



Your Itinerary



The Champagne region and the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I

Day 1: Depart

- Fly through the night to Paris.

Day 2: Paris

- Upon arrival in Paris meet your Imagine Tour Manager who will greet you at the airport and remain with you throughout your stay.
- Transfer by private motor coach to your hotel and drop off your bags.
- This afternoon, stroll down the most famous avenue of the capital, the **Champs-Élysées**.
- Climb to the top of the **Arc de Triomphe** to admire the view.
- See the Tomb of the **Unknown Soldier**.
- Have a delicious "French" dinner at a local restaurant.
- Overnight accommodation in Paris.



Day 3: Amiens

- Have breakfast at the hotel.
- Board your private motor coach to **Amiens**.
- Visit the city of the famous Hundred Days offensive (Summer 1918) where the American Expeditionary Forces with General John J. Pershing assisted the Allies in their operations.
- Have lunch at a local restaurant in the center and try the famous **macaron d'Amiens!**
- During the afternoon navigate through **Les Hortillonnages d'Amiens**. Have a look at the landscape surrounding Amiens by sailing in this former swamp.
- Have dinner at the hotel and overnight accommodation in Amiens.





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Day 4: Ypres (Belgium)

- After breakfast at the hotel, board your private motor coach to **Ypres** on the border with France.
- Check in at your hotel in Ypres.
- Have lunch at the restaurant and try the famous **Carbonnade Flamande**, which is one of the local specialties.
- Later, head out on a guided **walking tour** of the city. Ypres hosted several battles during WWI. In 1914, 1917 and 1918. The city is infamously known as the place where Sulfur mustard were used by the Germans against the Canadian troops. Since then the gas is also known as Yperite.
- Visit the « **In Flanders Fields** » **War Museum** in Ypres. Ypres is one of the frontlines where French and British troops decided to have an unofficial Christmas truce with the Germans in 1914 – facts appearing in the movie Joyeux Noël (2005).
- Go back to the hotel for dinner and overnight accommodation in Ypres.



Day 5: Cambrai - Soissons

- Have breakfast at the hotel.
- Board your private motor coach to **Cambrai**.
- Have free time to go around the city. The Battle of Cambrai was won by the Allies because of innovations in their industrial warfare – tanks appeared for the first time in the Cambrai battlefields. It is one of the only cities which has been occupied by the enemy during WWI.
- Have lunch in Cambrai.
- Board your private motor coach to spend the afternoon at the **Historial de la Grande Guerre**, probably the most complete and best located WWI museum. This modern white building is housed within the ruins of a medieval castle.
- At the end of your visit board your private motor coach and head South to **Soissons** one of the oldest European cities.
- Dinner and night accommodation in Soissons.





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Day 6: Soissons - Chemin des Dames - Reims

- Enjoy a French breakfast in Soissons.
- Have a private walking tour of the city. Your Imagine Tour Director will explain how the Americans helped the French Army win the **Battle of Soissons** at the end of July 1918.
- The Corporal Adolf Hitler was decorated during this battle.
- Have your lunch in the countryside in the middle of a former battlefield.
- Board your private motor coach and head to Reims.
- On your way to Reims stop at **Le Chemin des Dames**. All along this 25km road around 250,000 soldiers died in one of the biggest slaughters of this war.
- Head south to Reims.
- Check in at the hotel for two nights.
- Have dinner and a champagne tasting in **Maison Taittinger**. Discover the flavour of a very unique wine.
- Go back to your hotel for night accommodation in Reims.



Day 7: Verdun - Saint Mihiel

- After breakfast at the hotel.
- Board your private motor coach for a day trip to **Verdun**.
- The battle became a symbol of two armies destroying each other with their artillery without effective results. Around 700,000 soldiers died or were wounded in Verdun in a battle which lasted almost 10 months.
- Have a walk around the battlefield with your guide and discover some remnants from the past which have been kept intact.
- Have lunch in Verdun before heading to **Saint-Mihiel**.
- After 4 years of German occupation the city was liberated by the **American Expeditionary Forces and General Pershing**. For three days in September 1918 the French and the American armies fought to break through German lines. The US Army imposed its fire power and strategy for the first and last time during WWI.
- Visit the trenches and see what remains from this period around Saint Mihiel.





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- Spend some time at **St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Memorial**.
- Head back to Reims.
- Have dinner and night accommodation in Reims.

Day 8: Reims

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Have some free time to visit the **Champagne** capital on your own. Do not miss its several places of worship and especially **Notre Dame de Reims** which was built in the 14th century.
- Meet the rest of the group to go to **Le Phare de Verzenay**. Climb the 101 steps to the top of the lighthouse and enjoy the beautiful view over the Champagne country!
- Have lunch in the middle of a vineyard.
- Have a **private champagne tour**. Visit the vineyard and take part in a champagne / chocolate workshop.
- Head back to Reims for the last night of your tour.
- Dinner and farewell party.
- Night accommodation at the hotel.



Day 9: Reims- Paris - Château Thierry - Depart

- Final breakfast at the hotel in Reims before transferring to the airport in Paris.
- If time permits, make a stop in **Château-Thierry**, birthplace of the French poet Jean de la Fontaine and where in June 1918, the American Army stopped the German offensive for good.
- Lunch in Château-Thierry before heading to the airport.
- After an incredible adventure through time, say a fond "Au Revoir" to your Imagine Tour Manager and board your plane for your return flight home.

