

BATTLEFIELDS & MEMORIALS OF WW1 - THE SOMME

Small group guided tours to explore the history of the Anzacs



The story of the Anzacs is now etched into Australian history especially the battles, the victories and the tragedies in Northern France – particularly the victory now celebrated on ANZAC Day at Villers Bretonneux near Peronne and Amiens. For those visiting Paris or Northern France or those on our **Bike & Barge** cruises from **Bruges to Paris** or **Amsterdam to Bruges** we have sought the services of a small group guiding company – perhaps the best and most knowledgeable in the area for Australian and British history – to offer a tour to give you a chance to see and learn more about the important places of the Australian WW1 campaign.

After the disaster of Gallipoli in 1915 the Australian Imperial Force was reorganized and expanded to five infantry divisions, which were progressively transferred to the south of France in 1916. The battles with German forces on the Western Front had long reached a stalemate. There were extensive defensive systems – trenches, wire, minefields and bunkers - on both sides that stretched for over 700km across Belgium and northeast France all the way from the English Channel to the border with Switzerland.

The first Aussies in France were sent to Armentieres and Messines Ridge. The first big battle was in Fromelles on 19th July 1916 with over 5,000 Australian casualties in the first day. In total some 42,000 Australians died or were wounded at the Somme and various sites along on the Western Front.

In 1917, the Anzacs were involved in battles at Bullecourt, Messines Ridge and in the long campaign around Ypres, known as the Battle of Passchendaele. Australians captured Hamel Spur in 1918 and in August the Allied Army's offensive began at Amiens. Australian successes at Mont St Quentin and Peronne greatly assisted in the capture of the Hindenburg Line. In October the Australian divisions withdrew from the Western Front and were preparing to return when Germany surrendered on 11 November 1918 and fighting ceased.

Join our English speaking guides based in France for a day to explore the region. The program can be flexible to meet each group's interests and if these tours are the first opportunity for you to visit the grave of a relative, where time allows we can look at personalising the itinerary to include places important for you or your group.

Cost: From \$250 per person (based on a minimum of 2-people - maximum group size is 8-passengers)
Larger groups can be accommodated in buses for over 8 passengers at a reduced cost

Departs: Daily on demand from either Peronne or Amiens

Includes: Full day of guided touring with experienced WW1 English speaking tour guided by mini-bus, visit to Villers Bretonneux and the Victoria School, maps/info pack (lunch & entry fee to museums extra).

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Our tours are fully escorted with an experienced professional battlefield guide well versed in Australian WW1 history. With a flexible itinerary (decided at the discretion of our tour guides) we have the opportunity to stop and explore many significant sites including preserved trenches, craters and museums. There is a lot to see, and a lot will of course be missed and much is still to be unearthed on many sites. On this **full day tour** we can guarantee those interested in Australian, British and French history an experience they will never forget!

A detailed and fascinating commentary on the sites of significance is given throughout:

Suggested itinerary:

Our groups will explore the region of the Somme departing from Peronne at 9.30am or Amiens at 10.00am. The program will include the area of **Villers Bretonneux** with its important ANZAC museum and the famous **Victoria School**. We expect to visit the Adelaide Cemetery, the Australian National Memorial, Le Hamel and the site where the Red Baron was shot down by Australian ground forces. We will then move on to Pozieres where sites of significance to Australians will include the windmill, the First Division Memorial and site of the battles of Gibraltar and Mouquet Farm.

Lunch is usually a 45-minute stop for a sandwich and a drink at a local café (at your own expense). Entry to museums is not included in the tour cost (approximately Euro 4 at Villers Bretonneux). We will return to Peronne (Amiens) later in the afternoon at about 5.30pm.

For those with family graves in the area, we may try to visit them (as long as they are not too far away). If you have a special request or place of interest let us know in advance & we will see if it can be included.

For those with more time or planning to return, here are some suggestions as to other areas in the Somme that can be covered by day tours: Newfoundland Park (preserved trenches), Lochnagar Crater, Thiepval, Pozieres (including "The Tommy Bar"), Devil's Wood, Ulster Tower, Mametz Wood. The Historial de la Grande Guerre museum in Peronne is not included in our day tour but is highly recommended as is the underground trench museum in Albert and the cathedral in Amiens.

A second day of touring (with accommodation if required in Amiens) can be arranged on demand - based on a minimum of 4-persons – ask for details.



Outdoor Travel offer small group guided walking or cycling holidays in many areas of Europe and a range of Bike & Barge cruises in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany (such as Bruges to Paris or Amsterdam to Bruges) plus a range of walking holidays in France & across Europe that connect to this tour – ask for details:

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright 3741
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102