

**A Tour by the
Woodrow Wilson
Presidential Library**

**American Expeditionary
Force
Battlefields In France**

**October 12-19, 2010
8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS**

As the centennial of World War I approaches, many Americans are reading about the "war to end all wars" and researching the sacrifices of their relatives on the battlefields of France. For those who want to learn more, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library of Staunton, Virginia, offers an eight-day, comprehensive tour of the greatest American battle of that conflict -- the Meuse-Argonne Offensive near Verdun. The tour will also visit Reims, Versailles and Paris.

Under the command of General John J. Pershing, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive involved more than one million U.S. troops in a successful but bloody attack on the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line. At the cost of 26,000 dead and 100,000 wounded, the Americans drove the Germans from their fortifications and helped bring about the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

Participants will enjoy a comprehensive tour of the battlefield, and be able to climb into the trenches, dugouts and concrete bunkers that were occupied by German, American and French troops. We will see the ruins of French villages destroyed by artillery fire, the site of the Lost Battalion, the scene of Sergeant York's heroics and the lonely hill where the last American to die in the war was shot just before the Armistice.

Leading the tour is Professor Edward Lengel of the University of Virginia, author of an award-winning history of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, *To Conquer Hell*. A wonderful French country hotel just south of the front lines will serve as headquarters for the battlefield tour, which will conclude with visits to the Palace of Versailles and Paris.

**DAY 1 - Tuesday - October 12
Home - Paris**

Late afternoon departure for Washington Dulles Airport. All aboard our evening flight to Paris, France.

**DAY 2 - Wednesday - October 13
Paris - Meuse-Argonne Region**

Arriving in Paris this morning, we'll board our private motorcoach and enjoy a leisurely drive from Paris to the Hotel Tulipier in the beautiful country near Verdun. After a rest, we'll spend a few hours at Vauquois, a village totally destroyed by the war, for a vivid introduction to World War I. In the evening, we'll enjoy a reception followed by an orientation to the battle.

**DAY 3 - Thursday - October 14
Meuse-Argonne Region**

After breakfast, we'll visit the western portion of the 1918 Meuse-Argonne Battlefield, with special attention to the Lost Battalion, Sgt. York and the assault on the German's Hindenburg Line. In the afternoon, we'll visit Verdun and the forts destroyed in the original German attack in 1916. (Boxed lunch available and recommended. Dinner on your own.)

* Breakfast included

**DAY 4 - Friday - October 15
Meuse-Argonne Region**

Today, we will follow the assault of the 79th Division against the massive German fortress at Montfaucon, the site of the largest U.S. military monument in Europe. After visiting the Meuse-Argonne Military Cemetery, we'll travel to the east side of the Meuse River to see where the 79th and Virginia's 29th Division drove the Germans off the heights and toward the Armistice. (Boxed lunch available and recommended. Dinner on your own.)

* Breakfast included

**DAY 5 - Saturday - October 16
Blanc Mont and Reims**

After breakfast, we'll take the coach to Blanc Mont, captured by the U.S. Marines in October 1918. In the afternoon, we arrive in Reims to tour the 12th century cathedral, the traditional site of French coronations. Badly damaged by the Germans during World War I, the structure is now completely restored. There'll be an optional visit to the site of the German surrender to Eisenhower in World War II, or you can spend the rest of the day tasting your way through the champagne cellars of this medieval town. (Lunch and dinner on your own.)

* Breakfast included

**DAY 6 - Sunday - October 17
Versailles and Paris**

On to Versailles, the magnificent French royal chateau used for the Paris Peace Conference. After a tour of the structure, we'll board the bus for the short trip to Paris and our hotel near the base of the Eiffel Tower. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are on your own. (Lunch and dinner on your own.)

* Breakfast included

**DAY 7 - Monday - October 18
Paris**

After breakfast, an optional tour will visit the French Military Museum and the tomb of Napoleon. If you choose, you may spend the entire day on your own in Paris. The Louvre Museum, Champs-Elysees shops and the Tuileries Garden are nearby. (Lunch and dinner on your own.)

* Breakfast included

**DAY 8 - Tuesday - October 19
Paris - Home**

Transfer to the Paris airport this morning for our flight home. We'll return with memories to last a lifetime.

* Breakfast included

