

**SAME
PRICE
AS 2014!**

"THE LONGEST DAY" 72ND ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY NORMANDY - PARIS 1 - 10 JUNE 2016

**TOUR LEADER: LTCOL JOHN POWELL, USA (RET)
MHT'S DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**



**Airborne re-enactors with
Veteran in drop zone 2012!**



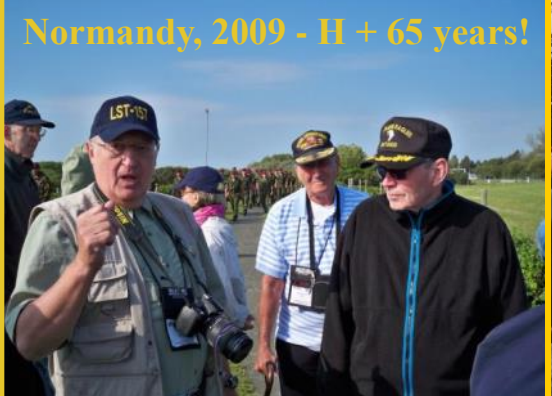
THE MHT BUS & GROUP 2013



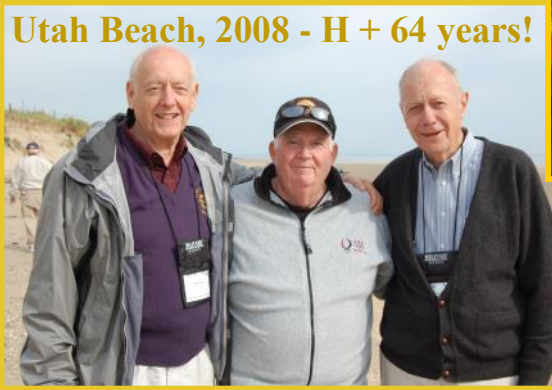
Utah Beach, 2011 - H + 67 years!



MHT D-DAY VETERANS 2014



Normandy, 2009 - H + 65 years!



Utah Beach, 2008 - H + 64 years!



**13198 Centerpointe Way
Ste. 202
Woodbridge, VA
22193-5285
703-590-1295 *
mhtours@miltours.com *
www.miltours.com**



**MILITARY™
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC**



Omaha Beach, 6 June 1944 - H+5



In 2016, MHT has improved our legacy D-Day Battlefield Tour to make it a more economical yet comprehensive experience! Recent D-Day tour participants have expressed the desire to spend more time in Normandy as there is so much history...both military and cultural...to see! Therefore MHT is adding an entire day in Normandy while keeping the overall tour length the same.

D-Day - June 6th, 1944. It has been 72 years but few events have galvanized a population and stirred the imagination like D-Day. As dawn broke over the beaches, thousands of real-life "Private Ryans", British, French, Canadians and Americans, left the relative safety of their landing craft and stormed ashore to begin the Liberation of France.

Ashore, behind the beaches, awaited the troops of the Allied airborne armada who parachuted or rode plywood gliders through the pre-dawn darkness, landing and securing precarious footholds on French soil to await the arrival of the sea-borne forces of the Invasion. If you lived "Saving Private Ryan", "The Longest Day", or "Band of Brothers" 72 years ago or have always wanted to see and walk the actual beaches, bunkers, villages and battlefields, you're invited to join us.

MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS is proud to offer another in our series of signature European Battlefield Tours on this historic **Seventy-second Anniversary**. Our tour starts in Normandy with a comprehensive "on the ground" exploration of the beaches and battlefields. We conclude our historic pilgrimage in Paris, the legendary "City of Light," one of the world's most beautiful cities.

Our tours include exclusive MHT events, tour booklet & sites other tours bypass. Information on the events that are offered on your particular expedition will be included in your registration information packet.

All of these things, along with the most experienced staff of Program Directors, Battlefield Tour Leaders and Historians will combine to make your trip the most enjoyable, relaxing, entertaining and educational experience possible. We welcome your phone calls, letters or e-mails to discuss your tour with one of our Battlefield Specialists. Call us toll free at 800-722-9501 M-F 10AM-6PM, or e-mail us—we look forward to hearing from you!



No sleeping in foxholes this time!

Tour Price: \$ 3,195*

(Based on Double Occupancy)

Single Room Supplement: \$ 695*

Tour Price Includes:

- 4—Star Hotel Accommodations at CDG, Paris, downtown Paris & Caen, Normandy *
- Air-conditioned deluxe motorcoach with onboard restroom *
- Emergency Medical & Evacuation Insurance *
- Meals as indicated in itinerary *
- Historical trip information packet, containing maps & other tour information. *
- Admission fees to all sites, museums and special attractions listed *
- Services of experienced Tour Leader and English-speaking local guides.

