

January, 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Stelly's Social Studies department is organizing another historical, educational, and enjoyable trip for students in grades 9-12. This is an *optional, extra curricular tour* that will enhance students' learning of the Social Studies curriculum and teach life skills while providing memorable experiences. We are going to Amsterdam and northeastern France during Spring Break of 2020 on a Beaches and Battlefields tour! We will be travelling with EF Tours, a tour company we have used at Stelly's for many years and many destinations. This will be a fun-filled, fast paced, adventure with a lot to do, see, taste, and enjoy. We encourage you to join with a friend or make new friends as we travel, sightsee, learn, and shop! Please check out the information below and speak to Catherine Wallace at cwallace@saanichschools.ca if you have questions.

Where: Amsterdam (Holland), Vimy, Normandy, Paris (France)

When: Spring Break, 2020 for 10 days

- March 16 to March 25 (Earliest: Mar 14, latest Mar 27. Airline confirmation closer to departure)
- This still leaves one week of Spring Break to spend with family and friends at home.

Who: 12-30 Stelly's students, grades 9-12, Mrs Wallace, and at least one other chaperone

Why:

- to learn more about Canada's contributions to WW1 and 2
- to study the geography, history, and cultures of this part of Europe
- to expand on and enhance the SS 9-12 curriculum
- to learn skills related to travelling
- to make new friends or deepen friendships
- to practice language skills and see daily life in other places
- to have fun!

What: **EF Tours "Canada's Battlefields" trip**

(Itinerary somewhat subject to change until closer to departure.)

Day 1: Travel to Amsterdam

Usually 6am flight Victoria to Toronto, then on to Amsterdam directly or via Frankfurt

Day 2: Amsterdam

Meet your Tour Director at the airport
Visit the Anne Frank House

Day 3: Amsterdam

Tour of Amsterdam with local expert guide to see: Royal Palace, Westerkerk, etc.
Visit the Jewish Historical Museum
Visit the Deportation Centre
Visit the Portuguese Synagogue

Day 4: Amsterdam-Vimy Region

Visit the Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery
Take a tour of Scheldt

Day 5: Vimy Region

Visit Passchendaele
Visit Essex Farm
Visit the In Flanders Fields Museum
Attend the Last Post ceremony at Menin Gate

Day 6: Vimy Region-Normandy Region

Visit the Vimy Memorial
Visit the Trenches
Visit Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial

Day 7: Normandy Region

Visit the Bény-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery
Visit Juno Beach and Visitors' Centre
Enjoy free time on Normandy beaches

Day 8: Normandy Region - Paris

Visit Les Invalides
Walking tour of Paris to see: Île de la Cité, Conciergerie, Sainte-Chapelle
Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral

Day 9: Paris

Take a guided tour of Paris to see: Place de la Concorde, Champs-Élysées, Arc de Triomphe, Hôtel des Invalides, Eiffel Tower, etc
Explore on your own with friends or add an in-depth excursion to Versailles

Day 10: Fly home**How much:**

- The current price is set at **\$4,009**. This includes airfare, hotels, breakfast and suppers, bus and transit costs, most entrance fees, tour guides, and much more*.
- Students must purchase the EF Global Travel Protection Insurance at \$189.00, which is included in the above price*
- Lunches, spending money, gratuities, passport costs, etc **are extra**
- Fundraising opportunities and small travel bursaries *may* be available through the school and we may be eligible for a group discount if traveling with more than 15 people.
- EF tours offers a convenient automatic monthly payment plan and lump sum manual payment option.

***For more information, see the EF website at: eftours.ca. Our tour is #2110108KD**

The site includes information about payments, cancellation fees, what is and isn't included, and many more important details. The price may go up as the travel date approaches.

How to register:

- Contact Catherine Wallace at cwallace@saanichschools.ca to complete preliminary registration forms and pay a deposit (fully refundable until we have a minimum of 12 travellers)
- As EF Tours refund policy does NOT include cancellation due to not meeting the minimum number of travellers according to school district policy, it is not advised to register with them directly until notified by Mrs Wallace

We hope you will seriously consider allowing your student to travel with us on this tour. Mrs Wallace has extensive experience leading tours of students across Canada and internationally, and greatly values the opportunities for learning these adventures give to students.