

# INSIGHT VACATIONS

PRESENTS

## *Western Front Battlefields Tour*

COMMENCES 17TH JULY 2007



**Limited seats available book now!**

**91st anniversary of the  
Battle of Fromelles &  
the Battle of  
Somme**



# Western Front Battlefields Tour

## MAJOR SIGHTS

Visit Fromelles Battlefields on the 91st Anniversary of the Battle, the first major action involving Australian Troops at the Western Front during WW1. Visit VC Corner Cemetery, the only all-Australian war cemetery on the Western Front.

Visit the site of the infamous Battle of Passchendaele, Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery on the Western Front and visit the Essex Farm Cemetery, where John Macrae wrote the famous poem, "In Flanders Fields".

Visit Pozieres, on 23 July, the 91st anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Visit the Museum in Bullecourt, owned by the ex-mayor of Bullecourt, M Jean Letaille. During the Battle of Bullecourt, Australian Forces broke into the German's impenetrable Hindenberg Line.

Visit Villers Bretonneaux. See the Australian museum in the "Ecole Victoria" (the Victorian School).

Visit the D-Day landing beaches, including Omaha Beach.

Visit the Imperial War Museum in London.

### DAY 1 - TUE 17 JUL: ARRIVE PARIS

We arrive in Paris and transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free to explore the shops, art galleries and museums, or simply stroll the boulevards of this fascinating city. In the evening, enjoy a welcome drink at the hotel and meet your fellow tour members. Your Tour Director will also go over the itinerary for the next two weeks. **Hotel: Concorde Saint Lazare**

### DAY 2 - WED 18 JUL: PARIS

Today our coach tour of Paris with a local Parisian guide, show us such highlights as the Eiffel Tower, Champs Élysées, Tuilleries Gardens, the Louvre (largest art gallery in the world) and we visit Les Invalides (where Napoleon is buried). We complete the day with dinner in the restaurant at the Eiffel Tower, followed by a cruise on the River Seine. (B,HD)

### DAY 3 - THU 19 JUL: PARIS - IEPER

We leave Paris and travel north to visit the first of our Australian battlefield sites at Fromelles. Today is the 91st anniversary of this battle, the first major action involving Australian troops on the Western Front during WW1. The battle resulted in catastrophic losses for the 5th Australian Division and started what was to become a widely-held mistrust by Australian troops of British commanders. We visit the 'Cobbers' memorial, built on top of ruined German bunkers, and VC Corner cemetery, the only all-Australian war cemetery on the Western Front. We also visit the local museum situated in the Fromelles school building. We continue on via the Messines Ridge and Armentieres to the beautiful Belgian city of Ieper (spelt Ypres during the war and known as 'Wipers' to the troops) where we will settle into our hotel close to the Grote Markt (town square). In the evening we attend the moving 'Last Post' ceremony at Menin Gate, to pay our respects to the many thousands of soldiers who lost their lives in the Salient and who have no known grave. **Hotel: Novotel Centrum** (B, L)

### DAY 4 - FRI 20 JUL: IEPER

This morning we tour the areas of the Salient where, in 1917, Australian troops fought during the infamous Battle of Passchendaele. This includes Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde Ridge, Tyne Cot (the largest Commonwealth war cemetery on the Western Front, with 12 000 graves), and the village of Passchendaele. We also visit the huge German war cemetery at Langemark. During the afternoon, we explore the back areas behind (west of) Ieper, including Poperinge. Here Australian troops were billeted for rest periods and in preparation for their entry into the fight for Passchendaele. While

in Poperinge, we visit the famous TOCH, where allied soldiers could take short breaks to forget about the war for a while. We also visit Essex Farm cemetery, where John Macrae wrote that most famous poem, 'In Flanders Fields'. The day concludes with a visit to the In Flanders Fields museum in the centre of Ieper. (B,L)

### DAY 5 - SAT 21 JUL: IEPER

Today we visit the beautiful medieval city of Bruges, with its canals, cathedral, lace making shops and many other wonderful buildings. Lunch can be had in one of the many outdoor restaurants in the town square, and canal boat cruises are available. (B)

