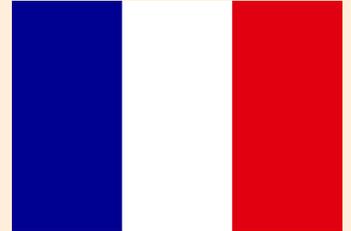


HE HAERENGA WHAKAMAUMAHARA A JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE

MAORI PIONEER BATTALION

PRE-TOUR ADD-ON FOR WHANAU AND FRIENDS

1 - 9 APRIL 2027



*VISITING BATTLEFIELDS, WAR CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS,
MUSEUMS, HISTORIC PLACES AND FABULOUS SIGHTSEEING AND
INCLUDES BRUSSELS, THE MENIN GATE, YPRES,
PASSCHENDAELE, BRUGGES, OSTENDE, DUNKIRK, LILLE, ARRAS,
THE SOMME AND PARIS.*

ITINERARY

THURSDAY 1ST AND FRIDAY 2ND APRIL 2027

Departs Auckland: approximately 10pm
Arrives Brussels: 1pm (Friday 2 April)

On arrival at Brussels Airport, we will be met and transferred to our Hilton Lille Hotel (in France) for the next 7 nights. Arrival into the hotel should be around 4pm so perfect to go straight to our rooms for a freshen up and at 6pm we will have nibbles and drinks in the hotel where we'll give out maps and advice about the local area. If you're exhausted and have fallen asleep, we'll have the relevant information also available at breakfast in the morning.

FRIDAY 2ND - FRIDAY 9TH APRIL

Hilton City Centre
335 Bd de Leeds
59777 Lille, France

In Friday 2 April Out Friday 9 April 7
nights

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
Full breakfast included

SATURDAY 3RD APRIL

It's our 1st day proper on tour and in all likelihood a little tiredness will be evident so we're having a day away from our coach. The morning itself will have a low key start although at 10am we will have a guided walking tour from our hotel which will finish at 1pm in the cultural centre of Lille where we can find ourselves some lunch and wander back to the hotel at leisure. Incidentally, our hotel is opposite the main train station for those wanting to explore on their own.

SATURDAY 3RD APRIL (cont...)

Our guided tour will take us amongst remarkable landmarks in this enchanting city such as the 17th-century Paris Gate, a masterpiece of military architecture. We'll also see the Belfry of Lille Town Hall and several historic buildings surrounding the main square along with the Column of the Goddess which commemorates the resistance to Austrian siege. The Grand Palace which is the heart of Lille and the Lille Cathedral will also be on our "to see" list.

SUNDAY 4TH APRIL

A fascinating though sombre day at times, as we visit the Somme 1916 museum, are shown around the Somme battlefield and visit 4 war cemeteries – namely Heilly Station Cemetery, Cite Bonjean military Cemetery, Caterpillar Valley Cemetery (a monument to 1,200 New Zealand officers and men whose bodies were never discovered and have no marked graves is a feature) in Longueval and also in the town -Thistle Dump Cemetery. Another feature of the day will be a stop in the beautiful town of Arras and a visit to the Wellington Tunnels – an intriguing underground city built in 1917 in part by engineers of the Maori Pioneer Battalion.

MONDAY 5TH APRIL

We'll depart Lille at 9am this morning and we head straight to the beautiful medieval Belgium city of Bruges where we park up from 10.30am until 6pm. Known as "The Venice of the North" because of its many canals, it's famed for the traditional making of lace and of course, like many other towns and cities in the region, Belgian chocolate.

ITINERARY

MONDAY 5TH APRIL (cont...)

Also worth visiting/viewing in the city is the 13th century Belfry of Bruges, the Bridge of Love, The Church of Our Lady (which houses Michelangelo's Madonna and child marble sculpture) and the Rosary Quay (the most photogenic spot in the city where several canals join together) and the Lace Centre. The Market Square has plenty of places to try Belgian Chocolate, waffles, fries and beers and we will arrange an early Group meal in this vicinity – probably 4.30pm to 6pm because we need to get ourselves to the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium, is a major WWI monument honouring 54,896 missing Commonwealth soldiers with no known graves. Designed by Reginald Blomfield and unveiled in 1927, it features stone panels inscribed with names. It is a renowned site of remembrance, featuring a daily "Last Post" ceremony at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 6TH APRIL

Another day on the coach but we're heading to the beach today and with a local guide onboard we'll do a drive around Dunkirk with occasional stops - some of the highlights will include the 1940 Museum, the historical sites of the Battle of Dunkirk and Operation Dynamo (the famed Dunkirk evacuation) and we'll also stop at the evacuation beaches themselves. Today, these beautiful, wide sandy beaches are peaceful and serene but, in the spring of 1940, the situation was very different. Our tour will also include The East Mole located in the port, the point from which most soldiers were evacuated and stop at an impressive bunker,

We will also see the Princess Elizabeth paddle steamer, which famously made four return crossings between England and Dunkirk and rescued 1,673 troops during Operation Dynamo. Also included is Dunkirk Town Cemetery where members of the Maori Pioneer Battalion were laid to rest.

