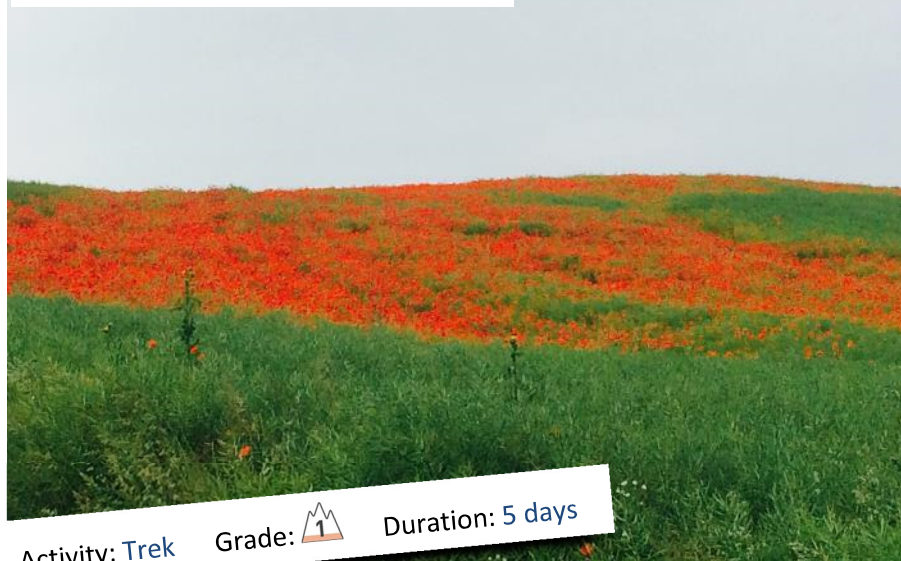




WW1 Battlefield Trek



Activity: **Trek** Grade:  Duration: **5 days**



The area around Ypres was immensely significant during the First World War, and saw devastating action. The fields and villages around the town are scattered with memorials, cemeteries and preserved trenches.

This poignant and challenging trek offers a unique perspective as we walk between the prominent battle-sites of the Ypres Salient, often tracing the line of the Western Front itself. There are beautiful views over the now-tranquil countryside, but as we walk along hill-ridges and small country lanes, through muddy fields and woodland, it is all-too-easy to imagine events of the past.

This is a poignant experience as well as a physical challenge – a memorable and meaningful way to test your limits.



Challenge Grading

Our trips are graded from Challenging (Grade 1) to Extreme (Grade 5).

This trek is grade **Challenging (1)**. Main challenges lie in the long days, with predominantly hard ground (or mud) underfoot, which can be very tiring.

Many factors influence the Challenge Grading, such as terrain, distances, climate, living conditions, etc. The grade reflects the overall trip; some days are likely to feel more challenging than others. Unusual weather conditions also have a significant impact, and not all people are tested by the same aspects.

Our grading levels are intended as a guide, but span a broad spectrum; trips within the same grade will still vary in the level of challenge provided.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: London – Lille – Ypres

We meet in London and board the Eurostar to Lille in France, then transfer (approx. 45 mins) to Ypres. After time to explore, we attend the evening Last Post ceremony at Menin Gate – a wonderful way to start our trekking experience. Night hotel.

(Lunch not included)

Day 2: Langemark & St Julien

After an early breakfast we set off! We head roughly north out of Ypres on a pleasant walk alongside the Yser Canal. After a few kilometres, we come to the site of a Medical Station established in 1915; Essex Farm Cemetery is nearby. It is commonly believed that this was where Major John Macrae wrote his poem *In Flanders Fields*. We continue north towards Pilkem Ridge, where the front line was at this time, and then on to Langemark, scene of fighting in the First Battle of Ypres in 1914. We visit the German Cemetery here before turning south and heading for St Julien – where some of the first poison gas attacks on the Western Front took place in the Second Battle of Ypres (1915). We pay our respects at memorials en-route, and walk through fields and farmland, passing small villages, back to Ypres. Night hotel.

Trek approx. 6-8 hours



01722 718444

info@discoveradventure.com www.discoveradventure.com





Trekking Information

Walking terrain varies from flat plains, ridges and small hills. We walk on good paths through fields and woodland, as well as some sections on country roads. Paths may be narrow, muddy or slippery at times.

Trekking distances are quite long each day (approx. 18-25km), with visits to sites and memorials built into the itinerary. To ensure time to fully enjoy these visits, you must be fit enough to manage these distances on a daily basis. This is achievable for most people provided they train well in advance. We will supply you with a thorough training guide when you have registered.