### DAY 6 - SUN 22 JUL: IEPER - AMIENS

We leave this morning to travel south to the Somme area where we will stay in Amiens, another beautiful medieval city. In the afternoon there is free time to explore this fascinating city. **Hotel: Grand Hotel de l'Univers** (B,D)

### DAY 7 - MON 23 JUL: AMIENS

We start our tour today by visiting the town of Albert, which most Australian troops passed through on their way into the actions during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. We visit the fascinating museum situated in the tunnels beneath the Basilica, then inspect the huge Lochnagar crater at La Boisselle, the result of one of the large mines placed under the German lines on 1 July 1916, marking the opening of the battle. We move on to nearby Pozieres to mark the 91st anniversary of Australia's entry on 23 July 1916 into the battle, and recount their colossal casualties suffered from incessant artillery barrages. We follow the progress of Australian troops up the ridge to Mouquet Farm (known to our troops as Moo-Cow Farm) and then onto the enormous Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval. We complete this part of our tour by visiting Newfoundland Park, another site from 1 July 1916, where Canadian troops suffered very heavily from German machine gun fire during the opening hours of the battle. The Newfoundland Regiment lost two thirds of its force (667 men) in the opening 35 minutes of battle on that day. (B,L)

### DAY 8 - TUE 24 JUL: AMIENS

We travel slightly north of Amiens today to visit the sites of actions which took place in early 1917, including the Battle(s) of Bullecourt, when Australian forces managed the almost impossible task of breaking into the German's supposedly impenetrable Hindenberg Line, despite the failure of the newly-developed tanks. On the way, we visit several of the outpost villages that were cleared by Australian troops prior to the Bullecourt battles.

After viewing the actual battlefield, we visit the private museum of M. Jean Letaille, ex-mayor of Bullecourt, who has spent many years collecting battlefield artefacts in this area. We continue on to Vimy Ridge, the scene of a brilliant action by Canadian forces which succeeded in driving German forces off the high ground, thus providing Allied forces with a view of many miles of enemy territory. We also visit Arras, a vitally important city held by the Allies throughout the war. (B,L)

**DAY 9 - WED 25 JUL: AMIENS**

Today is dedicated to the sites of many Australian battles during 1918. The village of Villers-Bretonneux, recaptured by our troops after a short German occupation in April 1918, has many signs of the local people's appreciation of Australian efforts there, including the Australian museum situated in the Ecole Victoria (the Victorian School), rebuilt in the 1920s with funds donated by the Australian public. On the outskirts is Adelaide cemetery, the original resting place of the Unknown Australian Soldier, now entombed in the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Also nearby is the tiny village of Hamel, where General John Monash, by then commander of all Australian troops on the Western Front, planned and executed the brilliant operation which set the scene for the Allies' final offensive which ended German resistance. We also visit Dernancourt, where Australian troops halted the German advance in early 1918, and the town of Corbie, near which is the site of Baron Manfred Von Richthofen's fatal crash. (B,L)

**DAY 10 - THU 26 JUL: AMIENS**

We travel further east today to visit the sites of Australian actions during the final months of the war. Peronne, held by the Germans for most of the war, was captured by Australian forces in early September 1918. The attack at Mont St Quentin, on the outskirts of the town, was regarded by some British commanders as the 'finest feat of arms by the Australians' in the entire war. Peronne also houses the 'Historiale de la Grand Guerre', a very modern museum portraying conditions on the Western Front during WWI. We then visit the tunnel on the Canal du Nord, part of the German's Hindenberg Line defences, which was breached by Australian forces in September 1918. Finally we travel to Montbrehain, a small village which contains Calvaire cemetery, the

resting place of the last Australian troops to lose their lives in action during the war. (B,D)

