

Lest We Forget....

5 days 4 nights

28th August - 1st Sept 2022

£439.00 pp* (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 a glimpse 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 the service of Commemoration for the Battle of Passchendaele.

Holiday Inn Express Arras -

Located only a ten 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 rooms are accessible by lift and feature tea/coffee making facilities. Guests can relax in the hotel's large comfortable lounge or on the terrace.



Included in the price:

- 4 night's b&b with continental breakfast
- 5 days executive coach service
- Return Eurotunnel crossings (2022tbc)*
- 2 Evening meals & 1 Lunch
- Admission to Talbot House *
- Admission to Passchendaele Memorial Museum*
- Admission to Hoge Crater Museum*
- Excursion to Ypres & The Last Post Ceremony
- Visits to Vimy Ridge, Tyne Cot, Thiepval & more

Extras

- Single room supplement of £76 pp (max 10)
- Travel insurance
- Admission to places of interest other than those included in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature (beverages, mementoes etc)
- Meals other than those mentioned
- Gratuities
- City Tax of €1.20 pppn (2022 dates tbc)

(* Subject to 2022 schedule yet to be published)



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Day 1: We travel to Folkestone overnight for an early morning Eurotunnel crossing to Calais. Once on French soil, we visit **Lijsenthoek**, 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 shell-shocked men spent their last night in Poperinge, each alone in a cell before their execution at dawn, for desertion. One cell has been preserved. We take a break for lunch (not included) and then travel to **Vimy Ridge** which commemorates members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force killed in the war. We have free time here before travelling to our hotel in Arras where we check in with time to relax before dinner in town (2 courses/3 choices followed by tea/coffee).

Day 2: After breakfast we travel to **Passchendaele Memorial Museum**, a reconstructed trench system that gives a view of trench life. After a break for lunch (not included) we stop at **Dochy Farm** before we travel to **Tyne Cot**, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world. The memorial lists the names of about 35,000 soldiers that went missing in action. We will stop at the **Yorkshire Trench** which was lost for

many years and then rediscovered. We then visit to **Artillery Wood Cemetery**, whose grounds were assigned to the UK in perpetuity. Finally we arrive at **Pilckem Ridge**, site of the opening attack of the Battle of Passchendaele and the Memorial to the 38th Welsh Division. We then make our way back to **Arras** where dinner awaits in one of the many restaurants in the city square (not included)

Day 3: After breakfast we travel to **Hooge** for a visit of the museum and chateau grounds. We take a break for lunch (not included) and then proceed to the **German cemetery at Langemarck**. Our last visit before travelling to Ypres is to **Essex Farm Cemetery**, famous as the place that 'In Flanders Field' was composed. In **Ypres** you 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 the Cloth Hall and the Menin Gate. After an evening meal, (not included), we gather for the tribute at The Last Post Ceremony.

Day 4: After breakfast we travel to Serre, where we will visit the **Accrington Pals Memorial**, the largest of the many dedicated to the various 'Pals' battalions that fought here and are 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 **Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial**, dedicated to the forces from Newfoundland who took part in the first day of the Battle of the Somme. 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. This evening's meal which is included will give us a chance to reflect on our exciting break.

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 John McCrae's story. We then have some free time in Wimereux town. We continue to an early evening shuttle from Calais, a meal stop on English soil (not included) and a late evening drop-off at our original departure point.

Please note that all admissions are subject to 2022 schedule, yet to be confirmed, and may vary accordingly.