D-Day to the Rhine Tour covers the planning and launch of the D-Day Invasion and the subsequent Allied march into the heart of Nazi Germany. Stephen E. Ambrose interviewed countless veterans about where they fought and what they accomplished. We relive their experiences. On the tour, we follow the path of America’s best and brightest young men in 1944. It is unmatched in its authenticity. We visit the invasion beaches of Omaha and Utah and the American Cemetery as well as the other key sites that live in memory. The tour will leave you profoundly grateful.
Day 1 - Flight to London
Guest travel independently to London on an overnight flight from USA.

Day 2 - London
Arrive in London and check into the hotel where the entire group will gather for an evening welcome reception. Our historian will treat us to our first lecture, with introductions all around.

Day 3 - London
The morning will feature key sites in London that figured prominently in the War. We then proceed to the Churchill War Rooms, the underground nerve center for Britain’s war effort. We will also visit the Imperial War Museum, which houses authentic examples of World War II weaponry, tanks and aircraft and an exhibit of WWI trench warfare. We will have free time to enjoy London in the evening.

Day 4 - Portsmouth
Depart for Portsmouth, the seaside town that became the staging center for the D-Day invasion. Here the Allies assembled the armies and equipment for the massive undertaking. Besides the hundreds of thousands of men, there were thousands of armored vehicles and the assemblage of sea vessels: landing craft of all kinds in addition to warships that made up the flotilla for the English Channel crossing. Nearby, General Dwight D. Eisenhower set up the advance command post of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, where he, Naval Commander Ramsay, Army Commander Montgomery and staff would meet to plan the invasion.
Day 5 - 8 - Normandy

NOTE: We will spend days 5-8 in Normandy where guests will visit all the key sites mentioned below and attend the June 6 Anniversary Ceremonies. Once you are assigned to a departure date and historian, we will send more detailed information and itineraries specific to your group.

• Following breakfast, we will board the cross-channel ferry and embark for Normandy as the troops did in 1944. In the afternoon, we will begin our visit to Normandy at Ste-Mere-Eglise, one of the villages where the American Airborne Division descended on D-Day. Here we will view and explore the iconic church where John Steele and his landing on the steeple are memorialized. We also visit La Fiere Bridge where the 82nd Airborne Division successfully delayed a German Panzer counter-attack against the Allied landing forces.

• We will begin “The Longest Day” at Brécourt Manor where Lt. Dick Winters with members of Easy Company successfully silenced German artillery firing on American troops landing at Utah Beach. From there we will visit Utah Beach itself, where the 4th Division landed, and the Invasion Museum that depicts their heroics. Next we will stop at Ste-Marie du Mont where still stands the unique Renaissance-style steeple used as an observation post by the Germans. From there, we will proceed to the town of Carentan where we will follow the exact steps taken by American Paratroopers during the Battle of Normandy.

• There will be a visit to Pointe-du-Hoc, where Rudders’ Rangers scaled the cliffs to neutralize heavy German guns defending the expanse of beaches on D-Day.

• We’ll spend the morning at Omaha Beach where the Americans landed and faced the strongest German resistance of the day and incurred the greatest losses. We will walk the beach and visit some of the German defense fortifications. We explore these sands from the tide’s ebb to the distant dunes to understand the emotions of the young soldiers of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions as they approached the “gates of hell.”

• We will pay our respects at the American Cemetery with its 9,387 American soldiers’ graves stretching along the top of the bluff overlooking the beach. In the afternoon we will view the battery at Longues-sur-Mer, a fine example of the great defenses that made up Hitler’s Atlantic Wall. We will proceed along the British Beaches from there to Pegasus Bridge where the first shots were fired on D-Day. Here the British Sixth Airborne led by Major John Howard with a miraculous glider landing carried out a surprise attack that yielded great success in overtaking this crucial bridge across the Caen Canal.
Day 9 - Paris
We drive through the lush, scenic countryside of Normandy and northern France on the way to Paris, the City of Lights.

We aim to arrive in Paris between 3 - 4 p.m. so you can have access to your hotel rooms. The Allies, preceded by Free French troops, symbolically reclaimed the French capital from the Nazis in August 1944. As did the American troops on leave, you have a free evening to explore the city on your own. The evening is free.

Day 10 - Arnhem
After an early breakfast, we board a high-speed train to Brussels and begin our study of Operation Market Garden, the early attempt by the Allied forces to strike directly for Berlin. Control of the bridges at Eindhoven, Nijmegen and Arnhem was essential for the push into Germany. We drive “Hell’s Highway” where the 101st and 82nd Airborne Division broke through to connect with the British in Arnhem. We visit Nijmegen to see the daring crossing of the Waal River by the 82nd Airborne Division. From there we proceed to Arnhem where again we cross the “Bridge Too Far.”

