

INSIGHT VACATIONS

The Art of Touring in Style

WESTERN FRONT BATTLEFIELD TOURS



10 DAYS, DEPARTING
21 APRIL 2016 & 29 APRIL 2016



insightvacations.com



INCLUDING
Anzac Day ceremony
at Villers-Bretonneux

Villers Bretonneux

BATTLEFIELDS OF THE WESTERN FRONT

21 – 30 APRIL 2016

DAY 1: THU 21 APRIL 2016

Pullman Montparnasse, Paris

Welcome to Paris. A transfer is provided at 8:30am from Charles De Gaulle airport to the hotel. Late afternoon, join your Tour Director and battlefield guide for a welcome drink and an opportunity to meet fellow tour members.

DAY 2: FRI 22 APRIL 2016

Novotel Amiens Pole Jules Verne

Travelling north of Paris we begin treading the First World War battlefields. We head to the Somme battlefields of 1916, and see the poignant Windmill Memorial, the 1st Australian Division Memorial, and the remains of the famous 'Gibraltar' blockhouse. Other sites of great importance we will see are La Boisselle (the astonishing mine crater is still there) and Thiepval, where the great British memorial to the 'missing' stands. Late afternoon check into hotel for freshen up and dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: SAT 23 APRIL 2016

Novotel Amiens Pole Jules Verne

We begin today with a visit to the Franco-Australien Museum at Villers-Bretonneux, before returning to the Somme battlefields. Travel to Bullecourt, via the Somme winter region around Butte de Warlencourt and Flers, Bapaume, the town captured on 17 March 1917, and the Hindenburg outpost line villages around which several battles were fought. Tour the battlefield of Bullecourt, then attend a reception and lunch with the locals and inspect the local memorials, including the Bullecourt "Digger", and the War Museum. Tonight is free to enjoy the atmosphere of the canal waterfront. (B,L)

DAY 4: SUN 24 APRIL 2016

Novotel Amiens Pole Jules Verne

Today we tour the sites of heavy fighting in 1918, where the AIF confirmed its outstanding reputation as fighting troops. We go to the Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel, the Richthofen ('The Red Baron') crash site, and the 3rd Australian Division Memorial at Sailly-le-Sec, before a lunch stop at Peronne. This major town was liberated by Australians on 1 September 1918. Afterwards, we visit Mont St Quentin where we see the famous 2nd Australian Division Memorial, then on to the Hindenburg Line to view the Bellicourt tunnel. Finally, Montbrehain where the Australians fought their last infantry action of the war. A free evening in Amiens or perhaps turn in for an early night to prepare for Anzac Day. (B,L)

DAY 5: MON 25 APRIL 2016

Novotel Amiens Pole Jules Verne

ANZAC Day; a special day. We have an early rise to join thousands of fellow Australians for the Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux. The

ceremony conducted at the Australian National Memorial, surrounded by the graves of soldiers killed in the local 1918 fighting, is a never to be forgotten experience. Following the ceremony we will go to Bapaume for lunch with time for any special request cemetery visits before returning to the hotel for rest. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: TUE 26 APRIL 2016

Novotel Centrum, Ypres

Today head for Flanders and the ancient town of Ypres. On the way we make an important stop at Fromelles to see where the Australians fought the disastrous action on 19th-20th July 1916. We visit the old battlefield and go to the war museum, "Cobbers" Memorial, VC Corner and the new Pheasant Wood Cemetery with lunch in a nearby cafe. After crossing the border, we make our way through Ploegsteert Wood and climb Hill 63 to see the Messines battlefield. Tonight, there is a chance to visit some fine restaurants in the town square. (B,L)

