

Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours

**1944 Airborne Operations
Small Group Battlefield Tour
16 - 21 September 2025 (6-days / 5-nights)**



Airborne memorial at La Fiére Farm along the Merderet River, Normandy

Get knee deep into history by studying the 1944 airborne operations of the Allied Armies. This six-day tour will focus on the use of Allied airborne troops in three separate offensives: the Normandy landings, Operation Market-Garden and the Ardennes Offensive. (In the latter offensive, they were trucked quickly to the region because they were the closest available reserves.)

We believe that one of the reasons that the use of airborne troops is such a fascinating topic is because they are dropped spread-out into a combat zone, lightly-armed, and needing to assemble into a functional fighting unit. However, there is no certainty as to when infantry and armor units will meet up to reinforce and/or relieve them. This takes an amazing amount of determination and fortitude.

This tour will focus on the details regarding the use of airborne troops in each of the three offensives as well as the human stories of the men and their leaders under trying circumstances. As part of our philosophy of telling both sides of the story, it will focus on the American as well as on the British airborne troops.



Top: A British pipe band along the original Pegasus Bridge during the 2024 commemorations at Normandy.

Middle: Memorial remembering the liberation of Eindhoven by the 101st Airborne Division during Market-Garden.

Bottom: Troops of the 504th PIR, 82nd Airborne Division entering Cheneux on 22 December 1944.



Schedule: (Subject to Modification)

Pick-up and return point for this tour will be CDG Airport. A specific meeting point will be provided later. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the meeting point. Participants with their own vehicles can arrange to meet us at an alternate location.

We caution that the distances between battlefields on this tour are great and, therefore, require considerable travel time.

Day 1, Tuesday, 16 September: Pick-up at CDG at 12:00 noon and drive to Normandy. Visit 82nd and 101st Airborne Division sites, including Sainte-Mère-Église, Carentan, La Fiere Bridge. Hotel TBD in Bayeux, Normandy.

Day 2, : Wednesday, 17 September: Finish the American airborne landings in Normandy and visit the Normandy American Cemetery. Then drive to Caen and vicinity. Explore the British airborne assault on Pegasus Bridge and the Merville Battery. Hotel TBD in Bayeux, Normandy.

Day 3, Thursday, 18 September: Drive to the Belgian-Dutch border and begin the advance up Hell's Highway (Market-Garden), with an emphasis on the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions. Hotel TBD in the Netherlands.

Day 4, Friday, 19 September: Focus on the British 1st Airborne Division and the 1st Independent Parachute Brigade (Poland) in Arnhem, Oosterbeek and surrounding areas. Visit the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery. Hotel TBD in the Netherlands.

Day 5, Saturday, 20 September: Drive to the Ardennes. Focus on the 101st in and around Bastogne. Hotel TBD in Bastogne, Belgium.

Day 6, Sunday, 21 September: Focus on the 82nd and 17th Airborne Divisions during the Ardennes Offensive. Drive to CDG, where the tour ends. We anticipate arriving at CDG around 7:00pm.



"Band of Brothers" E Company memorial outside of Foy has become a must-see stop.

Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	\$2,640
Single Room Supplement	\$315

Tour Price Includes*

- TWO military historian guides who understand both sides of the story and who speak multiple languages and understand European culture
 - Local guides at specific sites as needed
- 3-Star accommodations, typically in European family-owned hotel / restaurants
- Transportation typically in comfortable 9-person people movers with A/C or in cars
- Almost all meals, except those specified as “on your own” in the itinerary
- Water, soda and snacks available in the van
- Cultural outings (calvados tasting, church tour, etc.) and shopping time on trips longer than a few days
- Admission fees to all sites

Tour Price Excludes*

- Transportation to and from the starting point and lodging and transportation before or after the tour’s start and end times; for example, the cost of a hotel night for participants who choose to arrive early.
- Dinner drinks
- Dinners or lunches specifically excluded in the tour brochure
- Souvenirs and gifts

*See KDIH’s 2025 Terms and Conditions for full details.

Questions or concerns? Contact Randy Gaulke at kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com or 908.451.0252.



82nd Airborne memorial at the site of the Waal River crossing during Market-Garden

Knee Deep Into History's Tour Philosophy

Knee Deep Into History, LLC was founded by Randy Gaulke in 2020 after he spent eight months in 2017-18 as a freelance guide to the American battlefields of WW1. During those eight months (and the prior thirty years) Randy's tour philosophy has evolved. We:

1. TAKE clients into the field,
2. GUIDE small-group tours (12 max.),
3. PROMOTE a balanced view of both sides,
4. OFFER tours for passionate history buffs,
5. BRIDGE cultures.

