

Centenary of ANZAC - Western Front and Loire Valley

Grocers and Gunners

In the Steps of Heroes 17 Days Fully Escorted Tour

17 April – 4 May 2018



“By Jove.... Australians. There was no mistaking them. Their slouch hats told one at a glance but without them I should have known. They had a distinctive type of their own, which marked them out from all the different soldiers of ours along those roads of war.....They had merry eyes (especially for the girls round the stalls) ... Youth, keen as steel, with a flash in the eyes.. with no respect for rank or caste unless it carried strength with it....”

War correspondent, Philip Gibbs description of the Australians in France.

It's the memory of these men that will be commemorated during the Western Front component of our France and Belgium tour, escorted by Phil Brookes. Phil, a Vietnam Veteran, has led quality tours to Vietnam, Cambodia, China and France since 2009.

This tour retraces the steps of those Diggers who fought across the Western Front and reflects on their sacrifice that still resonates today. Highlights will be the evocative **Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Brettoneux** and the **Menin Gate Last Post ceremony at Ieper** (Ypres), Belgium.

We depart from most capital cities to **Paris** via Singapore with Singapore Airlines. The *City of Light* will tantalise your senses with the grandeur of its public buildings, cosy cafes, chic shops and culinary delights, just as it did for those Diggers while on leave, so many years ago. Our Paris hotel is the historic **Duquesne Eiffel in the chic 7th arrondissement**. While in Paris we visit the historic **Musee de l' Armee**; a short walk from our hotel.

From Paris we travel by luxury coach to the historic city of **Amiens**; breaking our journey to visit the **Armistice Day museum at Compiegne**. Amiens is our base for retracing the

steps of our Diggers on the Somme. While in the Somme; **Albert, Peronne, Pozieres, Bullecourt, Mont St Quentin, Fromelles and Adelaide Cemetery**, are some of the places we visit. Our journey from the Somme to Flanders takes us to **Vimy Ridge** - to commemorate our Canadian cousins at the moving **Canadian memorial** – and then to Ieper.

Leaving the Western Front, we spend time in the beautiful **Loire Valley**. Staying in historic **Blois**, on the Loire River, you will explore this spectacular area of France, with visits to châteaux's, cosy restaurants and of course the chance to savour some excellent Loire Valley wines.

Included in the tour are international and internal travel, entrance fees, and accommodation in well located, quality hotels with buffet breakfasts, most lunches and dinners at specially selected restaurants, including a farewell dinner cruise on the River Seine, and tour jackets. Throughout the tour you will have time to explore or shop at your leisure. The all-inclusive tour price is estimated at \$8500. A final price will be advised in late 2016 or early 2017.

Given the popularity of the 2015 Anzac tour, bookings for this trip will fill quickly, so please express your interest by contacting Phil or Tony as soon as possible.

For further information please contact

Phil Brookes: 0418 719 166

Email: brookes1@bigpond.net.au

Opulent Journeys: 1300 219 885

Email: enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au

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