

UJC BATTLEFIELD TOUR

in Association with **In the Footsteps**

Sunday 13th to Wednesday 16th September 2026



The Battle of the Somme, 1916

Join our exclusive UJC Members' tour to explore the iconic Western Front battlefield sites of the Somme. Guided by our expert historian, and in situ, this unforgettable tour offers a powerful and moving insight into the courage, sacrifice and legacy of WWI – all in great Club company! Please join us for the tour of a lifetime.

“An excellent, and most enjoyable, tour.” Club Tourer May 2026

Please read on for the detailed tour itinerary and to book.

TOUR ITINERARY

Key: Meals included (B) = Breakfast, (L) = Lunch, (D) = Dinner

Sunday 13 September 2026 (D)

From 1500 check in at the Union Jack Club (you are welcome to use the free baggage room if you wish to arrive early). Our tour begins in the evening where we gather at 1800 for a welcome drink and pre-tour presentation and briefing to set the scene for the next few days.

Following the presentation, a three-course dinner with a glass of wine is served. The bar will be open for extra drinks and to relax before retiring to your room for a comfortable overnight stay.

“The Tour was excellent and the Guide’s professional knowledge was ‘second to none!’”

Club Tourer May 2026

Monday 14 September 2026 (Takeaway B, Ferry voucher)

AM – Depart the UJC by coach to Cross the English Channel at 1040 and make our way to The Somme area.

PM - On 1 July 1916, the Battle of the Somme began, resulting in the British Army’s bloodiest single day, with over 57,000 casualties and 19,240 deaths. The initial plan for the British and French to break through German lines after a massive artillery barrage failed, as British soldiers were shot down by machine guns and artillery after advancing into “no-man’s land”. We will start the battlefield tour in the area of Beaumont Hamel, where the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers were dug in, ready and waiting for H-Hour.

We will visit the locations where Geoffrey Malins famously filmed the explosion of the mines, under the German held high ground at Hawthorne Ridge, and the soldiers preparing to and going ‘over the top’.

Before heading to Arras, where we will stay at the Holiday Inn Express, we visit Newfoundland Park which preserves a 74-acre section of the Somme battlefield and includes original trenches, cemeteries, and memorials. On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the Newfoundland Regiment suffered staggering numbers of casualties in a 30-minute assault. Unlike many other areas on the 1st of July Somme attacks, the Allied advance here was downhill. However, with no cover, the advancing troops were met by deadly machine-gun fire.

Tuesday 15 September 2026 (B, L)

AM - We start the day looking at underground warfare in more depth, by visiting the largest crater, blown out on 1 July 1916, at La Boisselle. Lochnagar Crater was caused by one of the 19 mines placed beneath the German lines on the British section of the Somme front to assist the infantry advance at the start of the battle. It was detonated at 07.28, the crater was then captured and held by the British Troops.

Before Lunch we will head to Bois d'Authuille, and discuss the 36th (Ulster) Division, who arrived on the Somme in the winter of 1915 and by mid-March 1916 they had taken over the front-line trenches between Beaumont Hamel and Thiepval.

At 11:00 we visit Ulster Tower, Thiepval Woods, which is owned by the Somme Association, for a tour with their own guide, Rocky. Finishing the morning at the Memorial to the Missing, Thiepval.

Lunch at 1300

PM - Moving to Mametz, we will then discuss the actions of the Devonshire Regiment at Mansel Copse and the 38th Welsh Division at Mametz Wood, sharing the modest successes and the catastrophic losses.

Then continuing to Bazentin le Petit.

High Wood was the last of the major woods in the Somme offensive of 1916 to be captured by the British. The fighting in Mametz Wood was grim, and in Delville Wood it was hellish, but eventually they fell. Despite a whole series of attacks spanning two months, High Wood held out until 15 September 1916.

Wednesday 16 September 2026 (B, PL, D)

AM - If time allows we will visit The Somme 1916 museum, an underground museum located in a 13th-century tunnel that provides an immersive experience of trench warfare during World War I.

We will then conclude the tour by visiting the area of The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, this battle saw both New Zealand and Canadian divisions committed and the first use of a new, secret weapon, the tank. At dawn on Friday, 15 September 1916 tanks went into action for the very first time. Their use in the last major offensive of the Somme campaign was both dramatic and symbolic.

PM - Make our way across the English Channel at 1635, and back to the Union Jack Club.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, it was very interesting, extremely informative and yes very moving and eye-opening at times"

Club Tourer May 2026



Package includes:

- Full Services of a Battlefield Historian/Guide
- Coach transport with driver
- Pick up and drop off at the Union Jack Club
- Sunday night accommodation with a 3-course evening meal at the Union Jack Club in London
- Two nights at the 3-star Holiday Inn Express, Arras
- Breakfast, lunches and evening meals as per the itinerary only
- Museum entrance fees
- No single supplement but there are only a minimal number of single occupancy rooms available
- Full administration and booking service
- 24 hour on call UK Duty Manager Service throughout your tour

Sunday night accommodation, plus an evening welcome glass of wine, a talk and three-course dinner with wine are included in the tour price. Extra nights at the beginning or end of the tour can be added when making your booking, please see full details later, in 'Costs and to book'.

Not included: Any other meals not on the itinerary; Personal travel insurance; Gratuities; Extra nights at the UJC

Terms and Conditions: In the Footsteps T&Cs are available from www.inthefootsteps.com

Tour vehicle: You will travel in an executive coach with professional driver which will be equipped with air conditioning, heating, WC and seat belts which adhere to current safety guidelines.

Battlefield Historian/Guides: Your Battlefield Historian/Guide is Susie Cooper. Susie will meet you at the Union Jack Club on your first evening.

Required Level of Mobility: To ensure the comfort and safety of all participants, the tour requires a moderate level of mobility. Passengers should be able to board and disembark the coach independently or with the assistance of a travelling companion; walk short distances over a variety of surfaces; and manage any personal belongings. Some locations may involve steps, uneven ground, or limited seating. Unfortunately, the tour staff are unable to provide personal care or lifting assistance. Guests who require additional support are welcome to travel with a companion who can assist them throughout the tour. If you have any questions about the suitability of this trip for your individual needs, please contact us before booking.

Financial Protection: Your money is safe. In the Footsteps Ltd are bound by the tour operators' regulations and all monies paid to them are held in a trust account with the Travel Trust Association (TTA) and cannot be drawn down until the tour is over. Their TTA number is Q8619.





Costs and to book: You are booking your holiday directly with In The Footsteps® Ltd, who are responsible for all elements of the tour, which is exclusively for Union Jack Club Members and your invited guests. Proof of current Serving or Veteran Full or spouse/ partner Membership will be required for your booking to be confirmed. Please be ready to provide your membership number when making your reservation.

Price is based on a minimum of 30 paying guests @ **£750.00** per person. A deposit of **£200.00** GBP per person is required in order to secure the booking, plus any additional nights at the UJC if required.

For each extra night at the UJC:

£145 for a double, twin or single room

£82 for a single room

Breakfast is charged at **£13.50** per person and can be paid for on the day

The final balance will be due by Saturday 1 August 2026:

Payments can be made by credit, debit card or bank transfer.

Terms and Conditions, Enquiries & Booking

Telephone: **07921 851921** or email jo@inthe footsteps.com