

65TH Anniversary Battlefield Tour of France For the Society of the Third Infantry Division

**August 11-24, 2009
14 days, 12 nights**

\$2956* pp dbl occ land
Optional Italy extension

Be a part of history on this historic WWII tour!

Tuesday 11 August – USA - Nice, France

Depart from your home gateway for flight/s to Nice.

Wednesday 12 August – Nice, France

On arrival in Nice, clear customs and meet your Tour Escort who will remain with you throughout your tour. Transfer to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. You may choose to explore picturesque Old Nice or walk the famous promenade – La Promenade des Anglais – where the equally famous Le Negresco Hotel is located. This evening, join your fellow travel companions for a welcome reception. Meals: On your own. Overnight: Nice.

Thursday 13 August – Nice, France

This morning is at leisure to tour Nice on your own. Or take the optional tour to the charming town of Grasse located in the beautiful Maritimes Alpes north of Nice where you'll tour a world famous perfumery. After returning to Nice, the mayor will welcome the group with a special plaque ceremony at the War Monument followed by a reception. Hosted dinner (unconfirmed). Meals: B, (D). Overnight: Nice.

Friday 14 August – Draguignan, La Croix Valmer and Cavalaire-sur-Mer, France

Start today's events by participating in ceremonies at the Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial in Draguignan which was established on August 19, 1944, after the Seventh Army's surprise landing in Southern France. Later, enjoy a hosted reception with local dignitaries in La Croix Valmer which is the beginning of our tour along the Marne Trail. It is the inspiration of Tim Stoy, president of the Society of the Third Infantry Division and Monika Stoy, a veteran of the same division, to have plaques placed in every village and town that was liberated by the Third Infantry Division – the battle route called the Marne Trail. Unconfirmed hosted dinner in Saint Tropez, a provincial town, world renowned as a resort destination. Meals: B, (D). Overnight: Cavalaire-sur-Mer.

Saturday 15 August – St Tropez, Ramatuelle, La Croix Valmer and Cavalaire-sur-Mer, France

Today is very special as it is the 65th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Southern France. We begin with ceremonies in Saint Tropez followed by receptions in Ramatuelle and la Croix Valmer. Later, commemorative ceremonies in Cavalaire-sur-Mer will include wreath-laying at the monument of the landing, a city-wide parade and fireworks to mark this very historical location. Cavalaire was one of the main landing sites of the invasion. Ramatuelle is a quaint fortified village that is anchored by a church dating to the 17th Century. Unconfirmed hosted lunch. Meals: B, (L). Overnight: Cavalaire-sur-Mer

Sunday 16 August – Forcalqueiret, Saint-Maximin la Sainte Baume, Orange and Montelimar, France

Today will begin with a plaque dedication in Forcalqueiret. Then visit Saint-Maximin la Sainte Baume before traveling onward to Orange for a Marne plaque ceremony. You'll visit the French Foreign Legion Barracks then continue on to Montelimar. Saint-Maximin la Sainte Baume has a rich history from Neolithic times to the Gallo-Roman and Middle Ages. Its basilica is the largest gothic building in southeast France and is where the remains of Saint Maria Magdeleine lay in a sarcophagus that is carved of fine grained marble from the Sea of Marmara near Constantinople. Meals: B. Overnight: Montelimar.

Monday 17 August – Allan, Montelimar and Annecy, France

After hotel check out, visit the village of Allan, the location of a German corps headquarters where a fierce battle occurred that became the subject of a book written by Jeff Danby, the grandson of a tank platoon commander killed in this battle. Then visit the Drome Department War Memorial before driving onward to Annecy. For Third Division veterans, Montelimar is known as the location where the German 19th Army was almost trapped and suffered great losses of personnel and equipment. Montelimar is also known for its nougat, a delicious soft candy made of almonds and honey. The beautiful drive to Annecy will take you through the French Alps. Meals: B. Overnight in Annecy.

Tuesday 18 August – Beure and Besancon, France

Today, drive to the village of Beure in the Besancon area for the dedication of a Marne Trail plaque. A family-style luncheon hosted by the villagers will provide another wonderful experience of French hospitality. Then, drive on to Besancon for welcome ceremonies hosted by local dignitaries. Julius Caesar made camp on a hill high above Besancon which is now the site of an impressive citadel built by Vauban at the end of the 17th Century. Meals: B, L. Overnight: Besancon.

Wednesday 19 August – Vesoul and Epinal, France

Travel by motorcoach to Vesoul for ceremonies and lunch with local dignitaries. From there, travel to Epinal past the various battle sites in the Vosges Mountains. Meals: B, L. Overnight: Epinal.

