



Anzac

Western Front Tours 2012





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Join us on our ANZAC
Commemorative Tours and
experience the Albatross Difference...

Imagine being there on ANZAC Day in the still of the morning, with the mist and damp air hovering over lines of white gravestones.

Then, as dawn breaks, the haunting Last Post is sounded by the bugler. Join us on the Western Front at Villers-Bretonneux as we commemorate the sacrifice and valour of a generation who long ago fought and died so far from home.

ANZAC DAY ON THE SOMME - 5 day tour (Page 4)

Our shorter, simpler ANZAC Day on the Somme tour is ideally suited for those of you with restraints on time. This tried and tested programme is led by a specialist Battlefield Tour Manager and focuses specifically on the commemorative sites of the Somme battlefields. Staying three nights in the very heart of Amiens, close to Villers-Bretonneux allows for comprehensive sightseeing, quality touring and easy access to the moving ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Note: No War Historians on this tour

ANZAC DAY ON THE WESTERN FRONT - 10 day tour (Page 6)



War Historian on tour

A very special tour timed to be in the heart of the Somme for the ANZAC Day Commemorations. Starting in Paris we stay four nights in the wonderful gothic city of Ypres, where we enjoy visits to picture perfect Bruges, the cemeteries and fields of Flanders, and attend the moving 'Last Post' under the Menin Gate in Ypres. In the Somme we stay three nights in the centre of Amiens – a perfect location to explore the area and attend the ANZAC Day services and commemorations at Villers-Bretonneux.

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT - 8 day tour (Page 9)



War Historian on tour

Staying three nights in Ypres (Flanders) and three nights in Amiens (the Somme) this tour has been specially designed to be enjoyed immediately after the ANZAC Day Commemorations, when the crowds have all disappeared, and it has become 'All Quiet on the Western Front'. This tour will be particularly attractive to anyone who is planning to commemorate ANZAC Day at Gallipoli and wishes to complete their commemorative journey by 'bolting on' a fascinating Western Front tour.

Note: We also run a number of extra departures of this tour between May and September.

*Left: Dawn Service Villers-Bretonneux (Photo courtesy of the Australian Department of Defence)
Front cover medals from left: 1914-1915 star, British War Medal, Victory Medal (Inter Allied War Medal)*



Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel with Battlefield Guide, Mike Peters

Experience the Western Front the Albatross Way

More and more Australians and New Zealanders are discovering that amongst the muddy battlefields of the Somme and Flanders there is a huge and compelling ANZAC story to be told. A story of incredible valour and fortitude, amidst the carnage of human destruction, the world had never been seen before.

"In March 1916, the infantry divisions of the AIF went to the Western Front in France and Belgium to fight in the trenches against the Germans. Those years between 1916 and 1918, saw the most costly conflict in which Australia has ever been involved. Of the 102,800 names on the national Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, over 45,000 died as a result of the fighting along the Western Front. For years after the war, place names such as Fromelles, Pozières, Bullecourt, Ypres, Villers-Bretonneux and Mont St Quentin, where so many Australians perished, were household words in Australia. By 1918, Australians were fighting in their own army corps – the Australian Corps. From May of that year the corps was commanded by an Australian – General Sir John Monash." Dr Richard Reid – War Historian – Western Front

Experience you can trust

Join us, Albatross Tours, as we bring together 11 years of experience, and the expertise of a team of specially trained Battlefield Tour Managers and War Historians, to create an unforgettable Western Front commemorative touring programme. Together we will retrace the steps of the 'Diggers' throughout the Allied battles of the Western Front, from the staggering devastation of the trench warfare of the Flanders battlefields to the moving 'Last Post' under the Menin Gate in Ypres. With experience comes expertise! All our tours are tried, tested and proven. Our past passenger feedback endorses the fact that Albatross Tours deliver the most memorable and fulfilling commemorative touring experience, as well as offering exceptional value for money.

Visit www.albatrosstours.com.au for reviews on our ANZAC tours from past passengers.

Our Hotels - Location, Location, Location

Quality hotels are in short supply throughout the whole of the Somme and Flanders regions. We always select hotels in Ypres and Amiens that are in premium, central locations. Most importantly, their excellent location in each region is pivotal to delivering the best possible ANZAC commemorative touring experience.

