



FRANCE

WWII: NORTHERN FRANCE - 4 STAR (TOUR CODE: 11940)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Ypres (Belgium)

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 2023 - 31 Oct 2023

EXPERIENCE

Battlefields

TRAVEL STYLE

Private Escorted Tours

A WWII tour of Northern France including Operation Dynamo, Atlantic Wall defences and V1 and V2 rocket launch sites.

Highlights

- Stay at the **Ariane Hotel Ypres**, consistently voted one of the top 4-star hotels in Belgium
- 2 days with your own **private Battlefields Guide**
- Freedom of Choice options
- Carefully selected memorials and museums.

The Dunkirk evacuation, codenamed Operation Dynamo, relates to the evacuation of Allied soldiers from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk in 1940. See the beaches of Dunkirk and learn more about Operation Dynamo at some carefully selected museums. On your second day, hear about V1, winged bombs, also known as "Doodlebugs" and the V2, a streamlined rocket using highly advanced technology. Visit a launch site hidden in the woods and also the largest bunker built by the Nazis, which was intended as a launch site.

Compliment your private escorted tours with a stay at one of the top 4-star hotels in Belgium. A family run hotel, nestled between the historic streets of Ypres, a short walk from the Cloth Market and Menin Gate.

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night in Ypres at Ariane Hotel - 4*
- Transport in private vehicle
- Breakfast on Day 2
- Daily Lunch
- Battlefields Guide with more than 15 years experience
- Entrance Fees as per itinerary

Freedom of Choice Days

Freedom of Choice



Our Freedom of Choice program offers flexibility, by allowing you to choose from different options on pre-selected days.

Our per person price includes one tour on each Freedom of Choice day, as follows:

- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 2

Expand the itinerary below for more details.

Please note, if more than one room is selected during the booking process, our team will contact you afterwards to discuss options.

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Ypres Zuydcoote Leffrinckoucke Dunkirk Esquelbecq Ypres

Dunkirk Operation Dynamo:

Depart from Ypres at 9.00am and drive towards **Zuydcoote**, a little French town from where most of the 338,000 troops were embarked on the British vessels. See the hospital just as you've seen in the movies, and if visiting at low tide, you can still see the remains of the wreck of the HMS Crested Eagle which was sunk on 29 May 1940.

In Leffrinckoucke, we visit the **Fort des Dunes**, designed by General Séré De Rivières. During WWII, the fort was at the heart of Operation Dynamo. You'll have time to visit the fort and the Operation Dynamo exhibition.

After lunch, visit the **Museum Dunkerque 1940 Operation Dynamo**, situated in some remaining parts of the defences of Dunkirk, where the French had their HQ, then see the beach where the movie Dunkirk was filmed.

On the return to Ypres, visit the **Wormhout Memorial** at Esquelbecq, the site of the Wormhout massacre, where British and French POWs were murdered by Waffen-SS soldiers.

Overnight stay at the **Ariane Hotel** in a standard room.

Lunch



DYNAMO MUSEUM | CREDIT: CLAUDE VERHAEGHE

Day **2**

Ypres Cap Gris Nez Eperlecques Ypres

The Atlantic Wall V1 and V2 rockets:

After breakfast, departing Ypres at 9.00am, you'll drive towards Cap Gris Nez. The cliffs of the cape are the closest between France and England, only 34km. When the weather is clear, you can see Kent!
See some of the bunkers of the Atlantic Wall.

With our pre-selected Freedom of Choice options, you will have the opportunity to chose your visit for the remainder of the morning, the Todt Battery Bunker or the Musée 39-45 Ambleteuse.

Stop for lunch at Audresselles, one of the most beautiful villages in France, known for very good seafood, especially mussels.

After lunch, visit the Blockhaus de Eperlecques, the largest bunker built by the Nazis in Northern France. It was built to be a V2 launch site.

On the road back to Ypres, stop at the ruins of a V1 launch site hidden in the woods, see the ski shaped buildings and the assembly workshops.

Breakfast, Lunch

Freedom of Choice Options

- **Todt Battery:**

Built in 1942, not far from Cape Griz-Nez and pointing towards England , this formidable battery was one of the most important coastal fortifications of the Atlantic Wall.

Discover the daily life of German troops during WWII who lived & worked at the Battery.

OR

- **Musée 39-45 Ambleteuse:**

A interesting museum, focussing on WWII in Europe and particularly in France, though does cover the first campaigns in Poland right through to the Imperial Japanese surrender in 1945. This museum also has one of the best uniform collections with over 120 models. There is also a small cinema showing archive footage where you can relive the Normandy Landings and even the Liberation of Paris.



BLOCKHAUS | CREDIT: FRANCES CUSACK

ACCOMMODATION

Ariane Hotel

Ypres

So quietly located and yet so close to the town centre. Nestled between the historic streets of Ypres, this family run 4-star hotel with 62 rooms, boasts every comfort to make you feel at home. The hotel rises modestly above the spacious gardens, creating a feeling of tranquillity and comfort.

The Menin Gate and the Cloth Hall are just a 5-10 mins walk away. Ariane's excellent restaurant serves mostly Belgian delicacies using daily fresh seasonal products is popular with locals and guests alike.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
French	EUR

On request, this package may also begin in Lille or Kortrijk (about an hour by train from Brussels).

Want to discover more? Why not combine this with another of our Battlefield tours? Continue your WWII discovery with a Battle of the Bulge extention or perhaps a WWI tour to Verdun.

For pre/post accommodation, please contact our Sales Team.
The order of visits in this package can be modified depending on availability.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package