

Lest We Forget...

5 days 4 nights

6 - 10 September 2020

£439 per person (minimum 35 passengers)

(based on two people sharing a twin/double room)



Join us as we travel to France on a tour of poignant memories connected to the Great War, the battles fought on an unprecedented scale, and glimpses of a joyful way of life before the terrible conflict. A professional guide within our group will lead us through the history of France and Belgium during this turbulent time. We will visit Commonwealth Cemeteries and hear stories of the young men who lie forever in a foreign land. We will have the opportunity to join in two services of Commemoration for the Battle of Passchendaele..

Holiday Inn Express Arras Located opposite the rail station and only a 10 minute walk from the city centre, the hotel offers air-conditioned rooms, a bar, 24-hour reception, free wifi and a friendly staff. All sound-proofed en-suite bedrooms are accessible by lift and feature tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer, phone and a flat screen TV. Guests can relax in the hotel's large and comfortable lounge or on the terrace.



Included in the price:

- 4 nights bed and continental breakfast accommodation
- 5 days executive coach service
- Return Eurotunnel crossings (2020 tbc)*
- 2 dinners
- 1 lunch
- Admission to Talbot House*
- Admission to Passchendaele Memorial museum*
- Admission to Hooze Crater Museum*
- Excursion to Ypres and The Last Post Ceremony
- Visits to Vimy Ridge, Tyne Cot, Thiepval, Notre Dame de Lorette and many more

*subject to 2020 schedule, yet to be published

Extras:

- Single room supplement of £76 per person (max 10)
- Travel insurance
- Admission to places of interest other than those included in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature (beverages, mementos, etc)
- Meals other than those specified
- Gratuities
- City tax of €1.20 per person per night (2020 rates tbc)



VYVIGO
TOURS and EVENTS

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Day 1

We travel to Folkestone overnight for an early morning Eurotunnel crossing to Calais. We travel to **Lijssenthoek**, a small village on the main communication line between the Allied military bases and the Ypres battlefields, which became a natural place for the casualty clearing stations during the First World War. We proceed to **Poperinge**, a billet area for British troops, and visit **Talbot House or 'Toc H'** which was created by the army chaplain Philip Clayton as sanctuary for our soldiers. 25 of our own men spent their last night there in a cell before their execution at dawn for a variety of military offences. One cell has been preserved. We take a break for lunch (not included) then travel to **Vimy Ridge**, both for the magnificent Canadian Memorial and the trenches used to capture the Ridge. We then proceed to our hotel in Arras where we check in with time to relax before dinner in town (2 course/3 choice followed by tea/coffee).

Day 2

After breakfast we travel to **Passchendaele Memorial Museum** with its beautiful grounds and reconstructed trench system that gives a view of trench life. After a break for lunch (not incl) we stop at **Dochy Farm CWGC** for a view of the battlefield before travelling to **Tyne Cot**, the largest CWGC in the world with over 11,500 headstones and a memorial

to a further 34,000 with no known grave. We will stop at the **Yorkshire Trench**, lost for many years but rediscovered, followed by a visit to **Artillery Wood CWGC**, the resting place of two poets and given like all others in perpetuity. Finally we visit **Pilckem Ridge**, site of the opening attack of the Battle of Passchendaele and Memorial to all the Welsh soldiers who fought and died in the Ypres Salient, after which we join the villagers and take part in the service of remembrance.

Day 3

After breakfast we travel to **Hooge** for a visit of the museum and chateau grounds. We take a break for lunch (not incl) and then proceed to the German Cemetery in Langemarck. Our last visit before travelling to Ypres is to **Essex Farm Cemetery**, famously known as the ground for which 'In Flanders Field' was composed. In **Ypres** we will have free time to explore. In spite of experiencing some of the most devastating shelling of the entire war, Ypres has been reconstructed to its former glory with a host of beautiful buildings, including Cloth Hall and the Menin Gate. After our evening meal (not incl) we gather for The Last Post Ceremony.

Day 4

After breakfast we travel to Serre and visit **Accrington Pals Memorial**, the most famous of the various Pals' battalions that fought here on that day and located within Sheffield Memorial Park, a wooded area where the original frontline trenches

and the shell-holes in the ground have been preserved. We then travel to **Hawthorn Crater**, first of the 17 mines exploded by the British to signal the start of the Somme offensive. Lunch is included today, after which we proceed for a visit to **Newfoundland Memorial Park** where we can walk a section of the battlefield. Our next visit is to **Ulster Tower**, commemorating all those from Ulster who served in the First World War. Before returning to our hotel we visit the **Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme**, a major war memorial to British and Commonwealth men who died in the Battle of the Somme that have no known grave.

Day 5 After breakfast we check out of our hotel and visit **CWGC Headquarters** before starting our return journey. Our first stop en route will then be to **Notre Dame de Lorette**, arguably the most remarkable French National Memorial and Cemetery. For a small admission you could visit the museum located immediately behind the cemetery. Lunch (not included) will be taken here. Our final en route visit is to **Wimereux Cemetery** where we complete the story of John McCrae. We then have free time in the charming coastal town of Wimereux before resuming our homebound journey on an early evening shuttle from Calais, a meal stop on English soil (not included) and late evening drop off at our original departure point.

Please note that all admissions are subject to 2020 schedule, yet to be confirmed, and may vary accordingly.