

**Agence de voyages réceptive - Incoming travel agency - Incoming Reisebüro**

## 1914-2014 Centenary of the Great War

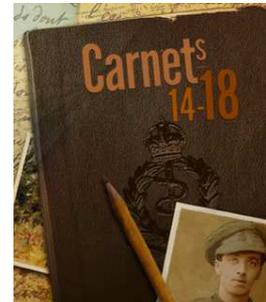
The outbreak of the First World War shattered Europe, sending the continent and the rest of the world reeling into great instability. This upheaval ushered in the 20th century, shaking up the political, social and economic systems of the once familiar world. France, the European country at the heart of the conflict, is now preparing memorials as testimonials to the hardship of all those who suffered through the war. Restoration of existing battle sites are underway as well as the creation of new monuments in celebration of peace, in particular between France and Germany, and their respective points of view. Commemorations will take place throughout the year and continue through 2018, following the chronological conflicts that took place at the various sites.



Chemin des Dames



Hartsmannwillerkopf



Infantry Notebook

### Day 1: Le Vieil Armand Nancy

Arrive at the **Hartsmannwillerkopf site**, in the Vosges Mountain range, a major memorial site open to the public since 1932. Remarkable examples of the German trenches remain intact, as well as an immense military cemetery. On November 11, 2015, the first Franco-German bilingual exhibit conceived 'in two voices' will be unveiled. The site will remain open throughout this period. After the visit, cross the Vosges Mountains to reach the city of Nancy. Hotel check-in, dinner and lodgings.

### Day 2: Verdun

Departure for **Verdun, World Capital of Peace**, site of one of the most horrific battlefields of the Great War. From February to December 1916, for 300 days and 300 nights, both French and German soldiers lived through this nightmarish place, a genuine "hell." The centenary of the Great War has initiated the renovation of numerous war sites here, notably the Souilly, site of the French command center. After visiting this new site, witness the Verdun Memorial Museum of Fort De Douaumont and its ossuary. Dinner and lodging at Verdun.

### Day 3: Verdun – Le Chemin des Dames - Meaux – Paris

Departure for the **Chemin des Dames**; At **Craonne** there is an observatory specifically fitted out for the centenary. It provides a full view of the Reims Plateau. It offers a measure of the brutality of the combat at the time of the first Battle of the Marne in 1914, and particularly in 1917 and 1918 during the deadly offensive of the "Nivelle". This war of the trenches caused considerable losses on both sides and culminated in large numbers of troop mutinies in 1917. Visit the Dragon's Cavern, a quarry designed as a trenched warfare camp, and experience the "Chemin des Dames". On the road to Meaux, we stop and visit the Museum of the Great War, opened in 2011. Within its 3000 square meters you will see exceptional collections including a high-tech presentation of the cultural, social and political events during the four years of war, with emphasis on all 30 nations engaged in the conflict. We then head to Paris, check into our hotel. Dinner and lodging.

**Jour 4: Paris** In Paris, we do a city tour of the main historical war monuments around the capital followed by a visit to numerous exhibits dedicated to the period between 1914-1918.

Dinner and lodging in Paris.

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In spring 2014, we will have an opportunity to visit an incredible art exhibit at **the Grand Palais in Paris**. Previously shown at the **Kunst und Ausstellungshalle de Bonn** in Autumn 2013, the exhibit focuses on the blossoming of modern art in Europe, so brutally interrupted by the outbreak of the First World War. Emphasizing the profound artistic links between artists living in France and Germany, in the context of political rivalry, it underlines the exceptional artistic cooperation between the two avant-garde franco-german movements (French Cubism, German Expressionism, Italian futurism and English Vorticism). Dinner and lodging in Paris.

Beginning in 2014, numerous Parisian exhibits will shed light on so many other aspects of the Great War. The Historical library of the city of Paris shows life of the Parisians during the war through posters and documents of daily life.

Summer 2014: The French National Library will have an exhibit on the perception of the events in the weeks leading up to the conflict.

Autumn 2014: the French Military Museum in partnership with the Military Museums of Dresden, Berlin and London, exhibits many facets of the war (images, writings, combat sketches, paintings, aerial photographs, soldiers' journals, propaganda posters, topographical relief maps... The different camps in Paris; Jean Jaurès National archives, the Paris Metro and its changing exhibits (Earth and Peace, International photography exhibit), or from further afield (Strasbourg, 1914 the Death of Poets; Le Louvre Lens, War in Painting) providing testimony to the impact of the conflict on the world at present.

July 14, 2014: To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of WW1, there will be a special addition to the traditional Bastille Day Parade down the Champs Elysees. This year the parade will be led by participants from all countries who fought in WWI, and will include giant puppets and floats created by the Royal de Luxe group.

**Day 5: Paris – Nanteuil le Haudoin – Compiègne – Nampcel - Péronne**

Departure from Paris passing through Nanteuil le Haudoin, famous as the departure point of the "Marne Taxis" which shuttled the soldiers from Paris to the First Battle of Marne. Then we continue onto Compiègne where the Armistice was signed in 1918, and a further stop at Nampcel to see the restored officer's shelter known as Komprin of Bavaria. In the afternoon, we will have a guided tour of **l'Historial de la Grande Guerre**, a museum dedicated to WWI in Péronne. It is also a center of international research working in conjunction with the **Historic German Institut of Paris**. Continue to **Arras**. Dinner and lodging at Arras.

**Day 6: Arras – Vimy – Ypres**

Short trip to Arras and continue to **Vimy**. See the **Canadian Commemorative Park**, one of the most impressive homages to Canada and her citizens who fought during the First World War. Then to Souchez to visit their center of interpretation of the Great War. Lunch and departure for **Ypres** in Belgium (90km), one of the bloodiest sectors of the Western Front during the Great War. Visit the reconstructed city and the Flanders Field Museum dedicated to the history of the 1914-1918. Dinner and lodging in Ypres.

**Jour 7: Ypres - Return**

**Visit the Battle Fields** that recount the Passendale Battle. Dinner and lodging at Ypres.

**Our services include:**

6 days at half-pension (1 day Nancy, 1 day Verdun, 2 days Paris, 1 day Arras, 1 day Ypres),  
Museum entrance fees along with above-mentioned sites.  
Transportation and guide service according to the itinerary.  
1 person free for 20 paying guests