Our historian will recount the desperate three days that the British 1st Airborne under General John Frost held it. Afterwards, we finish at the Airborne Museum at Oosterbeek.

Day 11 - The Ardennes
This is where Hitler put everything he had into his only counter-attack. On December 16, 1944, Lt. Lyle Bouck was one of the first people to see the German columns coming on. We’ll make our first stop in the Ardennes at Lancereth, the town where Bouck and a platoon of 19 men held off a full strength German SS Battalion under the infamous Joachim Peiper for an entire day. We’ll visit the American positions and hear their story, a breathtaking tale of heroism.
On December 17, 1944, the second day of the offensive, the Germans had several breakthroughs and many Americans surrendered near the town of Malmedy. Outside the town, Peiper’s SS lined up about 150 GIs and fired at them point blank. Less than half escaped alive. We will view the site of the massacre and the American Memorial at Malmedy. From there, we have a scenic drive through the Ardennes Mountains to our evening lodging.

**Day 12 - Luxembourg**
We’ll drive to Bastogne where the Americans rallied and stopped the German attack. Here we’ll view the route of the initial American retreat and the place where the 101st Airborne Division and elements of the 10th Armored held off fifteen German divisions for six days. Our group will visit key sites in and around this historic crossroads town. We’ll also go to General McAuliffe’s HQ where he replied to German surrender demands with one word: “NUTS.” After our visit, it’s a short ride to Luxembourg. This afternoon affords some relaxing free time in the center of this bustling but charming old world city.

**Day 13 - Frankfurt**
We drive to nearby Hamm and the American cemetery and the site of General George Patton’s grave. America’s foremost WWII field general rests here among his men.

We’ll drive to the Siegfried Line to see remnants of the German communication trenches, pillboxes and dragon’s teeth that American GI’s fought so hard to take in late 1944. This evening we gather for a farewell dinner and discussion after an enriching campaign into history.

**Day 14 - Frankfurt**
Early morning airport transfer to Frankfurt International. If you are interested in extending your tour, we are offering three post-tour extensions: Berchtesgaden; Nuremberg & Berchtesgaden; or Berlin.
THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY TOURS WILL OFFER 3 OPTIONAL POST-TOURS.

1. **BERCHTESGADEN**
   - $1,550 per person based on double occupancy.
   - $350 single supplement.

2. **NUREMBERG & BERCHTESGADEN**
   - $1,550 per person based on double occupancy.
   - $350 single supplement.
   - Night 1 - Nuremberg
   - Nights 2 & 3 - Munich

3. **BERLIN**
   - $2,050 per person based on double occupancy.
   - $450 single supplement.
   - Night 1 - Weimar
   - Nights 2 - 4 - Berlin
Post Tour Day 1 - Berchtesgaden
We continue our journey toward the Bavarian Alps. We will visit Dachau, site of some of the most nefarious acts against humankind during the war, as we travel south through Bavaria. In total, over 200,000 prisoners from more than 30 countries were housed in Dachau: notably Jews, resistance fighters, clergymen, politicians, communists, writers, artists and royalty. The second camp liberated by British or American forces, Dachau was one of the first places where the west was exposed to Nazi brutality.

Post Tour Day 2 - Berchtesgaden
The morning begins with a tour of Berchtesgaden and Obersalzberg where we will visit the Eagle’s Nest and the remains of the vast Nazi Party complex liberated by the Allies in May 1945. The Eagle’s Nest was built as a 50th birthday present to Hitler from the Nazi party. Perched at 6,017 feet, the complex and the road network leading to it were considered feats of engineering genius as they were completed in only 13 months time in 1937-38. Dinner on your own.

Post Tour Day 3 - Munich
Checking out of the Berchtesgaden-area hotel, we depart for our final tour night in Munich. After a city tour, guests have free time until the farewell dinner.

Day 4 - Flights Home
Early morning dropoff at Munich airport (MUC).
Day 1 – Nuremberg
We continue our journey toward the Bavarian Alps, stopping first in the historic city of Nuremberg, where Hitler staged his infamous Nazi rallies and the International Tribunal conducted the Nuremberg Trials. After lunch in the picturesque market center dominated by the Frauenkirche, we will tour the Nazi Party Rally Grounds and visit the Nuremberg Trials Courtroom 600.

Day 2 – Munich
We continue south through Bavaria toward Munich, first stopping to visit Dachau, site of some of the most nefarious acts against humankind during the war. In total, over 200,000 prisoners from more than 30 countries were confined in Dachau: notably Jews, resistance fighters, clergymen, politicians, communists, writers, artists and royalty. The second camp liberated by Anglo-American forces, Dachau was one of the first places where the West was exposed to Nazi brutality. After lunch in a traditional Munich restaurant, we’ll enjoy a city tour of Munich before checking-into a hotel in the heart of Munich, our base for our final two days.

