

NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

76th Anniversary of
the end of World War II

France

July 14-25, 2021



Dear Friends,

Come join us on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to France to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the end of World War II. The focus will be on the role of the Nebraska National Guards' famed 134th Infantry Regiment and its liberation of the country.

The trip will start off in Normandy along the beaches of D-Day and you will learn about how a Columbus, Nebraska native and soldier revolutionized amphibious warfare. The highlight of this area will be the liberation ceremonies in St. Lo and the touring of the hedgerow sites (Hill 122).

During the trip, we will pay homage to the fallen at Normandy American, Lorraine and Luxembourg American Cemeteries with official party wreath-laying and tours. Next stop will be the city of Nancy and another set of battlefield sites such as Sugar Loaf Hill, Fort Vincent, and the Flavigny Bridge.

Nancy is a beautiful city and promises great nightly entertainment while we are there. Next stop will be the Battle of the Bulge sites in Belgium. Visit historical battlefields around Bastogne: Lutrebois Memorial, Company M Hill, Battle of the Bulge Museum and Memorial. The trip will include scholars and academics on military history of the Nebraska National Guard in World War II. We will also take advantage of wonderful French cuisine, wine and art/culture along the way.

Our French guide is the best in France and has worked with our Nebraska groups in the past. I look forward to seeing you on the trip.

Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer
Colonel (retired), NENG Historian Tour Host



**Nebraska National Guard
Historical Society**

 **Executive Travel**

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888.



July 14, 2021

Wednesday - Travel to France

Our journey begins as we meet at the Omaha airport to take an overnight flight to Paris. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your once-in-a-lifetime tour. Meals served onboard the international flight.

July 15, 2021

Thursday - Bayeux

Welcome to France! We are met by our professional tour guide and driver at the airport and we are off towards the Normandy region. On our way, we will make a stop to visit Claude Monet's house and gardens in Giverny. Art lovers will immediately recognize images immortalized in Monet's most beloved paintings such as water lilies, Japanese bridges, and graceful willow trees. Wander around his famous gardens and home where he lived for more than four decades. If time allows, we will make a stop at the Pegasus Bridge to learn about its important role in the morning of D-Day 1940. In the early evening, we arrive at our hotel in Bayeux in time for dinner and then off to bed for a good night's rest. L (lunch boxes) | D

July 16, 2021

Friday - Utah Beach - Sainte-Mère-Église

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning we

head out to Utah Beach to experience Higgins Boat Memorial. We will listen to the story of the Allied invasion of Normandy and the reasons for the success at Utah Beach. The next stop today is at the church of Sainte-Mère-Église to see where Private John Steele's parachute got caught in one of the pinnacles of the church tower, leaving him hanging on the side of the church. Lunch is served in the village before we pay a visit to the Airborne Museum and make a stop at the Iron Mike statue, dedicated to the memory of the soldiers of the American airborne troops. We head back to picturesque Bayeux for a late afternoon and evening at leisure. If time allows, this is your chance to visit the Bayeux Tapestry Museum. Dinner at leisure. B | L

July 17, 2021

Saturday - Arromanches-les-Bains - Colleville-sur-Mer - Pointe du Hoc - Omaha Beach

After a hearty breakfast, we take a short drive to Arromanches-les-Bains to discover the Mulberry Harbors considered one of the greatest engineering feats of WWII, the temporary mobile harbors for unloading troops, vehicles, and supplies. Omaha Beach, the codename for one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion of German-occupied France in the Normandy landing on June 6th, 1944, is next. We will visit the American cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer, the first American cemetery on

European soil in WWII, and a wreath-laying ceremony is arranged. Pointe du Hoc will make a special impression on you before we head back to enjoy the evening in Bayeux. B | L

July 18, 2021

Sunday - Hedgerow Tour - Hill 122 - St. Lo Celebrations

Breakfast at our hotel. We head out for a very emotional experience; the Hill 122 and Hedgerow Tour. Then, continue to St. Lo to spend the day with the ceremonies of the liberation in the city. Lunch is served in company with our St. Lo Rotary Club friends; yet another emotional touch of the day. There will be plenty of time to reflect on history today, guaranteed! We return to Bayeux in the early evening. B | L

July 19, 2021

Monday - Mortain - Calvados Tastings

After an enjoyable breakfast, we take a good hour's drive to the mountain village of Mortain. In August 1944, after the Normandy invasion of June and subsequent breakout at St. Lo, in July, the German High Command was prepared for a massive counter-offensive in an attempt to throw the Allied Armies back into the sea. We will learn everything about the importance of the Battle of Mortain today. Lunch is served in the village. On our return back to Bayeux, we will swing by a local Calvados producers in the area. Calvados is the special brandy made



from the crisp and sweet Normandy apples. This is the perfect ending to our day. The evening is yours in Bayeux. B | L | T

