

Walking the Ypres Salient

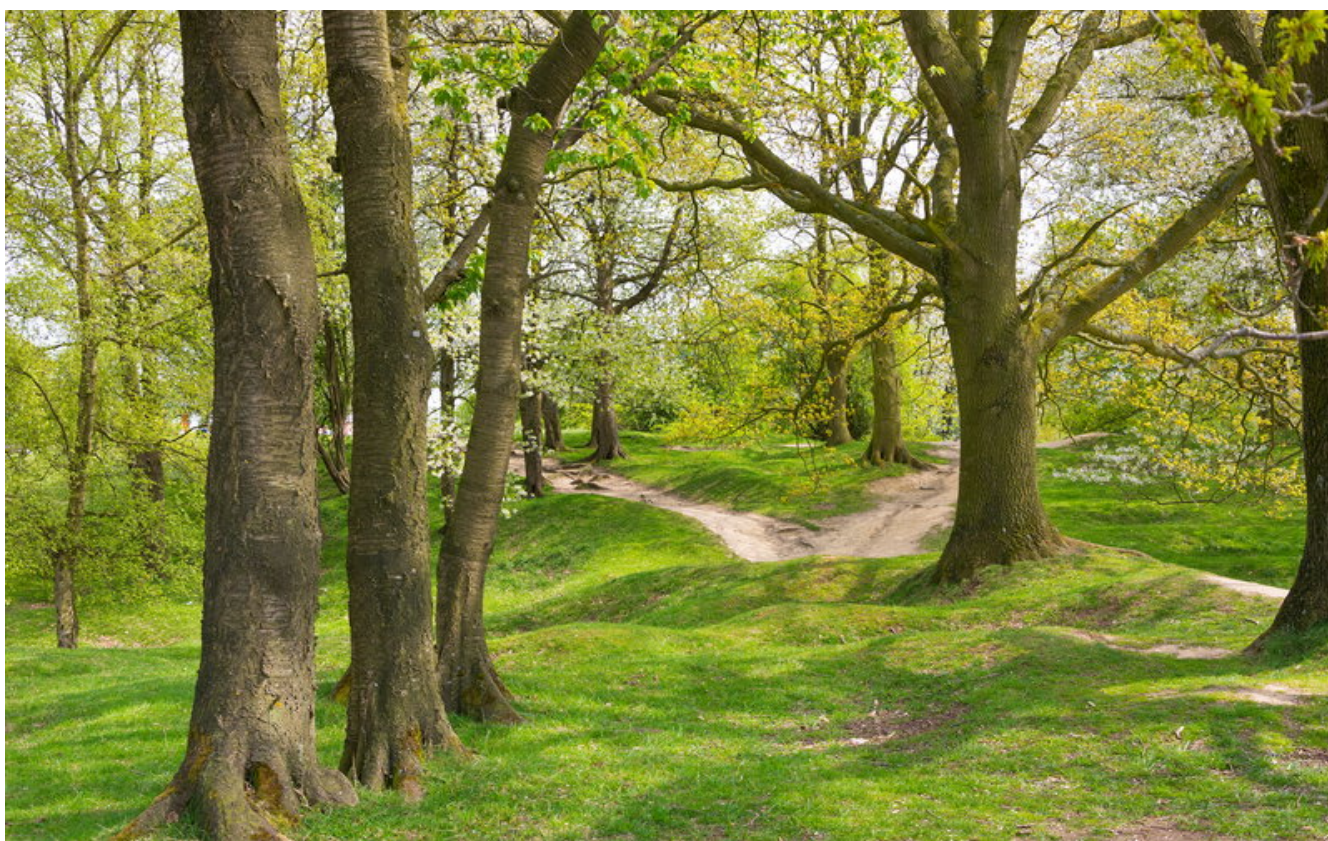
Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: 📍 Belgium

Trip code: BRU05-LBT12

Trip Walking Grade: 1

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 116kg CO2



Holiday Overview

Explore a corner of Belgium that witnessed many of WWI's fiercest battles. From our base in historical Ypres, the City of Peace, we'll follow in the footsteps of those who fought in The Great War. We'll also enjoy a guided tour of the medieval squares and canals of Ghent, one of Europe's best kept secrets.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Walking the Ypres Salient
- Witnessing the Last Post ceremony in Ypres
- Learning about WWI with a local battlefields guide
- Discovering Ghent and its medieval charm
- Visiting the Hooze Crater Museum and In Flanders Fields Museum