Thursday 20 August – Epinal, Sigolsheim and Colmar, France

Today begins with a visit to the American Cemetery in Epinal followed by a tour of the Turkheim Museum. Then visit the French Cemetery in Sigolsheim where French dignitaries will host a reception. Overnight in Colmar, the prefecture (capitol) of the “Haut-Rhin Departement.” It is the location of a two month vicious battle that drove the Germans out of the last occupied French soil during one of France’s coldest winters on record. This battle is known as the Battle of the Colmar Pocket. The Third Division was one of four American divisions attached to the First French Army in this historic battle. Colmar is a beautiful ancient city that is known for being the home town of Architect Bartoldi who designed and cast the components of the Statue of Liberty. A scaled-down replica of the statue remains in Colmar. Meals: B. Overnight: Colmar.

Friday 21 August – Balzenheim, Bennwihr, Holzwihr and Colmar, France

Begin this day with a visit to Balzenheim for a Marne Trail plaque dedication. You will be welcomed in Bennwihr with a reception by local dignitaries. Bennwhir has only one prewar house left; every other structure in the village was destroyed in December 1944. It is where your Tour Organizer was wounded, captured and escaped on the morning of December 23, 1944. There will also be a reception in Holzwihr plus a visit to the Audie Murphy Monument. This evening, enjoy a reception and hosted dinner (unconfirmed) in Colmar. Meals: B, (D). Overnight: Colmar.

Saturday 22 August – Mutzig and Strasbourg, France

Today, drive to Mutzig for a short visit to the Mutzig Fort followed by lunch in the area. The Mutzig Fort was built and completed by the Germans in 1897. It could house as many as 6,500 soldiers underground for three months at a time. It took our division one week to capture the 200 Germans left in the fort. Inside, you will see bakeries, wells, generators, a machine shop, an infirmary, barracks, gun emplacements among other installations necessary to sustain life underground. Drive on to Strasbourg where you’ll enjoy the sights of one of the most charming and historic cities in France that was a famous Roman outpost. This evening, enjoy a cruise on the Ill River through the old town area named La Petite France and dinner. Meals: B, D. Overnight: Strasbourg.

Sunday 23 August – Chateau-Thierry, Paris, France

After hotel check out, travel to Chateau-Thierry for a visit to the WWI and WWII Third Division Monument. You’ll have lunch here followed by a visit to the Cemetery of Belleau Woods and the impressive monuments that mark this heroic battle on the Marne River. It was here that the 3rd Infantry Division, along with other US and French units stopped the last German offensive only 45 miles from Paris. This afternoon, drive onward to Paris – the City of Lights -- for a brief city tour. Then bid farewell to your fellow travel companions at a dinner in a typical Parisian restaurant. Meals: B, D. Overnight: Paris.

Monday 24 August – Paris - USA

After hotel check out, transfer from your hotel to the Paris airport for your flight/s home or other destinations.

Optional extension to Italy (Rate to be determined by the number of participants)

Day 1 – Arrive in Rome and tour on your own this afternoon. Meals: B. Overnight: Rome.

Day 2 – Rome, Italy

Visit the battlefields in Anzio-Nettuno plus the museum in Nettuno. Visit the Military Museum Latina and return to Rome by way of Cisterna, Cori, Artena, Valmontone – the route taken by the Division from Anzio Breakout to Rome. Meals: B. Overnight: Rome.

Day 3 – Rome, Italy

Transfer from your hotel to the airport and fly to your onward destination/s. Meals: B.

* Extend your stay in Rome, Italy or other regions of Europe. Travel arrangements will be made to coordinate with the tour.

Escorted France Tour Package Includes:

- * Deluxe air conditioned touring coach
- * Gratuities for guide and driver
- * 12 nights First Class hotels
- * All tour transfers
- * Welcome reception in Nice
- * Farewell dinner in Paris
- * Services of English speaking tour manager
- * Sightseeing per itinerary
- * Admission fees to sites
- * Hotel and city taxes
- * Meals: As indicated plus possible pending meals
- * Strasbourg Ill River cruise & dinner

Not included: International air, comprehensive trip insurance, document shipping, meals except where indicated by B, L, D. Meals in () are unconfirmed when these materials were printed.

Important note: Itinerary is subject to revisions and will be amended to take advantage of local opportunities such as special events, ceremonies and invitations by dignitaries that are not currently confirmed for this historic tour. Any amendments of this sort are benefits that are not expected to affect the tour rate.

Deposit: \$350 per person within 7 days of booking. ***Rates** are based on a minimum group of 20 passengers and may be adjusted depending on group size, currency fluctuations plus fuel and/or other surcharges that may be imposed for 2009 travel. **Forms of payment:** Tour is payable by check. For credit card payment, add 3.5%. **Hotels:** First class. Some may not have air conditioning. **Single rates:** Available on request. **Discounted air** is available from major US gateways. **Pre and post tour extensions** available including hotels, train tickets, rental cars, tours, cruises. **A current passport** is required and must be valid for six months after US return date. **Trip insurance** is required for this tour and will be quoted at time of booking. **Errors and omissions:** While every attempt has been made to provide accurate information, suppliers reserve rights to correct errors and omissions.

Limited space on this historic tour. Book early for guaranteed space!

TO BOOK YOUR TRIP CONTACT:

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