

Battlefield Exploration



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Kruisekestraat 197 bus 0001
8940 Wervik
Belgium

T +32 486 968 307

info@battlefieldexploration.be

www.battlefieldexploration.be

The 2nd 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 **Essex Farm Cemetery**, where the Canadians set up their advanced dressing stations and medical posts when the battle started on 22nd April 1915. We visit the **John McCrae Memorial** and learn about the reason for writing his famous poem.

Next, we move on to Steenstraete and Bikschoote for a view of the territory where the Germans released the gas. Via **Carrefour des Roses**, a French memorial site, and the **Yorkshire Trench & Dugout**, we reach **Kitchener's Wood**. Here the Canadians gallantly attacked the Germans during the night to retake the Woods that had been lost during the day.

Our next stop is the Canadian memorial '**The Brooding Soldier**' at St Juliaan. Along the 's Graventafel ridge we move on towards the **Frezenberg Ridge** and **Bellewaerde Ridge**. Here we find the memorial to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the small memorial to the Monmouthshires. Of the last battalion only a quarter of the men involved lived through the battle. Panel 50 on the Menin Gate Memorial is the sad reality of what happened on 8th May 1915.

The tour ends at **Hill 60**, where the Germans originally planned their gas attack, but had to postpone it due to the weather. Hill 60 would be taken in May...

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!**