Amiens – in the heart of the Somme

ALL the hotels we use in Amiens, on all tours, are located in the centre of town, within walking distance of one of the major city sights, the glorious gothic cathedral – one of the gems of medieval architecture. The majority of key commemorative sites such as Villers-Bretonneux, Pozières, Le Hamel and Thiepval are all close by. The hotels' excellent location will add considerable enjoyment to your overall touring experience.

Ypres – in the heart of Flanders

The Novotel Hotel in Ypres is superbly located in the very centre of the old town and barely 200 metres from the famous Menin Gate where the Last Post is sounded each evening. Ypres makes a perfect base for visiting the nearby sites such as Tyne Cot, Hill 60 and Passchendaele. The hotel's location so close to the Cloth Hall in the huge gothic central square, adds enjoyment to your time at leisure.

The Albatross War Historian



Tours displaying this logo also have the added value of the services of our expert Australian War Historian – Dr Richard Reid.

Richard joined the Australian War Memorial in 1983 and has worked extensively in their Historical Research section. In 1993 he was the Executive Officer of the project to exhume the remains of an Unknown Soldier and he personally escorted them back to Australia. The ABC published Richard's book on Gallipoli and he was a major contributor to the design and creation of the Department of Veterans' Affairs fascinating websites. Richard currently holds the position of Senior Curator at the National Museum of Australia.

Richard has handled numerous Albatross ANZAC groups before and will be on hand to bring to life those tragic campaigns of long ago. His intimate background knowledge helps separate fact from fable and provides numerous fascinating insights into the lifestyle and living conditions of the infamous 'Diggers'.

Personal Audio Systems

On all of our Western Front programmes we include personal audio systems. This technology considerably enhances your touring experience and enjoyment, allowing you to spread out when visiting commemorative sites, take photos, and linger in front of particular memorials or exhibits without missing a word of your War Historian or Tour Manager's fascinating commentary. It eliminates the need to crane your neck, cup your ears or bunch together to hear their commentary.








Anzac Day on the Somme

5 days, departs Paris 23 April 2012



Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux

Albatross gives you more...

-  Experience the moving ANZAC Day dawn service at Villers-Bretonneux and local morning service hosted by the village Mayor
-  Stay 3 nights in the centre of Amiens, superbly located to access all the major Commemorative sights
-  Gain a deeper insight into the life of the diggers from our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager
-  See the 2nd Australian Division memorial at Mont St Quentin and the Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel
-  Visit the Franco Australian Museum at the Victoria School in Villers-Bretonneux
-  Be professionally guided throughout the Somme Commemorative sites including the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, Fromelles Memorials, Bullecourt 'Digger' Memorial, Adelaide Cemetery, Australian Memorials at Pozières, the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme and the Newfoundland Memorial Park
-  11 years experience operating Western Front tours

The Albatross Difference

 <p>More sightseeing time</p>	 <p>42 max</p>	 <p>NO SURPRISES</p>	 <p>Personal audio system whilst on tour</p>	 <p>Group GUARANTEED departures</p>
Less time on coaches, average 131 kms travelled each day	Maximum 42 passengers	Over \$400 value of extras already included - no hidden costs		Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers

Our shorter, simpler ANZAC Day on the Somme tour is ideally suited for those of you with restraints on time. This tried and tested programme is led by a specialist Battlefield Tour Manager and focuses specifically on the commemorative sites of the Somme battlefields. Staying three nights in the very heart of Amiens, close to Villers-Bretonneux allows for comprehensive sightseeing, quality touring and easy access to the moving ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

DAY 1 - 23 APRIL PARIS

Your tour commences in your Paris hotel this evening. We have included a welcome drink and dinner in your hotel. This is an ideal chance to meet and get to know your specialist Battlefield Tour Manager and fellow travellers. (D)

Your Paris Hotel: Mercure Paris Montmartre or Ibis La Villette

DAY 2 - 24 APRIL AMIENS

We depart Paris and travel north to Fromelles to visit VC Corner (Australian Cemetery), Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery and the Australian Memorial Park at Fromelles, scene of Australia's first major battle on the Western Front. From here we travel across the old Bullecourt battlefield to view the moving statue of an Australian soldier at the Bullecourt 'Digger' Memorial.

