



WWII Battlefield Expedition – The Western Front

Paris – Versailles - Normandy Invasion – Remember September
Battle of the Bulge - Liberation of Luxembourg - Dachau – Munich - The Eagle’s Nest
September 11 – 25, 2018
Land Rate \$5495.000 pp/dbl occ (sngl supp \$999.00)

Day 1 – Sep 11
Depart US for overnight travel to Paris

Departure for Paris

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, D) Paris Awaits
After breakfast, head to the Musée de L’Armée, have lunch on your own at an iconic street-side café and then explore Paris...perhaps an art museum, a walk to the Eiffel Tower. Overnight Paris.

Day 4 – Sep 14 (B, D) Versailles and Off to Normandy
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. Then meander to the delightful public market and town center to grab lunch, chocolates, almonds, café or wine.

Afternoon, travel to Normandy... and visit Arramanches 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 5 - Sep 15 (B, D) Normandy – Operation Overlord
Your day begins at Utah Beach. You’ll have ample time to visit the Museum, bookstore, and walk onto the beach. Have lunch on your own at the Roosevelt Café and study the hundreds of signatures penned by returning WWII Veterans over the years.

During the afternoon, visit Brecourt Manor, the seven sided field where elements of Easy Company took out four German guns. Stop at the Major Dick Winters Leadership Memorial, and make a brief visit to the church at Angoville Au Plain, where medics treated the wounded... including civilians and German soldiers.... using church pews as makeshift hospital beds, as artillery rained around them.

Final touring stop...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. Step into the church to view the stained glass windows that honor the paratroopers, who landed behind enemy lines in the dark night of D-Day.

In the fading 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.



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Day 6 - Sep 16 (B, L, D)

Begin the day at the Overlord Museum. Then travel to 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 in Grand Camp Maisy along the coast of the English Channel.

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, take the long staircase down to the dunes, to Omaha Beach. Known as “Bloody Omaha,” as you gaze up 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 D-Day 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 7 - Sep 17 (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 8 - Sep 18 (B, L, D)

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. Stop at the Memorial to LTC Robert Cole, 101st Medal of Honor Recipient. After returning to the Museum, you’ll enjoy a late lunch at the Café adjoining the Museum. Return to the hotel stopping in Odenrode or Neunin at memorials and history. Dinner at hotel. Enjoy festive “Remember September” activities and Parade of Lights with displays that will be familiar. 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.

The afternoon begins with lunch at Five Points Café, and a tour of the Baugnez 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.

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.

Day 10 - Sep 20 (B)

Bastogne

The morning Luxembourg Historian Emeritus Roland Gaul joins you for two full days of Bastogne... and beyond Bastogne. Begin at the 101st Museum near the hotel... with its “bomb shelter” experience. Then travel to 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, Roland will join us to direct our driver to memorials to PA’s 28th Infantry Division, small red Keystones, “Bloody Buckets,” found in many places where the Iron Division fought to liberate the country. Overnight Bastogne.

Toll Free: 717-417-USA1

www.dogtagtours.com

Info@dogtagtours.com

B- Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner



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Day 11 – Sep 21 (B, L, D)

Beyond Bastogne

Historian Roland Gaul or one of his knowledgeable colleagues will board the coach and assist in directing this day. Roland has led countless tours for dignitaries and military officers for over four decades. Born and raised in Luxembourg, he is passionate about preserving the history of the liberation of LUX, and the area of greatest conflict in Europe during WWII... The Battle of the Bulge. As the route travels rural rolling roads and beneath tree canopied passes, a local historian is necessary ... to find the smallest of intersections where Americans and Germans could exchange cigarettes and candy in the middle of a small bridge “...no man’s land.....” to locate a hidden glen where tree trunks still bare the carved initials of young American soldiers, to pull over at the edge of a farmer’s field where rows of Dragon’s Teeth still stand. Overnight Luxembourg.

Day 12 - Sep 22 (B, D)

We say farewell to the battlefields of the Bulge by 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 Day Turner was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor... at his headstone, hear the story of his courage. En route to Stuttgart, stop in Heidelberg, home to Germany’s oldest university. Shops and cafes line the streets. Cathedrals are open to visit. The castle guards the city. The River Neckar invites relaxation. Group Dinner at Hotel. 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. Farewell Dinner. 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

- LTC Cole Memorial
- Overveld Home

Belgium

- The Dragon’s Teeth
- Mardasson Monument
- McAuliffe Square
- German Cemetery
- 101st Memorial
- Malmedy Massacre
- The Bois Jacques

Luxembourg

- PA 28th ID Monument
- Patton’s Grave

Germany

- Eagle’s Nest
- Excavated Bunkers at Obersalzberg

Inclusions:

Cemeteries – Two American Battle Commission Monument Cemeteries:

Normandy and Luxembourg

Museums – Eleven Museums

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

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.

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

Transportation – Vintage WWII Vehicles Battlefield Tour

Modern European Motor-coach – 15 days

Gratuities not included – recommended amounts:

Paris City & Versailles Guide: 6 - 7 Euros per person

Battle of the Bulge Historian: 10 Euros per person

Tour Manager: 6 - 7 Euros per person per day

Bus Driver: 3 – 4 Euros per person per day

Gratuities Included:

Hotel porters and restaurant staff for meals and services.

Meals:

Breakfast Daily – Four lunches – Nine Dinners -

Lunch stops in public markets, sidewalk cafes and en route at “Service Plazas” which offer homemade sandwiches, crusty European breads and cheeses.

Alcohol: Alcoholic beverages are not included but are available.

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B- Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner

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