

# D-Day Anniversary and the Somme

**9 Nights 1-10 June 2012**

Remember the Allied forces who landed on D-Day on this emotive 9-night tour. Enjoy the rare privilege of attending the moving anniversary commemorations on the beaches of Normandy, and see all the major sites from the largest seaborne invasion in history. The tour also includes a journey through the First World War battlefields of the Somme, a scene of great Australian triumph and sacrifice in 1916 and 1918. This very special journey is escorted by World War Two expert Mike Peters.



## **DAY 1** 1 June – Paris

### **STAR INCLUSIONS**

★ **Welcome drink** ★ **Welcome dinner**

Welcome to Paris and the start of a very special journey. This evening we will get to know our fellow travellers, Tour Manager and Historian with a welcome drink and dinner in our hotel. (D) **Overnight: Paris**

## **DAY 2** 2 June – Paris

### **STAR INCLUSIONS**

★ **Paris sightseeing tour** ★ **Lunch**

Today we will explore Paris as a group. In the morning we will enjoy a panoramic tour of the city's iconic sites including the Champs Elysees, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and more. We will enjoy a traditional Paris restaurant lunch and then have the afternoon at leisure to further explore this wonderful city. (B, L) **Overnight: Paris**

## **DAY 3** 3 June – Paris to Normandy

### **STAR INCLUSIONS**

★ **Services of Mike Peters, a leading WW2 historian** ★ **Lunch**

This morning we will depart Paris and

drive west into the beautiful countryside of Normandy. As we travel towards the coast we will be passing through the villages and fields where Allied and German troops fought the bitter 77-day Battle of Normandy from June to August, 1944. Almost every inch of ground was the scene of courage and sacrifice during this long campaign, and Mike Peters will point out significant sites of interest during the drive. We will arrive in the town of Caen in time for a traditional Norman lunch. In the afternoon we will have free time to explore the town. (B, L) **Overnight: Caen**

## **DAY 4** 4 June – US Sector

### **STAR INCLUSIONS**

★ **Full day touring the US Sector of the D-Day battlefields** ★ **Airborne Museum**

Today we will explore the American sector of the D-Day battlefields. Highlights include the landing beaches Omaha and Utah; Sainte Mere Eglise, scene of landings by US Airborne troops; the Airborne Museum in Sainte Mere Eglise; the formidable German battery at Pointe du Hoc that was captured by US Rangers who scaled sheer cliffs before the attack and the moving US Cemetery at Colleville. We will also see Brecourt Manor,

scene of a skilful action by members of Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, depicted in the Tom Hanks/Steven Spielberg mini-series *Band of Brothers*. At the end of this memorable day we will return to Caen where our evening is free. (B)

**Overnight: Caen**

## **DAY 5** 5 June

– British and Canadian Sector

### **STAR INCLUSIONS**

★ **Full day touring the British and Canadian Sector of the D-Day battlefields**

Today we will explore the British and Canadian sector of the D-Day battlefields. Highlights include Pegasus Bridge, scene of a tough fight by glider troops in the early hours of D-Day; Sword, Juno and Gold landing beaches; Ranville War Cemetery, where many Allied soldiers killed during the Normandy fighting lie; the 'Mulberry' artificial harbour at Arromanches and the German artillery battery at Longues-sur-Mer. In the afternoon we will return to Caen where our evening is free. (B) **Overnight: Caen**



OPPOSITE: German Cemetery, La Cambe; British troops in Caen, 1944.  
 ABOVE: US Cemetery, Colville; Norman farmhouse; Sherman tank, Sainte Mere Eglise; US troops land at Omaha Beach on D-Day.  
 NEXT PAGE: Airborne troops prepare to board their plane before D-Day; German bunker, Pointe du Hoc.

**DAY 6** 6 June – D-Day Anniversary

**STAR INCLUSIONS**

- ★ D-Day anniversary commemorations

Today we will commemorate a very special event, the anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. Our day will be flexible to allow us to participate in services in both the US and British/Canadian sectors. We will join thousands of visitors and veterans to remember the men and women who died to liberate France. At the end of this special day we will return to Caen where our evening is free. (B) **Overnight: Caen**

**DAY 7** 7 June  
– Normandy to the Somme

**STAR INCLUSIONS**

- ★ Visit to historic Rouen
- ★ Central Amiens hotel ★ Dinner

This morning we will farewell Caen and travel north towards the First World War battlefields of the Somme. On the way, we will stop in Rouen and spend several hours exploring this historic medieval city. Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake in Rouen in 1431 and a church now occupies the site. Rouen is also famous for its Gothic cathedral, the subject of a series of famous paintings by the Impressionist Claude Monet. In the afternoon

we will depart Rouen and drive to Amiens, our home for the next two nights. We will enjoy dinner on arrival at our central hotel. (B, D) **Overnight: Amiens**

