



## **WWII Expedition: In The Footsteps of Major “Dick” Winters**

Battle of the Bulge - Liberation of Luxembourg - Dachau – Munich - The Eagle’s Nest

**September 11 - 25, 2019**

**Land Rate \$4895.000 pp/dbl occ (sngl supp \$900.00)**

Day 1 – September 11

Departure for Paris

Depart US for overnight travel to Paris – Optionally, choose our non-stop round-trip group air available in October 2018. Budget allowance \$1200 - \$1300. Departure from EWR or PHL. Requires \$250.00 deposit when airfare is available. (\$100 non-refundable).

Day 2 - Sep 12 (D)

Paris

Arrive at CDG airport, Paris. Meet your guide for a half-day city tour of the City of Lights.

Travel along the Champs-Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe, view the Eiffel Tower from the Montparnasse Tower. Join your fellow travelers at the end of the day for a Welcome Dinner and turn in early for a good night's sleep. Overnight Paris.

Day 3 – Sep 13 (B, L)

Versailles: The Treaty's Harsh Terms, German Humiliation and Rise of the Nazi Party

Versailles, a place of grandeur and luxury, was the site of the German surrender after WWI. Our visit is twofold... admiring the palatial grounds, gardens, art collection and residences and learning about the demands of demilitarization, concessions of territories, and “War Guilt Clause” imposed on Germany and her allies with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on May 9, 1919 at the end of WWI.

Afternoon, travel to Normandy... and visit Arranches and the D-Day Museum. This quaint seaside town was a bustling seaport within days of the D-Day invasion as the “floating harbors” were assembled and the offloading of vehicles and equipment began, and continued until the end of the war. Remnants of the concrete “Mulberries” are still visible in the distant surf.

Last stop en route to the hotel, the gun battery at Longues sur Mer. Your Normandy lodging is just 1K from Omaha Beach. Overnight Normandy.

Day 4 - Sep 14 (B, D)

Normandy – Operation Overlord – No Better Place to Die

Your day begins in the square of Ste. Mere-Eglise, with a view of the steeple where paratrooper John Steele dangled helplessly, hoping the retreating Germans would presume him dead. Off the square, enter the Airborne Museum which honors the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. Ste. Mere-Eglise, considered the first town liberated on D-Day, is a “sister city” to Gettysburg, PA. Linger in the Museum and book store, stroll to the nearby café for a late morning latte and pastry.

You'll travel 10K to the D-Day Museum at Utah Beach. You'll have ample time to visit the Museum, bookstore, and walk onto the beach. Stop at the Roosevelt Café for lunch and study the hundreds of signatures penned by returning WWII Veterans over the years.

Set off to Brecourt Manor – after a brief photo op at the E-Company Memorial, your coach will rumble down the gravel lane to the Manor Home. This battle was the first test of then Lt. Winters' leadership as he commanded elements of Company E, 506th PIR, successfully eliminating a German artillery battery. If available, the current owner will extend a personal welcome. Departing Brecourt Manor, visit the Richard Winters Leadership Memorial outside of Ste. Marie du Mont. Stop at the church at Angoville au Plain where medics of the 101st treated the wounded, using church pews as makeshift hospital beds, as artillery rained around them.

In the late afternoon light, explore the “drop zone” of the 82nd Airborne at La Fiere and the Mederet River. The story is retold at the Iron Mike Statue, honoring the men of the 82nd. Imagine Rommel's “asparagus” in the surrounding countryside. Aperitifs are served in a centuries old renovated Grain Barn, now a B&B, which stood at the cross road of fierce fighting – hosted by Vivian, a true Patriot from North Carolina, and her husband Rodolphe, a retired French Navy officer. Embrace their passion to keep the stories alive. Overnight Normandy.

Day 5 - Sep 15 (B, L)

Begin the day at Pointe du Hoc where the American Second Ranger Battalion, led by Colonel Earl Rudder, climbed the 100' cliffs in the early hours of D-Day. Step into abandoned German bunkers still partially buried amidst the bomb craters.

Enjoy lunch along the seacoast.

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Day 5 – Cont'd - Your visit to Normandy concludes at the Normandy American Cemetery, where 9,387 of our military dead lie buried and the Walls of the Missing contain 1,557 names of those missing in action, presumed dead. The beautiful bronze statue, "Spirit of American Youth," rises above the hallowed ground, reminding all of the sacrifice given by so many. Admire the granite portico with etchings of the maps and military narrative. Follow your guide or let your heart lead you through the cemetery to the Chapel. Rejoin the group at the access point to the beach. Generous time is provided.

