



WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA
& PARTNERS

COURAGE ON THE COAST OF FRANCE

83RD ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY CRUISE

A commemorative voyage from Bordeaux to the beaches of Normandy aboard SH *Diana*



MAY 30 – JUNE 8, 2027

Featuring expert historians, local guides, and an original cast member from *Band of Brothers*

BORDEAUX | LORIENT | BREST | SAINT-MALO | NORMANDY | AMSTERDAM



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
TRAVEL



American GIs disembark an LCP on Omaha Beach under intense German machine gun fire in the early morning hours of June 6, 1944. Chief Photographer's Mate Robert F. Sargent, June 6, 1944. Official US Coast Guard photograph, Gift of Stacy Hutchinson, from the Collection of The National WWII Museum. 2000.325.026

Cover: Saint-Malo Coastline

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DEAR WORLD TRAVELER,

In 1940, France fell to German forces in just six weeks. The country was divided and placed under tight control. In the north, cities like Paris were subjected to military rule. In the south, the Vichy regime implemented Nazi policies while claiming to govern independently. Daily life was shaped by restrictions, surveillance, and fear. Yet even under these conditions, resistance began to take root. Across France, networks of civilians gathered intelligence, sabotaged infrastructure, and sheltered fugitives. Their efforts grew over time and played a crucial role in preparing the way for liberation in 1944.

World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, in partnership with The National WWII Museum's Educational Travel Program, is pleased to offer to our council travelers and friends **Courage on the Coast of France**, a new cruise voyage along the western shores of France and into the heart of Normandy that will delve into the rich history and culture of these coastal regions. This tour explores the story of World War II in Europe—with the June 6, 1944, D-Day landings in Normandy at the heart of the journey. This 2027 cruise aboard the majestic Swan Hellenic SH *Diana* features highly esteemed authors and historians from around the world, joined by the Museum's own historical expert from the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, who will educate our guests with compelling and memorable insights into *the war that changed the world*.

In addition to the nine-night cruise from Bordeaux to Amsterdam, a variety of unique pre- and post-tour options have been custom curated for those who want to extend their journeys:

- **Limoges French Resistance**, two-night pre-tour featuring Michael Neiberg, PhD
- **Occupation and Resistance in Amsterdam**, three-night post-tour featuring Alexandra Richie, DPhil
- **Easy Company: Market-Garden to Berchtesgaden**, eight-night post-tour with actor James Madio

I invite you to explore all the offerings in this brochure and join us in 2027 during the 83rd anniversary of D-Day in France.

Sincerely,



Andrew Haught,
Director of Travel
The Travel Department at the
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

Call: (800) 942-5004
Visit: www.wacphila.org
Email: travel@wacphila.org

MUSEUM MISSION



The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.

Rated the top attraction in New Orleans and among the best museums in the world, The National WWII Museum explores the story of the American experience in World War II through immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, educational resources, and an expansive collection of artifacts and personal accounts. The Museum's New Orleans campus provides vivid insight into World War II, but nothing can tell its story more dramatically than a visit to the sites where victory was fought for and won.

As part of the nation's preeminent institution for preserving and sharing WWII history, the Museum's Educational Travel Program is dedicated to providing the highest-quality educational content by creating custom-curated itineraries, arranging the finest boutique hotel accommodations, procuring comprehensive local meal dining in the countries we visit, and touring aboard premium motor coaches and cruise ships. Experience a journey in first-class comfort to the beaches, bridges, cities, and villages where crucial battles took place and history-defining decisions were made.

Traveling with The National WWII Museum offers a unique and enriching experience that goes beyond typical group tour itineraries—it provides a meaningful journey that honors the past while inspiring future generations.



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WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

➤ EXPERT-LED EXPERIENCES

Our tours are guided by a combination of expert historians, local guides, and Museum staff members who provide in-depth insights, drawing from our immense collection of artifacts, oral histories, and personal accounts from WWII veterans that you won't find on other tours.

➤ IMMERSIVE LEARNING

Each tour is designed to offer a deep dive into World War II, engaging lifelong learners of all backgrounds—from those with a vast knowledge of history to others just beginning to explore the events that shaped our world.

➤ ENGAGING COMMUNITY

Our tours have created a community of passionate history enthusiasts who often have a personal link to those who fought and won the war. Our itineraries include opportunities to foster meaningful connections with other travelers who share an interest in understanding the past.

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

➤ By traveling with us, you contribute to the preservation of WWII history and support educational initiatives that honor the sacrifices made during the war.

LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS AND FINE DINING

➤ Our team supports the local economies of the places we visit, staying in hand-selected boutique hotel accommodations and providing dining packages that showcase locally sourced ingredients.





COURAGE ON THE COAST OF FRANCE

83RD ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY CRUISE

MAY 30 – JUNE 8, 2027

BUILD YOUR PERFECT JOURNEY

Enjoy the flexibility to design each day to match your curiosity, pace, and interests. Choose from an array of full-day immersive adventures or half-day excursions that allow more time for onboard relaxation. We have custom-curated a mix of military and cultural tours to showcase the rich history at each port.

DATE	PORT	EXPERIENCE	FEATURED HISTORIAN(S)	ACCOMMODATIONS
May 28–30, 2027	Limoges Optional Pre-Tour Extension		Michael Neiberg, PhD	Hotel Mercure Limousin
Sunday May 30, 2027	Bordeaux	Embark Welcome Reception	Michael Neiberg, PhD	SH <i>Diana</i>
Monday May 31, 2027	Bordeaux	Build Your Perfect Journey	Michael Neiberg, PhD, and Jonathan Boff, PhD	SH <i>Diana</i>
Tuesday June 1, 2027	Lorient	Build Your Perfect Journey	Jonathan Boff, PhD, and Saul David, PhD	SH <i>Diana</i>
Wednesday June 2, 2027	Brest	Build Your Perfect Journey	Saul David, PhD, John McManus, PhD, and James Holland	SH <i>Diana</i>
Thursday June 3, 2027	Saint-Malo	Build Your Perfect Journey	John McManus, PhD, and James Holland	SH <i>Diana</i>
Friday June 4, 2027	Saint-Malo	Build Your Perfect Journey	John McManus, PhD, and James Holland	SH <i>Diana</i>
Saturday June 5, 2027	Caen*	Build Your Perfect Journey	John McManus, PhD	SH <i>Diana</i>
Sunday June 6, 2027	Caen	83rd Anniversary of D-Day Build Your Perfect Journey	John McManus, PhD	SH <i>Diana</i>
Monday June 7, 2027	Caen	Half-Day Normandy Touring Sail to Amsterdam Farewell Reception	John McManus, PhD	SH <i>Diana</i>
Tuesday June 8, 2027	Amsterdam	Disembark		
June 8–11, 2027	Amsterdam Optional Post-Tour Extension		Alexandra Richie, DPhil	InterContinental Amstel
June 8–16, 2027	Easy Company Optional Post-Tour Extension	Band of Brothers Actor James Madio	Various	

*Band of Brothers actor James Madio joins the cruise from Caen to Amsterdam. Senior Historian John Curatola joins the entire cruise.



