Flanders Fields.
A place to remember.
INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 1918, the German forces began the Spring Offensive, a series of major attacks along the Western Front. In Flanders, in April, the Lys Offensive (Fourth Battle of Ypres) saw the Germans retake much of the ground that had been won by the Allies at such cost the previous autumn. Messines Ridge and the villages of Wytschaete and Messines were lost, then the village of Passchendaele before finally the Germans took Kemmel Hill. Ypres came close to falling, but the city remained defiant, and by the end of April the German onslaught had been halted.

On St George’s Day, 23 April 1918, the British launched naval raids on Zeebrugge and Ostend, to block the entrances to the harbours and inflict as much damage as possible upon both ports. The Zeebrugge operation took place with about 75 ships and over 1,700 men in a night-time operation and was deemed a success, however the Ostend raid did not go to plan and was subsequently repeated in May.

The Americans who fought in Flanders, arrived in Europe in June and July 1918. The 27th and 30th divisions experienced their baptism of fire in July, at the front to the south of Ypres, between the Ypres-Comines railway line and Dikkebus Lake for the 30th and from Dikkebus Lake to Kemmel for the 27th. Both divisions remained near Ypres until 4 September 1918.

In August, the Allies began the Hundred Days offensive which would ultimately end with the signing of the Armistice. General Foch, the Supreme Allied Commander, decided to launch three separate attacks on the German lines. In the north, King Albert of Belgium, with a force of British, French, and Belgian troops, successfully attacked through Flanders. Starting on 28 September, the Battle of Ypres 1918 recaptured the ground lost during the Lys Offensive. It took just three days to advance ten miles and for the familiar landmarks of four years of fighting to be back in Allied hands.

By mid-October, the success of Allied operations along the line from Nieuwpoort to Verdun meant that the Salient had seen its last fighting. Allied soldiers broke out of their long-held foothold in Flanders and pushed the German Army back to the eastern Belgian border.

At 11 am on 11 November the fighting stopped on the Western Front.

Estimates of fatal casualties for all nationalities resulting from the occupation and fighting around Ypres between 1914 and 1918 were in the region of 600,000.

Now, one hundred years later, Flanders invites visitors to remember lives of all those impacted by the conflict – and what better place to do so than Flanders Fields.

Numerous museums, events, and exhibitions shed light on the various facets of the Great War: the military operations, trench warfare, political alliances, propaganda, etc. In addition, various art exhibitions offer a truly individual, artistic view of the horrors of WWI. Wherever you go in Flanders Fields, whether by car, by bike, or on foot, you come across the remnants – and what better place to do so than Flanders Fields. There are even several ways for visitors to contribute to the commemorations.

This brochure provides an essential guide to the key memorial sites, locations, accommodation, and 2018 commemorative events, along with relevant accessibility information for Flanders Fields and other locations in Flanders.
Europe, Flanders, Flanders Fields

15 KEY SITES IN FLANDERS FIELDS

1. In Flanders Fields Museum
2. Polygon Wood
3. German Cemetery Vladslo
4. Menin Gate
5. Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery & Visitor Centre
6. German Cemetery Langemark
7. Hill 60 & Caterpillar crater
8. Tyne Cot Cemetery & Visitor Centre
9. Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917
10. Ypres Tower Museum
11. Essex Farm Cemetery Trench of Death
12. Battlefields Newwood's Visitor Centre & Goose Foot Lock Complex
13. Tyne Cot Cemetery & Visitor centre
14. Trench of Death
15. Menin Gate

Introduction
28 June 1914
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo

28 July 1914
Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.

1914

1915

1916

1917

1918

6 April 1917
United States declares war on Germany.

April 1918
German spring offensive. Major attack by the Germans at Merkem and Kemmel.

28 September - 11 November 1918
The final offensive. Reinforced by the Americans, a series of Allied offensives pushes the Germans back.

4 August 1914
German army invades Belgium. United Kingdom declares war on Germany.

4 August 1914
German army invades Belgium. United Kingdom declares war on Germany.

22 April 1915
First use of chlorine gas by the German army in Langemark.

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21 February - 20 December 1916
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7 - 14 June 1917
Battle of Messines

7 - 14 June 1917
Battle of Messines

12 July 1917
First use of mustard gas

31 July - 10 November 1917
Third Battle of Ypres/Battle of Passchendaele

31 July - 10 November 1917
Third Battle of Ypres/Battle of Passchendaele

11 November 1918
Armistice. End of WWI at 11 o'clock in the morning.

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22 April - 25 May 1915
Second Battle of Ypres

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26 & 29 October 1914
Nieuwpoort sluice gates are opened to flood the plain and halt the German advance.

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19 October - 22 November 1914
First Battle of Ypres

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First Battle of Ypres

1 July - 18 November 1916
Battle of the Somme (France)

1 July - 18 November 1916
Battle of the Somme (France)

1 July - 18 November 1916
Battle of the Somme (France)

1 July - 18 November 1916
Battle of the Somme (France)

24 - 25 June 1917
First shot of cannon Lange Max

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31 July - 10 November 1917
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Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo.

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Germany declares war on Russia.

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Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.

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Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.
The First World War left an indelible impact on the area now known as Flanders Fields, transforming the region into one of the most thought-provoking and inspirational war landscapes in the world. In 1914, local farmers witnessed their fields turning into a battleground for one of the most terrible conflicts in human history. Over 600,000 men and women died on Belgian soil during the First World War. The military cemeteries that dot these same fields are a sad reminder of the tragic cost of this “war to end all wars.”

British and Commonwealth soldiers passed through the city of Ypres on their way to the battlefields along the Ypres Salient. Reduced to rubble by constant bombardment, the town came to symbolise the meaningless slaughter of the Great War. After the war, Ypres rose like a phoenix from its ashes, rebuilt as an almost perfect copy of the medieval city that had been destroyed during the fighting. The famous Menin Gate stands at one entrance to the city: a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial was placed here in 1927 inscribed with the names of more than 54,000 soldiers who died before 16 August 1917 and have no known grave. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers passed through the gate on the way to the front, many of them never to return. The Last Post will continue to be sounded here, nightly, in perpetuity, by volunteer local buglers in remembrance of those men.

Around Ypres there are over a hundred military cemeteries, the resting place of those soldiers and airmen. The land on which the Commonwealth cemeteries are located was given in gratitude by the Belgian nation. There are also German, French, Belgian, and US cemeteries, as well as other memorials and war relics.

Other towns and villages in Flanders Fields were also completely destroyed. The most well-known village is Passchendaele. It was here in 1917 that the Allied army fought for several months in a desperate bid to break the German line. During the battle, the Allied forces lost nearly 300,000 men in capturing this ruined village after advancing over a few miles of shell-blasted mud. They soon began referring to the valley as “Passion-dale”: the valley of suffering. In the neighbouring village of Zonnebeke you can see the cost of this victory in human life: Tyne Cot Cemetery, with almost 12,000 tombstones.

Another well-known village is Messines. On 7 June 1917, the Battle of Messines, the “Battle of the Mines”, started with the Allied Army simultaneously exploding 19 underground mines. It was here that Irish Unionist and Nationalists fought side by side, along with New Zealanders and Australians, who played a significant role in the success of the Messines offensive. This battle also took place across the area of Heuvelland and the Demarcation Stone erected after the war to mark the furthest point to which the Germans advanced.

In the north of the area, the towns of Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide were also totally ruined. It was in Nieuwpoort that the sluices were opened and the Yser river plain and front region was flooded at the end of 1914. This inspired the famous poem “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae, published in The Canadian Magazine in December 1915:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
Silent,企业和 brave are flying high.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Major John McCrae – 1915

The famous Menin Gate in Ypres stands at one entrance to the city; a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial was placed here in 1927 inscribed with the names of more than 54,000 soldiers who died before 16 August 1917 and have no known grave. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers passed through the gate on the way to the front, many of them never to return. The Last Post will continue to be sounded here, nightly, in perpetuity, by volunteer local buglers in remembrance of those men.

In Lys, where the Canadian Corps was the first to achieve a breakthrough, the Menin Gate is surrounded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries. Many were young men from the bush of Canada, the US, and Australia; they were the first to wear the Cross of Sacrifice. In Lijssenthoek Cemetery, the only large cemetery on German soil, hundreds of thousands of men from the British Empire found a final resting place, 3,300 of them from the New Zealand Division. Another well-known cemetery is Zonnebeke Churchyard, the resting place of those soldiers and airmen. The land in Zonnebeke is dotted with military cemeteries that mark the tragic cost of this “war to end all wars”.

Behind the front line was Poperinge. “Pop” as it was known to British soldiers, an important rail centre and gateway to the battlefields. It was a place of temporary camps and hospitals where soldiers came to rest from the trenches or for medical treatment. There were also shops, restaurants, hotels, pubs, cinemas, and theatres at their disposal. It was here that an army chaplain, the Reverend Philip “Tubby” Clayton, founded Talbot House, an Every-Man’s Club, a place to relax where everybody was welcome, regardless of rank. Today, Talbot House is a “living museum” and is still a place to stay.

TOURIST OFFICES IN FLANDERS FIELDS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tourist Office Nieuwpoort</th>
<th>Visitor centre for Ypres Ieperi and Flanders Fields</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grote Markt 6, 8600 Nieuwpoort</td>
<td>Contact: +32 05 79 30 50, <a href="mailto:toerisme@nieuwpoort.be">toerisme@nieuwpoort.be</a></td>
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<td>Contact: +32 01 57 45 04 55, <a href="mailto:toerisme@heuvelland.be">toerisme@heuvelland.be</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: tourism.diksmuide.be</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.heuvelland.be">www.heuvelland.be</a></td>
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<th>Tourist Office Zonnebeke</th>
<th>Tourist Office Passchendaele/ Zonnebeke</th>
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<tr>
<td>Berten Plakstraat 5A, 8980 Zonnebeke</td>
<td>Contact: +32 01 57 77 04 41, <a href="mailto:toerisme@zonnebeke.be">toerisme@zonnebeke.be</a></td>
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www.flandersfields.be/en
YPRES & SURROUNDINGS

IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM

The permanent exhibition focuses on the personal stories of ordinary people and establishes a link to the landscape of WWI in Flanders Fields. More than 2,000 original objects and documents are on display and a new scenography highlights the most recent museum applications, including touch screens, interactive poppy bracelets, video projections, and soundscapes. In addition, visitors can climb the bellfry for a wonderful view of what was once a completely devastated region.

