



## FRANCE

# WWI: FLANDERS - 4 STAR (TOUR CODE: 11939)

### STARTS AND ENDS

in Ypres (Belgium)

### TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 2023 - 31 Oct 2023

### EXPERIENCE

Battlefields

### TRAVEL STYLE

Private Escorted Tours

A 2 day tour Battlefields Tour with a focus on the French and Belgian Flanders regions.

## Highlights

- Stay at the **Ariane Hotel Ypres**, consistently voted one of the top 4-star hotels in Belgium
- 2 days with your own **Private Battlefields Guide**
- Carefully selected memorials, cemeteries and museums in remembrance of the **Flanders battles**
- Hear the "**Last Post**" echo through the Menin Gate

A fascinating two day tour looking at WWI in French and Belgian Flanders with your own private Battlefields guide. Visit places with names ingrained into Australian memory, such as Fromelles and Hill 60 and experience the most unforgettable sound of "The Last Post" being played at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Learn more about the legendary Christmas Truce and visit Passchendaele, home to the best WWI Museum in Belgium. Visit Langemark German Cemetery and German second line trenches at Bayernwald. See the grave of Nelly Spindler, the only woman buried at Lijssehoek Cemetery among 10,000 servicemen.

Compliment your private escorted tours with a stay at one of the top 4-star hotels in Belgium. A family run hotel, nestled between the historic streets of Ypres, a short walk from the Cloth Market and Menin Gate.

# INCLUSIONS

- 1 night in Ypres at Ariane Hotel - 4\*
- Transport in private vehicle
- Breakfast on Day 2
- 2 Lunches
- Battlefields Guide with more than 15 years experience
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary

# ITINERARY

Day **1**

Ypres Fromelles VC Corner Messines Passchendaele Ypres

Pick up in Ypres at 9.00am and travel towards Fromelles where Australian troops saw their first action in Europe. You will see the **Museum of the Battle of Fromelles** explaining how the remains of 250 British and Australian soldiers were found, exhumed and buried.

Visit the only exclusively Australian Cemetery in France, **VC Corner Cemetery**, and the **Australian Memorial Park**. Stop at Rue Pétilion Cemetery where many Australians killed in July 1916 were laid to rest. Driving through Armentières and Ploegsteert towards Messines, see the **Christmas Truce Memorial**, the New Zealand Memorial, the Irish Tower, the 11th century crypt and the local visitor Centre.

After lunch, visit Hill 60, the Caterpillar Crater, the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company Memorial and some destroyed bunkers. Stand in **Polygon Wood** near The 5th Australian Division's Memorial where the dawn service happens on ANZAC Day, also see the new "Brothers in Arms" Memorial.

In Zonnebeke visit what is known as the best WW1 museum in Belgium, **Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917**. Stand in **Tyne Cot**, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemetery in the world with 12,000 burials, and its Memorial to the Missing bearing the names of over 25,000 soldiers. See the village of Passchendaele.

Drive to **Lange mark** to see the German Cemetery containing more than 45,000 burials and stand at Essex Farm where John McRae wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields".

In Ypres see the Menin Gate, the main square, the Cloth Hall, the Cathedral and enjoy some free time before attending the Last Post at the Menin Gate

Overnight stay at the **Ariane Hotel** in a standard room.

Note: in early 2023 Commonwealth War Graves Commission will start the restoration of the Menin Gate. This is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete. The Menin Gate Memorial will not be fully accessible to visitors during renovations. The daily Last Post service at 8pm will still take place but its location will sometimes be moved to an alternative location near the Menin Gate.

Lunch



THE LAST POST | CREDIT: MILO PROFI

Day **2**

## Ypres Bayernwald Kemmel Poperinge Lijssenthoek Ypres

Departing after breakfast at 9.00am, we drive to **Bayernwald**, a set of German second line trenches in the sector of Wijschate. The site consists of two mine galleries, a mine shaft, a trench system and five bunkers. It is accessed via a footpath which passes through the restored network of trenches.

Next, move on to Kemmel and stand at the **Spanbroekmolen Crater**, also known as the "Lone Tree Crater" and the "Pool of Peace", one of the remains of the Battle of Messines. Stop at the American Memorial of Kemmel and visit the Lettenberg Bunkers. Stand at the French Ossuary and the Angel on Kemmel Ridge.

After lunch, visit Talbot House in Poperinge, "The Every Man's Club", a quiet place where soldiers could go to have a cup of tea or relax in the garden. Then, see the old Death Cells in the Town Hall. A sobering reminder of fate faced by many so-called 'deserters' during the Great War.

Stop at **Lijssenthoek**, the location of a field hospital from 1915 until 1920. See the visitor centre and the cemetery containing 10,000 burials. See the grave of Nelly Spindler, a staff nurse buried with full military honours, and the only woman buried in this cemetery.

On the road back to Ypres, where your tour ends, we'll visit the Chinese Memorial.

Breakfast, Lunch



## ACCOMMODATION

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### Ariane Hotel

#### Ypres

So quietly located and yet so close to the town centre. Nestled between the historic streets of Ypres, this family run 4-star hotel with 62 rooms, boasts every comfort to make you feel at home. The hotel rises modestly above the spacious gardens, creating a feeling of tranquillity and comfort.

The Menin Gate and the Cloth Hall are just a 5-10 mins walk away. Ariane's excellent restaurant serves mostly Belgian delicacies using daily fresh seasonal products is popular with locals and guests alike.



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

## LOCAL CURRENCY

EUR

On request, this package may also begin in Lille, Bruges or Kortrijk.

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