**VISIT THE MUSEUM
STORE FOR BOOKS BY
THESE AUTHORS:**



MEET THE FEATURED HISTORIANS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

- 1 JONATHAN BOFF, PHD • BORDEAUX | LORIENT**
Professor of military history at the University of Birmingham in the UK
 - Expert in the tactics and strategy of World Wars I and II
 - Author of two prize-winning books
- 2 JOHN CURATOLA, PHD • ONBOARD SH DIANA FOR THE ENTIRE CRUISE**
Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Historian at The National WWII Museum
 - Author of three books
 - Expert on World War II, airpower, and the early Cold War period
- 3 SAUL DAVID, PHD • LORIENT | BREST**
Award-winning military historian, author, and broadcaster
 - Professorial Research Fellow at the University of Buckingham and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society
 - Co-host of the popular *Battleground* podcast with Patrick Bishop
- 4 JAMES HOLLAND • SAINT-MALO**
Award-winning historian, writer, and broadcaster
 - Research fellow at St. Andrew's University, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and Co-founder of Chalke History Festival in the UK
 - Host of a weekly WWII podcast, *We Have Ways of Making You Talk*, with Al Murray
- 5 JAMES MADIO • CAEN | EASY COMPANY (POST-TOUR)**
Award-winning actor
 - Portrayed Sergeant Frank Perconte in *Band of Brothers*
 - Committed to honoring the service of our veterans and staying engaged with a variety of organizations
- 6 JOHN C. MCMANUS, PHD • BREST | SAINT-MALO | CAEN**
Professor of US military history at Missouri University of Science and Technology
 - One of the world's leading historians of World War II
 - Author of over a dozen books and expert commentator for radio, television, and podcasts, including *Someone Talked!*
- 7 MICHAEL NEIBERG, PHD • LIMOGES (PRE-TOUR) | BORDEAUX**
Professor of history and chair of war studies at the United States Army War College
 - Expert on World Wars I and II in global context
 - Author of 15 books
- 8 ALEXANDRA RICHIE, DPHIL • AMSTERDAM (POST-TOUR)**
Award-winning author and historian of Central and Eastern Europe
 - Professor at Collegium Civitas University in Warsaw, Poland
 - Contributor to dozens of articles, documentaries, podcasts, and television



BORDEAUX, FRANCE

MAY 30, 2027

Arrive at Bordeaux-Mérignac Airport (BOD) and transfer to the port to embark SH *Diana*. Enjoy the amenities of the ship and settle into your home for the next eight nights. This evening, enjoy a Captain's Welcome reception and get to know other tour participants. After dinner, prepare for your cruise along the coast of France with a signature presentation by Michael Neiberg, PhD, on the fall of France and the Anglo-American Alliance.

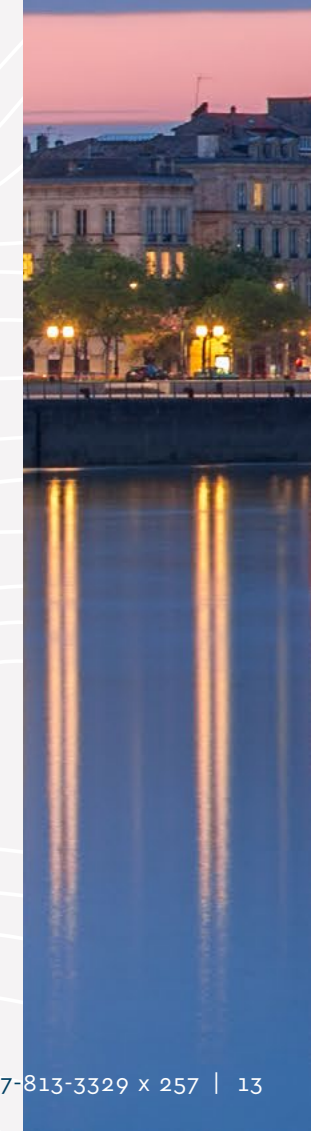


BORDEAUX DURING THE WAR

German troops took control of Paris on June 14, 1940. To avoid its destruction, French leaders declared Paris an “open city,” meaning they would not fight to defend it, and quickly fled first to Bordeaux. In accordance with the surrender agreement with Nazi Germany, the town of Vichy became the eventual site of the collaborationist French government. Bordeaux developed into a major base for the German navy (*Kriegsmarine*) and its deadly U-boat fleet. Its busy port and direct access to the Atlantic Ocean made it a prized military stronghold. Bordeaux became a city of contradictions—while some collaborated with the occupiers, others quietly resisted. More than 1,600 Jews were deported, while the Germans built enormous concrete submarine pens that still loom over the waterfront today. Behind the scenes, winemakers, local citizens, and resistance groups worked to protect France's culture, traditions, and lives from being erased.



German soldiers stand in formation at the Place de la Comédie in 1942. The Hotel de Bordeaux can be seen in the background. Bundesarchiv, Bild 101I-074-2852-36A





BUILD YOUR PERFECT JOURNEY

BORDEAUX, FRANCE

MAY 31, 2027

A variety of excursions in and around Bordeaux are offered today. Historians Michael Neiberg, PhD, and Jonathan Boff, PhD, join select tours. This evening on SH *Diana*, sail toward Lorient and take in an after-dinner lecture on the French and wine during the war with Jonathan Boff, PhD.



CHOOSE YOUR EXCURSION:

Operation Frankton and Pointe du Grave • “Wine and War” Bordeaux walking tour • The Jewish Experience in World War II walking tour • National Center Jean Moulin Museum • Château Franc Mayne tour and wine tasting

FROM THE COLLECTION: 1945 CHÂTEAU MOUTON ROTHSCHILD



One of the most remarkable artifacts in the Museum’s collection is a bottle of 1945 Château Mouton Rothschild, an extraordinary red blend from Bordeaux, France. At first glance, it’s a rare wine. But look closer, and it becomes something more: a story of war, survival, artistry, and memory—bottled and preserved across generations.

The bottle was donated by Steve Simmons in honor of his father, Dr. Norman S. Simmons, a WWII-era dentist who spent most of the war stationed in Puerto Rico. Fascinated by the scientific side of dentistry, Norman went on after the war to earn a PhD in biochemistry and join UCLA with a joint appointment in both the dental and science colleges. It was in this postwar period, during the 1950s, that he also became a serious collector of grand cru French wines, and his passion soon became a family tradition.

This 1945 Mouton Rothschild came into Dr. Simmons’s collection as a gift from Dr. Max Shapiro, a fellow dentist and friend whose clients famously included Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra. Although the bottle was given in 1958, it would never be opened. Among a cellar full of rare vintages, this was the only wine considered “too significant to drink,” and its wartime legacy made it highly sought after. In 1964, Dr. Simmons gave the bottle to his son Steve as a college graduation gift, passing on not only a prized heirloom but also a powerful connection to the past.

The wine itself has a dramatic story. In 1945, as Nazi Germany collapsed, Château Mouton Rothschild—then under German occupation—was returned to its owner, Baron Philippe de Rothschild, a Jewish winemaker who had fled to England during the war. That year’s harvest was small but extraordinary. The blend, primarily Cabernet Sauvignon (81 percent) with Merlot and other classic grape varietals, was rich and powerful. Critics have since ranked the 1945 vintage among the finest wines ever made. The famous sommelier Jancis Robinson described it as the “essence of ripe claret,” and *Wine Advocate* awarded it a perfect 100 points in 2019.

This vintage also marked the beginning of Mouton’s celebrated tradition of artistic labels. Rothschild commissioned a little-known French artist to design the

1945 label, which featured a bold “V for Victory” motif. The response was so strong that from 1946 onward, a different artist was invited to illustrate each new vintage—eventually including Chagall, Dalí, Picasso, and Warhol.

