CAMPAIGNS
and Culture

Waterloo Anniversary
7/8 Day Campaign Tour 2021/22

"Campaigns & Culture have set the standard for Waterloo Tours"

Due to the ever-evolving Covid related restrictions these details are provisional.
Tour dates and details are subject to change, but we won't take any deposits or balance payments until we have certainty.
To reserve your option to join us, without cost or commitment, please contact us.

Welcome to our 2021/22 Waterloo Campaign tour!

June 1815, an epic and final struggle. The dramatic end to 26 years of Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, an era of huge personalities. Decided in just four days, the Waterloo Campaign brought about the final defeat of Napoleon at the combined hands of the Duke of Wellington and Prince Blücher, amidst scenes of boldness, folly, hope, heroism, miscommunication, outlandish fashion and biblical weather.

Our journey takes us beyond the Waterloo of the history books, covering all the major attractions of the battlefields and museums. We visit the forgotten campaign routes, hidden views and vistas, and access private homes and collections unavailable to the public. We present a fresh interpretation developed through years of original, questioning research, local knowledge and constant exploration, unlocking secrets as we go with a deep appreciation for the men and women of the era.

Our route takes us across Brussels, the Sambre, Quatre Bras, Ligny, Waterloo, Wavre, Namur, the well-known features and museums, and much more, taking time to explain, absorb and appreciate. We also head for the views and vistas forgotten by the history books, seeing how history has become embellished, distorted, misunderstood and abused, sharing the character and experiences of the men and women who were there.

The British, Allied and Prussian experience is only part of the story. This year we have a special emphasis on the French Perspective. We are delighted to welcome our friend Andrew Field on tour. His much admired series of books on Waterloo, Prelude to Waterloo, Grouchy's Waterloo, Waterloo Rout & Retreat, plus his latest series of French eye-witness accounts, has triggered a deep re-evaluation of traditional history. He'll be with us throughout our journey together. His latest focus on the allied contingent within Wellington's army adds an extra layer of knowledge to share.

We are confident that this is the most comprehensive, knowledgeable, wide-ranging and thought-provoking Waterloo Battlefield & Campaign tour you can join.

Each day includes scene-setting strategic situations, maps and images within your special leather campaign journals as we follow the knowledge and intent of the leaders through to the outcomes.

Above all, a sense of genuine enthusiasm and pleasure runs through everything that we do, all of which we aim to pass on to you throughout our tour.

A Personal Word from our Founder

The impact of Covid, the unpredictable restrictions and hopeful progress casts a great spotlight on how the travel that we miss can so enrich mind, body and soul. We're keen to press on with positivity, whilst caring for our tour guests, the people we meet and the regions we journey through.

Our small-group tours, with fresh safety arrangements, are well suited to the challenge. Yet we need to approach this with thoughtfulness and realism, ensuring that our journeys continue to offer the very best in hospitality, comfort and safety on top of the truly expert historic experiences that we deliver.

We've been ahead of the curve throughout the crisis, and fully intend to remain so. For 2021 we are offering our full array of tours, both scheduled and bespoke, but will run them only once I am fully confident that we can deliver an anxiety-free experience to our very highest standards.

I hope to travel across Europe in Spring 2021 to see, in person, how the latest safety measures and regulations are working in practice. I'll share the results with all who have reserved their place on our tour short-lists. Only once both you and I are fully satisfied, armed with the latest virus and vaccine knowledge, and happy to travel, will we seek any commitment.

Unlike many tour operators who have a thirst for bookings and cashflow every month, we are small, nimble and secure. This gives us the freedom to take the long-term view, to do what is right, sharing our passion for the places that we love, but only finalising plans and requesting deposits when the time is right.

So whilst I am full of hope for the Spring and Summer of 2021, if events conspire against us then we'll simply roll our plans into the Autumn, or 2022, 2023, or whenever we can once more travel in confidence and safety.

So, without any commitment on your part, please contact me to reserve your place on our 2021/2022 short-lists. The earliest contacts will receive priority if we need to cap our already small group tour numbers in response to our own or any imposed safety or regulatory criteria, so do get in touch.

I'm here to chat over any queries, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes to you all, Robert Pocock

Key Highlights

Indicative Dates
Provisional: Monday 14th June to Monday 21st June 2021 or later in 2021, may be postponed to 2022.

Duration
Seven tour days / Seven nights & Ramillies extension option

All-Inclusive
We start and end our tour in Waterloo, Belgium, enjoying superior rooms in the top local 4-star hotel, with premium transport throughout.
All guiding, transport, hotel rooms, breakfasts, light lunches, a la carte dinners with wine, entrance fees and beer tastings are included, plus some extra treats along the way.
You will be responsible for your personal travel insurance and any non-itinerary purchases or extras required by you, such as room service, additional drinks and any medical treatment.