DAY 7: WED 27 APRIL 2016

Novotel Centrum, Ypres

Today we concentrate on the Australians' experiences in the terrible Third Battle of Ypres (or simply "Passchendaele"); here we had 38,000 casualties over several weeks during late 1917. Explore the preserved German trenches at Bayernwald. Then to the former battlefields at Hill 60, Menin Road, Polygon Wood where the 5th Division Memorial stands, Tyne Cot Cemetery (the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery which contains two Australian VCs), and Passchendaele village. This evening we dine together before participating in the moving "Last Post" ceremony and wreath-laying at the Menin Gate Memorial. (B,HD)

DAY 8: THU 28 APRIL 2016

Novotel Centrum, Ypres

Today enjoy a full day tour visiting two beautiful UNESCO listed Belgium cities. We begin at historic Bruges with its wonderful art, architecture, canals, and lace shops, perhaps enjoy ice-cream and waffles in one of the many little cafes or a scenic boat cruise. Then it's onto Ghent and explore the palaces, cathedrals and medieval architecture. Tonight is available to enjoy free time and relax in Ypres. (B)

DAY 9: FRI 29 APRIL 2016

Le Meridien Etoile, Paris

We conclude our tour of the battlefields returning to Paris via Vimy Ridge, the spectacular Canadian Memorial and the park and museum at Compiegne, where the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918. This evening join our farewell dinner for a cruise along the Seine, seeing the beautiful sights of Paris and Notre Dame Cathedral by night. (B,HD)

YOUR BATTLEFIELD GUIDE AARON PEGRAM



Aaron Pegram currently works in the Military History Section as the Memorial's First World War Centenary historian. A young and enthusiastic First World War historian, Aaron regularly publishes on the Australians' campaign on the Western Front in history magazines and journals in Australia and overseas. He is the editor of William Cull's memoir 'Both Sides of the Wire': the memoir of an Australian officer captured in the Great War' (2011) and is currently completing a PhD on the 3,861 Australians taken prisoner by the German Army on the Western Front. In addition to his studies on the First World War, Aaron has written about the air war over Europe in the Second World War, and is developing into one of the Memorial's specialists on Australia's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. Aaron's research & tour guiding has taken him to battlefields in France and Belgium several times and he is passionate about Australian military history, and brings to our tours a solid understanding of the AIF's operations, tactics and stories from its campaign on the Western Front.

DAY 10: SAT 30 APRIL 2016

After breakfast the tour comes to an end with a group transfer to the airport mid-morning. (B)

B - Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Hotel Dinner,
HD = Local Restaurant/Highlight Dinner

BATTLEFIELDS OF THE WESTERN FRONT

29 APRIL – 08 MAY 2016

DAY 1: FRI 29 APRIL 2016

Pullman Montparnasse, Paris

Welcome to Paris. A transfer is provided at 15:00 from Charles De Gaulle airport to the hotel. Late afternoon, join your Tour Director and battlefield guide for a welcome drink and an opportunity to meet fellow tour members.

DAY 2: SAT 30 APRIL 2016

Mercure Cathedral, Amiens

Travelling north of Paris we begin treading the First World War battlefields. We head to the Somme battlefields of 1916, and see the poignant Windmill Memorial, then the 1st Australian Division Memorial, and the remains of the famous 'Gibraltar' blockhouse. Other sites of great importance we will see are La Boisselle (the astonishing mine crater is still there) and Thiepval, where the great British memorial to the 'missing' stands. Late afternoon check into hotel for freshen up and dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: SUN 01 MAY 2016

Mercure Cathedral, Amiens

Today we explore the main Australian battlefields of 1917. We travel to Bullecourt, via the Somme winter region around Butte de Warlencourt and Flers (where "trench foot", the wet and the freezing cold was remembered by many old soldiers as the worst experience of the war), Bapaume, and the Hindenburg outpost line villages around which several battles were fought. Tour the battlefield of Bullecourt and inspect the local memorials, including the Bullecourt "Digger", and the War Museum. Tonight is free to enjoy the atmosphere of the canal waterfront. (B,L)