If you are able, go beyond the cemetery, down through the dunes, to the sands of Omaha Beach. Known as "Bloody Omaha," as you gaze back to the dunes, you'll see the German gun emplacements and understand the grueling ordeal undertaken by those guiding the landing craft and those who landed on the exposed beachfront. The single day casualties from the June 6, 1944 landing at Omaha Beach are estimated at 2,400. Make your way to the Interpretive Center for the personal stories... nearby villagers, German soldiers, and American service personnel from medics to generals.

Overnight Normandy.

Day 6 - Sep 16 (B, D)

Normandy through Belgium to The Netherlands

Depart Normandy and wind your way toward Holland. Enjoy late afternoon in Eindhoven, which named Major Dick Winters as a "Citizen of Honor." Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Eindhoven.

Day 7 - Sep 17 (B, L)

The Netherlands – Operation Market-Garden – "Liberation Day"

A short morning drive brings you to The Wings of Liberation Museum. This museum is dedicated to the 101st Airborne. The September 17, 1944 "drop zone" of Easy Company is only a few miles away. The museum provides an exclusive transfer for our group in vintage US WWII military vehicles, recovered and refurbished with great care. You'll also stop at the Memorial to LTC Robert Cole, 101st Medal of Honor Recipient. After returning to the Museum, you'll enjoy late lunch at the Café adjoining the Museum.

Overnight Eindhoven.

Day 8 - Sep 18 (B, L, D)

The Netherlands – Operation Market-Garden

An hour's drive north of Eindhoven, you'll stand in the Footsteps of Major Dick Winters at Schoonderlogt, which served as headquarters for Colonel Strayer during the Battle of Arnhem. The arch to this farmhouse is the site of the iconic photo of Major Dick Winters, standing with his helmet under his left arm. Departing here, ride along the dike road, to stop at a nondescript location in the middle of peaceful Dutch farmland, and understand how the terrain provided advantage to Winters and his men when they surprised and overtook an encampment of SS soldiers.

Midday, visit The Liberation Museum in Groesbeek and the Hall of Honor with names of 150,000 Allied soldiers who died between D-Day and VE-Day. Lunch and Liberation Cake is served in the cafeteria after the museum tour.

Enjoy an early group dinner and the festive mood of "Remember September" in Eindhoven.

Overnight Eindhoven.

Day 9 - Sep 19 (B, L)

On to Belgium - Battle of the Bulge

Your first stop is Belgian Fort Eben Emael, the formidable fortress, taken by 77 German paratroopers who captured the 3,000 Belgian soldiers, opening the door for the German invasion of Western Europe on May 10, 1940. Then stop at the ABMC cemetery, Margraten, where many of the fallen were killed during Operation Market-Garden and the Liberation of Holland.

The afternoon begins with lunch at Five Points Café, and a tour of the Baugez Crossroads Museum, including a documentary about the Malmedy Massacre, the savage attack on unarmed US POWs, that occurred in the field just beyond the museum grounds.

As you head to Bastogne, you'll have one more stop at Grosskampenberg where the German's pyramidal concrete "Dragon's Teeth," in decay after 75 years, can still be seen. By early evening, you'll arrive in Bastogne, the town defended by the 101st Airborne Division during the harsh winter of 1944-45. Enjoy a short exploration of the downtown area, McAuliffe Square, and dinner on your own. Try Le Nuts Café!

Overnight Bastogne.

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Day 10 - Sep 20 (B, L)

The "Hole in the Donut"

The morning begins at the Bastogne Barracks, an active Belgian military base, which served as 101st HQ during the dark days when the division was surrounded. You'll descend the same stairway General McAuliffe did, stepping into his office, where he received the demand for surrender from the German commander. And penned his response "NUTS!"

Out of town, in the Bois Jacques, above the village of Foy, walk through the dense forest and stand beside the shallow foxholes and fighting positions dug into the frozen ground by members of 2nd Battalion of the 506th PIR.

After a visit to the Mardasson Memorial, the Belgian Memorial erected to honor and commemorate the American troops who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, enjoy free time in Bastogen. Dinner on your own. Overnight Bastogne.

Day 11 - Sep 21 (B, D)

The Battle of the Bulge

We spend this day touring the battlefields of the Bulge. Twelve divisions were involved in the fiercest fighting, and the deadliest, of the ETO. Decaying German bunkers, trees still bearing the carved initials of young G.I.s, a sloped hillside where the savory scent of Thanksgiving dinner for the US troops drifted down to the valley floor, to the cold and desperate German Army, "dining" on canned fish and crackers.

Finish the day studying the amazing collection at the National Military Museum of Luxembourg in Diekirch.

Overnight Luxembourg

Day 12 - Sep 22 (B, D)

Through Heidelberg and On To Munich

Begin our day paying our respects at The American Cemetery at Hamme, Luxembourg. Many who died in the fighting in the Battle of the Bulge are buried here, including E-Company's Warren "Skip" Muck and Alex Penkala who were killed in their foxhole, a scene in the "Band of Brothers" episode "The Breaking Point." Although he perished in an automobile accident, Lt. General George S. Patton lies buried here with his men. A young PA soldier was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor... at his headstone, hear the story of his courage.

