

Uncover moving tales of courage, victory and tragedy during this thought-provoking journey along the Western Front. Trace your fingers over the carved names of brave Commonwealth soldiers in the eerie Underground City of Naours. Walk in their footsteps in the Sommes' mud-splattered trenches. And witness the sheer devastation of war whilst gazing out at a sea of white gravestones in Fromelles. On this WWI tour, you won't just discover the stories of the fallen – you'll connect with them in a deeply personal way.





# About your tour notes Blue

*These tour notes* contain everything you need to know before your tour departs – from where to meet your fellow guests and local guide to what essentials to pack for your journey. We recommend you print this document out and bring it with you on your tour. Give a copy to loved ones at home so they can follow your adventure, too.

**Important:** please refresh this document as close to your departure as possible to ensure you're equipped with the latest information available.

**Hotel Couvent des Minimes @ 18:00**

Lille

**Hotel Couvent des Minimes @ 17:30**

Lille



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## Tour highlights

- ✓ Have the opportunity to pay your respects at your relatives' graves with visits to significant sites
- ✓ Receive a fascinating insight into the lives of WWI soldiers at the Underground City of Naours
- ✓ Attend the playing of the Last Post under the famous Menin Gate in Ypres

## More inclusions

- ✓ 5 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- ✓ 5 nights in thoughtfully selected accommodation
- ✓ Luxury minicoach

## Currencies you'll use

- France - EUR
- Belgium - EUR



## Included meals

Breakfast (B) is included daily.

Some of your lunches and dinners are also included, either in hotels or local restaurants. These are indicated by (L) and (D) in the itinerary.

Please note that drinks will not always be included.

We will do our best to accommodate any specific dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure to make these clear to us before your tour begins so we can communicate them to our hotels, restaurants and suppliers.

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# Your itinerary

## Day 1 | Lille (France)

After meeting the group in Lille, we'll kick off our battlefields tour with a delicious welcome dinner. Here's to the incredible journey ahead.

### Included today



#### Accommodation

Hôtel Couvent des Minimes  
(or similar)



#### Meals

+ Dinner

## Day 2 | Lille – Somme – Amiens

After breakfast, we'll begin our first full day together by exploring the region of the Somme – the infamous site of one of the costliest WWI battles. While we're here, we'll visit Newfoundland Memorial Park – where the original trench lines have been preserved. Later, we'll visit Ulster Tower – a memorial to the 36th (Ulster) Division – and Pozières Cemetery. We'll also have time to pay our respects at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme before we set a course for Amiens.

### Included today



#### Accommodation

Hôtel Le Prieuré (or similar)



#### Meals

+ Breakfast

## Day 3 | Amiens – Naours – Amiens

Today will begin with a visit to the Underground City of Naours. Here we'll tour the vast cave network where hundreds of ANZAC soldiers left their mark. With the largest concentration of WWI inscriptions on the Western Front, this site provides a touching insight into the lives of the brave soldiers fighting on the front. Then: we'll round off the day back in Amiens, where you'll have some free time to explore at your own pace.

### Included today



#### Accommodation

Hôtel Le Prieuré (or similar)



#### Meals

+ Breakfast

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## Day 4 | Amiens – Villers-Bretonneux – Ypres (Belgium)

This morning, we'll leave Amiens behind us – moving on to the Australian National War Memorial and Cemetery at Villers-Bretonneux. After taking some time to pay our respects, our next stop will be the Canadian National Vimy Memorial: Canada's largest overseas National Memorial. This evening will see us dining together in Ypres – a town that was completely destroyed during WWI and rebuilt anew.

### Included today



#### Accommodation

The Albion Hotel (or similar)



#### Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

## Day 5 | Ypres – Ypres Salient and Menin Gate – Ypres

The beautiful town of Ypres sits in the epicentre of British WWI endeavours, and there is much to see in the surrounding countryside. We'll start with a visit to John McCrae's Dressing Station at Essex Farm Cemetery – the site where his famous poem *In Flanders Fields* was written in 1915. Continuing our journey, we'll visit the German Cemetery at Langemark and Vancouver Corner. Then, we'll explore the fascinating Hoge Crater Museum – home to a unique collection of WWI artefacts and reconstructed trenches. An evocative end to the day is in store: we've an appointment to keep at the Menin Gate Memorial, where we're invited to attend the Last Post ceremony. Whilst renovation to the Gate is ongoing, we'll still be able to experience the ceremony that has been performed here daily for almost 100 years.

### Included today



#### Accommodation

The Albion Hotel (or similar)



#### Meals

+ Breakfast



## Day 6 | Ypres – Fromelles (France) – Lille

Today we'll visit Hill 60 – a manmade promontory on the edge of the Ypres Salient where many fierce battles between the Germans and Allied forces took place. After, we'll take some time to explore the area around Fromelles, VC Corner and the Australian Memorial Park – before having the opportunity to visit Pheasant Wood Cemetery: the final resting place of 250 Australian and British soldiers killed in the battle of Fromelles. After returning to Lille, our compelling journey will come to a close.