**DAY 11 - FRI 27 JUL: AMIENS - CAEN**

We travel to the Normandy region today to visit the D-Day landing beaches. On the way we farewell the WWI sites with a visit to Compiègne, where the signing of the Armistice took place, thus bringing to an end all fighting on 11 November 1918. We settle into our hotel in Caen, a city which was planned for capture on the day of the landings, but which was not cleared of enemy defenders for a further month. **Hotel: Holiday Inn (B,D)**

**DAY 12 - SAT 28 JUL: CAEN**

We spend the day inspecting the D-Day sites along the Normandy coast. Our tour includes Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery at St Laurent, Point d'Hoc with its German gun sites and Longues sur Mer. We see the remains of Mulberry harbour at Arromanches and the British and Canadian landing beaches of Gold, Juno and Sword. We finish the day inspecting the remains of Pegasus Bridge, captured in a brilliant action by glider-borne troops from the British 6th Airborne Division. The museum has excellent dioramas portraying glider operations and other aspects of that momentous day. (B,D)

**DAY 13 - SUN 29 JUL: CAEN - PARIS - LONDON**

We transfer to Paris to board the Eurostar, bound for London. We travel under the English Channel to arrive at Waterloo Station. After settling into our hotel, the rest of the day is free for sight-seeing in this historic city. **Hotel: Thistle Marble Arch (B)**

**DAY 14 - MON 30 JUL: LONDON**

Today our guided tour of London passes the Houses of Parliament at Westminster, the Royal Albert Hall and the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens. We see Trafalgar Square, the Mall and Buckingham Palace before paying a visit to the Cabinet War Rooms. Here beneath Whitehall, Winston Churchill and his cabinet ran the war against the Nazis. We also offer the opportunity for tour members to visit the Imperial War Museum during the afternoon. We finish the day with a farewell dinner as part of a cruise on the River Thames. (B,HD)

**DAY 15 - TUE 31 JUL: DEPART LONDON**

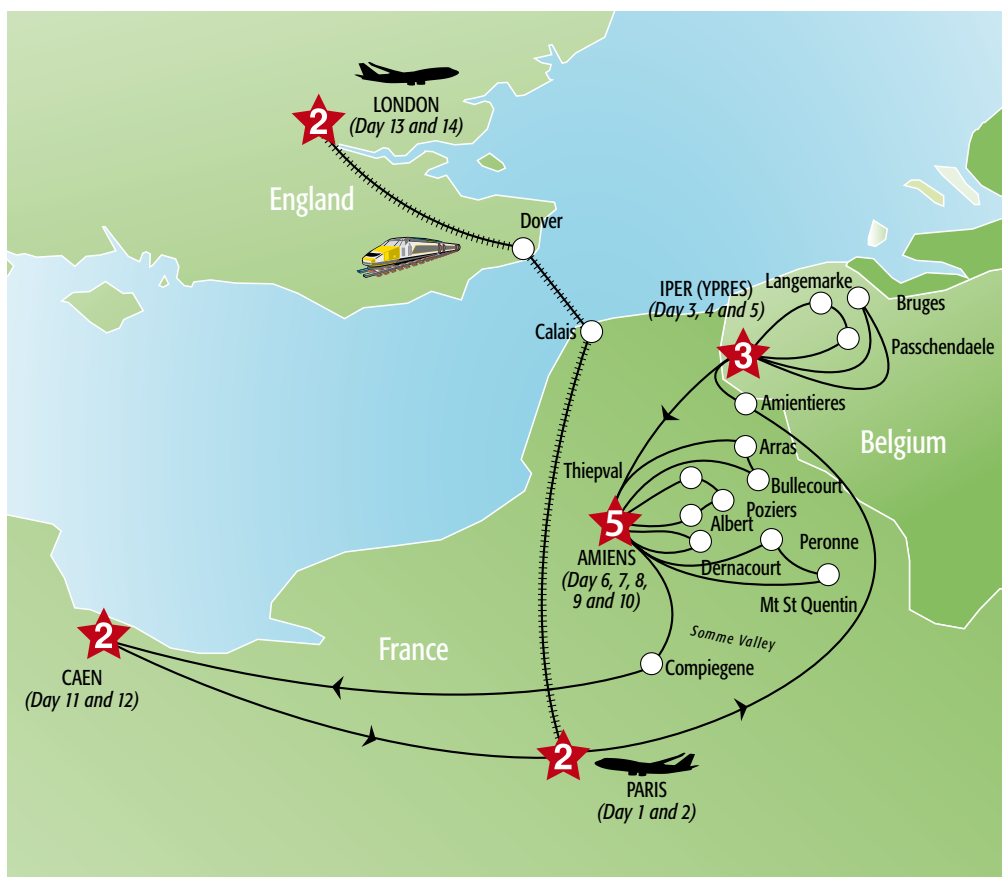
This morning our tour ends with a transfer to the airport. (B)

