

WESTERN FRONT BATTLEFIELDS



DAY 1: AUSTRALIA – FRANCE

Please meet at the airport for your international flight to Paris, France.

DAY 2: PARIS

(D)

On arrival in Paris you will be met and transferred by coach to your accommodation. En route you will have a panoramic tour of the city. The rest of the day is then free to relax and enjoy your new surrounds with your teacher. Dinner tonight is at the hostel.

DAY 3: PARIS – VERSAILLES – PARIS

(BD)

Today you will make your way to the station and board the RER train to Versailles. On arrival into Versailles you will be able to explore one of the finest Palaces and gardens in Europe (*entrance included*). The Chateau Versailles was built in the mid-17th century during the reign of Louis XIV to project to both home and abroad the absolute power of the French monarchy. In the late afternoon, you will make your way back to Paris by train (*return RER train ticket included*). Dinner tonight will be at the hostel.

DAY 4: PARIS

(BD)

This morning after breakfast the day is free for teacher organised activities. You may wish to visit the Louvre (own expense), one of the world's most famous paintings by Da Vinci - the Mona Lisa. Or you may wish to visit the Centre Pompidou. The Centre Pompidou houses one of the most important museums in the world, featuring the leading collection of modern and contemporary art in Europe, a vast public reference library with facilities for over 2,000 readers, general documentation on 20th century art, a cinema and performance halls, a music research institute, educational activity areas and bookshops (*any sightseeing and entrance fees at own expense*). Dinner tonight is at the hostel.

DAY 5: PARIS – COMPIEGNE PERONNE – LILLE

(BD)

This morning after breakfast you will depart Paris by coach and head to Lille. Enroute you will be stopping in Compiègne, where you will find the Armistice Wagon, in the Rethonde Clearing. It is a replica of the one that was used for signing the Armistice in November 1918. Display rooms with information on the two World Wars are open to the public. Then, continue to Peronne, where you will see the Australian Memorial and where you will visit the "Historial de La Grande Guerre" in the Medieval site of Peronne Castle. Continue north and visit the Fromelles sites, where on 19 July 1916 over 5500 Australian soldiers lost their lives. You will then be transferred to your hotel in Lille where you will spend the night. Dinner tonight is at the hotel or local restaurant. (*Entrance fee to Armistice Museum and Historical de La Grand Guerre, The Armistice Wagon and Fromelles site included*).

TREKSET TOURS

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DAY 6: LILLE – YPRES – LILLE**(BD)**

This morning after breakfast you will depart Lille by coach to Ypres for the day. Here you will visit Flanders Field museum. There is a poem "In Flanders Fields" written by a Canadian army physician John McCrae, which to this day remains one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle in the Ypres. You will also visit such sights as Messines Ridge, Gheluvelt where the first Australian was killed in 1914, Zonnebeke with Broodseinde and Tyne Cot, Hill 60 and Caterpillar and Menin gate. Considered one of the 'hottest' spots of the Western Front, and certainly in the Ypre, the Menin Road was the scene of frequent artillery fire directed by German forces against the predominantly British presence in the Salient, most notably during the First and Third Battles of Ypres. You will then re-board your coach back to your hotel in Lille. *(Entrance to Flanders Fields museum, Messines Ridge, Gheluvelt, Zonnebeke, Broodseinde, Tyne Cot, Hill 60, Caterpillar and Menin Gate included)*. Dinner tonight is at the hotel or local restaurant.

DAY 7: LILLE-POZIERES-ALBERT-SAILLY-LE-SEC-VILLERSBRETONNEUX-AMIENS (BD)