Despite its excellence, Mouton was originally classified as a “Second Growth” under the 1855 Bordeaux classification, a fact Rothschild worked for decades to overturn. His efforts were finally rewarded in 1973, when Mouton was promoted to First Growth—a rare revision in French wine history. Today, this bottle stands as more than an artifact in the Museum’s collection: it represents the intersection of war, wine, science, and family memory.

The bottle of 1945 Château Mouton Rothschild can be seen in the Malcolm S. Forbes Rare and Iconic Artifacts Gallery at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

Bottle of 1945 Château Mouton Rothschild. The National WWII Museum, Gift of Steve Simmons, 2017.354.001.





BUILD YOUR PERFECT JOURNEY

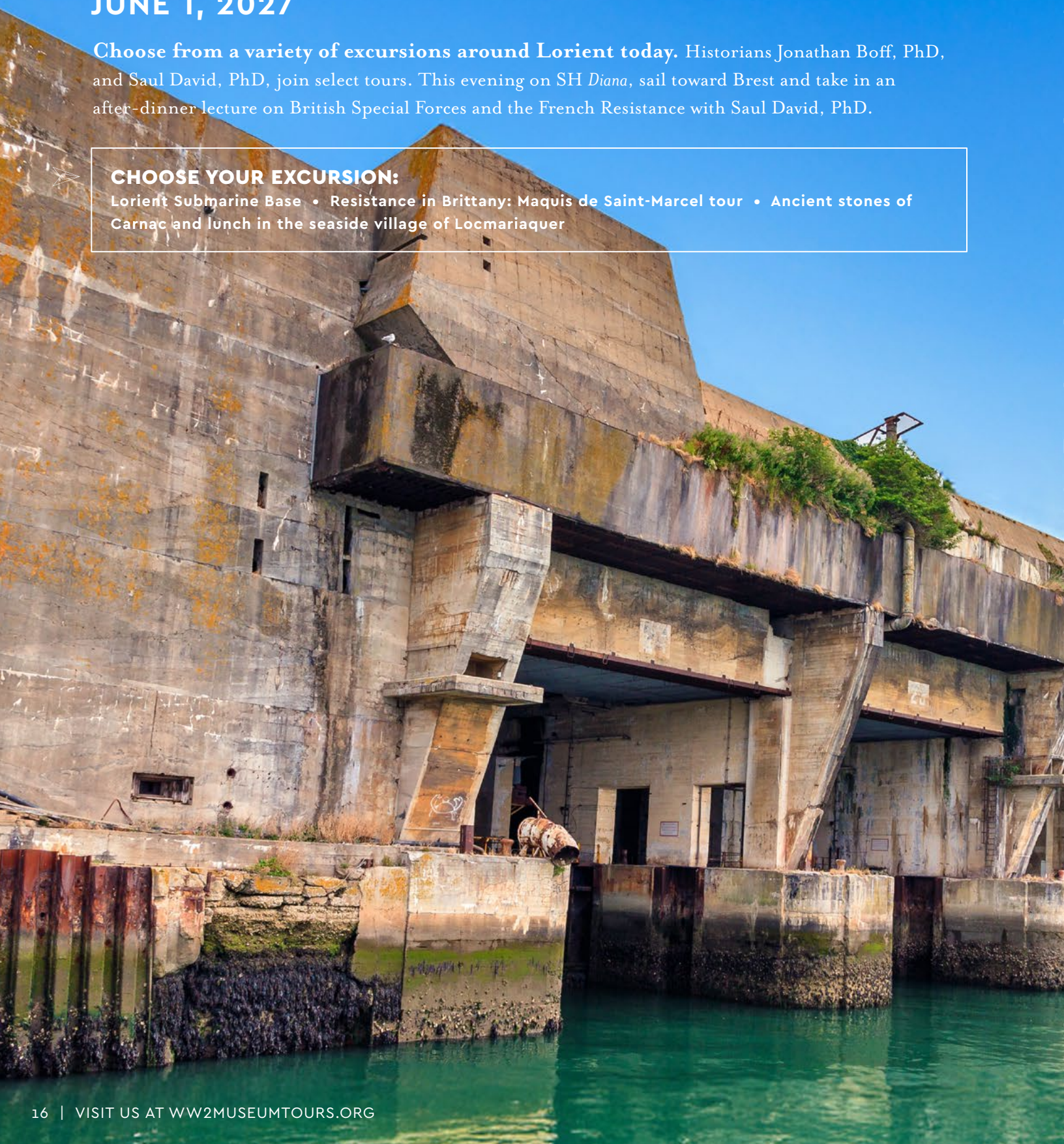
LORIENT, FRANCE

JUNE 1, 2027

Choose from a variety of excursions around Lorient today. Historians Jonathan Boff, PhD, and Saul David, PhD, join select tours. This evening on SH *Diana*, sail toward Brest and take in an after-dinner lecture on British Special Forces and the French Resistance with Saul David, PhD.

CHOOSE YOUR EXCURSION:

Lorient Submarine Base • Resistance in Brittany: Maquis de Saint-Marcel tour • Ancient stones of Carnac and lunch in the seaside village of Locmariaquer



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC



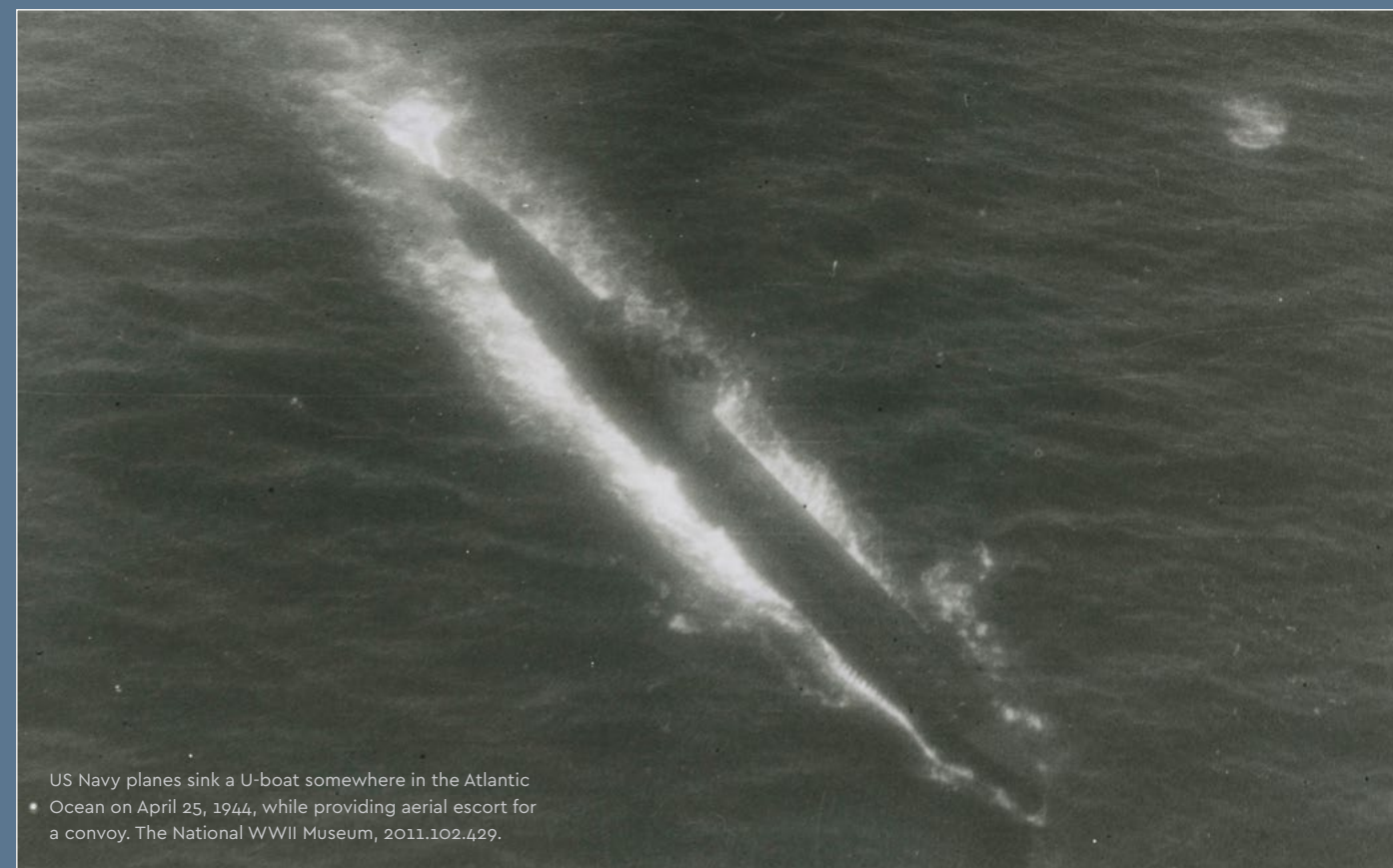
The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest continuous campaign of World War II. Fought from September 1939 to May 1945, it was a brutal contest for control of the Atlantic Ocean, which was an essential lifeline between North America and Europe. For the Allies, keeping that supply route open was critical to survival. For the Germans, cutting it off meant starving Britain and the USSR of food, fuel, weapons, and men.

