Somme 1916, France



FIELD GUIDE

Scouting America
Transatlantic Council

How to Use This Guide

This Field Guide leads you through the 1916 Battle of the Somme front lines, now remembered through preserved trenches, cratered fields, memorials, museums and cemeteries. The guide, designed by members of Troop 12, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, introduces travelers to a slice of WWI history through various routing options. Remember, this may be the only time your scouts visit the Somme region, so make it a great time!

While TAC tries to update these Field Guides when possible, it may be several years before the next revision. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to Admin@tacscouting.org or post them on the TAC Nation Facebook Group Page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/27951084309/.

This guide can be printed as a 5½ x 4¼ inch pamphlet or read on a tablet or smart phone.



Front Cover: Trenches at Vimy Ridge Education Center
Front Cover Inset: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial

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Getting Prepared

Just like with any hike (or any activity in Scouting), the Historic Trail program starts with **Being Prepared**.



1. **Review this Field Guide in detail.**
2. **Check local conditions and weather.**
3. **Study and Practice with the map and compass.**
4. **Pack rain gear and other weather-appropriate gear.**
5. **Take plenty of water.**
6. **Make sure socks and hiking shoes or boots fit correctly and are broken in.**
7. **Pack a first aid kit, "just in case."**
8. **Discuss the day's activities, so there are no surprises; discuss safe hiking.**
9. **Ensure Two-Deep Leadership and the Buddy System at all times.**
10. **Conduct a head count before leaving the many sites.**
11. **Check the Quick Quiz and keep it with you on the trail.**

Battle of the Somme 1916

When World War 1 began in August 1914, Germany sent its forces westward, intending to defeat the French before France's ally Russia could help. German troops also invaded neutral Belgium, which caused Great Britain to enter the war on the side of France. The invasion failed to accomplish its goal, and both sides then dug in, creating a massive line of trenches that stretched from the English Channel to Switzerland. New weapons like machine guns, poison gas, and the tank made previous battlefield tactics obsolete, as artillery and machine guns caused huge losses among attacking infantry. This new, industrialized world war was fought mainly in Europe and Africa and caused 37 to 40 million casualties.

Within this violent war, one of the deadliest battles was the Battle of the Somme that began in July 1916. This massive Allied offensive aimed to break through German defenses in northern France and relieve pressure on French forces defending Verdun (another TAC historic trail). Although both sides suffered enormous casualties, the battle ultimately weakened German forces and forced them back to a new defensive line.

Troops from across the British Commonwealth including Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, West Indies, India, and several African and Caribbean countries and colonies fought alongside their British comrades, and their heavy sacrifices contributed to the eventual end of WWI. This trail will follow the front lines found in the French Somme region, visiting memorials, cemeteries, and museums that commemorate the soldiers who fought there. You will visit trenches where soldiers lived in fear and see shell holes left behind. You will learn of the impact war has on society and nature as both are still recovering centuries later. This field guide transports you back to 1916 and shows how these battles impacted the greater effort.

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Trail Options: Full Tour

The Somme front lines were vast and are commemorated by over 4,000 memorials and cemeteries. This guide provides flexible options to fit your unit's time, including single-day outings, two or three-day road trips to see it all, and side hikes or cycling routes that support individual rank or merit badge advancement. Most routes end at the Sir John Monash Centre, where all you have seen will be placed into context using letters, diaries, videos and oral histories delivered through modern interactive media. The Centre graciously sponsored this project to reach the next generation of leaders who may guide our world towards peace.

A trip to see all of the checkpoints in this guide consists of about 160 kilometers or 100 miles. Troop 12 did this via caravan in just two days over Veteran's Day weekend in 2025 (see pages 23-24). This full tour is not just limited to the events of 1916 but includes several later battles in the area. The Somme American Cemetery at Checkpoint 1 is mainly associated with the U.S. assault on the Germans' Hindenburg Line in 1918, Checkpoints 9 and 10 deal with the Canadians at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917, and Checkpoint 16 is a site associated with the Australians at the Battle of Villers Bretonneux in 1918.






Trail Options: One-Day Tour

One-Day Tour itinerary

Units with only one day to spend in the area will probably wish to concentrate on the events of 1916 that made up the Battle of the Somme. Such a tour could start with the large Museum of the Great War (Historial de la Grande Guerre) at Peronne (Checkpoint 3), which covers all aspects of World War 1, not just the military ones, or the smaller Somme 1916 Museum at Checkpoint 15, which may be more interesting for youth because of its realistic trench warfare scenes and sound-and-light display that gives a vivid impression of the sound of battle (but make sure that no participants will react badly to loud noises and sudden flashing lights). Other key sites for a 1916 tour would be the Lochnagar Crater (14) illustrating the use of huge underground explosive charges to destroy enemy trenches; the Newfoundland Memorial (8) with its restored trenches showing how close the German lines were to those of the attacking Newfoundland Regiment; the Thiepval Monument to the Missing with 72,337 names of soldiers with no known grave and the adjacent museum (5 & 6) plus the nearby Ulster Memorial (7), where it is possible to book tours of restored trenches; and the large cemetery and small museum at Delville Wood (4). Other 1916-related sites include the Windmill Memorial (11), the War Animal Memorial (12), and the Tank Corps Memorial (13), which describes the first use of tanks in battle in 1916.

