



European 20th Century History Tour

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Day 1 -

FLIGHTS

Departure from AUSTRALIA.

Day 2 -

PARIS, YPRES

(D)

Board your private coach and transfer to the **Ypres area**. En route enjoy a 60min stop in Fromelles then upon arrival at **Ypres**, check in at your accommodation.

Explore the town especially the “Grote Markt”, the “Cloth Merchant Hall”, ramparts and the “Rampart cemetery” where several ANZAC soldiers are buried. Attend the Menin Gate Ceremony.

Overnight accommodation in Ypres

Day 3 -

YPRES SALIENT

(B,L,D)

Today you enjoy a sightseeing tour of the WW1 Flanders battlefields, and in particular the Ypres salient. By 11.15am you transfer to a local farm. The owners will give you a guided tour of the farm specially of the collection of items of the Great War which they regularly find in their fields.

Continue to the **new British Passchendaele Cemetery**, which contains 2,100 burials (including 292 Australians) and Memorial Museum of Passchendaele. There the memory of the battle is kept alive through images and movies, a large collection of historical artifacts and several life like diorama's. An eye catcher is an underground dugout tunnel with communication and dressing post, headquarters, workplaces and dormitories. Depart Zonnebeke and travel south to the Somme.

Day 4 -

VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

(B,D)

This morning you visit **Villers Bretonneux**. First you tour the “*Australian Memorial*” (on the D23 between Villers and Fouilloy) and the grave of the Unknown Australian soldier at the **Adelaide Cemetery** (on the RN29 direction Amiens / Longueau). Then at 10:30am you tour the Musée Franco-Australien (at the Ecole Victoria). Afternoon transfer to **Paris** and your accommodation. Rest of the afternoon at leisure for your own activities.

Day 5 -

PARIS

(B,D)

Meet with your local English speaking guide and your coach driver and enjoy a panoramic tour of Paris main sites. After lunch, enjoy a walking guided tour of the Ile de la Cité which includes the **Cathedral Notre Dame** the **Sainte Chapelle** and the **Conciergerie**.

Day 6 -

PARIS

(B,D)

Make your way to the Parisian icon of the **Eiffel Tower** Then travel by metro to the Place de l'Étoile. You may choose to climb on to the **Arc de Triomphe**. Then walk the famous **Champs Élysées** to the Place de la Concorde. Walk to the **Musée du Louvre**. If time permits, late afternoon enjoy visiting St Germain des Près including – if you wish - a delightful afternoon tea at LADUREE (at own expense).

Day 7 -

VERSAILLES

(B,D)

Make your way to **Versailles** by RER. Spend the day exploring this beautiful Château of Versailles. Enjoy visiting the garden surrounds and the township of Versailles before returning to Paris. Spend the rest of the afternoon in Paris.

Day 8 -

PARIS

(B,D)

Make your way to the **Musée Carnavalet** and enjoy a guided tour of the collections. The paintings, sculptures, furniture and scale models that the collections conceal tell the story of Paris from

prehistoric days to the present. The museum includes a unique collection of items from the French Revolution.

This afternoon you discover a completely renovated **Musée Grévin** and a visit to **Paris Story**. Travel through 2000 year of Parisian history with a holographic Victor Hugo as your guide. See the video “Paris Story”, examine “Paris Miniature”, an interactive 3D model of the city, and watch “Paris Experience”, a set of 5 short films with a Parisian flavour. Late afternoon, if time permits, stroll around the Opera Garnier, Place Vendôme and Place de la Madeleine.

Day 9 - PARIS (B,PD)

Make your way to the **Musée d’Orsay** which houses amongst its works the French collection of the Impressionist era. After your visit, travel up to **Montmartre**. Visit the Sacré Coeur Basilica and the Place du Tertre. This afternoon visit the **Cemetery Père Lachaise** where such famous tombs as Chopin, Oscar Wilde, Edith Piaf can be located. Return accommodation to collect your packed dinners and your luggage. Transfer to the Gare de l’Est. Board an overnight sleeper train for Berlin

Day10 - Berlin (D)

Upon arrival at Berlin railway station you are met and transferred to your accommodation with your new guide. Half-day introductory tour of Berlin. Visit Checkpoint Charlie’s Wall Museum and the Jewish Museum Experience the U-Bahn and travel to the East Side Gallery for a look at the original Berlin Wall and the carpark which is site of Hitler’s Bunker so vividly portrayed in recent movies such as ‘Downfall’. Visit the Notaufnahmelager Marienfelde which served as an emergency reception centre for those fleeing the communist East.

Day11 - Berlin and Potsdam (B D)

Visit to the Bebelplatz. Climb the Fernsehturm (TV Tower) for excellent views over the city and see the GDR World Time Clock. Meet your guide, then board your coach to begin the afternoon excursion to Potsdam to view Cecilienhof Palace, site of WW2 Potsdam Conference with the Big 3. Return to Berlin.

Day12 - Berlin (B)

Free day for small group exploration.