Getting There
Join us on Day 1 travelling AM on Eurostar, Standard Premier class, from St Pancras International, London. We only pass on the ticket cost, no more. We'll meet you at St. Pancras and collect you in Brussels with transport on to our hotel.
Alternatively, Brussels International Airport is a taxi ride away from our Waterloo hotel.
If you wish to arrive early we can happily book extra hotel nights for you, which we are happy to do at cost.

Getting Home
We can accompany you on the return trip on Eurostar to London, or you can take a taxi to the airport.

Zero Deposit
If it's safe and legal to go, we'll go. We'll only request a deposit once we've shared the results of our personal quality and safety checks, and priced in any final adjustments. By then you'll also have the very latest knowledge to make your own decision in confidence.

More than Battlefields
Battle museums: Waterloo Underground Memorial, Panorama, Lion Mound, Hougoumont, Le Caillou, Wellington HQ Museum, Royal Chapel, Mont St Jean, Ligny.
Border locations: Beaumont, River Sambre, Namur
Brussels: Grand Place, Cathedral, Military Museum
Private access: Beaumont, Genappe & Walhain
Major Routes: D'Erlon's Roman Road, Mercer's retreat through Genappe, Grouchy's strawberries to Wavre, Bülow's march to Waterloo & Schwerin's final moments.

Wine & Beer
We have a love of wine. We open jolly good bottles every night with dinner. Yet Belgium is famed for its beer, and if that is your preferred tipple we're happy to oblige. We also hold a special beer tasting at Mont St Jean farmhouse to sample battlefield brews.

Tried, Tested & Much Loved
We've done so much exploring and touring, typically up to ten tours or research visits each year for well over a decade, so we know these hidden routes and sites like the back of our hand! Our hotels and all the restaurants have been tried and tested multiple times in person. Only the best make the grade.

Testimonials & Videos
We're rated "**Outstanding**" by our tour guests and enjoy exceptional levels of repeat business.

Action Required
To reserve your option to join us, without cost or commitment, please contact us.

Historical Summary

15th June 1815

- Napoleon crosses the Belgian border in his last great gamble of the ‘100 days’.
- Actions on the River Sambre, Frasnes & Gilly.
- Marshal Ney takes command of the West wing, Marshal Grouchy the East.
- Wellington attends the Duchess of Richmond’s Ball in Brussels.

16th June 1815

- Napoleon attacks the Prussians at Ligny.
- Wellington holds Quatre Bras against Ney.
- D’Erlon travels along the Roman Road.

17th June 1815

- Blücher’s Prussians concentrate at Wavre.
- Marshal Grouchy’s pursuit to Gemboux.
- Wellington falls back through Genappe to the Mont St Jean ridge in front of Waterloo.
- Napoleon’s pursuit bogs down in the mud.

18th June 1815

- At Waterloo Wellington staunchly holds his ridge against massed French attacks.
- The Prussians arrive on Napoleon’s flank.
- The Imperial Guard is beaten, the French flee.
- Grouchy, fighting at Wavre, is unaware.

19th June 1815

- Grouchy sustains his fight above Wavre & Bierges before the bad news arrives. His retreat through Namur to Paris is richly praised.

Your Unique 1815 Campaign Experience

Think you've done Waterloo or can do it in a few days? We invite you to think again!

We deliver the very latest research, knowledge and interpretations, much of it uniquely generated from our own exploration and local knowledge, presented with understanding, depth and aplomb.

We share the critical challenges faced by historians as we separate eyewitness memoirs and reliable facts from the fiction of history. We offer extensive tactical and strategic insight, with inspiring research that brings people, history & landscapes to life, and a special study on the remarkable 'Women of Waterloo'.

During the tour we provide exclusive access, agreed with the owners of private homes, personal museums and gardens, to the sites of historic events that others can only read about.

There are so many forgotten routes and locations, the importance of which has been missed or misunderstood by two centuries of authors. We follow much of D'Erlon's Roman Road, visit the flanks of Ligny, locate Mercer's incidents on the retreat to Genappe, take Grouchy's route to Walhain, travel the actual Prussian route of Blücher and Bülow from Wavre to Waterloo, highlight the Schwerin truth, walk the Frischermont valley and much more besides.

Each tour guest receives our exclusive leather journal, packed with maps, images and information to use during the tour and to treasure as a keepsake for the future.

We leave no stone unturned to bring you the most comprehensive and truly special Waterloo Campaign Tour.

Your Expert Team

LED BY
Robert Pocock
Founder, Owner & Director of Campaigns & Culture

Robert's commitment to extensive on-location research over many years provides us with an intimate knowledge of the battlefields and campaign routes.

