

Battlefield Exploration



Battlefield Exploration

Kruisekestraat 197 bus 0001
8940 Wervik
Belgium

T +32 486 968 307

info@battlefieldexploration.be

www.battlefieldexploration.be

Canadians @ 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.

The Tour

Your guide will pick you up at your accommodation in Ypres at 9.30 am. From Ypres you'll drive to the Somme area. Our first stop will be the **Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel**. The site perfectly illustrates how trench lines were dug on the front line. The *Caribou Memorial* and the *Memorial to the Newfoundland Missing* is also worth the visit, but it's the walk on the former battlefield that really gives you an idea of the carnage of the Great War and more specifically the 1916 Battle of the Somme. The Newfoundland Regiment was virtually wiped out on 1st July, 1916.

Next onwards to Thiepval to visit the **Thiepval Memorial to the Missing** and its excellent visitors' centre. The Thiepval Memorial is the largest memorial to the missing on the Western front. It lists over 72,000 names, although no Canadian names can be found on the memorial. All the Canadian missing in France were listed on the *National Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge*.

Onwards to Albert for lunch.

From Albert we'll drive to the **Lochnagar Crater**, an impressive memorial to the underground warfare. At the beginning of the Battle of the Somme the British engineers detonated 19 deep mines. The Lochnagar Mine was one of the biggest. The massive scale of the crater – owned by Richard Dunning and the Lochnagar Trust – clearly shows the impact of the underground warfare.

Next we continue through **Pozières** to **Courcelette**. In the Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15 September 1916) the Canadian troops first attacked with the support of tanks. The tank attack was all but successful, but the Canadian troops still took the village of Courcelette. The **Canadian Memorial at Courcelette** commemorates these efforts.

Just a little further we'll also visit **Adanac Military Cemetery**, where lots of Canadians were buried. One of them was James Cleland Richardson, a Canadian piper who was posthumously awarded the VC for his actions during the Battle of the Ancre Heights.

Back to Ypres along the motorways. End of the tour at about 5.30 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 5.30 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.
 - > No entrance fees to be paid during this tour.
- » **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!**