DAY 4: MON 02 MAY 2016

Mercure Cathedral, Amiens

Today is dedicated to the sites of many Australian battles during 1918. The village of Villers-Bretonneux, recaptured by our troops after a short German occupation in April 1918, displays many signs of the local people's appreciation of Australian efforts there. We wander the Franco-Australian Museum situated in the Ecole Victoria (the Victorian School), rebuilt in the 1920s with funds donated by the Australian public and on the outskirts, visit the Australian National Memorial, the site of the official Dawn Service followed by Adelaide cemetery, the original resting place of the Unknown Australian Soldier now entombed at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Also nearby is the tiny village of Hamel, where General John Monash, by then commander of all Australian troops on the Western Front, planned and executed the brilliant operation which set the scene for the Allies' final offensive in August 1918. We also visit Dernancourt, the town of Corbie and the site where the infamous Baron Manfred Von Richthofen was shot down and killed. (B,L)

DAY 5: TUE 03 MAY 2016

Mercure Cathedral, Amiens

We travel further east today to visit the sites of Australian actions during the final months of the war. Peronne, held by the Germans for most of the war, was captured by Australian forces in early September 1918, houses the 'Historiale de la Grand Guerre', a very modern museum portraying conditions on the Western Front during the war. We also travel to Mont St Quentin, which was regarded by some British commanders as the 'finest feat of arms by the Australians' in the entire war and see the famous 2nd Australian Division Memorial, then on to the Hindenburg Line to view the Bellicourt tunnel, the 4th Australian Division Memorial. Finally we travel to Montbrehain, where the AIF fought its last action of the First World War. Tonight we enjoy dinner at a local waterfront restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 6: WED 04 MAY 2016

Novotel Centrum, Ypres

Today head for Flanders and the ancient town of Ypres. On the way we make an important stop at Fromelles to see where the Australians fought the disastrous action on 19th-20th July 1916. We visit the old battlefield and go to the war museum, "Cobbers" Memorial, VC Corner and the new Pheasant Wood Cemetery. Later settle in at hotel. This evening we have dinner together before participating in the moving "Last Post" ceremony and wreath-laying at the Menin Gate Memorial. (B,HD)

DAY 7: THU 05 MAY 2016

Novotel Centrum, Ypres

Today we concentrate on the Australians' experiences in the terrible Third Battle of Ypres (or simply "Passchendaele"); here we had 38,000 casualties over several weeks during late 1917. We explore the preserved German trenches at Bayernwald. Then to the former battlefields at Hill 60, Menin Road, Polygon Wood where the 5th Division Memorial stands, Tyne Cot Cemetery (the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery which contains two Australian VCs), and Passchendaele village. This evening take the chance to visit some fine restaurants in the town square. (B,L)

DAY 8: FRI 06 MAY 2016

Novotel Centrum, Ypres

Today enjoy a full day tour visiting two beautiful UNESCO listed Belgium cities. We begin at historic Bruges with its wonderful art, architecture, canals, and lace shops, perhaps enjoy ice-cream and waffles in one of the many little cafes or a scenic boat cruise. Then it's onto Ghent to explore the cities palaces, cathedrals and medieval architecture. Tonight, enjoy free time and relax in Ypres. (B)

YOUR BATTLEFIELD GUIDE NICK FLETCHER



Nick Fletcher has worked at the Australian War Memorial for more than eighteen years. Much of his early time was spent as part of the Travelling Exhibitions Unit, which develops and tours AWM exhibitions all over Australia. In 2000, he transferred to the Military Heraldry and Technology Section as a curator, and became Head of this section in 2010. In 2011, he transferred to the Exhibitions Section as Concept Leader for the centenary redevelopment of the Memorial's First World War galleries. In 2009 he became the first Memorial curator to travel to Australian bases in Afghanistan, returning for a second visit in 2011. Keenly interested in Australian military history, Nick has been leading Australian War Memorial groups to the Western Front and Gallipoli Battlefields for nearly 10 years.