Your home for the next 3 nights is the city of Amiens. In 1918 Australian soldiers played a prominent part in the defence of the city. Our hotels are superbly located in the very heart of Amiens, within easy walking distance of all the major sights. Make sure you visit one of the gems of French medieval architecture - Amiens Cathedral, where the Australian and New Zealand soldiers have been honoured. (B)

Your Amiens hotel: All Seasons Amiens or Ibis Amiens Centre Cathedral

DAY 3 - 25 APRIL AMIENS - ANZAC DAY

This morning we attend the Dawn Service at the Australian National



2nd Australian Division Memorial at Mont St Quentin

Memorial near Villers Bretonneux. At the conclusion of the Dawn Service, we attend the local community service, led by the Mayor, at the French monument near the town hall in Villers Bretonneux. A breakfast pack has been included today.

Later, we experience the tragedy of the 1916 Somme battlefield including the Australian memorials at Pozieres, which recall the loss of 23,000 men in six weeks. Also visited today are the vast and tragic Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, and the Newfoundland Memorial Park. A snack lunch has been included today. (B, L)

DAY 4 - 26 APRIL AMIENS

Our first visit today is to the 2nd Australian Division memorial at Mont St Quentin, on the outskirts of the historical town of Péronne. Driving across the uplands of the Somme, we visit the Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel. This afternoon is dedicated to Villers Bretonneux. It was here on April 25, 1918, exactly 3 years after the Gallipoli landings, that Australian courage and determination provided a stunning victory that ended the German advance in this area. It is a place to think about how Australia's story on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918 has been commemorated.

You will visit the fascinating Franco Australian Museum at the Victoria School in the village, with its extensive collection of memorabilia, and revisit the Australian National Memorial. Our last stop is a visit to the Adelaide Cemetery (site of the exhumation of Australia's Unknown Soldier in November 1993).

Return to Amiens where this evening you enjoy a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 5 - 27 APRIL TO PARIS

Sadly your Western Front Tour ends this morning after breakfast as you are transferred to Paris to arrive around midday. Drop off points will be Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport and Paris Gare du Nord station. We recommend that you do not book flights or trains that depart Paris before 2pm today. (B)



Tour Inclusions

- All excursions, scenic drives and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- Fully escorted by our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager
- Personal audio system whilst on tour
- Travel by first class air-conditioned coaches
- End of tour tips to your Tour Manager and Driver
- 4 nights in tourist class hotels as described
- Breakfast daily, 1 snack lunch, 2 dinners including farewell dinner in Amiens
- Welcome drink Paris
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Extensive touring of the Somme Battlefields

Tour Price (land only prices)

\$1,389 pp twin share

Single supplement \$449

'The highlight of our ANZAC Day on the Somme tour was definitely the dawn ANZAC service and gaining insight and understanding of WW1. Information given was excellent and our guide was more than happy to answer questions and go the extra mile to accommodate private requests.'

Ron and Theresa, TAS



Anzac Day on the Western Front

10 days, departs Paris 18 April 2012



Dawn Service Villers-Bretonneux (Photo courtesy of the Australian Department of Defence)

Albatross gives you more...

- ✦ Absorb the full reality and tragedy of the trench warfare with commentary by our expert Australian War Historian
- ✦ Gain a deeper insight into the life of the diggers from our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager
- ✦ All hotels located to access all the major Commemorative sights
- ✦ Experience the ANZAC Day dawn service at Villers-Bretonneux
- ✦ Be moved by the Last Post at the Menin Gate, explore Hoge Crater Cemetery and Museum
- ✦ Visit the Flanders Commemorative sites including Messines, Hill 60, Polygon Wood, Essex Farm Cemetery, Tyne Cot, Toronto Avenue Cemetery and Island of Ireland Peace Park
- ✦ Visit the Somme Commemorative sites including the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, Fromelles Memorials, Vimy Ridge, Bullecourt 'Digger' Memorial, Adelaide Cemetery, Australian Memorials at Pozieres, the Ulster Tower Memorial, Newfoundland Memorial Park and the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme
- ✦ 11 years experience operating Western Front tours

The Albatross Difference

 <p>More sightseeing time</p>	 <p>42 max</p>	 <p>NO SURPRISES</p>	 <p>Personal audio system whilst on tour</p>	 <p>Group GUARANTEED departures</p>
Less time on coaches, average 94 kms travelled each day	Maximum 42 passengers	Over \$1,000 value of extras already included - no hidden costs		Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers



Services of an Australian War Historian included on this tour

The presence of our expert Australian War Historian, Dr Richard Reid, working alongside our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager, will add so much depth to this tour and ensure you have a tremendously fulfilling experience.

