



THE  
DOUGHBOY  
FOUNDATION



# Over There: In the Footsteps of the Doughboys

September 27–October 5, 2026

Ypres | Reims | Verdun | Paris



**Questions?** Call 1-877-298-9677





# Introduction

**Embark on a journey through history with The Doughboy Foundation's meticulously crafted itinerary, designed to illuminate the pivotal moments of World War I. This trip offers a unique opportunity to walk the hallowed battlefields, explore restored medieval cities, and gain profound insights at key museums.**

As you travel from Ypres to Reims, you'll visit strategic locations like Hamel and the American Cemetery at Bony, where American forces played crucial roles. The Champagne region tour and tasting add a touch of elegance to the experience, while the Meuse Argonne Offensive sites, including the Monument of the Lost Battalion and Argonne Forest, provide a deep connection to the American involvement in the war.

The journey culminates in Paris, with visits to the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery and the Army Museum (Les Invalides), reinforcing the Doughboy Foundation's mission to honor and remember the heroes of World War I. This trip not only offers a rich historical experience but also serves as a tribute to the enduring legacy of those who fought for freedom. Join us in commemorating their valor and ensuring their stories are never forgotten.

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## Highlights

- **Walk some of the most significant battlefields of World War I:** Experience the historical sites from the Somme to the Marne to Verdun, guided by military historian Mitch Yockelson.
- **Stay in Ypres and Reims:** Explore two cities whose stunning medieval architectural treasures were badly damaged during the war but have been meticulously restored to their earlier splendor.
- **Learn the lessons of the War to End All Wars:** Gain insights at key museums, including the Musée de la Grande Guerre, which offers a comprehensive look at the impact and legacy of World War I.
- **Explore the Champagne region of France:** Discover the process of making this iconic export through a cellar tour, where you can see the intricate steps involved in champagne production.
- **Lay a wreath at the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery:** Honor the memory of American pilots who volunteered to fight for France before the United States officially entered the war.



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## Itinerary

### **Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> | Arrival in Belgium**

Arrive in Brussels, Belgium, on individual flights, where group transfers to Ypres will be arranged based on arrival times. In the afternoon, set out on a guided walking tour of Ypres, a city deeply marked by the First World War. Highlights include a visit to the iconic Menin Gate, a solemn memorial bearing the names of over 54,000 missing soldiers of the British Commonwealth who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave. As the day draws to a close, gather with fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner, offering a chance to reflect on the journey ahead and connect with others who share a passion for history and remembrance.

**Included Meal:** Dinner

**Accommodations:** Hotel Ariane, Ypres

### **Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> | In Flanders Field**

Start your day at Kemmel Hill, where American troops fought shoulder to shoulder with Allied forces in the rugged terrain of Flanders. Then, pay your respects at the Flanders Field American Cemetery, the final resting place for many U.S. soldiers who gave their lives in the region. Continue to the Flanders Field Museum, where immersive exhibits and personal stories bring the Great War to life, offering a deeper understanding of the conflict's impact on both soldiers and civilians. Nearby, visit the Ypres Cathedral, a symbol of resilience that has stood through the devastation of war and the passage of time.

Return to your hotel in the evening for a compelling lecture by military historian Mitch Yockelson, who will provide expert insights into the American experience in World War I and the legacy it left behind.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodations:** Hotel Ariane, Ypres

### **Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> | Ypres to Reims**

Depart Ypres and begin your journey toward Reims, tracing the footsteps of American forces through key World War I sites. Your first stop is Hamel, where American troops played a pivotal

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role in the innovative and successful Battle of Hamel, a landmark in combined arms warfare. Continue to the American Cemetery at Bony, a solemn tribute to the soldiers who gave their lives in this region. As you travel, pass by the historic Riqueval Tunnel, a strategic engineering marvel originally constructed under Napoleon and later fiercely contested during the war. Here, reflect on the dramatic American-British assault on the Hindenburg Line on September 29, 1918, a decisive moment that helped break the German defensive stronghold. Arrive in Reims and check in to your hotel.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** La Caserne Chanzy, Reims

### **Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battles of the Marne**

Your day begins at the majestic Reims Cathedral, a powerful symbol of French resilience. Severely damaged by German shellfire during the early days of World War I, the cathedral still bears the marks of war, and ongoing restoration efforts continue to preserve its intricate sculptures and historic tapestries.

Next, travel to the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, where rows of white crosses honor the memory of American soldiers who gave their lives in the region. Continue to Château-Thierry, the site of a significant American victory during the Second Battle of the Marne. Here, you'll pause at the Rainbow Division Memorial, dedicated to the 42nd Infantry Division, and visit Croix Rouge Farm, a key battlefield where American troops played a decisive role. Later, enjoy a Champagne cellar tour and tasting, immersing yourself in the rich traditions of the region's most celebrated export. The day concludes with an evening lecture by historian Mitch Yockelson, offering expert insights into the events and individuals that shaped the Great War.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodations:** La Caserne Chanzy, Reims

### **Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> | Meuse Argonne Offensive**

Begin the day at the Sommepy American Monument at Mont Blanc, a striking tribute to the valor of American forces who fought in the Champagne region during World War I. From there, continue to the imposing Montfaucon Monument, which honors the achievements of the American



First Army during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Nearby, pause at the Monument of the Lost Battalion, a solemn memorial dedicated to the courageous American unit that was surrounded and cut off in the Argonne Forest. Next, venture into the Argonne Forest, where the dense woods still bear the scars of fierce combat. Here, the U.S. 77th Division fought valiantly in one of the war's most grueling campaigns. Then, visit the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, the largest American military cemetery in Europe, where over 14,000 service members are laid to rest. You'll have the opportunity to meet with the cemetery superintendent, who will provide insights into the site's history and significance. Conclude the day with a visit to Sergeant York Hill in the village of Châtel-Chéhéry, where the legendary heroics of Sergeant Alvin York unfolded—an inspiring story of bravery and leadership that remains one of the most celebrated in American military history.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodations:** Les Jardins du Mess, Verdun