DAY 9: SAT 07 MAY 2016

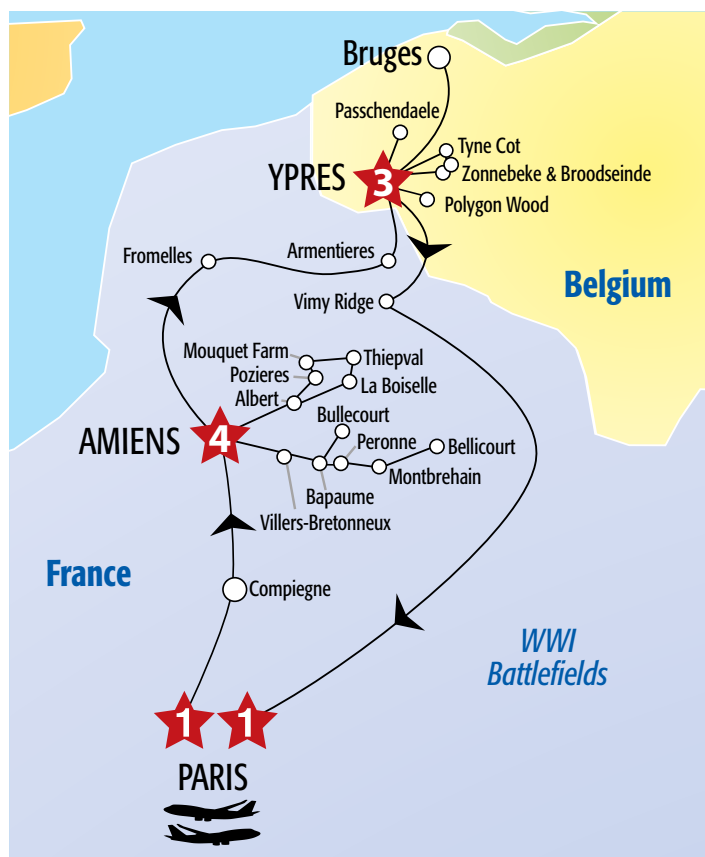
Pullman Montparnasse, Paris

We conclude our tour of the battlefields returning to Paris via Vimy Ridge, the spectacular Canadian Memorial and the park and museum at Compiègne, where the Armistice ending the fighting was signed on 11 November 1918. Settle in at hotel, with the remainder of the day free for personal sightseeing and exploring. This evening join our farewell dinner for a cruise along the Seine, seeing the beautiful sights of Paris and Notre Dame Cathedral by night. (B,HD)

DAY 10: SUN 08 MAY 2016

After breakfast the tour comes to an end with a group transfer to the airport mid-morning. (B)

B - Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Hotel Dinner,
HD = Local Restaurant/Highlight Dinner



10 DAY TOUR INCLUSIONS

Included First Class Services & Inclusions

- 9 nights in Accommodation as indicated
- Escorted by a professional Insight Tour Director
- Accompanied by an expert Australian War Memorial Historian/Curator
- Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on board washroom
- Airport transfer service as indicated
- All tipping
- Meals and sightseeing as outlined in itineraries
- Highlight Dinner – Seine river cruise



The Cloth Hall of Ypres

10 DAY TOUR PRICES:

21 APRIL 2016 DEPARTURE:

Tour Price: \$4985 per person twin share
Single Supplement: \$1270

29 APRIL 2016 DEPARTURE:

Tour Price: \$4645 per person twin share
Single Supplement: \$1120

PASSENGER CONDITIONS:

Tips & Taxes & Portage: Includes tips to Tour Director, Battlefield Guide and Drivers. Insight hotels include all service charges, taxes and portage. All tips are included for services on tour provided by dining-room waiters, chambermaids and porters at hotels.