**July 20, 2021
Tuesday - Amiens - Nancy**

We say farewell to Bayeux this morning. Today is one of the longer driving days as we head east via Amien, with a stop for lunch near the largest cathedral in France, to Nancy which is reached in the evening. Nancy is the beautiful capital of the Dukes of Lorraine and known throughout the world for its array of eighteenth-century architecture in Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d'Alliance. The city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1983. Even more than being a town dedicated to art (which it is!), Nancy has turned to "live" culture, with a national opera, a ballet, a symphony- and opera orchestra. Dinner is served upon our arrival. In the evening, do not miss the spectacular light-show at Place Stanislas. B | L | D

**July 21, 2021
Wednesday - Nancy - Lorraine American Museum - Mayor's Ceremony**

The morning is dedicated to the visits of Flavigny Bridge and the Lorraine American Museum located in Vezelise, a short drive from Nancy. We will return back to Nancy in time for a leisurely lunch prior to a very special ceremony held exclusively for us by the mayor of Nancy in the stunning

town hall. This visit is definitely one of the highlights of the tour. The evening is yours to enjoy in beautiful Nancy. B

**July 22, 2021
Thursday - Battle Site Tour**

After a filling breakfast, we are ready to head out to the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in Saint-Avold. A wreath-laying ceremony has been arranged. Next stop is in the village of Armaucourt with the plaque of orphans of the 134th Infantry Regiment. A leisurely lunch stop is included along our route today. Sugarloaf Hill Monument is up next before we head back to Nancy to enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure. B

**July 23, 2021
Friday - Lutrebois - Bastogne - Luxembourg**

Our day is dedicated to the Battle of Lutrebois and the Battle of the Bulge. We depart from Nancy in the early morning and our first stop today is Lutrebois. A stop at a very special site on the outskirts of the village is included. We will visit the impressive Bastogne War Museum where we will have time for a leisurely lunch before we continue to Luxembourg with a stop and a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Cemetery of Luxembourg. Dinner is served at our elegant hotel in the center of town. B | D

**July 24, 2021
Saturday - Reims - Paris**

We say goodbye to Luxembourg and begin our journey towards Paris. Our route takes us via Reims, the capital of the "ultimate in bottled glamour"; Champagne. Time for lunch and a glass of bubbly, before we arrive at our hotel in the early afternoon. Our farewell dinner tonight is a one-of-a-kind as we enjoy a Seine River cruise to admire the "City of Lights" by night. We expect to return to our hotel around 11:15 PM tonight - "Bonne nuit, Paris!" - Good night, Paris! B | L | D

**July 25, 2021
Sunday - Return home**

All too soon, our journey has come to an end. Transfer to Paris airport in plenty of time to check-in for our flight and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean, back to the United States. Arrival to Omaha airport tonight. B | Meals served onboard your international flight.

We are offering optional excursions in Paris, refer to page 5 for details.

Itinerary is subject to change.

B = Breakfast L = Lunch
T = Tasting D = Dinner



To register contact:



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 Fax: 402-435-2735
 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
 www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:
executivetravel.com/NENG21

Package Price:

Per person in shared double room: \$3,595
 Per person in single room: \$4,395

Limited number of single rooms - we offer "Pair & Share" service. Ask us to assist with finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up for the tour. Deposit can be paid by cash, check or credit card. Balance is due on March 15, 2021, and is non-refundable. Balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services, priced from \$332 per person (covers land up to \$5,000 per person.) For full pricing grid and highlights, please review the enclosed brochure.

For complete details of this travel protection plan, visit policy.travelexinsurance.com/CTSB-0819. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276. YIE

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 40 travelers. Should the number fall below 30, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded by March 15, 2021.

Activity level of this tour:

This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. You should expect some long days of touring and comfortable, sturdy shoes are recommended. Standing at most of the sites must be expected; not all places have seating available.

Air:

Group airfare is offered by Executive Travel. We are able to reserve air by the beginning of September 2020. All registered participants will be informed of the airfare once available - estimate \$1,200-1,400 per person (economy class).

Included:

- 10 nights during the tour at hotels mentioned (or similar), standard rooms
- Porterage at hotels
- 10 x full breakfast
- 7 x lunch as per itinerary
- 4 x dinner as per itinerary
- Calvados tasting
- All motor coach transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- All admissions as per itinerary
- Professional tour manager/guide in France
- Tour host (Gerald "Jerry" Meyer)
- All local taxes and fees as per April 16, 2020

The price quoted within this proposal is based on a USD/EURO exchange rate of 0.85 (1 USD = 0.85 EURO). We reserve the right to adjust pricing at the final payment deadline.

Accommodations:

- Bayeux: Reine Mathilde Hotel
- Nancy: Mercure Centre Stanislas
- Luxembourg: Hotel Royal
- Paris: Hotel le Littre

Final accommodations will be confirmed 90 days prior to departure.