German submarines—*Unterseeboote*, or “U-boats”—became the primary weapon in this maritime war. Operating in “wolfpacks,” they hunted Allied convoys, often with deadly efficiency. Between 1940 and 1943, these stealthy vessels sank thousands of merchant ships, sending millions of tons of supplies to the ocean floor.

Lorient, located on the southern coast of France’s Brittany peninsula, became one of the most important bases for the Nazi U-boat fleet after France fell in 1940. The Germans quickly constructed massive reinforced concrete submarine pens that could shelter dozens of U-boats from

Allied bombing raids. From Lorient, flotillas set out into the Atlantic, striking deep into convoy lanes. Life aboard a U-boat was harsh and dangerous. Cramped quarters, foul air, long missions, and the constant threat of depth charges made survival far from certain. Yet German commanders like Admiral Karl Dönitz believed the U-boats could win the war by severing Britain and the USSR’s maritime lifeline. For a time, they came close.

By mid-1943, however, the tide began to turn. Allied advances in radar, sonar, long-range aircraft, codebreaking, and convoy tactics led to heavy U-boat losses. The hunters became the hunted, and the once-formidable wolfpacks were steadily driven back. The Battle of the Atlantic was a fight for the very outcome of the war in Europe. Without victory at sea, the products of America’s arsenal of democracy would not have been decisive, and without the men and matériel in Allied shipping, there could have been no D-Day, no liberation of France, no final push into Germany—and no ultimate victory.



US Navy planes sink a U-boat somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean on April 25, 1944, while providing aerial escort for a convoy. The National WWII Museum, 2011.102.429.





BREST, FRANCE

JUNE 2, 2027

Customize your day with excursion options in Brest or the surrounding area. Historians Saul David, PhD, and John McManus, PhD, join select tours. Later, while en route to Saint-Malo on SH *Diana*, attend an afternoon lecture by John McManus, PhD, on the key battles and sites visited while in Brest and an evening lecture by James Holland on the Battle of Saint-Malo.



CHOOSE YOUR EXCURSION:

Battle of Brest full-day tour • Surrender on the Crozon Peninsula half-day tour • Daoulas Abbey and botanical gardens tour



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: THE BATTLE OF BREST



In the wake of the D-Day landings and the breakout from Normandy in mid-1944, Allied commanders turned their attention to securing the vital ports along France's Atlantic coast. Among the most heavily fortified of these was Brest, located at the western tip of the Brittany peninsula. The Germans had transformed the port city into a fortress and used it as a key base for their U-boat fleet, making it a high-value objective.

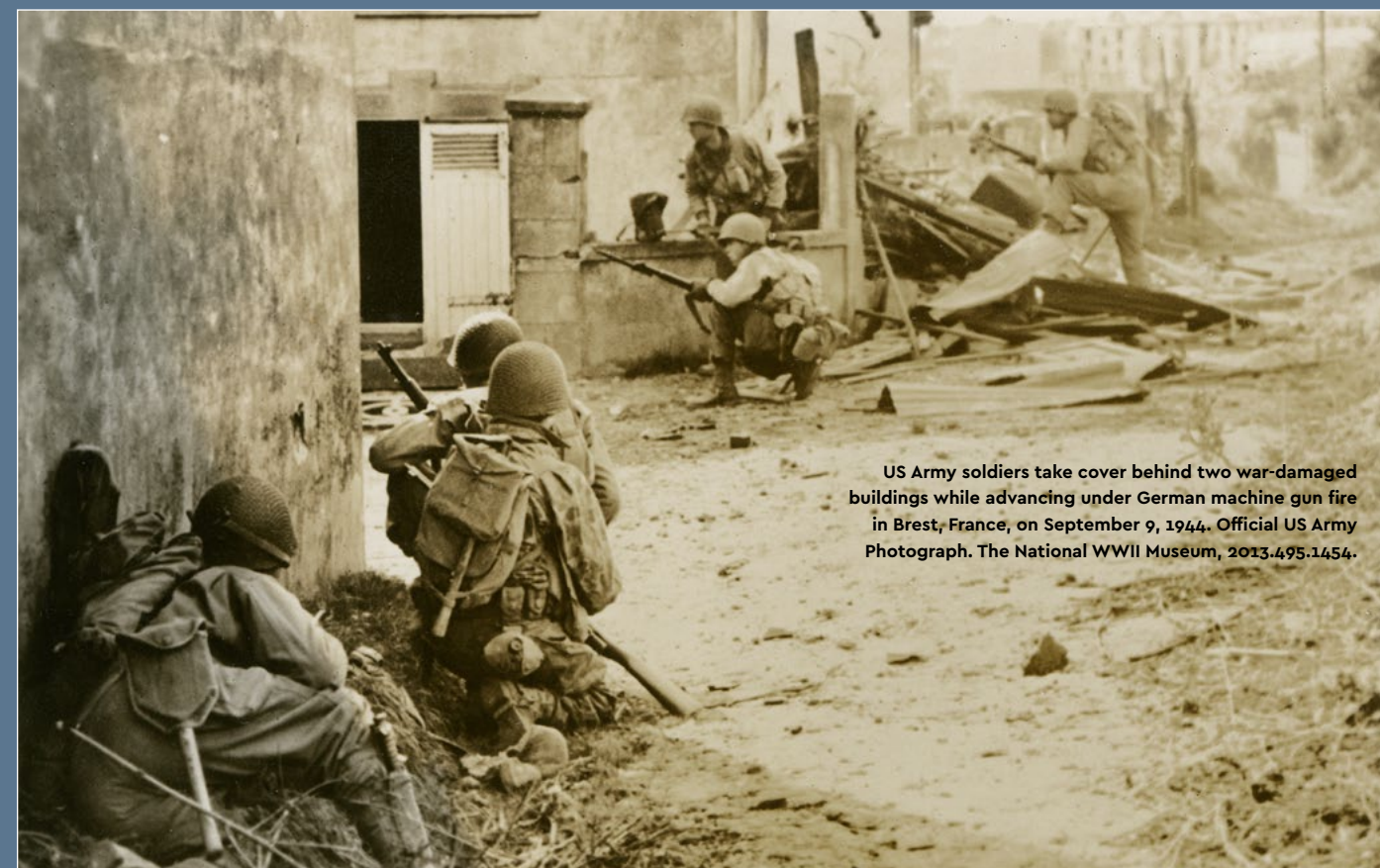
The Battle of Brest, fought from August 7 to September 19, 1944, was one of the most intense and destructive urban engagements on the Western Front. General Omar Bradley tasked Major General Troy Middleton's VIII Corps with capturing the city. Among the American units committed were the 2nd, 8th, and 29th Infantry Divisions, supported by tanks, artillery, engineers, and even British "Crocodile" flamethrower tanks.