Address
Cloth Hall
Grote Markt 34,
8900 Ypres

Contact
+32 (0)57 239 220
flandersfields@ieper.be

Website
www.inflandersfields.be

Opening hours
1 April – 15 November:
Mon – Sun: 10 am – 6 pm
16 November – 31 March:
Tue – Sun: 10 am – 5 pm
25 December & 1 January: Closed

Price
Adults: €9.00
Youth (ages 19-25): €5.00
Children (ages 7-18): €4.00
Children under 7: free
Groups (min. 15): €7.00
Schools (min. 15): €4.00
Suppl. to visit the bellfry: €2.00
Guides: € 80.00 (2 hours – max. 25 p.)
Groups must book at least 14 days in advance.

THE MENIN GATE AND THE LAST POST

The most famous Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial bears the names of 54,896 soldiers who were reported missing in the Ypres Salient between the outbreak of the war and 15 August 1917. Due to a lack of space, after that date names were listed on the memorial at Tyne Cot. An exception was made for Australian and Canadian soldiers who were missing in action until the end of the war. There are no New Zealand names, as their missing are commemorated in cemeteries near to where they died. Every night at eight o’clock sharp, the resounding bugle call of the volunteers of the Ypres Last Post Association, who are members of the Ypres Voluntary Fire Brigade, rings out as a tribute to the fallen under the Menin Gate.

Address
Lille Gate, Ypres

Website
www.lastpost.be

INDIAN FORCES MEMORIAL

This memorial behind the Menin Gate is dedicated to the 180,000 soldiers of the Indian Forces who served in Flanders during the Great War. 9,000 members of the Indian Expeditionary Force died as casualties in France and Flanders, not only due to the nature of their injuries in battle but also due to the severe winter weather conditions they were exposed to.

Address
Brielenstraat, Ieper

NEW IRISH FARM CEMETERY

The New Irish Farm Cemetery opened at the outbreak of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). It was named after a nearby farm. During the final German advance from April to May 1918, new graves were added. At the time of the Armistice, it contained 73 graves but was then greatly enlarged with more than 4,500 new graves.

Address
Briekestraat, Ieper

RAMPARTS CEMETERY

English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh soldiers along with Canadian, New Zealand and Australian soldiers are buried here. Also in this beautiful cemetery are ten Maoris, a working party of the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion who were shelled near Ypres on 31 December 1917.

Address
Lille Gate, Ypres
The largest French military cemetery in Belgium contains 4,200 graves, including 69 Islamic tombs. A Breton Pieta by the sculptor J. Fréour is located at the front of the site, mourning over the lost dead.

**Address**
Zonnebeekseweg, Ypres

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The red dragon, built on a dolmen (in Welsh “cromlech”), stands in the middle of an area that was conquered by Welsh troops on 31 July 1917. It looks in the direction of Passchendaele, the village that would only be taken three months later at the expense of half a million lives. The surrounding park is dedicated to all Welsh people involved in the Great War, both soldiers and civilians.

**Address**
Boezingestraat 158
Langemark-Poelkapelle

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The Brooding Soldier is a 33ft (10m) high granite monument. It represents a grieving Canadian soldier, in memory of the 2,000 soldiers who died in 1915, as a result of a gas attack in the Second Battle of Ypres.

**Address**
Brugseweg
Langemark-Poelkapelle

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Behind its monumental entrance building lie some 44,300 German soldiers, half of whom are buried in a mass grave. Over 3,000 cadets and student volunteers are among the dead, which is why the cemetery is also called the Studentenfriedhof.

**Address**
Klerkenstraat 64
Poelkapelle

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There are many Welsh burials on this cemetery, including that of the famous poet Hedd Wyn. In addition, the Irish poet Francis Ledwige is also buried here.

**Address**
Poezelstraat, Boezinge

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A total of 1,185 soldiers are buried at Essex Farm, including one of the youngest casualties of the war. Valentine Joe Strudwick was just 15 years old when he was killed. Next to the cemetery, you can still see the concrete bunkers in which a dressing station was housed. It was in one of these primitive ‘dug-outs’ that the Canadian military doctor John McCrae wrote his world-famous poem ‘In Flanders Fields’ at the beginning of May 1915.

**Address**
Diksmuideseweg, Ypres

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This Anglican Church was built to commemorate the dead, to serve as a meeting place for visiting relatives, and to keep alive the memory of the sacrifices made in Ypres and the Ypres Salient.

**Address**
Poezelstraat, Boezinge

**Website**
www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com

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Hill 60 was captured by the 11th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment on 7 June 1917 during the Battle of Messines, when two huge mines were blown: one on the hill itself, with a charge of more than 53,000 lbs, was blown by the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company, whose memorial is on Hill 60. They also blew the neighbouring Caterpillar Crater (width 80m, depth 15m).

**Address**
Zwarteleenstraat, Zillebeke

**Opening hours**
from dusk to dawn

**Entrance**
free access
Ypres is a WWI site. The start of WWI, the ‘t Hooghe castle stood on top of the 1 Hooghe hill in Zillebeke. During the war, the castle that served as the British HQ was totally destroyed. In 1917, the British blew up a number of tunnels, which created a large crater to the north of the castle. During the 1920s, a chapel was built nearby in memory of those killed in WWI. Following renovation works, it was sold to a private individual who amassed a valuable collection of weapons, uniforms and equipment from the four different armies that took part in WWI. Among the most striking items on display are the life-sized tableaux that show what daily life during the war was like. Today, in the former local schoolhouse, there is a themed cafe where you can admire a collection of decorated shell casings (trench art).

Address
Hooge Crater Museum
Meersweg 467, Zillebeke 8910

Contact
32 (0)57 46 84 46

Website
www.hooge-crater.com

Opening hours
Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm
Sunday 10 am-9 pm

Authentic restored trenches just behind Entry Point North. In the first days of the Third Battle of Ypres, the 38th Welsh Division played a large part in the sector.

Address
Bergstraat
Ypres

WELSH CEMETERY

Up to the Third Battle of Ypres the cemetery lay in no man’s land between the two lines. As there were no troops here, it was less shelled which made it ideal for a cemetery once the battle had passed over it. The site is also known as Caesar’s Nose as there was a curly shape in the German frontline. The 38th Welsh Division buried 23 soldiers here. It was used until the following November. The cemetery contains 68 First World War burials.

Address
Moorlweg
Boezinge

HILL 62

An impressive memorial to commemorate the Canadian forces who served in the Ypres Salient. “Maple Avenue” – the road that now leads to this memorial – once formed part of the Canadian front line. After the war, the avenue was planted with maple trees as a mark of respect for the Canadian sacrifice. The memorial stands, on top of the hill, surrounded by a park. It was the scene of fierce fighting in June 1916, but now offers peaceful views of the spires of Ypres.

Address
Moorlweg
Boezinge

The Guynemer Pavilion provides a unique and fascinating opportunity to discover the war in the air during the First World War. There is a special focus on the extraordinary life of the outstanding French pilot Georges Guynemer, who was involved in more than 600 aerial combats, survived being shot down seven times, and achieved 53 victories. On Monday 11 September 1917, sadly, he crashed between the British and German lines, near the Poelkapelle cemetery. The exhibition also looks more generally at aviation during the First World War and its considerable significance. Text and images will expertly tell the story, from the use of aviation for reconnaissance to its use for bombing enemy positions. The Pavilion’s showpiece will be a replica of the Morane– Saulnier Type L (Parasol).

Address
Brugseweg 126
Poelkapelle

Guynemer Pavilion
(Opens in March 2018)

The CWGC celebrated its 100th birthday in 2017. The CWGC is characterised by long rows of white memorial stones embedded in the landscape. In the shadow of the Cross of Sacrifice and the Stone of Remembrance, which hold a permanent place on the sites of the CWGC, you will find the individual graves of soldiers from the four corners of the former British Empire – British, New Zealanders, Australians, Canadians, South Africans, and also troops from India and the Caribbean. The CWGC celebrated its 100th birthday in 2017.

CWGC Ypres Information Centre

The CWGC Ypres Information Centre has opened an information Centre in Ypres close to the CWGC Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. The Centre will offer a wide range of services and information, including, an overview of the CWGC’s work; details of their cemeteries and monuments in Flanders, and beyond; and access to their database to look up the details of lost relatives and friends.

Address
Menenstraat 33, 8900 Ypres

Opening hours
Wed-Sun 2.30 am - 9 pm

Yorksire Trench

The Hooge Crater Museum owns its name to a pair of historical events that took place during the Great War. Until the start of WWI, the ‘t Hooghe castle stood on top of the 1 Hooghe hill in Zillebeke. During the war, the castle served as a headquarters and as a medical aid post. Several small cemeteries were created a large crater to the north of the castle. During the 1920s, a chapel was built nearby in memory of those killed in WWI. Following renovation works, it was sold to a private individual who amassed a valuable collection of weapons, uniforms and equipment from the four different armies that took part in WWI. Among the most striking items on display are the life-sized tableaux that show what daily life during the war was like. Today, in the former local schoolhouse, there is a themed cafe where you can admire a collection of decorated shell casings (trench art).

Address
Rijselseweg, Ypres

More information about other cemeteries on www.cwgc.org

For more information, please visit www.guynemerpaviljoen.be/en
This memorial commemorates the New Zealand Division's participation in the Battle of Broodseinde on 4 October 1917. This attack by ANZAC forces successfully pushed forward the allied trench line in the early part of the Passchendaele offensive but was followed by the inadequately prepared attack of 12 October 1917.

**Address**

'Ss Graventafelstraat

**NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL AT ’S GRAVENTAFEL**

This monument was the first one to be erected in the region. It honours the memory of the 85th Canadian Infantry (Nova Scotia) Battalion which suffered heavy losses during the Third Battle of Ypres at the end of October 1917.

**Address**

5e Graventafelstraat

**85TH CANADIAN MEMORIAL**

This marks the place where the Canadian Corps saw fierce fighting during the Second Battle of Passchendaele and won possession of the high ground at Crest Farm.

**Address**

Canadalaan 37

**CREST FARM CANADIAN MEMORIAL**

Polygon Wood is a large wood 1 mile (1.6 km) south of the village of Zonnebeke, which was completely devastated in the First World War. The wood was cleared by Commonwealth troops at the end of October 1914, given up on 3 May 1915, taken again at the end of September 1917 by Australian troops, evacuated in the Battles of the Lys, and finally retaken by the 9th (Scottish) Division on 28 September 1918. Here you will find a burial ground named Buttes New British Cemetery with the New Zealand Memorial, which commemorates 883 officers and men of the New Zealand Division. On top of the ‘butte’ hill you will find the Memorial of the 5th Australian Division. In Polygon Wood you can still see the remains of several shelters. Each year on ANZAC Day (25 April), the efforts of the ANZAC soldiers are commemorated during the dawn service.