Then en route to Stuttgart, enjoy an afternoon stop in Heidelberg, a beautiful riverside town boasting the oldest university in Germany, and a towering fortress of castles, once guardians of the city. Overnight Stuttgart.

Day 13 - Sep 23 (B)

"The Final Solution"

The day begins with a somber reminder of the terror and inhumanity of the Third Reich. While first serving as a "prison for political dissidents" in 1933, after the crafting of the Final Solution, the camp was expanded in 1939 to a capacity of over 11,000 German and Austrian Jews. Liberated by American troops in 1945, in its 12 years in existence, Dachau held more than 200,000 prisoners, Homosexuals, gypsies, and Jews, with estimates that 42,000 died inside its walls. Three chapels - Protestant, Catholic and Jewish - now stand at the end of the "yard" in memory of those who perished. The Bookstore offers a tremendous selection of non-fiction and fiction.

Late afternoon, enjoy free time in Munich and the Oktoberfest spirit of the city...consider the Hofbrau Haus for an authentic "Bierhall" dining experience. Dinner on your own. Overnight Munich.

Day 14 - Sep 24 (B, D)

Bavarian Alps

You'll climb to 6,000' to reach Obersalzberg. First, visit the Dokumentation Center, which chronicles the rise of Nazi Germany. Descend to the lowest level where you'll walk through the excavated complex of bunkers built to shield Hitler and his guests in the event of attack. Then, "take the Eagle's Nest" aboard the tram which winds its way up the mountain, around hairpin turns, to Hitler's mountain retreat "Eagle's Nest" (weather permitting).

Departing the Alps, enjoy the panoramic views of the German countryside. After packing and readying your belongings for the morning flight, join the group for a final dinner - reflecting on the trip, exchanging email addresses, and toasting the American forces who liberated Europe in 1944-45. Dinner of hearty German cuisine. Overnight Munich.

Day 15 - Sep 25 Trip of a Lifetime A final breakfast, home to the "States"

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## Battlefields, Bridges, Memorials and Monuments –

*here's a partial list ... expect the unexpected!*

### Normandy

- Major Dick Winters Leadership Monument,
- Pointe du Hoc
- Iron Mike Statue at La Fiere
- Brecourt Manor
- E-Company Memorial
- Navy Monument at Utah Beach

### Netherlands

- John Thompson Bridge
- LTC Cole Memorial
- Schoonderlogt
- Hall of Honor

### Belgium

- The Dragon's Teeth
- Mardasson Monument
- McAuliffe Square
- German Cemetery
- 101<sup>st</sup> Memorial
- Malmedy Massacre
- The Bois Jacques

### Luxembourg

- PA 28<sup>th</sup> ID Monument
- Patton's Grave

### Germany

- Eagle's Nest
- Excavated Bunkers at Obersalzberg

### Inclusions:

Cemeteries – Three American Battle Commission Monument Cemeteries  
Normandy Margraten Luxembourg

### Museums – Eleven Museums

- Versailles
- Interpretive Center at Normandy American Cemetery
- Airborne Museum, Ste. Mere-Eglise
- D-Day Museum at Utah Beach
- Wings of Liberation Museum, Eindhoven
- National Liberation Museum, Groesbeek
- Fort Eben Emael, Belgium
- 101st HQ Museum, Bastogne
- Bagnez Crossroads Museum
- Dachau Concentration Camp, Dachau
- Dokumentation Center, Obersalzberg

Alcohol: Alcoholic beverages are not included but are available.

Tour Capacity: Minimum of 15 people must be registered 120 days prior to departure or tour may be cancelled. All deposits are refunded or you may transfer to another tour. Your individual travel should not be booked until this deadline has passed and the tour departure is guaranteed.

Air Rates – Independent air travel arrangements are discouraged at the beginning of the tour due to our coach pick-up at CDG. However, you may meet us at our arrival night hotel instead of CDG.

Transportation – Vintage WWII Vehicles Battlefield Tour  
Modern European Motor-coach – 15 days

**Travel Protection**—Highly encouraged. Details provided at time of deposit or check our website.

### Meals:

Breakfast Daily – Six lunches – Two receptions – Eight Dinners -  
Lunch stops en route at "Service Plazas" which offer home-made sandwiches, crusty European breads and cheeses.

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Gratuities not included:

Historian:

Recommend \$5 - \$7 per person per day. (given in US currency)

Tour Manager:

Recommend \$6 - \$8 per person per day. (given in Euros)

### Gratuities Included:

Hotel Porters and restaurant staff for meals and services. Local Guides/Drivers.

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