



FRANCE

WWI: THE SOMME

 (TOUR CODE: 11933)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Arras

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 24 - 31 Oct 24

EXPERIENCE

Battlefields

TRAVEL STYLE

Private Escorted Tours

A 3 day package around the Somme with your own private Battlefields guide.

Highlights

- 3 days with your own **private Battlefields Guide**
- Visits to the **Underground City of Naours** and the **Vignacourt 14-18 Interpretation Centre**
- Carefully selected memorials, cemeteries and museums in remembrance of the **Somme battles**.

Honour the memory of all WWI soldiers on this 3 day tour. Visit places with names ingrained into Australian memory, such as Pozières, Fromelles and Villers-Brettoneux as well as sites of remembrance for other countries involved in the Somme battles.

Learn about the invaluable work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who today care for our war graves and memorials at 23,000 locations. Get a glimpse of what life was like for the soldiers behind the front lines with visits to Vignacourt, followed by one of the fascinating places to visit on the Western Front, the Underground City of Naours, where many WWI soldiers have left their mark on the caves walls.

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Arras at Mercure Arras Centre Gare - 4*
- Transport in private vehicle
- Daily breakfasts
- Daily lunch
- Battlefields Guide with more than 15 years experience
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary

ITINERARY

Day 1 Arras Vimy Ridge Bullecourt Arras

Leaving Arras at 9.00am, visit **Vimy Ridge**, the Memorial, one of the 14 tunnels, the Allied and German trenches. See the largest French WW1 cemetery, Notre Dame de Lorette and the Ring of Remembrance and visit the French museum Lens 14-18. On the way back towards Arras stop at the German Cemetery Maison Blanche.

After lunch, visit the **Wellington Quarries**, where New Zealand and British troops stood hours before their surprise attack in Arras in April 1917.

Visit the battlefield around **Bullecourt** where Australian and British troops launched the assault on the Hindenburg Line in the spring of 1917. See the Slouch Hat Memorial at Bullecourt and the Australian Memorial Park at Bullecourt*, on the German front line, and stand near the "Standing Digger" statue.

Overnight stay in **Arras** at the Mercure Arras Centre Gare in a standard room.

** This tour does not visit the Letaille Museum.*

Lunch



THE SLOUCH HAT

Day 2 Arras Péronne Albert Pozières Beaumont-Hamel Arras

Departing Arras at 9.00am, our first stop is the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) Experience** in Beaurains. The CWGC Experience highlights the extremely important work of this amazing organisation, who today care for

our war graves and memorials at 23,000 locations, in more than 150 countries and territories.

Drive to **Péronne**, where you'll have lunch and an opportunity to visit the Museum of the Great War in the old citadelle. Then on to Albert to see the Basilica of Our Lady of Brebieres and the Golden Madonna. Stand at the Lochnagar Crater, before going to **Pozières** see the Windmill Memorial, the Tank Memorial and "Moo Cow" Farm Memorial.

A quick stop to see the **Thiepval** Memorial before visiting the New Foundland Memorial at **Beaumont-Hamel**.

Overnight stay in **Arras** at the Mercure Arras Centre Gare in a standard room.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **3**

Arras Villers Bretonneux Vignacourt Naours Arras

Leaving Arras at 09.00am, you will travel towards Villers-Bretonneux, which was a key village on the Western Front. See the Victoria School, visit the **Australian National Memorial** and the Sir John Monash Centre. Stand at the Australian Memorial bearing the names of 11,000 Australian soldiers who died in France and have no known grave.

To round off your Battlefields experience of the Somme, you'll have a glimpse of what life was like behind the front lines. First, visit the **Vignacourt 14-18 Interpretation Centre**. Vignacourt was an important military base located behind Allied Lines during the First World War. During the war, local farmers, Louis and Antoinette Thullier, turned their farmhouse into a photo studio. Civillians and soldiers alike would come to have their photo taken. At the end of the war, some 4000 photo plates were stored in trunks in an attic and forgotten.... until 2011. Now, the Vignacourt Interpretive Centre welcomes you to share the amazing story of this photo collection.

Vignacourt is followed by a truly unforgettable visit to one of the most fascinating places on the Western Front, the **Underground City of Naours**. Many Allied Soldiers visited the Underground City as tourists, a means of distraction while on leave or while they were recovering from injury. Many of them left their mark with graffiti on the walls. The graffiti was rediscovered in 2014. Visit the Underground City* and the new Graffiti Museum.

At the end of the tour, we'll return to Arras, where you may choose to extend your stay (additional cost apply).

**Note: Temperature in the underground city is approx. 9 degrees celcius. There are a large number of steps and this visit is not suitable for wheelchair users.*

Note: The Sir John Monash Centre will be closed on 01 May 2024.

Breakfast, Lunch



ACCOMMODATION

Mercure Arras Centre Gare Hotel

Arras

Ideally situated in the city centre, opposite the TGV station and in walking distance to the main squares. Enjoy the comfortable rooms and spacious living area at the Mercure Arras! Completely renovated, the hotel has a fun and chic setting. Different room types are available, whether you are traveling solo or with family. Have an enjoyable time at the bar and restaurant. Sporty guests can work at the fitness centre.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

LOCAL CURRENCY

EUR

On request, this package can also be based in Amiens, instead of Arras. Additional costs may apply.

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