**FIRST CLASS SERVICES**

- Insight's Premier French Tour Director
- Escorted by an expert Australian Battlefield Guide
- One way tickets Paris to London on the Eurostar
- Air-conditioned motorcoach with reclining seats & washroom
- In depth sightseeing tours with local guides in Paris and London
- First Class hotels with portorage service charges & taxes included

**QUALITY DINING**

- 14 buffet breakfasts (BB)
- 5 lunches at local restaurants (L)
- 4 Hotel Dinners with wine (D)
- Sparkling Highlight Dinner at the Eiffel Tower, Paris with drinks (HD)
- Highlight Farewell Dinner on cruise on the river Thames in London with drinks (HD)



**PASSENGER CONDITIONS**

**Deposit:** AUD \$500 per person due within 7 days of booking confirmation

**Final Payment:** Required to your travel agent no later than 70 days prior to departure

**Price:** The advertised price is in Australian dollars security & local taxes as per the itinerary, excluding any imposed fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations or Govt taxes. These prices are based on minimum passenger numbers and should these numbers not be reached the price may increase.

**Cancellation Fees:**

<b>Days prior to Departure</b>	<b>% of total tour cost</b>
<b>More than 60 days</b>	<b>loss of deposit</b>
<b>Between 60 &amp; 22 days</b>	<b>27.5%</b>
<b>Between 21 &amp; 08 days</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Between 07 &amp; 01 day</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Day of departure</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Amendments:** A fee of \$100 may apply to any change made to your booking once confirmed

**Refunds:** No refund is available if cancellations occur after the tour has commenced or in respect of any tours, accommodation, meals or any other services not utilised.

**Itinerary Changes & Tour Cancellation:** Hotels listed are subject to change should circumstances dictate. Insight Vacations reserves the right to vary itineraries should circumstances dictate, as well as cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements, or circumstances beyond its control. The advertised tours require minimum numbers to depart. Should these not be met Insight Vacations reserves the right to alter or reschedule arrangements.

**Rooming Arrangements:** Please note that single accommodation is usually limited at most hotels and cannot be guaranteed. Occupying a single room either by choice or circumstance is subject to the applicable supplement.