Patch Requirements

The ultimate decision on what needs to be accomplished for Scouts to earn the trail patch lies with unit leaders, but it is recommended that a tour consist of at least one major museum (Checkpoint 3 or 15) and at least four memorial sites.

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Somme Trail Checkpoints

Start Checkpoint 1 - Somme American Military Cemetery

N49.98562, E3.21383 and D57, 02420 Bony, France

The Somme American military cemetery is located near the town of Bony. Built in 1937, it serves as a resting place for almost 2000 American soldiers. While the United States of America did not enter WWI until April 6th, 1917, and primarily south of the Somme region near Verdun and through the Argonne forest, many Americans volunteered to fight alongside the French and British as soldiers in the trenches, flying in the Lafayette Escadrille, and in the ambulance corps with some estimates approaching 100,000 Americans. As with the allies, many were wounded or killed, and today, visitors can pay homage to their bravery and learn more of about the people who risked their lives for France.

The helmet at the base of the cemetery's flagpole is the standard helmet of the Americans during the Great War resting on a laurel wreath, symbolic for victory, honor and glory. In late December of 1920, Somme American Cemetery was the first cemetery to exhume the remains of service members for repatriation. After the two world wars, the families of fallen American service members had the option to either repatriate the remains of their loved ones or lay them to rest at U.S. military cemeteries abroad under the eternal care of American Battle Monuments Commission. Approximately 40% of families opted for their service members to be buried overseas, alongside their brothers-in-arms.



Checkpoint 2 - Maissemy German Cemetery

N49.90877, E3.19063 and D33, 02490 Pontru, France

Maissemy German Cemetery is located between the villages of Vermand and Bellenglise. Established in 1924, it is the second largest German war cemetery of the First World War in France. Overall, 30,481 German war dead are buried here, with 15,481 individual graves (each grave bears four names) and two large communal graves holding an additional 15,000 dead. In addition to the gravesites, visitors can see a stone and bronze memorial hall in the middle of the cemetery. This stop reminds visitors how many Germans lost their lives in the three battles of the Somme; almost half of the soldiers died in the battles from the end of June to November 1916 and in the “Great Battle of France” in the spring and summer of 1918.

Checkpoint 3 - Museum of the Great War, Péronne

N49.92926, E2.93181 and Pl. André Audinot, Péronne, France

The great war museum is located at André Audinot Péronne, France. Established on August 1st, 1992, the museum is the largest WWI museum in Europe and focuses on the battle of the Somme and many other WWI battles with original artifacts. Today, visitors can see allied and central power equipment such as uniforms and weapons, which help tell the story of what all was used and what was issued to soldiers in the time of war. This stop reminds visitors that WWI used and invented many new tactics and items that shaped the world we live in today. Many lives were also shaped because of the battles in WWI.

The Historical de la Grande Guerre in Péronne is Europe's leading museum for the social and cultural history of World War I, distinguished by its unique "comparative history" approach. Rather than focusing solely on military maneuvers, the museum interweaves the perspectives of the three main belligerent nations—France, Germany, and the United Kingdom—to illustrate the shared human suffering of both soldiers and civilians. Housed in a striking architectural fusion of a 13th-century medieval castle and a white neo-modernist building designed by Henri-Édouard Ciriani, it sits in the heart of the Somme region.

Museum parking can be found behind the building to the northwest. The museum also has a café within indoor and outdoor seating overlooking a beautiful lawn and lake. This is a great place to stop and eat your packed lunch and take a 5-mile hike that brings you to the Australian 2nd Division monument at St. Quentin (See pages 26-27).

Checkpoint 4 - Delville Wood South African Memorial

N50.02700, E2.81297 and Route de Ginchy, 80360, Longueval, France

Delville Wood South African Memorial is located in Delville Wood, opposite the Delville Wood Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery. Designed by Sir Herbert Baker, it was unveiled on October 10th, 1926. The memorial commemorates the 10,000 South African soldiers who died during WWI.

When visitors first arrive, they are first struck by the Central Avenue, a large, lush lawn lined by double rows of majestic oak trees whose lineage is traced to six acorns brought from France to South Africa in 1688 by a French Huguenot settler. In the 1920s, the African Department of Forestry collected acorns from a descendant of those original seeds to send saplings back to France to replant the devastated wood. Visitors can also see, in stark contrast to the planted oaks, a single hornbeam tree that survived the shelling, yet still stands with its trunk scarred by shrapnel.