**Address**

Lange dreve, Zonnebeke

**PYE COT CEMETERY AND VISITOR CENTRE**

This is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission military cemetery in continental Europe, with almost 12,000 tombs. The rear wall of the graveyard is inscribed with the names of 34,957 missing soldiers who fell in the Battle of Passchendaele and later.

**Address**

Vijfwegstraat

**POLYGON WOOD**

Polygon Wood is a large wood 1 mile (1.6 km) south of the village of Zonnebeke, which was completely devastated in the First World War. The wood was cleared by Commonwealth troops at the end of October 1914, given up on 3 May 1915, taken again at the end of September 1917 by Australian troops, evacuated in the Battles of the Lys, and finally retaken by the 9th (Scottish) Division on 28 September 1918. Here you will find a burial ground named Buttes New British Cemetery with the New Zealand Memorial, which commemorates 883 officers and men of the New Zealand Division. On top of the ‘butte’ hill you will find the Memorial of the 5th Australian Division. In Polygon Wood you can still see the remains of several shelters. Each year on ANZAC Day (25 April), the efforts of the ANZAC soldiers are commemorated during the dawn service.
The cemetery was created after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemark. The structure of the front of this cemetery is somewhat unusual, with almost a barred window appearance such as a prison might have. Almost all the graves date from the autumn of 1917, and thus from the Third Battle of Ypres. There are 2,101 burials here, 1,600 of which (more than three-quarters) are unidentified.

**Passchendaele Memorial Park**

The historic grounds of the Zonnebeke villa are the ideal departure point for an exploratory route through the battlefields of 1917. The well-known Polygon Wood and Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world, are located less than two miles/three kilometres away. You can relax completely in the grounds, stroll by the lake, or take a moment to stop and think about the history of WWI in the 'Poppy Gardens', themed gardens dedicated to the various nations that fought in the Battle of Passchendaele.

**New British Cemetery**

This statue of a Black Watch soldier, unveiled in May 2014, at the southwest edge of the Polygon Wood, is located at almost exactly the same place that made history as the ‘Black Watch Corner’ on 10/11 November 1914. When a German advance was halted, it constituted a permanent tribute to the steadfastness of the legendary Black Watch Regiment and honours nearly 9,000 officers and soldiers killed and more than 20,000 injured during WWI.

**Scottish Memorial Ploegsteert**

This memorial is the only one on the former Western Front dedicated to all Scots and all those of Scottish descent who fought in France and Flanders during WWI. It is now the main site of remembrance activity for all Scots. This memorial also remembers those men of the South African Brigade who, throughout the war, fought with the Scots as part of the 9th (Scottish) Division.

**Passchendaele Church**

Passchendaele church was totally destroyed by shellfire in 1917. However, it has since been reconstructed and now dominates the village square. Within the church are memorial windows in honour of the 66th Division of the British Expeditionary Force.

**Messines Ridge British Cemetery & Memorial**

In all, 1,503 soldiers are buried here: 985 British, 322 Australian, 155 New Zealand, and 56 South African soldiers. Only 549 bodies could be identified. In this cemetery you will also find a Memorial to the Missing, that commemorates over 840 New Zealand Expeditionary Force soldiers who were killed in Messines in 1917–1918 and who have no known grave.

**Island of Ireland Peace Park**

The Peace Park with its traditional Irish round tower pays tribute to all Irish soldiers who fell during the war, regardless of their background. The nine talking stones tell their tale through poetry, prayer and diaries, while the Peace Pledge calls on Nationalists and Loyalists to forgive each other. Register in the base of the tower list those commemorated. The park was officially opened on 11 November 1998 by Queen Elisabeth II and the Irish President Mary McAleese.

The Peace Park is the only one on the former Western Front dedicated to all soldiers of the New Zealand Division and to the 16th Irish Division and the 36th Ulster Division. These memorials in the form of two stones, are set one of each side of the road. They are located roughly where the two Divisions joined in their successful attack to take Wytschaete.

**Messines 1914–1918 Tourist Information Point**

The Peace Park is located roughly between Passchendaele and Ploegsteert. The Exhibition in the visitor centre gives you a detailed overview of what happened during the First World War in Messines. The Peace Carillon ringing out hymns from the nations that took part in World War I.

**The New Zealand Soldier**

The exhibition in the visitor centre situated in the former town hall gives you a detailed overview of what happened during the First World War in Messines. The Memorial to the Missing, that commemorates over 840 New Zealand Expeditionary Force soldiers who were killed in Messines in 1917–1918 and who have no known grave.

**The Carillon**

The carillon in the Saint Nicolas church tower has 59 bells. The first bell of peace (weighing more than 280 pounds) was inaugurated on 17th May 1985 in Ypres by Pope John Paul II. The carillon can be heard every 15 minutes, ringing out hymns from the nations that took part in World War I.
HEUVELLAND/ WIJTSCHATE

THE POOL OF PEACE

The Pool of Peace (Spanbroekmolenkrater) was the largest of the mines that were blown at the start of the assault on Messines Ridge. Before it was blown, the mine was 88 feet (27m) deep and contained 91,000 lbs of ammonal. Once it was blown, the crater was 250 feet (75m) wide (with a 90 feet (27m) wide rim) and 40 feet (12m) deep.

Address
Kruisstraat, Wijtschate

SPANBROEKMOLEN BRITISH CEMETERY

A post-war concentration cemetery where over two thirds of the 1002 buried or commemorated are unidentified. There are three sets of special memorial stones set behind the Stone of Remembrance to the right of the cemetery, commemorating soldiers originally buried in other cemeteries but whose graves were destroyed.

Address
Wijtschatestraat, Heuvelland

WYTSCHAETE MILITARY CEMETERY

COMMONWEALTH

The cemetery comprising 58 burials was almost exclusively used for burying some of those who fell on the first day of the Battle of Messines, 7 June. 1917 (three graves are from 8 June). All except one grave are those of men of the 36th Ulster Division (the Royal Irish Rifles and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers). This cemetery was actually lost in later fighting, and only rediscovered after the Armistice.

Address
Wijtschatestraat, Heuvelland

KEMMEL HILL

FRENCH OSSUARY

The ossuary contains 5,294 bodies of fallen soldiers, of which only 57 have been identified. Most of these French soldiers were killed on the hill during the second battle for Kemmel Hill. A column stands at the centre of the cemetery and is topped with the traditional French mascot, a cockerel.

Address
Vierstraat, Mount Kemmel

LONE TREE CEMETERY

The cemetery contains 88 graves (six of which are of unknown individuals). Nearly all the graves are those of soldiers of the Royal Irish Rifles who fell on 7 June, the first day of the Battle of Messines. Some of them were actually killed by the explosion of the Spanbroekmolen mine (which was blown around 15 seconds later than planned) as they advanced.

Address
Kruisstraat, Heuvelland

HEUVELLAND VISITOR CENTRE

This newly refurbished, family friendly Visitor Centre houses a number of permanent WW1 exhibitions with a particular focus on the centenary of the Battle of Messines or the ‘Battle of the Mines’ as it is also known, looking at the impacts on the landscape and the archaeology of the area.

Address
Sint-Laurentiusplein 1
8950 Heuvelland
Contact
info@heuvelland.be
Website
www.toerismeheuvelland.be
Opening hours
1 April to 15 November
Mon - Sat 9.30 am - 12 pm / 1 pm - 5 pm
Sundays and Public Holidays
10 am - 4 pm
16 November - 31 March
Mon-Sat
9.30 am - 1 pm / 4 pm
Closed Sundays and Public Holidays except Easter

Considering his age, Irishman, Major William Redmond MP, wasn’t even supposed to be on the battlefield during the Battle of Messines. After he was shot twice, he was carried off the battlefield by John Meeke, a Loyalist soldier. They reached the Casualty Clearing Station at the Catholic Hospice at Loker where Redmond died of his wounds. He was buried in the grounds of the Catholic convent at Loker and, at the request of his widow, his body remained there. The site is now maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Address
Godschalkstraat, Heuvelland

Address
Vierstraat, Mount Kemmel

The once impregnable German trenches on the Kemmel Hill played an important role in the Battle of Messines. The French named the area Bayernwald.

Address
Voormezelenstraat, Wijtschate
From 1915 to 1920 the hamlet of Lijssenthoek (Boescheepseweg) was the site of the largest evacuation hospital along the Ypres Salient and is now the second largest Commonwealth cemetery in Belgium. Today, Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery bears witness to more than four years of warfare, with the graves of 10,784 soldiers mainly British but also some French and German soldiers too. It also holds the grave of the only woman to be buried in a CWGC cemetery in Belgium, the British nurse, Nellie Spindler. The Visitors Centre, situated next to the cemetery, offers information on this unique site, including details about daily life in the hospital and the creation of the cemetery.

**Talbot House: Every Man’s Club**

The most well-known soldiers’ club of the Great War comprises a garden and various rooms, including the chapel, the kitchen, and the hall. A tablet application guides the visitor through the museum and the house. Besides a museum, Talbot house is still the ‘Every Man’s Club’. It has always been. Visitors can enjoy a cup of tea in the canteen or book a room and spend the night. Small-scale exhibitions are regularly organised to complement the permanent presentation.

**Execution Site/Death cells**

During the Great War the courtyard of Poperinge Town Hall was used as an execution site. Several British soldiers faced the firing squad here. Today, this is a symbolic site for reflection and remembrance. Visitors to the death cells are confronted with a video image of a soldier waiting to be shot at dawn and can read graffiti left by prisoners.

**Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery & Visitor Centre**

The cemetery contains 1,556 Commonwealth burials and 37 German war graves. There are also 24 Second World War burials in the cemetery, all dating from the Allied retreat to Dunkirk in 1940. Among the 270 New Zealanders buried here is Dave Gallaher. He was a New Zealand rugby union player and was the captain of the original All Blacks. He was killed during the Passchendaele offensive on 4 October 1917.
The museum focuses on the Belgian-German military confrontation during WWI as well as on Flemish emancipation. It emphasises the message of peace with the slogan: 'What remains of our lives? What remains of the country?'

From the panorama hall on the rooftop terrace, 273 ft (83m) above Flanders Fields, you have a unique view over the entire area from Nieuwpoort at the coast to Ypres and Ploegsteert.

This is the only remaining Belgian trench of the First World War. The adjoining interpretation centre with interactive applications, life-size pictures, a collection of film footage, and over a hundred original objects allow visitors to discover the story of the infamous Trench of Death.

A German bunker in the immediate vicinity of the Belgian trench is also included in the tour, allowing both sides of the story to be told.

