

In the Footsteps of Wilfred Owen

Four Day Itinerary via Hull

Day One: Outward Travel

Coach departs pick-up(s) and travels to Hull: for overnight North Sea Ferries to Zeebrugge.
Cabin accommodation included.

Day Two: The Somme

Serre
Newfoundland Park Preserved
Battlefield
Thiepval Memorial to the Missing
Blighty Valley
Ovillers & "Mash" Valley
Dartmoor War Cemetery
Mametz & Mansel Copse
The Battle of Savy
Check-in to hotel.

Day Three: Hindenburg Line

Maissemy German Cemetery
Riqueval Bridge
Uplands Cemetery
Joncourt
Swiss Cottage & Owen's Military Cross
Sambre Oise Canal site of Owen's death
Owen's grave at Ors

Depart Ors at 14.30 hrs for overnight ferry from Zeebrugge to Hull
Cabin accommodation included.

Day Four: Return Travel

Disembark in Hull 08.30 hrs return to pick-up(s)

Please note this tour does not attend the Last Post Service at the Menin Gate.

Historical Framework

The German Western Front
Close of 1914: Trenches Established
The Regular Army (BEF) 1st Battle of Ypres
2nd Battle of Ypres: Gas
1915: Stalemate
The Territorial Army
1916 Offensive: Why the Somme?
The Volunteer Army: Kitchener's Pals
1st July & 13th November, 1916
The relationship of the Somme to Ypres and Verdun

Owen joins the war January 1917
1917: Attrition - Battle of Passchendaele
The Conscript Army
The Kaiser's Offensive
1918: Advance to Victory
Breaking the Hindenburg Line
Pursuit to the Sambre Oise Canal
Owen's Death
Armistice

Literary Themes

War's reception.
Idealism, patriotism, nationalism, jingoism.
Poetry of resolution, stoicism and experience.
The reality of war.
Poetic focus altered; sentiments unchanged.
Altered perceptions.
The literary Home front
The literary War front
Poetry of disillusion & disaffection.
Changed perceptions at the front: cynicism and bitterness.
The Pity of War
Consequences of War

From fighting for King, country, honour and duty to fighting for peace – a poetic transition.

A full poetry anthology will be issued to each person on the tour before departure.

War Poetry of Wilfred Owen

Anthem for Doomed Youth
Apologia pro Poemate Meo
Arms and the Boy
Asleep
At a Calvary near the Ancre
Conscious
Cramped in that Funnelled Hole
Disabled
Dulce et Decorum Est
Exposure
Futility
Greater Love
Hospital Barge
I saw his round mouth's crimson
Insensibility
Inspection
Le Christianisme
Mental Cases
Miners
On Seeing a Piece ..Artillery ..
S.I.W.
Schoolmistress
Smile, Smile, Smile
Soldier's Dream
Spring Offensive
Strange Meeting
The Chances
The Dead-Beat
The End
The Last Laugh
The Letter
The Next War
The Parable of the Old Man..
The Send-Off
The Sentry
The Show
Wild With All Regrets/A Terre
Winter Song
With an Identity Disc

The tour will contextualise Owen's poetry chronologically and geographically on the Somme, at the Hindenburg Line and in 1918 as part of the Advance to Victory and will visit the site of Owen's Military Cross action, the Sambre Oise Canal where he was killed on November 4th, 1918 and finally his grave at Ors.

Enquiries

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