A leading authority on Waterloo and many Peninsular battlefields as both guide and explorer, he'll explain every step of history from numerous vantage points, sharing old maps, memoirs, the context of history, his own discoveries and the very latest expert and revisionist thinking.

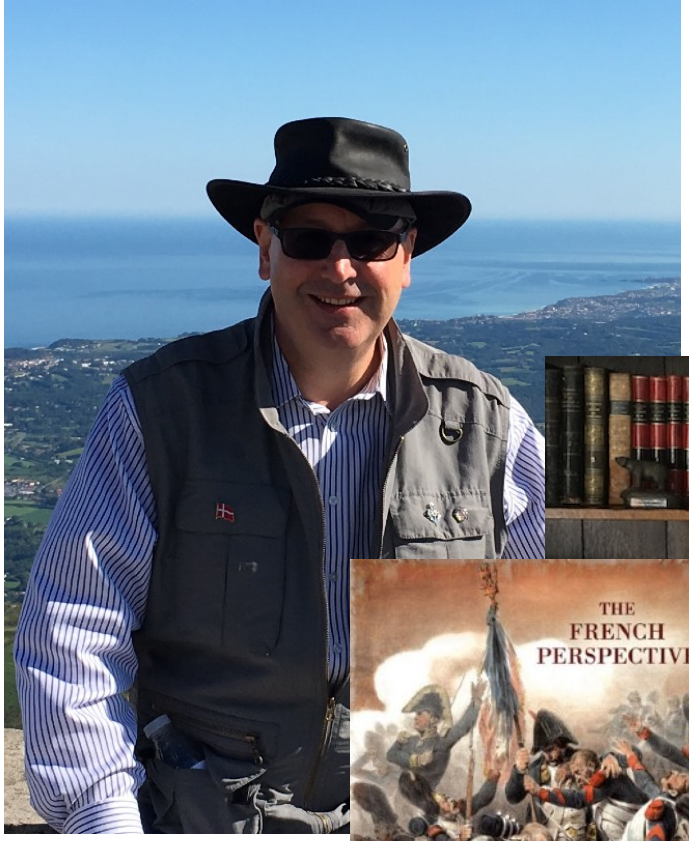
A bon-viveur, with a passion for the better things in life, you're also in truly great hands with the food & wine!

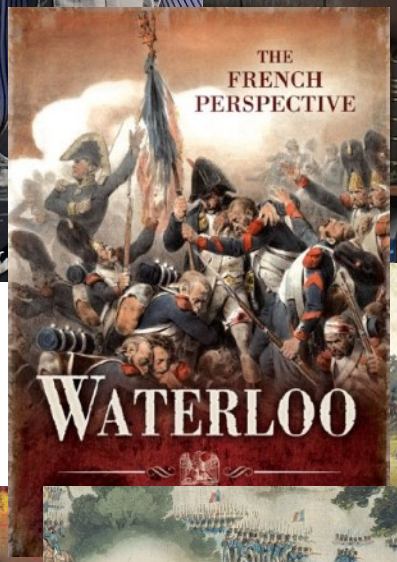
JOINED BY
Andrew Field MBE
Contributing Expert to Campaigns & Culture

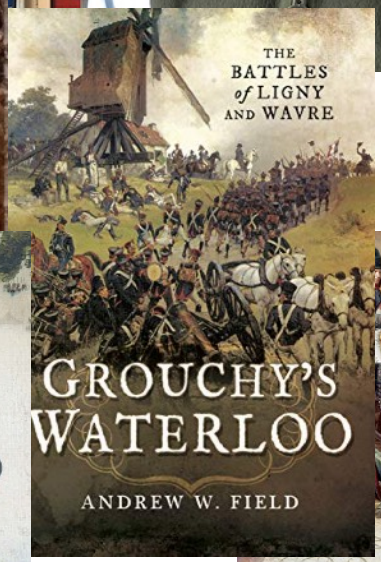
The defeat of Napoleon used to be told, at least in the English language, almost exclusively from the viewpoint of the victors, not the vanquished. Andrew's acclaimed series of books has firmly relegated that approach to the past.

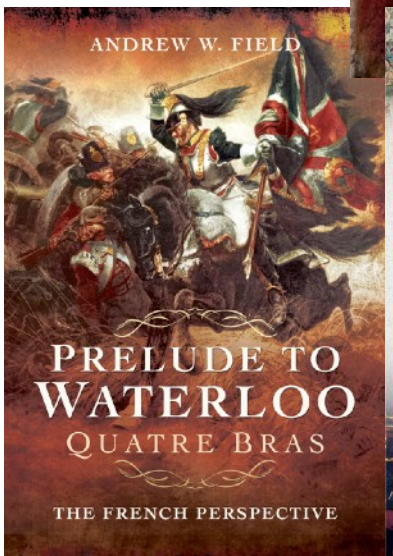
His careful translation and comparison of French sources, combined with his practical military knowledge, has challenged and transformed popular appreciation of the Battle and the events of the wider campaign. He has stimulated many of the most productive recent debates on the battles and events surrounding the Waterloo campaign.

