Anzac Day at Villers Bretonneux
10 days, departs Paris 18 April 2018

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. Your specialist Battlefield Tour Manager has been specially selected as he is an expert in these regions and well versed in the path our ‘Diggers’ trod nearly a century ago. He will separate fact from fiction and bring to life the whole tragic Western Front campaign. Specially designed to visit the main battlefields, cemeteries, memorials and museums, this tour offers you a unique and personal experience.

Our expert Tour Manager will add so much depth to this tour and ensure you have a tremendously fulfilling experience.

‘Our specialist Battlefield Guide was very knowledgeable. We gained a great understanding of the major events that had occurred at each location we visited, and had ample time to explore the sites. It was like living the history! I found all the places we visited very relevant to understanding the Australian’s experience in France during WW1. Overall we greatly enjoyed the tour and would definitely recommend this tour to anyone looking to visit the Western Front’. Karla & Julie

Discover more with Albatross…

• Absorb the full reality and tragedy of the trench warfare and gain a deeper insight into the life of the diggers, with commentary by our specialist Battlefield Tour Manager
• All hotels located to access all the major Commemorative sights
• Experience the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux and local Town Service hosted by the village Mayor
• Be moved by the Last Post at the Menin Gate and visit ‘In Flanders Fields’ Museum
• Visit the Flanders Commemorative sites including Messines, Hill 60, Polygon Wood, Essex Farm Cemetery, Tyne Cot, Toronto Avenue Cemetery, Island of Ireland Peace Park and explore Hooge Crater Cemetery and Museum
• 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, Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, 2nd Australian Division memorial at Mont St Quentin and Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel
• Visit Franco-Australian Museum at Victoria Primary School in Villers-Bretonneux & Thiepval Interpretation Centre

ANZAC Day at Villers-Bretonneux on the Western Front - courtesy of the Australian Department of Defence
DAY 1 - 18 APRIL  PARIS
Your tour commences in Paris this evening. We have included a welcome drink and dinner. This is an ideal chance to meet and get to know your Tour Manager and fellow travellers. (D)

Your Paris hotel: Hotel Opera Cadet. This art deco style hotel is ideally located between Montmartre and the Grand Boulevards. The guest rooms are equipped with the comfort and services you would expect of a 4-star hotel, including tea and coffee making facilities. Visit www.opera cadet.com

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, D)

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 1919) 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. Tonight, after dinner at your hotel, you are transferred in to Ypres to attend the sounding of the Last Post at the Menin Gate, a moving ceremony repeated every night since 1928. (B, D)

Your Ypres hotel: Best Western Flanders Lodge. Located just outside Ypres, this comfortable hotel offers air-conditioned guest rooms with ensuite facilities.

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. Highlight of your day will be a visit to ‘In Flanders Fields’ Museum - a remarkable interactive experience of World War 1, located in the Cloth Hall. 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. Later we drive up the famous Menin Road to visit Hooge 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! Dinner tonight is included in a local restaurant. (B, D)

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. On arrival we are joined by a local guide for a walking tour around the quaint and picturesque cobbled stone streets. Later, take time to relax in one of the pavement cafes on the glorious old market square. This afternoon we also visit the Esse Farm Cemetery, a site forever associated with the composition of the poem ‘In Flanders Field’. Dinner tonight is included at your hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 - 24 APRIL  THE SOMME REGION
Today we journey through the old Western Front battlefields from Ypres to Belgium to Saint Quentin in France. After crossing the border, we will stop at Fromelles, scene of Australia’s first major battle on the Western Front, to visit VC Corner (Australian Cemetery), Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery and the Australian Memorial Park at Fromelles. From there we visit the most spectacular British Commonwealth memorial in France – the Canadian National Memorial on Vimy Ridge. Later, we will travel across the old Bullecourt battlefield and view the moving statue of an Australian soldier at the Bullecourt ‘Digger’ Memorial. A packed lunch, and dinner in a local restaurant has been included today. Your hotel for the next three nights is located in Saint Quentin. (B, L, D)

Your Somme region hotel: Hotel Kyriad Saint-Quentin. This modern 2 star hotel offers comfortable accommodation and is conveniently located for exploring the Somme battlefields and commemorative sites.

DAY 8 - 25 APRIL  THE SOMME REGION - 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 plan to also attend the local wreath laying ceremony, hosted by the Mayor, at the French monument near the town hall in Villers Bretonneux*. A breakfast pack, and dinner in a local restaurant are included today. In 1918 Australian soldiers played a prominent part in the defence of the city of Amiens. Your Battlefield Tour
Manager will accompany you to visit one of the gems of French medieval architecture - Amiens Cathedral, where the Australian and New Zealand soldiers have been honoured.

Arriving back at your hotel in Saint Quentin, the rest of your day is at leisure. (B, D)

*Attendance at the Mayors wreath laying service in Villers-Bretonneux remains subject to confirmation & is dependant upon traffic arrangements in & around Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April.

