

From Poppies to Paris

From Flanders' Field to Normandy

A Visit to the Sites of World War I & II

Cost: \$3,800 without tuition - \$3,970 with tuition for 4 graduate level hours. Includes airfare, tours, ground transportation, hotels, and museum passes to major museums. \$2,300 without airfare.

Day 1 – May 26, 2012 – Saturday- Fly to Brussels.

Day 2 –May 27, 2012 – Sunday - Tour Brussels – Focus of the day is how Brussels was changed by both world wars and Belgium's involvement in both. Start at The Grand Place , the heart of Brussels with the Town Hall and The Swan House, which once housed a bar where Karl Marx and Frederick Engels met in 1848 to write their Communist Manifesto,- Do Hop On, Hop Off bus, leaving from the train station – Tour: the European Parliament, the headquarters of the European Union – Musical Instruments Museum, one of Brussels' most impressive Art Nouveau buildings- Fine Arts Museum – the Palace Royale that houses the offices of King Albert II of Belgium (his head is on Belgium's euro coins) - Royal Museum of Fine Arts that houses David's painting of The Death of Marat (1793) plus other numerous masterpieces. – Sleep in Brussels,

Day 3 – May 28, 2012 – Monday- Take the early train to Bruges, a town that escaped the ravages of two world wars (despite being occupied much of the time). Discussion on Burges's involvement in the wars and how they changed Bruges. Bruges is known today for its splendid architecture and art. Two of the Old Flemish School's greatest artists, Hans Memling and Jan van Eyck, lived and worked here.– Explore Bruges with a city walk – visit the Church of Our Lady with the only Michelangelo statue that left Italy in his lifetime - Basilica of the Holy Blood that houses a drop of Christ's blood – Arents House Lace Museum - Groeninge Museum with top notch Flemish art – The Memling Museum with paintings by Hans Memling – Burg Square with impressive architecture – Market Square with a 15th century, 270 ft high Belfry Tower with a 47 bell carillon and end the day with a canal ride through the village. Sleep in Bruges.

Day 4 – May 29, 2012 – Tuesday - Take a day long tour of World War I Flander's Field Battlefield. History of the area presented as we drive. Visit battlefields, cemeteries, remaining trench systems still intact, bunkers, Tyne Cot, The Menin Gate, Hill 60, Messines Ridge, the 3rd Ypres offensive known as the Battle of Passchendale and much more. Back to Bruges to spend the night.

Day 5 – May 30, 2012 – Wednesday -Take an early train to Oostende, the oldest settlement on the Belgium coast with a history going back to the 10th century – it was a popular pirates' hideout in it's day and it is from here that Crusaders set sail for the Holy Lands. Leopold II built a villa on the beach – Belgian Queen Louise-Marie died here in 1850 and Queen Victoria

visited for the sea air. During World War II, many of the buildings were bombed. We will catch a street car and go down the coast to the Raversijde site that has well preserved trenches and bunkers from both world wars, plus an informative museum. Back to Bruges to spend the night.

Day 6 – May 31, 2012 - Thursday - A travel day -Take a train to Bayeux, France, where we will spend the night. Arrive early enough to tour the beautiful little village of Bayeux.

Day 7 --June 1, 2012 - Friday - Take the American Experience Tour for the next two days. Day one will cover Utah Beach, La Fiere, Graignes, Airborne Museum , Battle for the Causeways and examine well-preserved German Bunkers plus many other World War II sites. Sleep in Bayeux..

Day 8 – June 2, 2012 - Saturday - Continue with American Experience Tour - Day two will cover Omaha Beach, American Cemetery, German Cemetery and much more. Take the night train to Paris – Sleep in Paris.

Day 9 – June 3, 2012 - Sunday - Visit Les Invalides, a former veteran's hospital, that houses Napoleon's tomb (Napoleon was Hitler's role model) and the Army Museum. Two sections are dedicated to the two World Wars. The 20 room museum for WWI leads you chronologically through the background, causes, battles, and outcome of that war. In the World War II exhibit, the war unfolds in photos, displays, and newsreels. An added bonus in this museum is an incredible display on the art of war. Included is a wonderful display of medieval armor, weapons, Louis XIV-era uniforms, plus Napoleon's horse and faithful dog, stuffed and mounted. Sleep again in Paris.

Day 10 - June 4, 2012 - Monday -Class time to go over how Germany's occupation affected Paris and the rest of France. Spend the day doing a quick look at the sites in Paris that were significant during the wars. Go up the Eiffel Tower, ride the Batobus to get an overview of the heart of Paris. Stop at Notre Dame – visit the Deportation Memorial in remembrance of the 200,000 French victims of the Nazi concentration camps between 1940 and 1945. Discuss France's participation in the deportation of French citizens, both adults and children – Go to Place De la Concorde and walk up the Champs Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe. Sleep again in Paris.

Day 11 -- June 5, 2012 - Tuesday– Leave Paris around noon – arrive home the same day!!