Walking the Ypres Salient



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Walking with sightseeing	Belgium	2	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. With the help of a local guide, we'll walk parts of the Ypres Salient and experience the poignant Last Post ceremony – a tribute to the fallen. We'll also enjoy a guided tour of historic Ghent, one of Belgium's oldest cities.

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 Hooge 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 Hooge 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

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

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 Hooge Chateau and Bellewaarde Ridge. We'll firstly visit the Hooge 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



Gentle walking grade 2

Full or half-day gentle walks on good paths, with plenty of time for rest stops, views, and places of interest. Typically, 3-5 miles (5-8km) with around 350ft (100m) of ascent with few or no stiles.

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

VACCINATIONS & HEALTH

Vaccinations & health 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.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

Passport & Visa information

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

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

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)
- Swimcap (compulsory in Itialian resorts)
- 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)

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS (WITH RAIL)

Book your holiday 'with rail' and travel on Eurostar with the group. If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between Lille Europe station and the hotel. The coach transfer takes approx 50 minutes.

Notes for Rail Travellers

Rail travel will be from St Pancras International Station, London to Lille Europe.

Your group meeting point at St Pancras will be the Sir John Betjeman statue on the upper level of the station 2 hours before departure time. Here you will join the rest of your group and meet your HF Tour Manager who will guide you throughout your journey. You will then make your way to the ticket gate as a group.

A suitcase with wheels is strongly recommended as you will be responsible for carrying and lifting your luggage on all parts of the journey. All luggage will be scanned at the departure gate and needs to be clearly labelled. You will need to be responsible for your luggage and belongings at all stages of your journey so it's advisable to have it within eyesight when travelling on the trains and be extra vigilant when moving through busy railway stations. Please refer to the website below for the latest information on luggage requirements for your journey and trip information: https://www.eurostar.com/uk-en

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS (WITHOUT RAIL)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without rail' allowing you the freedom to book your own travel.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price.

You can still purchase a seat on our shared group transfer but it is your responsibility to arrive at the railway station prior to the main group. All train times are subject to change and if your arrival and / or departure time changes and no longer fits our shared group transfer, we will be unable to delay departure for you. Should this occur we will refund you the cost of the transfer and you can either make your own way to the hotel or we can book a private taxi transfer for you (at your expense). HF Holidays cannot be held responsible for your onward travel if you are unable to meet the transfer coach.

If you have made your own travel arrangements and have booked a place on the HF Holidays shared group transfer to the hotel, please meet your Tour Manager and fellow travellers at Lille Europe station by the Information Point in Hall 3, close to the Boulevard de Leeds exit.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so before you travel.

For more information about healthcare and its costs, please visit: https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/

Drinking Water

Drinking Water

Standards for drinking water vary widely around the world. In many destinations, tap water may not be safe to drink, brush your teeth with, or use for making ice. Where advised, you should drink only bottled or treated water and ensure that bottle seals are intact before use. If bottled water is unavailable, water should be boiled or filtered.

Staying well hydrated is particularly important in hot climates and during active holidays. Carry water with you and drink regularly.

If you are unsure about local water safety, check official country-specific health advice before travel, or ask your accommodation or local guides for guidance once you arrive.

Ticks information

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/

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.

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