



FRANCE

WWI SMALL GROUP TOUR: WESTERN FRONT WITH ARRAS EXTENSION

(TOUR CODE: 13161)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Arras

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Mar - 30 Nov 2024

EXPERIENCE

Battlefields

TRAVEL STYLE

Escorted Group Tour

Follow in the footsteps of the Australian forces during WWI in both Flanders and the Somme with this small group escorted 3 day package.

Highlights

- 2 nights stay in Arras
- The services of a Battlefields Expert guide with more than 20 years experience.
- Small Group Tour with a maximum of 8 participants
- Hear the "**Last Post**" echo through the Menin Gate
- Carefully selected memorials, cemeteries and museums in remembrance of the **Somme & Flanders battles**.

The landscape of Flanders and the Somme tells the story. Both were major theatres of battle during the First World War where well over a million soldiers from more than 50 countries were wounded, missing or killed in action. Entire cities and villages were destroyed. Today, the now peaceful landscape, and the re-built cities and villages, remember their history through monuments, museums, cemeteries and the changed topography.

With this 3 day small group package, you will be taken on a journey in the footsteps of our Australian and New Zealand soldiers. Visit villages with names ingrained into Australian memory, such as Pozieres, Fromelles and Villers-Brettoneux, visit well known sites such as Hill 60 and the trenches of Vimy Ridge, hear the haunting sounds of "The Last Post" being played at the Menin Gate in Ypres and on the last day, an opportunity to see what life was like behind the front lines.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Arras at the Mercure Arras Hotel - 4*
- Breakfast on Days 2 & 3
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Experienced Battlefield Guides

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Arras Fromelles VC Corner Messines Hill 60 Tyne Cot Arras

Pick up from Arras Train Station at 9:00am.

On this first day, you will travel to the Flanders Battlefields.

You will visit the **New Fromelles Cemetery**, where the British and Australian dead from the mass grave at **Pheasant Wood** were re buried. The **Fromelles New Museum**, then you move on to the battlefield itself and see the **Australian Memorial Park** with its famous '**Cobbers**' statue, situated on the German Front line, with the "sugar loaf" in view, the strong point in the German line where the Australian and British Divisions met faced German machine gun fire.

See the **Memorial to the Missing at VC Corner**. Where 410 sets of remains were gathered from the Battlefield in 1918 and buried in two mass graves.

After lunch (not included) you head off to Belgium Battlefields, passing through Ploegsteert Wood and see the Missing from Fromelles and nearby battlefields commemorated on the British Memorial, the Chums Cross site of one of the 1914 Christmas Truces, **Messines Ridge** and the offensive of the 7th June 1917, **Hill 60**, the scene of bitter fighting throughout the war and its famous craters.

Then you move across the attacks around **Polygon Wood**, where you will see one of the remaining bunkers in the woods. From here we follow the third battle of Ypres to **Zonnebeke** and **Passchendaele**. Visit the **Tyne Cot** Commonwealth War Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world and the Memorial which bears the names of nearly 35,000 men of the British and New Zealand forces who died after August 1917 and have no named grave. Followed by **Langemark German Cemetery**, one of four German Cemeteries in Flanders, it lists 3000 names of German students killed during the first Battle of Ypres, as well as a mass grave containing the thousands of unidentified remains found in the years after the War.

On arrival in Ypres, you have a chance to enjoy a meal in the Ypres Market Square (not included) before attending the Last Post Ceremony at the **Menin Gate** at 8.00pm. You'll return to Arras at approximately 10.00pm.

Overnight in **Arras** at Mercure Arras Centre Gare in a standard room



VC CORNER | CREDIT: FRANCES CUSACK

Day **2**

Arras Australian National Memorial Villers-Bretonneux La Boisselle Arras

Pick up at your hotel in Arras at 9:00am and travel to the **Australian National Memorial** near Villers-Bretonneux. Explore the Sir John Monash Centre and the Australian National Memorial to the Missing.

Continuing with the 1918 Battles around Amiens, visiting **Villers Bretonneux** where you will see **Victoria School** and hear the story of Australia's Unknown Warrior, exhumed from **Adelaide Cemetery**. You will see **Le Hamel** where the Americans fought alongside the Australians under the command of Gen Sir John Monash and drive past the **Crash site of the Red Baron** and the Australian 3rd Division Memorial before stopping in Albert for lunch (not included).

After lunch you will discover underground warfare and see the awe inspiring **Lochnagar mine crater** at La Boisselle.

Follow the footsteps of the Diggers into the line on Pozieres Ridge and stopping at **Casualty Corner**, many soldiers wounded at Pozieres Ridge passed through this triage point. See **Pozieres Ridge** and the Gibraltar Blockhouse and **Australian 1st Division Memorial**, The Windmill Australian Memorial and the Tank Corps Memorial and Mouquet "Moo-Cow" Farm.

At **Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park**, you can see preserved trenches and sea ction of the original 1916 front line and discuss tactics aims and objectives and the outcome of the 1st July 1916.

Drop off in Arras at 6pm.

Overnight in **Arras** at Mercure Arras Centre Gare in a standard room

Breakfast



Day **3**

Arras Vimy Ridge Wellington Quarries Bullecourt Arras

At 9am, after breakfast, travel towards **Vimy Ridge** and the preserved Battlefield, the trenches and craters of the landscape bear witness to the ferocity of WW1. See **St Vaast German Cemetery**, the largest WW1 German cemetery outside Germany with over 44,000 burials. Visit the Carrier Wellington (Wellington Quarries) .

A break for lunch (not included) and a chance to explore the Medieval squares in Arras.

After lunch visit the new Commonwealth War Graves Commission experience* where you will learn about the men and women who care for our war dead and how they do that. Then follow the 1917 Hindenburg line to Bullecourt, the furthest end, here you will see the battlefield of the first and second battles of **Bullecourt and 'Outpost Villages', the 'Digger' and Cross Memorials** and the **Bullecourt Museum**, the village Mayors private collection.

*open Weekdays only.

Drop off in Arras at 5.30pm where this tour will end.

Breakfast



SLOUCH HAT MEMORIAL

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

LOCAL CURRENCY

EUR

If you would like to incorporate a visit to a relative's grave, where it falls within the itinerary area, please advise details as early as possible and no later than 35 days prior to the package departure. If extra time is needed at a relative's grave, then the rest of the day's itinerary may need to be slightly altered.

For pre/post accommodation, please contact our Sales Team.

The order of visits in this package can be modified depending on availability.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package.