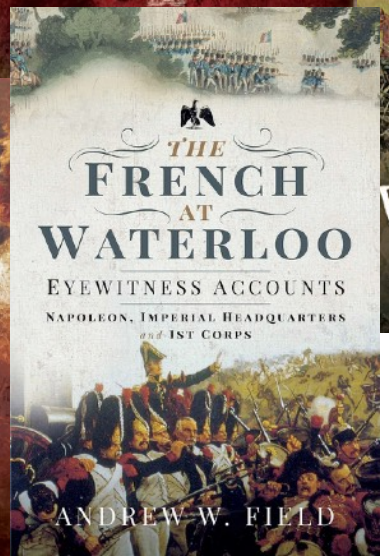
Vive Napoleon!

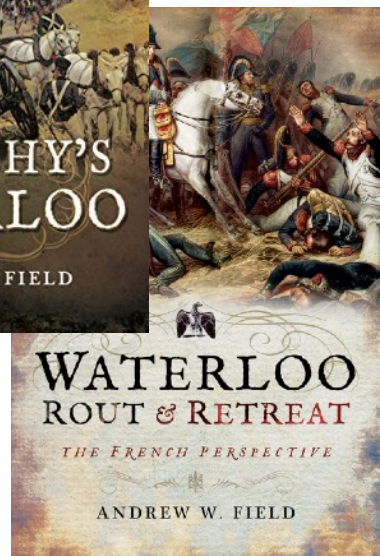












Our Waterloo Hotel & Restaurants

The Historic Martin's Grand
4-Star Superior Rooms

The 4 Star Martin's Grand is merely a cannon shot, hop, skip and jump from the battlefield of Waterloo. We've booked their Superior Rooms to provide the best quality, space and comfort for our tour guests.

Built in 1836 by the Raffinerie Nationale de Sucre Indigène et Exotique (National Refinery for Indigenous and Exotic Sugar) to make sugar from sugar beet (a Napoleonic idea) it still displays the beautiful brick vaulting of the original building in its restaurant La Sucrerie.

This is the best location to start and end each day's journey. We'll dine out most nights, enjoying many of our favourites amongst the very best casual local and fine-dining restaurants nearby, full à la carte of course.

Like all the hotels we use and love, this one is so tried and tested, it seems like we've become part of the furniture!

No wonder our tours are popular with enthusiasts and their partners alike!

Day by Day Itinerary

Getting there and back
Your tour starts and finishes at our hotel in Waterloo, Belgium. You can join us on the morning of Day 1, travelling on Eurostar, Standard Premier class, from St Pancras International, London. We only pass on the ticket cost, no more. We'll meet you at St. Pancras and collect you in Brussels with transport on to our hotel.
If you prefer to fly in we leave you free to book your own flights, selecting the departure airports and times that suit you best. If you choose to fly in a day or so early we can book the extra hotel nights for you. We are happy to help and advise, but this does not form part of your tour or price.

DAY 1 Monday 14th June: Meet & Greet, Memorial, Panorama, Lion Mound
Early afternoon we gather at our Waterloo hotel with a welcome and tour introduction before heading straight to the battlefield. We climb the Lion Mound to view the landscape, the army dispositions, introduce the ebb and flow of battle and share the historical evolution and preservation of the battlefield over two centuries.
At the exceptional 110m metre Panorama we explain this huge painting, the tactics, formations, arms and uniforms, before exploring the French Revolutionary & Napoleonic era at the underground Memorial museum with its special 2021 exhibition of Napoleon's time in St Helena, including material from les Invalides, Paris.
We dine at our hotel restaurant, La Sucrerie.

DAY 2 Tuesday 15th June: Plans, Invasion & Events!
We travel just over the border to Beaumont, where Napoleon awoke on 15th June 1815 to launch his attack on Blücher and Wellington. We visit the key locations where his campaign began to unravel before it had even started, discussing the issues faced by Gerard, Grouchy, Lobau, Mortier, Ney and Vandamme. We also examine Napoleon's much-lauded, inspirational, yet wholly deficient communications.
We join Reille's Corps, starting at his overnight Chateau, taking in the beautiful crossing points of the French left wing at Lobbes and Thuin over the River Sambre, before heading to the right wing and the crossing made at Chatelet by Gerard as he headed with his corps towards Ligny the following day.
We end the afternoon at Namur, Blücher's pre-invasion HQ, inspecting the mighty citadel, looking down on the junction of the Sambre and the Meuse, then into Namur itself, defended in retreat by Grouchy's troops, enjoying a restaurant dinner before returning to our hotel.

