

Follow in the Footsteps of Heroes

LIBERATION TOUR

July 13-25, 2024



Dear Friends,

Come join us on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to France to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of France. The focus will be on the role of the Nebraska National Guards' famed 134th Infantry Regiment and its liberation of the country during the war.

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. We will visit Reims (the world's Champagne capital) and the city of Nancy, with 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 the 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



 **ExecutiveTravel**

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

Normandy American Cemetery



Calvados



Private John Steele



July 13, 2024 - Saturday Travel to France

Our journey begins as we meet at the Omaha airport to take an overnight flight to Paris. Enjoy in-flight entertainment, relax, and unwind as you embark on a once-in-a-lifetime trip. Meals and beverages are served onboard the international flight.

July 14, 2024 - Sunday Monet's House & Gardens - Caen

Welcome to France! Our tour guide and driver will meet us at the airport, and we are off toward the Normandy region. On our way, we will 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 over four decades. If time allows, we will stop at the Pegasus Bridge to learn about its important role on the morning of D-Day 1944. In the early evening, we will arrive at our hotel in Caen in time for dinner. Off to bed for a good night's rest. L (boxed) | D

July 15, 2024 - Monday Utah Beach - St-Mère-Église - Bayeux

Enjoy a rich breakfast before heading to Utah Beach to experience the 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. Free time for lunch in the village before we pay a visit to the Airborne Museum and stop at the Iron Mike statue, dedicated to the memory of the soldiers of the American airborne troops. On our return to Caen, we will stop at picturesque Bayeux. This is your chance to visit the Bayeux Tapestry Museum. Dinner at the hotel in Caen. B

July 16, 2024 - Tuesday 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 6, 1944, is next. We will visit the American cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer*, the first American cemetery on European soil in WWII. Local lunch and off to Pointe du Hoc, leaving you with a special impression. On our return to Caen, we will stop at a local Calvados producer in the area. Calvados is a special brandy made from crisp and sweet Normandy apples. This is the perfect ending to our day. The evening is yours to relax in Caen. B | L | T

July 17, 2024 - Wednesday Mortain

After an enjoyable breakfast, we will take a good hour's drive to the mountain village of Mortain. In August 1944, after the Normandy invasion of June and the 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. We will also pay a visit to St. James Cemetery*. The evening is yours to enjoy in Caen. B | L

July 18, 2024 - Thursday Hedgerow Tour - Hill 122 - St. Lo Celebration Day

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

July 19, 2024 - Friday Amiens - Reims - Verdun

We will say farewell to Caen this morning. Today is one of the longer driving days as we head to Reims via Amiens, with a stop for lunch near the largest cathedral in France. We will visit Musée de la Reddition (Museum of the Surrender) in Reims, the location where the German Third Reich officially surrendered to Allied forces in World War Two. We are not far from the Champagne region and we will toast to that at our hotel in Verdun tonight! B | L | D

July 20, 2024 - Saturday Verdun (WW I) - Nancy

We enjoy breakfast, and we will continue towards Nancy. On the way, we will stop

Sainte-Mere-Eglise



for lunch and pay a visit to the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery*. Within this cemetery and memorial, which covers 130.5 acres, rest the largest number of our military dead in Europe, a total of 14,246. Most of those buried here lost their lives during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I. The Battle of Verdun was fought from 21 February to 18 December 1916 on the Western Front in France. The battle was the longest of the First World War and took place on the hills north of Verdun-sur-Meuse. Lunch is enjoyed at the small museum. The beautiful capital of the Dukes of Lorraine, known worldwide for its array of eighteenth-century architecture in Place Stanislas, Nancy, is reached this afternoon. The city has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1983. Even more than being a town dedicated to art (which it is!), Nancy has a national opera, a ballet, and a symphony- and opera orchestra. Do not miss the spectacular light show at Place Stanislas in the evening. B | L

July 21, 2024 - Sunday

Flavigny - Pt. St. Vincent - Lorraine American Museum

The morning is dedicated to visits to Flavigny Bridge and the Lorraine American Museum in Vezelize, a short drive from Nancy. The afternoon is leisure time to relax and unwind in Nancy. B

July 22, 2024 - Monday

Battle Site Tour - Nancy

After a filling breakfast, we are ready to head out to the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial* in Saint-Avold.

St. Lo Battle Field



The next stop is in the village of Agincourt, The Americans liberated the village twice. A lunch stop is included along our route today. We will return to Nancy in time for an extraordinary ceremony held exclusively for us by the mayor of Nancy in the stunning town hall (pending confirmation). The evening is yours to enjoy in beautiful Nancy. B | L

