

Introduction

During the 'Great War' the Ieperboog (Ypres Salient) was one of the bloodiest battlefields on the entire Western front. The front lines hardly moved from November 1914 (eastern and southern sections) or late April 1915 (northern section) to 7 June 1917 (southern section) or August 1917 (northern and eastern sections). More than 50 nations were involved in the trench warfare that dragged on for nearly four years within a radius of barely 21/2 to 3 miles around Ypres.

A hundred years after the major world conflagration the war landscape is the last remaining evidence of the conflict. That is why the In Flanders Fields Museum gives particular prominence to the Ypres Salient. The historical interpretation in the museum and the impressive view from the tower is followed by an experience of the war landscape itself. The three entry points created along the Ypres Salient provide an opportunity to discover traces of the past in the landscape of today. Visitors can use the entry points free of charge. A film and information panels are provided to show you what happened at this site more than 100 years ago. Remembrance trees planted along the front lines reveal the location of the German and Allied lines. The detailed Ypres Salient 1914-1918 digital app shows traces of the present-day landscape on aerial photographs from the past.







The Ypres Salient is a curved front line which was formed around the city of Ypres in the First World War. A tourist car route of 70 kilometres was mapped out along that line. This route will take you s sites that remind of the war years '14 - '18, su

North entry point

Located in the reconstructed 'Klein Zwaanhof' farmstead, the North entry point covers the Ypres Salient from the Ypres-IJzer Canal in Boezinge to Wieltje. After the first major gas attack, on 22 April 1915, the northern part of the Ypres Salient was one of the most fiercely contended battlefields during the Second Battle of Ypres.

Perched on the edge of the industrial area, Klein Zwaanhof literally forms a separation from what is still an open agricultural area, where many war relicts have been preserved in the ground.

An exceptionally high number of WWI literary figures also 'passed through' here. The entry point uses a film, information panels and authentic war objects to bring to life the dramatic events that unfolded in the Northern Ypres Salient.







$\mathbf{\dot{\chi}}$ Walking tour

Fighting for every metre of height A walking tour covering 2.8 km, starting from the North Entry Point, leads visitors to and through the notorious front line area called 'Caesar's Nose', featuring two special cemeteries, Colne Valley and Caesar's Nose, and the trench reconstructed on the basis of the original Yorkshire Trench & Dug-Out. A separate walking trail map is available from the Ypres Tourist Office and in the Nothern entry point.

Entry point NORTH

Adress: Hoeve Klein Zwaanhof Kleine Poezelstraat 6 - 8904 Boezinge **Opening hours** 01/04 to 15/11: 10:00 > 17:45 hrs. 16/11 to 31/03: 10:00 > 16:45 hrs.



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World War I in the

IEPER

138 Remembrance trees Three entry points Three walking tours **Digital** app







East entry point

café is housed in a former local school with a memorial chapel, next to a reconstructed castle estate (Kasteelhof 't Hooghe hotel), and opposite the impressive CWGC cemetery Hooge Crater Cemetery.





War around a castle estate

A walking tour from 3.5 to 7.4 km to Bellewaarde Ridge, Kasteelpark 't Hooghe, Crater Wood and the distinctive R.E. Grave and Liverpool Scottish monuments and the French Saint Charles de Potijze Cemetery and the CWGC Aeroplane Cemetery. A separate walking trail map is available from the Ypres Tourist

as the John Mac Crae site, the German cemetery in Langemarck, Tyne Cot Cemetery in Passchendaele, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 in Zonnebeke and Hill 60 in Zillebeke.

The map is available at the Tourism office. (€6)



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The Ypres Salient lends itself perfectly to discovery on two wheels. The signposted 35-kilometre Ypres Salient cycling route starts from and ends up on the Ypres Grote Markt. On the way you can stop off at the three entry points and various outstanding cemeteries, sites and monuments linked to the First World War. Bike rentals locations on www.visitypres.com

The map is available at the Ypres Tourist Office (€2)



The Hooge Crater Museum presents emotionally engaging scenes showing just how much this locality suffered between May 1915 and September 1917.



▷ Entry point EAST

Adress: Hooge Crater Museum Meenseweg 467 - 8902 Zillebeke Openingsuren: The museum is closed on Mondays



Toerisme Ieper - In Flanders Fields Museum Lakenhalle - Grote Markt 34 - B-8900 Ieper - T. +32 (0)57 239 220 www.toerisme-ieper.be - www.inflandersfields.be



Remembrance trees

138 Remembrance trees along the Small Ypres Salient.

In 2014 and 2015 138 remembrance trees were planted along the entire 'Small Ypres Salient ' route, at locations where the first front line crosses a public highway, a footpath or a meadow. The first trees can be seen in Boezinge at the northern end of the Ypres Salient, either side of the Ypres-IJzer Canal. The last trees on the Ypres Salient mark the southernmost end of the Ypres Salient front in Sint-Elooi. The trees can be recognised by their metal tree baskets with coloured tops: blue for the Allied (mainly British) front line, red for the German.

These colours were also used on Allied battle maps. Most baskets feature a sign with a photograph of the front and the location of the front lines.

The tree species chosen was the elm tree, as it has been a typical feature of the Ypres landscapes over the centuries. Nearly all the elm trees disappeared from the region during the war and the later outbreak of Dutch elm disease. The decision to plant new, resistant elms as remembrance trees also signals the rehabilitation of this splendid species.

These trees make it easy for visitors to locate the war landscape within the present-day landscape. The dramatic 'No man's land' concept is also fleshed out, particularly since - for many years - the two front lines were 30 yards apart, if even that.







Digital app offers more visual material and information

The "Ypres Salient 1914-1918" app enables you, armed with your tablet or Iphon, to set off in search of the Ypres Salient landscape, to discover the Ypres Salient landscape, using the remembrance trees as points of reference for locating the front lines and local scenes from the war.

The app was produced on the basis of the location of the remembrance trees, which are easy to find thanks to the GPS-controlled navigation system. Perfectly georeferenced aerial photographs provide "thenand-now" images to make it simple to locate the front line and trees within the past and present-day landscape.

Each tree provides all sorts of additional information and historical visual material about the events that unfolded at the front. A fascinating experience!

The 'Ypres Salient 1914-1918' app can be downloaded free of charge.



South entry point

The South entry point is housed in a modern, half-open pavilion on the former German front line, 300 yards or so from the main car park of De Palingbeek natural reserve. The pavilion offers visitors the opportunity to see a film and information panels about the war zone in this remarkable landscape, scarred by a railway and a failed canal-building scheme.

The entry point offers a view of no man's land and the front lines from "The Bluff" to the Molenbos wood. Made impressively accessible in 2015, the site of The Bluff is one of the three most authentic and perfectly preserved war landscapes around Ypres. The walking tour leads on to the best-known Ypres Salient landscape: Hill 60, with the unique Caterpillar Crater site further on.



walking path of The Bluff





The war goes underground

A $2^{1}/_{2}$ -mile walking tour through the authentic war landscape of De Palingbeek estate and Hill 60, with The Bluff crater landscape, Ravine Wood, the Hill 60 war site and the Caterpillar Crater site. A separate walking trail map is available from the Ypres Tourist Office and at the cafeteria or visitor's centre of the Palingbeek.

The Palingbeek is also the site where the 600.000 small sculptures from the commemoration project Coming World Remember Me will come together in a mass land-art installation. You can visit the installation from April till Armistice Day 2018.



Adress: Palingbeek Natural Reserve Palingbeekstraat 18 - 8902 Zillebeke near the main car park, The Bluff site Open from sunrise to sunset