



## 'VIMY TO JUNO' CHARITY BIKE RIDE

The Vimy Foundation is proud to announce a unique opportunity to cycle through Canada's First and Second World War history in June 2019. The 'Vimy to Juno' Charity Bike Ride combines 350-700 km of riding through beautiful countryside in France and Belgium with a powerful historical narrative culminating in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day commemorations.

### Getting there :

The tour starts Arras, about 200km north of Paris. There are several direct trains every day from Paris and the TGV train takes less than 1 hour. On arrival into Arras, you can take a taxi to our hotel, the grand Hotel La Chartreuse du Val Saint Esprit.

\*\*\* If there are a number of guests arriving in Paris at the same time, a private shuttle can be arranged. Information will be provided in the Trip planner on transport for your bicycle. \*\*\*

### DAY 1 (May 30):

*Vimy* - For anyone arriving by 4pm, we will enjoy a warm-up ride from the hotel and then at 7pm, have a welcome reception at the hotel for all participants. If guests are arriving well before 4pm, we can arrange a longer ride through the countryside.

**Distance D1:** 25 km; 225 m gain up to 62 km.\* **Hotel La Chartreuse**, Arras

### DAY 2 (May 31):

*Vimy* - We will cycle from the hotel on a loop ride of the surrounding countryside, dotted with villages, where some of the fiercest fighting of the First World War took place. We will stop at the preserved battlefield park of the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial. We will visit the memorable Canadian National Vimy Memorial, including visits to the Vimy Visitor Education Centre and the new Vimy Foundation Centennial Park. We will also have exclusive access to underground tunnels not normally open to the public, located near the Vimy Memorial, where Canadian soldiers waited in the hours prior to the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

**Distance D2:** 35 km; 150 m gain **OR** 67 km, 200 m gain **OR** 100 km, 300 m gain.\* **Hotel La Chartreuse**, Arras

### DAY 3 (June 1):

*Ypres* - Today we head to Belgium! We plan an early 8 am departure on this day to reach Ypres around noon. Riding across northern France and into Belgium will be a powerful experience as we visit the In Flanders Field museum and attend the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. This ceremony has been taking place every night at 20h00 since 1928 and representatives will have an opportunity to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate on behalf of the entire tour group.

**Distance D3:** 50 km; 200 m\* **Hotel Main Street**, Ypres

### DAY 4 (June 2):

*Le Touquet* - We continue visiting key sites of the First and Second World War as we head from Belgium towards the French coast today. Travelling through the Regional Natural Park of the Caps and Opal Marsh, the natural setting leads us to Étaples, an important port, train depot, and medical centre during both the First and Second World War. We will pay our respects at the Étaples Military Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in France, where Canadian soldiers and nursing sisters are buried. You can ride from the hotel, or shuttle to either Longuenesse or Boulogne-sur-Mer to ride the distance of your choice.

**Distance D4:** 35 km; 250 m gain **OR** 100 km; 200 m gain.\* **Hotel Barriere**-Le Westminster

**DAY 5 (June 3):**

*Dieppe* - From Le Touquet, we ride south along the coast, with views of the English Channel as we enter the province of Normandy. Stop and shuttle from Noyelles-sur-Mer or ride all the way on a century ride. Our destination is Dieppe, where we will pay tribute to the men who fought and died during the Dieppe raid in August 1942. The seafront promenade in Dieppe holds a park and several memorials to the regiments that came ashore in 1942, and we will also visit the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery, which holds the graves of 707 Canadians.

**Distance D5:** 50 km, elevation gain 100 m **OR** 115 km; 600 m gain. **Hotel Aguado**, Dieppe

**DAY 6 (June 4):**

*Honfleur* - We'll follow the Côte Fleurie, traveling in the footsteps of the Impressionist painters drawn here by the magical light and the sea. Arrive in Honfleur, once the haunt of artists such as Arthur Boudin and Claude Monet and home to composer Erik Satie. It was from Honfleur that Samuel de Champlain set sail on the voyage of discovery that resulting in the founding of Québec in 1608.

**Distance D6:** 60 km, 670 m gain **OR** 100 km; 800 m gain **Hotel Auberge de la Source**, Honfleur

**DAY 7 (June 5):**

*Honfleur* - Our last cycling day will be a leisurely loop from our hotel to Honfleur and the surrounding region. The night will end with a gala dinner with Heads of State at Domaine de la Baronnie on the edge of Caen (near Carpiquet).

**Distance D7:** 33 km; 475 m gain **Hotel Ibis**, Caen

**DAY 8 (June 6):**

No cycling this day as we prepare for the special commemorations this afternoon. We will attend the 75th D-Day Ceremonies at the Juno Beach Centre in Bernières-sur-Mer, the site where Canadians landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944. Participate in this special event along with Second World War veterans and thousands of other Canadians who have made the pilgrimage for this important anniversary. Exact timing of the ceremony and additional information for guests will be provided as it becomes available from the event organizers.

**Hotel Ibis**, Caen

**DAY 9 (June 7):** We will provide transfers to the train station at 9am. Should anyone wish to depart later, this is possible with a taxi from the hotel.

*\*Trip operated by Great Explorations, a cycling tour operator with over 20 years experience operating cycling trips in France and throughout the world. President and owner Robbin McKinney will oversee route planning etc. in consultation with the Vimy Foundation. Distance and elevation gains may vary depending on final route selection and hotels. The itinerary may vary depending on final determination of hotel choices, routes and Vimy Foundation events.*

**Terms:**

- Each participant should complete an [online registration form](#) with a deposit of \$1,000 and final payment 90 days prior to travel. At that time, a final itinerary will be provided with additional details.
- We will prepare a Trip Planner with additional planning details for participants and handle all confirmations directly with clients.

**Information:**

Activity Level: Moderate

Cost: CAD\$5250pp (+ donation to the Vimy Foundation of \$2500)

Single Supplement: CAD\$1250 pp

Bike Rental: included (additional information on the bicycles available to riders is on the Great Explorations website)

**What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?**

Services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle

8 nights lodging

All meals

Entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums

Detailed map and route instructions

All baggage transportation

All transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)