

**Ayelet Tours Traveling University Presents:
The Great War and Normandy
A tour with Professor Stephen Berk
July 25 – August 5, 2018**



Day 1: Wednesday, July 25, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Depart from New York on our overnight flight to Paris, France.

Day 2: Thursday, July 26, 2018: WELCOME TO PARIS

- Arrive in Paris.
- Meeting and assistance by our local representative.
- Travel by motor coach to our hotel in downtown Paris to check in.
- This evening we enjoy a **welcome dinner** together, Parisian style, with **Professor Stephen Berk!**

Overnight in Paris

Day 3: Friday, July 27, 2018: JEWISH PARIS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning lecture by Professor Berk.
- Begin our **Jewish Heritage tour** of Paris at the **Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr**, honoring the European Jews who were killed during the Holocaust.
- Visit the **Memorial de la Shoah**, a center established to document the history of Jews in France during the Holocaust, including the **Wall of Names**.
- Drive by the famous **Notre Dame Gothic Cathedral**, built in the 12th century, and **St. Chapel**.
- Next we see the **Monument of Deportation**, dedicated to the 200,000 people who were deported from France to German concentration camps during WWII.
- Continue to the **Marais district** and enjoy lunch (on own) at one of the many kosher restaurants.
- This afternoon, we visit the **Pletzel Jewish Quarter**, known in the 13th Century as **La Juiverie** (the Jewry), where we learn about the expulsions that drove out the Jewish population from the area.
- Visit the **Museum of Jewish Art and History**, including objects returned in 1951 as a result of the American Jewish Restitution Successor Organization.



- Continue to the **Faubourg Montmartre district** to see the **Rothschild Synagogue** and **First Sephardic Synagogue**.
- View the plaque dedicated to the 12,000 Jewish Parisian children deported to Auschwitz.
- This evening we enjoy **Shabbat services** and **Shabbat dinner** together in Paris.

Overnight in Paris

Day 4: Saturday, July 28, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel. Shabbat in Paris - a unique experience!
- Join us for services at the **Union Liberal Israelite Synagogue** at 24 Rue Copernic.
- Remainder of day at leisure. You may choose to visit the Louvre and Orsay Museums on your own.

Overnight in Paris

Day 5: Sunday, July 29, 2018: VERDUN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Early this morning, we depart for **Verdun**. Professor Berk lectures on the bus.
- We enjoy a guided tour of the **Verdun battlefield**, site of fierce WWI battling.
- Travel past the **London Trench**, a point where British troops delivered medical assistance and much-needed supplies, to our next stop, the **Ossuary of Douaumont**. The memorial contains the remains of more than 100,000 unknown soldiers – both French and German – who died in the battle of Verdun.
- Stop for **lunch** together before visiting the **Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial**, the largest US cemetery in Europe.
- Return to Paris.

Overnight in Paris

Day 6: Monday, July 30, 2018: NORMANDY

- Breakfast at our hotel. (Bring an overnight bag with you).
- Full day bus tour to **Normandy**. Professor Berk lectures on the bus.
- View the **Bayeux Tapestry**, detailing the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, led by William the Conqueror.
- Continue to **Pointe du Hoc** and **Omaha Beach** as we learn about the history of D-Day.
- Visit **Saint Laurent** and the **American Cemetery**, where we view the **Wall of the Missing** and the gravesites of those who lost their lives during the D-Day battle and ensuing military operations.
- Visit the **Museum at Arromanches**, where we learn about the fascinating construction of the artificial harbor.



- Continue to **St. Mere Eglise**, where we learn the story of the American Airborne Division and the D-Day operations.
- Check-into our hotel with time to freshen up.
- **Dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in Normandy

Day 7: Tuesday, July 31, 2018: CAEN

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Begin our day with visits to the **World War II Museum** and **St. Come Belvedere**.
- Return to Paris and continue to **Giverny** where we enjoy **lunch** and some rest and relaxation among **Monet's beautiful gardens**.
- Remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the city of love on your own!

Overnight in Paris

Day 8: Wednesday, August 1, 2018: VERSAILLES

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning lecture by Professor Berk.
- Drive to **Versailles** to see the magnificent palace built by Louis XIV in the mid-17th century, and site of the signing of the treaty ending WWI in 1919.
- Visit the **Drancy Camp** to learn about the tragic history of the Nazi persecution of French Jews.
- We return to Paris and enjoy a **boat ride on the River Seine**.

Overnight in Paris

Day 9: Thursday, August 2, 2018: BRUSSELS

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning we drive to **Ypres, Belgium**. Professor Berk lectures on the bus.
- On the way, we stop and pay tribute at the **Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial**.
- Once in Ypres, we see the site of the famous WWI battle and visit the **Flanders Field Museum**.
- We see the **Cloth Hall** and the **Menin gate**, as well as the **Memorial Museum Passchendale** before continuing on to Brussels.
- Check into our hotel.
- **Dinner** together at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Brussels



Day 10: Friday, August 3, 2018: ANTWERP

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning lecture by Professor Berk.
- This morning, we drive north and see **Kazerne Dossin**, the memorial and museum to the Holocaust, a historic center that is proof of the tragedy of the Jews of WWII.
- Continue to **Antwerp Central Station**, arguably the most beautiful train station in the world.
- Head to the diamond district.
- We visit the **Sephardic Synagogue** and **Jewish quarter**.
- On our way back to Brussels, we also see the **Breendonk Memorial**, a WWII “waiting camp” designed to receive Jews and political prisoners before their transfer to Germany.
- **Shabbat services** and **Shabbat dinner** together tonight.

Overnight in Brussels

Day 11: Saturday, August 4, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning at leisure for optional Shabbat services at one of the local synagogues.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a **walking tour of Brussels**, where we see the **National Monument to the Jewry Martyrs of Belgium** and the impressive **Great Synagogue**.
- We end our day exploring the **Belgian Jewish Museum**.
- Tonight, we gather for our **farewell dinner**.

Overnight in Brussels

Day 12: Sunday, August 5, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Transfer to the airport for our departure to the United States.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

