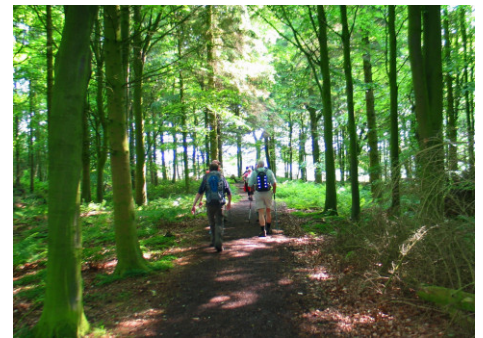


Western Front Trek



Duration: **6 days**

Our journey takes us from the Somme region north to Ypres and its evocative memorials. Our trek provides a unique perspective as we walk between the prominent battle-sites, often following the lines that divided German and Allied forces. There are beautiful views over the now-tranquil countryside, but as we walk along the hill-ridges and through the 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 raise funds.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: London – Calais – Amiens We meet in Blackheath, London and board our coaches for Dover and across the Channel to Calais. We continue on to Amiens. Night hotel.

Day 2: Amiens – Bray-sur-Somme – Beaumont Hamel – Arras

After a short drive to Bray-sur-Somme, we set off through undulating farmland dotted with hamlets and small towns. It's picturesque, peaceful countryside, but we are walking into the heart of the Somme battlefields, and there are many reminders. We pass Lochnagar Crater and continue on towards Thiepval's Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, the main memorial to the lost British soldiers who gave their lives here. A short distance on small roads and tracks brings us to the preserved trenches at Beaumont Hamel; here we meet our coaches and transfer to Arras. Night hotel.

Trek approx 12.5 miles

Day 3: Arras – Vimy Ridge – Ablain St-Nazaire – Lille

We walk through the town, extensively damaged during the First World War but faithfully restored, and head north along the canal into open countryside again. While much of the terrain is undulating farmland again, we have a gradual uphill climb onto Vimy Ridge, where part of this former strategic battleground is now site of the Canadian Memorial. From here, we drop downhill and walk steeply up a second ridge, where we have time to take in the vast international memorial at Musée Notre-Dame de Lorette. Here we meet our coaches and transfer to Lille.

Trek approx 12.5 miles

Day 4: Lille – Ypres – Langemark – Ypres

An early drive takes us to Ypres, where we start with a pleasant walk alongside the Yser Canal. We come shortly to the site of a 1915 Medical Station; 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 and the German Cemetery. Looping around, we pass St Julien, where some of the Western Front's first poison gas attacks took place, as we walk through fields and farmland back to Ypres. We should be in time to witness the evening ceremony at Menin Gate. Night hotel.

Trek approx. 12.5 miles

Day 5: Ypres – Tyne Cot – Ypres

After a short transfer to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world, we walk back towards Ypres. We pass some of the many battle-sites of the Ypres Salient, including Hill 62-Sanctuary Wood, where there are preserved British trenches alongside a cemetery and Canadian memorial. A few miles further, Hill 60 was 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 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 long days of walking. We walk back to Ypres, passing beneath Menin Gate as a fitting end to this poignant trek, before celebrating our achievements this week with a slap-up dinner. Night hotel.

Trek approx. 13 miles

Day 6: Ypres – London

Early start for drive back to London via the ferry.

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



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Please note: This document was downloaded on 26 Apr 2024, and the challenge is subject to change.