On the Trail of the Newfoundland Caribou

Patriotic Tour 2016
France & Belgium
June 27 - July 6, 2016 • 10 Days • 16 Meals
Escorted by the Venerable Sam Rose
Executive Archdeacon to the Bishop
Anglican Church of Canada

In Conjunction with the Churches of Newfoundland and Labrador

Caribou Monument at Beaumont Hamel

Book by Dec 11, 2015 and save $100 per person
A NEWFOUNDLAND PILGRIMAGE ON THE TRAIL OF THE CARIBOU

The years 2014-2018 mark the 100th anniversaries of the First World War. We must never forget the tremendous contributions and horrendous sacrifices that so many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians made to that cause. Fighting in the uniforms of both the Navy and the Army, in the Merchant Marine and the Forestry Corps, our brave forebears never hesitated to stand in harm’s way to protect our homes, our families and our values. While many of them paid the supreme sacrifice, many more came home wounded in body and/or mind. We must also never forget the suffering at home of a generation for whom the effects of that war would be felt for the rest of their lives. The pastoral guidance was provided by many Newfoundland Padres who served the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, including Padre Thomas Nangle who went on to become Newfoundland’s representative on the Imperial War Graves Commission. His vision brought the “Trail of the Caribou” to reality, and is the touchstone for many of those who wish to stand “where once they stood.”

Knowing that many of those brave soldiers were members of our Newfoundland Churches, we have vowed to mark this important anniversary by a spiritual pilgrimage, to the battlefields of Europe in the summer of 2016. You are invited to consider this journey as we visit both the battlefields where our people fought in World War I and the cemeteries in which they lay. In June-July 2016, many groups from Newfoundland and Labrador will travel to France and Belgium and will converge at Beaumont Hamel on July 1 at which time wreaths will be laid in the remembrance ceremony. Following this memorial, we are planning a very special private event for members of all of our groups, organized by Craig Travel to mark this centennial event.

We urge you to register your interest in joining us on this unique journey. Multiple departures have been organized to depart from St John’s between June 23 and 29, 2016. Arrangements can also be made from cities across Canada or if you prefer you can confirm the journey based on land only. All departures will include all sites mentioned and will visit the five Caribou Memorials located in Europe. The order of visits will depend on the departure date and will vary.

This pilgrimage of remembrance for our brave forebears will only come once. All group space is expected to sell out.

INCLUSIVE FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 nights accommodation in comfortable hotels, all rooms with full facilities
- 16 meals included - 8 breakfasts (B), 4 lunches (L), 4 dinners (D)
- Porterage for one piece of luggage per person
- Airport transfers and all touring by private coach in Europe
- Services of tour escorts and professional guides
- See the five Caribou located in Europe
- Return airfare from cities listed including all taxes/fees
- Gratuities for included services
- Visit such iconic sights as:
  - Gueudecourt Hilt Trench
  - Beaumont Hamel Centenary Service
  - Monchy-le-Preux Caribou
  - Vimy Ridge
  - Courtrai Caribou
  - Ypres Sunset Ceremony at Menin Gate
  - Flanders Field Museum
  - Sailly-Saillisel Cemetery
  - Masnieres and Cambrai
June 27, Monday  Depart Canada
Group members will gather for the overnight flight(s) to Paris.

June 28, Tuesday  Arrive Paris / St. Quentin
Upon arrival we will meet our local guide and transfer to St. Quentin and our hotel for the next week. This evening we have a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Hotel Kyriad St Quentin (7 nights)  D

June 29, Wednesday  Vimy Ridge / Monchy-le-Preux
Vimy Ridge has become synonymous with sacrifice and courage in the hearts and minds of all Canadians and is marked by the monument there. Nearby in the spring of 1917 the Royal Newfoundland Regiment took the ridge overlooking Monchy-le-Preux. Following a fierce German counter attack, what remained of the regiment, known as the Monchy Ten, were able to hold their positions against overwhelming odds until re-enforcements arrived. It was at this ridge, overlooking Monchy-le-Preux, where the second highest number of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians were lost, during the war. We visit the Memorial to the Canadian soldiers who died during the Battle of Arras, April, 1917. Continue to Monchy-le-Preux to visit the Caribou Memorial commemorating the handful of Royal Newfoundland Regiment soldiers who held off the massive German counter-attacks on April 14, 1917.  BL