**Address**
Ijzerdijk 65
8600 Diksmuide

**Contact**
+32 (0)51 50 53 44
infocom@warheritage.be

**Website**
www.klm-mra.be
www.facebook.com/Dodengang

**Opening hours**
1 April - 15 November: Daily
10 am - 6 pm (last entrance 5.30 pm)
16 November - 31 March
Tuesday & Thursday
9:30 am - 4 pm (last entry 3:30 pm)
Closed between 25 December & 1 January

**Price**
Adults: €4.00
Under 7 free
GROUPS (min. 15): €2.00
Payment only possible with bank cards.
Guides can be booked at the tourist office.
+ 32 51 79 30 50,
toerisme@stad.diksmuide.be

Known as Vladslo, in Praetbos forest, this German cemetery is the final resting place of some 25,638 German soldiers. On display at the cemetery is a moving sculpture, The Grieving Parents.

**Address**
Praetbos, Diksmuide

**Opening hours**
1 April - 15 November: Daily
10 am - 6 pm (last entrance 5.30 pm)
16 November - 31 March
Tuesday & Thursday
9:30 am - 4 pm (last entry 3:30 pm)
Closed between 25 December & 1 January

**Price**
Adults: €8.00
Ages 7-17: €2.50
Under 7 free
GROUPS (min. 20):
Adults: €6.00
Ages 7-17: €2.50
Under 7 free
Guides
€ 25.00/hour

Payment only possible with bank cards.
Guides can be booked at the tourist office.
+ 32 51 79 30 50,
toerisme@stad.diksmuide.be

Created by Käthe Kollwitz, a major German expressionist artist, out of personal grief and love for her 18-year-old son Peter, who was killed in the war.
Westfront Nieuwpoort tells the full story of the flooding of the plains, bringing the German invasion to a halt at the outskirts of the city. It is the story of the power of the sea and the smart handling of the water locks. The perfect place to tell the story of the flooding is the King Albert I monument on the edge of the lock complex “The Ganzepoot” (Goose Foot).

A modern and interactive visitor centre was built underneath the monument. A highlight of the visit is definitely the projection of the 377ft (115m) long and 49ft (15m) high animated Yser-Panorama painting. Last but not least, do not forget to visit the top of the monument itself and enjoy the panoramic view over the coast and the hinterland.

KÄTHE KOLLWITZ MUSEUM Koekelare

The Grieving Parents by Käthe Kollwitz, at the German Military Cemetery in Vladslo, is a world-famous work of art that symbolises the terrible suffering that war inflicted. More of her work can be seen in the nearby Käthe Kollwitz Tower in Koekelare, which houses seven of her graphic works. Her art is characterised by a deep compassion for all victims of poverty, exploitation and oppression. Her pacifism and abhorrence of war can be clearly felt throughout her works. A museum guide is available.

THE THREE CANALS

In 1914 and 1915, this bridge was an important outpost for the Belgian and later French troops. A memorial plaque on the wall commemorates the French Zouaves. In November 1914, French Zouaves attacked strong German positions. The Germans launched their advance by making captured Zouaves walk ahead of them into ‘no man’s land’. Suddenly one of the Zouaves cried out, ‘Shoot us, for God’s sake: it’s the Germans!’ The attacked failed. De Boot, an ecological canal boat, is moored at the Three Canals.

BELGIAN MILITARY CEMETERY Houthulst

The most well-known Belgian war cemetery, with 1,855 graves arranged in the form of a six-point star. The victims fell mainly during the liberation offensive of 1918. It is located in the heart of Houthulst forest and also holds 81 Italian soldiers.

LANGE MAX MUSEUM Koekelare

The Lange Max Museum is situated on the German side of the Western Front, with a farmyard at the heart. A long lane takes you from the farmyard to the remains of the artillery platform of former German cannon “Lange Max”. This museum tells the story of one of the largest cannon of its time, which was designed to bombard Dunkirk. The museum focuses on the German occupation of Koekelare with a unique exhibition on the organisation behind the front line and the production of army goods. It also features the little Bakehouse, which still shows signs of German presence, and has now been converted into a multimedia room.

VISITOR CENTRE WESTFRONT NIEUWPOORT

Westfront Nieuwpoort tells the full story of the flooding of the plains, bringing the German invasion to a halt at the outskirts of the city. It is the story of the power of the sea and the smart handling of the water locks. The perfect place to tell the story of the flooding is the King Albert I monument on the edge of the lock complex ‘The Ganzepoot’ (Goose Foot).

Address
Kustweg 2
8620 Nieuwpoort

Opening hours
Daily 10 am - 5 pm
Closed: every Monday
(except on bank holidays)
25 December & 1 January

Price
Adults: €7.00
0-6 years: free
7-25 years: €5.00
Groups: €5.50
7-25 years: €3.50
Schools: €3.00
Tour guides: €60.00

Address
Käthe Kollwitz Tower
Sint-Maartensplein 15,
Koekelare 8680

Contact
+32 0151 61 04 94
Website
www.koekelare.be

Address
Three Canals
Drie Grachtensteenbergweg
8650 Merkem

Opening hours
From dusk to dawn

Entrance
Free access

Other months: Wed - Sun 2 pm - 6 pm
Contact for Group Bookings outside of these times.

Cafe is open from 11 am

Prices
Adults: €6.00
Groups (+18): €4.00
Audioguides: €2.00
Guide: €50.00 (max. 20 p.)
For groups there are no audio guides available

Address
Kustweg 2
8620 Nieuwpoort

Contact
+32 0158 23 07 33
info@westfrontnieuwpoort.be
Website
www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be

Address
Kustweg 2
8620 Nieuwpoort

Contact
+32 0158 23 07 33
info@westfrontnieuwpoort.be
Website
www.westfrontnieuwpoort.be

Address
Clevenstraat 2, 8680 Koekelare

Website
www.langemaxmuseum.be

Opening hours
July and August daily 2 pm-6 pm
Other months: Wed - Sun 2 pm - 6 pm

Contact for Group Bookings outside of these times.

Cafe is open from 11 am

Prices
Adults: €6.00
Groups (+18): €4.00
Audioguides: €2.00
Guide: €50.00 (max. 20 p.)
For groups there are no audio guides available
Other interesting sites in Flanders Fields

**FLANDERS FIELDS AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL & VISITOR CENTRE**

Waregem

The Flanders Field American Cemetery is the only World War I US cemetery in Belgium. It lies on a battlefield where the 91st Division fought during the Ypres-Lys offensive from 30 October to 11 November 1918. The majority of the 368 fallen soldiers lost their lives during those last days of the war. The Visitor Centre, in the former Superintendent’s quarters, opened in spring 1917 and is devoted to the US military history. The Visitor Centre, in the former Superintendent’s quarters, opened in spring 1917 and is devoted to the US military history.

**HIPPO WAR WAREGEM**

Waregem

The Waregem visitor centre dedicated to World War I opened on 11 November 2017. There are two permanent exhibitions: the first looks at the role of the Americans in World War I and the second at the role of horses in the war. The two themes have strong Waregem connections, as the city is internationally famous for its Flanders Horse Event and the Flanders Field American Cemetery is located in Waregem. Thanks to photographs, film clips and audio files, authentic objects, an interactive quiz, and even a reconstructed horse hospital, you can discover some less familiar stories from the Great War. Waregem is situated between Kortrijk and Ghent in West Flanders.

**VRU VAERLAND (FREE FATHERLAND)**

Veurne

The Experience Centre in the historic town of Veurne focuses on the last remaining sector of Belgium that was not occupied by the Germans, the so-called Belgian Sector. From here, King Albert I succeeded in resisting the German-occupying forces. Veurne and the surrounding region were populated by people from all over the country, from other continents as well as by refugees, doctors and nurses. In the Experience Centre visitors can experience the events behind the front line, the daily life in this last unoccupied sector of Belgium. They can also witness a real melting pot of people, a multicultural community before the concept even existed. “Vrij Vaderland” uses an interesting scenography to tell this story, combining modern media with traditional exhibition techniques.

**THE TOWER OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

Leuven

The university library tower is one of the most important landmarks in Leuven city centre. An evocative and innovative representation of the destruction and reconstruction of the town of Leuven that took place as a result of WWI land to a lesser degree WWII is exhibited on the five floors of the tower. A highlight of the visit is the outside balcony where visitors can enjoy a unique view of the city of Leuven.

**AMERICAN MONUMENT Oudenaarde**

A monument of golden-yellow limestone, bearing the shield of the United States flanked by two stone eagles, stands at the end of a small park maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission. It honours the 87th and 91st US divisions.

**ROYAL MUSEUM OF THE ARMED FORCES AND MILITARY HISTORY**

The museum has an extensive, unique collection that spans more than ten centuries of history, from the Middle Ages to today, with a particular focus on the First and Second World Wars. The First World War collection, presented in the 14–18 room, is constantly renewed, so there is always something new to see. The main emphasis is on the Belgian army and the artillery of the time.

**MINI-EUROPE Brussels**

The park contains miniatures of Europe’s most famous places. A remembrance trail has been devised, taking visitors to all Belgian and European monuments and buildings associated with WWI. This walk starts out in an area where the remembrance of WWI is symbolically reflected through 4 war cemeteries and various sculptures.
EVENTS & COMMEMORATIONS 2018

Since the end of World War I, relatives have been coming to Flanders to honour their family members. Military ceremonies regularly pay tribute to fallen comrades. There are several ways to join in a commemoration:

- Attend an official commemoration organised by foreign embassies or Belgian local authorities. Please check the events calendar on the website to see if you have to book in advance. However, please bear in mind that, in view of the great interest, it might be difficult to attend some events.

- Take part in one of the more personal commemoration initiatives. Make one of the 600,000 sculptures of the ComingWorldRememberMe land art installation (view p.30) or take part in the waterfont performance (see p.30).

- Upon request, the Last Post Association allows individuals or groups to take part in an extended version of the ceremony at the Menin Gate, allowing participants to lay a wreath (which they must provide themselves) to commemorate the fallen. Bands, choirs, etc. who wish to perform as part of the ceremony must submit an application in advance on the website.

COMINGWORLDREMEMBERME: LAND ART INSTALLATION

From 2014 to 2018, by moulding 600,000 sculptures out of clay, thousands of people from across Flanders and the rest of the world take part of the making of the installation ComingWorldRememberMe. Each and every sculpture represents one of the 600,000 victims who lost their lives due to WWI in Belgium. In this way, different generations and nationalities will be united in the commemoration.

Attend one of the workshops in Nieuwpoort or Ypres to make a sculpture till March 2018.

In March 2018 the 600,000 figures of ComingWorldRememberMe will be set up in the Palingbeek park (Zillebeke) between two large works of art by Koen Vanmechelen. The land art installation will spread out over no-man’s-land and The Bluff, site of one of the most intensive battles ever in Flanders. From 30 March till 11 November, the land art installation will be open to the public. At various spots along part of the walk around the installation, you can listen to war poetry. You can end the walk on the observation bridge, where you will have a wonderful view of this impressive land art installation.

ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening hours</th>
<th>Addresses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday to Saturday: 1.30 pm to 6 pm. (up to 10 participants) can attend without booking in advance. Workshops 1.5 hours for groups of more than 10 participants on request.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission €5 (half of the proceeds go to charity)</td>
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From 30 March to 11 November 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Car park</th>
<th>Address:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a large car park at the entrance to the park. There is space for cars and coaches. There are also toilets at the car park and there is a cafeteria nearby.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palingbeekstraat 18, 8902 Zillebeke</td>
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<tr>
<td>There will also be a second car park at the visitor centre of the Palingbeek park. From there, it is a 30-minute walk to the installation.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaartstraat 7, 8902 Zillebeke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access The walk runs through the provincial park via grassy paths, wooden boardwalks, and paved paths. Please take into account that in rainy weather the ground can get wet and muddy. The path running directly to the observation point is entirely paved.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How to get there

The part of the route where you can listen to war poetry involves climbing a flight of stairs. This means that wheelchair and buggy users will need to go back the way they came, once they arrive at these stairs. Regrettably, the nature of the ground makes it unfeasible to find an alternative solution.

How to get there

The provincial park is easy to reach by car (right to the car park), bus, and bicycle. From January 2018, more information about alternative mobility and accessibility will be available on www.cwrm.be and also at the Ypres tourist information office.

www.cwrm.be
cwrm@vzwkunst.be
Follow cwrm on Facebook and Instagram.
CALANDER EVENTS AND CEREMONIES 2018

JAN 2017

Rumbeke Castle

ALBERT I AND THE GREAT WAR EXHIBITION

In the heart of the beautiful provincial Sterrebos domain, one of the oldest Renaissance castles of the country can be found, thus providing the perfect location for the ‘Albert I and the Great War’ exhibition. This audiovisual exhibition features rare pictures, videos and audio material highlighting the Belgian story during WWI, taking you on a journey through the fascinating life and reign of the famous Belgian king Albert I, illustrating that a ruler could be more than merely a national symbol. Throughout his life, Albert remained stubbornly faithful to his subjects and proved that he was also a master diplomat. From the end of October 2016 an additional segment will be open, focusing on diplomacy during WWI, as a world war is not only decided on the battlefield. Matters such as diplomacy and economy played a big part in the evolutions of the decade. The occupied Brave Little Belgium stood its ground among the superpowers and even went on to claim an important role. Visitor groups can choose from a number of attractive all-in formulas. A guided visit can, for example, be followed by a brunch, dessert plate or a nocturne with a drink in the castle.

Address
Rumbeke Castle
8800 Roeselare

Website
www.albert14-18.be

Opening hours
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Closed on Mondays and public holidays

Entrance
Adults: €6
Discount price: €4

FEB 2018

In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres

TRACES OF WAR: WWI ARCHAEOLOGY

By the end of the First World War, the frontline landscape had been turned into a huge wilderness. When people returned after the conflict, they were faced with the tremendous challenge of reconstructing the region and making it habitable. The traces of war were disappered and became part of the archaeological soil archive.

Scarce a foot (30 cm) deep and invisible to the naked eye, the archaeological remains of the war lie dormant in the soil all over the Westhoek region. This exhibition shows for the first time the findings of over ten years of archaeological investigations and contains many impressive artefacts. It looks at day-to-day life in the trenches, the material relics of trench warfare, and the story of some of the fallen soldiers whose bodies were recovered. Thanks to a variety of scientific techniques, the traces of war can emerge into the light of day again.

Address
www.inflandersfields.be

Opening hours
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Closed on Mondays and public holidays

Entrance
Adults: €6
Discount price: €4

APR 2018

Villa Zonnebeke, Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, Passchendaele
Hippo.War, Waregem
Heuveland Visitor Centre

EXHIBITION: THE FINAL OFFENSIVE IN FLANDERS

This exhibition is in three parts, in three different locations, which are connected in a tourist route. It tells the story of the last year of the First World War and of the Liberation in which Belgian and US troops played an important role.

The main focus in the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 is the liberation of Zonnebeke and Passchendaele by Belgian troops. The role of King Albert I during this offensive will be highlighted.

Hippo.War pays special attention to the liberation of Waregem and to the offensive between the Lys and the Scheldt during the last days of the First World War.

Heuveland Visitor Centre focuses on the fighting around Mount Kemmel. Since 1915, the hill had been used by the British as an observation post. Knowing that the Americans would soon arrive in force, in April 1918 the Germans launched a last desperate offensive of their own, in the hope of turning the war in their favour. They captured Mount Kemmel, but with the help of the French Army any further breakthrough was prevented. By the end of August, the hill was back in Allied hands, thanks in part to the efforts of the Americans in one of their first major actions in Flanders.

Admission free
www.passchendaele.be
www.hippowar.be
www.heuveland.be

Opening hours: open daily from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm
The Battle of Mount Kemmel reached its terrible climax between 25 and 29 April 1918. The French arrived to close the breach in the front line, but at a cost of more than 10,000 dead. Some regiments almost ceased to exist. About half of these victims were later interred in the French ossuary, and this is where their memory will now be honoured in the presence of international, national and local dignitaries. Especially for the occasion, a flame will be transported from the Arc du Triomphe in Paris. The national anthems will be sung by school children from Heuvelland and the French village of Saint-Jans-Cappel, just across the nearby border. The ceremony is open to the general public.

Heuvelland: French cemetery and ossuary, Mount Kemmel

Official Commemoration of the Battle of Mount Kemmel

The Battle of Mount Kemmel reached its terrible climax between 25 and 29 April 1918. The French arrived to close the breach in the front line, but at a cost of more than 10,000 dead. Some regiments almost ceased to exist. About half of these victims were later interred in the French ossuary, and this is where their memory will now be honoured in the presence of international, national and local dignitaries. Especially for the occasion, a flame will be transported from the Arc du Triomphe in Paris. The national anthems will be sung by school children from Heuvelland and the French village of Saint-Jans-Cappel, just across the nearby border. The ceremony is open to the general public.

www.heuvelland.be

Events

Bikes, precursors to the jeep and the plane, were essential vehicles during The Great War as they provided reliable, fast, transportation that could be deployed everywhere on the ground. Bikes were more efficient than horses as horses had to be fed and hidden. This exhibition will answer questions as: Where and how were bikes used during the war? Were there still cycling races in Belgium during the occupation? Which cyclists gave their lives on the front lines and which ones survived the war?

Bicycles, precursors to the jeep and the plane, were essential vehicles during the Great War as they provided reliable, fast, transportation that could be deployed everywhere on the ground. Bikes were more efficient than horses as horses had to be fed and hidden. This exhibition will answer questions as: Where and how were bikes used during the war? Were there still cycling races in Belgium during the occupation? Which cyclists gave their lives on the front lines and which ones survived the war?

Address
Markt 43, Oudenaarde
Opening hours
Everyday from 10am-6pm
Prices
10 euro, reductions

www.abmc.gov

27 APRIL 2018

4 MAY 2018 > 12 MAY 2019

MEMORIAL DAY

Since the First World War the government of the United States installed Memorial Day as a day to honor all soldiers killed in war. The day of these ceremonies was 30 May and in 1919 the first Memorial Day ceremonies were held on different cemeteries and isolated graves on the Western Front, in France and Belgium. On Sunday 30 May 1920 the first official Memorial Day ceremony was held at Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem. Almost a century later this annual ceremony has stayed loyal to its traditions. Memorial Day is held each year at Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem on the Sunday before or on 30 May.

www.abmc.gov

27 MAY 2018
During the summer of 2018, the GoneWest concerts will be added to existing local, summer events in the Westhoek area. The series of concerts will end in a grand finale “Peace to the world” on the market square in Ypres on Saturday 25 August 2018.

**Free access**

www.gonewest.be

**5, 8, 20, 28 JUL & 2, 25, 26 AUG 2018**

**AUG 2018**

**American Monument Kemmel**

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY:
THE FIRST ACTION OF THE US DIVISIONS IN FLANDERS

The soldiers who manned the front near Kemmel came from New York and its surrounding districts (27th Division, better known as the New York Division) and from Tennessee and North and South Carolina (30th Division). On the night of 30 to 31 August 1918, patrols from the 27th Division set off to reconnoitre their sector. Both divisions met determined German resistance. They moved forward slowly. That afternoon the 27th Division reached the area where the Kemmel Monument stands.

**Address**

Kemmelstraat, Kemmel (Heuvelland)

www.toerismeheuvelland.be

stefaan.decrock@heuvelland.be

**SEP 2018 > JAN 2020**

**Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History, Brussels**

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The War Heritage Institute will present a large-scale exhibition illustrating the First World War’s social, economic, and cultural consequences.

© Westtoer

@chantalpollier

www.klm-mra.be

29 JUN 2018 > 31 DEC 2019

**JUL 2018**

**Poperinge**

HEALING EXHIBITION, ART, MOBILE APPLICATION AND EXPERIENCE ROUTE

During the summer of 2018, Poperinge will conclude the WWI commemorations with a message of hope and consolation, with healing as a central theme. The Healing exhibition tells the story of the women who offered comfort. A contemporary artist, Chantal Pollier, provides layers of solace. In collaboration with the Watou art festival, a route has been developed that offers a unique experience, taking in pavilions decorated with healing art and poetry. The installation by the Dutch artist Anno Dijkstra will be an impressive eye-catcher in the town park.

**Address**

Gasthuiskapel
Gasthuisstraat 1A
Poperinge
Contact
+ 32 (0)57 34 66 76
toerisme@poperinge.be

**Website**

www.poperinge14-18.be

**Opening hours**

Daily from 1 pm - 6 pm (closed on Mondays)

**Prices**

Free access, Free app “Poperinge 14-18”

**1 JULY > 30 AUG 2018**
The Liberation or Final Offensive, over the weeks leading up to 11 November, began on 28 September 1918 in the woods (the Vrijbos) at Houthulst. On that date, under the orders of King Albert I, the Vrijbos was retaken from the Germans. There were many deaths on both sides, as the Belgian military cemetery reminds us today. A major commemorative ceremony in the morning will recall the battle.

Also the villages of Zonnebeke and Passchendaele were liberated on 28 September by the Belgian troops. Passchendaele had become a sad symbol of total war in Flanders. Many Belgian soldiers were weighed down by a profound sense of melancholy when they set eyes on the devastated village.

At 2 pm commemoration services will be held to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers on both sides. After the service, the Belgian Passchendaele Memorial Garden will be inaugurated in the chateau grounds in Zonnebeke.

