



Journey Schedule 2011

Our renowned battlefield tours are all-inclusive, with all the following features covered by the tour price:

- ❖ Small groups, travelling in a comfortable 8 seat air-conditioned vehicle.
- ❖ Services of a dedicated tour-guide, who dines with the group each evening.
- ❖ Ferry crossings with breakfast on outward journey.
- ❖ Accommodation at three and four-star hotels, including breakfast, and evening meals with wine.
- ❖ All lunches + coffee/tea morning and afternoon.
- ❖ All museum entrance fees.
- ❖ In-depth research into the soldier or unit at the appropriate National Archives.
- ❖ Individual packs for handouts, maps and other documents supplied during your tour.
- ❖ Unparalleled quality of personal service and care.



WELCOME TO 2011

WITH BARTLETT'S BATTLEFIELD JOURNEYS (BBJ)

It is with much pleasure that we present our 2011 Tour Itinerary.

The Company is proud to report upon another successful year throughout 2010, and despite the worsening economic situation, we were delighted once again to welcome guests from the U.K., the Commonwealth and the United States. Bespoke tours proved particularly popular and our guide team were very busy, guiding parties not only along the Western front but to requested localities such as Arnhem, Berlin, Agincourt, Waterloo and the D-Day beaches.

One of the many highlights in 2010 was the inauguration of the new Cemetery at Fromelles in July. BBJ led 3 groups to the ceremony and two of our guests had relatives identified and buried in the cemetery. We had earlier followed the movements of the two Australian soldiers prior to them going missing with the aid of trench maps and war diaries, which made the ceremony even more poignant and moving for us all.

With an eye upon the monetary crisis engaging most of the world and mindful of the resultant financial considerations, BBJ have decided to maintain current tour prices into 2011. This decision will not reflect upon the quality of our services and the high standards for which we are renowned will continue.

The Company can look back upon the year 2010, our 15th year of operations, with pride and much gratification. The commendations regularly received bear witness to our never wavering determination to satisfy in full all requests from our clients and the strict attention to detail that our travellers have now come to expect.

We provide the ultimate battlefield experience for the discerning traveller and have earned an excellent and established reputation for providing a unique and very personal service. Our scheduled tours take a maximum of seven guests which provides for an informal, unhurried and friendly experience.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has travelled with us in the past, many of you several times. In 2010 we welcomed some regulars on their 15th Journey with BBJ – approaching the record of 17 return visits - and look forward to welcoming newcomers, as well as our regulars, to our explorations of the battlefields and to the camaraderie and friendship which these invariably foster. As a way of saying “thank you” to our regular travellers we have continued our BBJ Friendship Bonus offer. On second and subsequent Journeys with BBJ, travellers will receive a 10% discount to the published price.

Sincerely, David J Bartlett

Please check our web site (www.battlefields.co.uk) for latest news updates, tour availability, additions to the schedule and much more.

Email: info@battlefields.co.uk or telephone +44 (0) 1507 523128

No.	Dates	Journey Theme	Duration
January			
1	27th - 29th	Ypres	3 days
February			
2	2nd - 6th	Western Front	5 days
March			
2A	7th to 10th	Western Front	4 days
2B	23rd - 27th	Western Front	5 days
April			
3	4th - 6th	Somme	3 days
4	10th - 14th	Western Front	5 days
5	18th - 20th	Western Front	3 days
6	22nd - 26th	Anzacs & Western Front	5 days
7	28th - 30th	Somme	3 days
May			
8	1st - 4th	Normandy	4 days
9	8th - 12th	Western Front	5 days Full
10	16th - 19th	Retreat to Dunkirk	4 days
11	23rd - 25th	Ypres	3 days
12	29th - Jun 1st	Normandy	4 days
June			
13	6th - 8th	Somme	3 days
14	12th - 15th	Western Front	4 days
15	20th - 24th	Western Front	5 days
16	29th - Jul 2nd	Western Front & Somme Commemorations	4 days
July			
17	10th - 12th	Ypres	3 days
18	19th - 23rd	Western Front	5 days
19	27th - 30th	Western Front	4 days
August			
20	4th - 6th	Somme	3 days

No.	Dates	Journey Theme	Duration
21	11th - 13th	Ypres	3 days
22	22nd - 26th	Western Front	5 days
September			
23	1st - 4th	Western Front	4 days
24	8th - 10th	Somme	3 days
25	13th - 16th	Western Front	4 days
26	20th - 24th	Western Front	5 days
27	27th - 29th	Ypres	3 days
October			
28	3rd - 6th	Western Front	4 days
29	11th - 15th	Western Front	5 days
30	25th - 27th	Somme	3 days
November			
31	9th - 12th	Ypres	4 days
December			
32	6th - 10th	Western Front	5 days

SCHEDULED TOUR COSTS

Our 2011 all-inclusive prices remain the same as 2010.