June 30, Thursday  Lochnagar / Beaumont Hamel
In the early hours of July 1, 1916 the 179th Tunnelling Company finished their work of tunnelling underneath the German positions and let off the largest mine ever used in the war to date. The massive explosion was to start the battle of the Somme and left what is known today as the Lochnagar Crater. After visiting the crater we shall tour the site of the Beaumont Hamel battle and the Caribou Memorial which commemorates the Regiments' sacrifices during WWI.  BL

July 1, Friday  Beaumont Hamel Centennial
Of all the battles the Royal Newfoundland Regiment fought during World War I none was so defining and devastating as the Battle of the Somme. It was on July 1, 1916, the first day of this battle at Beaumont Hamel where the Regiment made their greatest sacrifices. On that day these volunteers from a land far away showed extreme bravery and honour as they fought and died to protect homes and values. On command they advanced from their positions and negotiated the mud and barbed wire, while a hail of bullets and shells fired from the superior German positions. They marched to what is known as “danger tree” the furthest they would go that day, losing 85% of their ranks as they went. On July 1, 2016 we shall attend the centennial ceremony at Beaumont Hamel, to celebrate the bravery and optimism the Royal Newfoundland Regiment showed not only at the Somme, but throughout the war and since. There will be time to reflect on the great sacrifices made by our Newfoundlanders and their hopes for peace and happiness.  BD

July 2, Saturday  Saily-Saillisel Cemetery / Masnieres
We make our way to the Royal British Cemetery of Saily-Saillisel in which we shall find the graves of a number of fallen Newfoundlanders before making our way to Masnieres. Here we visit the Newfoundland Memorial Caribou which commemorates the actions of the Regiment during the First Battle of Cambrai in 1917 when the regiment helped break through the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line en route to the village of Cambra.  BD

July 3, Sunday  Courtrai / Ypres
We cross into Belgium to follow the caribou to where the Battles of Ypres and Courtrai were fought during the “Last Hundred Days” of the war. At the Battle of Ypres the Regiment saw some of the greatest successes, taking larger areas of enemy territory with the loss of a comparatively small number of troops. A few weeks later they reached Courtrai where they helped push back the Germans in order to capture the strategic Lys River railway crossing. We shall travel to visit the Newfoundland Memorial Caribou in Courtrai. Later, we arrive in Ypres to see Essex Farm Cemetery where Lt. Col. John McCrae wrote the immortal poem – “In Flanders Fields” and we will visit the Museum and Cloth Hall. In the evening, we attend the Ceremony of the Last Post at the Menin Gate where the Newfoundland Church Lads Brigade will perform.  BL

July 4, Monday  Gueudecourt
After the action at Beaumont Hamel the Newfoundlanders were relocated to the north at Ypres before returning to the Somme for the battle at Gueudecourt. It was here that the regiment captured German positions and held them against waves of counter attack. A success not seen anywhere else on the line that day. Today we make our way to Gueudecourt and see Hilt Trench that was captured that day. We will also see the Newfoundland Caribou Memorial that commemorates their actions during the battle.  BL

July 5, Tuesday  St. Quentin / Paris
Enjoy a day in the French capital. Our local guide will introduce us to the sights and sounds of Paris, including the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees and ascent up the Eiffel Tower to the 2nd level for a stunning view of the city. Hyatt Regency Paris Etoile (1 night)  BD

July 6, Wednesday  Depart Paris / Arrive Canada
This morning we transfer back to Charles de Gaulle airport for our flight(s) back to Canada.  B
Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars
(per person)

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Prices are based on taxes, surcharges, and exchange rates effective June 2015 and are subject to change. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Included air rates are estimated as of June 2015 and subject to change upon final confirmation. Included air rates from other major Canadian cities can be booked when requested. Accommodation will be in superior tourist class hotels. Hotels listed in the itinerary are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. These prices DO NOT include insurance which is available on an optional basis and is highly recommended. Members can arrange this insurance with Craig Travel at time of booking. Insurance premiums will vary with the cost and length of the trip as well as the traveller’s age. For passengers up to and including 74 years on the departure date, premiums will range from $215 to $285pp. Cost supplements for members aged 75-85 will range from $185 to $352pp. Insurance will be effective from the date of purchase and carries limitations on pre-existing medical conditions. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking.

Final payment will be due March 25, 2016
Deposit payment is $600 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, simply complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:

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