Day13 - Colditz (B D)

Early start day. Depart Berlin and travel south to the small village of Colditz (near Leipzig) Upon arrival free time to explore this small German town. **Colditz Castle Guided tour.**

Colditz Castle is the most famous POW camp of WW2 which housed the SS’s prominent officer prisoners (eg Cpt. Charles Upham VC+Bar. Douglas Bader: Gen. Bor Kommorinski) and hostages (eg Winston Churchill’s nephew). It is the site of the most escape attempts made from a POW camp and parts of the original tunnels can be viewed along with a museum containing extensive memorabilia from this period. This includes a model of the 2 man glider built in a hidden workshop under the noses of the German guards! The castle itself has history dating back way before WW2 and is prime example of Eastern Saxon castle design. The village gives one a close up view of small community. Note: the accommodation section is within the castle in the area once known as the German Komandante – German Headquarters. This is the castle, with its exploits, that spurred movies, a T.V series and over 75 books in all languages.

Day14 - Weimar (B D)

Today we visit the thousand year old city of Weimar. Learn about the town’s many famous citizens throughout history on a **guided tour**. Visit the Bauhaus Museum with some free afternoon time in the city centre. Return to Colditz.

Day15 - to Krakow (B D)

Early depart after breakfast for Poland and the royal city of Krakow. The coach journey today will be long however full of interesting images and scenery as the integration of east and west continues. Crossing the German Polish border you travel along the very highway built by the Germans at the beginning of WWII to allow the eastern land invasion, fortunately today it has been modernised although only recently! Arrive early afternoon to the Polish city of Wroclaw with a break for lunch and pictures. Completely destroyed during WWII, Wroclaw has been painstakingly restored to its original splendour and a wonderful market square to relax in.

After lunch continue to Krakow, arriving early evening.

Krakow was once the seat of all Polish kings and is now considered the most beautiful of Poland’s mediaeval cities. A city forged in battle, war, conquest and fate, Kraków is in many respects the most Polish of all this great nation’s cities. The ancient seat of kings and intelligentsia comes steeped in legend and myth, and evokes the most fanciful of

images, from dragons occupying the catacombs of Wawel, to Tartar hordes repelled at the gates, to an earnest Vladimir Lenin plotting revolution while sitting in the city's cafes. Kraków's history is the stuff of fantasy and let's not forget the resident dragon living under the castle.

Krakow escaped major destruction at the end of WWII however the plans were there by the retreating Nazis for the demolition of the city with dynamite as was the ultimate fate of Warsaw.

Day16 – Auschwitz (B D)

After breakfast in the hotel board the coach and transfer to the base of Wawel Castle with your guide and enjoy a two hour walking tour of the Old Town. Visits to the Jagiellonian University (oldest in Poland), the royal Wawel Castle, main market square and the Bukowski teddy bear shop. Also time to visit the former Jewish district of Kazimierz and the Schindler factory.

A break for lunch before departing for the village of Oswiecim, better known as the German, Auschwitz and located 70km from Krakow. A specialised museum guide will carefully escort the group through the many scenes of the everyday life of the prisoners in both the number one and number two, Birkenhau camp.

Return to Krakow with evening dinner and free time.

Day17 – Warsaw (B D)

After breakfast depart for Warsaw and take an interesting side trip en route to the communist built city of Nowa Huta located just outside of Krakow. Meaning 'New Steelworks', this city of workers was constructed to add to Poland's role as industrial steel provider for the USSR and also to attempt to destroy the spirit of Krakow's intellectuals and artistic inhabitants. A huge sign to the entrance of the steelworks is all that is needed to understand it's purpose...

Continue to Warsaw, arriving early afternoon, hotel check in then and followed by visits to the Old Town, Jewish ghetto and uprising monument, Path of Remembrance, Jewish cemetery and the Chopin monument.

Warsaw's symbol is the mermaid and today it is hard to imagine the complete devastation incurred during the war years. A modern mixture of architectural styles and a multicultural society with many touches of a glorious past, the Polish capitol will surprise and delight visitors of all ages.

Depart the hotel for a wonderful Polish folk dining experience in a traditional village style restaurant.

Day18 – Warsaw to St Petersburg (B D)

Transfer to airport for flight to St Petersburg. Upon arrival in St Petersburg, clearing customs and immigration you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Balance of day free.

Day19 – St Petersburg (B PL D)

Today we travel out of St Petersburg and to the grand summer palace of Peterhof. Visit the Grand Palace and parklands. Note the elaborate fountains in the formal gardens and be careful of the hidden fountains – be warned! On route you will see areas of the suburbs that were considered 'frontline' during the WW2 siege.

Also a visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress complex and the Romanov tombs and Smolney Cathedral

Day20 – St Petersburg (B D)

Meet your guide for a full-day tour. See the Kronstadt Naval Base (historical) which is on an island off the coast. A very important component of the revolution and Lenin being able to sustain control followed by a visit to Yusopof Palace and then a canal cruise – yes, St Petersburg is known as the Venice of the North..

Day21 – St Petersburg (B D)

Guided tour of the Winter palace of the Czars, now the famed Hermitage museum. Visit the royal apartments of Nicholas and Alexandra and other Romanov monarchs. Visit the 1900's Battleship Aurora (where 1st shots of the revolution were fired). Followed by a visit to the Museum of Political History, the former home of Matilda Kshesinskaya.

Day22 – St Petersburg to Australia (B)

Transfer to airport in afternoon for flight departure.