



CAMPAIGNS
and Culture

Waterloo Anniversary
Battlefield & Campaign tour
9 days June 2024

“Campaigns & Culture have set the standard for Waterloo Tours”



Welcome to our 2024 Waterloo Anniversary tour

June 1815, the epic and final struggle, pitching nations against Napoleon. The dramatic end to 26 years of almost constant Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, an era of huge personalities and great valour. Decided in just four days, the Waterloo Campaign brought about the final defeat of Napoleon at the 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, with much more besides. We visit 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 exploration, shared with a deep appreciation for the men and women of the era.

Our route takes us from Brussels to beyond the river Sambre and Namur, the major battlefields of Quatre Bras, Ligny, Waterloo and Wavre, the well-known features, museums and much more, taking time to explain, absorb and enjoy these now peaceful and beautiful settings. We also head for the forgotten views and vistas, seeing how history has become embellished, distorted, misunderstood and abused. We illuminate the character, tales and experiences of the men and women who were there.

The British, French and Prussian experience is only part of the story. So many nations came together to create this incredible history, a gathering of talents where our research uniquely helps to bring the events of the campaign to life.

Each day includes scene-setting strategic situations, maps and images within your unique Campaigns & Culture leather journals as we follow the knowledge and intent of the military leaders, the fortitude of the participants, the unexpected events they faced and the both intended and unintended outcomes!

Above all, you'll be in the company of a passionate specialist historian who relishes both the cutting edge of fresh insight and sharing hidden places. A sense of genuine enthusiasm and pleasure runs through everything that we do, all of which we aim to pass on throughout your tour.



Robert Pocock

Adventurer in Chief, Campaigns & Culture

An ongoing 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 Peninsular battlefields as both guide and explorer, I'll explain every step of history from numerous vantage points, sharing old maps, memoirs, the context of history, my own discoveries and the latest expert and revisionist thinking.

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

We hope you like what you see, but if you'd like any further honest persuasion please just get in touch.

Without any initial commitment on your part, please contact us to reserve your places. Our Small Group Tours can fill up fast, so we recommend being nimble.

We are here to chat over any questions or queries you may have, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Very best wishes
Robert*



Key Highlights



Dates

Thursday 13th June to Friday 21st June 2024

Duration

Nine days / Eight nights

All-Inclusive Premium

We start and end our tour in Waterloo, Belgium, enjoying specific superior rooms that we've chosen in the top local 4-star hotel. We use premium spacious transport throughout, strictly limiting the number of guests on tour so you'll be able to comfortably spread out rather than be crammed in.

All guiding, transport, hotel rooms, breakfasts, light lunches, a la carte dinners with wine and entrance fees are included, plus a few 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

Options include Day 1 morning travel from London on Eurostar, Standard Premier class, from St Pancras International. We only pass on the ticket cost, no more. We'll meet you in person at the Brussels Eurostar terminal and drive you on to our Waterloo 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'll also do at cost.

Getting Home

We will return you to the Eurostar terminal in good time for your journey home, or the hotel can arrange your taxi to the airport.

Zero Deposit

We only request payment once we start making payments to our suppliers. We believe your money is better in your hands until we really need it. Any client money that we hold is insured, ring-fenced and secure.

More than the Battlefields

Battlefields: Quatre Bras, Ligny, Genappe, Wavre/Bierges, Waterloo

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, Royal Quarter, major museum.

Private access: Genappe & Walhain.

Major routes: We follow the significant routes of Napoleon, of his Marshals Ney and Grouchy and General D'Erlon, of Blücher and his multiple Prussian corps, and of course Wellington with his army.

Fresh walking routes this year: Quatre Bras, Ligny & Waterloo.

Wine & Beer

We have a love of great wine, so we open jolly good bottles every night with dinner. Yet Belgium is famed for its beer, so if that is your preferred tittle we're happy to oblige over dinner.

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 quality hotel, restaurants and transport have all been tried and tested multiple times by us and by our guests, so we only use the best!

Testimonials & Videos

We're rated "**Outstanding**" by our tour guests and enjoy exceptional levels of repeat business. Do check what they say on our website.