Airfare not included: Get your own or Book Optional MHT Airfare: Round-trip economy or business class airfare from your hometown to Paris CDG price quoted upon registration!

* - Price based on € conversion rate at final billing

D-Day Tour Daily Itinerary

Day 1 – June 1 – Departure. Depart today from your hometown airport for an International Portal for the flight to Charles De Gaulle Airport Paris (CDG). Dinner, beverages and a continental breakfast served aboard.

Day 2 - June 2 - Arrival in France. Arrive at CDG and make your way to our conveniently-located airport hotel. MHT will provide a one night accommodations for two (with breakfast) in our airport hotel the night before your tour formally begins. You can be assured that once you arrive at the hotel, MHT will handle all the details for the remainder of your trip. A complimentary **Wine Welcome** is planned for early evening where you will meet the other D-Day tour participants. **Meeting Hotel: Hilton Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.**

Day 3 - June 3 - Drive to Normandy. After breakfast we board our motor coach and proceed to Caen, the largest city in Normandy, founded 900 years ago by William the Conqueror and almost totally destroyed in 1944. This will be our home base for exploring Normandy. A fitting way to begin our Normandy tour is to visit the **Mémorial de Caen**, this world famous museum dedicated to the history of violence and conflict in the 20th Century, particularly World War II...the causes and course of the conflict. A new exhibition space deals exclusively with an hour-by-hour account the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy.

CAEN. 1000 years of history! In the days we will be there you will have the opportunity to visit the historical, cultural landmarks. **Caen Castle** is one of the largest medieval fortresses of Western Europe and was built by William the Conqueror in 1060. It is beautifully preserved and gives fantastic views of the city. It houses the Musée des Beaux-Arts with one of the world's finest collections of European Art and the Musée de Normandie. Plus the **Jardin des Plantes**, the **Abbaye-aux-Hommes** and the **Abbaye-aux-Dames** - William the Conqueror and his wife Mathilde built these two beautiful abbeys. Their tombs are located in their respective churches and **Shopping and Restaurants.** Our hotel is located in the city center with ample shopping opportunities. Why not treat yourself to a meal in one of the high quality restaurants in Caen? There are so many to choose from. Some specialize in traditional French foods, while others provide a more diverse and global menu. After hotel check in, enjoy an evening at leisure. Meals: B/-/ **Hotel: Best Western Moderne, Caen.**

Day 4 - June 4 - Omaha Beach and Pte. du Hoc. Omaha was the most intensely contested beach on D-Day. It is six miles wide – the largest of all the five beaches. The entire beach was overlooked by cliffs which made attacking the area very difficult. You will walk the sands where the liberation of France began over 72 years ago. Key Sites: **29th Infantry Division (ID.)** Our tour will include the seawall, bunkers, and other German defenses along the beach. The western half of the beach was assigned to the untested US 29th Infantry Division. Vierville Draw where the 29th landed was featured in both "The Longest Day" and "Saving Private Ryan." **1st ID.** The eastern half of the beach was assigned to battle-hardened "Big Red One". They stormed ashore and began fighting for its life on a strip of beach near Coleville-sur-Mer that had been marked the "Easy Red" on battle maps. Slowly, spurred by the individual heroism of many individuals, the move inland got underway. **Pointe du Hoc.** The 2nd Ranger Battalion scaled the 100-foot cliffs to eliminate the German heavy guns that threatened both Utah and Omaha beaches. At a high cost, they successfully defended against determined German counterattacks for two days. The Ranger Monument was erected by the French to honor their incredible courage. Enjoy an evening at leisure. Meals: B/-/

Day 5 - June 5 - American Airborne Landings and Utah Beach. In the early hours of June 6, 1944, the American airborne forces successfully executed some of the most difficult and challenging missions of D-Day. Their objectives were to

secure the invasion right flank against German counterattacks and secure the causeways off Utah Beach. **82nd Airborne Division (AD.)** "All-American" Paratroopers were to capture objectives in the area west of the Allied amphibious invasion, specifically the town of Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the La Fièr bridge. **Ste Mere Eglise.**

Another site made famous by the film, "The Longest Day." A mannequin of a paratrooper hangs from the church spire. The **Airborne Forces Museum** has a C-47 troop transport aircraft that flew in the invasion and a rare WACO glider on display. **101st AD.** The "Screaming Eagles" objectives were to secure the four causeway exits behind Utah Beach to ensure the exit route for the 4th Infantry Division from the beach later that morning. **Brecourt Manor.** The 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment's assault by Easy Company on the German howitzer battery that was disrupting the exit leading off Utah Beach was immortalized in the series "Band of Brothers." It is often cited as a classic example of small-unit tactics and leadership in overcoming a larger enemy force. **Utah Beach.** The westernmost of the five landing beaches. The beach was situated on the east at the edge of a marshland zone which had been flooded by the Germans. Only four causeways could be used to cross this marshland to reach inland. **4th ID.** The objective of the 4th, supported by airborne landings of the 82nd and 101st ADs, was to secure a beachhead on the Cotentin Peninsula. The division success was crucial as by nightfall on the 6th, 20,000 men and 1,700 vehicles were ashore.

