

# Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours

**Ardennes “Battle of the Bulge” Tour  
Small Group Battlefield Tour  
9 – 15 December 2025 (7-days / 6-nights)**



Get knee deep into history with us as we explore Hitler’s decision to put all his eggs into one basket to defeat the Western Allies with one last, great push: Operation “Wacht am Rhein.” Starting on 16 December 1944, under terrible weather conditions, the German Panzer divisions broke through the thinly-held American lines in the Ardennes. Despite the strong resistance by several American units, the German Army made its way west; The famous “Kampfgruppe Peiper” advancing under circumstances that became tragic for all.

Soon the German units arrived at the main center of communication in that region, the town of Bastogne. The grim defense of Bastogne, mainly from units of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Divisions, stands now for the strong will of the Allied commanders and GIs to defeat the Third Reich.

From 22 December on, American counterattacks started to open the way to Bastogne and on 26 December the first Sherman tank made its way into the town to relieve the defenders. The German commanders realized that the offensive had failed and that further fighting would be senseless. Nonetheless, Hitler would not give up yet, so the offensive and American counteroffensive continued until late January 1945.



*Top: Location where the 270<sup>th</sup> Volksgrenadier Division and the 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division first clashed.*

*Middle: Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery is stunning in its beauty as a final resting place for many GIs who died in the Bulge and elsewhere.*

*Bottom: At the end of the day a fabulous European dinner is a great way to discuss the events of the day.*



## Schedule: (Subject to Modification)

Pick-up and return point for this tour will be Brussels Airport (BRU). 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.

The schedule below will be modified to include a trip to the Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) in Aachen, Germany and to attend some events during Bastogne's Nut Weekend of 12-14 December.

**Day 1, Tuesday, 9 December:** Pick-up at BRU at 12:00pm. Visit to Henri Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium. Afternoon rest time. Evening briefing and introductory dinner. Hotel, TBD.

**Day 2, Wednesday, 10 December:** Initial German advance in the northern sector, with a focus on the area around Elsenborn and the Siegfried Line (Westwall), Skyline Drive, 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. and St. Vith.

**Day 3, Thursday, 11 December:** Day 1 of the focus on Kampfgruppe Peiper's advance, including Büllingen, Baugnez, Stavelot, Malmedy, La Gleize and Neufmoulin.

**Day 4, Friday, 12 December:** KG Peiper continued in the morning. Afternoon cultural visits to Malmedy Church and the historic resort town of Spa, Belgium.

**Day 5, Saturday, 13 December:** Focus on the defense of Bastogne, including visits to the Bastogne War Museum. We will also visit the Deutscher Soldatenfriedhof Recogne in order to view a German cemetery.

**Day 6, Sunday, 14 December:** Focus on the German advance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> Panzer Divisions of the Fifth Panzer Army toward the Meuse River. Visit to Hotton War Cemetery, maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

**Day 7, Monday, 15 December:** Focus on sites in Luxembourg, including the Luxembourg American Cemetery and the story of the American St. Nick in Wiltz. Depart for BRU. We anticipate arriving at BRU around 5:00pm.



*The German military cemetery at Recogne, Belgium is always evocative.*

# Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	\$2,990
Single Room Supplement	\$375

## 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](mailto:kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com) or 908.451.0252.

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*War-time damage in Bastonge.*

# **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 for 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.



*Signal Corps photo 199207 showing 87<sup>th</sup> Division infantry entering St. Hubert, Belgium after the Germans fled*

## Select Feedback from our Recent Tours

*“Just wanted to say that this was a fantastic trip. You guys were as prepared as I have ever seen. We asked a tremendous amount of “destinations” and must-see locations—and you guys killed it!!! You covered three large battles and did a fantastic job in providing key stories, facts and battles in a way that we could easily follow. Thanks again for a great week.”*

John Molnar (Private tour covering the Ardennes, Hürtgen Forest and Market-Garden.)

*“You have both far exceeded my expectations on this trip. I have been on many tours all over the world and know how they should be done and you have surpassed them all. The time both of you put in to personalize the trip details was extraordinary. The most thrilling part for me was sharing this experience with ALL of my brothers. We have never traveled together and I was not sure how that would work out. Thanks to you two it was fabulous. And to have Aidan and my grandson Jake as part of this is a thrill of a lifetime. They will never forget this experience. Thank you!*

Bill Decker



*The dragon’s teeth of the Westwall are a favorite spot for photos*

**2025 Tour Registration Form**  
**Ardennes “Battle of the Bulge” 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](mailto:kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com)      908.451.0252