

26 April - 5 May, 2014



Space Limited



\$3,450 per person



Dbl. Occupancy
Land only, air not incl.

Opening Moves — 1914

The Schlieffen Plan, Joffre's Plan XII and the March to the Marne

For the opening of our Centennial Series, we examine the initial war plans of the Great Powers, the catastrophic failure of both the German Schlieffen Plan and France's Plan XVII, and how the opportunity arose for Marshal Joffre's "Miracle of the Marne". Here is the Itinerary Designed by our World War I expert Mike Hanlon:

Saturday, 26 April 2014

Arrival in Brussels; Optional Afternoon Visit to the Royal Military Museum; Welcome Dinner.

Hotel: Brussels, Belgium



Fort Loncin, Liege: Devastated by "Big Bertha"

Sunday, 27 April 2014

The Schlieffen Plan Opens: the Sieges of Liege and Namur; Fort Loncin; "Big Bertha" Unleashed; Namur Citadel; Advance to Brussels.

Hotel: Brussels, Belgium

Monday, 28 April 2014

Mons: Where the British Army begins and Ends the War. Sites of First and Last Shots, Mons-Conde Canal, Nimy Bridge, St. Symphorien Cemetery, new Mons Museum, and the Start of the Great Retreat.

Hotel: Maubeuge, France

Tuesday, 29 April 2014

Crossing the Frontiers: Fortress of Maubeuge, Battle of Sambre at Charleroi, forcing the Meuse at Dinant and Sedan, AEF Armistice positions of 1918.

Hotel: Neufchâteau, Belgium

Wednesday, 30 April 2014

French Plan XVII Meets Defeat: Ardennes battlefields around Neufchâteau, Ochamps, Rossignol, Bellefontaine and Virton: retreat to the River Meuse, the Armistice line of 1918.

Hotel in Verdun, France

Thursday, 1 May 2014

The Creation of the Verdun & St. Mihiel Salients: morning visit to important 1914 sites that shaped the double-salient front and influence the course of the entire war in northeast France; Afternoon visit to the Verdun battlefield, including Fort Douaumont, the Memorial Museum, Douaumont Ossuary and the Bayonet Trench.

Hotel in Verdun, France

Friday, 2 May 2014

Important Allied Delaying Actions: At Guise the Fifth French Army mounted a counterattack against General Bulow's advancing Second army; At Le Cateau the BEF's II Corps commanded by Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien held up the pursuing German First Army for a day 35 miles south of Mons; As time allows, visit to the American battlefield of 1918 at the St. Quentin Canal.

Hotel in St. Quentin, France



The Taxicabs of the Marne Arrive

Saturday, 3 May 2014

The March to the Marne: After shadowing the routes of the advancing First German Army commanded by Alexander von Kluck and the retreating British Expeditionary Force of Sir John French the group concludes the trip at the village of Villeroy where the First Battle of the Marne broke out on 5 Sept. 1918. Visit to Musée de la Grande Guerre included.

Hotel near Charles de Gaulle Airport

Sunday, 4 May 2014 Depart for Home

Price (subject to adjustment): \$3,450 per person twin-share. Single supplement: \$500
Includes: 8 nights hotel accommodations on twin share; breakfast daily; three lunches; all entrance fees; local guides when needed; welcome and farewell dinners; 7 full days use of private air conditioned coach; services of Michael Hanlon as tour leader; emergency travel insurance coverage; local taxes; tour book. Full brochure available Fall 2013.

Contact Vicky Middagh, Valor Tours: 10 Liberty Ship Way, Suite 110, Sausalito, CA 94965

