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3 Day Battlefield Tour

Ypres, Somme & Arras



Day 1

Lijssenthoek

Causes of the Great War; 1914 battles; Ethos of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; Empire troops; The role of women in the Great War.

Bayernwald – German trench system

The development of Trench warfare; Use of ground; Trench construction; Daily routine; Technology; Problems with trench fighting.

Optional:

- Menin Gate
- Rebuilding Ypres.
- Chocolate shopping and dinner in Ypres.
- Menin Gate ceremony
- Last Post Ceremony

Day 2

Sunken Lane

The Somme 1916; Kitchener's Army and the Pals Battalions; Recruitment; The Plan for 1st July 1916; 1st Bn Lancashire Fusiliers; 'Going over the top'.

Newfoundland Memorial Park

The Newfoundland Regiment on 1st July; Preserved trench system and an opportunity to walk across the battlefield.

Auchonvillers

An opportunity for the whole group to handle equipment and weaponry and for a member of the group to dress in Great War uniform.

Ulster Tower

The Story of the 36th Ulster Division; Background to the Troubles: the story of Billy McFadzean VC.

Lochnagar Crater

The use of Mine warfare in the Great War.

Thiepval Memorial to the Missing

The Somme – a British victory? The impact of the battle; A chance for reflection.



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Day 3

Notre Dame de Lorette

French National Memorial and the largest French Great War Cemetery. French cemetery ethos; Basilica of Notre-Dame and ossuaries.

Also an opportunity to visit the 'Ring of Remembrance', the new international memorial commemorating 579,606 men of all nationalities who fell in Nord-Pas-de-Calais during the Great War which opened on 11th November 2014.

Carrière Wellington

Guided tour of the underground tunnels; The underground war.

Faubourg D'Amiens

Arras Memorial to the Missing; 2nd Lt W D Tull 23rd Middlesex Regt; Flying Services Memorial.

Vimy Ridge

Trench and mine warfare; Battlefield walk to view the Douai plain; The Battle of Arras April 1917 – initial successes.