Day 3 – Munich
The day includes a city tour of Berchtesgaden and Obersalzberg where we will visit the Eagle’s Nest and the remains of the vast Nazi Party complex liberated by the Allies in May 1945. Eagle’s Nest was built as a 50th birthday present to Hitler from the Nazi Party. Perched at 6017 feet, the complex and road network leading to it were considered feats of engineering genius as they were completed in only 13 months in 1937-1938. For our final night, we will reflect on our journey and enjoy the camaraderie of a farewell dinner.

Day 4 – Flights Home
Morning transfer to Munich Airport (MUC).

Optional Post Tour:
NUREMBERG & BERCHTESGADEN

$1,550 per person based on double occupancy.
$350 single supplement

Optional Post Tour Includes:
- Full-time historian and logistical escort
- Three nights in four-star hotel
- Rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, porterage and service charges
- Touring by first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach
- Breakfast daily and two dinners
- All entrance fees to museums and attractions
Day 1 - Weimar
We continue our journey eastward, stopping in Weimar in the heart of the Reich. Best remembered today as the center of the interwar Weimar Republic and home of some of Germany's greatest philosophers, musicians and writers. Adolf Hitler visited this Thuringian city no fewer than 35 times and one of Nazi Germany’s most infamous concentration camps stood in the city.

Our first stop will be Buchenwald Concentration Camp. It was from this place that SS members decided which prisoners were able to work as slave laborers in factories like Nordhausen and those deemed “unsuitable” for further labor in support of the Reich’s war effort and shipped to death camps in Poland.

Following our visit to the camp we will see sites directly related to the Third Reich: the hotel at which Hitler stayed on each of his visits, Gestapo headquarters, and other government buildings designed by Nazi architects and built by Buchenwald’s slave laborers.

Day 2 - Weimar to Berlin
On April 25, 1945, the worst fears of the Nazi leaders came true when Russian and American forces met at the Elbe River, in the town of Torgau. Following the linkup of the two great Allied powers everyone knew that the end could only be days away. We will visit the spot where the historic liaison occurred on our way to Berlin.

Here were many installations that served as the center for the German Army’s military justice system. Later they were meeting sites for Russian and American military leaders on the strategy for ending the war in Germany.
Day 3 - Berlin and the Nazi State
The focus of this day will be on the Nazi seizure of power and the workings of Adolf Hitler and his government. We will begin at the Brandenburg gate, the site of the 1933 parade announcing the Nazi assumption of power. Our tour of the city will stop at the former SS and Gestapo headquarters—with its Topography of Terror exhibit—the memorial to Germany’s war dead; Opera House and Royal Library; Italian and Japanese embassies; one of the massive air raid shelters built to protect the city’s citizens and the Wehrmacht High Command building at 1 Bendlerstrasse where Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg and other July 20 “plotters” were killed after the failed attempt to assassinate the Führer. After lunch we see Herman Göring’s Luftwaffe Air Ministry building, which miraculously survived Allied bombing, the Prussian Court of Appeals where the Nazi “People’s Court” convened to try others suspected of opposition to Hitler and the Plotsenジー Prison where the guilty were executed. We will stay in Berlin.

Day 4 - The Reich in Ruins
Our second day in the German capital will focus on the climactic battle for control of the city. We will start at the Brandenburg Gate, this time to discuss the arrival of the Red Army. A short stop to the Soviet memorial nearby follows a visit to the Reichstag, where graffiti left by victorious Red Army soldiers is still visible. Then we will study the battles in and around Charlottenberg and the Tiergarten in detail. After a lunch break near “Checkpoint Charlie” we proceed to the city center to the site of Adolf Hitler’s Chancellery and the underground bunker where one of history’s most evil men finally met his end. Our day will conclude with a stop at Karlshorst. In May 1945, the Soviets took over the Wehrmacht engineering school and used it as headquarters and the location for Germany’s final surrender. It is now a museum and the group will have a chance to tour the many exhibits as well as the room where the capitulation was signed.

Day 4 - Homeward Bound
Morning transfer to the Tegel International Airport in Berlin.

Optional Post Tour Includes:
• Full-time historian and tour manager
• Three nights in four-star hotel
• Rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, porterage and service charges
• Touring by first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach
• Breakfast daily and some dinners
• All entrance fees to museums and attractions

Optional Post Tour:

BERLIN

$2,050 per person based on double occupancy.
$450 single supplement

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