Tel: (415) 332-7850 or (800) 842-4504

Email: valortours@yahoo.com



30 Aug - 9 Sep, 2014



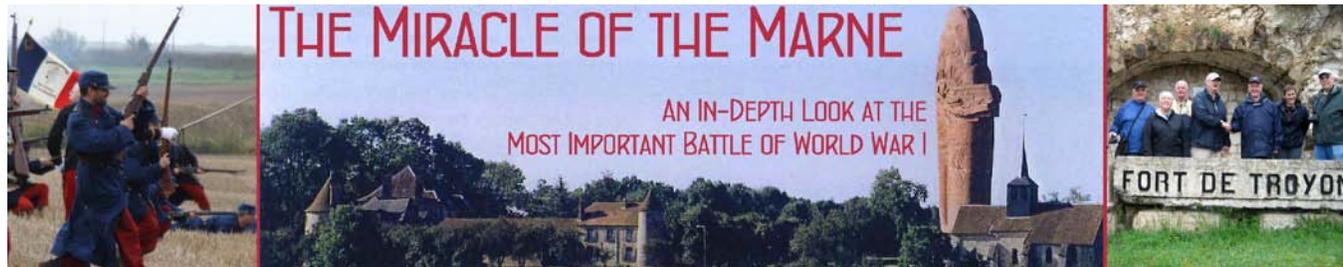
Space Limited



\$ 4,250 per person



DbI. Occupancy
Land only, air not incl.



Reenactors at Villeroy — Mondemont, Scene of Desperate Fighting in 1914 — Critical Fort de Troyon

Saturday, 30 August 2014

Arrival in Paris; free time; welcome dinner. Hotel: Paris

Sunday, 31 August 2014

Paris in the Great War - The group will be escorted to the numerous sites in Paris connected to the war including the Eiffel Tower, the American Cathedral, Place de la Concorde, Monet's Water Lilies at Musée de l'Orangerie, and L'Hôtel National des Invalides, site of the French Army Museum and the departure point for the Taxicabs of the Marne. The day concludes at the Tomb of France's Unknown Soldier below the Arc de Triomphe. The evening is free for dinner. Hotel: Paris

Monday, 1 September 2014

We leave Paris and follow the route of the Marne Taxis to the western most section of the Marne battlefield where the battle began. After visiting the battle sites around the town of Meaux, we stop at the new Musée de la Grande Guerre. Heading north, we visit the Glade where the Armistice document was signed to conclude the war. Hotel: Compiègne

Tuesday, 2 September 2014

Today, we trace the paths of three separate armies: the German First and Second Armies and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), which was retreating in this sector in front of the advancing German forces. The movement of these three forces will lead to the creation of a great gap in the German advance into which the BEF reversed course to create the greatest crisis of the battle. Hotel: Château-Thierry

Wednesday, 3 September 2014

South of the River Marne we tour the line where the Allied armies halted their retreat. The sectors of two key French generals: Franchet d'Esperey (Fifth Army) and Ferdinand Foch (Ninth Army) are toured next. We conclude the day with visiting both of the National monuments to France's victory at the Marne at Mondemont at Dormans. Hotel: Château-Thierry

Thursday, 4 September 2014

After departing our hotel we parallel the frontline from Vitry to Revigny where another gap was opened, this time in the French line to Bar le Duc. After lunch we will visit the small fort that would play a critical role in the battle, Fort de Troyon, north of St. Mihiel. Hotel: Verdun

Friday, 5 September 2014

Verdun held out during the Battle of the Marne, not for lack of trying on the German part. We visit sites on the periphery of Verdun and the Argonne Forest. As time allows, we will see some key points for the 1916 Battle of Verdun, as well. Hotel: Verdun

Saturday, 6 September 2014

Today we attend the national commemoration of the First Battle of the Marne at Mondemont. (This day has not yet been officially announced. Our schedule will be adjusted as necessary.) Hotel: Château-Thierry or Meaux

Sunday, 7 September 2014

The Encampment and Reenactment of the Opening of the Battle of the Marne will be held today at Villeroy at the actual site where the battle broke out on 5 September 1914. We will be in attendance and will picnic near the battlefield. Hotel: Château-Thierry or Meaux

Monday, 8 September 2014

Crisis Point of the Battle. To conclude the tour we follow the British Expeditionary Force's return to the battlefield, advancing into the great gap between the First and Second German Armies. We study staff officer Lt. Col. Richard Hentsch's fateful decision that the German Army needed to retreat. We then follow that retreat to the River Aisne, where trench warfare would begin. Our departure dinner that evening will conclude the tour. Hotel: Near Charles de Gaulle Airport

Tuesday, 9 September 2014

Departure for Home

Price (subject to adjustment): \$4,250 per person twin-share. Single supplement: \$800 Includes: 10 nights hotel accommodations on twin share; breakfast daily; three lunches; all entrance fees; local guides when needed; welcome and farewell dinners; 10 full days use of private air conditioned coach; services of Michael Hanlon as tour leader; emergency travel insurance coverage; local taxes; tour book. All program details subject to change.

