

## World War I Tour: An American Journey through “The Great War” A Travel Experience for Students, Alumni & Friends of SMU

JUNE 1-10, 2023

*Join SMU's Center for Presidential History's Jeffrey A. Engel and Essential History Expeditions' Brian DeToy for a spectacular and engaging examination of Belgium and France in World War I. For students, alumni and friends, this intergenerational tour offers an in-depth exploration of America's role in The Great War in the cities and on the fields where history took place.*



Highlights: Interactions with current SMU students and leadership, including mentorship! Brussels, Ieper, Epernay, Compiègne and Reims! From Belgian beer to the heart of the gorgeous French Champagne country! And much more.

**Spaces will fill quickly! Register now!**

1 NIGHT BRUSSELS/1 NIGHT IEPER/1 NIGHTS ARRAS/6 NIGHTS REIMS

Just over 100 years ago, the guns fell silent and World War I ended. Still, the events of that era continue to shape and affect our world today. Four major monarchies and empires collapsed in history's greatest shift in European and world power. The United States and the Soviet Union became major global players out of the ashes. The new map of the world created from the war continues to have significant impact on current events. Plus, we'll have plenty of time to explore these iconic sites on your own and to reconnect with SMU friends and students in some of Europe's most scenic locations.

This trip features in-depth guided tours and lectures for all sites, all admission fees and transportation, all lodging and meals as detailed on the itinerary. Airfare not included. Pricing for alumni/friends: \$5,450 double occupancy (\$750 single supplement); students \$3,995 double occupancy.

Trip preparation: Pre-departure lectures and study groups led by Dr. Jeffrey Engel, mandatory for students and optional for alumni and friends of SMU.

# World War I: An American Journey through “The Great War” Daily Itinerary

## Thursday, June 1: Arrival in Brussels

- ◆ Arrive in Brussels, check in to Grand Place lodgings, and introductions
- ◆ Walking tour of central Brussels, the capital of Belgium and home to the European Union and NATO
- ◆ Welcome group dinner in central Brussels

## Friday, June 2: Mons, Passchendaele & Ieper/Ypres

- ◆ Visit St Symphorien military cemetery where the first and last Commonwealth soldiers killed in the war lie together in eternal rest
- ◆ Visit the Ieper/Ypres battlefield followed by a walking tour of town including the Passchendaele Museum and its WWI trench system with lunch on your own at the museum
- ◆ Visit Essex Farm British Cemetery, where John McCrae of *In Flanders Fields* poem fame is buried
- ◆ Dinner on your own in Ieper/Ypres
- ◆ Attend the ceremony at the Menin Gate, a nightly tradition for 100 years

## Saturday, June 3: Vimy and Arras

- ◆ Visit sites associated with the siege of Ieper, including American actions at Kemmelberg and Messines Ridge
- ◆ Visit Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial, an incredibly moving monument
- ◆ Group lunch near Vimy
- ◆ Walk the Carriere Wellington Underground Tunnels and barracks complex
- ◆ Group dinner in Arras

## Sunday, June 4: The Somme, Cantigny and St Quentin

- ◆ Visit Cantigny, site of the Americans' first battle in May 1918
- ◆ Focus on the Australian battle at Villers-Bretonneux and visit the memorial
- ◆ Group lunch near the location where the Red Baron was shot down
- ◆ Visit battlefields along St Quentin Canal and Somme American Cemetery
- ◆ Group dinner in central Reims, the heart of French Champagne region

## Monday, June 5: Reims and the Champagne Region

- ◆ Walking tour of Reims including the gorgeous cathedral where almost all French kings received their crown as well as the Surrender Museum where Germans surrendered to Eisenhower in WWII in the map room
- ◆ Time on your own to explore the historic city of Reims, including lunch
- ◆ Dinner on your own in one of the many great restaurants in Reims