Crew & Trip Support

Your trip will be led by experienced Discover Adventure leaders. They are chosen for their experience and knowledge, friendliness and approachability, sense of humour and ability to safely and effectively deal with any situation that arises. They are also trained in expedition first-aid. You are in very safe hands with a Discover Adventure leader. An expedition doctor or medic also accompanies trips unless run below minimum group size.

Back-up vehicles also support the group.

Detailed Itinerary (cont)

Day 3: Passchendaele & Tyne Cot

Today we take in more sites from the Second Battle of Ypres, walking from Ypres to Hill 60, strategically-important higher ground which changed hands several times. The land here has not been disturbed because of the extensive mining and tunnelling which took place, and is essentially a mass grave for both Allied and German soldiers. We then walk to Hill 62-Sanctuary Wood, where we can visit the war cemetery and Canadian memorial. A small museum and preserved British trenches can also be seen here. We continue walking north, towards battle-sites of 1917, including Polygon Wood, Broodseinde Ridge and on to Tyne Cot Cemetery – the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world. Our day ends with a visit of the excellent Passchendaele Museum, before transferring back to Ypres. Night hotel.

Trek approx. 7-9 hours

Day 4: Kemmelberg & Messines Ridge

We transfer a few miles south to Kemmelberg, a 156m-high hill fought over in 1918 during the Fourth Battle of Ypres. We then walk west towards Messines Ridge, important higher ground south of Ypres. This ridge, and the area around it, saw action throughout the Great War but its most important battle was the Battle of Messines in 1917. From here we move on to Messines British Cemetery, where there is also a New Zealand memorial. We walk north, back to Ypres, passing through peaceful fields, woodland and villages. The scenery is beautiful, but we cannot help but think back to events 100 years ago, and this will no doubt help us to cope with any aching legs or sore feet caused by our three long days of walking! Back at our hotel, we meet again for dinner to celebrate our achievements.

(Dinner not included)

Trek approx. 7 - 8 hours

Day 5: Ypres – Lille – London

Transfer back to Lille and travel by Eurostar to London. *(Lunch not included)*

Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Copyright Discover Adventure 2013 / Updated 2016

Accommodation & Food

We stay in a comfortable 2-3* hotel in Ypres, on a twin-share basis. All food is included except where specified in the itinerary. Generous packed lunches are provided on trek. Dinners are generally eaten in the hotel. Please let us know any dietary requirements well in advance.

Weather

Temperatures and climate can vary widely in this region, as it would in the UK. It could be warm or cold; rain is always a possibility and it may be blustery.



01722 718444

info@discoveradventure.com www.discoveradventure.com



WW1 Battlefield Trek 2017 - 2018

2017 Dates	2018 Dates
31 May - 4 Jun	30 May - 3 Jun
11 - 15 Oct	10 - 14 Oct

Pricing Information

All costs are based on a minimum of 15 participants. Please refer to our website for latest prices and offers.

	REGISTRATION FEE Payable on registration	FUNDRAISING TARGET Payable 10 weeks prior to trip departure	TRIP COST Payable 8 weeks prior to trip departure
FUNDRAISING OPTION	Paid to Discover Adventure to secure your place on the trip. This is applicable to all payment options and is non-refundable .	You commit to raise the fundraising target. Your chosen charity will retain 50% of this target plus any additional fundraising you achieve.	Paid by your charity providing they have received all of the Fundraising Target
	£99.00	From £1500.00	N/A
PART - PAYMENT OPTION	Paid to Discover Adventure to secure your place on the trip. This is applicable to all payment options and is non-refundable .	Your contribution (Part Payment Trip Cost) to the trip cost gives you a lower fundraising target. You commit to raise this target and your chosen charity will retain 50% of this target plus any additional fundraising you achieve.	Set contribution (Part Payment Trip Cost) paid by you at this time. Remaining costs paid by your chosen charity, providing they have received all of the Fundraising Target
	£99.00	From £1000.00	From £250.00
SELF PAYMENT OPTION	Paid to Discover Adventure to secure your place on the trip. This is applicable to all payment options and is non-refundable .	Raise as much as you can and 100% of your donations will go to your chosen charity	Paid by you
	£99.00	N/A	From £750.00

What's Included

- All transport from London to Ypres return (by Eurostar and coach)
- All meals except where specified, and accommodation
- Discover Adventure leaders & drivers
- Vehicle support and back-up equipment
- Entry to any sites included in itinerary

What's Excluded

- Three meals as specified in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Personal spending money, souvenirs and drinks
- Fees for any optional sites, attractions or activities
- Any applicable surcharges as per Terms and Conditions