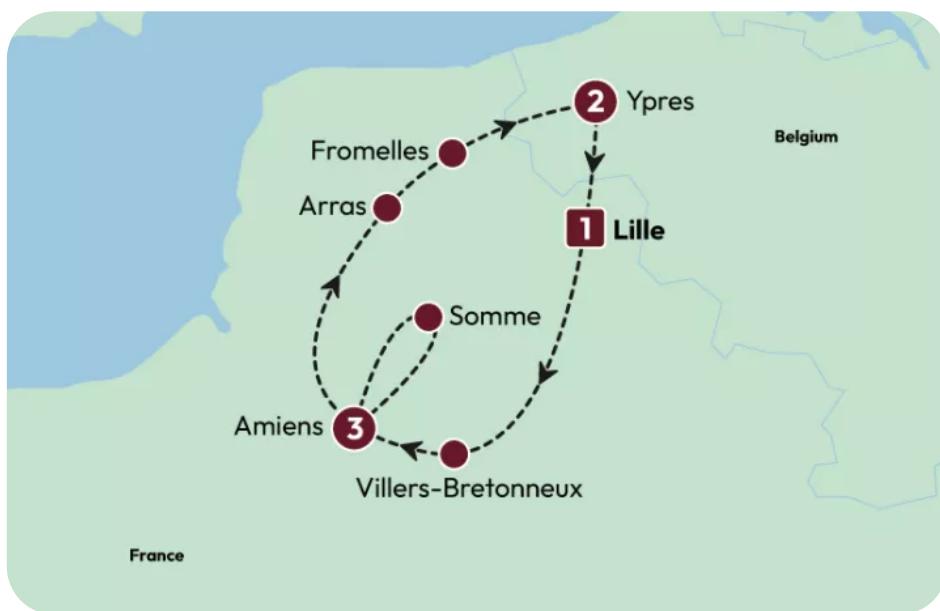




ANZAC on the Western Front: Dawn Service (Southbound) 2026

This ANZAC tour has been carefully designed to connect you to the past – and with any ancestors who may have fought and died during the Great War. Encounter tales of the soldiers who courageously captured the Messines Ridge at Passchendaele. Breathe in the scent of damp earth as you delve into the Wellington Quarries' twisting tunnels. And pay your respects at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service as the sun begins to rise over the heroes laid to rest in Villers-Bretonneux. Join us and uncover not just their stories, but perhaps a few hidden narratives of your own.





About your tour notes

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

Worth noting

You can choose between two directions on this tour: southbound or northbound. Simply view and select your preferred route by clicking on the buttons above!



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Tour highlights

- ✓ Attend a poignant ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Villers-Bretonneux
- ✓ Delve into the Australian story on the Western Front at the Franco-Australian Museum
- ✓ Visit the Wellington Quarries – a network of tunnels dug by the New Zealand Tunnelling Company

More inclusions

- ✓ 6 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- ✓ 6 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 incredible journey with a welcome dinner.

Included today



Accommodation

Hôtel Couvent des Minimes
(or similar)



Meals

+ Dinner

Day 2 | Lille – Villers-Bretonneux – Amiens

The first day of our tour will take us from Lille to Villers-Bretonneux: home of the National War Memorial and a central location to Australian WWI commemoration and memory. We'll visit the Franco-Australian Museum, a site paying tribute to the brave Australian soldiers who helped to save the town from German advances. After, we'll pay a visit to the Sir John Monash Centre before shifting our focus to the last year of the war – with a visit to Le Hamel, the site of the successful 4 July attack. Then, it's onwards to Amiens – our home for the next three nights.

Included today



Accommodation

La Chambre d'Amiens (or
similar)



Experiences

- + Entrance to Franco-Australian Museum
- + Stop at Sir John Monash Centre
- + Visit Le Hamel



Meals

+ Breakfast

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Day 3 | Amiens – Somme – Amiens

The Somme still captivates the soul – and it's here that the ANZACs first saw major action in 1916. Today we'll visit Pozières and Mouquet Farm – sites that were especially important for Australian soldiers, as well as Longueval and Flers which were similarly significant to the Kiwis. Before returning to Amiens, we'll take some time to remember the colossal loss experienced by Great Britain – with a visit to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. This evening will be ours to spend exploring Amiens or relaxing back at the hotel.