Imagine being there on ANZAC Day in the still of the morning, with the mist and damp air hovering over lines of white gravestones. Then, as dawn breaks, the haunting Last Post is sounded by the bugler. Come join us on the Western Front at Villers-Bretonneux as we commemorate the sacrifice and valour of a generation who long ago fought and died so far from home. Over the years we have handled numerous commemorative tours to the Somme and Flanders battlefields. Our Tour Managers have been specially selected as they are experts in these regions and are well versed in the path our 'Diggers' trod nearly a century ago. Together with our War Historian they separate fact from fiction and bring to life the whole tragic Western Front campaign. Specially designed by our expert Australian War Historian, this tour offers you a unique and personal experience.

DAY 1 - 18 APRIL PARIS

Your tour commences in your Paris hotel this evening. We have included a welcome drink and dinner in your hotel. This is an ideal chance to meet and get to know your Tour Manager and fellow travellers. (D)

Your Paris hotel: Mercure Montmartre

DAY 2 - 19 APRIL PARIS

This morning we enjoy a Paris panoramic tour which will bring alive the city from the Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysées and Arc de Triomphe (including the

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier), to the Louvre and Notre Dame. Your afternoon and evening are at leisure. (B)

DAY 3 - 20 APRIL YPRES

We depart Paris and our first stop is a visit to the Adelaide Cemetery (site of the exhumation of Australia's Unknown Soldier in November 1993) before arriving at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. It was here on April 25, 1918, exactly 3 years after the Gallipoli landings, that Australian courage and determination provided a stunning victory that ended the German advance in this area. It is a place to think about how Australia's story on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918 has been commemorated. Also visited today is the Franco Australian Museum at the Victoria School in the village. Driving on, across the uplands of the Somme, our next visit is to the Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel and finally to the 2nd Australian Division memorial at Mont St Quentin, on the outskirts of the historical town of Péronne. All in all, these first battlefield visits provide the perfect context for our touring over the next few days. Later this afternoon we continue to Ypres where we stay the next four nights. Between 1916 and 1918 thousands of Australian and New Zealand soldiers came to Ypres where some of the heaviest fighting in World War 1 took place. Completely destroyed in the war, the town was lovingly rebuilt carefully restoring the grand old buildings and picturesque square. Our hotel is superbly located in the very centre of the old town and barely 200 metres from the famous Menin Gate. Tonight, after a buffet dinner, you can attend the sounding of the Last Post at the Menin Gate, a moving ceremony repeated every night since 1928. (B, D)

Your Ypres hotel: Novotel Ieper Centrum

DAY 4 - 21 APRIL YPRES

Today will be enjoyed in Ypres. Our walking tour takes us through the centre of town to the magnificent Cloth Hall, St Georges Chapel and St Martin's Church. We will also visit the beautiful Ypres Ramparts Cemetery and walk on top of the ramparts to the Menin Gate Memorial, the British Empire's tribute to the missing from the battles around Ypres. The rest of your day is free in this delightful gothic town. (B)

DAY 5 - 22 APRIL YPRES

A day to discover the battlefields and memorials associated with some of the most costly operations fought in by Australian soldiers – the battles of the 'Flanders Offensive' of June to November 1917. In the morning we visit the site of the Battle of Messines, the beautiful Toronto Avenue Cemetery and the Island of Ireland Peace Park. After time at leisure for lunch in Ypres, we drive up the famous Menin Road to visit Hooze Crater Cemetery and Museum (this small, private museum is in a renovated Chapel and small school), the 5th Australian Division Memorial in Polygon Wood, Hill 60 and the British Commonwealth's largest war cemetery at Tyne Cot. What happened in this area east of Ypres in 1917 was eventually summed up in one terrible word - Passchendaele! (B)

DAY 6 - 23 APRIL YPRES

We have included a delightful excursion today to the charming city of Bruges. Recognised as one of Europe's best preserved medieval cities, Bruges is riddled with canals, bridges and quiet back streets and is often called the Venice of the North. Wander the quaint and picturesque cobbled streets lined with tiny lace boutiques, tempting chocolate shops and cosy cafes. Maybe take a cruise along the canals or a ride in a traditional horse drawn carriage through the old town to admire the historic architecture. Or simply relax in one of the pavement cafes on the glorious old market square. On our return drive we will stop to visit the Essex Farm Cemetery, a site forever associated with the composition of the poem 'In Flanders Field'. (B)