Action Required

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

MAISON DU JARDINIER

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.

16th June 1815

- Napoleon attacks the Prussians at Ligny.
- Wellington holds Quatre Bras against Ney.
- D'Erlon wastefully marches between battlefields.

17th June 1815

- Blücher's Prussians concentrate at Wavre.
- Marshal Grouchy pursues to Gembloux.
- Wellington falls back through Genappe to the Mont St Jean ridge before 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 Campaigns & Culture Experience



Think you've done Waterloo 1815 or can do it in a few days? We invite you to think again! We deliver the very latest research, knowledge, 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 share elements of our 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 visit picturesque villages, find D'Erlon's route, spend a full day at Ligny, reveal new research at Genappe, take Grouchy's route to Walhain, travel with Blücher and Bülow from Wavre to Waterloo, expose the Schwerin truth, walk the Frischermont valley and much more besides.

Each tour guest receives our exclusive hand-made leather journal, packed with maps, images and information to use both during and after the tour, something to treasure as a keepsake for the future. We leave no stone unturned to bring you the most comprehensive and truly special Waterloo Anniversary Battlefield and Campaign tour.

Our Waterloo Hotel



Historic 4-Star Superior Rooms

The 4-Star Van Der Valk (Martin's Grand) is merely a cannon shot, hop, skip and jump from the battlefield of Waterloo. We've booked our personal pick of their Superior Rooms to provide the best quality, space and comfort for all our 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 Sucrierie.

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 from London to Brussels on Eurostar where we'll meet you, or if arriving by air you can take a taxi to the hotel.

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 Thursday 13th June: Meet & Greet, Memorial, Panorama, Lion Mound

Early afternoon we gather at our Waterloo hotel with a welcome, light lunch 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 restored Panorama we explain this huge painting, the tactics, formations, arms and uniforms, before exploring the French Revolutionary & Napoleonic era in the underground Memorial museum. We dine at our hotel restaurant, La Sucrerie.

DAY 2 Friday 14th June: Plans, Invasion & Events! Beaumont, Frasnes, Namur

We travel just over the border to Beaumont, where Napoleon awoke on 15th June 1815 to launch his attack on Blücher and Wellington. We locate where his campaign began to unravel before it had started and the issues faced by Gerard, Grouchy, Lobau, Mortier, Ney and Vandamme. We also examine Napoleon's much-lauded, inspirational, yet wholly deficient communication.

We join Reille's Corps 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 Frasnes as they push beyond Charleroi and the Roman road. 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 old Namur itself, subsequently defended in retreat by Grouchy's troops, enjoying a restaurant dinner before returning to our hotel.





DAY 3 Saturday 15th June: Frasnés, Quatre Bras, Genappe

We follow the Allies to Quatre Bras and parts of the Roman road before criss-crossing the Quatre Bras battlefield, examining events from the Dutch/Belgian, Nassau, Brunswick, British, German and French perspectives; the terrain, the farmhouses, the memorials and some special walking routes to appreciate the impact of the folds in the ground in this fraught battle.

We discuss the evolving situation, achievements and unresolved issues of the day, liaison of Wellington and Blücher, their staff, Marshal Ney and Napoleon.

We visit villages along the route of Wellington's subsequent withdrawal, through medieval Loupoigne and Genappe, and the auberge Roi d'Espagne, where Wellington, Prince Jerome and Blücher each slept on successive nights and where General Duhesme died. Then Uxbridge's critical cavalry rearguard action before returning to the town of Waterloo for the super little Wellington Museum and its magnificent Royal Chapel.

DAY 4 Sunday 16th June: Ligny

We enjoy an extensive exploration of 'Napoleon's final victory', the battlefield of Ligny on its anniversary day. The Prussian pre-planning and Napoleon's evolving thoughts are not widely appreciated, nor is the reality of the outcome, so we explain how the day unfolded, bringing this intense battle to life through many viewpoints, villages, the centre and flanks.

We visit Blücher's HQ at Brye, the villages of Wagnelée and St Amand, Napoleon's HQ at Fleurus, Sombreffe, the major Prussian gun-line, Tombe de Ligny, Tongrinne, Ligny's historic Ferme d'en Haut and the Gérard museum.

