

Battlefield Exploration



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Australians @ the Somme

The battlefields of the Somme are certainly worth a visit, especially as the area still very much looks like the battlefield in 1916: rolling countryside and villages dotted all over the area. The unbelievable story of the 1916 campaign by the British and French troops is one of those key stories in the history of the Great War. It was also here that the defining outcome of the Great War was started with the Allied End Offensives.

The Tour

Your professional battlefield guide will come pick you up at your accommodation* at about 9 am.

From Ypres, we'll drive via the motorways passing Lille to **Thiepval** to see the impressive memorial to the missing and its visitor centre. The memorial – designed by Sir E.L. Lutyens – lists over 72,000 names of British missing (not listing the Canadian, Newfoundland and Australian missing). Next onwards to Pozières. On the way over we'll pass the small memorial at *Mouquet Farm*.

At **Pozières** we'll visit the memorial for the *1st Australian Division* and the *Australian Memorial Park* of the *OG Lines* site. During the Battle of Pozières the 1st, 2nd and 4th Division were thrown into battle: they captured the ruins of the village and the German defences, but were unable to capture *Mouquet Farm*. In less than 7 weeks in the fighting at Pozières and *Mouquet Farm* three Australian divisions suffered 23,000 casualties. Of these, 6,800 men were killed or died of wounds. It was a loss comparable with the casualties sustained by the Australians over eight months at Gallipoli in 1915. Just opposite is the *Tank Memorial*, commemorating the first tanks into action in the Great War.

Before driving into the town of Albert for lunch, we'll also stop at the **Lochnagar Crater** in La Boisselle. The scale of the crater – owned by the Richard Dunning Trust – clearly shows the impact of the underground warfare.

After lunch we drive across the River Somme to the 1918 battlefields of Le Hamel and Villers-Bretonneux. At Le Hamel we visit the **Australian Corps Memorial Park**. The Australian Corps Memorial Park explains about the Battle of Le Hamel, the first real combined forces operation of

the Great War. General John Monash planned and executed the perfect battle, that would become the standard for all battles in the Allied End Offensives.

Next onwards to the **National Australian Memorial** (to the Missing) can be found at **Villers-Bretonneux**. The brand new **John Monash Centre** is certainly worth a visit. We'll also visit the **Franco-Australian War Museum** at Villers-Bretonneux.

Back to Ypres along the motorways. End of the tour at about 6.30 pm.

** 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 6 pm.
Other departure points (Bruges, Ghent, Lille, ...) are possible, but may result in an extra charge.
- » **Tariff:** € 295 (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.
 - > Extra entrance fee to be paid during this tour: € 7 p.p. for Le Tommy and € 6 p.p. for the Franco-Australian Museum.
- » **Walking:** only short distances from the car to the actual sites. Never more than 750 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!**