



Journey Schedule 2017

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

- ❖ Travel in a comfortable air-conditioned vehicle.
- ❖ Services of a dedicated tour-guide, who dines with the group each evening.
- ❖ Channel Crossing via the Tunnel or Ferry.
- ❖ Accommodation at three and four-star hotels, including breakfast, and evening meals with wine.
- ❖ All lunches & light refreshments 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.
- ❖ Poppy tributes for the grave or Memorial of relatives.

The background of the lower half of the page features a photograph of the "The Last Post" monument, a tall, narrow, grey stone structure. The monument is set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The foreground is a dark, flat surface, possibly a road or a field.

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WELCOME TO 2017

WITH BARTLETTS BATTLEFIELD JOURNEYS (BBJ)

The year 2017 will mark the 23rd year of our battlefield explorations. Our services are still among the most highly respected in the industry and the many repeat bookings we receive convince us that our emphasis on detailed research, comradeship and small group travel is that which is most valued by our clients. We strive to present a personal and intimate experience in which the desires of each individual pilgrim are served, and the many accolades we regularly receive confirms this philosophy is a valuable component part of BBJ.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank once again everyone who travelled with us in 2015 & 2016, several of whom have joined us more than 25 times over the years.

2015/16 SUMMARY

2016 has proven to be a difficult year for the battlefield industry as a whole, but again guests from all across the world joined our comprehensive list of scheduled journeys, as well as those who chose to take bespoke tours. In addition to our smaller groups we once again accompanied larger group tours, including a group of pilots who flew themselves over to the Western Front.

Another anniversary year marking the centenaries of Pozieres, Fromelles and Delville Wood, 2016 was quieter but nonetheless still successful including many interesting bespoke journeys which included two Canadian ladies who spent 12 days on tour with us – 6 days Western Front and Normandy and 6 days in the UK, following relatives who served in both world wars. We also provided visits to Hanover, Berlin, Normandy, Verdun, Chateau Thierry in addition to our more regular Western Front visits. It was most pleasing especially to welcome previous travellers with BBJ.

The most important remembrance service was the 100th Anniversary commemorating the opening of the Battle of the Somme on 1st of July. A ballot was held to determine who could attend the service and 4 of our seven guests were successful – eventually! Many of you will have seen the service on TV. It was very disappointing to note the number of empty seats after all the trouble we undertook to gain these 4 places.

Farewell to Chris Wesley - Of the hundreds of guests who have travelled with Chris over the past 12 years will be saddened to learn that he has now retired from battlefield guiding. His research, detailed planning and map reading skills are second to none, and he will be greatly missed by us at BBJ. However Chris will still help us out with research as and when required. Enjoy your retirement Chris and many thanks.

2017 – THE YEAR AHEAD

The main commemorations this year will be the 100th anniversaries of the battles of Vimy Ridge (9th April), Messines (7th of June) and Passchendaele (Dawn service on the 26th of September). There may well be other events commemorating the battle of Passchendaele which commenced on the 31st of July.

Due to various commitments throughout the year, unfortunately our website update has taken longer than anticipated and will be completed by the end of 2016. Our website has been with us in its current form since 1998 and has provided years of great service! Nearly 50% of traffic to our site is now by tablets or mobile phones, and we needed to develop a new website to reflect our client base methods of access. The new website will be better suited to different screen sizes and adapt itself to whichever type of device the user is on. We hope to maintain the high quality of information available, and make navigating our site as easy as it always has been. The new site, will keep the www.battlefields.co.uk name.

2018

We have already received a number of confirmed bookings and also several enquiries for this Centenary year.

Prospective travellers contemplating visiting Europe with the Company during this period are strongly advised to notify an interest at an early date so that provisional hotel bookings may be made upon your behalf.

TOUR PRICES

As our tours are fully inclusive packages, the only € Euro expenditure to be met by our clients is for any drinks before and after evening meals, and for any personal shopping. 2017 tour prices can be found below our schedule on the next page. With the rather volatile nature of £ Sterling at present, it has been difficult to predict the exchange rates this year, so rather than try to gauge what may happen we have decided to keep the prices the same as 2016!

As a way of saying “thank you” to our regular travellers we continue to offer 10% discount to guests on their second and subsequent scheduled Journeys with BBJ.

“Just to let you know we had a very enjoyable two days with Bill. He demonstrated his extensive knowledge of WW1 history and was a pleasure to be with. I enjoyed every moment of the past two days.

Many thanks for arranging a great tour with a superb guide.”

David Henley & Nadine Sandercock, Somme & Ypres

“I would like to thank your entire company and crew for the four day trip of a lifetime to the WW1 Battlefields, 23 to 26 October.

Everything went like clockwork - the itinerary, the timing, the hotels and meals, the vehicle. All first class. Special thanks to John Lee, after only a few hours he became more like a friend than anything else. Will recommend to others in the future.”