July 23, 2024 - Tuesday

Luxembourg - Bastogne - Spa

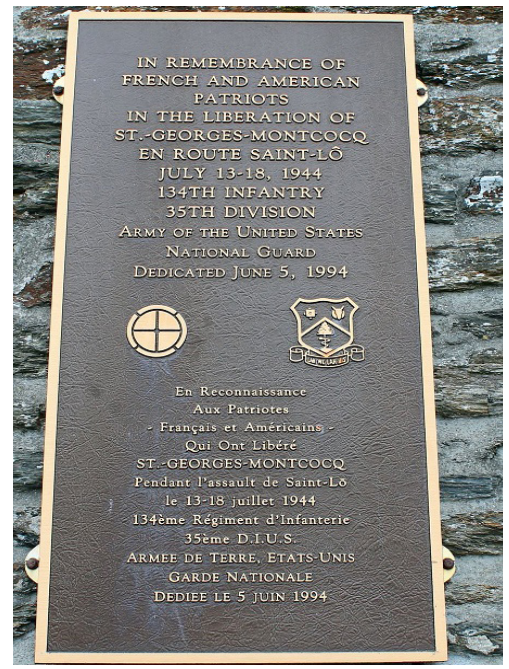
Our journey continues to Luxembourg stopping at the American Cemetery of Luxembourg*. The rest of the day is dedicated to the Battle of Lutrebois and the Battle of the Bulge. We will stop in Lutrebois to visit a very special site on the outskirts of the village. Next, we will visit the impressive Bastogne War Museum, where we will have time for a leisurely lunch and to take a closer look at the Mardasson Memorial, the Battle of the Bulge Monument honoring the memory of American soldiers wounded or killed during World War II's Battle of the Bulge. It is designed in the shape of a five-pointed American star. Tonight, we will unpack our bags in Spa for the last two nights. Dinner is served at our hotel. B | D

July 24, 2024 - Wednesday

Spa

We will enjoy a day at leisure. Spa, the eponymous spa town; also called the "Café of Europe" and the "Pearl of the Ardennes" has, since the 16th century, played a precursory role in the recognition of the medical properties of water, becoming internationally renowned with its waters distributed all over Europe, and

Remembrance Plaque



contributing the word "spa" to the English vocabulary. For those of you wishing to go on yet another adventure, hang on to Jerry, as he plans on visiting Margraten and the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial. We have arranged a farewell dinner tonight at a local restaurant or at hour hotel in Spa. B | D

July 25, 2024 - Thursday

Traveling 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. B | Meals onboard your international flight.

Itinerary is subject to change.

*Wreath laying

B = Breakfast L = Lunch

T = Tasting D = Dinner



Omaha Beach



To register contact:

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ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours/>

Package Price:

Per person in shared double room: \$4,995

Per person in a single room: \$6,495*

We offer "Pair & Share" service for our Solo travelers. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on March 1, 2024, is non-refundable, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment (any payments after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

EARLY BIRD BONUS - ZERO CREDIT CARD FEES:

Pay for your tour in full upon registration and minimum six months prior to departure using your credit card!

SAVE 3.5%!

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 35 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour is rated a level 4 and involves an extensive amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes/boots are recommended. Please reach out to Executive Travel or Jerry Meyer, the tour host, if you have any questions about the activity level of this tour.

Travel Insurance:

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. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

Group airfare: Please see separate insert.

Visa/Passport requirements (per 10/7/2023):

No visas are required for U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens must have a valid passport with expiration after February 26, 2025. It is the traveler's responsibility to make sure all documentation is as per current regulations.

Included:

- 11 nights during the tour at hotels mentioned (or similar), standard rooms
- Porterage at hotels
- 11 x full breakfast
- 6 x lunch as per itinerary
- 4 x dinner as per itinerary
- Calvados and Champagne tastings
- All motor coach transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- All admissions as per itinerary
- Professional tour manager and tour guide in France
- Tour host (Gerald "Jerry" Meyer)
- All local taxes and fees as of October 18, 2023



**Nebraska National Guard
Historical Society**

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Additional baggage fees (your first checked bag is FREE, up to 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities, estimate \$12-15 per person per day in total, covering guide and driver
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- Beverages at meals
- Entrances to sites other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Accommodations (final names 90 days before departure):

- Caen: Best Western Le Moderne or similar
- Verdun: Hotel les Jardins du Mess or similar
- Nancy: Hotel Mercure Centre Nancy or similar
- Spa: Radisson Blu Balmoral or similar

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found on our website at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours/

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

10/19/2023

JOIN OUR GROUP AIRFARE!

July 13-25, 2024:

We offer group airfare with American Airlines:

July 13, 2024	Omaha* - Dallas	9:45 AM - 11:40 AM
July 13, 2024	Dallas - Paris	5:10 PM - 9:25 AM (July 14, 2024)
July 25, 2024	Paris - Chicago	4:05 PM - 6:15 PM
July 25, 2024	Chicago - Omaha*	8:20 PM - 9:52 PM

\$1,450 per person including taxes and fees, economy class.

*We are happy to assist with airfare from a different airport than Omaha. Reach out to get your quote. If you travel from a different airport, we aim to have you meet your fellow travelers in Dallas on July 13 and return from Paris around the same time as the rest of the group on July 25. Individual additional transfers may be necessary if meeting the main group is not possible.

Important:

Group airfare comes with **seat assignments 30 days prior to departure**. Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure, and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft. We do our best to honor your preferences (window, aisle seat).

Premium seating upgrades are not available when traveling on a group air contract. If you have frequent flyer miles (AAdvantage® program), please note those cannot be used to upgrade to a different class of service. Contact us if you have any questions and kindly note that certain exceptions may exist.

THE ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
SECURE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!