The memorial itself is entered through a central archway over which stands a bronze statue of Castor and Pollux by Alfred Turner intended to represent the union of British and Afrikaner people within South Africa. As visitors walk from the archway to the museum, they can see the names of South Africans who died on the memorial wall. The museum, located behind the archway, is shaped like the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town. The museum remembers the sacrifice of men and women who died in WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. Across the street from the memorial, visitors can see the cemetery, where 5,521 servicemen are buried, nearly two thirds of which are in unnamed graves.

Checkpoint 5 - Thiepval Memorial to the Missing

N50.05060, E2.68567 and Rue de l'Ancre, 80300 Thiepval, France

The Thiepval Memorial, located via a short trail through the Thiepval Museum, honors 72,243 British and British Empire soldiers who have no known graves went missing in the Somme region between 1915-1918. Over 90% of the missing died between July and November 1916. The monument overlooks the Somme Battlefield and the site was chosen because it was the area of the heaviest fighting during the 1916 Battle of the Somme. The memorial hosts a ceremony each year on July 1st to mark the Battle's first day.

The Thiepval Museum is the largest Commonwealth war memorial in the world and one of the most iconic structures from the First World War. it is dedicated to the memory of the immense losses sustained during the Battle of the Somme and honors over 72,000 British and South African servicemen who died on the Somme battlefields between July 1915 and March 1918 and who have no known grave.

The 45-meter-high memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and constructed between 1929-1932. The monument is built of red brick, features sixteen massive pillars inscribed with names of the missing, and The memorial stands over an Anglo-French cemetery. The Cross of Sacrifice highlights the joint nature of the 1916 battle and serves as an Angle-French memorial. Thiepval has been described as "the greatest executed British work of monumental architecture of the twentieth century."

Checkpoint 6 - Thiepval Museum

N50.05250, E2.68803 and 8 Rue de l'Ancre, 80300 Thiepval, France

The visitor center and museum, which opened in 2004, is managed by the Museum of the Great War (Historial de la Grande Guerre, Péronne – Checkpoint 13) and tickets to both museums can be bought together at a discount. The museum allows visitors to understand the Somme regional battles and includes a panoramic fresco by Joe Sacco depicting the first day of the battle and an exhibit on WWI aviation and Aces. The museum uses various resources to explore the history, compare perspectives, and allow visitors to search for soldiers.

Checkpoint 7 - Ulster Memorial Tower

N50.06125, E2.68039 and Route de Saint-Pierre Division, 80300 Thiepval, France

The Ulster Memorial Tower is located one mile to northwest of the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing visitors center in Thiepval, France. Built and established in 1921, it serves as a national war memorial for the 36th (Ulster) Division who successfully captured the Schwaben Redoubt, one of the few units to reach its objective on the battle's first day. Today, visitors on guided tours can access the original, excavated WWI trench systems where the 36th (Ulster) Division waited on July 1st to "go over the top," connecting visitors directly to the physical reality of the 1916 assault.

Checkpoint 8 - Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial

N50.07399, E2.64880 and Rue de l'Église, D73, 80300 Auchonvillers, France

The Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial is the largest of five Newfoundland memorial sites in France and is located nine kilometers north of the town of Albert. Opened in 1925, it serves as a powerful and permanent memorial to the sacrifices of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment during the First World War, particularly on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, July 1, 1916.

This area on the Western Front was lined with both Allied and German trench lines and pockmarked “No Man’s Land” lie between the trenches. This site is one of the few places remaining where visitors can view the original trench lines and a large section of preserved cratered battleground. A “danger tree” replica marks a spot halfway across No Man’s Land and a large life-sized bronze statue of a caribou standing atop a cairn of Newfoundland granite marks the memorial’s centerpiece. The statue faces the direction of the former German trenches, where the Regiment advanced. The landscape around the monument includes plants and shrubs native to Newfoundland, chosen by landscape architect Rudolph Cochius to evoke the home province.

Checkpoint 9 - Canadian National Vimy Memorial

N50.379444, E2.773611 and Route départementale 55, Chem. des Canadiens, 62580 Givenchy-en-Gohelle, France

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is a soaring, majestic monument located on a 250-acre park at Vimy Ridge in France, serving as Canada's primary memorial to its soldiers who served and died during the First World War. Designed by Canadian sculptor and architect Walter Seymour Allward, the monument is a striking white limestone structure featuring two towering 100-foot pylons that represent Canada and France. Laden with symbolism, it features 20 allegorical figures representing virtues such as peace, justice, hope, and charity. The most poignant figure is "Canada Bereft," also known as the "Grieving Mother," sculpted from a single, massive block of stone, overlooking the Douai Plains below.