3 Day Journey	per person	£689
4 Day Journey	per person	£859
5 Day Journey	per person	£995

*Single supplements are £25 per night.
Booking forms may be downloaded
from our web site and returned
by email or post.
Terms and conditions are displayed
on our web site.*

"I write to record my appreciation for an extraordinarily well researched, organised, and conducted tour, from the 13th-15th May, of the Somme battlefields of particular interest to the 3 different participant families. It helped that we all got on well, but the principal reason for our satisfaction was Chris Wesley's research beforehand, organisation of the tour itself to satisfy everybody's chief interests, his military and roads knowledge, and the moving appropriateness of what he said in and out of the bus and read to us and played to us in the bus. He was also firm in his shepherding of us but did so in such an agreeable way that we welcomed it, especially as we had so much to get through. I was particularly touched by his providing me with a wreath to lay on my uncle's headstone. Altogether, a first-class experience, and I will heartily recommend Bartletts Battlefield to others interested in the Somme."

Michael Cook, London - May 2010

“On behalf of my Mother, I would like to pass on our sincere thanks for organizing such a successful trip for us to the WW1 Battlefields. Chris’s research and presentation was just fantastic – he is an exceptional guy who did an exceptional job for us and I’m sure your company values him very highly. The way he scheduled the trip brought great order to the process and he paced and hosted the days very well. Neither of us will forget it.”

Andrew Donaldson, London - July 2009

All our guides are acknowledged experts on the Great War battlefields of the Western Front.



David Bartlett



Michael Kelly



Chris Wesley



Bill McQuade

David Bartlett, our Managing Director.

Personally oversees the planning, research and administration of every tour. David has been exploring and guiding on the Western Front for 25 years.

Michael Kelly.

Has a particular interest in American actions of the Western Front. Since 2004 Michael has worked closely with a team of international academics in efforts to identify the firing position of Sgt Alvin C. York in the Argonne Forest in 1918. The project was completed in April 2009 and the results published at www.sergeantyorkproject.com

Chris Wesley.

Additional interests include Canadian actions on the Western Front, Normandy, Dieppe, Waterloo and the 1940 Retreat to Dunkirk.

Bill McQuade.

Also covers World War 2 locations such as Berlin and Arnhem, the Retreat to Dunkirk, and other conflicts on mainland Europe, including Agincourt and Crecy.

“We have just returned from an unforgettable trip to the Somme and Ypres. The whole tour was unbelievably moving and emotional. The memory of standing by my grandfather’s grave will stay with me for ever. Everything was so well organised, from the detailed research, to the food and hotel accommodation. Mike was a brilliant guide, kind and considerate, great company with a wonderful sense of humour. The words he spoke and the poetry he read at each grave was such a special touch and was so appreciated by us all. We cannot thank you enough for putting together this very special trip. Please convey our heartfelt thanks to Mike for all that he did for us. Our very best wishes for your continued success. You are a great company.”

Jan & Bob Green, Kent - July 2010

PROGRAMMES

In our **First World War** programme we cover all areas of the Western Front from the Belgian coast to the Somme and can encompass all allied actions. Our three-day Journeys are normally based at one hotel in the area of exploration such as the Somme or Ypres. On our four and five-day Western Front programmes we include several battlefields and are based at two hotels.

In 2011 we have scheduled three WW2 tours - two to focus on the D-Day landings in Normandy and the other following the Retreat to Dunkirk.


ITINERARIES

Each tour is meticulously researched and the composition and wishes of the group determine the itinerary. **We do not publish set itineraries in advance** as each and every tour is different and individually tailored, the eventual programme being determined by the research undertaken on behalf of our guests. Unlike most other travel companies who provide set itineraries, BBJ operate a policy whereby the requirements of our guests determine the actual programme and consequently every tour is unique.

BESPOKE TOURS


Tailor-made tours can be designed for guests who may be unable to fit in with our scheduled programme or who seek alternative battlefield explorations. Such bespoke tours are particularly attractive for both small and large groups. Advantages include the opportunity to travel at your own speed and direction, personal arrival and departure times, and collection and departure points tailored to your requirements. Guests may also determine the type of accommodation required, such as chateau style hotels, which are proving increasingly popular.

We shall be pleased to provide a quotation based on your precise wishes.



“John and I arrived home from our holiday in France and Scotland on Sunday 20 June. We have just about recovered from jet lag and the effects from a respiratory infection which crashed John on arrival. We would both like to say how much we appreciated and enjoyed the trip to the Battlefields with you in May. Your profound knowledge of the battles and events of the First World War Chris, gave a much deeper meaning to the history of that time. It was a very moving experience for me and I felt so pleased to be able to view the places that my father wrote about and to imagine the Vet Corp as we viewed the riverside at Pont Noyelles and the old walled orchard at Sailly le Sec where they had camped the horses. With best wishes for your future tours and many thanks from us both.”