**DAY 8** 8 June – The Somme

**STAR INCLUSIONS**

- ★ Full day touring the Somme battlefields
- ★ Lunch

Today we will explore the 1916 battlefields of the Somme. Our first stop is Pozieres, scene of the most costly battle in Australia's history. 23,000 men were killed or wounded capturing the ruins of the town, and we will visit the scenes of their heroic sacrifice at the 1st Division Memorial and the Windmill. We will also see Mouquet Farm, scene of bitter fighting between Australian and German troops in August 1916, and visit the Thiepval Memorial, where the names of 72,000 British soldiers missing from the Somme fighting are recorded. Later we will explore the trenches at the Newfoundland Memorial Park and see the incredible 30-metre-deep Lochnagar Mine Crater, blown by the British on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Our final stop will be the inspiring Australian 2nd Division Memorial and the remains of trenches captured by Australian troops on the battlefield of Mont St Quentin. At the

end of this memorable day we will have free time to enjoy dinner in Amiens. (B, L)

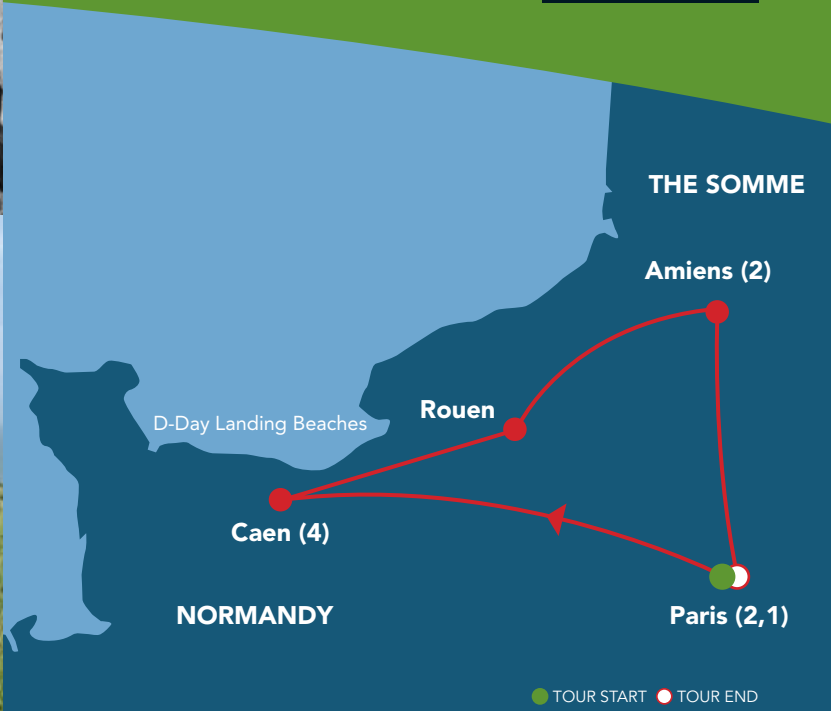
**Overnight: Amiens**

**DAY 9** 9 June – The Somme to Paris

**STAR INCLUSIONS**

- ★ Victoria School Museum in Villers-Bretonneux
- ★ Seine Cruise with Dinner

Today we will explore the scenes of Australian triumph on the Somme in 1918. Our journey begins at the imposing Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, which bears the names of almost 11,000 Australians missing in France. The memorial, built on the site of a great Australian victory in 1918, is where the Anzac Day Dawn Service is held each year. Later we will visit the Victoria School in Villers-Bretonneux and see the sign that entreats the children of Villers-Bretonneux to 'Never Forget Australia', as well as Adelaide Cemetery, where Australia's Unknown Soldier lay for 75 years before being moved to Canberra in 1993. We will also visit the Australian Corps Memorial Park at Le Hamel, which commemorates the great victory orchestrated by General John Monash on July 4, 1918. In the early afternoon we will farewell the battlefields and return to Paris. This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner while cruising on the River Seine, a wonderful



opportunity to see the icons of Paris bathed in light. (B, D)  
**Overnight: Paris**

**DAY 10** 10 June – Paris

**STAR INCLUSIONS**

★ **Assistance with hotel check-out**

Unfortunately our tour ends this morning after breakfast. The journey may be over but the memories will last a lifetime. (B)

**YOUR HISTORIAN**

(see page 41 for more information about our leading War Historians)



**Mike Peters**

Mike Peters is a British Army officer with more than 30 years of military service in the Army Air Corps. He is the Vice Chairman of the Guild of Battlefield Guides and has written for some of the world's most prestigious military publications. He is an expert on the European Theatre of World War Two and published his first book, *Glider Pilots at Arnhem*, in 2009.

**Your tour includes**

- ★ The best historian – Mike Peters is a World War Two expert. There is no better guide to travel with around the battlefields
- ★ All excursions, scenic drives and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- ★ Attendance at D-Day anniversary commemorations
- ★ 9 nights' 3- and 4-star accommodation
- ★ Hotel portorage
- ★ Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- ★ Welcome drink in Paris
- ★ Services of a Tour Manager, Driver, War Historian and experienced local guides
- ★ Extensive touring of the Normandy and Somme battlefields
- ★ All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- ★ Travel by first-class air-conditioned coach with DVD player, fridge, toilet and seat belts
- ★ Local taxes and end of tour tips to your Tour Manager, Historian and Driver
- ★ Autographed copy of Mat McLachlan's definitive guide to the Western Front, *Walking with the Anzacs*
- ★ Souvenir cap
- ★ Quality travel bag and luggage tags

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Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours is the tour operator for the NSW Premier's Anzac Scholarships and the Victorian Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize 2011.



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\*Conditions apply