Contact Vicky Middagh, Valor Tours: 10 Liberty Ship Way, Suite 110, Sausalito, CA 94965
Tel: (415) 332-7850 or (800) 842-4504 Email: valortours@yahoo.com



APPLICATION FORM

2014 – The Great War Centennial Tour Series

Mail to Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Questions? Call toll free to 1-800-842-4504

Name _____ Name _____
(as it appears on your passport)

Address _____ Phone (days) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I/we wish to reserve ___ spaces on a ___ twin share basis (two persons to a hotel room), or
___ Single basis (I am traveling alone and do not wish to share)

on the following tour(s):

___ **April 26 to May 5, 2014 Opening Moves: Brussels to Paris (\$3450 per person, twin share, land only)** *Space limited.*

and/or

___ **August 30 to September 9, 2014 The Miracle of the Marne (\$4250 per person, twin share, land only)** *Space limited*

Enclosed is my/our check for the deposit in the amount of \$_____ (\$600 per person, per tour), or please charge my credit card account number _____

Expiration _____ (Security code required for *VISA or Master Card*) _____

Reason for taking tour (Family of Veteran, history buff, etc.) _____

I/we require assistance with air fare to Europe from the following U.S. gateway city _____

Outbound on _____ and return on _____

I/we require additional nights at the Brussels and/or Paris hotel: _____

Please note that handicapped facilities do not exist in Europe, therefore passengers must be able to negotiate steps and some walking:

___ I do not require any assistance. ___ I require some assistance (please describe) _____

___ I cannot travel without assistance, therefore I will travel with my companion named below who will be fully responsible for assisting me at all times _____

Deposits are fully refundable up to 90 days prior to commencement of each tour. 5% discount if booked with deposit six months or more prior to tour, 10% discount if prepaid in full with application six months or more prior to tour.

I have read and understand the terms set forth in this flyer _____

Signature

Date

RESPONSIBILITY: Valor Tours, Ltd. acts only as an agent in providing all the services in connection with the tour described in this brochure, and cannot assume responsibility for injury, death, damage or loss due to delays, mechanical defects or failure of any nature aboard aircraft, buses, ships, ship's tenders or zodiacs, or any other means of conveyance, accommodation, or other services resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, dangers incident to the sea, fire, breakdown of machinery or equipment, acts of government, other authorities de jure or de facto, wars (whether declared or not), hostilities and civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantine, medical or customs regulations or procedures, defaults, delays or cancellations, or changes from any causes beyond our control, or any loss or damage resulting from improperly issued passports, visas, travel documents, and that neither we nor any of our affiliates shall become liable for any additional expenses of liability sustained or incurred by a tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act or omission or events during the time the passenger is not aboard the aircraft or conveyance. The passenger contract in use shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of the tour and/or the passenger and the carrier. The right is reserved, should the circumstances warrant it, to alter the itinerary or the sequence of places visited. The right is reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels of a similar category. The operator reserves the right at their or their agent's discretion, to decline to accept, retain or cancel any member of the tour, at any time or place, or cancel the trip if circumstances demand. If the tour operator for any reason whatsoever cancels the trip, all partial and/or full payments will be refunded in full without any further obligation on their part. The schedules used in the operation of this tour are subject to change, without notice. If any tour member does not utilize any portion of the transportation at any time or for any reason whatsoever, additional cost of substitute transportation will be borne by the passengers. Payment of the required deposit or any partial or full payment for reservations shall constitute consent to all the provisions listed in the brochure. Valor Tours Ltd. cannot guarantee or be held responsible for assigned seating aboard any aircraft used in this tour. All legal questions will be settled within the jurisdiction of the County of Marin, California.