Chateau grounds, Zonnebeke
Weekend on the theme of The Final Offensive

During this themed weekend, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 focuses on the different aspects of the final offensive in 1918. Over the course of the weekend, many events and activities will take place with a particular focus on the Living History event. Re-enactors from all over the world will create a sense of stepping back in time for visitors. As well as presenting encampments, weapons, and historic objects, the re-enactors will also give demonstrations.

Crest Farm Memorial, Passchendaele Church
PASSCHENDAELE SERVICE

10 November 1917 marks the day that Canadian troops ended the Battle of Passchendaele by capturing the ruins of the village. The Passchendaele Ceremony commemorates the end of the battle and all casualties, communities, and countries involved. The ceremony starts with a subdued reflection at the Crest Farm Canadian Memorial, followed by a torchlight parade along the Canadalaan. The parade follows the path of the last hundred metres of the attack and ends in Passchendaele. After the ceremony, all participants will be invited to an open-air reception, followed by a concert in the church.

Menin Gate, Ypres
ARMISTICE REMEMBRANCE IN YPRES, BRUSSELS AND OTHER PLACES

Information about the ceremonies will be known at the beginning of 2018. Please check the website.
DISCOVER THE BATTLEFIELDS

GETTING THERE AND AROUND

INTERESTING WEBSITES
www.flandersfields.be/en
This website provides all the information needed to discover the Flanders Fields region, it also provides useful information about places to stay in the Westhoek. www.flandersfields1914.com
The official website of Visit Flanders, it lists all the places of interest and events related to the Great War that are taking place in Flanders and Brussels.

TRAVELLING TO FLANDERS

By air:
The nearest airports are Brussels Airport and Charleroi Airport. www.brusselsairport.be
www.charleroi-airport.com

By train:
High speed rail services operate directly to Belgium from the UK, France, the Netherlands and Germany. Connecting services to Ypres and Poperinge run from Brussels and stations across the surrounding countries and across Flanders.
By road:
Europe has an excellent high-speed road network from the UK to Calais and Dunkirk in France or Zeebrugge in Belgium are operated by the following companies:
RLO Ferries: www.podore kes.com
PDSS Seaways: www.dfdsseaways.co.uk
Eurotunnel Le Shuttle: www.eurotunnel.com
It is also possible to reach the Flanders Fields area from Lille-Flandres station in France.
www.raileurope.com
www.euростar.com

By ferry:
Fast and frequent services by ferry or through the Channel Tunnel from the UK to Calais and Dunkirk in France or Zeebrugge in Belgium are operated by the following companies:
PDSS Seaways: www.podore kes.com
DFDS Seaways: www.dfdsseaways.co.uk
P&O Ferries: www.poferries.com

VISITING FLANDERS FIELDS

Some of the cemeteries, visitor centres and other sites across Flanders Fields are difficult to reach by public transport. For this reason, if visitors do not have their own transport, we recommend booking an organised tour or renting a bicycle or car.

CYCLING IN FLANDERS FIELDS

There are a number of themed cycling routes that will take you past WWI heritage sites. These routes and a list of cycle hire companies that operate in Flanders Fields can be found on this site.
www.flandersfields.be/en

VISITING THE WESTHOEK BY CAR

There are many car routes that allow visitors to discover the war landscape and its different landmarks. More information:
www.flandersfields.be/en
Cars can be rented from the major international car rental companies which have branches in Brussels, Bruges, Ghent, Oostend and elsewhere in the region, as well as from local companies.

TRAVELLING TO FLANDERS FIELDS

By train:
It is possible to travel by train to Ypres or Poperinge from every city in Flanders (generally a change of train in Kortrijk is required). www.belgianrail.be/en
By coach:
Half or full day organised coach tours are offered to and in Flanders Fields, incorporating the main sites and the Last Post Ceremony. See page 42.
By car:
A comprehensive road network exists around and within Flanders Fields.
By bike:
Flanders boasts one of the world’s most comprehensive cycling networks, and cycling is a great way to tour Flanders Fields.
www.fietsroute.org/cycling/belgium

Visiting Flanders Fields

Some of the cemeteries, visitor centres and other sites across Flanders Fields are difficult to reach by public transport. For this reason, if visitors do not have their own transport, we recommend booking an organised tour or renting a bicycle or car.

Flanders Fields From the Air and on the Water

Skyview balloons organise balloon flights over the Great War Frontline www.skyviewballoons.be
Helipromotions organise helicopter flights www.battlefields.be
Alfa flight also organises flights www.alfaflight.be
Seastar organises boat trips from Nieuwpoort to Diksmuide. www.seastars.be/en

Gastronomy in Flanders Fields

Like all areas of Flanders, the Westhoek offers a large choice of restaurants in every price range. Websites of each town/city provide information about local restaurants.
www.toerisme-aeper.be
www.toerismepeperinge.be
www.toerisme-diksmuide.be
www.nieuwpoort.be
www.heuvelland.be

Information about restaurants elsewhere in Flanders is available from www.visitflanders.com
Organised battlefield tours

Several operators offer small-group or private tours taking a standard or customised route in Flanders Fields. It is also possible to visit iconic places in France.

2XPORE FLANDERS FIELDS

Standard or customised tours.

- Max. number of participants: Standard: 8.
- Larger groups possible
- Duration of tour: Half day/full day
- Departure: Ypres or other place as agreed
- Price: From €35 to €40 p.p. depending on the tour
- Website: www.2xplore.be
- Booking: info@2xplore.be or +32 475 519828

BIKING BOX CYCLETOURS

Guided bicycle tours. Possibility of bus transport to departure and from arrival, bicycle rental service (road bicycles, electric bikes, tandems).

- Max. number of participants: No limit
- Duration of tour: Half day/full day/several-day cycling holidays
- Departure: Ypres
- Price: Prices range from €12 to €28 p.p., lunch and bike rental not included
- Website: www.rentaguide.be
- Booking: info@rentaguide.be or +32 488 40 74 40

RENT A GUIDE

Ypres, Salient Tour, Yser Front Tour, Mines of Messines tour, Passchendaele tour, the last 100 days of the Newfoundland Regiment tour. In the footsteps of a relative, tours to the Somme/Vimy/Fromelles (France) and more.

- Max. number of participants: 7
- Duration of tour: Half day/full day
- Departure: Ypres or your accommodation
- Website: www.rentaguide.be
- Booking: info@rentaguide.be or +32 488 40 74 40

QUASIMODO TOURS

Standard tour: Visits to Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Hill 60 preserved battlefield, a German cemetery, bunkers and craters, restored trenches, Hooge Crater Museum, Essex Farm Cemetery and dressing station (John McCrae site), the town of Ypres and the Menin Gate, and various memorials to the British Forces (including ANZAC and Canadian).

- Max. number of participants: 28
- Duration of tour: Full day
- Departure: Bruges
- Price: €69.50 incl. light lunch, excl. drinks
- Website: www.quasimodo.be
- Booking: info@quasimodo.be or +32 50 370 470

WESTERN FRONT GUIDE

Possible tours are: The Anzacs from Fromelles to Passchendaele, Canada 1917: The Birth of a Nation in Europe, My Relative on the Front.

- Max. number of participants: 7
- Duration of tour: Half day/full day
- Departure: Ypres
- Website: www.westernfrontguide.com
- Booking: info@westernfrontguide.com or +32 497 29 15 57

FRONTLINE TOURS

Visits to Ypres, the Yser river, and Poperinge. Tours in Dutch, English, French, and German. Themed tour: ‘In the footsteps of Hitler and Churchill’. Also tailor-made tours.

- Max. number of participants: 19
- Duration of tour: 2 hours/4 hours
- Departure: Ypres or your accommodation in the Ypres-Poperinge region
- Website: www.frontline-tours.com
- Booking: info1@frontline-tours.com or +32 474 36 76 08 - T+32 57 85 99 35

THE WESTERN FRONT REVISITED

Tailor made tours in minivan with a licensed tour guide in Flanders Fields. Also visit of the Somme, Dieppe, D-day, Bastogne and Waterloo possible.

- Max. number of participants: 7
- Duration of tour: Half day/full day
- Departure: Ypres
- Website: www.westernfrontguide.com
- Booking: info@westernfrontguide.com or + 32 497 29 15 57

CYCLE THE WESTERN FRONT

Guided bicycle tours along the Western front in Flanders Fields and France (Vimy Ridge, Beaumont-Hamel, Compiegne, Reims, Verdun). Special two week armistice bike ride from Nieuwpoort to Verdun in 2018 view website.

- Max. number of participants: 15
- Duration of tour: full day/several-day cycling tours
- Departure: Ypres, Lille Europe, airport Brussels or Paris
- Website: www.cyclingthewesternfront.co.uk
- Booking: carl.ooghe@gmail.com or +32475810608

42
The Great War Centenary
Accessible to all

The commemoration of the Great War Centenary continues to attract tens of thousands of international visitors of all ages, some of whom will require assistance in terms of access.

To this end, VISITFLANDERS has developed the ‘The Great War Centenary’ accessible to everyone project, which strives to ensure access for all visitors and provides information on all aspects of an accessible stay: information on welcome, accommodation, restaurants, cafes, sites, transportation, parking, assistance and care, etc...

Alterations are often required to ensure easy access for people with reduced mobility. Most of the information in our brochure ‘Great War Centenary – accessible for all’ is therefore primarily intended for those with mobility issues. However, we also report on additional facilities for people with visual, hearing, learning or other disabilities. For visually impaired visitors, we have developed an additional brochure (‘Great War Centenary - tips for visually impaired visitors’) in which we provide an overview of the museums, events and other places of interest that offer extra facilities for people with a visual impairment.

Our accessibility information is always based on objective and independent on-site inspections, which means that not all locations claiming to provide easy access have been included in our brochure. Please note that accessibility also depends on the visitor in question, as each disability or limitation offers. We therefore recommend contacting locations beforehand in case of specific accessibility concerns.

The following symbol is used to indicate wheelchair-accessible options in this trade brochure:

Whereas certain locations provide easy access, others may require a little more effort or third-party assistance. For more detailed information on wheelchair-accessible locations, please consult our ‘Great War centenary - Accessible for all’ brochure.

The museums and/or sites that offer additional facilities for visually impaired visitors are indicated via the following symbol: For more detailed information regarding these facilities, please consult our ‘Great War Centenary - Tips for visually impaired visitors’ brochure.