For Canadians, the taking of Vimy Ridge stands as a great feat of arms, an exceptional example of courage and sacrifice, and an important milestone in the development of their nation. Vimy has also become a place of remembrance dedicated to those soldiers who died in France and who have no known grave. After two unsuccessful Allied attempts to dislodge the Germans from this heavily fortified height, the four Canadian divisions, fighting together for the first time, seized the ridge on 12 April 1917 after four days of intense fighting. Meticulous preparation, the use of advanced technology, teamwork, and the sacrifice of thousands of Canadian lives produced this remarkable result. It was an important turning point for Canada in the war. A site of victory but also of death, as inscribed on the monument are the names and ranks of the 11,285 missing Canadians who died in France during the Great War.

Checkpoint 10 - Vimy Ridge Visitor Education Centre

N50.37199, E2.77007 and Route des Canadiens, 62580 Vimy, France

The Vimy Ridge Visitor Education Centre is a short walk south from the Canadian and Moroccan Division Memorials. Officially opened to the public on April 10, 2017, it provides a brief overview of the battle The center is staffed by Canadian students who provide free, first-come, first served public tours every half hour of the preserved subterranean tunnels and front-line trenches which include the narrowest “no-man’s land” between former German and Allied positions. The tour lasts approximately 30 minutes. Inside the education center, visitors can find the permanent exhibit: "We Will Remember" presenting personal stories that trace individual experiences of Canadians and Newfoundlanders during the First World War.

Checkpoint 11 - Windmill Site, Pozieres

N50.04507, E2.73598 and 80300 Pozières, France

The Windmill memorial is located on the D929, 6km northeast of Albert. The windmill memorial, created in 1916 and the oldest memorial in this guide, was once the site of a windmill that marked the highest point of Pozières Ridge. It was a key German observation post until it was destroyed in 1916. It was captured by Australian troops in August 1916 at a massive human cost (23,000 casualties). Between July 23rd and September 5th, 1916, three Australian divisions launched 19 attacks to capture the strategically vital Pozières Ridge. The Pozières Windmill, the highest point on the ridge, was finally secured by the 2nd Australian Division on August 4, 1916, after weeks of intense shelling.

Today, the Pozières Windmill site consists of a grass-covered mound containing the original foundations and shattered concrete fragments of German fortifications. The memorial area features an inscribed stone bench, a bronze relief map, and several interpretive boards that mark the ground where the Australian Imperial Force suffered its heaviest losses in 1916, which help tell the story of how important this checkpoint was to the war and the effects it had on the allied forces. This brief stop reminds visitors that even seemingly small battles were still brutally devastating to both sides.

Checkpoint 12 - WW1 War Animal Memorial

N50.04527, E2.73566 and Route de Bapaume, D929, Pozières, France

The WW1 War Animal Memorial is co-located with the Windmill and Tank Corps memorials. Built and established in 2016, it was created to bring attention to all the animals that died in the war. During World War I, an estimated 8 million horses, donkeys, and mules died from battle wounds, exhaustion, and disease while transporting supplies across treacherous terrain. In addition to these drafted equines, millions of other farm animals perished, including approximately 100,000 camels and countless oxen used for heavy labor. Visitors can see a bronze horse and a bronze dog, and a plaque reading “They had no choice and held no malice. They endured the same hardships and sacrifices as man. They are the four legged and winged soldiers. Lest we forget.”

Checkpoint 13 - Tank Corps Memorial

N50.04468, E2.73646 and Route de Bapaume, D929, Pozières, France

The Tank Corps Memorial was established in July 1922. Tanks were first deployed by the British as a secret weapon intended to break the stalemate of trench warfare. The monument marks the precise location where British tanks assembled before their historic debut at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on September 15, 1916. The simple memorial features a prominent granite obelisk with four detailed bronze miniatures at its corners representing the Mark I, Mark V, Whippet, and Gun Carrier tanks. Though they were effective at crushing barbed wire and provided a significant psychological shock to German defenders, their initial impact was limited by mechanical unreliability, slow speeds, and the difficult, cratered terrain. However, their debut proved armored warfare’s potential and led to immediate orders for mass production.

Checkpoint 14 - Lochnager Crater

N50.013332, E2.688673 and 80300, France

Lochnagar Crater lies on the eastern edge of the small town of Ovillers-la-Boisselle. Formed on Saturday, July 1st, 1916, when the British detonated 27 tons of explosives under the German tunnel system in the region, significantly more than normal or than what was necessary. Underground explosives like this were a key tactic of trench warfare. Both sides dug tunnels beneath enemy lines to plant mines, aiming to destroy fortifications, kill defenders, and create gaps for advancing infantry. In the static conditions of the Western Front, where barbed wire and machine guns made direct, above-ground assaults deadly, mining offered a way to break the stalemate and gain a strategic advantage.

