



MARCH OF THE PHOENIX

An interactive walk on remembrance.

Over a century after the Great War ended, we look back and reflect on the meaning and relevance of remembrance. Who, how and why do we remember? Just as the early pilgrims, today's visitors to the battlefields of Flanders bring their own customs and rituals to commemorate their loved ones.

We visit some recently added headstones at a local military cemetery and contemplate a traditional Maori ceremony at the New Zealand Memorial Park. The March of the Phoenix is the unique introduction to your new environment. All participants will discover the diversity of war represented in the memorials. All Global Peace Games nationalities are mixed as are the victims of the Great War.

Participants are asked to be mindful of the environment and respectful of one another, throughout the Global Peace Games. The March of the Phoenix will place you in a historical walk that will help you contextualise your emotions and thoughts on why you are at the Global Peace Games.

The off the beaten track trail will bring us to the beautiful Island of Ireland Peace Park with its magnificent round tower. The Tower is highly symbolic to all Irish men and women around the world. All nationalities that visit the site learn that it was the last time in history that the people on the Island of Ireland fought together against a common enemy.



MESEN RIDGE

Turbulent history of Messines during the war. Messines Ridge British Cemetery. Located on a ridge, it's one of the many British cemeteries that dot the landscape. The Memorial Obelisk has the names of 840 New Zealand soldiers inscribed on it. Fallen heroes who lost their lives at Messines and have an unknown grave. The cemetery itself contains 986 Commonwealth soldiers and the graves of 954 unknown soldiers. But at the same time it is a special viewpoint of the battlefield of Messines.

NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL

The next walk leads to the New Zealand Battlefield Memorial Park. The obelisk, planned in a memorial park, was built on a German position. By the way, you will still find the remains of two partially buried bunkers. But also look around you, the view here is impressive.

IRISH PEACE PARK

Another special place to visit on your day in Mesen is the [Irish Peace Park](#). A high, round tower commemorates the Irish soldiers who died during the First World War. At the same time, it's a symbol of reconciliation between all residents of the Irish island.

During the Battle of Messines, the Catholic and Protestant Irish divisions (the 16th and 36th Ulster) fought side by side to capture the hill on which Messines was built.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

The fathead of Mesen can be seen from afar. It's the nickname for St. Nicholas' Church, on account of its domed tower. The church dates 1057 met local needs with the construction of a Benedictine abbey. It gave Mesen the necessary prosperity.