

Battlefield Exploration



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The 1st Battle of Ypres

The battlefields of the Ypres Salient are a must-see to everyone interested in the history of the Great War. That Ypres was fought over so hard was due to the fact that it was the last stand possible to keep the Germans from capturing the French ports of Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne. These ports were vital in the communication and supplies lines of the British. Therefore Ypres had to be held at whatever cost.

The Tour

Your professional battlefield guide will come pick you up at your accommodation*.

From Ypres we drive to **Geluwe** to see the memorial to Francis Ledwige, the 1st Australian casualty on the Western Front. He died in a skirmish prior to the actual 1st Battle of Ypres, when he and his comrades of the 1st Life Guards were on patrol, trying to locate the German army.

Along the infamous Menin Road we then drive to **Geluveld**, where the Germans launched their first major attack on the Ypres Salient ridges. The notorious defence of the Worcestershires and South Wales Borderers is still commemorated in the village and on the grounds of Gheluveld Chateau.

In **Zandvoorde** we commemorate the gallant defence of the Household Cavalry and the death of many noble men in the British Cavalry. Back on the Menin Road we concentrate on the German attacks on Herenthage Chateau and Polderhoek.

We continue to **Polygon Wood** to see the Black Watch Memorial. Here the German elite troops were withstood and taken prisoner of war. The casualties mounted, but the British and French troops had halted the German advance. The Battle of the Nonnenbosschen was the final battle of the 1st Ypres campaign.

At **Langemark** we finally visit the German military cemetery and learn of the famous First Battle of Langemark, in which the Germans so-called took Langemarck while singing "Deutschland über alles"... Langemark would stay in Allied hands until the 2nd Battle of Ypres, but the battle would live in history as 'the Slaughter of the Innocent'.

Back in Ypres after about 3 hours.

** When accommodated in the Ypres area, there will be no extra charge for the pick-up and drop-off at your accommodation. If you want to be picked up from other places (like Bruges, Ghent, Lille, Arras, ... et cetera), there will be an extra charge for the extra mileage.*

Practical Information

- » **Departure** from your accommodation in Ypres at about 9 am; back in Ypres by 12 pm.
Other departure points (Bruges, Ghent, Lille, ...) are possible, but may result in an extra charge.
- » **Tariff:** € 190 (with a maximum of 7 participants).
 - > If more than 7 participants, tariff will be depending on the coach tariff.
 - > In the price is included: transportation with minibus and professional guide/driver.
 - > No entrance fees to be paid during this tour.
- » **Walking:** only short distances from the car to the actual sites. Never more than 500 yards.

**Want to add a specific site to the itinerary? Or want to combine several itineraries?
Please let us know, and we'll provide a quote!**