

Battlefield Exploration



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Behind the Front Line

When people are looking to visit the battlefields of the Great War, they mainly focus on the actual battles (like Ypres, the Somme, Arras, Verdun, ...). Yet, the war was decided by logistics and what happened behind the front line.

The Tour

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

From Ypres we drive to **Vlamertinghe**, the first village that was out of reach for the German artillery for most of the war. At Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery we see some remarkable graves and get familiar with the term "Shot at dawn". At Vlamertinghe Chateau we commemorate of the most famous war poets: Edmund Blunden.

A bit further on we visit the unique headstone of Noel Godfrey Chavasse at **Brandhoek New Cemetery**. This headstone is the only one in the world that bears two Victoria Crosses.

A short time later we arrive at **Poperinge**, during the war known to the soldiers as 'little Paris'. This was the very centre of the *Rest & Recreation* area for most of the British troops. The several pubs on the Grand Place still tell the stories of those times. The story of Eliane 'Ginger' Cossey is certainly one of the best. Her statue can be found in front of La Poupée. Yet, also the site 'Shot at Dawn' (at the town hall) reminds us of what Pops must have been like during the war: the place where soldiers were court-martialled and sentenced to death.

Visiting Poperinge means you have to visit **Talbot House**. The first stop after hell was a typical soldiers' club, where all who entered had to abandon rank. 'Tubby' Clayton ran the club with charisma, providing a little bit of heaven in hell. Lunch in Poperinge.



After lunch we drive to **Lyssenthoek Cemetery**, the second largest CWGC cemetery in Flanders. Here was a military hospital during the war and the many headstones prove that for almost every day of the war, a body can be located within the Ypres Salient... The interesting visitors' centre tells the story of the medical care for the wounded and the dying. The walk towards the entrance of the cemetery clearly shows the most horrendous dates of the war in Flanders Fields. On the cemetery itself there are some remarkable headstones, like that of the highest ranking officer killed in Flanders and the grave of staff nurse Nellie Spindler, the only woman to have been buried on the cemetery.



Back in Ypres by 1 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 1 pm. It is obviously also possible to organise this tour in the afternoon.
Other departure points (Bruges, Ghent, Lille, ...) are possible, but may result in an extra charge.
- » **Tariff:** € 195 (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. This is optional, however; you can also decide not to visit the museum.
- » **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!**