Important: Room types and sizes may vary from hotel to hotel. We have secured standup rooms.

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag FREE, 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for local tour manager/guide and driver (estimate \$5 per person per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- Beverages at meals
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour which can be found on our website at executivetravel.com/escorted-tours



Paris Extension

July 25, 2021 - Sunday

Enjoy a laid back breakfast and morning as we start our Paris sightseeing at 11:00 AM today.

Together with our guide, we board our minivan and depart for a half-day panoramic tour of Paris.

Discover the highlights of Paris; Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, Place de la Concorde, Notre Dame. Our tour will include a visit to the Sacre Coeur Basilica. We will also take a ride with the fun Petit (little) Train of Montmartre to discover the history, heritage, and ambiance of this famous neighborhood.

Lunch is served at a very special restaurant during the tour. Get your camera ready, we will have plenty of photo-stops included today!

Estimated return to our hotel at 5:00 PM for an evening at leisure. B | L

July 26, 2021 - Monday

A day at leisure to enjoy everything Paris has to offer.

With its intangible beauty, haute cuisine, exquisite riches, latest fashion, iconic landmarks, and the romantic ardor, Paris will take your breath away!

We will include ideas for the perfect way to spend a day in Paris in your travel documents. B

July 27, 2021 - Tuesday

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Transfer to Paris airport in plenty of time to check-in for your flight and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before

boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B (boxed due to early departure).

B = Breakfast L = Lunch

The itinerary is subject to change.

Optional excursion to Versailles (5-hour tour - morning hours)

Join our guided tour to Versailles. This UNESCO World Heritage Site and residence of the Sun King, Louis XIV, is by far the most opulent of all castles you will ever see! The building spreads over 720,000 sq. ft and has 700 rooms. Your visit starts with Versailles' most impressive and sumptuous rooms: the king and queen's state apartments and the famous "Hall of Mirrors." You will have time to enjoy the gardens before we transfer back to our hotel (a 1-hour drive).

Pick up and drop-off meeting point in central Paris.

Optional French Pastry Class (2 ½ hours, approx.)

Join a French pastry class and become an expert in the art of French Patisserie!

Together with your French pastry chef, you will learn the technique that makes the French bakers world-famous. Mille-Feuille, Eclair, Chouquettes, or Madeleine ...impress your guests at your next soirée (evening party) with a flaky pastry crust with the perfect cream filling. This class will leave your mouth watering and your hands itching to whip up more pastries!

Pick up and drop-off meeting point in central Paris.

Pricing:

Per person in shared double room: \$900
Per person in single room: \$1,200

Optional tour to Versailles: \$120
Optional French Pastry class: \$120

If you book the Paris Extension, we will make sure to adjust the recommended travel insurance premium and your airfare. Please ask us for the details.

Included in the Paris Extension package:

- 2 nights in Paris in a centrally located 4-star hotel (Hotel le Littré or similar*)
- 2 x breakfast at the hotel, 1 x boxed breakfast
- A half-day (5-6 hours) city sightseeing of Paris (Petit Train tickets included)
- Lunch on July 25
- Airport transfer on July 27
- All local taxes and VAT

*Final accommodation will be confirmed 90 days prior to departure.

Not included:

- Gratuities for local driver-guide
- Meals other than mentioned
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Airfare:

Group airfare is offered by Executive Travel. We are able to reserve air by the beginning of September 2020.

All registered participants will be informed of the airfare once available - estimate \$1,200-1,400 per person (economy class).



JOIN OUR GREAT AIRFARE!

Group Air - July 14-25, 2021:

We offer group airfare with Delta Airlines:

- 7/14/2021 Omaha - Atlanta, 10:30 AM - 1:46 PM
- 7/14/2021 Atlanta - Paris, 3:30 PM - 6:10 AM (7/15/2021)
- 7/25/2021 Paris - Minneapolis, 10:15 AM - 12:45 PM
- 7/25/2021 Minneapolis - Omaha, 3:30 PM - 4:46 PM

Group air is offered at \$1,150 per person including taxes and fees.

Group Air with Paris extension (outbound itinerary the same as above):

- 7/27/2021 Paris - Minneapolis, 10:15 AM - 12:45 PM
- 7/27/2021 Minneapolis - Omaha, 3:30 PM - 4:46 PM

Group air is offered at \$1,150 per person including taxes and fees.

Airfare is subject to change until tickets are issued, 30 days prior to departure.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. Premium seating upgrades ~~DE/DODD/DORR/DW, H/HOBOM~~ please note those cannot be used to upgrade to Delta Comfort Plus but only be used for upgrades to ~~WED/DORR/DW/DW/DW~~ about this and kindly note that certain exceptions may exist.

RESERVE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!