



80th Anniversary of D-Day: American WWII History

12 days | 15 days with Netherlands extension

Whether you're a WWII history buff or you're celebrating family members who served, you'll feel moved by the memorials and museums you visit on this tour, and by the battlefields and beaches of Normandy and Bastogne, where brave soldiers fought the Battle of the Bulge. Explore pivotal battle sites, take time to honor the sacrifices made by the Allied soldiers, and bond with your fellow travelers while experiencing exclusive anniversary events. For even more history, extend your stay and explore important sites in the Netherlands.



Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 7 guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 ferry transfer

Included highlights

- Special 80th anniversary celebration of D-Day
- Churchill War Rooms
- Ferry ride across the English Channel
- American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer
- Omaha Beach
- Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation
- Musée de la Reddition
- Bastogne War Museum

Tour pace

You will walk for about 2.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and paved roads.

Group size

15–35

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to London.

London → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in London

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to England! Gather with your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner served with beer or wine.

Day 3: World War II sightseeing tour of London

Included meals: breakfast

Meet up with your local guide and take in the historical sights, buildings, and landmarks of England's vibrant capital.

- Step inside the Imperial War Museums to see moving exhibits focusing on people's experiences during times of war.
- See Westminster Abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 13th century not only as a great monastery and place of worship, but also as a site for royal coronations, weddings, and burials.
- Pass by Wellington Barracks, headquarters for the British Army's Foot Guards.
- Visit the Churchill War Rooms and explore the secret, underground bunker that the Prime Minister and his Cabinet met in during WWII.

Spend a free evening in London or add an excursion.

+ Tower of London

Normandy Region → 3 nights

Day 4: Ferry to Normandy Region

Included meals: breakfast

Transfer to Portsmouth and step inside The D-Day Story museum, which uses imagery, audio-visual presentations, personal testimonies, artifacts, and authentic war vehicles to tell the story of D-Day. Learn about the preparation and execution of Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy.

Then, board a ferry and cross the English Channel to Normandy. Sail along the same waters that the Allied soldiers did prior to the Normandy landings. You'll dock in Caen before heading to your hotel in Normandy.

Day 5: D-Day 80th anniversary ceremonies

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Join your fellow travelers at a special event arranged by Go Ahead Tours to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, including a remembrance lunch.

Please note: Details will be announced closer to the tour departure date. Travelers should allow for flexibility of the inclusions and order of events.

Day 6: World War II sightseeing tour of Normandy Region

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Set out to explore the Normandy region, visiting historic sites as you go.

- Travel back to the American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, the burial place for more than 9,000 American soldiers who lost their lives during the Battle of Normandy.
- Walk along Omaha Beach, the landing site of American troops on D-Day.
- Visit Pointe du Hoc to view the granite monument that honors the American 2nd Ranger Battalion, which seized German cannons here before they could be used to fire on American troops.
- Stop in the seaside town of Arromanches, home to one of the main Allied landing harbors, and enjoy free time to explore.

This evening, join your group for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Please note: The activities are subject to change due to closures surrounding D-Day anniversary ceremonies.

Paris → 2 nights

Day 7: Transfer to Paris & World War II sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Make your way to Paris this morning. Upon arrival, meet up with your local guide for a history-focused tour. Get to know the architecture, scenery, and history of the city's many neighborhoods, or arrondissements.

- Stop to take a photo of the Eiffel Tower.
- See Le Meurice hotel, which served as the Nazis' headquarters during the Occupation.
- Walk through Le Palais Royal and past the Louvre to Île de la Cité, an island in the Seine River where you'll see Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Paris Police Prefecture, and the Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation.
- As you view these historic sites, hear from your guide about the Occupation, Resistance, and history of French heroes.
- End in Le Marais, the city's Jewish Quarter.

Day 8: Free day in Paris

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Paris or add excursions.

+ Historic Versailles

+ Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

Luxembourg → 2 nights

Day 9: Luxembourg via Reims

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Today, make your way to Luxembourg. On the way, stop in Reims, the ancient city whose red-brick school served as the headquarters of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

- Enter the Musée de la Reddition—the very room in the school where three high officers of the German armed forces signed their unconditional declaration of surrender in 1945, ending WWII in Europe.
- Enjoy free time for lunch and to explore the area.

Later, cross into the tiny principality of Luxembourg, where you'll join your group for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Day 10: World War II sightseeing tour of Luxembourg City

Included meals: breakfast

Today, join your local guide for a tour of the City of Luxembourg, the country's deeply historic capital.

- Enter the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, a serene 17-acre site where 5,070 service members—including General George Patton and thousands who died during the Battle of the Bulge and in the advance to the Rhine River—are buried.
- View the WWII Monument to National Unity in the New Town.
- See the Citadel of the Holy Spirit, Notre-Dame Cathedral, and the Grand Ducal Palace.
- Travel through the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site whose location on a steep, rocky outcrop at the confluence of the Alzette and Pétrusse Rivers made for an exceptional strategic position throughout various periods of European history.

Spend a free afternoon in Luxembourg City or add an excursion.

+ Maginot Line

Brussels → 1 night

Day 11: Brussels via Bastogne & battlefields

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Travel by coach to Bastogne, where you'll visit the battlegrounds and museums related to the Battle of the Bulge.

