

BELGIUM

Destination guide

#BeThatTeacher



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An introduction to Belgium

For a country relatively small in area, a school tour of Belgium can pack in a remarkable amount of varied and exciting visits and excursions for any educational subject. Miraculously, considering the number of wars and conflicts that have occurred here, the main cities have retained their medieval charm and atmosphere.

“There is an excellent cross-curriculum breadth of subjects to engage students”

Granted, the Grand Place in Brussels was rebuilt in the 19th century but very sympathetically and it retains the grandeur that is also found in Antwerp, Gent and of course, Bruges. Combine this with Belgium’s importance in the modern European political landscape and there is an excellent cross-curriculum breadth of subjects to engage students on tour.

The majority of trips we send to Belgium are concerned with study of the world wars, the country suffered greatly in these conflicts and visits to Ypres and key battlefield sites just over the border in France gives students a real and vivid understanding of the horrors experienced.

All visits are covered by our externally verified Safety Management System and are pre-paid when applicable. Prices and opening times are accurate as of May 2018 and are subject to change and availability. Booking fees may apply to services provided by Voyager School Travel when paid on site.

For the most accurate prices bespoke to your group size and travel date, please contact a Voyager School Travel tour coordinator at schools@voyagerschooltravel.com



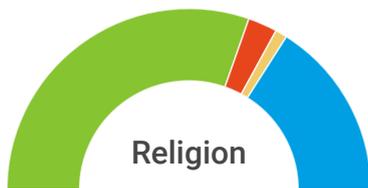
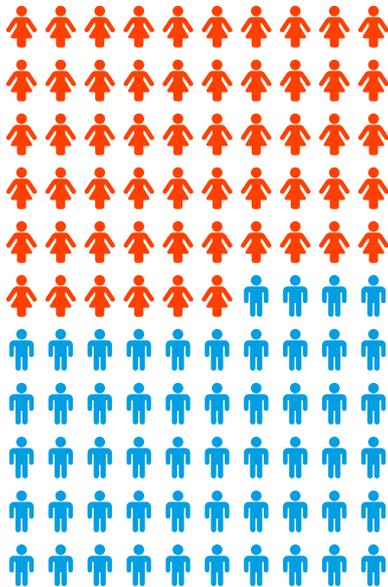


Did you know?

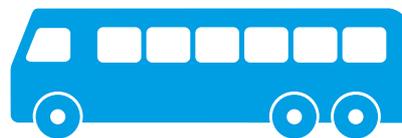
Belgium has the largest urban population in Europe, with a staggering 98% of residents living in cities and urban areas!

Population

11,350,000



- Christian
- Muslim
- Other
- None



6 - 8 hours

Travel by coach



WWI Ypres Battlefields

Throughout World War I, Ypres was strategically important as the last defensible position between the German army and the channel ports. Whilst the front line was forever changing, at a terrible cost to human life, it never moved more than a few miles during the whole campaign.

Essex Farm Cemetery and Dressing Station

The Essex Farm Cemetery was a medical station and cemetery located near where Lt. Col. J. McCrae wrote his famous poem, 'In Flanders Fields'. There are 1,200 WW I servicemen buried or commemorated and of these burials 103 remain unidentified. It's an excellent way to visually demonstrate the extent of the tragedy to your pupils.

Yorkshire Trench and Dugout

Recently discovered during the building of an industrial estate, the Yorkshire Trench and Dug-Out is now a memorial site featuring a reconstruction of the Yorkshire Trench, as it was during World War I.

Talbot House

Poperinge, situated a few kilometres behind enemy lines, was transformed from a quiet town to a 24 hour metropolis, with 250,000 men billeted in the area in 1917.

Set up by Chaplain Philip Clayton as an "Every Man's Club" for soldiers seeking an alternative to the "debauched" recreational life of the town, Talbot House provided tea, cake and comfort for the Tommy for three years.

Although unsuitable for large groups, Talbot House is a great excursion for those keen to hear the stories of how "Tubby" Clayton provided a home from home for hundreds of thousands, where they

found humanity, rest and peace.
talbothouse.be/en/museum/home

Price	Group rate £15pp
Opening times	Tues - Sun: 10:00 - 17:30 Monday reservations available

In Flanders Fields Museum

The In Flanders Fields Museum offers an insightful, in depth and complex approach to the events of World War I. Its exhibits show visitors 4 different ways of looking at World War I's historical details including a personal account, a chronological and thematic breakdown, a more pure history of the war and an artist's approach to the tragedy.



A chipped poppy bracelet means that children can personalize their visit. Entering their age and nationality, the interactive exhibits become tailored to their demographic. Spoken transcripts of soldiers will automatically be played in English, and texts selected to appeal to their particular age group. Students can now climb the belfry for views of Ypres.

inlandersfields.be

Price	£4pp + optional extras
Opening times	1 April - 15 Nov Every day: 10:00 - 18:00 16 Nov - 31 March Tues - Sun: 10:00 - 17:00

Langemark German Cemetery

At Langemark you will find a German cemetery which provides a stark contrast to Allied cemeteries; overshadowed by tall oaks, it was here that the Germans first used poisonous gas on the 22nd

of April 1915. Deploring this awful atrocity, the Allies did not take too long to employ the weapon themselves, at Loos five months later.

The new reception site next to the cemetery shows the lives of the soldiers during the first months of war, the population on the move, the terror of the first gas attacks in April 1915 and how this cemetery was started and how it evolved.

Tyne Cot Cemetery



Named after the German bunkers which reminded their captors of Tyneside cottages, Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world, with 11,954 soldiers from the Commonwealth forces buried there.

greatwar.co.uk/ypres-salient/museum-visitors-centre-tyne-cot.htm

Hill 60

Hill 60 became a strategically significant area of high ground that was captured by the Germans on 10 December 1914, from the French army. One of the unique elements of the fighting at Hill 60 was the intense level of underground combat staged by the engineers and tunnellers on both sides.

In the first operation of its kind by the British, the Corps of Royal Engineers specialist tunnelling companies laid six mines by 10th April 1915. These mines were filled with around 4.5 kg of explosives, which exploded and ripped the heart out of the hill in 10 seconds. It flung debris 300 feet into the air and scattered it a further 300 yards in all directions. You will find a small museum, from which you can find out more about the events at Hill 60.

Sanctuary Wood (Hill 62)

Sanctuary Wood, where troops once took refuge, is now a private museum featuring preserved trenches and a captivating collection of photographs. (Trenches may be muddy/slippery – depending on weather, advise to wear boots/trainers.)

Price	Group rate £4pp
Opening times	Oct - Mar: 10:00 - 18:00 Apr - Sept: 09:30 - 19:00

Menin Gate and the Last Post

The Menin Gate Memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16th August 1917 and who have no known grave. Every evening at 20:00, members of the local Fire Service play the Last Post in memory of those who lost their lives.

Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917

Passchendaele is a small village, not far from Ypres. During the British attack of 1917, there were 500,000 casualties in 100 days for a territory gain of only 5 miles. As a result, Passchendaele became an international symbol of senseless military violence and at the Memorial Museum to memory of the battle is kept alive with images and movies, a large collection of historical artefacts and several life-like dioramas.

Eye-catcher is an underground dugout tunnel with communication and dressing posts, headquarters, work-posts and dormitories. It's an excellent way to flesh out the realities of life at war for your students. mmp.zonnebeke.be/en

Price	Group rate £4.50pp Audio guide £2pp
Opening times	Every day: 09:00 - 18:00 Closed 16 Dec - 1 Feb

Messines/Pool of Peace

The Spanbroekmolen Mine Crater, also known as Lone Tree Crater, is where the British Army exploded 19 mines in the early hours of the morning of 7th June 1917. This signalled the launch of the Battle of Messines. Explore the small museum in the town hall, giving further information about Messines and the Pool of Peace.

Newfoundland Memorial Park

This park, located near Beaumont Hamel in France, is one of only a few sites on the Western Front where the ground remains largely untouched from when the First World War ended. The main entrance to the Newfoundland Memorial Park can be found on the D73 road between Hamel and Auchonvillers.

The area has been maintained because of its significance; the Newfoundland Regiment attacked here on the 1st of July 1916, and suffered appalling losses. After the War, the Canadian government has maintained it since as a memorial. The statue of the Caribou was chosen for the Memorial, as it was the



symbol of the Newfoundland Regiment. Just in front of it are the original 1st of July front line trenches that the British and Newfoundland troops attacked from.

Price	Free
Opening times	Apr - Sept Mon: 12:00 - 18:00 Tues - Sun: 10:00 - 18:00 Oct - Mar Mon: 11:00 - 17:00 Tues - Sun: 09:00 - 17:00

Yser Tower Museum of War, Peace and Flemish Emancipation

The renovated museum tells you the history of the Belgian-German confrontation in WWI through the stories of the soldiers, refugees and civilians on both sides of the front line.

aandeijzer.be

Price	£2.50pp
Opening times	Jan - Mar / Oct - Dec Weekdays: 09:00 - 17:00 Weekends/Holidays: 10:00 - 17:00 Apr - Sept Weekdays: 09:00 - 18:00 Weekends/Holidays: 10:00 - 18:00

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

From 1915 to 1920 the hamlet of Lijssenthoek became the venue for the biggest evacuation hospital in the Ypres Salient. The Visitor Centre offers an interpretation of this site. The timeline and chart of the center provide the context of what happened here.

The touch table gives you the tools to look up names, regiments, and battalions. The audio wall provides snippets from letters and war diaries. Read the tear-off calendar, changing every day, telling the story of one of the victims that died that day. Print it and it will guide you to that specific headstone.

Price	Free
Opening times	Every day: 09:00 - 18:00

Trench of Death

This monument to the First World War may well be the site that best evokes the horrors of warfare. The reconstruction of the front-line trenches recreates the feeling of dread and confinement and inhuman living conditions at the front. At some points only 20 metres separates the German and Belgian trenches.

Price	Group rate £2pp
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Brussels



Since the end of World War II, Brussels has been the political capital of Europe, the seat of the European Parliament, many other EU institutions and NATO. You can visit any one of the capital's 90 museums, the Manneken Pis statue, the Grande Place, the Atomium structure, and of course the many chocolate houses that populate Europe's chocolate capital.

brussels.org

Bruges



Sometimes referred to as The Venice of the North, Bruges is a beautiful medieval city that is a prominent UNESCO World Heritage Site. At one time it was the most important commercial city in the world. It provides an interesting contrast to Brussels and the World War historical sites.

brugestourisme.com

Atlantis Bowling

A 10 lane, tenpin bowling alley in Ieper.

Price	£4pp
Opening times	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat: 14:00 Tues: 17:00 Sun: 10:00 Closed Thursday



Roose's Chocolate World

On arrival your group will be welcomed by shop assistants and lead to a demonstration of the fine art of pralines making. The group will also be shown a video about the production process in the factory and see how cocoabeans get turned into the best and refined chocolate in Europe. Entrance is free and groups often have limited time for their visit. However, while the demonstration is quite short there is plenty of time to purchase delicacies if you so wish.

chocolate-world.be

Price	Free
Opening times	Mon - Sat: 09:30 - 18:00 Closed Sundays and holidays

Euro Space Center



Euro Space Center is an educational tourist attraction devoted to space and astronautics. The centre includes simulators of space flight and micro-gravity and is home to the only full-scale mock-ups of the US Space Shuttle existing in Europe. Experience space travel at first hand as well as practical training in the Space School classrooms.

eurospacecenter.be/en

Price	Standard £7.50pp ISS Mission £18pp Ariane Mission £28pp
Opening times	Every day: 10:00 - 16:00 July - Aug: 09:30 - 16:00

Bellewaerde Park

Boasting among other things the highest water chute in Europe, Bellewaerde theme park provides an excellent break from the more serious excursions of the World War I Battlefields.

bellewaerdepark.be

Price	Group rate £18pp
Opening times	See website for opening times

Leonidas Chocolate shop

Visit the Leonidas chocolate shop on the market square in Ypres.

"It is well known that we are famous in town for the professional service of British school parties. Our priority is to offer a warm welcome to these school groups, and to spoil the students and teachers with free tasters, animation, special offers and discounts on all the products. Our purpose is to offer the students and teachers an unforgettable experience!" - Hans & Stephanie