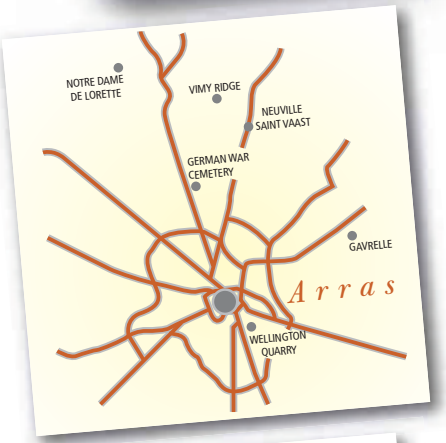
The Somme

FROM ONLY
£99
2 Day Somme
Price shown based upon a minimum of 40 paying members travelling low season staying at Poppies, Albert

FROM ONLY
£169
3 Day Somme
Price shown based upon a minimum of 40 paying members travelling low season staying at Poppies, Albert

These tours cover some of the places associated with the Battle of the Somme, fought between July and November 1916. In order to relieve pressure on the French at Verdun, the Somme sector of the Western Front was the site of the 'big push' intended to end trench fighting and bring the war out into the open.

The British High Command planned a huge attack for June / July 1916 along a 12 mile front, intended to take hours but eventually taking many months to complete with the loss of over 400,000 lives.



Included in these tours

• Full board from dinner on Day 1 to packed lunch on final day • Coach travel • Short sea channel crossing • Pre-booked sightseeing to requirements (excluding entrance fees) • Comprehensive travel insurance • Study notes for all group members • Guide books and information pack for group leader

2 Day Somme Tour

Day 1
Travel from school to the Channel coast for your crossing to Calais. Visits* can be included en route to your accommodation in the Somme area.

Day 2
We depart our accommodation centre after breakfast with time for further visits* in the Somme area, before returning to Calais, and journey back to school.

*The time available for visits en route is dependant upon the school's distance from the Channel port.

3 Day Somme Tour

Day 1
Travel from school to the Channel coast for your crossing to Calais, and on to your accommodation in the Somme area. Time for a brief visit* en route.

Day 2
A full day with visits to some of the major places on the Somme (details opposite).

Day 3
We depart our accommodation centre after breakfast with time for further visits* in the Somme area, or further afield, before your return to Calais, and journey back to school.

*The time available for visits en route is dependant upon the school's distance from the Channel port.

The Somme

Optional visits

Newfoundland Park.
The park is a Canadian National Historic Site. A memorial to the Newfoundland Battalion, it remains very much as it was in 1916. Opened in 1925 and maintained by Veterans Affairs Canada, the site commemorates soldiers who died in the most dramatic days of the 1916 Campaign. Two opposing trench systems can be clearly seen. At least an hour is required to enable the groups to spend time at the interesting visitor centre, walk the battlefield and visit the cemeteries. Guided visits are possible at certain times of the year – advance booking recommended.

Delville Wood.
This was the location of some of the Western Front's most savage and intense fighting. In 1916 the wood was obliterated by shellfire but has since been replanted. The brunt of the fighting was borne by the South African Brigade and the Delville Wood Memorial now serves as the South African National War Memorial for both World Wars.

Musée Somme 1916, Albert.
Albert was subject to continuous bombardment in the months before the Battle of the Somme. Built within the shelters constructed during the Second World War, most of the museum displays weapons of the era, wartime equipment and lifelike tableaux detailing trench life.

Ulster Tower.
The Ulster Tower is a memorial to the men of the 36th (Ulster) Division. It is located very near to the famous Schwaben Redoubt which the Division attacked on July 1st, 1916. The front lines were at the edge of Thiepval Wood which lies to the south-west of the road between the Thiepval memorial and the Ulster Tower. Troops of the 109th Brigade crossed about 400 yards of No Man's Land, and kept on going. Guided tours of nearby trenches are available – advance booking essential.

Lochnagar Crater.
This impressive crater is situated east of the village of La Boiselle. Approximately 90 metres in diameter and 60 metres deep, it was created by a mine detonated on 1st July 1916.

Thiepval Memorial.
The memorial stands out from the surrounding countryside. It is dedicated to the 73,000 Allied troops who lost their lives in the Somme and who have no known grave. Standing 45 metres high on the old German frontline, it was the site of some of the bloodiest fighting of 1916 and remains a truly poignant reminder of the scale of the suffering encountered during the Battle of the Somme. There is also a Visitor Centre.

Pozieres.
Pozieres is the place of the memorial to the dead of the Tank Corps of 1916-1918 (first tanks in history saw action here).

Vimy Ridge.
This spectacular site centres on the Canadian Corp's superbly planned capture of Vimy Ridge in April 1917, an event that proved to be a turning point for the Allies in the First World War. The trenches and subways have been preserved and restored for visitors. On top of the ridge is the Vimy Memorial and a very interesting exhibition showing the history surrounding the battle. Guided visits of the tunnels and trench system are possible at certain times of the year – advance booking essential.

Historial de la Grande Guerre.
This museum is located in the medieval chateau of Peronne and is dedicated to the memory of the people who fought in and experienced the Great War. Based around four large rooms, the 'Historial' deals sensitively with the multi-cultural aspect of the war, demonstrating British, French and German exhibits. The museum also houses a small cinema, which shows a 20 minute film about Harry Fellows, a survivor of the Battle of the Somme who died in 1989. This film may be more beneficial to older students.

Wellington Quarry.
The Wellington Quarry is located 20 metres below the town of Arras. This network of tunnels was transformed from chalk quarries by New Zealand Soldiers during WWI and provided billeting for thousands of soldiers. Visitors are taken on a guided tour to see audio-visual presentations of the campaign. Advance booking essential.

Neuville-St Vaast German War Cemetery.
The cemetery was established by the French in 1919 as a concentration cemetery for German war casualties from the regions north and east of Arras. It is the largest German cemetery in France, containing 44,833 burials and is now administered by the German War Graves Commission.

Musée Vivant 1914-18.
Across the road from the church at Notre Dame de Lorette you can visit the museum featuring many dioramas with sound effects, weaponry, uniforms and other exhibits, as well as original trenches in the grounds.

Notre Dame de Lorette.
This is one of the major national memorials and largest First World War cemetery in France. The chapel and lighthouse tower at Notre Dame de Loyrette dominate the ridge for which the French fought a long and bloody battle.