Tasked to defend the city was the 2nd *Fallschirmjäger* Division, an elite German paratrooper unit under the command of General Hermann-Bernhard Ramcke, a veteran of Crete

and North Africa. The Germans used the city's natural terrain and massive concrete defenses to their advantage, turning Brest into a deadly maze of machine gun nests, snipers, and bunkers. The Americans advanced street by street, often at great cost. Nearly 10,000 American casualties were sustained in the brutal, close-quarters fighting.

One of the most famous episodes came at the end of the siege. When Ramcke was brought before Brigadier General Charles D.W. Canham of the 8th Infantry Division, the Nazi officer reportedly demanded to see his credentials. Canham pointed to the riflemen around him and said, "These are my credentials." The general's response became the 8th Division's motto.

Although the city ultimately fell on September 19, it came at a steep price. The port facilities were so thoroughly destroyed by the Germans that Brest was unusable for the remainder of the war. Still, the battle eliminated a major German stronghold and freed a region that had been under Nazi occupation since 1940.



US Army soldiers take cover behind two war-damaged buildings while advancing under German machine gun fire in Brest, France, on September 9, 1944. Official US Army Photograph. The National WWII Museum, 2013.495.1454.



Lee Miller: Only woman correspondent at the Siege of St Malo, St Pierre d'Alet Chapel, St Malo France 1944, by David E Scherman (NCo051-9). David E. Scherman © Courtesy Lee Miller Archives, England 2025. All rights reserved. leemiller.co.uk.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: LEE MILLER



Elizabeth “Lee” Miller began her career as a fashion model and portrait photographer before turning her attention to war. As a correspondent for *Vogue* magazine, she embedded with US forces in Europe, covering events from the London Blitz to the liberation of Paris and, eventually, the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. Her images, often stark and unflinching, brought the realities of the war home to millions of Americans.

Miller first made her name in front of the camera in New York and Paris, where she modeled for photographers like Edward Steichen and became part of the Surrealist movement. She then moved behind the lens and, at the outbreak of World War II, began documenting life in wartime London. Her photographs of air-raid shelters, bombed-out neighborhoods, and women serving in the armed forces offered readers an intimate look at how civilians endured the Blitz.

After the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944, she crossed into France with the US 83rd Infantry Division. At Saint-Malo, she documented the brutal siege of the walled city, where Allied bombardment left much of the town in ruins. Her photographs of civilians emerging from shattered buildings revealed liberation as both a moment of relief and a scene of devastation.

Miller reached Paris later that summer. While many correspondents focused on jubilant celebrations, she turned her lens toward more complicated scenes, such as women she encountered in Rennes who had been accused of collaborating with the Germans, their heads shaved in public. These images showed the messy and often painful process of liberation, where justice and vengeance blurred.

The following year, Miller entered Germany with the US Seventh Army. She photographed what she found at Buchenwald and Dachau: starving survivors, heaps of corpses, and American servicemembers confronting the scale of Nazi crimes. Published in *Vogue*, these photographs forced readers to confront the Holocaust directly and stripped away any lingering illusions about the war’s nature.

That same day, Miller and fellow photographer David E. Scherman arrived at Hitler’s Munich apartment. In one of the war’s most famous images, Miller bathes in the dictator’s tub while her boots, still caked with Dachau mud, sit on the bath mat. The photograph was both surreal and defiant and symbolized a small personal victory against tyranny.

After 1945, Miller rarely spoke about her wartime work. Thanks to the efforts of her son, Antony Penrose, her archive was preserved and eventually celebrated as both history and art. Today her images stand as more than records of destruction. Through her lens, Lee Miller ensured that the human side of war would not be forgotten.



Lee Miller in Hitler's bathtub, Hitler's apartment, 16 Prinzregentenplatz, Munich, Germany 1945 by Lee Miller with David E Scherman (79-19R6) David E. Scherman © Courtesy Lee Miller Archives, England 2025. All rights reserved. leemiller.co.uk.



BUILD YOUR PERFECT JOURNEY

SAINT-MALO, FRANCE

JUNE 3-4, 2027

Enjoy two days of excursions in and around Saint-Malo. Historians John McManus, PhD, and James Holland join select tours. On Thursday, take in an after-dinner lecture by James Holland on Lee Miller and combat photography in France. On Friday, hear from John McManus, PhD, James Holland, and John Curatola, PhD, at an evening roundtable discussion about D-Day.

CHOOSE YOUR EXCURSION:

Avranches, Pontaubault, and Mortain • The Battle of Saint-Malo and Brittany American Cemetery • Fortress of the Cite d'Aleth • Mont-Saint-Michel



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: THE BATTLE OF SAINT-MALO



Street fighting in Saint-Malo in August 1944. Official US Army Photograph

American troops advanced through rubble-filled streets under sniper and mortar fire, slowly tightening the noose around the defenders.

Journalist Lee Miller, who entered Saint-Malo with the liberating forces, described the destruction as “sordid, ugly,” lamenting the loss of beauty to brutal necessity. Still, the stubborn defense continued. The Cité d’Aleth did not surrender until August 17, and fire from Cézembre, which was heavily bombarded by Allied naval and air forces, persisted until September 2, when the garrison finally gave up. Although the battle left much of Saint-Malo in ruins, the capture of the city and its surrounding fortifications marked another step in the Allied effort to remove German forces from the French coast and liberate the oppressed peoples.

Perched on the northern coast of Brittany, Saint-Malo is known today for its dramatic stone ramparts and picturesque old town. But in August 1944, this ancient port city became the center of a fierce battle during the Allied campaign to liberate France. After breaking out of Normandy in late July 1944, General George S. Patton’s Third US Army drove rapidly through Brittany to seize key ports held by German forces. Saint-Malo, designated a “fortress city” by Hitler, was heavily defended by German troops determined to deny the Allies a usable harbor.

