

TRACING THE 49TH BATTALION ON THE WESTERN FRONT

10 DAY GUIDED COACH TOUR - AUGUST 2026

FRANCE & BELGIUM BATTLEFIELDS

YPRES, SOMME, VIMY,
LENS, PASSCHENDALE,
AMIENS, PARVILLERS,
PELVES, CAMBRAI,
MONS, WATERLOO



WALK THEIR FOOTSTEPS,
DISCOVER THEIR VALOUR

AUGUST 22-31, 2026

THE TOUR

AT A GLANCE

MAIN INFO:

- ✓ Destinations: All 49th Battalion (E.R.) Battlefields including Vimy & Ypres
- ✓ Excursions: Guided battlefield tours, cultural experiences, ceremonies
- ✓ Meals: Daily breakfast and select lunch & dinners
- ✓ Accommodations: 3-4 Star Hotels
- ✓ Duration: 10 Days
22 - 31 August 2026

MORE INFO:

- 📍 HISTORY@49thBnAssociation.ca
- 🌐 www.49thbattalion.com

PRICE
\$4,249
1 Person

PRICE INFO:



Price is per person, based on double occupancy (two people sharing a room) and land only



Single Supplement: **\$1,500** for those wanting private rooms



Additional information found on final page

BATTLEFIELD GUIDE

Joe MacDonald

Loyal Edmonton Regiment Official
Historian for the First World War

Experience

- Chief Historian, Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum & Association
- Lead expert on the 49th Battalion (Edmonton Regiment) 1915-1919
- Battlefield guide for Veterans Affairs Canada 2023
- Freelance First World War Battlefield Guide at Vimy
- Bilingual in English & French





WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"I can honestly say on behalf of my entire family that Joe MacDonald made this a once in a lifetime experience and a life changing one for us all."

Dale McGowan - Grandson of a Fortyniner

"I have been on several 'battlefield tours' and this was by far the most informative, personal and educational I have experienced."

Dr. Mathew Leonard - University of London

"Whether for personal legacy or simple interest, I would highly recommend linking up with Joe and experiencing a unique and fascinating perspective of our Canadian history."

Nic Stanton - Brigadier General (Retd.)

"Mr. MacDonald knows every detail of the battlefield as he creates a movie like experience making drifting ones imagination into the battle itself."

Blake McIvor - Loyal Edmonton Regiment



49TH BATTALION (E.R.) PILGRIMAGE

Travel Itinerary - August 22nd - 31st 2026

Day 1 – Arrival & Bienvenue en France !

The tour begins at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, with daily flights available from across Canada. At noon, we depart for Boulogne, France, to begin tracing the footsteps of the 49th Battalion (Edmonton Regiment) in the Great War. We end the day with a group dinner near where the Fortyniners first arrived in France in October 1915. Overnight in Boulogne, FR. (Meals included: D)

Day 2 – Flanders (1915-1916)

Much like the Fortyniners of 1915, we travel to Belgium and in the infamous Ypres Salient—one of the most dangerous sectors of the Western Front. We follow their experiences from the first trench rotation to their first major battle, the Sanctuary Wood counter-attack. We will also visit and stay in the historic town of Ypres. Overnight in Ypres, BE. (Meals included: B, L)



Travel Itinerary

49TH BATTALION (E.R.) PILGRIMAGE

AUGUST 22ND - 31ST, 2026

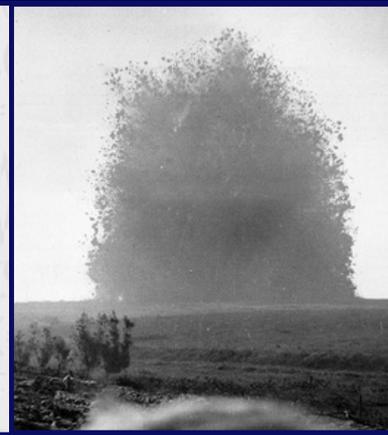


Day 3 – Battle of Passchendaele 1917

On our second day in Flanders, we follow the 49th Battalion (E.R.) through their darkest hour. We'll visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele, walk the battlefield, unveil the official 49th Battalion (E.R.) memorial on the ridge (TBC), and attend the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres. Overnight in Ypres, BE. (Meals included: B, L)