Today, visitors can still see the enormous crater and follow a memorial walkway, which help convey the scale of the explosion and remember those lost. The explosion itself was extraordinary. The crater's size resulted from an excessive amount of explosives that not only broke the surface but threw debris outward, forming a rim about 15 feet high. Cecil Lewis described it in *Sagittarius Rising,* "The whole earth heaved and flared… a tremendous and magnificent column rose… to almost 4,000 feet."

Checkpoint 15 - Somme 1916 Museum

N50.00412, E2.64877 and Rue Anicet Godin, 80300, Albert, France

The Somme 1916 Museum is located in Albert, France. They are open from 9:00-18:00 seven days a week and the entry fee is 8 euros for adults and 5 euros for children. The museum opened on July 1, 1992 and is located in a 13th century underground tunnel 10 meters below the surface and runs 250 meters under the town of Albert. It served as an air-raid shelter in 1938 before it became a museum and was the first museum to focus entirely on the Battle of the Somme.

The museum displays medals, period weapons, and other WWI memorabilia which help understand the soldiers during that time period. The museum offers fifteen scenes depicting life in the trenches for British, German, and French soldiers. As you walk through the scenes you get a sense of how small the space while the sound of rats scurrying through the tunnels is played through speakers. There is a light and sound display at the end of the museum that helps visitors imagine living through a bombardment while in the trenches.

Checkpoint 16 - Villers-Bretonneux Memorial

N49.88707, E2.51285 and Rte de Villers Bretonneux, 80800 Fouilloy, France

Also known as the Australian National WWI Memorial, the memorial is located south of Fouilloy, France and co-located at the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery in the Somme region of France. Built in 1938 and designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, the memorial honors all Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during WWI, particularly the more than 10,000 who have no known grave. Their names are inscribed on panels covering the memorial's walls. The location was chosen to recognize the role Australian soldiers played in stopping the German advance on Amiens during the Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux in April 1918. Today, visitors can see the memorial consisting of a central tower with flanking wing walls. From the top of the tower, visitors can get a view of the surrounding countryside. The memorial and cemetery serve as the site for an annual Anzac Day dawn service on April 25th.



Checkpoint 17 - Sir John Monash Centre

N49.88715, E2.51352 and Rte de Villers-Bretonneux, Fouilloy, France

Sir John Monash Centre is an interactive multimedia experience that reveals the Australian Western Front. It is located at Route de Villers-Bretonneux, behind the Villers-Bretonneux Australian National Memorial. Opened in 2018, it is a multimedia hub that complements the memorial and cemetery. The center serves to tell the story of Australia's involvement on the Western Front from 1916 to 1918 through the words of the soldiers who served.

The center is named after General Sir John Monash, who led the Australian Corps with great success in 1918, including at the Battle of Le Hamel. Visitors can interact with touch screens and displays, and review personal diaries, letters and service records to learn about key battles like Saint Quentin, Villers-Bretonneux and Le Hamel. At the core of the center is a 360-degree theater that provides an immersive experience. Visitors should bring earbuds and a personal device to download the Sir John Monash Centre (SJMC) app, which acts as a virtual tour guide for the cemetery, memorial, and allows the guest to interact with the media inside the centre.

The Entire Route By Caravan

Driving, you can visit nearly all checkpoints in just two days, although the pace is challenging, requiring packed lunches, leaving only 1-1.5 hours in the museums, and excludes hikes that would satisfy scouting requirements. However, visiting the checkpoints in this order builds layers of context that are perfectly cemented at Sir John Monash Centre through its first-person histories experienced through its immersive, modern facility.

Traveling from the southeast, visit the checkpoints in the order listed below, and consider staying in the Youth Hostel listed in accommodations to get a good night sleep (with breakfast included) before starting day two with the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge at sunrise. The sequence accounts for museum business hours.

Day 1:
Checkpoints 1, 2, 3 (great place to eat lunch), 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

Stay overnight at the Auberge de Jeunesse Les Francas du Pas-de-Calais Youth Hostel, 24 Rue du Général de Gaulle, 62223 Saint-Laurent-Blangy, France. www.hebergement-francas62.com

Day 2:
Checkpoints 9, 10, 11-13, 14, 15, 16 & 17

Entire Route: Map



111-Mile Bike Ride

With more time, scouts can cycle through all 17 checkpoints and complete their two 25 mile rides and their 50 mile ride for the cycling merit badge and the 100 miler patch.