DAY 7 - 24 APRIL AMIENS

Today we journey through the old Western Front battlefields from Ypres in Belgium to Amiens in France. After crossing the border, we will stop at VC Corner (Australian Cemetery), Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery and the Australian Memorial Park at Fromelles, scene of Australia's first major battle on the Western Front. From there we visit the most spectacular British Commonwealth memorial in France – the Canadian National Memorial on Vimy Ridge. Before heading into Amiens, we will travel across the old Bullecourt battlefield and view the moving statue of an Australian soldier at



Interior view - Menin Gate, Ypres





Martin Neagle's headstone, Polygon Wood (Photo courtesy of Julie Reece)

the Bullecourt 'Digger' Memorial. A packed lunch, and dinner has been included today. Your hotel for the next three nights is located in the very heart of town. (B, L, D)

Your Amiens hotel: *Mercure Amiens Cathedrale*.

DAY 8 - 25 APRIL AMIENS – ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day will be special! A ceremony with military uniforms, slouch-hats, Ambassadors and dignitaries, army bands, national anthems, the Last Post, crowds of visitors as well as the local population of this small French village which will "never forget Australia". This morning we attend the Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial near Villers Bretonneux. At the conclusion of the Dawn Service, we attend the local community service, led by the Mayor, at the French monument near the town hall in Villers Bretonneux. Return to your hotel mid morning for breakfast. In 1918 Australian soldiers played a prominent part in the defence of the city of Amiens. Today we visit one of the gems of French medieval architecture - Amiens Cathedral, where the Australian and New Zealand soldiers have been honoured. The rest of your day and evening are at leisure in the delightful town of Amiens. (B)

DAY 9 - 26 APRIL AMIENS

Today we experience the tragedy of the 1916 Somme battlefield including the Australian memorials at Pozieres, which recall the loss of 23,000 men in six weeks. Later we visit the vast and tragic Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, the Ulster Tower Memorial to the 36th Ulster Division and the Newfoundland Memorial Park. A snack lunch is included today. Return to Amiens where this evening you enjoy a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 - 27 APRIL TO PARIS

Sadly your Western Front Tour ends this morning after breakfast as you are transferred to Paris to arrive around midday. Drop off points will be Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport and Paris Gare du Nord station. We recommend that you do not book flights or trains that depart Paris before 2pm today. (B)



Tour Inclusions

- All excursions, scenic drives and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- Fully escorted by our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager
- Services of an expert Australian War Historian
- Personal audio system whilst on tour
- First class air-conditioned touring coach
- End of tour tips to Tour Manager, driver and local Paris guide
- 9 night's accommodation as described
- Buffet breakfast daily, 2 snack lunches
- 4 dinners including farewell dinner in Amiens
- Welcome drink Paris
- All entrances as per itinerary
- Extensive touring of the WW1 Battlefields

Tour Price (land only prices)

\$2,999 pp twin share

Single supplement \$829

'The selection of hotels was very good and our war historian was very informative. He was always available to give more detail or to assist with personal enquiries such as locating relatives in the war cemeteries.

The coach was very comfortable and the driver amazing maneuvering the coach down cobbled narrow village lanes.'

William, NSW



All Quiet on the Western Front

8 days, departs Paris 27 April 2012



Tyne Cot Cemetery

Albatross gives you more...

- ✚ Gain a deeper insight into the life of the diggers from our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager and our expert Australian War Historian
- ✚ Enjoy charming Bruges and the medieval Amiens Cathedral
- ✚ Visit the Flanders Commemorative sites including Messines, Hill 60, Polygon Wood, Essex Farm Cemetery, Tyne Cot, Toronto Avenue Cemetery and Island of Ireland Peace Park
- ✚ Visit the Somme Commemorative sites including the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, Fromelles Memorials, Vimy Ridge, Bullecourt 'Digger' Memorial, Adelaide Cemetery, Australian Memorials at Pozières, and the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme
- ✚ Be moved by the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, explore Hooge Crater Cemetery and Museum
- ✚ Visit Franco-Australian Museum at Victoria Primary School in Villers-Bretonneux and Historial de la Grand Guerre (Museum of the Great War) in Peronne
- ✚ 11 years experience operating Western Front tours

The Albatross Difference

 <p>More sightseeing time</p>	 <p>42 max</p>	 <p>NO SURPRISES</p>	 <p>Personal audio system whilst on tour</p>	 <p>Group GUARANTEED departures</p>
Less time on coaches, average 119 kms travelled each day	Maximum 42 passengers	Over \$700 value of extras already included - no hidden costs		Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers



Services of an Australian War Historian included on this tour

As with our ANZAC Day on the Western Front Commemorative tour, we have included the services of an expert Australian War Historian, Dr Richard Reid, who will work alongside our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager.