**DAY 9 - 26 APRIL** **THE SOMME REGION**

Today we experience the tragedy of the 1916 Somme battlefield including the Australian memorials at Pozières, 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, including entrance to the Thiepval Interpretation Centre which details the battles of the Somme between 1914 and 1918, the Ulster Tower Memorial to the 36th Ulster Division and the Newfoundland Memorial Park. A snack lunch is included today. This evening you enjoy a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**DAY 10 - 27 APRIL** **TO PARIS**

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 book flights or trains that depart Paris after 2pm today. (B)

**Discover the Albatross difference**

- Expert commentary by our experienced battlefield guide
- Genuinely inclusive, with NO additional on tour costs
- Stay in centrally located hotels
- Maximum tour group size of 40
- Guaranteed to depart with 10 or more people
- 17 years experience operating Western Front tours

**Incredible Value 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 in a first class air conditioned touring coach
- End of tour tips to Tour Manager and Driver, tips for local guides
- 9 nights specially selected hotel accommodation
- Breakfast daily (B), 2 snack lunches (L)
- 7 dinners including welcome dinner in Paris & farewell dinner in a local restaurant (D)
- Welcome drink Paris
- All entrances as per itinerary
- Extensive touring of the WW1 Battlefields

**2018 Prices**

10 days only $3,749 pp twin share
Single supplement $699 (land only prices in Australian Dollars)

**Over $1,000 value of extras already included**

*SPECIAL NOTE:*

An Attendance Pass will be required to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 2018. Applications to obtain an Attendance Pass are expected to open on ANZAC Day 2017. Albatross Tours will apply for the Attendance Pass on behalf of our passengers, once we receive a signed Booking Form, providing us with the necessary permission & personal information we require to complete the application process. Confirmation advising that the Attendance Pass application has been successful will be sent directly to you by email from Ticketek. The Attendance Pass will be delivered directly to you from the Department of Veteran Affairs/Ticketek in late March/early April 2018.
Experience ANZAC Day with the Comemorative Tour Experts

Tours designed for you
Albatross tours have been specifically designed for you - the Australian and New Zealand traveller. Our longer stays in each destination provide you with far more time for sightseeing and a more fulfilling overall touring experience. That is also why we make sure each tour is genuinely inclusive, with NO additional ‘on tour’ costs. We know Australians and New Zealanders can be uneasy with tipping, so we have even included all ‘on tour’ gratuities and end of tour tips.

Expert Commentary
Our team on the Western Front includes noted guides who are members of the Guild of Battlefield Guides and experienced specialist Battlefield Tour Managers who have worked with Albatross Tours for many years. Your specialist Battlefield Tour Manager will separate fact from fiction (and the truth is often stranger than fiction!) and they ensure the perfect planning and implementation of your Western Front ‘campaign’.

Centrally located hotels
In the Somme region we stay in the town of Amiens for 3 or 4 nights. With its glorious gothic cathedral, Amiens is centrally located with the majority of key commemorative sites such as Villers-Bretonneux, Pozieres, Le Hamel and Thiepval all close by. In the Flanders region we always stay in the very centre of Ypres old town near the famous Menin Gate where the Last Post is sounded each evening. All key commemorative sights are close by and the hotel is located close to the Cloth Hall in the huge gothic central square.

Experience you can trust
All our tours are tried, tested and proven. Over the past decade thousands of Australians and New Zealanders have travelled with us to the Western Front. Together we have retraced the steps of the ‘Diggers’ from the staggering devastation of the trench warfare of the Somme battlefields to the moving Last Post under the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Visit www.albatrosstours.com to discover more about the Albatross style of touring.
Exclusive offers

Take advantage of some great deals with Albatross Tours

Club Albatross Members
Save $100 per person

Have you travelled with Albatross Tours before? If so, we look forward to welcoming you back and would like to offer you an exclusive Club Albatross Discount of $100 per person off the price of our 2018 ANZAC Day tours.

Club Albatross Sapphire Members
Save $200 per person

Have you travelled on more than 3 tours with Albatross Tours? If so, we welcome you to Club Albatross Sapphire. We would like to offer you our Club Albatross Sapphire Discount of $200 per person off the price of any of our 2018 ANZAC Day tours.

Small Group Discount
Save $100 per person*

If you are travelling in a small group of 6-9 people on one of our ANZAC Day tours, and the tours are booked at the same time, you and your group members are eligible to receive a $100 per person discount. Group sizes of 10 or more attract a larger discount.

Triple Room Discount
10% Discount

When 3 adults are sharing a room, the third guest will receive a 10% triple share discount. Children aged 11 years or under at the date of tour departure will receive a 30% discount when sharing a room with 2 adults.

Twin Share Match
Guarantee

Individual travellers can request to be matched in a twin room with another individual of the same gender. Should a match not be available, travellers will stay in a single room and the single supplement cost will not be charged if a twin room is available.

Currency Guarantee

Once you have booked and deposited your tour, you can rest easy as we guarantee that if the value of the Australian dollar drops, your tour price will not go up. That’s the Albatross guarantee to you!

*Conditions: Small group discounts cannot be claimed in addition to any ‘Club Albatross’ discount offers. All discount offers apply to our ANZAC Day tours and are not applicable to any additional pre or post tour hotel accommodation booked. Albatross Tours reserve the right to at any time to withdraw or amend any or all of the discounts and special offers featured on this page.

Book with confidence with our guaranteed group departures

If you book and deposit on any of our tours, as long as there are ten or more people travelling on your designated departure date, we guarantee it will travel. This is Albatross Tours’ commitment to you. How valuable is this commitment? Please do ask your travel agent – they will be able to explain the importance of guaranteed group departures.

Looking for further information or to book today?
Please call our European Tour Experts on 1300 135 015, or visit www.albatrosstours.com or ask your travel agent to contact us.