We walk key parts of the Prussian and French lines and exits from the villages to give you a real feel for the detailed terrain that influenced the outcome.

DAY 5 Monday 17th June: Prussian Retreat & Recovery, Grouchy's Pursuit

We discover D'Erlon's route between Quatre Bras and Ligny, where he lost the opportunity to change history. Then we follow the Prussian withdrawal routes from the Ligny battlefield, including Tilly and Gembloux, stopping at Walhain, location of the famous strawberry incident as Grouchy's pursuit faltered. Onward to the battle for Wavre and the Dyle crossing at Bierges mill to understand the issues 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 behind the Schwerin monument, walking the Bois de Paris before bursting onto the Waterloo battlefield. Our explorations and explanations throughout the day offers a unique perspective on events.



DAY 6 Tuesday 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 a deep appreciation 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, events at the crossroads, Lambert's Inniskillings, 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 in the Allied rear, enjoy a beer tasting and view the outstanding Medical Museum.

DAY 7 Wednesday 19th June: Walking Waterloo Day 2, French & Prussian Perspectives

Another day walking Waterloo. We drive the French positions deep behind the front line, seeing where Reille, Lobau, the Guard, Kellerman and Guyot were arrayed, 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 charges, and later the Imperial Guard, heading up to the allied ridge, identifying what could really be seen and achieved in attack.

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

Following the flank at Smohain and Frischermont, we discover the 'hidden' valley and its impact on the Prussian advance, then the Prussian route to Plancenoit, the monuments, the threat to Napoleon, Pirch's thrust to Chantelet farm and the Guard's last stand.



DAY 8 Thursday 20th June: Brussels, 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, the Royal quarter, Mont des Arts and a museum.

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 of using maps of the era and see just how easily expectations could fail 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 9: Friday 21st June Farewell & options

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 the Brussels Eurostar terminal for the direct train journey back to London St. Pancras.

As a gift we will be delighted to take anyone staying on to the exceptional Hergé Museum. Hergé, the creator of colourful adventurer Tintin, is one of Belgium's most famous sons, lived an extraordinary life in occupied Brussels during WW2, and we'll also show you where he lived and some of the places he drew into his stories.

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 together so you get exactly what you want out of the tour.

We'll select similar anniversary dates in 2025, and can run any variation of this special tour in June or at other times of the year as a Bespoke journey to suit.

Our Bespoke Waterloo tours can also feature visits to the British cavalry cantonments, historic Chateau, Bruges, Ghent, chocolate shops (!), all as described in our Bespoke Cavalier Mercer's G Troop RHA Waterloo Journal tour.

Your Journey



TOUR PRICE GUIDE

Scheduled Tour Price guide £4,995 per person sharing a double/twin superior room

Single occupancy supplement £495

Bespoke tour prices may vary depending on season, numbers travelling and bespoke choices made.

OPTIONS

Return travel from London on Eurostar, with a light meal served in your spacious seat.

Stay an extra night to visit the museum of the creator of Tintin, the incredible Hergé Musee.

LOYALTY REWARDS

Save £300 per person on this tour by booking a group of 3 or more on this tour.

or

Former Guests receive a loyalty discount of £300 per person on each tour joined.



Small Group Tours



Historical, Cultural, Gastronomic

Our Small Group tours provide the very best thoughtful, personalised experiences for all our 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 very best depths of history with our joy of travel, just as if it were our own holiday.

We journey at a comfortable pace so you have time to appreciate and absorb the incredible history 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, preferring a conversational friendly style.

You'll appreciate the warmth of our approach when we take you to some of the wonderful restaurants we use - truly memorable hospitality is our watchword!

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'll be happy to take account of your own specific interests and preferences, particularly if you share them with us in good time.

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 Ligny and Waterloo days when we'll be out in the fields.

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 by vehicle if necessary.

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 the pace of the slowest, provided you don't restrict or hold-up the tour. Please talk to us in advance if you have concerns.

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 favourite brand that we can recommend.





CAMPAIGNS *and Culture*

We're 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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