### Included today



Meals

+ Breakfast



# Travel advice

## Finances

### Changing money

**Cash:** Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

**Credit cards:** Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

**Cash machines:** ATMS are widely available.

### Tipping

Tipping is entirely at your discretion. If you feel you have received exceptional service, it is recommended that you tip £1-2/€ per day for Drivers and £4- 5/€ per day for Tour Leaders.

## Insurance

Before travelling with Blue-Roads Touring, it is compulsory for all guests to take out comprehensive travel insurance. Please ensure your insurance covers medical expenses (including repatriation), cancellation cover, loss or damage to baggage and personal effects, money and personal liability.

We recommend you carry your insurance details with you at all times. You may be asked to provide details of your medical insurance or a payment guarantee in some countries before medical assistance can be provided.

For more information, please see our [FAQ page](#).

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).

## Passports and visas

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your tour. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

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It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your tour's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

Please note: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

We advise you to either carry a photocopy of your passport (and visa, if applicable) with you while abroad, or to ensure that you leave a copy with relatives back at home. This will enable the local embassy or high commission to arrange a replacement if the original should be lost or stolen. If you do take copies with you on your tour, please ensure that you keep these separate from your original documents.

## Medication and mobility

Whilst on your tour, we want you to have the smoothest journey possible which requires x mobility conditions:

- You must be fit enough to get on and off the vehicle on a regular basis, and to walk around towns and villages or to attractions.
- You must be able to walk up and down stairs and use a shower over the bath.

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate mobility scooter or wheelchair users as we frequently stay in traditional-style hotels and the majority do not have lifts or ground-floor rooms.

If you take medicine for certain conditions, such as diabetes or heart problems, please carry it with you at all times.

Please declare any medical conditions you may have in advance of your tour. If you are in any doubt as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).



## Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness and periods of feeling down happen regardless of age. Be rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Tour Leader and Driver will do their utmost to make you smile.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call loved ones. Hearing a familiar voice whilst in an unfamiliar destination can help ground you and remind you you're not alone.
- Eat well. Nobody feels their best when they're hungry. There are plenty of nutritious culinary delights to be savoured along the road!
- Integrate with your fellow guests. The more you socialise with the group, the less likely you'll feel homesick.

## Transport

We travel in premium mini-coaches equipped with comfortable seats, air conditioning and large windows for enjoying the view.

With far more flexibility than a standard-size coach, we're able to take the scenic route – winding through beautiful countryside to the heart of tiny villages and coastal towns.



# What to pack

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Blue-Roads Touring tours. What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting as well as the time of year you plan to travel.

## Clothing

- |               |                             |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Sun hat     | ✓ Long-sleeved tops         | ✓ Light jacket              |
| ✓ Sunglasses  | ✓ Short-sleeved tops        | ✓ Waterproof jacket         |
| ✓ Sleepwear   | ✓ Shorts/skirts             | ✓ Trousers                  |
| ✓ Warm jacket | ✓ Socks                     | ✓ Swimwear                  |
| ✓ Underwear   | ✓ Smart casual evening wear | ✓ Walking/comfortable shoes |

## Other essentials

- |                           |  |                    |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ✓ Multi-use adapter plug  | ✓ Toiletries   | ✓ Camera           |
| ✓ Batteries               | ✓ Sunscreen  | ✓ Towel            |
| ✓ Umbrella                | ✓ Reusable water bottle                                  | ✓ Insect repellent |
| ✓ Any personal medication | ✓ Basic medical kit (paracetamol, aspirin, plasters etc) |                    |

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## How much luggage can I bring

As we travel in mini-coaches, luggage space is limited. Here's what you can take with you on tour:



1 x suitcase



1 x small carry-on bag  
(backpack or handbag)

If you have more luggage, please make arrangements to store it prior to joining the tour. **We are unable to carry extra luggage on the mini-coach.**

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# FAQs

## Which type of hotels will we stay in?

Our thoughtfully selected accommodation is full of charm and historic details – expect elegant country inns and grand town centre hotels! For this reason, rooms vary in size, and most hotels don't have lifts – meaning you'll likely need to access your room via stairs. Porterage will be included wherever possible.

Note that on Day 2 and 3 of this tour, you'll be snoozing just a stone's throw from the stunning Gothic façade of the Cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Amiens. Your hotel is lodged inside an atmospheric old priory and you'll either stay in the main building or another one a short stroll down the street.

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## I have ancestors who fought in the region. Are we able to visit any spots of personal significance?

We love helping our groups explore personal connections at specific historic sites or cemeteries in Belgium and France – as long as they're not too out of the way of our official tour route. Please contact our Customer Service team before your departure and they'll do their best to add any extra stops to your itinerary in advance.

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## How much walking can I expect to do?

This tour features several fascinating walking tours which take you across weather- and war-beaten battlefields, through vast and tranquil cemeteries, and into eerie subterranean caverns. We'd recommend packing your comfiest pair of walking shoes and preparing for muddy conditions on rainier days.

## That's everything!

We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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