

'Napoleon's Waterloo'

*An Anniversary Tour to the Battle of Waterloo
17th -20th June 2011*

... At about nine o'clock in the evening the battlefield was almost cleared of the French army. It was an evening no pen is able to picture: the surrounding villages yet in flames, the lamentations of the wounded of both armies, the singing for joy; no one is able to describe nor find a name to give to those horrible scenes.'

Henri Nieman of the 6th Uhlans



The Plancenoit Re-enactment

This Anniversary Tour to Waterloo will bring the epic battle as near to reality as the six senses will allow. We walk the ground and discover more about this most remarkable story in military history as we follow the lifestyles and behaviours of Napoleonic re-enactors reliving their passion for history. Waterloo is a story of such magnitude, not only of the leaders, but also of the men themselves. It is a story of their lives, their families their fears, and their heroism and, for many, their ultimate sacrifice on that fateful June Sunday in 1815.

From its dishevelled start to its electrifying end, the Waterloo campaign fascinates in its intensity. It endured four great battles in as many days, the climax of which, dramatic by any standard, saw the defeat of an Empire and ended the dreams and ambitions of the greatest soldier of modern times. The feat of arms at Waterloo changed the entire course of European history when Bonaparte pitted his military brilliance and charisma against the tactical skill and stamina of Wellington, in an effort to decide the fate of Europe. This great military gamble unfolded 196 years ago in a small valley 11 miles south of Brussels. With two incredible chance decisions, amid 115,000 casualties, we discover that at the campaign's unbelievable end, soldiers in multicoloured coats, amidst the fog of war, did not know whether they had won or lost.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Friday 17th June - The Waterloo Campaign

- **Departure:** An early start from Moreton, Essex via pick up points by arrangement: - Brentwood (Holiday Inn - Junction A12/M25) - Maidstone Services and Dover to catch an early Dover Ferry to Calais.
- Arrive Hotel – Waterloo.
- **Royal Chapel Waterloo:** To place the importance of remembrance.
- **Wellington Headquarters and Museum** - Impressive and detailed.
- **The Waterloo Campaign – 1815.** A Presentation.
- Dinner at Plancenot and meet re-enactors.

Day 2: Saturday 18th June - Battle of Quatre Bras

- **The Cross Roads:** Where Lancers got stuck in and Wellington earns his keep defending perhaps most important road junction in Napoleonic history.
- **Pierrepoint Farm:** The wood of the same name where the largest Division in the French Army drove in the outposts of the Perponcher's 27th Jaegers.
- **Bossu Wood:** Where De Lancey wrote his deposition whilst Wellington was observing and understanding the tactical significance of the French camp fires and onion soup mid morning on that 16th June in 1815.
- **Gemioncourt Farm:** Scene of the 5th Militia's Dutch determination to hold off the French heavy horse and the fight for the farm.
- **Cherry Wood and Matern Lake:** Learn of the history of the 'Sweeps' n 'Grasshoppers'. This is Wellington's left. Understanding the significance of the first chance decision of the campaign, the ground of importance and where Perponcher and Rebecque decided wisely. We stand where the East Essex (44th Foot) fought on that hottest of recorded days.
- **The Quatre Bras Memorials:** Dutch, Belgium and British. The aftermath and the prelude to Waterloo.
- Lunch
- **Chantelet Farm:** The Chapel and where Marshal Ney spent the night of 17 June.
- **Le Caillou:** We meet re-enactors, outline and understand the Waterloo Campaign of 1815 and visit Napoleon's Headquarters. We contemplate the demise of the greatest soldier of modern time.

At Le Caillou in the room where it happened, we hear how Napoleon overruled his commanders and advisors. We look at how a very serious battle conference went horribly wrong. Confusion, bad feeling and loss of trust resulted.



Napoleon's statue at Le Caillou

- **The Panorama:** The largest mural in Europe. It depicts the almost surreal but courageous series of French cavalry charges against the Allied squares of infantry resisting them.

- **The Lion Mound** – In one’s lifetime this is surely a ‘must visit’ location. You view the entire hallowed acres where British heritage and history has set modern military standards. A very easy pace is assured and you will be rewarded with a memorable experience.



