

FRANCE BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WAR I

AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING HISTORY ALIVE IN AN INTERESTING AND MEMORABLE VISIT. We offer a flexible programme visiting France or Belgium or a longer stay with a combination of visits to both countries. A customised itinerary will be prepared to suit your group's own particular requirements and any necessary advance bookings will be made.

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THE SOMME

Historial de la Grande Guerre: In 1916, one of the most terrible battles of the First World War took place in the Somme. It was undoubtedly the conflict in which the largest number of armies of different nationalities participated. The Historial gives an insight into the vastness of this war, its effect on the world and its political, social and cultural dimensions. This trilingual museum compares the experiences of the major participants in the war.

Delville Wood and the South African Memorial and Museum at Longueval: The capture of Delville Wood, essential to any further advance eastwards, was assigned to the South Africans. Their experience was an unimaginable nightmare; only 143 men from the 3,200 who launched the attack came out of the wood unscathed. The memorial is set in a park of oak trees grown from acorns from South Africa.

Thiepval, the British Memorial to the Missing: In 1932 the British Government decided to build the great Somme memorial. This imposing monument, 45 metres high and visible for many miles around, commemorates more than 73,367 British and South African men who have no known grave.

Ulster Tower: The Ulster Tower is a memorial to the men of the 36th Ulster Division. It marks the site against which the men of Ulster advanced on 1st July 1916.

Newfoundland Park: The national war memorial of Newfoundland was built here in memory of their volunteer army. From a vantage point on top of the Caribou mound, the entire battlefield is visible and the trench system can be understood.

Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselle: This immense crater, measuring 100 metres across and 30 metres deep, is the remains of a series of explosions that occurred on 1st July 1916.

Accrington Pals Memorial, Serre: This Memorial was erected in 1980 in the Sheffield Memorial Park, just behind one of the trenches from where the Accrington Pals advanced on 1st July 1916. It is made from Accrington brick and the ruined wall symbolises the ruined village of Serre.

Albert: Well-known in the nineteenth century as an industrial centre with a rich historical past. Albert had 7,343 inhabitants in 1914. The town was subjected to ceaseless bombardment and by January 1919, the total number of inhabitants was 120. In the former shelters beneath the centre of Albert the "Somme 1916" museum presents realistic scenes from the trench warfare of 1916.

Vimy Ridge: Although not part of the Somme proper, the victory at Vimy Ridge was a turning point for the Allied forces. The Vimy Memorial is a monument to all Canadians who died or risked their lives for freedom and peace in the First World War.

GENERAL EXCURSIONS

Depending on your location and itinerary, these may be incorporated into your programme on your travel days:

- Arras with its monumental squares, cathedral
- St. Vaast Abbey, Town Hall
- Belfry and underground passages including Wellington Quarry Cité Nature, cultural and scientific centre
- La Coupole, History Centre and 3D Planetarium
- Boulogne, old town and port

TRAVEL NOTES & PRICES

Minimum length of tour:
3 days / 2 nights
Half Board Staff free 1:8

Channel Crossing:
Dover – Calais by ferry
Folkestone – Calais by shuttle

Approximate journey time:
From Calais: 1½ hrs

Prices from:
£258 per pupil
(40-47 paying)
£273 per pupil
(32-39 paying)
£300 per pupil
(24-31 paying)
Additional nights
£105 per pupil

Packed lunches available at extra charge.

Spend an extra day in the Somme area or explore further afield in the Ypres Salient.

New Optional Extra:
A fully-experienced Battlefield Guide to accompany your tour.

ACCOMMODATION



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS ARRAS

Description: Modern 3-star hotel with excellent facilities.

Location: Arras Centre, 5 minutes walk from the main squares.

Capacity: 149

Rooms for pupils: 2-3 beds; all with shower and WC, hairdryer, flat-screen TV, telephone and internet access.

Facilities: Large reception/ lounge area with flat screen TV and pool table (small charge). Attractive terrace bar. Meeting rooms with overhead projector and flip charts. Free WiFi.

Breakfast: Continental buffet in hotel

Evening Meal: Typical French food in restaurant "Le Carnot" or "Le Passe-Temps" opposite hotel.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Visit the entertaining Christmas market of Lille, the largest in Northern France.