Included today

Accommodation

La Chambre d'Amiens (or similar)

Experiences

- + Visit Pozieres, Windmill Hill, Mouquet Farm, Longueval and Thiepval Memorial

Meals

- + Breakfast

Day 4 | Amiens – ANZAC Day Dawn Service – Amiens

We've an early start this morning as we make our way to the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux. The memorial commemorates the battle of 24-25 April 1918, during which Australian and Commonwealth Soldiers liberated the town. Buried here are more than 2,100 servicemen of the First World War – including over 770 Australians. Here we'll join locals and meet fellow Australians and New Zealanders who have journeyed here to pay tribute to the brave ANZAC soldiers. The rest of the day will be yours to spend at your leisure.

Included today

Accommodation

La Chambre d'Amiens (or similar)

Experiences

- + Attend ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Meals

- + Breakfast

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Day 5 | Amiens – Arras and Fromelles – Ypres (Belgium)

Today's first stop? The Wellington Quarries – a network of underground tunnels the New Zealand Tunnelling Company built as part of the preparations for the Battle of Arras. Later, we'll remember Australia's role in this battle at Bullecourt with a stop at the Digger Memorial later this afternoon. Then, we'll move on to Fromelles, the site of the disastrous attack of 19 July 1916. Here, take the time to pay your respects with a poignant visit to Pheasant Wood Cemetery and the incredible exhibition nearby. Tonight, we'll enjoy dinner together and reflect on the day's events.

Included today

Accommodation

Albion Hotel (or similar)

Experiences

- + Visit Pheasant Wood Cemetery
- + Entrance to Museum of the Battle of Fromelles
- + Visit Arras Wellington Tunnels

Meals

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner

Day 6 | Ypres

After breakfast, we'll continue to delve into the moving stories of the West Flanders Front with an included visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum – a unique institution that commemorates the four-year trench war and conveys a contemporary message of peace. This afternoon, we'll visit the shell-scarred Hill 60 and fascinating Hooge Crater Museum before walking in the footsteps of WWI soldiers at the Passchendaele battlefields – where allied forces fought to break the German line in 1917. This evening we'll reconvene to attend the playing of the Last Post at the iconic Menin Gate. 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

Albion Hotel (or similar)

Experiences

- + Entrance to Flanders Field Museum
- + Visit Hooge Crater Museum
- + Attend the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate

Meals

- + Breakfast

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Day 7 | Ypres – Lille (France)

Before returning to Lille, we'll have the opportunity to pay our respects at Polygon Wood and Tyne Cot Military Cemetery – the site where 11,900 Commonwealth servicemen of WWI are commemorated.

Included today

Experiences

- + Visit Polygon Wood and Tyne Cot Military Cemetery and Hill 60

Meals

- + Breakfast

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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 Back-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.

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.

Will I have regular access to Wi-Fi?

Most accommodation we stay in will offer free Wi-Fi as well as many restaurants and cafes you may visit. If you would like more regular internet access without large roaming fees, you can purchase a Back-Roads Touring eSIM [here](#).

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What to Pack

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Back-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

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sun hat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long-sleeved tops | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Light jacket |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Short-sleeved tops | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterproof jacket |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shorts/skirts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trousers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warm jacket | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swimwear |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Underwear | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart casual evening wear | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking/comfortable shoes |

Other essentials

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-use adapter plug | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toiletries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camera |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Batteries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Towel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Umbrella | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reusable water bottle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any personal medication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.**



FAQs

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.

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.

Is there anything I need to know regarding attending Anzac Day Dawn Service?

Our friendly Customer Service team will be in touch a few months before your tour departs to collect any extra information needed to register you for the ceremony – as you don’t need to register yourself. Please also bear in mind we may need to shuffle around some of the days’ activities so we can attend.

That's everything!

We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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