Anne Sheppard, Australia - May 2010



SERVICE AND RESEARCH

We pride ourselves on providing a genuine all-inclusive service with absolutely no hidden extras. BBJ are still the only company whose tour price includes detailed research undertaken on behalf of our guests at the respective National Archives. All material gathered during our research (war diaries, trench maps, soldiers' papers) is presented to the guest(s) during the Journey. It is emphasised that our detailed research is carried out on all occasions when such work is required and irrespective of the nature of the Journey undertaken. Scheduled and bespoke tours both merit and receive the same attention to detail. If information pertaining to a relative is available we will locate it and present the file to the guest.

POINTS OF DEPARTURE

Our tours depart from Dover between 0700 and 0930 hours on the first day and end at Dover between 1630 and 1730 hours on the final day. We usually cross the Channel by ferry but if circumstances or client preferences so require, we may use the Channel Tunnel crossing.

We can arrange bed-and-breakfast accommodation at Faversham in Kent for the night before the tour, where vehicles may be left for the duration of the Journey. Guests will be responsible for settling bed-and-breakfast charges direct with their host. Our guide stays in the Faversham area and will collect guests from their B & B on the morning of day one and return them there on the final day if required. Alternatively we can meet guests at the Dover ferry terminal, where secure parking is available at a charge, or we can collect guests from Dover Priory railway station or a Dover hotel. Any guests based in France can be collected from Calais Fréthun railway station at 1100 hours on day one of the tour.



“On our return from our Fromelles journey we were asked by friends why we travel with Bartlett's Battlefield Journeys. Here are a few of those reasons:

1. Detailed research with maps and war diaries.
2. Information delivered at a pace that enhances understanding.
3. Well planned but flexible programme.
4. Individual attention in a small group.
5. Sharing other traveller's stories.
6. Good hotels.
7. Tears and laughter, poetry and music.
8. Friendships made to last a lifetime.

All of the above have made for one of the most memorable experiences of our lives.”

Angela & Ken Belk, East Yorks - July 2010

This is Angela & Ken's 15th journey with BBJ - 2 more to equal the record!!!

THE BBJ COLLECTION - Will Longstaff Fine Art Prints

Continuing interest in our products and the extension of our mail order division has required the development of our on-line sales service, the World War History Store.

www.worldwarhistorystore.co.uk

The BBJ Collection are exclusively authorised by the National War Museums of Australia, New Zealand and Canada to reproduce the prints of the famous collection of evocative and haunting Will Longstaff paintings: '*Ghosts of Vimy Ridge*', '*Carillon*', '*Immortal Shrine*' and '*Menin Gate at Midnight*'.

You may purchase these exclusive Will Longstaff Prints on-line at www.worldwarhistorystore.co.uk, by phone +44 (0)1507 523128, or by post to The BBJ Collection Ltd, Broomhill, Edlington, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 5RJ. On-line payment may be made through PayPal or Google Checkout. We continue to expand our range of military-connected products such as CDs, DVDs, books and poppy items.

"Dear David, I just wanted to say that you organised the most amazing trip which completely surpassed my already high expectations! The depth of research you did was nothing short of extraordinary. Chris was absolutely brilliant, making a dour subject fascinating for Algy & Augusta. He also produced some beautiful poems which moved us all greatly. Algy (12) said to me unprompted last night "Dad I really enjoyed that visit"- that's quite a compliment from someone his age, particularly when one's competing against PSPs etc!
I'm only sad that Lucinda & Bobby missed an unforgettable event but hopefully that can be rectified in due course. I shall be telling anyone who's interested that you're the best!
Please convey our sincere thanks to Chris & all the team. Kind regards"

James Bruce, Wiltshire - October 2009

"Michael, Thank you so much for guiding our tour. I was amazed at the extent of your researches and the documents you had obtained. I have been explaining your research and briefings to family and friends. The use of the trench maps coupled with the GPS has astonished all. I have so far failed to disclose Uncle Syl's misadventures which provided a rather human touch to the grim times. I am preparing briefing papers for the extended family including children and grandchildren of both great uncles. It was a terrific group drawn together by your personality, care and patience - not to mention your encyclopedic knowledge of units, lines and dates. We were all very fortunate to have you as our guide. I hope we can catch up again whether on another Bartletts tour or if you visit Australia. Thanks for finding a spot for us in a limited time frame."

Peter & Helen Wood, Melbourne, Australia - June 2010