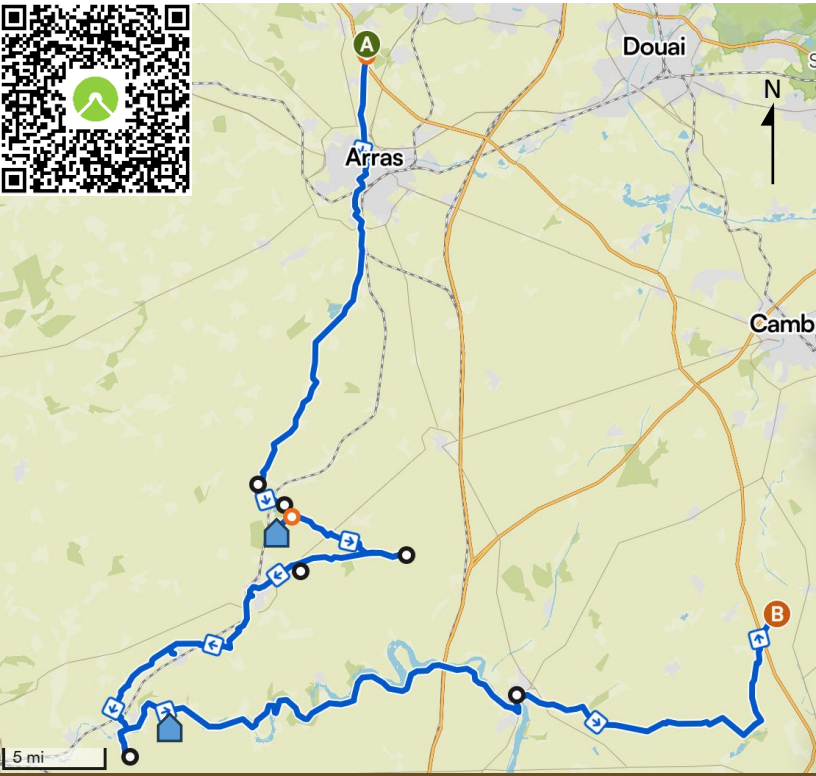
The map on the next page follows the checkpoints from north to south and is planned on cycle ways wherever possible. However, given the large swaths of farmland, many miles are peddled on narrow farm roads, and cyclists should ensure they are wearing high contrast clothing, that their bikes have proper forward and rear lights and all reflectors, and riders should avoid dusk, dawn, and night to mitigate risk.

Day 1 (30 miles): 9, 10, 8, 7, 6, 5
Stay at Camping Bellevue, N50.04114, E2.66847 and 27 Rue d'Albert, 80300 Authuille, France

Day 2 (24.5 / 54.5 miles): 4, 14, 16-17
Stay at Camping des Quatre Derniers, N49.96550, E2.56046 and 49 Ter Rue de la Filature, 80800 Ribemont-sur-Ancre, France

Day 3 (56.5 / 111 miles): 3, 2, 1

111 Mile Bike Ride Route



Somme 1916, France
HISTORIC TRAIL

5-Mile Hike in Péronne

This 5-mile loop starts from a 13th-century medieval castle and provides a tour of marsh, pond, and meadow environments as well as views of French village life, historic churches, and the Australian 2nd Division Memorial - Mont St Quentin. Scan the QR code to follow the route using a trail app.