The 27 April departure of this tour is ideal for anyone wishing to explore the Western Front immediately after attending the ANZAC Day Gallipoli Commemorations. For those wishing to travel later in the year, there are also six additional departures between May and September.

Note: Our expert War Historian is on board for the April 27 departure only

DAY 1 - 27 APRIL PARIS

Your tour commences in your Paris hotel this evening with a welcome drink and dinner in your hotel. (D)

Your Paris hotel: *Mercure Montmartre*

DAY 2 - 28 APRIL YPRES

We travel to Ypres where we stay the next three nights. This afternoon enjoy a walking tour through the centre of town and see the magnificent Cloth Hall, St Georges Chapel, Ypres Ramparts Cemetery and the Menin Gate Memorial, the British Empire's tribute to the missing from the battles around Ypres. Between 1916 and 1918 thousands of Australian and New Zealand soldiers came to Ypres where some of the heaviest fighting in World War 1 took place. Completely destroyed in the war, the town was lovingly re-built carefully restoring the grand old buildings and picturesque square. Our hotel is superbly located in the very centre of the old town and barely 200 metres from the famous Menin Gate. Tonight, after a buffet dinner, you can attend the sounding of the Last Post at the Menin Gate, a moving ceremony repeated every night since 1928. (B, D)

Your Ypres hotel: *Novotel Ieper Centrum*

DAY 3 - 29 APRIL YPRES

A fascinating day focusing on the 'Flanders Offensive' of June to November 1917. In the morning we visit the site of the Battle of Messines, the beautiful Toronto Avenue Cemetery and the Island of Ireland Peace Park. This afternoon we follow the famous Menin Road to visit Hooze Crater Cemetery and Museum (this small, private museum is in a renovated Chapel and small school), Hill 60, the 5th Australian Division Memorial in Polygon Wood and the British Commonwealth's largest war cemetery at Tyne Cot. What happened in this area east of Ypres in 1917 was eventually summed up in one terrible word – Passchendaele! (B)

DAY 4 - 30 APRIL YPRES

We have included a delightful excursion today to the charming city of Bruges. Recognised as one of Europe's best preserved medieval cities, Bruges is riddled with canals, bridges and quiet back streets. Take time to wander the quaint and picturesque cobbled streets and relax in one of the pavement cafes on the glorious old market square. Later we will stop to visit the Essex Farm Cemetery, a site forever associated with the composition of the poem 'In Flanders Field'. (B)

DAY 5 - 1 MAY AMIENS

Today we journey through the old Western Front battlefields from Ypres in Belgium to Amiens in France. After crossing the border, we will stop at VC Corner (Australian Cemetery), Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery and the Australian Memorial Park at Fromelles, scene of Australia's first major battle on the Western Front. From there we visit the most spectacular British Commonwealth memorial in France – the Canadian National Memorial on Vimy Ridge. Before heading into Amiens, we will travel across the old Bullecourt battlefield and view the moving statue of an Australian soldier at the Bullecourt 'Digger' Memorial. You will be staying the next three nights in the centre of Amiens within easy walking distance to the picturesque city canals and the Notre-Dame – Amiens' masterpiece 13th century gothic cathedral. A packed lunch, and dinner at your hotel, has been included today. (B, L, D)

Your Amiens hotel: *Mercure Amiens Cathedrale*

DAY 6 - 2 MAY AMIENS

Today we experience the tragedy of the 1916 and 1918 Somme Battlefields including the Adelaide Cemetery (site of the exhumation of Australia's Unknown Soldier in November 1993) and the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. We have included a visit to the fascinating Franco-Australian Museum at the Victoria Primary School in the village of Villers-Bretonneux. We also visit the Australian memorials at Pozieres where over 23,000 Australians were injured with 8,000 losing their lives. The memorial at the windmill simply reads, "This spot was the centre of the struggle in this area and was captured by Australian troops who fell more thickly on this ridge than on any other." Later we visit the vast and tragic Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. Returning to Amiens your evening is free. (B)