Day 4 – The Somme (Autumn 1916)

Returning to the 49th Battalion (E.R.)'s 1916 story, we travel to the Somme region of France. Here, we walk the ground of the battalion's first Victoria Cross action and later where a hundred Fortyniners vanished during an attack in October 1916. Most remain missing to this day. Overnight in Arras, FR. (Meals included: B)



Day 5 – Vimy Ridge (1916, 1917, 1918)

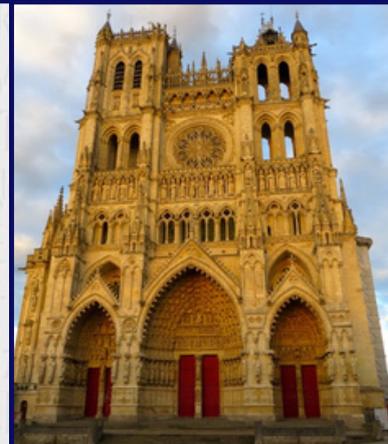
In the morning we follow the 49th Battalion (E.R.) to Canada's most iconic battlefield: Vimy Ridge. We explore in depth their role in the April 1917 battle and later their role in the Avion Raid, Battle of Hill 70. Lastly we will see the site of the Forty-Ninth's greatest bluff of the war.

Overnight in Arras, FR. (Meals included: B, L)



Day 6 – Battle of Amiens 1918

Our day begins in the quiet village of Fauquenhem, where the Fortyniners trained for the 1918 allied offensive. After visiting with local officials, we head south to trace the battalion's full involvement in the Battle of Amiens. An offensive that marked the beginning to the end of the war. Overnight in Amiens, FR. (Meals included: B)



Travel Itinerary

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Day 7 – Memorial Unveiling at Courcelette

The morning is free to explore the historic city of Amiens or join an optional excursion to the Underground City of Naours nearby. In the afternoon, we return to the village of Courcelette for the official unveiling of the 49th Battalion (E.R.) Memorial in France (TBC).

Overnight in Amiens, FR. (Meals included: B)

Day 8 – The Final Battles for Victory 1918

Departing Amiens, we follow the battalion's final actions of the war along the Cambrai Road, including Pelves and Cambrai. In their memory, we will have a group lunch in the square at Cambrai. Later we travel to Mons where the Fortyniners ended the war in November 1918.

Overnight in Mons, BE. (Meals included: B, L)



Day 9 – Waterloo & Brussels

As the Fortyniners did in December 1918, we journey east toward Brussels via visiting the Waterloo 1815 battlefield, close to where the Fortyniners spent their final Christmas overseas. That evening, we gather in Brussels for a farewell dinner, tour debrief, and award ceremony.

Overnight in Brussels, BE. (Meals included: B, D)

Day 10 – End of Tour

Morning transfer to Amsterdam Schipol International Airport for return flights to Canada or onward travel across Europe by train and air.

End of tour Amsterdam, NL. (Meals included: B)



Travel

THE WESTERN FRONT FRANCE & BELGIUM



FROM
\$4,249

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Expert Western Front Canadian Battlefield Guide
- Nine nights' accommodation in twin or double rooms
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with washroom
- Daily buffet breakfast and select group meals as per itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- All hotel service charges, local taxes, and site entry fees as listed in the itinerary
- Comprehensive tour package featuring daily battle maps, period photographs, original veteran testimonies, and digital archives provided at tour's end
- Official 49th Battalion (E.R.) Tour shirt and commemorative photo book delivered after the tour



EXCLUDED

- Airfare (if you would like assistance, we are happy provide custom quotes available from any Canadian gateway; flexible options for early arrival, etc.)
- Optional pre and post-tour accommodations (quotes available upon request)
- Travel insurance (no-obligation quotes available from Manulife)
- Personal expenses including passport and related fees
- Meals not listed in the itinerary