



FRANCE

WWI: FLANDERS - 4 STAR - NZ (TOUR CODE: 12198)

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 of the French and Belgian Flanders regions with a focus on important New Zealand WWI memorials.

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 some of the most important New Zealand memorials and then 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 Lijssenthoek Cemetery among 10,000 servicemen.

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 Messines Nine Elms Cemetery Lijssenthoek Poperinge Ypres

Pick up from your Ypres hotel at 9.00, visit the New Zealand Memorial to the Missing at the Messines Ridge British Cemetery. The memorial lists 827 officers and men of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force with no known grave who died in or near Messines in 1917 and 1918. See the visitor centre and then stop at the statue of the New Zealand soldier in the centre of the town, a memorial to all New Zealand soldiers who fought in the battle of Messines Ridge. See the crypt under the church in Messines where Hitler was treated as a wounded soldier, and stand where Samuel Frickelton, a soldier in the New Zealand Military Forces, won his Victoria Cross.

After lunch, visit the Nine Elms Cemetery where David Gallaher, a captain of the "Original All Blacks" is buried.

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.

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.

On the road back to Ypres, we'll visit the Chinese Memorial.

Overnight stay at the **Ariane Hotel** in a Prestige Double room.

Lunch



Ypres Bayernwald Kemmel Passendale Polygon Wood Ypres

Departing after breakfast at 9.00am, we drive to **Bayernwald**, a set of German second line trenches in the sector of Wijtschate. 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, driving towards Zonnebeke and Passendale, to visit Tyne Cot Military Cemetery and Memorial. It is the CWGC largest cemetery in Europe. From Tyne Cot, travel to Gravenstafel where Gallaher was killed during the battle of Passendale. Visit the German Cemetery in Langemark and then on to Polygon Wood see the Memorial dedicated to the 1st Australian Division and the New Zealand Memorial.

In Ypres see the Menin Gate, the main square, the Cloth Hall (entry not included), the Cathedral and enjoy some free time before attending the Last Post at the Menin Gate.

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.

Breakfast, Lunch



ACCOMMODATION

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