It was for his actions that day that Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Assistant Division Commander, earned the units first Medal of Honor. **Utah Beach D-Day Museum.**

Built on the very beach where the first American troops landed. A restored, B-26 "Marauder" bomber is among the displays. Enjoy an evening at leisure starting with an included group dinner at a local restaurant. Meals: B/-/D

Day 6 - June 6 - Normandy American Cemetery. Today marks the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day landings. It is appropriate that we participate in the official ceremony at the beautiful Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, the resting place of 9,387 Americans, including BGen Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. The French Government granted use of this land, in perpetuity, as a permanent burial ground. It is American soil. The **Visitor Center** depicts the significance and **Overlord Museum.** This privately-owned museum just outside the Cemetery gate chronicles the period of the Allied landing until the liberation of Paris. Personal items from individual soldiers and armored fighting vehicles from the six armies in Normandy are presented in set displays showing over 35 vehicles, tanks and guns. **La Cambe.** At the somber German military cemetery at La Cambe, 21,500 German troops are buried, including Tiger Tank "Ace" Michael Wittmann. The design contrasts with the American Cemetery are striking. **The Normandy Tank Museum.** This brand new museum has a superb collection that includes over 40 WWII tanks, truck, jeeps, motorbikes and airplanes, all in working order. The museum regularly holds outdoor demon-



Veteran "Bangs" Tosline with "Big Red One" re-enactors at Normandy Cemetery on D-Day.

strations where visitors can even climb aboard the tanks and ride along for a truly unforgettable experience. Enjoy an evening at leisure. Meals: B/-/-

Day 7 - June 7 - British Beaches and the Allied Left Flank. Pre-dawn on the 6th, the British 6th Airborne Forces successfully executed some of the most difficult and challenging missions on D-Day in order to secure the invasion's left flank against German counterattacks. Just after dawn, thousands of British and Commonwealth troops waded ashore despite intense opposition, the troops forged ahead and established beachheads ashore.

Sword, Juno, Gold Beaches. Drive along the British and Canadian landing beaches. Contrast the terrain differences between these beaches and Omaha/Utah beaches. **Pegasus Bridge and Museum.** The bridges across the River Orne and the Caen canal had to be captured and held intact to enable the seaborne reinforcements to cross. The result was a textbook successful operation. **German Merville Battery.** The gun battery had to be put out of action. The 100mm caliber guns could fire down on to Sword Beach and the Allied fleet off the coast. On display is a restored C-47 aircraft from D-day. **Arromanches.** The remains of one of the two artificial "Mulberry" harbors erected in the landing operation may still be seen. **Port-en-Bessin.** A picturesque fishing port that was home to one of the 'Pipelines Under the

Jack Hennessey (USN), a Higgins Boat Coxswain, made 7 trips to Omaha Beach on D-Day 6 June. This trip was with his wife, daughter & MHT.



Sea' (PLUTO) pumping stations. **Longes-sur-Mer.** Site of a German coastal defense battery the best remaining example in Normandy. **Bayeux.** The first city to be liberated where the buildings were virtually untouched as the German forces were fully involved in defending Caen from the Allies. **Bayeux Tapestry.** The Bayeux tapestry is one of the supreme achievements of the Norman Romanesque as was its original home the **Bayeux Cathedral** built in 1077. Enjoy an

evening at leisure. Meals: B/-/-

Day 8 - June 8 - Paris. We will bid farewell to Normandy and head for Paris. Stops along the route: **La Roche Guyon.** HQ of German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

ROUEN. The capital of Normandy. What makes this city unique is its incredible Gothic architecture coupled with medieval houses. **Cathédrale Notre-Dame.** In the heart of the old town, it is one of the largest and most impressive Gothic cathedrals in France. The cathedral's main structure was built in the 13th century but the building was not completed until the 16th century. **Tour du Gros-Horloge (Big Clock Tower).** The huge decorative clock dates from 1889 which still serves its timekeeping functions for the city. **Joan of Arc.** Joan was captured, tried for witchcraft and burned at the stake in 1431 in the city square. Canonized in 1920, she had long been considered one of history's greatest saints, and an enduring symbol of French unity and nationalism. **Hotel: Concorde Montparnasse Paris.** Enjoy an evening at leisure. Meals: B/-/-

Day 9 - June 9 - Paris. Free day to tour the City of Light.

Day 10 - June 10. Individual departure on your own schedule to the airport for your return flight to the USA, arriving the same day.



13198 Centerpointe Way, Ste 202
Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285

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