The defense was commanded by Colonel Andreas von Aulock, who refused to surrender even after Allied forces had surrounded the city. His garrison included army (*Wehrmacht*) units, naval personnel, and antiaircraft crews, as well as forced conscripts from Eastern Europe. They held fortified positions not only in Saint-Malo but also in the nearby Cité d’Aleth, the stronghold of German artillery, and on Cézembre Island, just off the coast. The US 83rd Infantry Division, commanded by Major General Robert C. Macon, was tasked with capturing the city. Fighting began in earnest on August 5, 1944, and quickly devolved into grueling urban warfare. Allied artillery and air strikes pummeled the historic city, setting much of it ablaze. Over eight days,



German prisoners of war captured at Saint-Malo are escorted by US Army soldiers on August 18, 1944. US Ninth Air Force Photograph



BUILD YOUR PERFECT JOURNEY

CAEN, FRANCE

JUNE 5-7, 2027

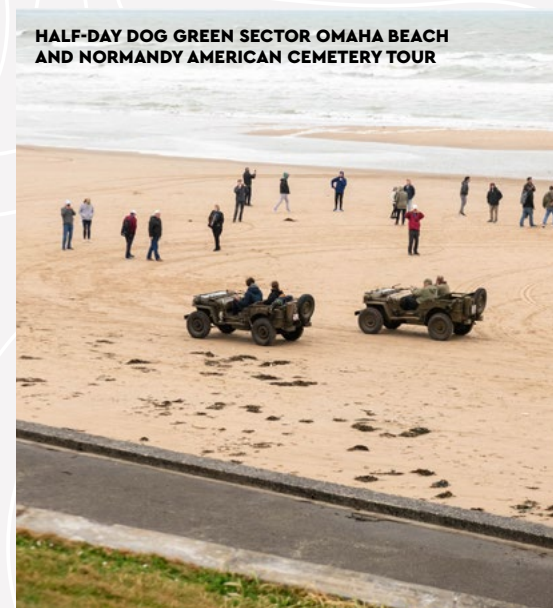
Over three days, choose from a variety of excursions in Caen and the surrounding Normandy region that focus on the D-Day landings, 83 years later. Historian John McManus, PhD, joins select tours. Each evening, after-dinner presentations will focus on topics relevant to D-Day, the Battle of Normandy, and the touring offered.

CHOOSE YOUR EXCURSIONS:

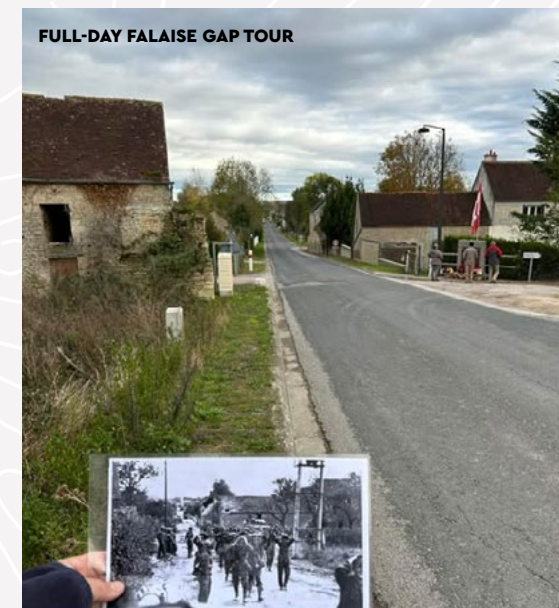
All excursions offered are pictured

FULL-DAY US AIRBORNE TOUR OF UTAH BEACH, SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE, LA FIÈRE BRIDGE, SAINTE-MARIE-DU-MONT, BRÉCOURT MANOR, AND ANGOVILLE-AU-PLAIN

HALF-DAY DOG GREEN SECTOR OMAHA BEACH AND NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY TOUR



FULL-DAY FALAISE GAP TOUR



FULL-DAY "AMERICANS ON OMAHA" TOUR (OMAHA BEACH, POINTE DU HOC, AND NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY)



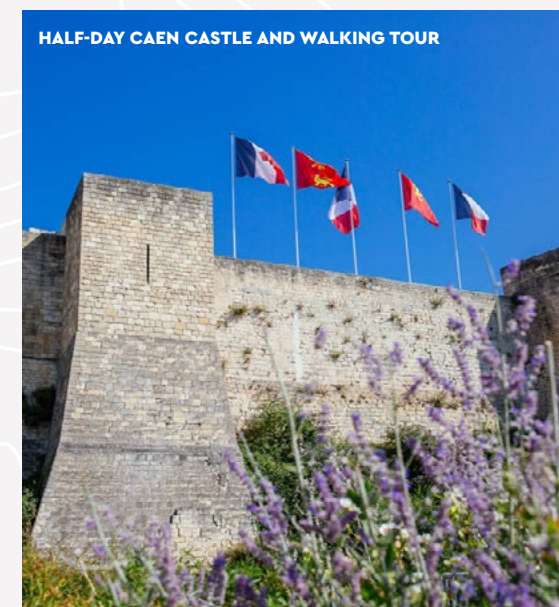
FULL-DAY ROUEN AND GIVERNY TOUR



HALF-DAY BRITISH SECTOR TOUR



HALF-DAY CAEN CASTLE AND WALKING TOUR





DISEMBARK

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

JUNE 8, 2027

Our voyage concludes as we arrive in Amsterdam. Disembark the SH *Diana* and bid farewell to your fellow travelers, historians, and staff.

For those departing, transfers to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS) are included. For those continuing on a post-tour, your next chapter awaits—whether exploring the Dutch Resistance with Alexandra Richie, DPhil, or following in the footsteps of Easy Company across the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, and Austria with *Band of Brothers* actor James Madio.



AMSTERDAM IN WORLD WAR II

Amsterdam fell to German occupation in May 1940 after brief military resistance. In the years that followed, the city endured widespread Nazi oppression and persecution, especially among its Jewish population. More than 60,000 Jews were deported from Amsterdam, most passing through the Westerbork transit camp to extermination camps such as Auschwitz and Sobibor. While many Dutch citizens collaborated or complied under occupation, others joined a growing underground resistance. Clandestine newspapers circulated, safe houses sheltered the persecuted, and acts of sabotage and subversion undermined Nazi control. The city's network of canals, alleyways, and attic spaces became hiding places and routes of escape. The "Hunger Winter" of 1944–45 brought starvation to many, even as Allied forces advanced toward liberation. When Canadian troops finally liberated the city in May 1945, Amsterdam emerged battered but unbroken.



German tanks enter the Netherlands on May 10, 1940. Royal Netherlands Army Photograph





EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY:

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION



Modern photo of the French village of Oradour-sur-Glane. On June 10, 1944, 643 of its inhabitants were massacred by the 2nd SS Panzer Division *Das Reich*. A new village was built after the war on a nearby site, but on the orders of French President Charles de Gaulle, the original has been maintained as a permanent memorial.



THE LIMOGES FRENCH RESISTANCE FEATURING MICHAEL NEIBERG, PHD

MAY 28-30, 2027

\$2,299 per person based on double occupancy, \$3,599 single occupancy
\$199 taxes and fees are additional.



Join historian Michael Neiberg, PhD, for this one-of-a-kind tour inviting you to uncover the layered story of Limoges, from its medieval foundations to its pivotal role in the French Resistance during World War II. This immersive guided experience offers travelers a rare window into the bravery, sacrifice, and resilience of those who risked everything to fight back against tyranny. The Maquis du Limousin was one of the most active and effective rural French Resistance groups during World War II. Operating primarily in the Limousin region, its capital Limoges became a major hub for the Maquis in central France.

During this pre-tour, hear the lesser-known stories of the French Resistance, visit the ghost-town memorial of the martyred village of Oradour-sur-Glane, and understand the terror of being a civilian in Nazi-occupied west-central France.