What's Not Included: Airfares, airport taxes and charges imposed by third parties, passports and applicable visa fees, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary, excess baggage, optional excursions and travel insurance. Please note that travel insurance is highly recommended. Please see your Travel Agent for further details.

- A deposit of AUD\$200 per person is required within 7 days of booking.

Final Payment: Required to your travel agent no later than 70 days prior to departure.

Price: The advertised price is in Australian dollars. No surcharges in regards to cost or currency fluctuations will be made once deposit is received. This guarantee excludes fuel surcharges and does not apply to any taxes, charges or levies imposed by any government or its agencies.

Discounts: 2nd tour discount only applies. No other discounts are applicable with this tour.

Cancellation Fees: The following scale of charges apply when cancellation is notified: No of days prior to tour commencement.

Cancellation fee a % of total tour price

More than 70 days loss of deposit

Between 69 & 30 days 38.5%

Between 29 & 8 days 55%

Between 7 days to departure 100% of fare

Amendments: A fee of \$50 may apply to any change made to your booking once confirmed.

Refunds: No refund is available if cancellations occur after the tour has commenced or in respect of any tours, accommodation, meals or any other services not utilised.

Itinerary Changes & Tour Cancellation: Insight Vacations reserves the right to vary itineraries should circumstances dictate, as well as cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements, or circumstances beyond its control. The advertised tours require minimum numbers to depart. Should these not be met Insight Vacations reserves the right to alter or cancel arrangements.

Hotels: The hotels listed in the itinerary are confirmed, although subject to change for reasons beyond our control.

Tour Guide: Australian War Memorial Tour Guide is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Rooming Arrangements: Please note that single accommodation is usually limited. Occupying a single room either by choice or circumstance

is subject to the applicable supplement and is subject to availability.

Tour Membership: Any person aged 8 years or more is eligible, though if under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. The Tour Director may, at his or her discretion, require any person to withdraw from any tour if he or she deems the person's acts or conduct offensive or a nuisance to other passengers, and we shall have no further liability.

Portage: for one suitcase on tour is included in the tour price and at arrival or departure from each tour hotel. Due to limited coach capacity this single bag should have a weight not exceeding 30kg (66lbs) and dimensions not exceeding 77.5cm (30.5in) x 56cm (22in) x 32cm (12.5in). Charges will be levied in the event these limits are exceeded and our promise to transport you as indicated may be invalidated. Note: Airlines may restrict check-in baggage to 20kgs per person.

Documentation: Approximately 2 weeks prior to departure from Australia, documentation will be received by your travel agent including a tour itinerary, a full Hotel list, an Optional Excursion list, baggage labels & ticket wallet.

Holidays & Changes: During local or national holidays abroad, certain facilities such as museums, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited. In such instances, and whenever possible, slight itinerary adjustments are made by Insight Vacations to minimise inconvenience to our passengers. If, however you feel your enjoyment might be diminished by such minor limitations please check with the respective national tourist office before selecting a specific departure. Similarly, holidays, closing days and other circumstances may necessitate a change of the day of the week for scheduled highlight dinners, sightseeing or other activities. Due to the unreliability of domestic air scheduling, religious festivals, and other unforeseen circumstances, the itineraries, hotels or order of sightseeing may change at short notice.

- Pre or post tour accommodation is subject to availability. If not available, an alternative may be offered.

Booking Terms and Conditions: These conditions incorporate the basis upon which bookings are accepted by your Travel Agent and Insight Vacations. By making a booking you are agreeing to these terms & conditions. Insight is not responsible for the costs of any other travel arrangements affected due to our cancellations or re-scheduling of any tour departure. For further information about Insight Vacations please refer to Insight's brochure. These conditions must be carefully studied prior to making the commitment of paying the deposit as they must be referred to. Additional terms and conditions may be applicable to group bookings and will be advised. IV4120

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

For Bookings & Enquiries please contact
Insight Vacations on 1300 237 886
or see your travel agent



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