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return rail travel from London to Lille and transfers
- Fully escorted travel with an HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 5 nights' accommodation in Ypres
- 5 breakfasts and 5 dinners
- Visit to the Ypres Salient and Battlefields sites
- Entrance to In Flanders Fields Museum and Hooze Crater Museum
- Expertise of a local guide for Battlefields visits
- Visit to Ghent with a guided tour
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- All in-destination transport

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Day 1 ARRIVAL DAY

Meet your HF Holidays Tour Manager and fellow travellers at London St Pancras International railway station. After check-in, baggage checks, and passport control, we'll wait in the departure lounge for our Eurostar to Lille. Once we've made it to Lille, there's a coach transfer to Ypres in Belgian Flanders.

This afternoon we'll have time to have a wander around Ypres and get our bearings before dinner.

Day 2 SOUTHERN YPRES SALIENT & LAST POST CEREMONY

Our day begins with a visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum (entrance included), located in Ypres' magnificent Cloth Hall which was destroyed during World War I and meticulously rebuilt.

In the afternoon, we'll meet our local guide and transfer to the southern Ypres Salient. We'll walk following the front line, taking in the Bluff, Ravine Wood, Hill 60, and the Caterpillar Crater. We'll walk to what was known as no-man's land taking in the landscape clearly marked by war. After dinner, we'll watch the poignant Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate.

Distance: 2.5 miles (4km)

Day 3 NORTHERN YPRES SALIENT

This morning we'll transfer with our guide to the northern Ypres Salient. We'll follow a section of the old front line which remained virtually unchanged between 1915 and 1917. Here we'll discover Klein Zwaanhof, Colne Cemetery, Caesar's Nose, and the Yorkshire Trench and Deep Dug-Out, which contains an underground shelter which served as a headquarters for two battalions.

We'll leave the Ypres Salient and continue by coach to Essex Farm, where John McCrae who wrote the poem In Flanders Fields is buried. We'll then visit Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest commonwealth cemetery in the world in terms of burials and the German Langemark Cemetery.

Distance: 1.5 miles (2.8km)

Day 4 EASTERN YPRES SALIENT

This morning we'll transfer with our guide to the eastern Ypres Salient where we'll discover two of the most important wartime heritage sites: the grounds of Hoge Chateau and Bellewaarde Ridge. We'll firstly visit the Hoge Crater Museum, which contains reconstructions of a number of wartime scenes, together with a collection of artifacts, documents, and photos. Bellewaarde Ridge held a position of strategic importance due to the panoramic view it offered over Ypres and was the scene of heavy fighting.

Once we return to Ypres you'll have the afternoon to explore at your leisure.

Distance: 2 miles (3.5km)

Day 5 Ghent

Today we'll take the train to Ghent, one of Belgium's most well-preserved medieval cities. A guided walking tour will show us the highlights before you have free time to explore and sightsee some more. We'll return to Ypres for our farewell dinner.

Day 6 DEPARTURE DAY

After breakfast, we'll take the opportunity for a final stroll around Ypres before joining our coach late morning for the transfer to Lille. Here we'll board the Eurostar for our journey back through Northern France to London.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

Walk at a relaxed pace, often spending time at places of interest en-route. Walking experience isn't necessary as distances are quite short and gradients generally easy.

Accommodation

Novotel Ypres Centre - Belgium

The Novotel Ypres Centre is superbly located in the historic old town, a short walk from the Menin Gate and other

points of interest. All 128 rooms are contemporary in style, with air conditioning, tea and coffee making facilities, Wi-Fi, and TV. There's also a bar and a gym.

Food & drink

Our hotel, the Novotel Ypres Centre does not serve meals in the evening. We will therefore have breakfast in the hotel restaurant but enjoy dinner in local restaurants in Ypres.

Travel Details

Address

Novotel Ypres Centre

Sint Jacobsstraat 15

8900 Ypres

Belgium

Tel : 00 32 (0)57 42 96 00

Useful Holiday Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)

Trip Information

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel.

As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure.

Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting.

For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice.

Passport Requirements

This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long.

We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues.

If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website.

Visa Requirements

Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling.

British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Tripnote validity

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any

doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

Document produced: 23 July 2026