John Winter (plus David Winter, Nick Fox), Toronto, Western Front

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	
	February			
J01	13th - 16th	Ypres	4 days	
	March			
J02	5th - 9th	Western Front	5 days	
J03	19th - 21st	Ypres	3 days	
	April			
J04	2nd - 6th	Western Front	5 days	
J05	8th - 12th	Vimy Ridge 100 & WF	5 days	
J05A	9th - 11th	Western Front	3 days	
J06	13th - 17th	Western Front	5 days	Full
J07	22nd - 26th	Anzac Day Commemorations & WF	5 days	
J08	25th - 28th	Western Front	4 days	
	May			
J09	7th - 11th	Bullecourt 100 & WF	5 days	
J10	17th - 21st	Western Front	5 days	
	June			
J11	6 th - 8th	Messines 100 & WF	3 days	
J12	4th - 8th	Normandy	5 days	
J13	14th - 18th	Western Front	5 days	
J14	29th Jun - 2nd Jul	Somme 101	4 days	
	July			
J15	11th - 15th	Western Front	5 days	
J16	29th Jul - 2nd Aug	3rd Ypres 100 & WF	5 days	
	August			
J17	15th - 19th	Western Front	5 days	
J18	28th - 31st	Western Front	4 days	

No.	Dates	Journey Theme	Duration	
	September			
J19	5th - 9th	Western Front	5 days	
J20	14th - 16th	Somme	3 days	
J21	19th – 23rd	Western Front	5 days	
J22	24th – 27th	Menin Rd & Polygon Wood 100	4 days	
J23	30th Sep - 2nd Oct	Ypres	3 days	
	October			
J24	8th - 12th	3rd Ypres – The Final Days	5 days	
J25	24th - 28th	Western Front	5 days	
	November			
J26	10th - 14th	Armistice 99 & WF	5 days	
J27	19th – 23rd	Cambrai 100 & ‘Deborah’	5 days	

SCHEDULED TOUR COSTS

Our 2017 all-inclusive prices are:

3 Day Journey	per person	£940
4 Day Journey	per person	£1,150
5 Day Journey	per person	£1,360

Single Room Supplements are £30 per night

Booking forms may be downloaded from our web site, scanned and sent to us by email or forwarded by post.

Terms and conditions are displayed on our web site.

THE BBJ GUIDE TEAM



David Bartlett, Managing Director

Personally oversees the planning, research and administration of every tour. David has been exploring and guiding on the Western Front for more than 25 years. In addition to arranging Journeys and guiding many of our tours, David spends much of his time advising authors, researchers and film producers.

To all who are thinking of visiting the battlefields, the message is always the same. You will be assured of personal attention to every journey. Only when the detailed planning and research is in place will the guests' exciting pilgrimage be given over to one of BBJ's three experienced, committed and devoted guides.



John Lee

A retired Army Officer, served in the Royal Artillery for 28 years. He became a Civil Servant working for the MoD as the Regimental Area Secretary for the Royal Anglian Regiment. Part of his responsibilities was to act as the Curator of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Museum.

John was asked to take part in a BBC documentary when the remains of 21 soldiers were discovered near Arras (a number of which were from the Lincolnshire Regiment). This involved working closely with the Public Records Office in Kew and The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Joining the RBL as their Armed Forces Liaison Officer, John maintained his connection with the Armed Forces and forging friendships with veterans of numerous campaigns, in turn strengthening his interest in Military History.



Bill McQuade

One of the most knowledgeable and experienced guides of the Western Front, Bill's passion for Military History was stimulated by an early birthday gift from his Grandmother. Wing Commander G.P. Gibson VC wrote a book called 'Enemy Coast Ahead' which began the whole process. After service with the Royal Scots Greys during the Cold War, which provided the opportunity to visit many battlefields around Europe, he returned to England and took up a position in a large College in Wakefield where he started a Military History Society and also an Adult Education class in the same subject where he learned the various skills required, including touring with groups.

His diverse knowledge of warfare throughout the ages and his presentation style soon brought work with TV production companies where these skills proved to be a vital asset. Both ancient and modern warfare are encompassed, including the battles of Marathon, the Peninsula Campaign, Waterloo, the Franco-Prussian war, WW1 and WW2, the Holocaust and Cold War and the more modern Middle East Conflicts.

Bill is also one of the two original founders of the Guild of Battlefield Guides.