DAY 3: Wednesday 16th June: Quatre Bras, D'Erlon's Roman Road, Mercer's Route, Genappe, Roi d'Espagne, Wellington Museum & Royal Chapel

We criss-cross the Quatre Bras battlefield on the anniversary day, examining events from the Dutch/Belgian, Nassau, Brunswick, British, German and French perspectives; the terrain, the farmhouses and the memorials.

We discuss the rapidly evolving situation, the achievements and unresolved issues of the day, the liaison between Wellington, Blucher, their staff, and that of Marshal Ney with Napoleon. We follow the ebb and flow of battle and the Roman Road showing where, why and how General D'Erlon lost his chance to change history.

We visit villages along the route of Wellington's subsequent retreat, through medieval Loupoigne and then Genappe, identifying the locations described in Mercer's journal, his first glimpse of Napoleon and where he was almost led astray by Uxbridge.

In Genappe we share our latest research, casting a fresh interpretation on the cavalry actions here, and stop at Roi d'Espagne where Wellington, Prince Jerome and Blücher each slept on successive nights, and where General Duhesme of the Young Guard died.

Back at Waterloo we visit Wellington's HQ Museum & Royal Chapel at Waterloo.

We return to our hotel before dining out.

DAY 4 Thursday 17th June: Ligny, Prussian Retreat, Grouchy's Pursuit, Walhain & Blücher's Recovery

We enjoy an extensive exploration of 'Napoleon's final victory', the battlefield of Ligny. The basis of the Prussian plan and the evolving decisions of Napoleon are not widely appreciated, nor is the reality of the outcome, so we explain how the day unfolded, bringing this intense battle to life at our many viewpoints.

This is a large battlefield, so we visit Blücher's HQ at Brye, the fought-over villages of Wagnelée and St Amand, Fleurus (Napoleon's HQ), Sombreffe, the Tombe de Ligny, viewing both flanks at the Roman Road and Tongrinne, Ligny's historic Ferme d'en Haut and the Gérard museum in Ligny.

We follow the various Prussian routes of retreat, including Tilly, the Prussian observation post of 17th June, and then Gembloux, stopping at Walhain, location of the famous strawberry incident as Grouchy's pursuit faltered.

On to the battle for Wavre and the Dyle crossing at Bierges mill, to understand the genuine difficulties faced by Grouchy as he sought to serve Napoleon.

Using old maps we trace the actual route of Bülow's Prussians to Waterloo, walking parts of the Vieux Chemin and Chapelle St Robert, stopping at Ferme de la Kelle, discovering the truth told by the Schwerin monument, and walking the Bois de Paris.

Our explorations and explanations throughout the day offers a unique perspective on events, challenging recorded and accepted history as we go.

DAY 5 Friday 18th June: Walking Waterloo Day 1, French & Allied Perspectives

The first of two days walking the Waterloo battlefield, on the actual anniversary, debating accepted history, the latest revisions, and how our own knowledge has been transformed through deep knowledge of the topography,

We start at Belle Alliance, centre of the French lines, walking the gun line towards the hamlet of Papelotte. We follow the course of D'Erlon's forceful attack, identifying just how far the French pushed forward before the British Heavy Cavalry charges, the demise of Generals Ponsonby and Picton, the reality of Bylandt's Dutch Belgians, their supporting cavalry, the Highlanders, Lambert's Inniskillings, the many events at the Allied crossroads, the 95th Rifles, Ross' 'Chestnut' Troop, Whinyates' Rockets and La Haye Sainte.

After lunch we approach Hougoumont from the revealing French perspective, overturning historical assumptions, national biases and myths, discussing the close-run fighting, the numerous break-ins, the latest archaeological finds and our own discoveries that cast a unique light on the events and experiences of those present.

We climb back to the Allied ridge for the massed French cavalry charges, the squares, the actions of the Guards, Mercer's horse artillery, the debate over the 52nd, the contributions of many nations and the ultimate repulse of Napoleon's Imperial Guard.

After a good day of walking, we head for Mont St Jean farmhouse, the Allied casualty clearing station, for a brewery visit and tasting, and to view the outstanding new Medical Museum.

We dine in.

