



HARVARD
Alumni Association

**REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR:
BELGIUM, FRANCE AND GERMANY**

JUNE 6-15, 2014

Following two days in Brussels, drive to Ypres, Belgium, to tour the recently opened In Flanders Fields Museum. Visit historic battlefields and cemeteries and attend the Last Post, a nightly bugle tribute to those who died in the Great War. In France, tour the legendary battlefield sites of the Somme, then continue to Reims to see the magnificent cathedral and enjoy a tour and tasting at a prestigious champagne house. Spend a day viewing the war museum and cemeteries of Verdun, where more than 300,000 soldiers died. Visit the Centre Pompidou in Metz en route to the spa town of Baden-Baden, Germany, where you will discover the Richard Meier–designed Museum Frieder Burda and other delights.

STUDY LEADER: SUE WEAVER SCHOPF is an associate dean at Harvard Extension School and adviser to graduate students in the humanities. She teaches courses on English romantic poetry, Victorian poetry and nonfictional prose, modern poetry, literary criticism and theory, Western drama, Milton and *Paradise Lost*, Irish literature, and Orientalism in British literature and visual culture. Schopf's lectures will focus on the poetry about the war by Rupert Brooke, Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen, among others, which is some of the most powerful war poetry ever written. Schopf also plans to touch upon many of the prose accounts of the war including the novels by Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms*, and nonfiction accounts such as Robert Graves' *Goodbye to All That*, which are equally powerful.

GROUP SIZE: Up to 25 guests

PRICING: Based on per person double occupancy

\$7,595 per person

\$8,560 single supplement

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

DEPART U.S.

Depart U.S. on an overnight flight to Brussels.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

ARRIVE BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Upon arrival in Brussels, meet your tour director and transfer to Hotel Amigo. After settling in, take an afternoon architectural walking tour which focuses on the Grote Markt, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its guildhalls, the city's Town Hall, and the Breadhouse. Early this evening gather for introductory remarks by your study leader, Sue Weaver Schopf, followed by a welcome dinner.

Overnight: Hotel Amigo (D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

BRUSSELS

Today begins with a lecture on the Great War by your study leader. Next, continue to the Museum of Fine Arts with its superb collections of Flemish paintings. Following lunch, a private tour is arranged at the exquisite Solvay House, Victor Horta's Art nouveau masterpiece. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Amigo (B, L)

MONDAY, JUNE 9

BRUSSELS / YPRES

This morning, drive to Ypres to see the recently opened *In Flanders Fields Museum* at the famous Cloth Hall which focuses on personal stories of ordinary people in West Flanders. You may wish to climb the adjacent bell tower to

experience an extraordinary view of what was once a completely devastated region.

Arrive at the nearby Hotel Messeyne in Kortrijk in time to check-in and enjoy lunch. Then, visit two Battlefield cemeteries and tour the region; see where poet John McCrae wrote his famous "Flanders Fields". Return to Ypres for an early dinner before attending the *Last Post*, a deeply moving ceremony which takes place daily at 8:00 pm under the vast arch of the Menin Gate, designed by Sir Reginald Theodore Blomfield.

Overnight: Hotel Messeyne (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

YPRES / REIMS, FRANCE

Depart for Reims, in the heart of the Champagne region of France. En route visit the *Historial de la Grande Guerre* Museum in Péronne. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Then join a private guided tour to the different battle sites of the Somme which became an international space where more than twenty nationalities came to fight. Arrive in Reims in the late afternoon and check in at the Hotel De La Paix. Tonight, enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Hotel De La Paix (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

REIMS

This morning, a short drive takes you to the Fort de la Pompelle which became a principal part in the defense of the Reims sector during WWI. Next, visit the Romanesque Basilica of St. Rémi before arriving at the magnificent 13th-century Gothic cathedral where the French kings were once crowned and which was heavily damaged by German shellfire in World War I. Lunch today is at leisure.

In the early afternoon discover the art of Champagne-making at a famous Champagne House. Tour the underground cellars, some of which were also used as shelters from the bombardments during World War I. Enjoy a champagne-tasting before dinner in the caves.

Overnight: Hotel De La Paix (B, D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 12
REIMS

After a morning lecture, drive to Verdun, the site of some of the fiercest battlefields of the Great War. En route stop at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial, the largest American military cemetery in Europe with more than 14,000 burials. After lunch in Verdun, see the 17th-century citadel with its museum commemorating the 1916 German attack.

Then visit Douaumont Ossuary, the national cemetery. The vaults of the ossuary alone contain the remains of 130,000 unidentified French and German soldiers who perished on the battlefield during the *Hell of Verdun*. This evening, return to Reims for an evening at leisure.

Overnight: Hotel De La Paix (B, L)

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
REIMS / BADEN-BADEN, GERMANY

This morning, depart for Baden-Baden. En route, stop in Metz and visit Cathedral St. Etienne with its famous stained glass windows. Then see Centre Pompidou, which has become the most visited cultural venue in France outside Paris since its inauguration in 2006. There will be time for lunch at leisure at the museum's restaurant. Continue to Baden-Baden, the historic spa town located on the western foothills of the Black Forest. In the late afternoon arrive at the elegant Atlantic Park hotel. Dinner is at the hotel tonight.

Overnight: Atlantic Park Hotel (B, D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
BADEN-BADEN

After breakfast, discover architectural delights from Baden-Baden's Belle Époque including the elegant Kurhaus Casino, a place which also inspired Russian writer Dostoyevsky to write his famous novel "The Gambler". Take a private tour of the new Museum Frieder Burda, designed by New York architect Richard Meier, with its excellent modern and contemporary collection. Then visit Johannes Brahms's summer house where he wrote many of his famous

compositions. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. Round off the day with a concert at the famous Festspielhaus, Germany's largest opera house. Enjoy a private on-stage "Auf Wiedersehen" dinner accompanied by the artist.

Overnight: Atlantic Park Hotel (B, D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
BADEN-BADEN / FRANKFURT / U.S.

Depart late in the morning for the Frankfurt airport for flights home. (B)