This morning after breakfast you will spend a full day sightseeing the Somme battlefields. The first stop is the Village of Pozieres. This was the first attacking engagement of the Australian troops; here you will see the memorials to the 1st and 2nd Australian divisions. You will then proceed to La Boisselle to see the Lochnagar Crater, an impressive mine hole 100 meters across and 30 meters deep. Your next stop is the village of Albert, here you will visit the "Somme 1916" museum; it displays life in the trenches at the time of the offensive on 1st July 1916. Some fifteen alcoves and show cases are set out along a 230 metre underground passage which was used as an air raid shelter during the 2nd WW. Sounds effects, pictures and lighting plunge the visitor in to soldier's daily life. Then, continue to Sailly-le- Sec and Bray sur Somme, a village which was saved by the help of Australian soldiers. Its museum includes a reconstitution of the last battle of Manfred Von Richtofen or Le Baron Rouge. You will then stop in Le Hamel a small village where you will find the Australian Corps Memorial park, traces of the trenches and a way-marked itinerary with information boards. Your last stop will be in Villers Bretonneux. The highlight of the Somme Battlefield for Australian visitors. On 25 April 1918, the Australians halted the German army. The National Australian Memorial, the Franco Australian museum and Adelaide cemetery are proof of the strength of the links and mutual recognition between Australia and France. You will then be transferred to your hotel in Amiens where you will spend the night. *(Entrance to Village of Pozières (memorial), blockhouse "Gibraltar", La Boisselle (The Lochnagar Crater), the village of Albert (the "Somme 1916" museum), Bray sur Somme Museum, Le Hamel, (Australian Corps Memorial park, memorial, trenches), Villers Bretonneux (Somme Battlefield, The Franco Australian museum and Adelaide Cemetery)*. Dinner tonight is at the hotel or local restaurant.

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DAY 8: AMIENS – PARIS**(BD)**

This morning after breakfast you will board your coach to Paris. On arrival into Paris you will be transferred to your accommodation. The rest of the day is free for teacher-organised activities in Paris. You may like to take a Seine river cruise or visit the Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower, named after its designer, Gustave Eiffel, is 320m high, including the television antenna at the very tip. Three levels are open to the public with each level giving a spectacular view of Paris. This afternoon you could visit Arc de Triumph which was commissioned in 1806 by Napoleon to commemorate his imperial victories. It was completed in 1836. From the viewing platform on top of the arch you can see the 12 avenues leading into the roundabout surrounding the arch. Dinner tonight will be at the hostel. *(All entrance fees and transport at own expense today).*

DAY 9: PARIS**(BD)**

Today is free for teacher-organised activities in Paris. You may wish to visit the Notre Dame Cathedral. This is not only a masterpiece of French Gothic architecture but has been the ceremonial focus of Catholic Paris for seven centuries. You can also see the spectacular rose windows inside the cathedral. *(All entrance fees and transport at own expense today).* Dinner tonight is at the hostel or local restaurant.

DAY 10: PARIS – AUSTRALIA**(B)**

Today you will be met by your coach and transferred to the airport for your international flight back to Australia.

DAY 11: ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive Australia.

INCLUSIONS

- Return international economy airfare: Australia/Paris /Australia.
- All applicable airport taxes approx.
- Accommodation: Based on 2* hotel accommodation in Amiens and Lille with students in multishare rooms and 2 complimentary staff in 1 twin share room. All rooms with private en-suite facilities. Paris based on hostel accommodation with students in multishare rooms (3 up to 6 share rooms). Please also note that twin rooms for the staff cannot be guaranteed until 6 weeks prior to departure. This is the policy of the Youth Hostel Centre. The rooms have shower/bathroom facilities however the toilet facilities will be in the hallway.
- 5 night in Paris, 2 nights in Lille and 1 night in Amiens.
- Meals: Breakfast and dinner daily.
- Coach travel and transfers as per itinerary.
- Return RER train tickets: Paris/Versailles/Paris.
- Entrance fees: Versailles (castle and gardens), Armistice Museum, "Historial de La Grande Guerre", The Armistice Wagon, Fromelles site Flanders Fields museum, Messines Ridge, Gheluvelt, Zonnebeke, Broodseinde, Tyne Cot, Hill 60, Caterpillar, Menin Gate, Village of Pozières (memorial), blockhouse "Gibraltar", La Boisselle, (The Lochnagar Crater), the village of Albert (the "Somme 1916" museum), Bray sur Somme Museum, Le Hamel, (Australian Corps Memorial park, memorial, trenches), Villers Bretonneux (Somme Battlefield, The Franco Australian museum and Adelaide Cemetery).
- Trekset travel wallets.

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CONDITIONS

Conditions apply. The price is based on the exchange rate AUD1.00 = EUR 0.5990 dated 11/7/08. It is based on 20 students and 2 staff complimentary in low season. All taxes are approximate and included taxes for the 2 complimentary staff. Please contact your Trekset Tours representative for all terms and conditions.

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