DAY 6 Saturday 19th June: Walking Waterloo Day 2, French & Prussian Perspectives

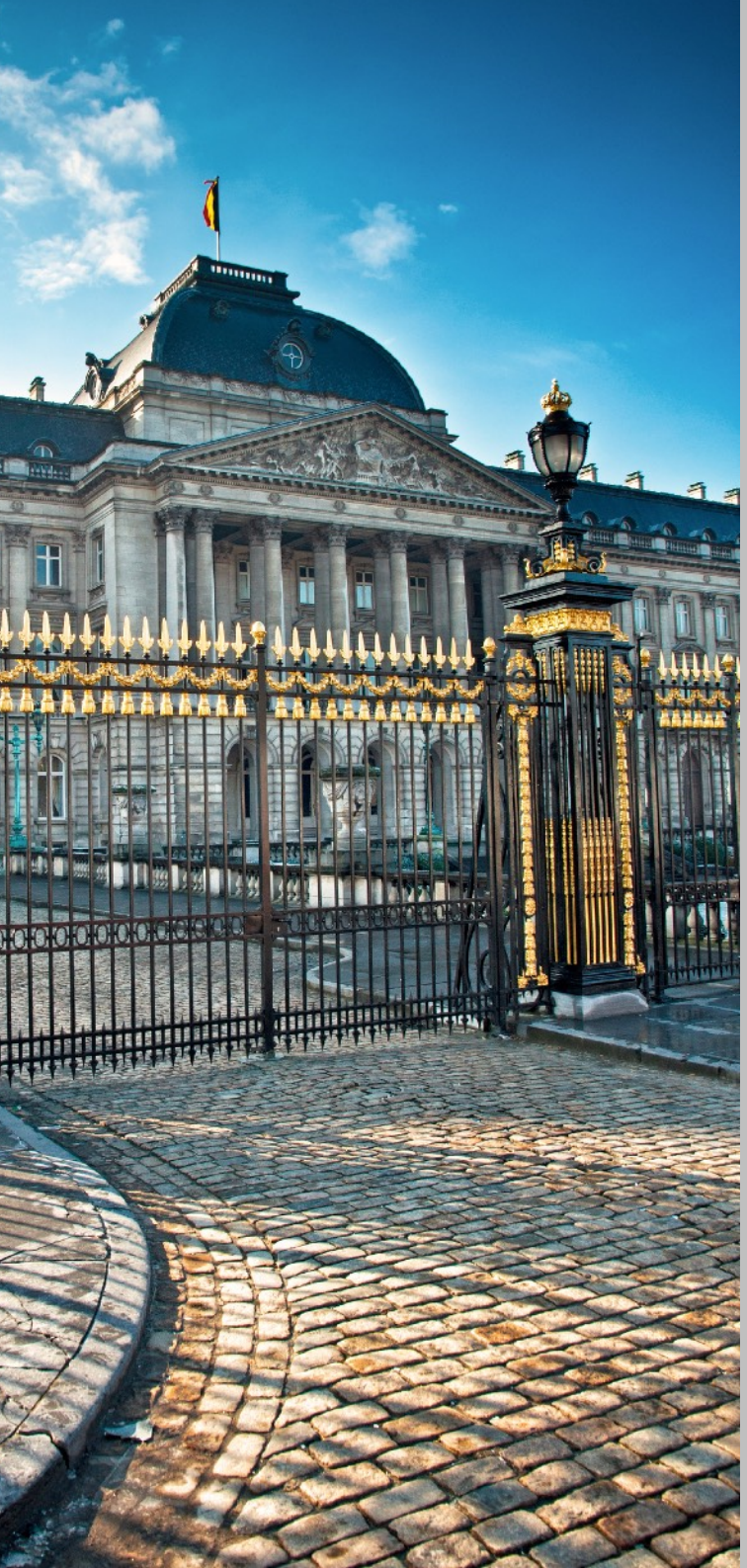
Another day walking Waterloo. We drive the French positions deep behind the front line, to see where Kellerman and Guyot arrayed their cavalry, before visiting Le Caillou, Napoleon's final HQ.

We stand at Napoleon's rear and forward observation posts, and reveal a tragic lane, before walking the attack route of the massed French cavalry, and later the Imperial Guard, heading towards the allied ridge, identifying what could really be seen and done in attack.

After lunch we visit Zieten's crossroads, where his Prussian Corps erupted from the woods, review the remarkable decision-making exhibited by the officers involved, the conflicting requests and orders, with an exceptional vista of the battlefield.

Wandering down to Smohain, and up to Frischermont, we discover the 'hidden' valley, where we'll discuss its impact on the Prussian advance. We walk Bülow's route from the Bois de Paris into Plancenoit, seeing where Lobau and the Young Guard desperately engaged the Prussians, the resulting monuments, the threat posed to Napoleon's lines of communication, Pirch's thrust towards Chantelet farm and the Guard's last stand.

We dine out.



DAY 7 Sunday 20th June: Brussels, Re-enactment, Where's Grouchy?