The Lion Mound - 300,000 cubic meters of earth

- Dinner after which we seek out the re-enactors.

Day 3: Sunday 19th June – The 2011 Re-enactment and the 'Way of the Prussian'

- **Re-enactors in battle:** We follow the fight out of Plancenoit, the very centre of the Prussian effort against 6 battalions of the Napoleon’s Young Garde.



The 27th Regt ‘Advance at Plancenoit’



The British ‘In Square’

- Lunch.
- **Picton’s Line:** Where the rough sharpened sabres of the Union Brigade devastated the best part of two French Divisions, the story of a General a Sergeant and what hit the Essex boys from the rear.
- **Papelotte:** The importance of the Allied left flank and why little is known of the events in this part of the battlefield is revealed.
- **Zieten’s Crossroads:** That great chance decision.



Zeithen’s Crossroads

Here on Wellington’s left flank, General Zeithen, a Prussian commander, was about to execute the strategic intent of his superior when he is ordered to do the seemingly opposite. He knew his boss’s mind, and his organizational culture but would he trust in his own judgment?

- **Chapel St Robert:** The truth about Blucher's march to the 'sound of the guns'.
- **Chapel St Lambert:** The Prussian Rubicon, greasy banks of the Lasne defile and Farm de la Kelle.
- **Schwerin's monument:** The first action between Bulow's 4th Corps and Marbots' Hussars.
- **Bois de Paris:** Hake's Brigade as they emerged to confront the French reserves of Domon and Subervie.
- **Chateau Frischermont:** The secrets of this place are surprising and educational.
- Dinner at Le Gros Velo.

Day 4: Monday 20th June - Battle of Waterloo - The End Game

- **Hougoumont Farm and Chapel:** The ground Wellington deemed most important. Scene of 'The Battle within the Battle'.



Hougoumont's Infamous Southern Wall

- **La Haie Sainte:** Scene of the desperate struggle between the King's German Legion and d'Erlon's French.
- **La Belle Alliance:** Ney's second argument with Kellerman and the latter's almost vision of France riding to her demise.
- **The Way of the Garde:** Napoleon's Imperial Columns.
- **Mercer's Ridge:** Ney's gallant cavalry charges, the final attack of the Imperial Guard, the tales from the ridge and the aftermath.
- Depart for Calais.

Tour Departure Rendezvous:

Tour starts/ends at Moreton, Essex. Departure at 0600 Hrs Friday 17 June - via M25/M20 Pick up points by arrangement.

Tour Duration 3 Nights & 4 Days

Tour price per person sharing £635 - Deposit £200 - Single Supplement £120

Tour Ref: CWT W'Loo 11

<u>Included in the price of your Tour:</u>	<u>Excluded from the price of your Tour:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Star Hotel B&B (3 Dinners with Wine) • Ferry Crossing Dover-Calais return • All museum entry fees • Luxury Coach Transport • Guild of Battlefield Guides - Qualified Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Lunches • Breakfast on 17 June • Hotel extra services, telephone, bar and business facilities • Dinner on 20 June • Insurance

YOUR GUIDE

Graeme Cooper has been battlefield guiding for several years and operates *Cooper's Waterloo Tours*, specialising in tours to the battlefields of Europe for adults, and leadership training for the military. A Fellow of the International Napoleonic Society, Graeme's interest in military history was sparked during his time as a cadet at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst by the lecturer and renowned military historian and author, the late Dr David Chandler.

In November 2002, Graeme founded the International *Guild of Battlefield Guides*, of which he is a Director on Guild Council. In May 2006 he started Corporate Battlefields, a business leadership training company for corporate management. He is a recognised Great War and WW2 guide, member of the Battlefields Trust and former Chairman of the British Army of the Rhine Branch of the Western Front Association. Graeme is married with a son and a daughter, both of whom are commissioned in the British Army.



Lady Butler's 'The Charge of the Geys'
The troopers charged with 'rough sharpened sabres' a fact only made public Circa 1850

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