DAY 7 - 3 MAY AMIENS

Begin your day with a visit to one of the gems of French medieval architecture - Amiens Cathedral, where the Australian and New Zealand soldiers have been honoured. Later we visit the Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel and the 2nd Australian Division Memorial at Mont St Quentin. Lunch time is at leisure in the historical town of Péronne, where we have also included entrance to the Historial de la Grande Guerre (Museum of the Great War). Your farewell dinner tonight is in a local restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 8 - 4 MAY TO PARIS

Sadly your Western Front tour ends this morning after breakfast as you are transferred to Paris to arrive around midday. (B)



Tour Inclusions

- All excursions, scenic drives and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- Fully escorted by our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager
- Services of an expert Australian War Historian
- Personal audio system whilst on tour
- First class air-conditioned touring coach
- End of tour tips to Tour Manager, driver and local Paris guide
- 7 night's accommodation as described
- Buffet breakfast daily, 1 lunch pack
- 4 dinners including farewell dinner in Amiens
- Welcome drink Paris
- All entrances as per itinerary
- Extensive touring of the WW1 Battlefields

Tour Price (land only prices)

\$2,489 pp twin share

Single supplement \$649

For those wishing to travel later in the year, there are also six additional departures - 22 May, 4 June, 3 July, 30 July, 21 August and 17 September 2012. For further information see our Summer Tours section on



www.albatrosstours.com.au

Note: Our expert War Historian is on board for the April 27 departure only

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TOUR BOOKING CONDITIONS

Western Front Tours - please read all conditions carefully

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

- All rates are in \$AUD and are cash/cheque rates. Credit card payments attract a merchant fee. Deposits are non transferable.
- A non refundable deposit of \$300.00 AUD per person, per tour, is required to secure your place on each tour within 10 days of booking.
- A non refundable deposit of \$100 per person is required to book any flights.
- Final balance is due on all tours by 15 February 2012.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be received in writing.

- If cancelled outside of 60 days prior to travel a cancellation fee of the deposit applies.
- If cancelled after final payment but prior to 45 days before travel a cancellation fee of 50% applies.
- If cancelled later than 45 days prior to travel a cancellation fee of 100% applies.

FORCE MAJEURE

If the tour or cruise cannot proceed due to flood, earthquake, war or civil strife, acts of terrorism, hurricane, cyclone, industrial disturbance, strike, fire, lock out, epidemic, pandemic, failure or delays of scheduled transportation facilities, or other Acts of God, or any law, order, decree, rule or regulation of any government authority, or for any reason whether of a similar or dissimilar nature beyond the control of Albatross Tours, this agreement shall terminate and there shall be no claim for damages by either party against the other.

INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that each passenger is adequately covered by a proper insurance cover. Please also check the contingencies of your prospective insurance cover and ensure you are aware of its conditions and omissions. We strongly advise travel insurance from time of booking to provide full cover.

GUARANTEED GROUP DEPARTURES

Once Albatross Tours confirms a deposited booking, it guarantees that the tour will depart. However, in the event of less than 7 passengers booking on any tour, it reserves the right to use a smaller vehicle and the services of a combined driver/guide instead of a dedicated coach, driver and separate tour manager.

All April ANZAC tours have guaranteed group departures. Please note we reserve the right to withdraw this guarantee in the event of a major terrorist attack or international war or dispute adversely affecting and seriously reducing passenger numbers.

PRICES

Prices are guaranteed against currency surcharges. All tours have been costed on a minimum number of passengers travelling. In the event of a reduction in the numbers of passengers travelling below that minimum, or in the unlikely instance of price increases from suppliers, or tax increases, Albatross Tours reserves the right to pass on these increases in costs with or without warning to its passengers. Wherever possible, price increases will be absorbed by Albatross Tours. When group sizes are considered too small to use a full sized coach we reserve the right to use a smaller coach, in which case there may not be a toilet on board.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

Individual passengers can request us to match them up in a twin share room with another individual of the same sex. Should we not be able to match you in a twin share room by the final tour balance payment date the single room supplement rate will apply. Please Note: should you be 'matched' with another person we cannot be held responsible if the choice is not to your satisfaction. You must consider there will always be a certain risk of incompatibility. Smoking: any twin match must understand that the room must be treated as a non smoking room unless both parties agree otherwise. Also: Single rooms in European Hotels are sometimes smaller than twin rooms. The Single Supplements represent a fee passed on to us by the Hotels.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

It is the responsibility of the passenger to have a valid passport and all visas, permits and certificates required for the selected tour. Your special Travel Agent will advise you.