ITINERARY

MAY 28, 2027

Fly into Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) and transfer to Limoges / Lunch on own / Guided tour at Chateau Chambord / Welcome Reception and Dinner • **Accommodations: Hotel Mercure Limousin (R, D)**

MAY 29, 2027

Resistance Museum / Limoges guided walking tour / Lunch at Le Bouillon Limousin / Oradour-sur-Glane / Evening at leisure • **Accommodations: Hotel Mercure Limousin (B, L)**

MAY 30, 2027

Transfer to Bordeaux / Lunch on own in Cognac en route / Embark SH *Diana* • **(B)**



EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY:

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Camp Westerbork



OCCUPATION AND RESISTANCE IN AMSTERDAM FEATURING ALEXANDRA RICHIE, DPHIL

JUNE 8–11, 2027

\$3,899 per person based on double occupancy, \$4,299 single occupancy
\$199 taxes and fees are additional.

Join Alexandra Richie, DPhil, for a compelling exploration of wartime courage and tragedy in the Netherlands. Begin your journey in Haarlem, a picturesque Dutch city renowned for its vibrant flower markets and rich cultural heritage, and step into one of the city's most powerful historic sites: the Corrie ten Boom House. This humble home once served as a secret refuge for Jews fleeing Nazi persecution. Today, it stands as a moving testament to the bravery of ordinary citizens who risked everything to save their neighbors—offering a deeply personal counterpoint to the story of Anne Frank.

Confront the grim machinery of deportation that swept across the Netherlands during the Holocaust at Camp Westerbork, once a refugee center that was transformed into a transit camp—the ominous “gateway to hell”—from which over 100,000 Jews, Roma, and Resistance members were sent east to death camps like Auschwitz and Sobibor.



Dutch Jews boarding a train at Westerbork in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands, destined for the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. (c1942/1943). Alpha Historica / Alamy

Conclude your experience in Amsterdam, where the echoes of resistance still linger in the city's cobbled streets and quiet canals. Take part in a specially curated walking tour and visit the Dutch Resistance Museum, where stories of defiance, sabotage, and survival come to life. Through the lens of those who stood up to tyranny, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the Dutch experience under Nazi occupation.

ITINERARY

JUNE 8, 2027

Disembark SH *Diana* in Amsterdam / Transfer to Haarlem / Lunch on own / Haarlem guided walking tour / Corrie ten Boom House / Reception and Lecture by Alexandra Richie • **Accommodations:** *InterContinental Amstel* (R)

JUNE 9, 2027

Westerbork Transit Camp / Group lunch / Evening at leisure • **Accommodations:** *InterContinental Amstel* (B, L)

JUNE 10, 2027

Dutch Resistance Museum / Amsterdam guided walking tour / Farewell Dinner • **Accommodations:** *InterContinental Amstel* (B, D)

JUNE 11, 2027

Transfer to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS) for your independently scheduled flights home. • (B)



EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY:

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION



EASY COMPANY: MARKET-GARDEN TO BERCHTESGADEN FEATURING JAMES MADIO

JUNE 8-16, 2027

\$5,699 per person based on double occupancy, \$7,499 single occupancy
\$299 taxes and fees are additional.

This post-tour continues the stories you heard in Normandy, taking you to the end of the war. Disembark in Amsterdam, and travel south to the bustling city of Eindhoven, Netherlands, to begin your unforgettable journey tracing the post-D-Day path of Easy Company, from the bold but ill-fated Operation Market-Garden through the Battle of the Bulge and into the heart of Nazi Germany.

Walk the same streets these brave paratroopers once liberated and delve into the stories behind their heroism—joined by a cast member from the acclaimed HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*. Together, you'll bring to life the real men behind the legend, exploring the very places where they fought, sacrificed, and ultimately triumphed.

ITINERARY

JUNE 8, 2027

Disembark SH *Diana* in Amsterdam / Transfer to Eindhoven / Eindhoven and IO1st Airborne guided walking tour • **Accommodations: Hotel Pullman Eindhoven Cocagne (D)**

JUNE 9, 2027

Tour American areas of Operation Market Garden / Tour of Arnhem and the “Bridge Too Far”
Accommodations: Hotel Pullman Eindhoven Cocagne (B, L)

JUNE 10, 2027

Margraten American Cemetery / Drive to Clervaux / Bastogne War Museum • **Accommodations: Chateau d'Urspelt (B, D)**

JUNE 11, 2027

Memorial to Renée Lemaire / Tour of Easy Company foxholes in the Bois Jacques / IO1st Airborne Museum / Bastogne War Museum • **Accommodations: Chateau d'Urspelt (B)**

JUNE 12, 2027

Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial / Haguenau / Overnight in Stuttgart • **Accommodations: Maritim Hotel Stuttgart (B, L)**

JUNE 13, 2027

Dachau Concentration Camp / Transfer to the Bavarian Alps • **Accommodations: Grand Hotel Zell am See (B)**

JUNE 14, 2027

Obersalzberg driving tour / Former Berghof site / Lunch on your own in Berchtesgaden / Guided tour of underground bunkers and documentation center • **Accommodations: Grand Hotel Zell am See (B)**

JUNE 15, 2027

Hitler's Eagle's Nest / Bavarian lunch at Obersalzberg Golf Course / Afternoon free in Zell am See / Farewell Dinner • **Accommodations: Grand Hotel Zell am See (B, L, D)**

JUNE 16, 2027

Transfer to the Munich International Airport (MUC) for your independently scheduled flights home • **(B)**

LIFE ON BOARD

Swan Hellenic’s purpose-built boutique ships feature elegant Scandi-design interiors, extensive outdoor spaces, and dedicated expedition facilities. SH *Diana* features a state-of-the-art gym, spa, panoramic sauna, Swan Restaurant, Club Lounge, and swimming pool with poolside grill.

The staterooms and suites are each a true home away from home and all feature panoramic sea views, a fireplace, original works of art, comfortable couches, premium pocket spring mattresses, and Egyptian cotton towels, bathrobes, and sheets. A pillow menu offers customized head and neck comfort during rest, while a large flat-screen TV, espresso machine with Illy premium coffee, tea-making facilities with the finest Kusmi teas, and a minibar with refreshments enhance relaxation at any time. In-room dining is available at all hours.

The service on board reflects the same values, being attentive, personal, and intuitive but discreet. There’s no fuss or formality—just focused dedication to understanding our guests’ preferences and anticipating their needs, always aiming to exceed and surprise expectations.



PUBLIC SPACES



CLUB LOUNGE



GYM



HEATED OUTDOOR POOL

STATEROOMS & SUITES



PREMIUM SUITE

**INCLUDES BALCONY
SLEEPS 2**

Premium Suites measure 441 square feet—including 86-square-foot private balcony—and can accommodate two guests. They feature a king-size bed, separate living room, and flame-effect fireplace. There's also a luxurious ensuite bathroom—with separate bath tub and shower—and a walk-in wardrobe.



SUITE

**INCLUDES BALCONY
SLEEPS 2**

Suites measure 441 square feet—including 54-square-foot private balcony—and can accommodate two or three guests. They feature a king-size bed, and have a separate living room, with a flame-effect fireplace. There's also a luxurious ensuite bathroom with separate bath tub and a walk-in shower.



JUNIOR SUITE

**INCLUDES BALCONY
SLEEPS 2**

Junior Suites measure 344-388 square feet—including 65-square-foot private balcony—and can accommodate two guests. They feature a king-size bed, have a separate living room area, and luxurious en-suite bathroom.



BALCONY

**INCLUDES BALCONY
SLEEPS 2**

Balcony Staterooms measure 269 square feet—including a 54-square-foot private balcony—and can accommodate two or three guests. They feature two single beds or a double bed, bedroom with living room area, a flame-effect fireplace, and a luxurious bathroom.



