

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 Forgotten Front

The battlefields of the Great War lying between Ypres and Messines in the North, and La Bassée and Lens in the South, have always been regarded as less interesting battlefields for visitors, as they normally spend more time visiting the battlefields of the Ypres Salient or the Somme. Still, there are some very interesting sites to visit, and some remarkable stories to tell...

The Tour

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

From Ypres, we'll drive through the town of Armentières – well-known for the song *Mademoiselle from Armentieres* – to Neuve-Chapelle. Our first visit will be the **Le Touret Memorial**, a memorial that pays tribute to the soldiers of the British Imperial Army who died in the fierce fighting between the Lys River and the town of La Bassée from the beginning of the war up to the eve of the Battle of Loos in September 1915. Designed by J.R. Truelove the memorial commemorates 13,482 British officers and men whom were denied a known burial place.

Just a little further on we find the **Neuve Chapelle Memorial**, where the names of 4,657 British and Indian casualties have been listed on a memorial to the missing. The design of the memorial was inspired by ancient Indian sanctuaries. Just 200 yards away we'll also have a look at the **Portuguese military cemetery**.

Next onwards to Fromelles to visit one of the most beautiful CWGC cemeteries in the area: **Le Trou Aid Post**. Here we'll find graves of all the major battles that took place in the area. At **VC Corner Australian Cemetery** we'll pay our respects to the casualties of the *Action at Fromelles* on 19-20 July 1916. During this attack many Australian lives were lost and two mass graves containing 410 bodies are proof of that. The names of all the missing of this specific action are listed on a separate memorial to the missing. A few hundred yards further on – on the former German front line – we'll also visit the **Australian Memorial Park** with the famous **Cobbers** sculpture.

From Fromelles we'll drive to the Lens area for lunch.

After lunch we'll focus on the 1915 Battle of Loos, visiting **Dud Corner Cemetery** and the **Loos Memorial to the Missing**. The intriguing story of John Kipling is of course just one of many stories connected to heroism during the Battle of Loos. The battle was the first use of poison gas by the British, but unfortunately things didn't work out as planned. We'll also see some commemorative plaques to the VC winners in the area. At the Canadian **Hill 70 Memorial Park** we'll hear the story of the 1917 Battle of Hill 70. The *Hill 70 Memorial Park* opened to the public in August 2017. The centrepiece of the memorial park is an obelisk signifying the victory of the Canadian Corps at the Battle of Hill 70. The memorial park is located near the start line where the Corps began its advance to capture Hill 70. The actual location of Hill 70 is 1.4 kilometres to the east.

** 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 9.30 am; back in Ypres by 5 pm.
Other departure points (Bruges, Ghent, Lille, ...) are possible, but may result in an extra charge.
- » **Tariff:** € 275 (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.
 - > There are 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!**