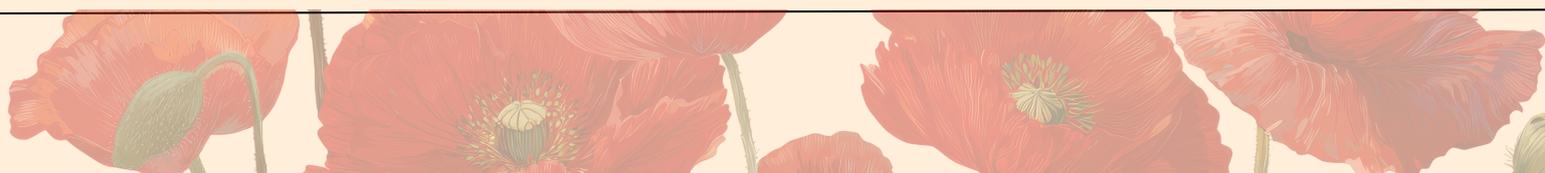
We'll then head east along the coast to the seaside town of Ostend in Belgium where we'll stop for a late group lunch and have time to wander around the town for a couple of hours before heading back to our Lille base around 5pm.

WEDNESDAY 7TH APRIL

Specific timings for today will be given much later but the day will include return fast train seats from Lille to Paris (Gare du Nord station), a snapshot drive around the main attractions in Paris which will include the Opera, the Louvre, Montmartre and the Sacre Coeur, the Trocadero and the Eiffel Tower. We'll then have a spectacular lunch cruise on the Seine River and go from the Eiffel Tower to the Notre Dame and back, all the while served a spectacular lunch with drinks. Our return train to Lille will be discussed with the group later.

THURSDAY 8TH APRIL

After a busy week you have a free day to do stuff you might have missed and, of course, we'll help. Some of you might choose to stay the Wednesday night in Paris and catch the train back to Lille on Thursday and there are a hundred different options available to you as Lille is well served by train connections.



ITINERARY

TUESDAY 27TH APRIL

We'll be departing our Lille Hotel at 9am and heading to Ypres again and visiting the Maori Pioneer fallen at a number of War cemeteries and memorials in and around the town - these will include Underhill, Ramparts Lille Gate, Strand Military, Berks Cemetery extension, Buttes New British and Lijssenthoek. We'll have a boxed lunch with us on the coach today as we need to be at the airport at 3pm.

Our flight will be departing Brussels at 5.30pm and arriving Istanbul at 8.30pm where we'll be met and transferred into our central Istanbul hotel and meet up with the main group.

COST: NZ\$4,490 per person**

Single Supplement: NZ\$980**

TOUR COST/DEPOSITS/PAYMENTS

****The quoted tour prices are based on Currency Exchange rates as of 15 March 2026 and are subject to alteration (up or down) in the event of marked currency fluctuations.**

A deposit of NZ\$3,000 per person is required to confirm your place on the tour.

The balance of \$1,490 per person is required by 30 November 2026

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- Escorted by Maori hosts from Aotearoa New Zealand and back to Aotearoa New Zealand
- Services of an Epic Journeys tour guide throughout
- Local English-speaking tour guides and local war historians used in both Belgium and France
- Your flights to and from NZ or Australia are included in the tour cost for the main journey of remembrance starting in Istanbul – your flight to Brussels will replace the flight to Istanbul in that instance.
- Your One Way flight Brussels to Istanbul
- Private visits to 373 Maori Battalion war graves across 12 War Cemeteries and Memorials
- 4 star hotel in Lille with full breakfast daily
- Luxury coaches throughout with WiFi access and toilet where possible
- Full day tour to Paris including return trains, private tour of Paris and luxury Seine river lunch cruise
- All transfers and tours, with all entrance fees as detailed in the itinerary
- All flight taxes, accommodation taxes and service fees throughout the tour
- Other meals as detailed in the itinerary – group lunches and dinners.



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