UNSUITABILITY

If the operators consider any passenger as an unsuitable person for any tour it may in its absolute discretion cancel that passenger's booking or decline to carry that passenger further, if at all.

UNUSED SERVICES

No refund is given where pre-booked accommodation is partially or wholly unused. No overseas supplier or associate is authorised to promise refund on behalf of Albatross Tours.

ITINERARY VARIATIONS

All possible effort will be made to adhere to the published touring itinerary. Occasionally circumstances beyond our control will force changes, amendments or modifications to the itinerary and its inclusions. Albatross Tours cannot be held responsible for any omissions or modifications to the itinerary or the inclusions made as a consequence to these changes.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

In the unlikely instance of a hotel change becoming necessary the alternative property will be of a comparable or higher standard and there shall be no refund in connection to this.

Non smoking rooms are requested however, they cannot be guaranteed as not all European hotels offer dedicated non-smoking rooms.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Unless otherwise indicated we have not included Flights, Visas, airport taxes, port taxes security charges, items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks and consumables.

COMPLAINTS

- a) In the unlikely event of a complaint, the client is obliged to make Albatross Tours and the local supplier aware of such problems immediately. Albatross Tours offers a 24 hour emergency paging system for this purpose.
- b) Albatross Tours will only consider claims made against it in those circumstances where a complaint has been made pursuant to sub paragraph (a) above and where the claim has been received by it within 30 days from the end of the services provided by it, otherwise, the client will have no right to make any claim against it.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Albatross Tours act only as a booking agent making reservations with the companies or associates offering the services contained in this brochure. Whilst acting in good faith, Albatross do not accept any responsibility for default causing loss or injury to person or property whether by negligence or otherwise on the part of the operator or accommodation managers / owners or their employees. Albatross Tours have made every effort to ensure the quality of accommodation and the accuracy of the brochure, but shall not be liable for any dissatisfaction the passenger may have with the accommodation and touring or any injury, damage or loss caused by the change or withdrawal of any price, detail or other item or service. In addition Albatross Tours shall not be held responsible for any loss of quality of goods or services supplied or any changes in an itinerary beyond our control made by third parties. This agreement shall be governed and controlled in accordance with the laws of Queensland, Australia.

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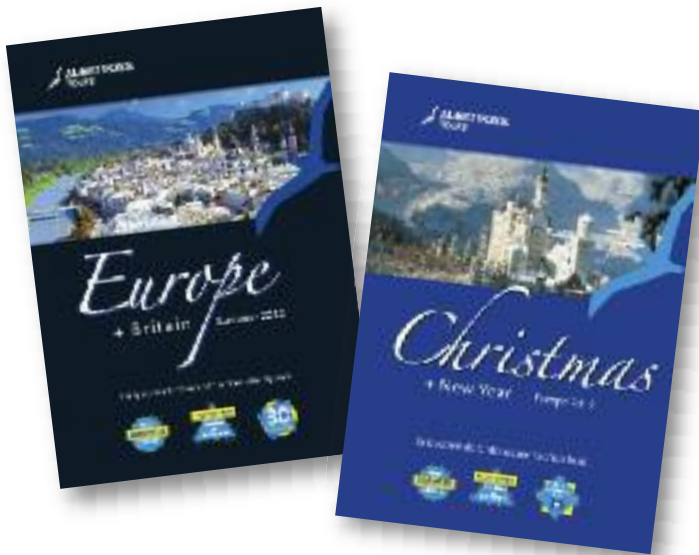
difference

THE ALBATROSS DIFFERENCE

Albatross Australia was established in 1995 as the Australasian Division of the worldwide network of the Albatross Travel Group.

We have offices in Australia, Europe and the United Kingdom. We are a fully licensed Tour Operator and we are also members of the Australian Travel Compensation Fund.

As a Global Company we handle in excess of 4,000 groups every year. Our core business is the design, creation, planning and operation of special interest and escorted group tours to the UK, Europe and Turkey. Our dedicated and enthusiastic team has enormous practical experience handling European Groups. Our office staff have personally escorted numerous group tours giving them that essential 'front line' experience.



Your local appointed travel agent is

Albatross Tours (Licence No TAG 1374. ABN 45 010 565 143)
Level 3, 303 Adelaide Street, Brisbane, Qld 4000. Telephone 07 3221 5353
Fax 07 3221 5486 • Email: info@albatrosstours.com.au • Web: www.albatrosstours.com.au

Trade enquiries and reservations

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