

Battlefield Exploration



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The 1815 Waterloo Campaign

The battlefields of the Waterloo Campaign still tell the story of how Napoleon was defeated and how a lucky Duke of Wellington wrote history. Although the terrain looks a bit different today, a visit to the battlefields will surely make you understand what happened on that infamous 18th June 1815.

The Tour

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

From Ypres we'll drive to the Charleroi area to follow up in the French advance towards Waterloo. On 16 June 1815 the first battles were conducted between the French and British/Dutch armies at **Quatre Bras**, while the French also fought the Prussians in the Battle of **Ligny**. The Prussians were defeated, the British had to fall back on Waterloo, where Wellington decided to make a stand. From Charleroi we will follow in the footsteps of Napoleon in the Battle of Ligny and then move onwards to Quatre Bras to see the monuments and memorials for the Battle of Quatre Bras.

Next onwards to the Last HQ of Napoleon in de **Ferme du Caillou**. The farmhouse was burnt by the French troops during the retreat after the defeat at Waterloo, but the farm was rebuilt very soon afterwards and was turned into a museum by the local authorities in 1972.

At **La Belle Alliance** we relive the Battle of Waterloo with the charge of the British cavalry, the charge of the French heavy Cavalry and the advance of the Imperial Guard, using footage from the 1970 film Waterloo. We will walk in the footsteps of both Napoleon and Wellington and stand on the places where they have stood during the battle.

Lunch near the **Visitor Centre** and the Lion Mound, the memorial to the Dutch troops during the Battle of Waterloo. After lunch we'll visit the museum, the panorama and – if you want to – climb the steps to the top of the Lion Mound to oversee the whole battlefield.

Of course we will also visit the **Ferme du Hougoumont**, where fierce fighting went on for the possession of the farm and chateau. The audiovisual presentation on site perfectly illustrates the importance of the farm on the British right wing.

Then afterwards we continue to Waterloo to visit the **Wellington Museum**, housed in the building where Wellington had his HQ the night before the battle. The museum is the perfect way to recapture the full story of the Battle of Waterloo and displays several very interesting items.

Back in Ypres by 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 8.30 am; back in Ypres by 6.30 pm. Other departure points (Bruges, Ghent, Lille, ...) are possible, but may result in an extra charge.
- » **Tariff:** € 345 (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: € 20 p.p. for all museums.
- » **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!**