



***“In the Footsteps of Major Dick Winters”
WWII Battlefield Expedition with Airborne Focus***

Normandy Invasion – The Liberation of Holland – Battle of the Bulge
September 11 - 24, 2017
Land Rate \$3895.000 pp/dbl occ (sngl supp \$800.00)

Historian – Steve Mrozek, National Historian for the 82nd Airborne Division Association, 1984-2005

As you travel from D-Day to Eagle’s Nest, you will watch “Band of Brothers” with episodes viewed in the order of your travels. Bring your book to make notes and preserve memories.

Day 1 – September 11

Departure for Paris

Depart US for overnight travel to Paris – Optionally, choose our non-stop roundtrip air available from PHL \$1200.00. Requires \$250.00 deposit (\$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, D)

The British Airborne and British Engineering

Board your coach for morning departure to begin exploring Normandy. Consider the British objective at Pegasus Bridge where the British Airborne captured the bridge intact, critical to advancing supplies and armored vehicles throughout the Normandy campaign.

Enjoy a thirty minute drive along the coastline of the English Channel en route to Arromanches. 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. Overnight Normandy.

Day 3 Sep 14 (B, D)

Normandy – Operation Overlord

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. Overnight Normandy.

Day 4 Sep 15 (B, L)

Normandy – “No Better Place to Die”

Today 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. A private reception is 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.

Continue 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.

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.

Your guide leads you beyond the cemetery, through the dunes, down 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 beach front. 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.

Toll Free: 717-417-USA1

www.dogtagtours.com

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B- Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner



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Day 5 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 6 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. Return to the hotel for free time. Overnight Eindhoven.

Day 7 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.

En route back to Eindhoven, stop at the John Thompson Bridge over the Maas River between Grave and Nederesselt. The 82nd Airborne had the critical task to take the bridge intact and protect the access provided by the bridge.

Enjoy an early group dinner and the festive mood of “Remember September” in Eindhoven. Overnight Eindhoven.

Day 8 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, Henri-Chapelle where many of the fallen, 7,992 graves, were killed during the Battle of the Bulge.

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.

Day 9 Sep 20 (B) The Battle of the Bulge - Bastogne
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.

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.

Visit the Mardasson Memorial, the Belgian Memorial erected to honor and commemorate the American troops who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After lunch on your own at the café, you may optionally tour the Belgian War Museum. Heading back to Bastogne, stop at other battle sites and memorials. Dinner on your own. Overnight Bastogne.

Day 10 Sep 21 (B, D) Travel Day through Luxembourg and Germany
Your only WWII tour stop today is 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.
Group Dinner at Hotel. Overnight Stuttgart.

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Day 11 Sep 22 (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 12 Sep 23 (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 trams which wind their 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 13 Sep 24 Trip of a Lifetime A final breakfast, home to the “States”

Inclusions:

Cemeteries – Three American Battle Commission Monument Cemeteries
Normandy Henri-Chapelle Luxembourg

Museums – Ten Museums

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

Transportation – Vintage WWII Vehicles Battlefield Tour
Modern European Motor-coach – 11 days

Meals: Breakfast Daily – Four lunches – Two receptions – Seven Dinners -
Lunch stops en route between battlefields and museums at “Service Plazas”
which offer home-made sandwiches, crusty European breads and cheeses.

Gratuities Included: Hotel Porters and restaurant staff for meals and services.

Local Guides/Driver.

Gratuities Not included: Historian: Recommend \$5 - \$7 per person per day.

Tour Manager: Recommend \$4 - \$6 per person per day.

Alcohol: Alcoholic beverages are not included but are available.

Tour Capacity: Minimum of 20 people must be registered 120 days prior to departure or tour may be cancelled. All deposit 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.

Toll Free: 717-417-USA1

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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
101st Memorial
Malmedy Massacre
The Bois Jacques

Luxembourg

Patton's Grave

Germany

Eagle's Nest
Excavated Bunkers at Obersalzberg

*“Maria and I loved the tour.
Steve is A#1.”*

Maria and Guy Goldsmith
Ellenville, NY, September 2015