"I just wanted to drop you a line to say how much Suzy and I enjoyed our recent trip, Bill was very knowledgeable, as expected, and the other guests were a delight to spend the time with. Bill gave us a wonderful explanation of the Fricourt topography and helped us to make a little more sense of the whole affair. The experience of being at Carnoy cemetery and hearing the maroons go off at 7.28 at the Lochnagar crater was amazing, followed by the whistles being blown by a party of kilted Scots who then led the silence; it was a feeling never to be repeated. We got back just in time to attend the ceremony at the Menin Gate and Suzy had an unbelievable experience, she was overjoyed when she realised that one of the standards was from the Sherwood Foresters (she lost four boys in the Notts & Derbys & her father served with them too) but she was totally overcome with emotion when it turned out that the band on parade was the Robin Hood Rifles Corps of Drums and they played 'Robin Hood' as they entered the gate!

Thanks for everything"

Tim & Suzy Bowers, 100th Anniversary, Somme

“I wanted to write you a quick note to say that we had a great trip and express my thanks. We had a very enjoyable few days with Bill. It is not only that he is extremely knowledgeable, but also that he delivers it in a very interesting way and brings the history to life. Many thanks.”

Raviv Shtaingos, Dunkirk & Normandy

PROGRAMMES

On our First World War scheduled tours we cover the area of the Western Front from the Belgian coast to the Somme and encompass 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.

On our Normandy Tours we stay at one hotel for the tour duration. For sectors wider afield, such as Verdun and the main American actions, we will be pleased to design a bespoke tour.

ITINERARIES

Each tour is meticulously researched and it is the composition and wishes of the group members which 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 that is why every tour is unique.

TRANSPORT

Passenger comfort is an essential feature of BBJ travel and reference to our Testimonial page will confirm the satisfaction of our regular travellers experience with our dedication to their comfort. We use roomy people carriers capable of seating seven travellers in spacious surroundings. Occasions do occur however when, due to high demand for our services, we are required to hire in additional vehicles.

BESPOKE TOURS

We specialise in designing, organising and conducting bespoke (customised) battlefield tours in mainland Europe throughout the year in addition to those listed in the regular schedule. This bespoke service is especially suitable for individuals, families or larger groups who may be unable to join our scheduled programme. Many of our guests who opt for a bespoke tour are from overseas and often wish to include a battlefield pilgrimage within their broader plans for European travel.

Each of these tours is custom-designed specifically for either individuals, small or large groups, and may include combinations of sightseeing and battlefield explorations.

The bespoke battlefield tour service offers you the freedom to choose:

- ❖ When to travel
- ❖ The duration of tour
- ❖ Where to stay and the quality of accommodation
- ❖ Departure and return points
- ❖ Which mainland European battlefield sites, other historical & cultural places of interest to visit
- ❖ The places of personal significance to include in the itinerary

As with our scheduled tours, research into relative(s) at the National Archives of the Commonwealth is also included in the package at no additional cost. There is no fixed duration for a bespoke tour or for minimum or maximum numbers in the group size. Prices are structured individually according to your particular personal or group requirements.

Our bespoke service is totally flexible. You tell us where, when and for how long you want to go and we will tailor a tour to suit your needs. We are always pleased to discuss your bespoke tour proposals and provide a quotation.

SERVICE AND RESEARCH

We pride ourselves on providing a genuine all-inclusive service with absolutely no hidden extras. BBJ are still the only company to include in the tour price 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 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.

POINTS OF DEPARTURE

Our tours depart from Dover or Folkestone between 0700 and 0900 hours on the first day and end at Dover or Folkestone between 1630 and 1730 hours on the final day. We generally cross the Channel by ferry but if circumstances or client preferences so require, we may use the Channel Tunnel.

We can arrange hotel accommodation in Dover in Kent for the night before the tour, usually at a Premier Inn near Dover Port or the Tunnel. Guests will be responsible for settling accommodation charges direct with the establishment.

Our guide stays in the Kent area prior to the tour and will collect guests from their hotel on the morning of day one and return them there on the final day if required.

Any guests based in France can be collected by mutual agreement – usual meeting points being the railway stations at Calais, Arras or Amiens.

“We have had a wonderful time over the past week, the trip fulfilled everything we could have wished for, accommodation was superb and the food excellent, but most importantly the knowledge of Bill backed up by John made the trip so very informative and interesting. Whilst we know John was there to learn Normandy guiding from Bill, we both feel it will not be long before he is up to speed and heading off to Normandy as an excellent tour guide as he already does on the Western Front. He has a lovely manner and is a true gentleman. We appreciate all the kind help from the team at Bartletts Battlefield Journeys and we may well look to join you in the future on another journey to the battlefields.”

Jayne & David Dawson - Lincolnshire, Normandy

“Can I say a large thank you for the Western Front tour that I have just completed with John Lee? Whilst I am experienced battlefield traveller having travelled with a coach tour company some twenty times, I was somewhat apprehensive about travelling with a company that was new to me. I need not have worried as John put me at ease immediately. The quality of the research was excellent and visiting the area where George Linham was, was exceptional.

I am sure that I will be back next year for another experience.

Thank you again.”

Malcolm Linham, Western Front