The museums and/or sites that offer accessible activities are indicated via the following symbol: For more detailed information in our brochure ‘Great War Centenary - Accessible for all’ brochure. All events featuring the label have taken at least basic measures to accommodate all visitors. For more specific details on all disability-related facilities, please contact pieter.remmerei@inter.vlaanderen

All wheelchair accessible accommodations are indicated by the label:

The following symbol is used to indicate wheelchair-accessible options in this trade brochure:

Also useful in terms of wheelchair-accessible locations is the AccessIEabble app, which can be downloaded via Google Play, the App Store or the Windows Phone Store.

www.visitflanders.com/accessibility

VISITFLANDERS
Address
Graasm. 61, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Contact
(tel.) +32 1102 504 03 40
(fax) +32 1102 504 04 05
Brochure
www.visitflanders.com/en/accessibility/brochures/order-brochures.jsp


1918 FLANDERS FIELDS
THE SPRING OFFENSIVE AND FINAL OFFENSIVES OF THE GREAT WAR
Mesynes - Wytschaete - Passchendaele - Kemmel - Ypres, Waregem - Koekeleare - Dixmude - Houthisl

DAY 1
Morning - Kemmel Hill French Ossuary - American Monument Kemmel - Visitor Centre, Heuvelland
Exhibition: The Final Offensive in Flanders
Afternoon - The Pool of Peace, Wytschaete - Wytschaete Military Cemetery - In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres - Menin Gate and the Last Post, Ypres

DAY 2
Morning - Messines Ridge British Cemetery - Messines Information Point - Island of Ireland Peace Park, Messines
Afternoon - Memorial Museum Passchendaele Exhibition: The Final Offensive, Zonnebeke - Tyne Cot Cemetery and Visitor Centre, Zonnebeke

DAY 3
Morning - Waregem Visitor Centre - Flanders Field American Cemetery, Waregem - Lange Max Museum, Koekeleare
Afternoon - Kâthe Kollwitz Museum, Koekeleare - Vladslo German War Cemetery - Trench of Death, Dixmude - Houthisl, Belgian Military Cemetery

Access for all: All wheelchair accessible accommodations are indicated by the label: 

Accessible to all

SUGGESTIONS FOR CAR OR COACH ITINERARIES FOR TOUR OPERATORS

Explore WWI outside the classroom

The guide ‘Explore WWI outside the classroom in Flanders Fields’, produced by VISITFLANDERS in collaboration with the Province of West Flanders, aims to assist tour operators and teachers with the organisation of field trips to WWI sites for English-language primary and secondary school pupils.

The guide contains tips on visiting a memorial, teaching resources in preparation for a trip, interesting websites, accommodation suggestions, alternative transport options, advice on how to organise a longer trip, and information on the cultural programme GoneWest, including the unique sculpture project ‘ComingWorldRememberMe’. This guide also provides dozens of suggestions on how to enhance the experience for students. You will find the most famous WWI memorials on Flanders’ Western Front listed on these pages, as well as many other locations in and around Flanders Fields that tell the story of occupied Belgium. It goes without saying that, in addition to the more famous sites, there are many smaller places worthy of a visit.

Brochure


1918 FLANDERS FIELDS
THE SPRING OFFENSIVE AND FINAL OFFENSIVES OF THE GREAT WAR
Mesynes - Wytschaete - Passchendaele - Kemmel - Ypres, Waregem - Koekeleare - Dixmude - Houthisl

DAY 1
Morning - Kemmel Hill French Ossuary - American Monument Kemmel - Visitor Centre, Heuvelland
Exhibition: The Final Offensive in Flanders
Afternoon - The Pool of Peace, Wytschaete - Wytschaete Military Cemetery - In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres - Menin Gate and the Last Post, Ypres

DAY 2
Morning - Messines Ridge British Cemetery - Messines Information Point - Island of Ireland Peace Park, Messines
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DAY 3
Morning - Waregem Visitor Centre - Flanders Field American Cemetery, Waregem - Lange Max Museum, Koekeleare
Afternoon - Kâthe Kollwitz Museum, Koekeleare - Vladslo German War Cemetery - Trench of Death, Dixmude - Houthisl, Belgian Military Cemetery

THE CANADIANS IN FLANDERS FIELDS
Ypres – Zonnebeke – Zillebeke

DAY 1
Morning - In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
Afternoon - Essex Farm, where John McCrae wrote his world-famous poem

SUGGESTIONS FOR CAR OR COACH ITINERARIES FOR TOUR OPERATORS

Day 1
- ‘The Brooding Soldier’ memorial to the Canadian 1st Division during the first gas attack in 1915
- Menin Gate and Last Post, Ypres

Day 2
- Tourist Information Point, Messines
- New Zealand soldier statue, Messines
- New Zealand Memorial, Zonnebeke
- Messines Ridge British Cemetery
- In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
- Menin Gate and Last Post, Ypres

Day 3
- Nine Elms British Cemetery in Poperinge, where 270 New Zealanders are buried, including the All Blacks captain Dave Gallaher
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele
- ‘The Brooding Soldier’ memorial to the Canadian 1st Division during the first gas attack in 1915
- Menin Gate and Last Post, Ypres
DAY 1
Morning
- In Flanders Fields Museum
Afternoon
- Hill 60 and Caterpillar Crater
- Toronto Avenue Cemetery, Ploegsteert
Evening
- Menin Gate and Last post

DAY 2
Morning
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele
Afternoon
- Polygon Wood
- Tyne Cot Cemetery
4

Did you know that Fromelles is only a half an hour and Villers-Bretonneux 1 hour and 45 minutes from Ypres?

THE AUSTRALIANS IN FLANDERS FIELDS
Ypres - Zonnebeke - Ploegsteert

DAY 1
Morning
- In Flanders Fields Museum
Afternoon
- Hill 60 and Caterpillar Crater
- Toronto Avenue Cemetery, Ploegsteert
Evening
- Menin Gate and Last post

DAY 2
Morning
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele
Afternoon
- Polygon Wood
- Tyne Cot Cemetery

THE WELSH IN FLANDERS FIELDS
Messines – Zonnebeke – Ypres

DAY 1
Morning
- In Flanders Fields Museum
Afternoon
- Entry Point Ypres North
- Yorkshire Trench
- Welsh Cemetery
- Artillery Wood Cemetery where poet Hedd Wynn is buried
- The Welsh National Memorial Park
Evening
- Menin Gate and Last post

DAY 2
Morning
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele
Afternoon
- Tyne Cot Cemetery

CLASSIC TOUR IN FLANDERS FIELDS
Zonnebeke – Ypres – Poperinge – Messines – Heuvelland

DAY 1
Morning
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, Zonnebeke
- Tyne Cot Cemetery & Visitor Centre, Zonnebeke
- German Military Cemetery, Langemark
Afternoon
- In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
- Evening: Menin Gate & Last Post, Ypres

DAY 2
Morning
- Talbot House
- Death Cells
- Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery
Afternoon
- Tourist information point, Messines
- Pool of Peace
- Heuvelland Visitor Centre
- Bayernwald

THE NEW ZEALANDERS IN FLANDERS FIELDS

CLASSIC TOUR IN FLANDERS FIELDS
Zonnebeke – Ypres – Poperinge – Messines – Heuvelland

DAY 1
Morning
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, Zonnebeke
- Tyne Cot Cemetery & Visitor Centre, Zonnebeke
- German Military Cemetery, Langemark
Afternoon
- In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
- Evening: Menin Gate & Last Post, Ypres

DAY 2
Morning
- Talbot House
- Death Cells
- Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery
Afternoon
- Tourist information point, Messines
- Pool of Peace
- Heuvelland Visitor Centre
- Bayernwald
DAY 1
Morning - In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
Afternoon - John McCrae site, Ypres
- Entry Ypres point North, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Yorkshire Trench, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Gynemere Pavilion, Langemark
DAY 2
Morning - Trench of Death, Diksmuide
- Museum on the Yser, Diksmuide
Afternoon - German military cemetery, Vladslo
- Käthe Kollwitz Museum, Koekelare
- Long Max Museum, Koekelare

YPRES SALIENT TOUR
Ypres - Langemark

DAY 1
Morning - In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
- Menin Gate, Ypres
Afternoon - John McCrae site, Ypres
- Entry Ypres point North, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Yorkshire Trench, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Gynemere Pavilion, Langemark
DAY 2
Morning - Trench of Death, Diksmuide
- Museum on the Yser, Diksmuide
Afternoon - German military cemetery, Vladslo
- Käthe Kollwitz Museum, Koekelare
- Long Max Museum, Koekelare

The Irish in Flanders Fields
Ypres – Poperinge – Heuvelland – Messines

DAY 1
Morning - In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
- Menin Gate, Ypres
Afternoon -  John Mc Crae site, Ypres
- Entry Ypres point North, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Yorkshire Trench, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezinge (Ypres)

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK TOUR: NORTHERN FLANDERS FIELDS
Ypvere – Nieuwpoort – Diksmuide – Koekelare

DAY 1
Morning
Free Motherland Veurne: the story of the radiologist, Marie Curie.
Westfront Visitor Centre, Nieuwpoort
Afternoon
- Take a cruise between Nieuwpoort and Ypres, passing through the battlefields and past the war memorials, the Yser Tower, and the Death Trenches (summer only).

DAY 2
Morning
- Trench of Death, Diksmuide
- Museum on the Yser, Diksmuide
Afternoon
- German military cemetery, Vladslo
- Käthe Kollwitz Museum, Koekelare
- Long Max Museum, Koekelare

THE IRISH IN FLANDERS FIELDS
Ypres – Poperinge – Heuvelland – Messines

DAY 1
Morning - In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
- Menin Gate, Ypres
Afternoon -  John Mc Crae site, Ypres
- Entry Ypres point North, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Yorkshire Trench, Boezinge (Ypres)
- Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezinge (Ypres)

DAY 2
Morning
- Trench of Death, Diksmuide
- Museum on the Yser, Diksmuide
Afternoon - German military cemetery, Vladslo
- Käthe Kollwitz Museum, Koekelare
- Long Max Museum, Koekelare

Hotel Pax / ***
Hotel Pax has luxury rooms with all mod cons. One of these rooms has been specially equipped for guests with disabilities. There are facilities for the organisation of conferences or meetings. Bicycle shed available.
Total capacity: 36 rooms – 100 people

Kasteelhoeve Viconia / ***
Historic chateau, situated very peacefully amidst of a nature reserve. Large garden with terrace. Fine cuisine, cosy atmosphere.
Total capacity: 23 rooms – 47 people

Albion hotel / ***
Quiet, yet centrally located, close to the Menin Gate. This family run hotel offers excellent facilities with an intimate bar and provides packed lunches.
Total capacity: 32 rooms – 67 people
### Ariane Hotel / ****
Friendly, family-run hotel with pleasant restaurant. Done in style by candlelight or in the orangery looking out onto the terrace, garden, and pond. The rooms and relaxation facilities are exquisite. Peaceful location 5 mins from the Grote Markt.

- Total capacity: 62 rooms – 124 people

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<tr>
<th>B&amp;B</th>
<th>Half board</th>
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<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>€52.50 – €84.50 p.p.</td>
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Slachthuysstraat 58
8900 Ypres
+32 57 21 82 18
info@ariane.be
www.ariane.be

### Kasteelhof ‘t Hooghe / ***
Peacefully located in a romantic and historic setting on ‘Hooghe’. Stylish rooms with all mod cons, private car park, garden, forest. Unique inner garden terrace.

- Total capacity: 27 rooms – 54 people

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Meersneweg 481
8900 Ypres
+32 57 46 87 87
info@hooghbe.com
http://www.hotelkasteelhoft-hooghbe.be/

### Novotel Ieper centrum / ***
Novotel Ieper Centrum is situated in the historical centre of Ypres, close to the Market Square, the In Flanders Fields Museum, and the Menin Gate.

- Total capacity: 122 rooms - 438 people

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<th>B&amp;B</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Double</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>2nd room free of charge</td>
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Sint-Jacobsstraat 15
8900 Ypres
+32 57 42 96 00
H3172@accor.com
www.novotel.com/ieper

### Flanders Lodge / ***
Restaurant with regional dishes and local beers. Terrace with winter garden for visitors. Excellent base of operations for bicycle tours from the Westhoek to the sea, the border region with France, and the historic battlefields of WWII.

- Total capacity: 40 rooms – 90 people

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<tr>
<td>Coach driver stays free (min. 20 p.)</td>
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Slachthuysstraat 58
8900 Ypres
+32 57 21 70 00
bw-ieper@skynet.be
www.bestwestern.be

### Hostellerie Kemmelberg / ****
Situated at the highest point in Flanders, the terrace has views over the Belgian and French border. It has received several awards from Booking.com and TripAdvisor.

- Total capacity: 23 rooms – 60 people

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<th>Half board</th>
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Kemmelbergweg 34
8956 Kemmel
+32 57 45 21 60
info@kemmelberg.be
www.kemmelberg.be

### Hotel Callecanes / ***
Set in the countryside, this hotel has comfortable rooms, pool and fitness centre with fine cuisine. Choose from the restaurant, bar or coffee shop.

- Total capacity: 37 rooms – 74 people

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<th>B&amp;B</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Double</th>
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</thead>
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Callicannesweg 12
8978 Watou (Poperinge)
+32 57 38 88 08
info-reservation@hotel-callecanes.be
www.hotel-callecanes.be

### B&B Half board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Double</th>
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</table>
### Hotel Damier / ****
A charming 4 star hotel with a classified facade from 1769 situated in the city center of Kortrijk. This luxury hotel charms guests for over hundreds of years with its stylish and elegant rooms. The vivid atmosphere invites you to enjoy the iconic building. The hotel houses a restaurant, rated 13/20 in Gault & Millau.

**Total capacity:** 65 rooms – 126 people

|-----|--------|------------------------|--------|------------------------|

**Address:**
Grote Markt 41
8500 Kortrijk
+32 56 22 15 47
info@hoteldamier.be
www.hoteldamier.be

### Parkhotel / ****
Comfortable 4-star hotel located a few steps away from the centre of Kortrijk. French cuisine at very attractive prices. Trendy Jules bar for cocktails, local drinks and wines. The new Wellness center offers a place to retreat.

**Total capacity:** 155 rooms – 260 people

|-----|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|

**Address:**
Stationsplein 2
8500 Kortrijk
+32 56 22 03 03
info.parkhotel@parkhotel.be
www.parkhotel.be

### Center Hotel / ***
The Center Hotel is a full-facility hotel in the heart of Kortrijk, between the station and the Grote Markt. Perfect for business people or tourists visiting Kortrijk.

**Total capacity:** 56 rooms – 91 persons

|-----|--------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|

**Address:**
Graanmarkt 6
8500 Kortrijk
+32 56 21 97 21
info@centerhotel.be
www.centerhotel.be

### Hotel Ibis Style Kortrijk Expo / ***
Standard rooms with excellent bathrooms with shower, superior rooms and junior suites.

**Total capacity:** 80 rooms – 160 people

|-----|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|

**Address:**
President 1
8500 Kortrijk
+32 56 20 06 87
ha240@accor.com
www.ibis.com

### Hotel Messeyne / ****
Hotel Messeyne is located in the historically interesting Groeningestraat, in the centre. In the pleasant bistro one can enjoy excellent cuisine, while the historical garden offers a beautiful place to relax. Gym facilities, sauna, and hammam.

**Total capacity:** 28 rooms – 56 people

|-----|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|

**Address:**
Groeningestraat 17
8500 Kortrijk
+32 56 21 21 66
hotel@messeyne.com
www.messeyne.com

### D-hotel / ****
d-hotel is a unique marriage between a historic site and a new futuristic design. It has an authentic, protected windmill from 1841 as well as a protected inner farmhouse square. The concrete structure of the hotel is combined with large surfaces of glass windows. These simple materials make you feel relaxed and provide a sense of openness. D-hotel offers a luxurious spa centre and an outdoor swimming pool (open from 1 July to 31 August), a cosy lounge bar, and a wonderful bistro.

**Total capacity:** 44 rooms – 90 people

|-----|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|

**Address:**
Abdijmolenweg 1
8330 Marke
+32 56 21 21 00
info@d-hotel.be
www.d-hotel.be

### Square Hotel / ***
This hotel has a superb location, just a short walk from the market square. Hotel Square has 26 lovely bedrooms, with all the comfort and amenities you may expect from a three-star hotel.

**Total capacity:** 26 rooms – 52 people

|-----|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|

**Address:**
Groeningestraat 39
8500 Kortrijk
+32 56 28 89 50
info@squarehotel.be
www.squarehotel.be

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© Robbie Depuydt
Hotel Cosmopolite / ***
Fully refurbished hotel close to the sea. Two restaurants and bar. Special winter weekend packages. Free use of sauna and heated indoor swimming pool at the Hotel Carlton.
Total capacity: 129 rooms – 350 people

|-----------|----------|-----------------|---------|------------------|

Parkhotel Roeselare / ***
Hotel with modern rooms in central location and excellent cuisine. Free use of sauna. Private parking.
Total capacity: 48 rooms – 100 people

|-----------|----------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|

De Vijfwegen / ***
800 metres from the E403, the perfect base of operations for trips to Bruges-YPres-Kortrijk. The hotel is attractively furnished. You can enjoy a delicious meal or an aperitif on the terrace at Bistro Frogs.
Total capacity: 11 rooms – 22 people

|-----------|----------|-----------------|---------|------------------|

Hotel Mercure / ****
The stylish rooms are equipped with all modern comforts and offer a variety of services. A Superior Access + Room provides all facilities required by wheelchair-users. The Mercure Team pulls out all the stops to cater for every wish of our guests, to guarantee them the best possible experience.
Total capacity: 87 rooms – 176 people

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<th>B&amp;B</th>
<th>Half board</th>
<th>Full board</th>
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Youth Accommodation
This is a selection of youth hostels in Flanders Fields and Kortrijk that offer catering services.

De Lork
De Lork is located in the southernmost tip of the West-Flanders Heuveland region, on the flank of the highest hill, the Kemmelberg. This youth centre is ideal for all kinds of groups and trips. Every group has its private dorms and dinner room. A large gym is available and can be booked in the area you can walk. cycle, swim, play bowling and visit of course the WWI-sites.
Number of beds: 174 (35 rooms 1-4 p., 12 rooms 5-8 p.)

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<th>B&amp;B Half board</th>
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The Menin Gate
Situated near the Menin Gate, this is a great location for visitors wishing to explore the war past of the city of Ypres. The old house has a very authentic character. For groups of 30 to 52.
Number of beds: 52 (6 rooms 1-4 p., 5 rooms 5-8 p.)

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<th>B&amp;B Half board</th>
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The Salient
The Salient is a historical building in the centre of Ypres, located only 860m from the market square. Here, they can accommodate groups of up to 102 people in a quiet area, even though it’s located in the heart of the West Flemish city of peace. The ground floor has recently been renovated entirely and opens onto the terrace and large private garden.
Number of beds: 103 (9 rooms 1-4 p., 6 rooms 5-8 p. >8p. 5 rooms)

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The Poppies 1&2

Home sweet home for groups of up to 129 and a minimum of 25 in the historical center of Ypres. Located next to the market square of Ypres, The Poppies 1 & 2 is the ideal accommodation for history tours. Your stay in these authentic, classic, old School Hotel combined with its unique location will make your trip to the Ypres Salient unforgettable.

Number of beds: 134 (17 rooms 1-4 p., 12 rooms 5-8 p. >8p. 1 rooms)

De Iep

De Iep is just 25 minutes on foot from the centre of Ypres. This accommodation is very popular with schools. The good price-quality ratio and the flexibility with regards to meals are a plus. A good place to rest after a busy day. The friendly and dedicated staff ensures a successful stay.

Number of beds: 60

You can also stay in Bruges, Ghent, or towns and cities on the coast. Please have a look at their websites:

- www.belgiancoast.co.uk

Peace Village Hostel

The hostel is set in the countryside of the Mesines Ridge. As a former battlefield, the view from the terraces is dotted with cemeteries and memorials. The spacious duplex studios are all en-suite and have cozy & contained set-up. Besides several meeting and conference rooms, there is also an own in-house restaurant and bar. The facilities include a large parking, laundry lockers, bicycle storage, bonfires, honesty bar & sports cupboard for each group and many sport facilities including two football pitches, basketball court, ping-pong, large chess game etc. They also provide assistance with tailoring your itinerary and organised activities such as torch-lit evening walks on the Great War, beer tastings and pub games.

Number of beds: 165 (11 rooms 2 p., 24 rooms 1-4 p., 8 rooms 6 p.)

Oude Abdij

A former abbey and brewery. An ideal base for exploring the Westhoek region. Loved by cyclists. Generous discount for group stays.

Total capacity: 58 rooms – 195 people

Hostel Groeninghe

This hostel opened in 2015 and offers a restaurant on-site, a bar, and two meeting rooms. The hostel is within walking distance of the station and historical centre. With Kortrijk close to the French border, this is an ideal city from which to explore the north of France too.

Number of beds: 123 (29 rooms 1-4p., 9 rooms 5-8p.)

You can also stay in Bruges, Ghent, or towns and cities on the coast. Please have a look at their websites:

- www.belgiancoast.co.uk

Hostel Groeninghe
2014-18 Flanders Fields / The Great War Centenary poppy logo
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Images
There is a comprehensive range of images suitable for promoting the Great War Centenary in Flanders available to download from the VISITFLANDERS Flickr page.
www.flickr.com/visitflanders

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