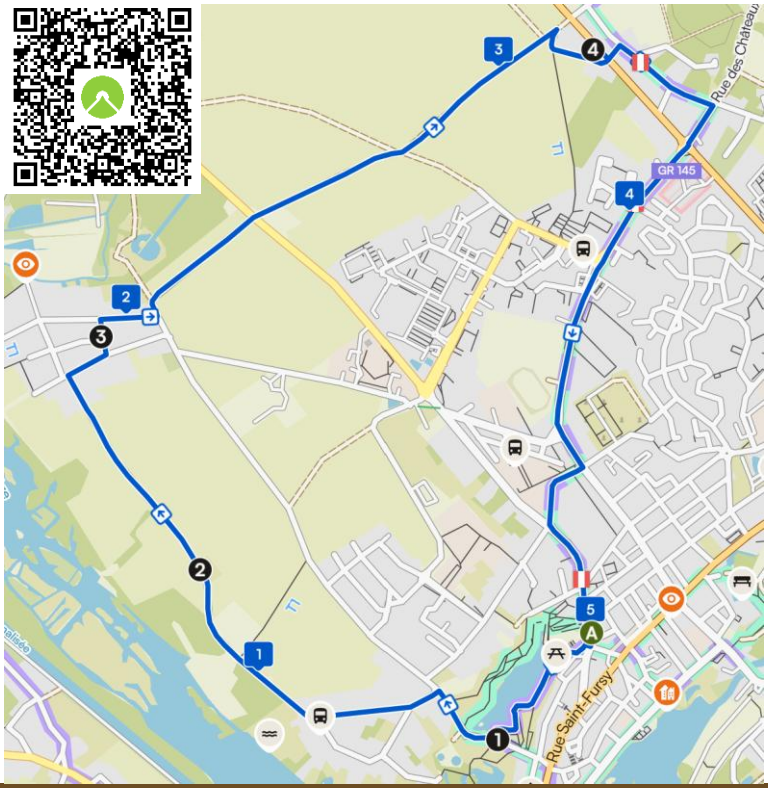


Directions: exiting the museum entrance (A), turn south (right) and follow Rue Maurice Devillers 330m until Blvd du Fort Carabit (1), turn right. Follow the blvd 500m and turn left on Rue de Maismont. Traveling northwest, you'll see the St. Radegonde Church after 1km (2). Leaving the church, continue NW 800m and turn right on Rue des Vignes, walk 130m and turn left on Rue Pailet. Walk 120m (another church (3) will pass on your left) and turn right on Rue de la Tortille. That street will end at Chemin de la Vallee, turn left, follow the road for 1.6km towards the NE until you arrive at the Ave des Australiens, turn right. Soon after, on the right, you'll arrive at the Australian 2nd Div Memorial (4). From the memorial, travel SE on Avenida des Australiens briefly and turn left on Rue Pierre L'Hermite, then right on Rue del L'Abbaye. Walk 360m then turn right on Rue de Mont Saint-Quentin through three roundabouts and at 1.8km, turn right onto Rue Jean Mermoz which will lead you back to the museum.





5 Mile Hike in Péronne



10-Mile Hike in Vimy

If you have a third day or if you are a scout looking for a great 10-mile hike for the hiking merit badge, this trail starts at the Vimy Ridge Education Center parking lot. Hiking north next to the cratered no-man land, you soon see the 300-foot memorial looming in the distance.

Turning north and with the memorial on your right you will see the Moroccan memorial to your left.

The loop proceeds clockwise onto a trail through the Petits Bois (little forest) descending slightly downhill, and thus highlighting the importance of the Vimy ridge as key high ground along the front.

The trail continues northeastward into the Givenchy forest trail and brings visitors through areas previously mined for coal deposits and other natural resources and another factor in both sides seeking to control this specific region.

All throughout your visit to the Somme region, it is important to stay clear of restricted areas where known unexploded ordinance are buried. Across the Somme, mine-clearing crews collect 100,000 pounds of shells and live ammunition each year and it is estimated that a further 700 years will be needed to clear the Somme (source: Museum of the Great War, Peronne). Should you find old ammunition, a grenade, or similar material, stay clear as the items can still explode.

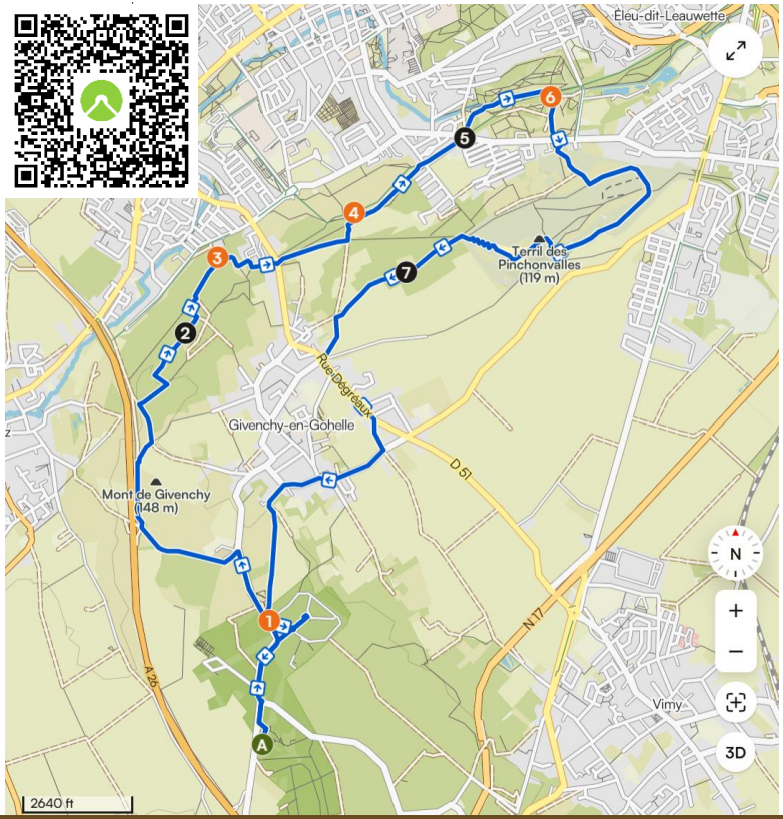








10 Mile hike from Vimy Ridge Visitor Education Centre



Somme 1916, France
HISTORIC TRAIL

Australia in World War 1

Geneal John Monash was born on June 27, 1865, and grew up in a Jewish family in Melbourne. He was an excellent student and excelled at chess, mathematics, and music. He studied arts and engineering at the University of Melbourne then went on to get a law degree.