### **Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> | Verdun**

Begin your day with a visit to Souilly, where you'll explore the historic Pershing Headquarters, the very site from which General John J. Pershing led American forces during the final weeks of World War I. Continue to the Saint-Mihiel Salient, the battleground of a pivotal American-led offensive that marked a turning point in the war. Walk through the preserved trenches of Apremont-la-Forêt, where the echoes of frontline combat still linger in the landscape. Conclude your day at the Montsec American Memorial, a commanding hilltop monument honoring the courage and sacrifice of American troops. Return to Verdun for a relaxing evening at your leisure.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodations:** Les Jardins du Mess, Verdun

### **Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> | On to Paris**

As you journey toward Paris, make a meaningful stop at the Museum of the Great War in Meaux, home to one of the most extensive collections of World War I artifacts in Europe. Here, you'll immerse yourself in a powerful narrative that traces the global conflict through personal stories, military equipment, and interactive exhibits that bring the era to life. Continue on to the





vibrant heart of Paris, where you'll have the evening free to explore the City of Lights at your own pace—whether that means strolling along the Seine, savoring a café terrace, or admiring the city's iconic landmarks illuminated at night.

**Included Meal:** Breakfast

**Accommodations:** Hotel du Collectionneur

### **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> | Paris**

Begin the day with a solemn and respectful visit to the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery, where you'll lay a wreath in honor of the brave American pilots who volunteered to fight for France before the U.S. officially entered World War I. Take time to explore the crypt, a powerful tribute to their courage and sacrifice. Continue to the Suresnes American Cemetery, a serene hillside resting place overlooking Paris, where many American soldiers from both World Wars are buried. Next, delve into centuries of military history at the Army Museum (Les Invalides), home to one of the world's most comprehensive collections of arms, armor, and artifacts—including the tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte. Conclude your journey with a celebratory farewell reception and dinner, followed by a live jazz concert at Duc des Lombards, one of Paris's premier jazz clubs. This musical tribute honors the legacy of the Harlem Hellfighters, the African American regiment that introduced jazz to France during the war, leaving a cultural imprint that still resonates today.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodations:** Hotel du Collectionneur

### **Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> | Au revoir**

Transfer to Charles de Gaulle International airport for individual flights home or onward. Complimentary transfers will be provided based on departure time.

**Included Meal:** Breakfast







## Accommodations



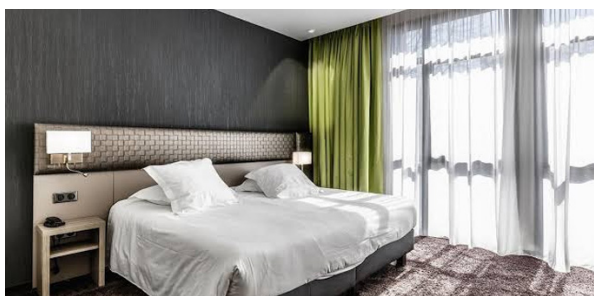
### Hotel Ariane, Ypres

The newly renovated Hotel Ariane is the only 4-star hotel in Ypres. Located within walking distance of the historic city center, it offers a tranquil retreat with its quiet rooms and water-garden terrace. Known for its superb customer service, it has been voted by guests as the “Best Hotel in Belgium.” Be sure not to miss the in-house museum and gift shop. **(2 nights)**



### La Caserne Chanzy, Reims

La Caserne Chanzy Hotel & Spa, Autograph Collection is a luxurious hotel in Reims, France. Facing the Reims Cathedral, it offers a spa, restaurant, gym, and rooms with cathedral views. Guests enjoy modern amenities, including free WiFi, and the rooms are elegantly designed, offering a blend of comfort and style. **(2 nights)**



### Les Jardins du Mess, Verdun

The Hotel Jardins du Mess is a 40-room luxury boutique hotel at the heart of Verdun. The hotel is beautifully set on the river Meuse and has a restaurant, bar, spa, and arboretum. The hotel was hewn out of a beautiful building that was the former French officers’ quarters in Verdun. Wi-Fi is complimentary throughout the guest rooms and hotel. **(2 nights)**



### L’Hotel du Collectionneur, Paris

Near the idyllic Parc Monceau and a short walk to the Arc de Triomphe, L’Hotel du Collectionneur is a haven in the heart of Paris. Furnished in the glamorous Art Deco style of the 1930s, rooms and suites at L’Hotel du Collectionneur are sophisticated Parisian retreats and offer all modern amenities found in a luxury hotel. **(2 nights)**



## Expert



**Mitch Yockelson** is an Archives Specialist with the National Archives and Records Administration. Additionally, Mitch is a professor of military history at Norwich University and the author of many books, articles and reviews. His latest book, *The Paratrooper Generals: Matthew Ridgway, Maxwell Taylor, and the American Airborne from D-Day through the Normandy Campaign* was published by Stackpole in 2020. Mitch regularly leads battlefield tours and frequently lectures on military history, including Smithsonian Resident Associates. He has been featured on *60 Minutes*, *PBS* and *C-SPAN*, as well as the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, and *Washington Post*.



## What's Included

- All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- Group transfers to and from airports
- Meals as noted in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- Expertise of an expert and travel director and local guides throughout the program
- All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel, and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance

## Price

**Double occupancy: \$8,995**

**Single occupancy: \$11,045**

**Deposit: \$1,000 per person**



For terms and conditions [click here](#)