



## Journey Schedule 2018

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.



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# WELCOME TO 2018

## WITH BARTLETTS BATTLEFIELD JOURNEYS (BBJ)

The year 2018 will mark the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 2016 & 2017, several of whom have joined us more than 30 times over the years.*

## 2017 SUMMARY

2017 has proven to be yet another 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.

Another anniversary year marking the centenaries of Vimy Ridge, Bullecourt, Messines, Menin Road & Polygon Wood, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ypres, Cambrai and the worldwide publicised events of Passchedaele, 2017 was again quieter in numbers for BBJ but nonetheless successful including many interesting bespoke journeys. It was most pleasing especially to welcome previous travellers with BBJ.

## 2018 – THE YEAR AHEAD

2018 promises to be one of the busier periods for commemorations acknowledging many 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of battles of the Great War. Scheduled tours include Anzac 100<sup>th</sup> Commemorations starting 22<sup>nd</sup> April; 3<sup>rd</sup> July sees us travel for Le Hamel 100<sup>th</sup> & Villers Bretonneux; culminating in probably the most anticipated anniversary in November where we are providing two tours covering the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice – both tours departing the U.K. on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Spaces on these tours are at a premium so guests are advised to book early.

## 2019

We have already received a number of confirmed bookings and also several requests from Australian guests for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day landings and to this end we are scheduling journeys for the 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019. We will be staying in Folkestone (tbc) on 3<sup>rd</sup> June travelling by Eurotunnel departing 4<sup>th</sup> June. 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. 2018 tour prices can be found below our schedule on the next page.

**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.**

“A few lines to say how much we enjoyed our recent trip to France and to extend our thanks to you and Bill for making it possible. Bill was a wonderful guide, full of knowledge and infinite patience. No question went unanswered and he really looked after us.

We have returned with a far greater understanding of the courage and bravery of those who fought in WWI, with particular emphasis being on those from our own families.”

*Felicity & John Pawsey*

“John did an outstanding job and was delightful to be with. Thanks so much for another brilliant trip - everyone loved it and the organisation was faultless from start to finish. You also gave us a huge amount of information on all 5 ancestors which was greatly appreciated.”

*James Bruce*

“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 and Nadine Sandercock*

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

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

No.	Dates	Journey Theme	Duration	
	<b>December 2017</b>			
J01	27th - 30th	Western Front	4 days	<b>Full</b>
	<b>February</b>			
J02	12th - 15th	Ypres	4 days	
	<b>March</b>			
J03	24th – 27th	Western Front	4 days	
	<b>April</b>			
J04	2nd - 6th	Western Front	5 days	<b>Full</b>
J05	9th – 12th	Western Front	4 days	
J06	16th - 18th	Somme	3 days	
J07	22nd - 26th	Anzac 100 <sup>th</sup> Commemorations	5 days	
J08	29th Apr – 3rd May	Western Front	5 days	
	<b>May</b>			
J09	7th – 11th	Monte Cassino	5 days	<b>Full</b>
J10	7th - 10th	Western Front	4 days	<b>Full</b>
J11	21st – 26th	Western Front	6 days	<b>Full</b>
J12	24th – 28th	Western Front	5 days	
	<b>June</b>			
J13	4th - 8th	Normandy	5 days	
J14	11th - 14th	Western Front	4 days	
J15	15th - 18th	Waterloo	4 days	
J16	21st - 23rd	Somme	3 days	
J17	29th Jun – 3rd Jul	Somme 102 <sup>nd</sup> Commemorations	5 days	
	<b>July</b>			
J18	3rd - 6th	Le Hamel 100 <sup>th</sup> & Villers Bretonneux	4 days	
J19	19th – 23rd	Western Front	5 days	
	<b>August</b>			
J20	7th - 11th	Western Front	5 days	
J21	21st – 23rd	Ypres	3 days	
J22	28th Aug – 1st Sept	Western Front	5 days	

No.	Dates	Journey Theme	Duration	
	<b>September</b>			
J23	8th - 12th	Western Front	5 days	
J24	27th - 30th	'Breaking the Hindenburg Line'	4 days	
	<b>October</b>			
J25	9th - 13th	Western Front	5 days	
	<b>November</b>			
J26	9th - 13th	Armistice 100 <sup>th</sup>	5 days	
J27	9th - 12th	Armistice 100 <sup>th</sup>	4 days	
	<b>December 2018</b>			

### SCHEDULED TOUR COSTS

Our 2017 all-inclusive prices are:

<b>3 Day Journey</b>	<b>per person</b>	<b>£985</b>
<b>4 Day Journey</b>	<b>per person</b>	<b>£1,205</b>
<b>5 Day Journey</b>	<b>per person</b>	<b>£1,425</b>

*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.

"Thank you for organising our trip last week to the Somme and Flanders battlefields. We found the itinerary, the research in advance and our time with John Lee to be most interesting. We were impressed with the research specifically related to our personal interests. John was most helpful and flexible around our requests, and helped us to feel that we have a greater understanding of the geography and the harrowing experiences of that war. Thank you so much for a most meaningful trip"

*Marilyn and Max Gosling*

"I want to thank you so very much for my trip with John in October. It was my first visit to the battlefields and was truly superb. Having done a reasonable amount of research into my two great uncles service it was incredible to actually be there. I have every intention of returning next year so I will be contacting you again. John made it such an interesting and personal trip; he truly made it come to life."

*Steve Davis*

## 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.

“David. Our tour was a great success mainly due to John Lee and his great way of presenting each and every venue in a very meaningful and memorable manner. His knowledge is phenomenal and he made our visit more than live up to our expectations. He is a great travelling companion, courteous at all times, and speaking of times, started off each day bright and early. The overnight accommodations were more than suitable and the meals were more than adequate for the Burns Boys.

All in all, I would not hesitate to recommend your tours to my Canadian friends. Hope to get back to you regarding tour of Dieppe and Normandy areas. I'm glad and pleased we selected your company for this once in a lifetime male family trip.”

*Robert Burns & family*