What to Expect from a KDIH Tour

- Our small-group tours are designed to enable maximum interaction between participants and guides. Size is generally limited to a maximum of 12 participants.
- Clients will be picked up and returned to the designated starting and ending point at the times indicated.
 - Clients desiring other arrangements need to communicate their needs to Randy Gaulke in advance with the understanding that KDIH has to balance an individual client's needs with the group.
- On tour days, participants should expect to be "in the field" from 09h00 to somewhere around 17h00, regardless of weather. This will be followed by a break and dinner around 19h30.
 - Participants should bring appropriate clothing for the field, and nicer clothing for evening meals.
 - Please see the clothing guide on our website for ideas.
- Spouses and mature young adults are welcome, but please understand that there will be limited down time for sightseeing and time off.
 - When moving from one hotel to another, it will generally not be possible to stay in town.
- Regarding meals:
 - Continental breakfast will be served at the hotel.
 - Sandwich lunches (with wonderful European bread) will be eaten "in the field" to conserve time.
 - Snacks of water, soda, fruit and sweets will be available for free in the van to recharge one's batteries.
 - Multi-course dinners will generally start at the hotel/restaurant around 19h00.
 - Traditional European dinners often last two hours +/-.
 - This gives participants a chance to socialize, ask questions of the guides and share their experiences of the day.
- As per the 2025 Terms and Conditions, in the event that we have fewer than six participants signed up 61 days prior to the tour, we reserve the right to cancel the tour or we can run the tour with only one guide and/or step the hotels down to high-quality two-star hotels.

Meet Tour Guides Randy Gaulke and Markus Klauer

Randy Gaulke has been studying military history for decades as a wargamer, reenactor and battlefield visitor. In 2017 he left the corporate world and during 2017-18 he lived and worked eight months in France as a freelance guide to the WW1 battlefields during the WW1 Centennial. His experiences during those eight months convinced him to follow his passion and start a tour business. Randy has also visited and guided tours of the WW2 battlefields since 2008. Over his life he has lived in Europe almost three years. He speaks fluent English and German and intermediate French. Randy lives in Winchester, VA, not far from the National Archives. He also maintains the website <https://meuse-argonne.com> and the Meuse-Argonne.com Facebook group.

Markus Klauer is a retired Bundeswehr Officer whose military career included five years in an armored battalion and professional work with American and French units. Like Randy, Markus has been studying military history and visiting the battlefields for decades. He has written five books in German covering WW1 and his website can be viewed at <https://gb-weltkriegsbuch.de>. Since retiring in 2018 Markus has been expanding his battlefield research to the battles of WW2, including the Ardennes, Sedan 1940, Normandy and the Seelow Heights near Berlin. Markus lives in Waterloo, Belgium, and he speaks German, English and French fluently.

Randy and Markus have known each other for 30 years. Both share a deep love of historical research and a desire to get their clients into the field. With their language and cultural skills, both understand the “other side,” and both strive to present a balanced view of the combat.



Randy and Markus examining the German bunkers on Omaha Beach during a Normandy recon in 2022

Select Feedback from our Recent Tours

“This week has been a dream come true for me, thanks to the meticulous preparation and execution of the two of you. I truly felt as if I was walking in the footsteps of my grand-uncle in WW1 and of my dad in WWII, seeing what each of them was seeing, and trying to imagine what each of them might have been thinking and feeling during their respective wartime experiences. I couldn’t have asked for a more meaningful experience. And the way you two embraced my entire family made the experience even more magical and memorable for me. I can’t thank you enough!”

John Decker

“Thank you for an amazing journey across so many of the battlefields that I’ve been studying for half my life. You demonstrated to us the true history of the places you showed us, many areas both vast and small on the Western Front. We had the opportunity to see where millions of British, French and German soldiers fought and died and to see how their souls are being honored, even to this day. We got to walk in the footsteps of a few thousand boys from the Land of Lincoln—Illinois—in a unit in which both my son and I have served. For a historian to be able to see, and even touch, pieces of history is a gift I will cherish forever...”

Ltc Matthew Savage



Today an airborne museum, the Hartenstein Hotel is one of the most iconic symbols of the 1st British Airborne Division

2025 Tour Registration Form
1944 Airborne Operations Tour
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Note: Complete this form only if you are sending your registration manually!

Participants: _____ (Names and ages)

Primary Contact: _____

Address: _____

Contact Email(s): _____

Contact Phone(s): _____

Rooms Needed: _____ Double rooms _____ Single rooms

Emergency Contacts: _____

Emergency Phones: _____

Health Concerns: **Per the Terms and Conditions, participant are required to factually state any health issues that could affect their participation on this trip. Please outline these concerns in a brief letter.**

Other Needs: _____

Signatures: _____

Remember: To complete your registration you must send: 1) signed copies of the registration form, 2) signed copies of the 2025 Terms and Conditions page 4, and 3) a \$600 per person deposit. Deposits can be paid by check, PayPal, Venmo or Zelle. Ask Randy Gaulke for payment details.

Please mail / email / text a copy of this form to:

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kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com 908.451.0252