By 1914 he was an expert in concrete construction, especially in roads and bridges and had nearly 30 years experience in the Victorian Militia, with a special interest in artillery. He commanded the 4th Infantry Brigade and took over as commander of 3rd Division in France in 1916. His success in the Third Battle of Ypres put him in good standing with the British High Command. The Australian Prime Minister appointed Monash the Australian Corps Commander in 1918. Monash went on to become the most successful general on the British side. He developed new tactics that emphasized coordination between artillery, infantry, and aircraft.

Anzac Day, observed annually on April 25th, is Australia's and New Zealand's most important day of national commemoration. It is a solemn day of remembrance that honors all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations, with a particular focus on the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 during World War I. This campaign marked the first major military action fought by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) and holds a special place in the history and identity of both nations. Anzac Day is observed with ceremonies, dawn services, parades, and moments of silence, reflecting on the bravery, sacrifice, and enduring spirit of those who served.

British Cemeteries Cross

The **Cross of Sacrifice** will be seen at all the British Commonwealth cemeteries and is identified by a large bronze longsword mounted point-downward onto the face of a cross.

The sword indicates the military character of the cemetery, and its direction symbolizes that the battle has been fought and the war is over. Together, the sword and cross form a powerful, blended image of both spiritual faith and military sacrifice.



Historic Trail Quiz

1.How many countries fought in The Battle of the Somme? _____

2. Where was Australia's first battle in WWI? _____

3. How many Canadian soldiers died on Vimy Ridge? _____

4. When did the Battle of the Somme take place? _____

5. What new weapons were used during the battle? _____

6. How long did the battle last? _____

7. What problems did soldiers face in the trenches? _____

8. What was “No Man’s Land”? _____

9. Was the Battle of the Somme worth the huge number of lives lost? _____

10. Why do we still remember the Somme today? _____

Answers below

Quiz Answers: 1) 12. 2) Landing at Gallipoli, or ANZAC landing. 3) Roughly 3600. 4) July 1 to November 18, 1916. 5) Tanks, machine guns, artillery, poison gas. 6) About 4 and a half months. 7) Mud, rats, lice, disease, constant shelling, poor sanitation, fear, and cold. 8) The dangerous, barren area between opposing trenches. 9) no wrong answer. 10) The enormous loss of life, its impact on WWI outcome, and collective memory are examples.

Advancement Requirements

Visiting the sites in the Somme 1916 Field Guide may complete the following Requirements:



Cub Scouts:

Lion:	
Mountain Lion	Req 2
Tiger:	
Tigers Bites	Req 3
Tigers in the Wild	Req 3
Wolf:	
Paws on the Path	Req 1-5
Finding Your Way	Req 3, 4, 5
Bear:	
Bear Habitat	Req 1-9
Webelos:	
Webelos Walkabout	Req 1-7
Tech on the Trail	Req 1-4
Arrow of Light:	
High Tech Outdoors	Req 1
Cycling	Req 6



Scouts BSA:

Tenderfoot:	Req 1a-c, 5a-d
Second Class:	Req 1b, 3a-d, 6c, 8b
First Class:	Req 1b, 4a-b, 5a-d

*Note: Requirements for the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Hiking, Cycling, Orienteering, and American Heritage Merit Badges and the Historic Trails Award may be earned by completing portions of this guide and learning about sites visited along the way.

Accommodations & Recommended Reading

Accommodations:
Hostel: Auberge de Jeunesse Les Francas du Pas-de-Calais Youth Hostel, 24 Rue du Général de Gaulle, 62223 Saint-Laurent-Blangy, France www.hebergement-francas62.com
Camping des Quatre Derniers. N49.95780, E2.56107 and 49 Ter Rue de la Filature, 80800 Ribemont-sur-Ancre, France
Camping Les Puits Tournants, N49.91975, E2.57977 and 6 Rue du Marais, 80800 Sailly-le-Sec, France
Camping Farm Bouzencourt, N49.91617, E2.57533 and 16 Hameau de Bouzencourt, 80800 Le Hamel, France

Recommended reading:

Barton, Peter. *The Somme: A New Panoramic Perspective* (2006)

Connor, John. *Someone Else's War: Fighting for the British Empire in World War I*. I.B. Tauris, 2019.

Gliddon, Gerald. *Somme* 1916: A Battlefield Companion (Expanded Edition, 2026)

Macdonald, Lyn. *Somme* (1983; audiobook 2020)

Middlebrook, Martin. *The First Day on the Somme. (*Revised Edition, 2020)

Nasson, Bill. *Springboks on the Somme: South Africa in the Great War, 1914-1918*. (2007).

Sheffield, Gary. *The Somme: A New History.* (2004)

Australian Remembrance Trail: A Traveller's Guide.: https://sjmc.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ART-A-Travellers-Guide-ALL-WEB_ENGLISH-2024.pdf



This Historic Trail was put together by Troop 12, Ramstein, Germany as an Eagle Scout Project led by Jacob Berck.

Additional Historic Trails in the Transatlantic Council area can be found at http://tacscouting.org

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