconstructs the battlefield with a French trench, German trench and in between the feared no man’s-land. There are impressive displays of the weaponry of the land, air and sea forces. The final section takes you from 1918 to 1939 and the aftermath that led to WWII.

**Tues 31 May (Day 11) Paris, City of Light.** Another free day. Take in the flea market at Porte de Clignancourt for militaria or other antiques, shop at one of the large department stores, boutiques or simply stroll along the River Seine and shop at the bookstalls or artist's displays. Whatever you do today is likely to provide fond memories. Just be sure to leave time to pack for the trip home and have a leisurely dinner, perhaps with new friends you've met on the tour.


**Weds 1 June (Day 12) Tour ends.** Check out for the flight home or continue your stay in la belle France. **Meals: (B)**