## Tuesday, June 6: The Marne and the Aisne-Marne Offensive

- ◆ In Belleau Wood, we walk in the footsteps of the 2nd ID and Marines
- ◆ Visit the American Aisne-Marne and German cemeteries at Belleau Wood
- ◆ Visit Chateau-Thierry and the 3rd ID followed by group lunch
- ◆ Visit Mezy Moulins where the allies begin counteroffensive in July 1918
- ◆ Tour the world famous cellars of Moët & Chandon in Epernay
- ◆ Dinner on your own in Reims

## Wednesday, June 7: The Aisne-Marne and Oise-Aisne Offensives

- ◆ Follow MacArthur's advance as the Aisne-Marne and Oise-Aisne offensives drive the Germans back in summer 1918
- ◆ Visit the Croix Rouge Farm memorial with boxed lunch on the battlefield
- ◆ Visit Chamery and the Roosevelt Family memorial in honor of son Quentin
- ◆ Visit the incredibly beautiful and peaceful Oise-Aisne American cemetery
- ◆ Visit the Butte de Chalmont, an impressive hilltop monument that commemorates the Allied victory battles of 1918
- ◆ Visit the riverside towns of Fismes and Fismettes where the American 28th Division fought German stormtroopers to a standstill
- ◆ Dinner on your own in Reims

## Thursday, June 8: Verdun and the St Mihiel Offensive

- ◆ Walk the forests near Verdun, visit the museum of the epic French defense and victory, and see the famed forts of Vaux and Douamont
- ◆ Group lunch at café in destroyed town of Douamont
- ◆ Follow Patton in the St Mihiel Salient and visit the commanding heights of Montsec
- ◆ Visit the St Mihiel American Cemetery
- ◆ Dinner on your own in Reims

## Friday, June 9: The Meuse-Argonne Offensive

- ◆ Focus on the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the largest American battle in history and the biggest American contribution to Allied victory. Sites include Harry Truman's artillery battery, Sergeant Alvin York's capture of 132 Germans in his one-man crusade, and the incredible story of the Lost Battalion and its fight
- ◆ Visit the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, the largest resting place of Americans in Europe
- ◆ Climb the Montfaucon Monument and Sommepy Memorial, dramatic monuments to Americans in Europe; Montfaucon was a significant German defensive position, and its capture and control will allow the Americans to advance deep into the heart of the German line, breaking it apart for the final drive to victory
- ◆ Box lunch at Montfaucon
- ◆ Final group dinner in Reims

## Saturday, June 10: The Surrender and Departures

- ◆ Visit the historic town of Compiègne, including Chateau de Compiègne, a royal residence built for Louis XIV; the railway car site for the surrenders in November 1918 and June 1940
- ◆ Lunch on your own in central Compiègne, historic town of Joan of Arc
- ◆ Drive to Paris Charles de Gaulle International Airport to drop guest with flights that day while others return to central Paris and end of the expedition

For more information, email Center for Presidential History at [rspitz@mail.smu.edu](mailto:rspitz@mail.smu.edu) or call 214.768.3210

Visit [www.historyexp.com](http://www.historyexp.com) for comprehensive daily itinerary & lodging information

Pricing: Alumni/friends: 5,450, double occupancy; \$750 single supplement

Students: \$3,995, double occupancy; students must apply through CPH

Itinerary subject to minor changes

Airfare not included

## CENTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY & ESSENTIAL HISTORY EXPEDITIONS



Jeffrey A. Engel is founding director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University and a Senior Fellow of the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies. Author or editor of ten books on American foreign policy, his latest is *When the World Seemed New: George H.W. Bush and the End of the Cold War*.

Essential History Expeditions' president, expert historian and guide, Lt Col (Ret) Brian DeToy, PhD served as Director of the Defense & Strategic Studies program at the United States Military Academy, West Point from 2007-13. He has appeared in numerous documentaries for programming such as History, Discovery, A&E and Military channels. He is also an accomplished author and presenter at international history conferences.