CST #2075156-50

Valor Tours, Ltd.

10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Tele: 415-332-7850 or 800-842-4504 or fax 415-332-6971 or email: valortours@yahoo.com

GENERAL INFORMATION, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS

Please complete the application form and return with a deposit of \$600 per person. Reservations cannot be held without a deposit. Personal check or credit card can be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Valor Tours, Ltd. and mail to 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, and CA 94965. Final payment is due 90 days prior to commencement of tour. All passengers on deposit will receive written confirmation, description of insurance coverage (included in the cost) and newsletter with further details. Final travel documents will be sent Priority Mail to fully paid participants two weeks prior to departure. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Cost based upon a minimum of 10 participants traveling together and current rates. Space limited to 12 participants due to size of coach, so book early.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All moneys are fully refundable for cancellations received up to 90 days prior to commencement of tour. Cancellations received between 90 and 30 days subject to loss of deposit. Cancellation received within 30 days of tour commencement or “no shows” are non refundable. Cancellation insurance is not included in tour cost, but is available upon request for additional \$190 per person. Personal deviations and extensions to tour are subject to the same penalties. Payments made by check will be refunded by check and may take up to 30 days to process. Payments made by credit card must be credited back to your credit card account and may take up to 60 days to appear on your statement.

HEALTH & TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

A passport valid at least six months beyond date of travel is required. Visas and inoculations are not required, however we recommend getting Tetanus updated. Please check your passport to make sure it is valid at least six months beyond date of tour. Recommended reading list, description of travel cancellation insurance coverage and detailed itinerary sent to passengers on deposit only. Travel documents including ID badge, baggage tags, final instructions and tour book will be sent to all fully paid passengers in mid-April. If you have any questions, call Valor Tours, Ltd. at 1-800-842-4504.

WHAT TO BRING

Casual and comfortable travel clothes, comfortable walking shoes, brimmed hat, suntan lotion, wash clothe, bottle of Woolite, plenty of film, camera (water proof if possible), wind breaker, back pack, flask to carry water, binoculars. Leave expensive jewelry and high-heeled shoes at home. Carry medications, airline tickets, passport, cash on your person – do not pack in suitcase, as there are occasional delays. Travel light – one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please.

SINGLE TRAVELERS

When a tour member asks Valor Tours to seek a suitable roommate, we will do the best we can to oblige and find a colleague with common interests and habits. Valor Tours cannot be held responsible for incompatibility or guarantee a roommate. If a roommate cannot be found, the single supplement would apply.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE COST

Foreign airport departure taxes, meals not indicated in itineraries, passport fees, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, and items of a personal nature, airfare, cancellation insurance coverage and tips to driver.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

To ensure worry free travel, this tour includes valuable emergency travel insurance at no additional cost to you. This coverage is provided by TRAVELEX Insurance Services. A description of insurance coverage will be sent to each participant upon receipt of his/her application and deposit. Coverage includes sickness and accident medical expense; accidental death and dismemberment; trip delay or missed flight connections; medical evacuation and repatriation; baggage and personal effects loss or delay; assistance services worldwide. Cancellation/trip interruption coverage is not included but available upon request.

Valor Tours, Ltd. reserves the right to modify the itinerary should road conditions, traffic, unexpected detours or local conditions beyond our control so dictate. European coach driving laws will be observed at all times. The coach driver is limited to the amount of time he may spend at the wheel. Unused components are non-refundable. Itinerary/hotels subject to change.

DISABILITIES

Due to the absence of handicap and disability laws in Europe, any tour participant with disabilities must be accompanied by a companion who is fully responsible for assisting the disabled tour member at all times throughout the tour. Our tour coach does not have a wheelchair lift and staff is not permitted to offer physical assistance. Travel emergency insurance coverage is included in the tour package.

For more information on WWI, previous tours to France and Belgium, recommended reading list, and to communicate with Michael Hanlon by email directly, email greatwar@earthlink.net or go to www.worldwar1.com.