OCEANVIEW

SLEEPS 2

Oceanview Staterooms measure 215 square feet and can accommodate two guests. They feature two single beds or a double bed, bedroom with living room area, a flame-effect fireplace, and a luxurious bathroom.

PRICING

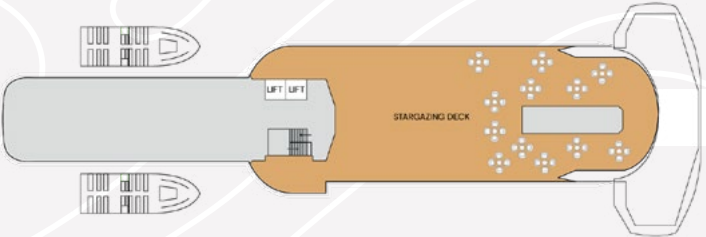
Pricing is per person based on double occupancy. Single occupancy accommodations are extremely limited. If you are a solo traveler, contact the Travel Team to explore options.

ROOM	REGULAR PRICE <small>(Double)</small>	BOOK EARLY*	REGULAR PRICE <small>(Single)</small>	BOOK EARLY*
Premium Suite	\$28,999	\$27,999	—	—
Suite	\$27,999	\$26,999	—	—
Junior Suite	\$26,999	\$25,999	—	—
Balcony M5	\$27,599	\$16,599	—	—
Balcony D6	\$19,599	\$18,599	\$21,899	\$20,899
Balcony D5	\$16,599	\$15,599	\$18,899	\$17,899
Oceanview M4	\$14,599	\$13,599	\$15,899	\$14,899

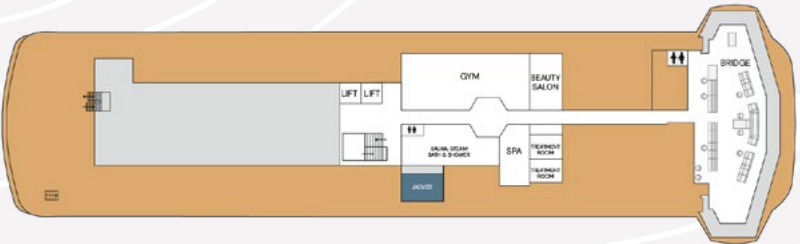
*Save \$1,000 per person when booked by December 31, 2025.

DECK PLANS

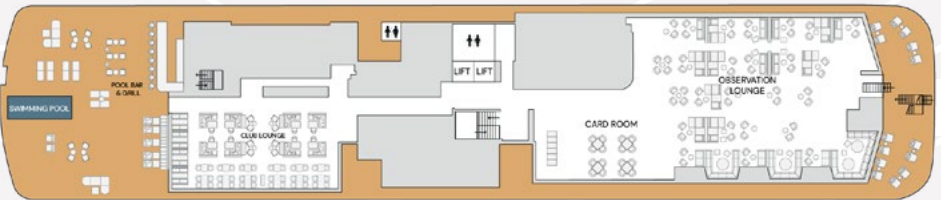
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THE DECK PLAN ONLINE



DECK 9



DECK 8



DECK 7



DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



COURAGE ON THE COAST OF FRANCE

83RD ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY CRUISE

Explore the landscapes of occupation, resistance, and freedom during a historic coastal voyage aboard SH *Diana*. Featuring expert historians, special guests, and an original cast member from *Band of Brothers*.



MAY 30 – JUNE 8, 2027

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- Full-time logistical tour managers
- Expert local battlefield guides
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- Beer, wine, spirits, coffee, water, tea, and soft drinks throughout the cruise
- A custom collection of “design your own journey” included shore excursions
- Personal listening devices on all included excursions
- Entrance fees to all sites, museums, and attractions on included excursions
- Video oral history presentations from the Museum’s collection
- Private, air-conditioned motor coach transportation on all shore excursions
- Roundtrip airport transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Gratuities to shipboard crew, guides, drivers, and porters
- Informative specially curated keepsake guide book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge

**Airport transfers are included with additional hotel nights if booked through the Educational Travel Program.*

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1. Call one of our travel specialists at 1-877-813-3329 x 257 or email us at travel@nationalww2museum.org
2. Scan the QR code below with the camera on your smartphone and follow the instructions online to make your reservation.

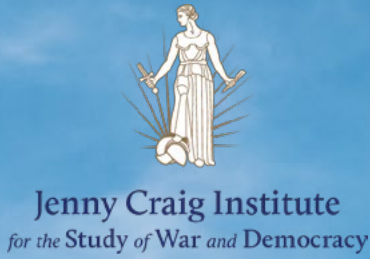


3. Visit wacphila.org/tour/83rd-anniversary-d-day-cruise/ for additional information on this tour and for a complete listing of all tours offered by the Traveling Aggies.

BOOK NOW! Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time.

THE JENNY CRAIG INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WAR AND DEMOCRACY

The National WWII Museum’s Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy is a community of scholars forming a national center for research, higher education, publications, and public programming, dedicated to promoting the history of World War II, the relationship between the war and America’s democratic system, and the war’s continued relevance for the world.



THE VISION

The Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy explores the war’s history and enduring legacies, and seeks to inspire civic engagement by:

- Becoming the preferred resource for audiences seeking fresh scholarship, public history, public programming, and commentary on World War II.
- Extending the reach of the Museum’s public programs and publications to larger national and international audiences.
- Sustaining a network of the world’s preeminent scholars and cultural leaders to promote and broaden the history, memories, and legacies of the war.
- Attracting new generations of Americans to study, research, and write about the American experience in World War II through fellowships, collections, Museum tours, lifelong learning, and additional outreach efforts.



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THE VICTORY
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MUSEUM BEFORE YOUR CRUISE!

A custom-curated group tour to The National WWII Museum.
Multiple departures available.

FOUR NIGHTS FROM ONLY \$1,950 PER PERSON

ITINERARY PROGRAM

DAY 1 Arrive at The National WWII Museum and Higgins Hotel in New Orleans / *Beyond all Boundaries*, a 4D cinematic experience narrated by Tom Hanks / Welcome Reception / Dinner at leisure • Accommodations: Higgins Hotel (R)

DAY 2 Breakfast at The Higgins Hotel / Privately guided “Early-Access” tour / “Out of the Vault” tour / Group lunch with Museum Historian / Afternoon and Dinner at leisure • Accommodations: Higgins Hotel (B, L)

DAY 3 Breakfast at The Higgins Hotel / Campaigns of Courage Guided Tour: *Road to Berlin* and *Road to Tokyo* galleries / John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion & PT-305 / Afternoon at leisure • Accommodations: Higgins Hotel (B)

DAY 4 Breakfast at The Higgins Hotel / Guided touring in Liberation Pavilion / US Freedom Pavilion: Boeing Center / *Expressions of America* sound and light show / Farewell Dinner • Accommodations: Higgins Hotel (B, D)

DAY 5 Breakfast at The Higgins Hotel / Hotel checkout by 12:00 p.m. / Complimentary access to Museum all day • (B)

Enjoy luxury accommodations at The Higgins Hotel New Orleans, a Curio Collection hotel by Hilton, and the official hotel of The National WWII Museum.
Scan the QR code for more information.

A \$500 per person deposit is required at the time of booking.
Final balance is due 30 days prior to departure.





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French civilian shows off grapes on the vine. Official German caption on photo reverse, translated: "A magnificent bunch of grapes, they glow from within. Southern France, 11/10/42."

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NOVEMBER 11, 2025**

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS