

WW1 Battlefields Tour: Champagne Region

Day 1 – Chester to Reims: We depart Chester early in the morning and have selected pick-ups en-route at Birmingham NEC, South Mimms and Stop 24 before taking the ferry to Calais. On arrival in France we proceed to Reims, visiting a battlefield site en-route and check into our hotel in Reims.

Day 2 –Reims: Today we begin at the imposing **Fort de la Pompelle** and the impressive Museum within, detailing the history of the Great War in the Champagne region. We visit the French and German cemeteries in the surrounding area at Prosnes. We then visit the **Vine Museum and Lighthouse at Verzenay** where we find out about the history of champagne and ascend the lighthouse to view acres of vineyards from above. We then have the chance to taste various champagnes. We then travel into **Reims** for lunch and enjoy the **Veuve Cliquot Experience** descending into their champagne cellars to find out about the history of this famous brand, finished off with a tasting! From here we return to our hotel and have the evening at leisure.

Day 3 – Main de Massiges and Epernay: Today we visit the impressive reconstructed trenches at the **Main de Massiges** before travelling to the monument at **Navarin Farm** in the heart of the Plain of Champagne, a commemoration of the 1915 offensives. We have our packed lunches nearby. In the afternoon we travel into the Champagne town of **Epernay**. We drive down the **Avenue de Champagne**, home to many of the famous Champagne Houses and their magnificent mansions and opulent facades. We then enjoy a visit to the **Mercier Epernay Champagne Tour** where a little train with audio guide takes us around the champagne caves under the streets of the town before enjoying a champagne tasting. We then return to our hotel in **Reims** and enjoy our evening at leisure (or have our evening meal in Reims before returning to our hotel- dependent on choice of hotel)

Day 4 –Chemin des Dames: Today we commemorate our Old Boys who lost their lives in this area during the Great War visiting **Dormans French National Cemetery**, the **Soissons Memorial** and **Perreuse-Chateau Franco-British National Cemetery** at different points throughout the day. We have our lunch in **Meaux** and visit the **Museum of the Great War** here. We visit the battlefields of the **Chemin des Dames** area. We return to Reims and enjoy our evening at leisure.

Day 5 –Reims to Chester: We depart in the morning for **Calais**, and take a lunchtime ferry to **Dover**. On the return we make drop-offs at Stop 24, South Mimms, Birmingham NEC and arriving back in Chester late evening.