- Visit the Bastogne War Museum and pay tribute to the American soldiers who defended Belgium in WWII during the Battle of the Bulge.
- See the Mardasson Memorial, a monument dedicated to the Americans who lost their lives during the Battle of the Bulge.
- Visit the site of the Bois Jacques Foxholes manned by the Easy Company Band of Brothers—the elite team of U.S. paratroopers whose harrowing journey from Normandy to the Eagle's Nest inspired the hit HBO miniseries of the same name.
- Explore Bois de la Paix, the grove of 4,000 trees that were planted for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.
- Stop at the German military cemetery in Recogne.

Continue to Brussels and celebrate your trip alongside your fellow travelers at tonight's farewell dinner served with beer or wine.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to explore the Netherlands.

+ Netherlands extension

Continue retracing WWII history in the Netherlands, and deepen your appreciation for service members' harrowing experiences there. In Arnhem, see where the Allied forces' Operation Market Garden unfolded—and failed—in 1944. In Amsterdam, stroll along scenic bridges and canals, and take in historical highlights, such as the National Holocaust Museum and the Anne Frank House.

Nijmegen Region → 1 night

Day 12: Nijmegen Region via Mechelen & Antwerp

Included meals: breakfast

Set off for the Nijmegen region, stopping en route in the historic cities of Mechelen and Antwerp.

- Enter the Kazerne Dossin in Mechelen, a memorial, museum, and research center on the Holocaust and human rights.
- Pay a visit to Antwerp, where you'll enjoy free time for lunch and to wander its medieval streets.

Continue to the Nijmegen region, where you'll have the option to join the daily Sunset March across the Oversteek Bridge in tribute to the 48 Allied soldiers who lost their lives crossing the river during Operation Market Garden in 1944.

Amsterdam → 2 nights

Day 13: Amsterdam via Arnhem

Included meals: breakfast

As you travel to the Netherlands, visit the city of Arnhem to explore sites integral to 1944's Operation Market Garden—the Allies' ambitious and ultimately doomed plan to cross the River Rhine and advance deep into northern Germany in part by seizing key bridges in the Netherlands.

- Visit the Airborne Museum, dedicated to the Battle of Arnhem, and learn about the British, Polish, and German soldiers on a guided tour.

- Travel through the central part of the city, where you'll hear more about how Operation Market Garden failed.
- Enjoy free time in the city to relax, have lunch, and explore.

Then, continue to Amsterdam and enjoy a free evening or add an excursion.

+ Canal Cruise & Dinner

Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Amsterdam

Included meals: breakfast

Today's panoramic sightseeing tour introduces you to Amsterdam's iconic canals and unique character.

- Walk past the National Opera and Ballet, Jewish Historical Museum, National Holocaust Museum, and Hollandsche Schouwburg—a memorial dedicated to the more than 100,000 Dutch Jews who were deported from there during the war.
- Drive through the city center to see Museumplein and Mint Tower—the medieval-era tower that was once part of the old city walls.
- View some of Dam Square's many landmarks, including the neoclassical Royal Palace, the 15th-century New Church, and the National Monument.
- Pass the Anne Frank House, where the young, Jewish diarist and her family hid from Nazis during World War II.
- Stroll by the canals and bridges, taking in the houseboats that dot the banks.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport in Amsterdam for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/DDA | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Tower of London

\$149CAD (3 hours, departs in the morning)

Enter the Tower of London, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its dark history of treason, imprisonment, and beheadings. With a local Blue Badge Guide leading the way, you'll explore the nooks and crannies of this royal castle, seeing ancient coin collections, suits of armor, and the glittering Crown Jewels as you go. Explore exhibitions about the Royal Mint and old armaments before watching a live historical reenactment and visiting the White Tower. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Extension excursion options

Day 13: Canal Cruise & Dinner

\$179CAD/\$189CAD* (3 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Cruise along the canals of Amsterdam on a houseboat, enjoying the view of row houses lit up for the night. Your cruise will take you through the center of the city as you enjoy dinner by lantern light.

Day 8: Historic Versailles

\$185CAD (5 hours, departs in the morning)

The reign of Louis XIV, known as the "Sun King," set new standards for decadence among the crowned heads of Europe. It took 50 years and 35,000 workers to turn Versailles, once a small hunting lodge, into the most magnificent château in all of France and the envy of royalty worldwide. On this excursion, you will see the palace in all its glory as you tour the State Apartments and the glittering Hall of Mirrors. Then, stroll through the lavish gardens to admire their fine statuary, splendid fountains, and colorful flowerbeds. You'll also learn about the palace's connection to WWII, including the signing of the Treaty of Versailles and the influence that the Nazi occupation had on the region. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 8: Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Take in the nighttime allure of the City of Light on a special evening excursion. The event begins with dinner at a local restaurant. After you dine, board a boat cruise along the Seine. As you coast along the river and under Paris' bridges, you'll behold the illuminated monuments of the city glittering alongside the riverbanks. Please note: The dress code may vary depending on the restaurant for your dinner. Your Tour Director will advise you on what to wear, but shorts and sneakers are likely to be considered inappropriate attire.

Day 10: Maginot Line

\$119CAD/\$129CAD* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

This afternoon, travel into France to visit the Maginot Line. This series of fortifications was built by the French before the start of WWII as a way to defend themselves against a possible attack by German forces. Join a local guide for a tour of Ouvrage Hackenberg, one of the line's largest fortifications. You'll learn about the history and intricacies that went into building this section of the 943-mile-long fortification. Discover the original tunnels and infrastructure that have been impeccably preserved and are still in working order. After, travel back to Luxembourg City.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms