

DEVELOPMENT OF WARFARE TOUR – YPRES, THE SOMME & NORMANDY
4-DAY TOUR - SUGGESTED PROGRAMME

Day 1

Depart School
Collect Guides
Outbound crossing:

Arrive Ypres

Gheluvelde

1914 The outbreak of War; why did the Schlieffen Plan fail? From war of manoeuvre to the onset of stalemate.

Bayernwald

The development of Trench warfare; trench routine; life in the Trenches.

Hill 60

1915 – 1916; new methods of warfare; mining; the use of Gas.

Langemarck

German Military Cemetery; 'Slaughter of the Innocents'; the significance of Hitler's 1940 visit; links to the causes of WW2.

Tyne Cot CWGC

British Military Cemetery; 3rd Ypres the Battle of Passchendaele. The Advance to Victory and all arms warfare.

Evening meal in Ypres.

Last Post Ceremony

- Depart for accommodation
- Briefing for day 2 as required

Day 2

After breakfast depart for the Somme by coach with packed lunch



Newfoundland Memorial Park

The British Army 1916: recruitment, training and composition. How had the army changed since Waterloo? Professionals, volunteers and conscripts. Understanding the growing size of the battlefield: how did a commander direct the troops?

Battlefield walk

Tactics & technology: What battlefield formations were used and why. The nature of trench warfare and attrition. Industrialised warfare: the development of machine guns and poison gas. The impact of artillery

Auchonvillers – Show and tell with packed Lunches

New forms of weaponry: kit demonstration: weaponry and equipment of Tommy Atkins on the Western Front

Lochnagar Crater

The development of mine warfare during the Great War

Bazentin Ridge

Tactics & technology: What tactics were used to overcome deadlock in the trenches. The role of cavalry on the Western Front. Generalship during the Great War.

Caterpillar Valley CWGC

The development and changing nature of aerial warfare

Thiepval Memorial to the Missing

What was the outcome of the Battle for the Somme for British army? The impact of the Great War on the army and civilians. War reporting, censorship and propaganda. Lessons learned and developments up to the turn of the twentieth century.

Warfare in the modern era. Hi-tech weaponry

- Dinner
- Depart Normandy after dinner
- Check in to accommodation
- Briefing for day 3 as required

Day 3

After breakfast depart by coach with packed lunch

British Sector

British Airborne, Pegasus Bridge: This successful '*coup de main*' operation is one of military history's finest examples of success based on simplicity and surprise. The two bridges captured in 15 minutes by airborne troops of the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry, landing by glider, which then had to 'held until relieved' by Lord Lovat's Commandoes, 13 hours later.

Sword Beach: The landing beach of the British 3rd Infantry Division, Free French and British Commandoes. The main objective being the capture of Caen, which would not be achieved until 9 July. The only major German tank attack, on D-Day, took place between Gold and Juno Beaches.

**Juno Beach:**

The objective of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. This division took the second highest casualties after the US divisions at Omaha Beach. There are 2 good examples of Hobart's 'Funnies' (variants of armoured vehicles specially designed to overcome the German beach defences) to be found on these beaches, all have their stories.

Arromanches & Gold Beach with Circular '360' cinema:

Archival footage filmed novel in June 1944 by war correspondents, with current shots on these sites.

- Depart for accommodation
- Dinner in accommodation
- Briefing for day 4 as required

Day 4

After breakfast depart by coach with packed lunch

American sector**US Airborne, St Mere-Eglise:**

An essential town on the Carentan peninsula, that would prove vital for the success in opening up routes for the US troops coming off Utah beach. The square was used in the filming of 'The Longest Day', where US airborne troops dropped in by accident. To capture the town, the commander of the 3rd Battalion of the 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment issued an unusual order

Pointe du Hoc, German Battery & Rangers Assault: The German Battery had six 155mm guns, covering Omaha and Utah Beaches. 2nd Ranger Battalion, under Lt Col Rudder was given the task to capture the position. After capturing the site and suffering counter attacks there were only 90 of the original 225 who were able to fire weapons when relieved on 8 June.

Omaha Beach: Where both the 1st and 29th US Divisions landed on the 4-mile beach. The Germans had prepared their positions and battle drills in preparation for a landing. The cliffs and defences being equivalent to a medieval fortress, with the same effect on those who were to be the initial attacking force, as the opening sequence of 'Saving Private Ryan' depicts. 34,250 troops would land on Omaha beach on 6 June, of which 3,881 would become casualties.

St Laurent US Cemetery: Situated, overlooking Omaha Beach and maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission, the Normandy American Cemetery and memorial, has 9,387 burials and another 1,557 names on the Memorial in the Garden of Remembrance. There are three Medal of Honor recipients; Sgt Pregory, Lt Monteith and Gen Roosevelt buried in the cemetery.

Bayeux Cemetery: Commemoration and conclusion

- Depart for Calais
- Inbound crossing
- Arrive UK local time
- Arrive at school approx.