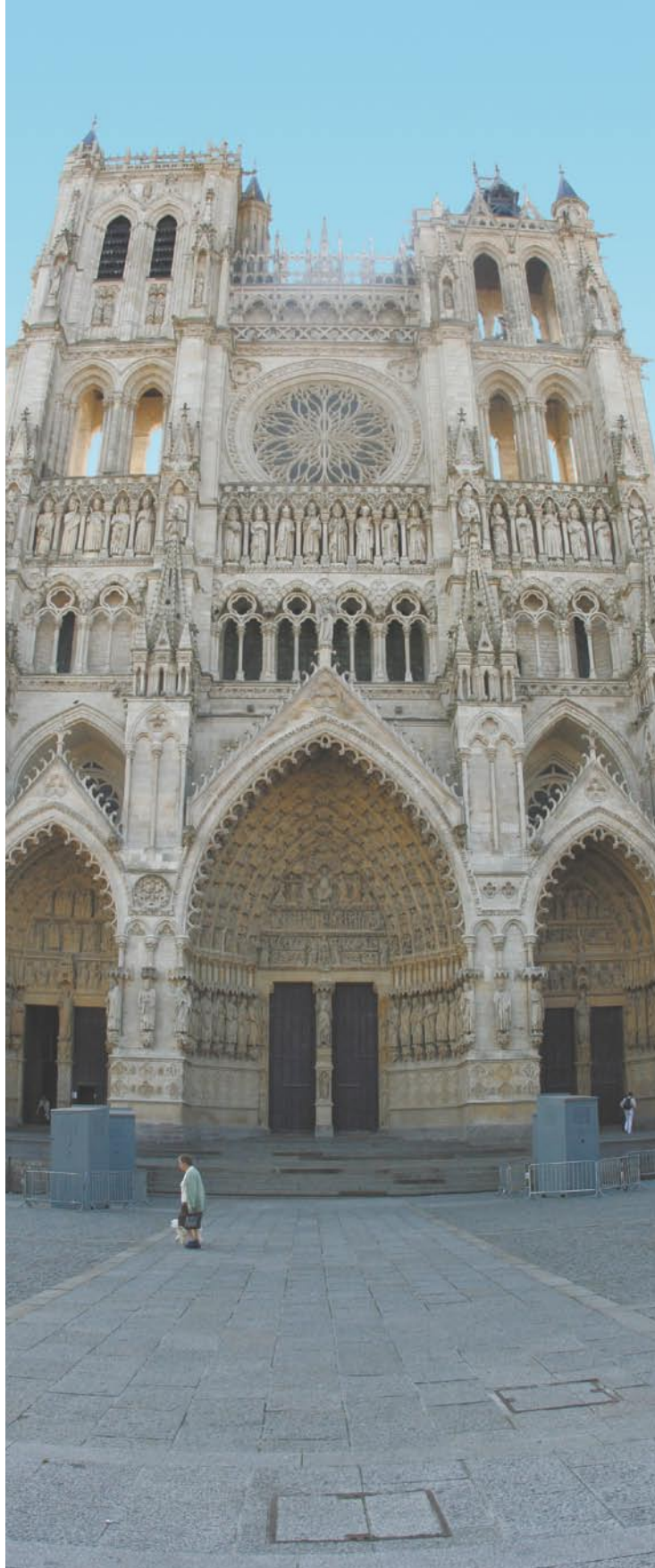
**Tour Membership:** Any person aged 5 years or more is eligible, though if under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. The Tour Director may, at his or her discretion, require any person to withdraw from any tour if he or she deems the person's acts or conduct offensive or a nuisance to other passengers, and we shall have no further liability.

**Baggage Allowance & Portage:** Portage of one suitcase per person is included in the tour price for arrival & departure from hotels in Europe. Due to limited coach capacity the sum of the length, width & depth of the case should not exceed 160cm (63 inches), and weight should not exceed 20kg (44 Lbs). Charges may be levied in the event these limits are exceeded & the promise to transport you may be invalidated.

**What's Not Included:** Passports and applicable visa fees, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary, tips and gratuities to the Tour Director, coaches drivers and local city guides, excess baggage, optional excursions and travel insurance. Please note that travel insurance is highly recommended. Please see your Travel Agent for further details.

**Documentation:** Approximately 2 weeks prior to departure from Australia, documentation will be received by your travel agent including tour itinerary, full Hotel list, Optional Excursion list, Insight information handbook, baggage labels, Insight travel bag & ticket wallet.

**Booking Terms and Conditions:** These conditions incorporate the basis upon which bookings are accepted by your Travel Agent and Insight Vacations. By making a booking you are agreeing to these terms & conditions. You will need to refer to the 'Booking Conditions and other Important Information' pages in the Insight Vacations Europe & Britain 2007 Brochure. These conditions must be carefully studied prior to making the commitment of paying the deposit as they must be referred to.



**\$5830**  
**twin share**  
(per person)

**\$1202**  
**single supplement**

**Bookings & Enquiries**

**Travel Prospects**

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