We spend much of the day in Brussels. This historic City bore witness to gatherings of Wellington's troops before the campaign kicked-off and the famous Duchess of Richmond's Ball. We visit the park, scene of much parading and romance, locate the properties where key officers were based, stroll the streets they walked, the magnificent Grand Place, the Cathedral, shopping malls and eateries, with a tour of the exceptional military museum.

Depending on how plans for any re-enactor encampments progress, we'll also ensure that either on the Saturday or Sunday we visit the camps, receiving a special welcome from a few re-enactor friends, and get great views of any re-enactments.

We also play our very own "Where's Grouchy?" game, using actual orders, reports and old maps, placing you in either Grouchy or Napoleon's shoes. You'll experience unreliable and delayed communications in the days of the horse and cart, appreciate the challenge in using maps of the era and see how easily expectations failed to meet reality. It's proved to be a fun way of demonstrating just how much we should respect the achievements of those who led their huge armies before we leap to criticise with the benefit of hindsight.

DAY 8: Monday 21st June Farewell & optional Ramillies

A last chance for Q&A as we happily respond to any final thoughts you have, and maybe a quick trip to any nearby spot that you'd like to see again. For those heading home, as this is the end of our Waterloo tour, we'll drop you at Brussels Eurostar for the direct train journey back to London St. Pancras.

As an option for those who wish to stay an extra night, we'll treat you to a visit to nearby Ramillies battlefield, site of one of Marlborough's many exceptional victories against the French of an earlier era, fighting the troops of 'The Sun King' Louis XIV in 1706. General Foy once compared Wellington's offensive victory at Salamanca with the achievements of Marlborough, a true mark of respect coming from a Frenchman, so it is a rather appropriate way to round off our time together.

Our Small Group Tours are extremely responsive to your special interests. So do talk to us about what really fascinates you, and we'll happily feature this during our journey.

We'll select similar anniversary dates in 2022, and of course we are happy to run any variation of our specialist tours, including visits to the British cavalry cantonments, historic Chateau, Bruges, Ghent, our favourite chocolate shops and even Tintin's exceptional Hergé Museum as bespoke tailor-made trips at different times of the year.

Your Journey

With constantly changing Covid related restrictions these details are provisional. Please see Robert's Personal Word above for more.

So the precise dates and details may change, with prices finalised only once we know what adjustments, if any, we need to make. We won't be asking for any deposits until both we, and you, have full certainty and confidence.

TOUR PRICE GUIDE

Price guide £3,500 per person
sharing a double/twin room

Single occupancy supplement £500

OPTIONS

Travel there and back with us on Eurostar, with a light meal served in your spacious seat.
Stay an extra night for Marlborough's Ramillies.

LOYALTY REWARDS

Save £200 per person on each tour by booking two or more of our 2021 tours.

or

Save £200 per person on this tour by booking a group of 3 or more on this tour.

or

Former Tour Guests receive a loyalty discount of £200 per person on each 2021 tour joined.

Sadly these loyalty rewards cannot be combined. but we'll automatically apply the highest loyalty reward to your booking.

Small Group Tours

Historical, Cultural, Gastronomic

Our Small Group tours provide the very best thoughtful, personalised experiences for our tour guests, whether your interests are historical, cultural, geographical, gastronomic or a combination of all.

We plan our tours to make them as fun, responsive and memorable as they can be, rather than planned down to a cost. We aim to share the best depths of history with our joy of travel, just as if it were our own holiday, specifying the best where it makes a real difference to your experience. We also journey at a comfortable pace so you have time to appreciate and absorb the incredible beauty of the places we visit.

This is your holiday. So whilst we delight in sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm amongst experts and beginners alike, we promise not to lecture or talk at you - we prefer to converse with you in a friendly style.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss any details of our chosen battlefields, hotels, restaurants, transport, indeed anything that you'd like to know. We can also take account of your own specific interests and preferences if you share them with us early enough.

If you can't make the dates for this scheduled tour, or would prefer a shorter, longer or unique approach, why not "go bespoke" with a Campaigns & Culture tour tailor-made just for you and your friends. We also do "Convoy" self-drive guided tours and out-of-season "Weather-Watch" trips.

We'll be delighted to talk you through any aspect of the tour and explain our approach to top quality battlefield tourism, so please do get in touch.

Fitness Guide

We won’t take you on any route-marches, so a few brisk half-hour outdoor walks before the holiday is enough to prepare most of our tour guests very well.

