



# UK & WW1 Battlefields

## Tours for 2020/2021

**Morcombe Travel presents an outstanding opportunity for your students to experience a lifetime of memories**

**This itinerary is packed with a lifetime of experiences that your students will remember and treasure with their fellow friends and teachers.**

### Suggested Itinerary

#### Day 1

Arrive at London Heathrow airport  
You will be met and transferred to your accommodation by coach  
Check-in and then enjoy a London "Hop-on Hop-off" bus tour  
Dinner at a local restaurant

#### Day 2

Breakfast at accommodation  
Board your coach for today's activities - Imperial War Museum and RAF Museum  
Dinner at a local restaurant

#### Day 3

Breakfast at accommodation  
Board your coach for this morning's activities - Battle of Britain Bunker at RAF Uxbridge & Churchill War Rooms  
Afternoon at leisure  
Dinner at a local restaurant

#### Day 4

Breakfast at accommodation  
Board your coach for the day's activities - Bletchley Park in the morning followed by a visit to Harry Potter Studios (subject to availability)  
Dinner at a local restaurant

#### Day 5

Breakfast at accommodation  
Board your coach for the day's activities - Tower of London, The Globe Theatre and London Eye  
Perhaps even a West End show?  
Dinner at a local restaurant

#### Day 6

Breakfast at accommodation  
**9.00am:** Check-out and board your coach  
Visit the **Battle of Britain Memorial** at Capel-le-Ferne near Folkestone  
Thereafter, ferry from Dover to Calais (time to be confirmed)



**4.00pm:** Visit **Sanctuary Wood Hill 62 Museum** located in Zillebeke. This area saw little fighting, in fact, troops who took refuge here, were allowed to stay in order to recover, hence the name Sanctuary Wood. The museum features trenches preserved in their original state, so it is advisable to wear boots. The trench area has sharp corrugated iron and barbed wire. Students should be supervised in small groups and told to exercise caution at all times

**5.30pm:** Transfer to accommodation and check-in  
Dinner at accommodation

#### Day 7

Breakfast at accommodation

**8.00am:** Board your coach

#### **9.00am - 5.00pm The Platoon Experience**

##### **Guided visit through the Passchendaele 1917 Memorial Museum**

The museum provides an amazing impression of the bloody battle of Passchendaele in 1917 where 500,000 men lost their lives. The museum also exhibits a superbly realistic British underground bunker system where you can see the communication and dressing posts, headquarters and dorms. In July 2013 a brand new extension was added. This features permanent exhibitions of trenches, shelters and galleries. Students have the opportunity to dress in authentic WWI uniforms and enjoy a warm "Tommy Tucker" meal

##### **Guided tour of Tyne Cot Cemetery.**

The village of Passchendaele gave its name to one of the most grueling battles of the Great War. Many of those who died in 1917 did so fighting to capture the village and are buried in the nearby Tyne Cot Cemetery.

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Day 7 continued...

This is the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world. There are 11,856 white tombstones standing out against the beautifully manicured lawns and flower beds arranged around the tall "Cross of Sacrifice." A semi-circular wall enclosing the cemetery bears the names of almost 35,000 soldiers who were lost after 06 August 1917

**5.00pm:** Return to accommodation

Dinner at accommodation

**8pm: Menin Gate – Last Post visit**

Attend the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The famous British War Memorial of WW1 is by far the most important edifice in Ypres and was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield. The names of 54,896 missing soldiers are engraved on its walls. The Last Post is sounded each evening at 8pm when a deeply moving ceremony is held under the vast arch of the Menin Gate. The traffic stops and buglers from the local fire brigade play The Last Post. The ceremony which began in 1928, was banned during the German Occupation of 1940-44 and re-established on the first day after the Liberation in September 1944.

**Day 8**

Breakfast at accommodation

**9:30am:** Check-out and board your coach

**10:30am: Visit Australian Division Memorial at Fromelles and nearby Lochnagar Crater**

The **Lochnagar Crater** preserved at La Boisselle is the only crater open to visitors and is easily visible. Just west of this village in October 1914 the front line settled. The battles were intense and after two days of fighting, 'The Glory Hall', as these trenches were called, was taken. One of the explosions during the battle left a crater 90ft deep and 300ft wide. Debris from the explosion rose some 4,000ft into the air.

**2.00pm: Somme 1916 Museum**

Set in the heart of the Somme Battlefields in a tunnel which was converted into an air raid shelter in 1939, the museum recreates the life of soldiers in the trenches in the July 1916 offensive, one of the most terrible battles of WWI. It was undoubtedly the conflict in which the largest number of armies of different nationalities participated. The gallery is divided into 15 alcoves, you can discover a soldier's typical daily life in the trenches during this offensive. There is also a souvenir shop on site

**5.00pm:** Check into your accommodation

Dinner at accommodation



Lochnagar Crater

**Day 9**

Breakfast at accommodation

**8.30am:** Board your coach

**9:30am: Visit the village of Pozières & Thiepval Memorial**

This small village is located on a ridge of high ground between Albert and Bapaume. Hence, it had great strategic importance to the Allies who wanted to take it as part of their advance, as well as to the Germans who clung on to it determinedly. Today, Pozières provides excellent views of the surrounding battlefields. At the 1st Australian Division Memorial there is an elevated observation platform where you can take good advantage of this.

Thiepval, located 3 miles from Albert, was one of the fortress villages held by the Germans on the Somme front in 1916. It was destroyed by bombardment, except for one part of the chateau (the ruins contained machine gun nests). The houses in the village, although flattened, had deep cellars where the Germans held out and their machine gun posts were not destroyed by the bombardment.

The **Thiepval Memorial** is an extremely impressive and sizeable memorial to more than 73,000 British and South African soldiers who lost their lives during the Somme fighting of 1915 - 1918 and who have no known grave

**5.00pm:** Return to accommodation

Dinner at accommodation

**Day 10**

Breakfast at accommodation

Check-out and coach transfer to London Heathrow airport for your flight back home

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