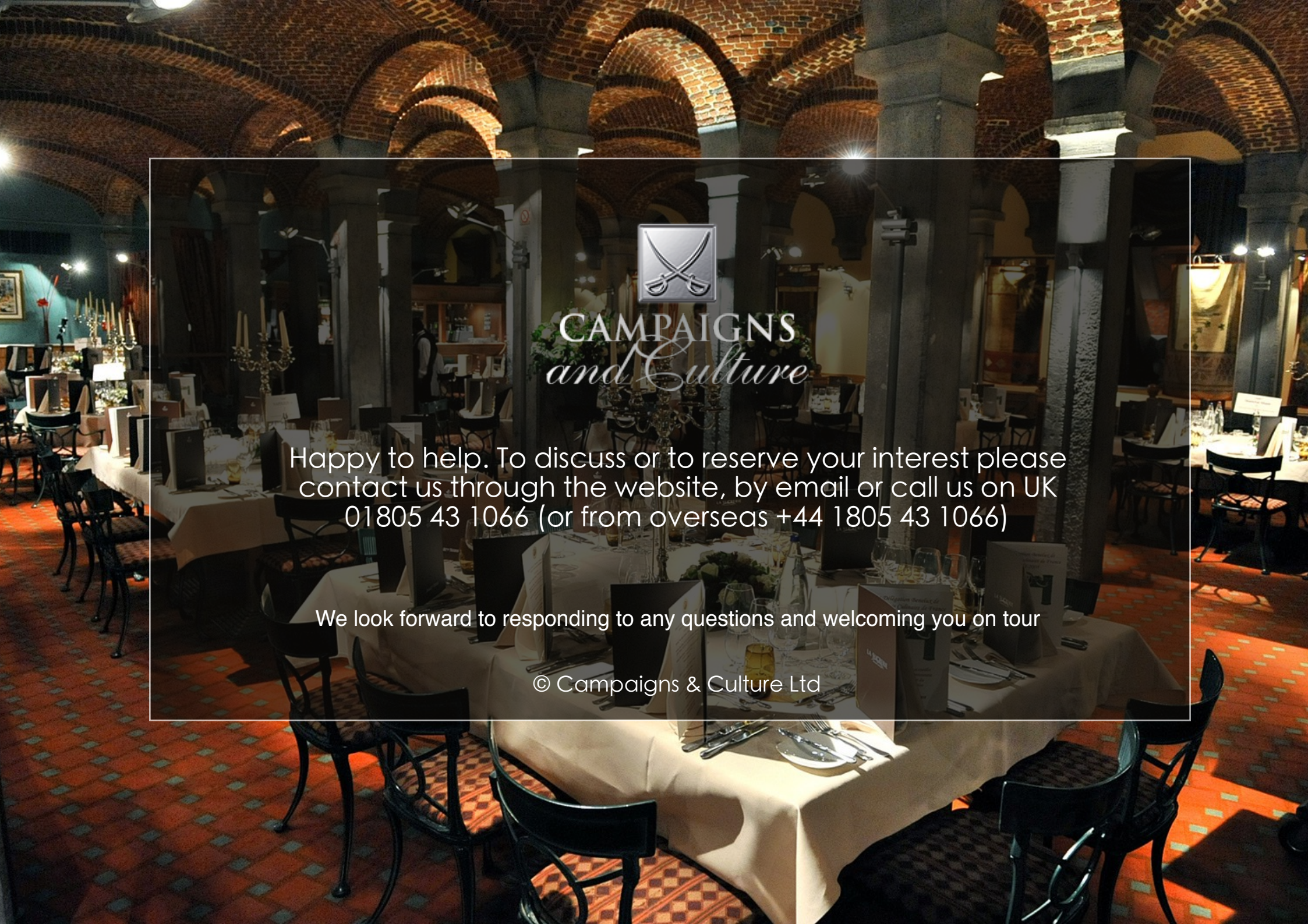
The hardest part is the 226 step climb up the Lion Mound on Day one. This is not recommended for those with certain medical conditions. Beyond that, a little staying power is an advantage on the Walking Waterloo days.

The Waterloo region is a series of gently rolling hills. We plan all our routes carefully, and the small-group aspect of our journeys means we have the added flexibility to get you to most off-the-beaten-track points in style and comfort.

You can expect to be walking modest distances, up and down, with regular breaks, on every day of the tour. A few short slopes may be challenging, so we take these at a gentle pace or offer an alternative. Our travels also cover open ground and uneven, occasionally slippery tracks.

One of the many benefits of small group tours is that we can generally travel at your own pace, provided you don't restrict or hold-up the rest of the tour. Please talk to us in advance to discuss.

To cope with rough and cobbled surfaces, well-padded walking shoes or boots with a good grip and hard-soles are essential throughout the tour. We have a guest-favourite brand that we can recommend.



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Happy to help. To discuss or to reserve your interest please contact us through the website, by email or call us on UK 01805 43 1066 (or from overseas +44 1805 43 1066)

We look forward to responding to any questions and welcoming you on tour

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